



Westunes Vol. 68 No. 4

Winter 2018



WESTUNES

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



Capitol Ring 2018 FWD Quartet Champion



Westminster 2018 FWD Chorus Champion

INSIDE: Orlando Pix • Keep Calm & Keep Singing • Harmony Foundation • MoH • Youth Camp



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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

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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)

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Half Page	\$25.00	\$20.00	\$15.00
Quarter Page	\$12.50	\$10.00	\$7.50
Business Card	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$3.00

A complete list of rates and specs appears later in this issue.

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Far Western District SPRING CONVENTION

International Quartet Preliminaries • Northeast & Northwest Divisions



March 21-24, 2019 • Stockton, California

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2018 FWD Fall Convention Honoree Dave Briner

Greatness can be measured in many different ways, one of which is years of service. Our convention dedicatee, Dave Briner, certainly exemplifies exactly that, but not just because of his 60 years of membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society, which is just the beginning of the measure of this man.

In 1958 he began his barbershop career with the South Bay Coastliners, with whom he sang for 29 years. During his early years with the chorus he was chapter president, show chairman, and Barbershopper of the Year. He then performed with the Masters of Harmony chorus for 14 years where he won five gold medals. Since then he sang with the Brea Gaslight Chorus for ten years, and currently is a member of the South County Sound chorus.

From 1964 through 2012 he attended an estimated 60 BHS or SAI International Conventions, many with his late wife Sally, a two-time SAI Queen of Harmony.

For more than 55 years he has arranged music in the barbershop style, and the BHS has more than 90 of his arrangements in their music library.

In addition to singing bass for 19 years with one of the Society's favorite comedy quartets, The Manhatters, he continued his quartetting with Mutual Fun, the 2000 FWD Senior Quartet Champion and International Senior Silver Quartet Medalist in 2000. Other quartets Dave sang in include the Whippoorwills, Sandpipers, and Larceny and Old Bass.

For the past 26 years he has attended the annual Tri-W woodshedding camping trips. For 20 years Dave was a certified judge in the Arrangement category, and for 15 years he served on the faculty of Harmony College. Additionally he was Chairman of the Society Music Publishing Committee for 5 years.

When it comes to greatness it's safe to say that Dave Briner measures up!



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2018 Far Western District Chorus Contest Final Rank



1st Westminster



2nd Fog City Singers



3rd VoCal

2018 Far Western District Chorus Contest Final Rank



4th Pacific Coast Harmony



5th Gaslight Chorus



6th East Valley Barbershop Harmonizers

2018 Far Western District Chorus Contest Final Rank



7th Voices In Harmony



8th The Oceanaires



9th Silver Statesmen

2018 Far Western District Chorus Contest Final Rank



10th Pacific Sound



11th The Gold Standard Chorus [Tie]



11th Peninsulaires [Tie]

2018 Far Western District Chorus Contest Final Rank



13th The Phoenicians



14th Orange Empire Chorus



15th Inland Sound

2018 Far Western District Chorus Contest Final Rank



16th Sun Harbor



17th Coastliners



18th Golden Valley Chorus

2018 Far Western District Chorus Contest Final Rank



19th Marin Golden Gate Barbershop Chorus



MBHS Champion Stockton Portsmen



Mike Tester Chorus

2018 Far Western District Quartet Contest Final Rank



1st Capitol Ring 2018 FWD Champion



2nd Western Edition



3rd Dynamix

2018 Far Western District Quartet Contest Final Rank



4th VOX



5th Fourtunate Sons



6th Dilly Dilly!

2018 Far Western District Quartet Contest Final Rank



7th High Priority



8th The Front Line



9th Velper Frogs

2018 Far Western District Quartet Contest Final Rank



10th Montage



11th Seaside



12th Heatwave

2018 Far Western District Quartet Contest Final Rank



13th Intonation



14th Tipping The Scale



15th Desert Crossing

2018 Far Western District Quartet Contest Final Rank



16th Argenta [Tie]



16 R.I.C.K.S. [Tie] 2018 FWD Senior Quartet Champion



18th Alternate Route

2018 Far Western District Quartet Contest Final Rank



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20th Syzygy



21st Saucebox

2018 Far Western District Quartet Contest Final Rank



22nd Good Times!



23rd The Artful Codgers



24th Classic Edition

Two Choruses and the Story of Barbershop Harmony!

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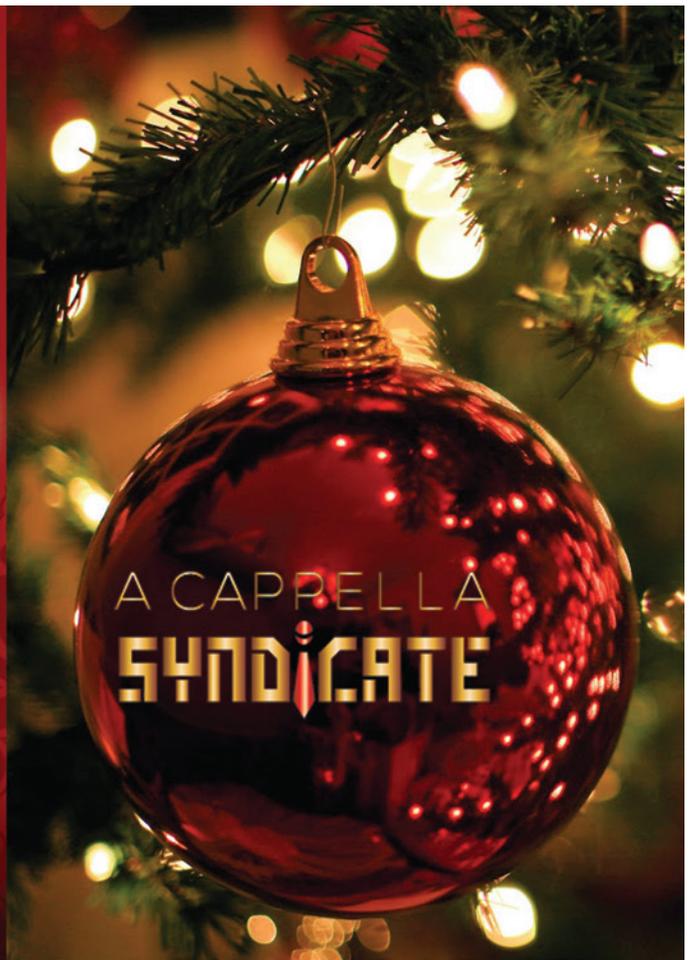
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Fullerton Orange Empire Chorus Travels PR Practice – You Can Use It Too

When the Orange Empire Chorus travels, they always bring copies of their community paper. The periodical puts photos of Fullerton residents posing with The Observer in places around the globe. Free publicity for the chapter and it often gets expanded into an article about who we are and upcoming events. If you have a “local rag”, share photos and fun descriptions !

SPECIAL FEATURE
1993 5th Place Medalist
by Paul Olguin

On Wednesday, December 7, 1988, B.J. Hill, Raymond Davis, Jamie Arrington, and Paul Olguin blended their voices together for the first time. By the end of the first phrase of "Heart of My Heart," they all knew that they had been given a very special gift. Since then, they have done their best to nurture and share that gift with others.



In the Beginning

They attributed their early success to the natural blend of their voices and to the fact that they all loved to work hard at getting things to sound better. Another contribution to their early success were the original songs and arrangements which came from the pen of baritone, Paul, who had recently won the Barbershop Harmony Society's 50th Anniversary Songwriting Contest. After just a few months together, they nearly qualified for International! Later that spring they won the SoCal East Division, and in the fall, went on to place second in their first FWD contest.

Then they met with their first big challenge. Shortly after their second place District finish, the quartet arrived at B.J.'s for rehearsal one night to find a "For Sale" sign in the front lawn. B.J.'s wife, Julie, had received a promotion with her company that required the young Hill family to relocate to Reno, Nevada. After a brief discussion of who the other three might find to replace B.J., Julie suggested that they all move to Reno! Well, after a few weeks of consideration, that's just what they all decided to do! So, following the Hill family by a month or so, Jamie, Raymond and Paul, without jobs or even a place to live, loaded up a 24-foot U-Haul and moved to Reno in January of 1990.

That year the quartet qualified for and competed in their first International, making an impressive 14th place debut. That fall they went on to win the 1990 Far Western District Quartet Championship. Of their seven appearances on the International stage, they placed in the finals five times, finishing as high as 5th in Calgary in 1993. But their story is about so much more than championships and medals.

Thanks, in great measure, to a brilliant coaching session with the legendary Lloyd Steinkamp, Special Feature became a very popular and entertaining show quartet throughout the Far Western District and the Society. In 1995, they took a year off from competition to focus on new material in the "barber-wop" style, arranged mostly by tenor, Raymond. As a result, they secured a yearly professional gig at the Atlantis Hotel/Casino during "Hot August Nights" as well as headlining many shows with this new focus. In addition to their first two barbershop recordings, they produced an award-winning album called "Street Sounds" which featured their "barber-wop" stuff. Their most recent recording, "Blast from the Past" was comprised mostly of arrangements of pop songs from the 1960s that were "woodshedded" by the quartet.

The quartet's most recent appearance on the International stage was in 1999 in Anaheim, where they were quite happy to place 19th. After retiring "for good" from competition, they decided to pursue a professional career focused on original songs in a more contemporary acapella style. But eventually Raymond missed singing barbershop too much, and decided to leave the group. Shortly after that, Paul missed Raymond too much, and, with Paul's departure, Special Feature was no more . . . or so they all thought.

Fast forward several years to Katie Hill's (B.J. and Julie's daughter, who was born when the quartet was a couple of months old) high school graduation in 2007. She wasn't like so many of her classmates who wanted a car or a trip to Europe for a graduation present. She wanted Special Feature to sing at her high school graduation party, and that's what she got! Well, the guys had so much fun that they hatched a plan to get together again to try to sing on the past champs show for the 20th anniversary of their FWD Championship. Word got around, and several chapters invited Special Feature to sing on their shows. All of a sudden, it was a Twentieth Anniversary Tour, which included a successful attempt to qualify for the International Contest in

2010! Though they decided not to go to International, they did decide that they were having so much fun that they should simply reunite. After one more temporary break-up, they got back together for the last time with only one rule: no one is allowed to quit! Nowadays they get together when they can to rehearse and enjoy one another's company over a long weekend. (They have lived for several years now in Albuquerque, Las Vegas, Reno, and Portland!) They have also been blessed to experience the joy of sharing their music on shows from time to time with friends both old and new.



Currently



Historian Dan Jordan brought an extensive display to the Convention in Fresno (pictures below) - see page 41 for article and more pictures.

Gold Medal uniform pictures from OC Times and Masterpiece --->



Pictures and medals and more medals - below



Pins, lots of them, & badges --->



3 ring binders with FWD information and pix - below



Harmony Camp 2018

Although our attendance was down in 2018, this Camp turned out to be probably one of the best ever in terms of spending individual time with the boys. Quite frankly this is one of the more rewarding aspects of camp.

The Sound from the chorus was spectacular! That alone told me that the quality of the boys in terms of their singing ability and their attitude was a step up from past years. We ask nothing of the boys in terms of prior singing experience. So it is always a little surprising and reassuring when this kind of high level sound happens. Yes, one could say that the high level sound is coming from the men that are mixed in with the boys on the risers, but that could never explain the volume and the richness of the sound. It is just amazing to hear it and to realize that whatever the cause, it is a truly a not to be forgotten experience for the boys who are hearing that sound and realize that it is coming from them as a chorus. Our Dean, Gabe Caretto, always talks to the boys on Sunday morning just before taking the risers for the show about how this exact gathering of men and boys as a chorus will never ever come together again as a chorus to sing. His message is a timeless one that reverberates with the boys as they think about it and realize that this is a very special moment in their lives, especially with that “sound” that their chorus is creating for the audience of their friends and family!!

Saturday morning and afternoon are devoted to teaching such classes as vocal production and harmonizing with tags. One brand new class taught in the afternoon was *Music Theory with Tags* taught by Chris McCuddy. Although this class was not well attended, we believe that the class can still be a real winner and we plan to include it in our marketing plans for 2019. I witnessed Chris teaching this class at a high school visit in September 2017. To a person the students were very involved as was their teacher

At the teachers’ meeting this year we received a number of great suggestions that we are incorporating next year. One suggestion is to move the date farther into the school year by one month. Therefore **the date of Harmony Camp 2019 will October 18 – 20**. Yes, the weather will be cooler but historical records for Pollock Pines in October reveal not too much change from September. The rationale is that many schools have a rapid ramp up of activity early in the school year that tapers off a bit in October. And one of the “issues” that we have experienced down through the years with our

September date is conflicting auditions for State honors choir. This year was no exception; we had four boys leave Saturday morning to participate in auditions in Sacramento, and then get back to Camp for the afternoon sessions.

In the teachers’ meeting we rehashed the all male makeup of Harmony Camp and the value in maintaining that constituency. The teachers clearly recognize the value that results from that makeup that the boys can be boys without the need to “be cool” for the girls. They are more relaxed and more themselves.

Another brand new concept that came up at the meeting was the idea of the boys taking the camp songs back to their homes and schools and trying to sing them on their own in pick up quartets and small groups. The camp songs tend to be just challenging enough for the full chorus, with the added adult men helping, to maintain high interest, but they often turn out to be way too challenging for the boys on their own.

The suggestion was to have a morning class that teaches one or two easy songs that the boys can take back and be truly successful with on their own. That will give the boys more opportunity to incorporate their camp experience at school and with their friends.

As an aside, it does seem that the teachers are becoming more and more comfortable with our philosophies at Harmony Camp, and they also seem more willing to make suggestions. I love it!

Another idea we are working on is to bring a well-respected music educator to camp during the day Saturday to teach the music educators in greater detail what we do and why. With any luck we will be able to offer CE credits for the music educators.

Like all things in life, camp is an evolving experience. I firmly believe that in order to stay relevant, we need to encourage more involvement from folks who are willing to suggest new ideas and directions. We are open to all suggestions.

Lastly, I cannot thank enough all of you who responded to our plea for financial support this year. We ended up with a small excess of funds which will be rolled over to Harmony Camp 2019. I would be remiss if I didn’t thank those who spent their weekend with us. It is hard work but a labor of love.

Richard Lund, Director

FWD Harmony Camp

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

Don't miss out on the double match challenge for amounts up to \$400.00 through December 2018. For example, your donation of \$300.00 will effectively yield \$900.00 to the Endowment. This challenge will end December 31, 2018. Maximize your donation and support the current FWD Harmony Camp and the establishment of additional camps in the Far Western District.

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. 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 October 31, 2018 the Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund has a balance of \$73,500. I invite you to join me in ensuring that Harmony Camps in the Far Western District will continue for the benefit of young men and future barbershoppers. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a balance of \$100,000 by December 31, 2018?

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

Please consider the Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund in your will and estate plan.

The 57th Annual Southern California Novice Quartet Contest

A Handicapped Contest Open to All BHS
Members, and High School Students

Saturday, March 2, 2019

7:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church

of Fullerton

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Fullerton, CA 92832

General Admission Tickets

Adults - \$15

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Presented by

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For information for competing quartets and for ticket purchases, visit:

orange.harmonize.com

Or leave a message at (714) 442-8500



Craig Hughes

Far Western District President

president@farwesterndistrict.org



It's the most wonderful time of the year in the Far Western District. Holiday Shows and Parties; Carols and Eggnog; Planning for an amazing 2019.

Many of us are basking in the glow of the **Fall Convention** in Fresno. One Chapter President summed it up on Sunday morning as "spectacular".

Here are some highlights:

- The District Board Meeting (Minutes online): All officers in attendance. NOTE: We have filled every appointed Committee Chair position for the first time in years and offered a special welcome to our latest: **Roe Darnell** (Financial Development), **Dan Jordan** (Historian), **Jeremy Loper** (Membership), and **Steve Salmon** (Youth in Harmony).
- The House of Delegates Meeting (Minutes online): We had an extremely high delegate count with 31 Chapters Represented. Thank You!
 - The delegates approved several changes to the District SOP to include a \$20 annual increase in District Dues for full paying members. This (40-cent a week) increase is the first in 10 years and will allow the District to continue to provide support and world class events with a balanced budget. The Board is committed to reduce the registration prices for our events to balance out the dues increase.
 - The delegates approved the 2019 Budget and elected the 2019 FWD Board of Directors.
 - An innovative "Convention at Sea" concept was presented. It is in active discussion for Fall 2020 with a survey going out to all for input.
- A listening session was held with **Erik Dove** (BHS CFO), **John Miller** (Society Executive Vice-President elect) and **Bernard Priceman** (Society Board Member). It was a conversation with a number of Chapter Members with an emphasis on the gender

neutral (***Everyone in Harmony***) changes to the Society Bylaws. It was very positive

- Our daily convention newsletter edited by **David Melville** and emailed to all with "what happened" and "what to expect".
- Our Traveling History display by **Dan Jordan**. An extraordinary collection of FWD memorabilia and a wonderful bridge connecting members across all generations.
- Our FWD Barbershop Emporium hosted by **Patsy Miller (Lund)**. An eclectic collection of merchandise for sale from many of our FWD Choruses and Quartets with some other stuff thrown in for variety. The money raised went back to the participating Choruses and Quartets to support their programs.
- A very successful Harmony Platoon Event.
- Our Chorus and Quartet Contests:
 - A Joe Barbershop Chorus of over 120 men to test the mics for the Chorus Contest. The largest in memory. ***There is always room for more next time.***
 - Twenty Choruses Competed:
 - **The Westminster Chorus** is District Champion with a score of 94.0.
 - **The Stockton Portsmen** is the first District Mixed Barbershop Chorus Champion.
 - Twenty-four Quartets Competed:
 - **Capital Ring** are District Champions.
 - **R.I.C.K.S.** are District Senior Champions.
 - **Velvet Frogs** will represent the FWD at the Seniors Quartet Contest, but declined.
 - **Saucebox** are Novice Quartet Champions.
- Three late nights of tag singing and fellowship.

This is just a sample of the fun that was had in Fresno. Mark your calendars for our 2019 Spring Convention in Stockton beginning March 21 and SoCal and Arizona Division Contests in May. There is something for

everyone at these events. They are much more than Contests. They are Far Western District Barbershop Celebrations.

Here are a couple of things as we close out this very eventful year.

- Elect (if you haven't already), your 2019 Chapter Officers and consider sending them to a Leadership Summit.
- Discuss the opportunities presented by our new gender neutral Society Bylaws.
 - There is no need to change anything but you now have options that were not available in the past.
 - New standard District and Chapter Bylaws will be ready in the next couple of months.
 - The District Officers are here to help in any way.

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

Keep Calm and Keep Singing – in Harmony.



Bill Rosica
Executive Vice President
evp@farwesterndistrict.org

Well the summer and fall has turned up the heat as far as goes on in the FWD. Of course, “Everyone in Harmony” was on everyone’s mind with plenty of questions as to just how is this going to work. Our International in Orlando was a great feather in our cap with Westminster finishing second to our brothers in Dallas. Newfangled Four placed 6th, just 118 points short of earning a medal and Artistic License finished in the top ten at ninth. Thunderbolt finished 14th in the NextGen Varsity Quartet Contest.

Closer to home, the House of Delegates meeting saw a better-than-average turnout for some very important decisions. With attendance numbers

falling, the District proposed a dues hike, which was passed overwhelmingly, after much discussion and a presentation by Bryan Forbes.

I mentioned that our Convention attendance numbers are down and talking to members, I found that a lot of folks would like something else to do besides listen to 25 Quartets and a like number of Choruses. So, I have proposed that the 2020 Fall Convention be held aboard a Carnival Line ship while we travel from Long Beach to Ensenada and back to Long Beach. After much research and a couple of visits to the ship by yours truly and Brett Littlefield, we find that the idea would work and the pricing is close to what one would pay on land. One nice attraction is that the Cruise Line would allow paying for the trip over time, so by the time the Convention is held, your trip would be paid for. Normally your credit card gets hit with food and accommodations right after the convention. Your Chapters have been sent the information to discuss with you and to take a poll so we can make a decision.

Finally, we had to postpone our California Leadership Summits because we didn’t have enough registrations to make the Summit practical. We will be looking for a venue for both North and South, sometime in January. I would urge every Chapter to take advantage of this one day Summit to sharpen their leadership skills. Stay tuned for more information in the next month or so.

If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to call me at (661) 703-9000. If I don’t answer, please leave me a message and I’ll get back to you.



Brent Anderson
VP Southwest Division
dvp-southwest@farwesterndistrict.org

Since we last talked the FWD Chorus and Quartet Contest happened at the recently-held convention in Fresno. The **Santa Monica Oceanaires Chapter** fared well, winning the Plateau AA Championship and earning a respectable 8th place finish in the always-

competitive Far Western District Contest. They were followed by **Rincon Beach Chapter's Pacific Sound Chorus**, and the **SouthBay Coastliners Chorus**. We congratulate the **Westminster Chorus** on their great winning performance, directed by the incredible **Justin Miller**.

Our SW Division claims the Senior Quartet Champs... **The Velvet Frogs**. They are fantastic entertainers and were again awarded the **Lloyd Steinkamp Standing Ovation** trophy, given to the audience favorite "most-entertaining" Quartet.

As you'll read in the SW Division digest of Chapter news (thank you **Justin McQueen**) some Chapters are reporting membership success by utilizing Social Media. You all must realize, times have changed and we can't attract members the same way we did in the past. Same for getting people to our shows... I'll try to learn a little more about that and report to you but as you can see, I'm pushed for time. So, I suggest you talk to the digest correspondents from **Pasadena** and the **Masters** and let's try something new.

Due to some positive personal and business reasons, **Mike McGee** has given notice at Rincon Beach and he'll be moving to Colorado by December. **Courtney Anderson-Georges** (my daughter) who is in her fourth year teaching vocal music at Dos Pueblos High School in Goleta, will act as interim director for the several Rincon Chapter's paid shows during the holidays and she'll be joined by long-time Rincon assistant director **Jim Browne**, who also is the musical director for the **Conejo Valley Harmony Oaks Chorus**.

All FWD Chapters have been asked to conduct a poll on the possibility of having the 2020 FWD Convention and Contest on board a cruise ship spending time between Southern CA and Ensenada, Mexico. The preliminary result is "excitement" and I personally hope it happens. It will bring a large crowd back to the three-day convention and we're assured the contest venue will be spectacular as the cruise ships were made to be sailing performance venues.

The Masters of Harmony, 2017 International Chorus Champions, have announced they again will be seeking the Championship of 2020 as they enter back into the contest cycle in 2019. I'm sure most of you

readers understand the process...when you win the International Chorus Championship (2017) you must lay out of competition for a year (2018), and the following year (2019) you can again begin the cycle. Assuming you can win the FWD championship that year, then the following year (2020) you'll again be competing for the International Chorus Championship. I'm excited for that possibility and will be happy to see them competing in our SW/SE Chorus Contest next May in Ontario.

I hope all our SW Division Chapter members will plan to attend (May 10-11, 2019) and I hope we'll again see 6-8 SW Division Choruses in the competition.

I'm planning to attend the BHS Midwinter convention in Nashville next January 22-27, 2019... These Midwinter conventions, with the emphasis on youth, are becoming my favorite. However, the BHS International Convention is practically in our back yard next July...in Salt Lake City. It's a great city for a convention and very easy to get there. I hope you'll plan to meet me there.

I wish you all the merriest of Holidays and I look forward to the next time I see each of you. Call me if I can be of help to any of you.



Congratulations to the **Westminster Chapter** for their fantastic win at this year's fall Chorus Contest. If you were so lucky to be in the auditorium during their contest set, or their performance on the Show of Champions, you know how exciting and entertaining they were and are. Our Division as well as our District is certainly proud to have them representing us at next year's International Contest! Again, Congratulations!

Congratulations also go to the **La Jolla Chapter** for placing 4th, and the **Brea Chapter**, for placing 5th in the contest. Also, congratulations to the **Las Vegas**

Chapter, the Fullerton Chapter, the Inland Empire Chapter, and the Sun Harbor Chapter for representing the Southeast Division in the Chorus Contest. You were all fabulous!

Our Southeast Quartets also did us proud in the contest! Congratulations to our following Quartets: **VOX (4th Place!!!)**, **Fourtunate Sons (5th Place!!!)**, **Intonation, Tipping the Scale, Syzygy, and Good Times!!** Thank you all for representing our Division so well! I could not be more proud!

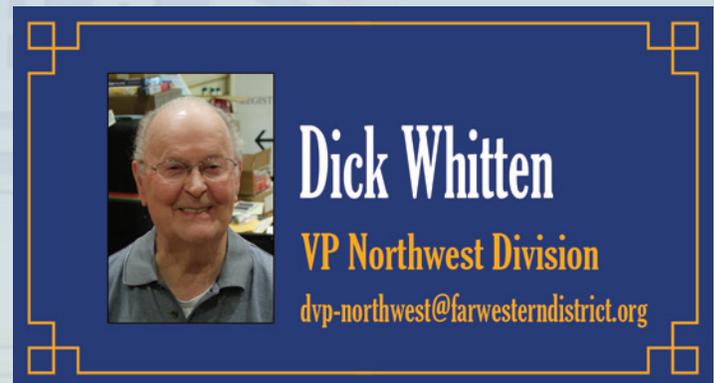
Again, please remember that the District has a program to *help* Chapters pay for coaching. It is called the Chapter Reimbursement Program and it is so under-used! It also can be for any type of coaching. For example, if you want to have a voice teacher come to Chapter and teach vocal techniques, this program will reimburse fifty (50%) percent of the travel, meals and/or lodging up to \$150 per session, \$300 a year (*it does not reimburse any part of a coach's fee*). Please find the information and paperwork in the "Media" section of the District website! It is the last document under the "Media" drop-down menu, and is titled "Coaching Reimbursement Forms."

Now that the contest cycle has ended, I am sure all Chapters are heavily into learning your Holiday music. If your Chapter will be producing a Holiday Show, or booking caroling outings, I encourage all individual members to help their Chapter Directors in the next few months by learning the notes and words! In essence, **LEARN YOUR MUSIC** quickly!! This will allow you to get on to the most important part of the music; the fine-tuning, interpretation, and performance of the music. While you're at it, sign up for a committee to help produce the show! And **SELL TICKETS!**

I must once again remind all Chapter Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers that they should have made sure that their Chapters had filed all forms for the IRS and State Tax Agencies. Please take care of all Chapter business-related paperwork, so that your Chapter remains in good status, and is not in jeopardy of losing its Charter! If you need help filling out the forms, go to the new "**Member Center**" and watch the videos that show you the forms, how to find them, and how to fill them out! If you still have questions, have your President call me and I'll get the correct person in touch with you!

Lastly, the Southeast/Southwest Leadership Summit will take place this January (date yet to be announced), in La Mirada. Each 2019 Board Member should make plans to attend. Executive VP Bill Rosica is focusing the summit's content on "Leadership." Each member of your Board will learn leadership techniques that will allow him to "lead" your Chapter in 2019.

Have a great Holiday Season!



As I sit here writing this article, I am thrilled again remembering the Fall Far Western District Convention in Fresno this month. So many things happened and I was happy to be a part of it. It was certainly one of the most heavily attended conventions in the last few years. The number of people may not have been truly larger than in the past, but those in attendance were everywhere and actively doing everything. We had over 100 men in the Joe Barbershopper Chorus. I haven't been in a Chorus that large since I visited the Sheffield Chorus in England, or the Masters in Harmony in Southern California.

Many of you may have never had the thrill of doing that and if you weren't there you missed out. We had a larger than normal attendance at the House Of Delegates Meeting and many important issues were resolved by the Chapter representatives. Many of you may not realize that the members of the Chapters run the District. You probably think the Board of Directors makes all the decisions in the District but that isn't necessarily true. Many of the items the Board comes up with must be ratified by the Chapters in the District, so if you are not sending a representative from your Chapter you are missing the opportunity to be involved in running your district. Your Chapter has a vote, and if you do not have a representative in the House of Delegates meeting who has read the published report so they know what is going to be voted on and

the reasons behind it, then you are not a part of the decision process.

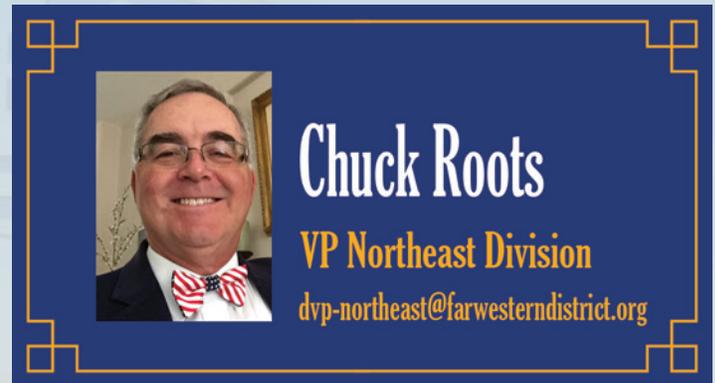
After the House of Delegates meeting we were treated to performances of the top Quartets in the District in one of the best parade of Quartets I have been at in a long time. On Saturday morning after the Mic Tester Joe Barbershopper Chorus we heard many superior Choruses with lots of entertaining programs. In the lobby of the Auditorium we had the District Museum with many very interesting items, and Dan Jordan was there telling the history of the items. I have been in the District for many years and felt Dan was extremely interesting and knowledgeable about the items on display. The old fashioned Barbershopper's Shop was another treat. There were three tables of Quartet and Chorus disks which probably contain any song you might like to hear in the Barbershop Style. Many of the things missing from recent conventions returned at the Fresno Convention. The mighty Fresno Chorus is to be congratulated for returning to the traditional District Convention of the past years, and I salute you for a job well done.

Our next Convention is in Stockton in the spring and it is a three-day convention. The District Board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 21. The House Of Delegates Meeting will take place on March 22. On the evening of March 22 the Quartets of the Far Western District will start the elimination rounds for the International Quartet Preliminary Contest of the Far Western District. This is truly the granddaddy of the year; every Quartet including the past District Champions will sing in this round. It is where you can hear the starting Quartets and the best, all in the same Parade of Quartets. No Barbershopper should miss this performance. On March 23 there will be a full day of Barbershop! There will be a Combined Division Performance with the opportunity to sing in a large Chorus called the Joe Barbershopper Chorus, and every Barbershopper there is eligible to sing in it. Then all the Choruses in the Northwest and Northeast Divisions will perform for us, then the High School Quartets from the Divisions will perform, and then there will be another parade of the top Ten Quartets from the night before. When that is over, they will announce the results and who will represent the District at the International Contest in Salt Lake City in July. Then there will be a Show of Champions with the

top Choruses and Quartets. How can anyone not want to take part in a show like this?

Well I have rambled on long enough so I will stop. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Spring Convention in Stockton.

“CHORD”ially,



Fellow Barbershoppers,

What a time we had at the Fall Convention!

My wife, Isaura, and I drove down to Fresno Thursday morning because as the Northeast VP I needed to attend the Board of Directors (BOD) meeting at 2:00pm. It was scheduled to go until 6:00pm! Now, that's a long meeting! During my career in the military, and also as a pastor, it was my practice to schedule meetings to last no more than an hour. If it took more time than that then we simply rescheduled. I realize there are reasons for such a lengthy meeting, primarily because those of us on the Board are geographically scattered like so much buck shot over the Western states. But, I still like to poke fun at our FWD president and his top leadership!

I know we've held our Conventions at this venue in the past, but I have to say it is an excellent location as far as keeping all of us in the buildings being used for rehearsals, meetings, food, sleeping and performances. I also felt that the convention facilities staff was most accommodating and friendly.

On Friday afternoon we held our House of Delegates (HOD) meeting. This is the first HOD meeting I've attended so it was educational for me. Many topics were discussed and subsequently approved or voted on. Some of the items discussed that stood out to me

were questions pertaining to “Everyone in Harmony.” Over the past number of months since this new BHS policy has been implemented, the BOD has heard from quite a few of our Chorus members. You can rest assured that those concerns have been addressed by your leadership. Suffice it to say, mixed Choruses and Quartets are where we are going as a society, though those Choruses/Quartets that choose to stay all-male are encouraged to do so. Another item of interest to me is the 2020 Fall Convention. If you haven’t heard (and who hasn’t?), the proposal is to hold our convention aboard a Carnival Cruise Ship! My first reaction was, “Uh, NO!” Why did I react that way? Because I get seasick on a swing, for crying out loud! “But didn’t you serve 25 years in the Navy as a chaplain, Roots?” Yes, I did. But that was a ministry that God chose for me. It merely confirms that the Lord has a sense of humor. Trust me, I would never have picked the Navy. But here’s the good news in all of this. These cruise ships (unlike the Navy), have amazing stabilizers creating a near flawless motion while sailing. They have stage performances with jugglers, dancers, etc. Plus, there’s a 24-hour food line, great sleeping accommodations, and if we can fill the ship to more than 50%, we get the whole ship to ourselves. On top of that, we sail from Long Beach to Ensenada (Mexico), and back (Passports not required). And we can bring family! The cost comparison is surprising in that it is cheaper to hold the Convention on the cruise ship per day, including travel, than holding it at a convention center.

Friday night’s Quartet competition was the best I’ve heard in quite some time. I’m just glad that I’m not one of the judges. When the evening was over I couldn’t wait for Saturday night’s Quartet Finals. In between, we had the Chorus competition Saturday morning. I heard only three of the Choruses due to the fact that I was singing with the Golden Valley Chorus, and we were second up. By the time I was able to get back to my seat in the theater, I was able to hear Westminster, Fog City, and Inland Sound before having to join the Stockton Portsmen who were up 20th (last). There was no doubt about Westminster. They blew me out of my seat! Little wonder they took second at International this year. The energy they exude is palatable(sic)! Congratulations to them for an outstanding presentation.

I was pleased to sing with the Portsmen for several reasons. First, the Stockton Portsmen is the first

Barbershop Chorus I joined in 1988 when I was stationed at the Naval Communications Station in Stockton. Second, this is the first mixed chorus (MBHA) on stage at our convention making it an historic moment in Barbershopping. And third, Bill Litz, the director, was gracious enough to invite me to join them. It had been my honor earlier in the year to be their installation officer as well. And the Portsmen are members of the Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association.

Saturday evening was wonderful! Being regaled by the top ten Quartets was truly special. And the performance by the Cross City Harmonizers (Las Vegas), 2018 FWD High School Champion, was a real treat. And what a Bass singer!

I must crow a bit over the Quartet finals since the first and third place winners are from the NE Division! Kudos to the top three! Third place is Dynamix. Second place is Fourtunate Sons (SE Division). And first place goes to Capitol Ring! What a show we had! Congratulations!

Hope to see many of you soon, as it is my intention to visit with Choruses all across the fruited plain, otherwise known as the Northeast Division!



Winter is coming! At least that is what they tell me...it is hard to tell here in Arizona.

What a fantastic Fall Convention we had! Congratulations to our new FWD Quartet Champions *Capitol Ring* and our Chorus Champions *Westminster*. Congratulations are also in order for Arizona-based Quartets *Saucebox* - the 2018 Novice Champions, *Antique Parts* - the 2018 Super Senior Champions, and to *Montage* for placing in the top 10 at their first Fall convention.

By this time you should have your newly elected Boards of Directors in place and be looking forward to the

coming year. A really fantastic way to start the year will be by attending the Leadership Summit on January 12, 2019. I know I have mentioned this before, however I am really excited about the new focus of this Leadership Summit. Contrary to the leadership events of the past, this is not only for Chapter leadership. The Leadership Summit is for all members looking to improve their overall leadership skills. There will still be the standard classes for Board members, so if you are new to your position on the Board, would like to get some input, or might be interested in being in a Chapter position in the future, then there are classes for you. There will also be new classes specifically designed to improve leadership skills, discussions about the "Everyone in Harmony" initiative, and even a class on how to sight read a new song! In order to get more information or to sign up, please click [here](#).

'Tis also the season for holiday shows!

December 2 and 9: East Valley Barbershop Harmonizers <http://evbarbershop.com/>

December 8: The Phoenicians <https://www.phoenicians.org/>

December 9: A Capella Syndicate <https://acappella-syndicate.com/acs2/index.php>

December 9: Tucson Barbershop Experience <http://www.tucsonbarbershopharmony.org/>

December 18: High County Barbershop Chorus <http://wmhcbc.com/>

As a final note, the East Valley Barbershop Harmonizers are celebrating their 25th Anniversary. On December 13, 2018, there will be an open house party to celebrate this milestone. The celebration will start at 7 p.m. and will include a potluck buffet, a pick-up Quartet contest, tag singing, and more! Any Chorus or Quartet that shows up will be encouraged to sing. For more information, please look here: <https://farwesterndistrict.org/events/upcoming-events/eventdetail/1584/mesa-chapter-25th-anniversary-celebration>

If you have anything you would like to see included in my next article, or if there is something I can bring to the Board for you, please feel free to e-mail a.kaufman@yahoo.com or give me a call (516) 770-3743.

Until next time...Happy Holidays to all!

Remember we know Barbershop is awesome, let's share it with the world!



Now that the FWD Fall Convention is over I can concentrate on my responsibilities as a Chapter Advocate. What is a Chapter Advocate you ask? Well, we are people who try our best to answer questions pertaining to issues that affect the Chapters in the Barbershop Harmony Society. I'm trying to support the District Vice Presidents of our five Divisions in listening to questions primarily pertaining to the recent June 19, 2018 decision to allow women to join the society.

One of the more helpful guides for me and Chapter leadership and members is referenced by asking the question; "has the Chapter contact read the Member FAQs and/or Chapter Leader FAQs"? (barbershop.org/EveryoneinHarmony) This reference answers many of the questions that have been generated over the past few months. The decision to allow women to join the society was not done hastily and the Society Board listened to many legal experts before issuing this proclamation.

In January of 2019 the society will present information that will help facilitate the changing of By-Laws that will address this change in the Society and Chapter operations. What I've been able to garner from conversations with Society personnel and Board members is that if we admit women at the organization level, each Quartet or Chapter Chorus could make its own determination if they wanted to stay all male or not.

We have Chapters that have had women singing in their Choruses for years and they've performed publicly and done many shows with both sexes on stage. The Stockton Chapter Chorus performed at our

most recent convention and they were accepted as any other Chorus by the audience. That Chorus format may or may not be for you or your Chapter, but every Chapter will have a choice. Freedom of choice at the local level is all we can ask.

Contest and Judging is investigating adding female-only or mixed male/female groups for contest, but our existing system isn't going away. There are many issues to be addressed for future contests and conventions. As you know, currently the conventions are already full of contests and other events that take up many hours and to add more to those schedules will take some master planning.

In my 54 years of membership this is a huge change in how we've perceived Barbershop Harmony. But when OC Cash started this organization he knew there had to be changes along the way to keep harmony alive...and now we've experienced a change that has members buzzing at all levels. Just because we've always done it one way doesn't mean we can't try something new... take a risk, don't be afraid to try!

I believe in the message produced by Maya Angelou; *Love life, engage in it and give it all you've got. Love it with a passion, because life truly does give back, many times over, what you put into it.*



Marketing wisely on a shoe-string budget

This is the fourth in a series of articles intended to help Chapter marketing teams maximize their “bang for the buck”, particularly when faced with a limited budget. Last time we took an in-depth look at the mechanics of developing a website. This time I'd like to revisit the bread and butter for Marketing and PR folks: the Press Release.

I. THE PRESS RELEASE

A press release is a short, compelling news story written by a public relations person and sent to targeted members of the media. The goal of a press release is to pique the interest of a journalist or publication. The press release should contain all the essential information — who? what? where? when? how? and most importantly why? — for the journalist to easily produce his own story.

A. COVER LETTER

It is not always necessary to include a cover letter with your press release, but there are certain events when it can make the difference between your story being covered or not. For example, if your group will be performing in a public place such as a park pavilion, civic building or shopping mall for a sing-out or even a “flash mob” it would be to your advantage to include a short cover letter advising the media of a photo or video opportunity, and refer them to the press release that follows.

B. FORMAT

Let's start by understanding the format of a press release. While there are a number of styles available, I encourage following the Associated Press industry standards as much as possible, as they tend to convey an added sense of professionalism to the journalist.

If you are planning to mail your press release via postal mail, it should be printed on your organization's

letterhead whenever possible, as that lends additional credibility to your story. If you will be sending it via email, embedding a small image of your logo at the top of the message will have a similar effect.

VERY important if you are sending your press release via email is to clearly identify it as a press release. The subject line of the email message should begin with “Press Release:” followed by the title of your story.

C. HEADINGS

At the top of the first page, type PRESS RELEASE in all capital letters. It should be centered and in boldface type.

Hit return twice to skip a line, and on the left side provide the release date in boldface capitals. If your story should be released on a future date, type FOR RELEASE ON MONTH DAY, YEAR. Otherwise type FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

On the same line as the release date, but on the right side, type CONTACT INFORMATION (or CONTACT INFO.), again in boldface capital letters. Go down to the next line and list the name and phone number of at least one contact person.

D. HEADLINE

The standard press release begins with the headline, arguably the most important four or five words in the whole press release. The headline will be what the journalist reads first. If it’s not intriguing, newsworthy and unique, he’ll read no further. We’ll look at forming a good headline later in this article.

E. SUMMARY

Below the headline often comes a brief, one-line summary of the press release. Like the headline, the summary should draw the reader in quickly and motivate him to learn more.

F. BODY – answer the When, Where, Who, What

While some experts advise to never write a press release longer than one page, others will say to write it as long as it takes to tell your story. Do your best to keep it concise, but don’t remove important information just to make it fit on one page. If your press release does span more than one page, it is customary to place a line with “— MORE —” centered at the bottom of each page, except of course the last one.

1. Leading Paragraph

The leading paragraph should begin with a dateline to answer the “when” and “where”: CITY, [State,] Month Day, Year – and then continue with answering the “what” in the rest of the paragraph. The city should

always be capitalized; the state is typically omitted for major or well-known cities such as HONOLULU, LAS VEGAS, LOS ANGELES, PHOENIX, SAN DIEGO, or SAN FRANCISCO, but when included be sure to use the Associated Press style abbreviations — Ariz., Calif., Nev. — rather than the US Postal Service abbreviations; Hawaii and Utah are always spelled out. Separate the dateline from the rest of the paragraph using an em-dash (—).

Examples:

LOS ANGELES, December 1, 2018 — ...

SACRAMENTO, Calif., December 1, 2018 — ...

2. Include quotes

Whenever possible, the second paragraph should include at least one quote from a prominent figure in your organization, or better still from a widely known public figure that discusses why this is an important event, adding further credibility to your press release. Be sure to identify the people you quote, using their title and organization in addition to their name.

3. Answer the Why and How

The rest of the body of the press release should answer all of the questions a journalist might have about the product, service or event that you’re announcing. Although a press release is a public relations tool, it should not read as overly promotional. If it sounds too much like a sales pitch, it will lose credibility in the eyes of the journalist.

4. Call to action

The last paragraph is where you can make a call to action. This is your opportunity to prompt your target audience to do something. It can be as simple as “For more information visit <http://your-website.org>”. Be sure use the complete URL, including the http:// (or https://), not a hidden “click here” link.

5. Ending

It is a journalistic standard to signal the end of the press release with three hash symbols (###) centered directly below the last line.

G. BOILERPLATE INFORMATION

It is a good practice to follow the body of your press release with additional information. This can often provide the journalist with additional, relevant information to include in his or her article. Quite often this will be the same information, regardless of the press release, so you may want to consider making a template — referred to as a “boilerplate” in the press industry — that has this information already written and checked for spelling and grammar.

1. Organization Summary

Include a short summary about your group beneath the heading “About [your group name]”. For Quartets this might include your names, voice parts, and cities where you live as well as how long you have been together and any awards or other recognition you’ve received. For Choruses, this should certainly include when your Chapter was founded, the approximate number of members, then name of your director, and when and where you meet.

2. Contact Information

Beneath the heading, “For more information — Press contact ONLY:” include the complete contact information of a person the media can follow up with: Name, Organization Name, Phone Number(s), E-mail Address, Company URL. The heading and information should be on the left side and in boldface type.

II. EXAMPLE HEADLINE

As mentioned earlier, the headline is arguably the most important four or five words in the whole press release. The summary sentence that follows is the next most important.

Structurally, the headline should be in boldface and set to a larger font size than the body copy. Conventional press release headlines use the present tense and exclude the “a” and “the”, as well as forms of the verb “to be” in certain contexts. The first word is always capitalized, as are all proper nouns, but everything else should be lower-case.

A good practice is to write the body of your press release first, and then write a suitable and intriguing headline and summary.

A. Extract important keywords

The simplest method to create the press release headline is to extract the most important keywords from your press release. From these keywords, try to frame a logical and attention-getting statement. If including a summary sentence after the headline, the same rules apply. Using keywords early will give you better visibility in search engines, and it will be simpler for journalists and readers to get the idea of the press release content.

B. Know your audience

If you will be submitting your press release to *Westunes* or *The Harmonizer*, the following title for this example show would be more than appropriate:

**Ringmasters to appear on Masters of
Harmony show**

It works in this case, because both the editorial staff and the readers of these publications are very familiar with both groups. However, once you leave the Barbershop “inside” world, that title has little or no meaning. So let’s replace our title with something that has meaning to the general public:

**World champion barbershop quartet,
chorus to perform**

That title clearly has meaning to a reader who is not familiar with barbershop, and “world champion” certainly adds intrigue. But after reading the article again, I realize that our title is missing two very important keywords that could give more mass appeal. First is the fact that the headline Quartet comes from a long ways away, so we should bring that into focus as a “once in a lifetime” opportunity. Second, the show will be held at a very prestigious venue, adding even more credibility to the event. So let’s take another pass, and work those into the title:

**World champion singers from Sweden
appearing at Segerstrom**

For the sake of brevity we’ve omitted MoH from the title, but we can include them in the summary:

**The world champion Ringmasters quartet from
Stockholm, Sweden and world champion Masters
of Harmony chorus from Santa Fe Springs join
together for a spectacular concert of
a cappella harmony singing.**

From these examples I hope you can see the importance in putting some “spin” on the title to make it as enticing as possible to a massed audience. But to drive the point home, here are some more “real world” examples:

**Ice cream social, concert to benefit high school youth
Barbershop harmony group delights
holiday shoppers**

**Singing valentines deliver old-fashioned charm
Benefit concert to send area high school boys
to music camp**

**Hometown quartet advances to 5-state
regional competition**

**Stockton singers hold open house
Area singers present landmark 75th annual concert
Local barbershop singers donate music
to high school choir**

**Singing group to perform music of Cole Porter
Quartet honors fallen officers
Local barbershop chorus wins regional title**

By now you should be getting the idea.

III. RESOURCES

- There are some great resources available on the Far Western District website at <https://farwesterndistrict.org/education/leadership-academy-presentations/vp-marketing>
- *The Associated Press Stylebook* is an excellent resource for English grammar style and usage, created by journalists over the past century and updated annually each spring.
- *The Elements of Style* by Strunk & White is the de facto standard for all writers of the English language. Don't leave home without it.
- I would be remiss not to mention the tremendous value of Google in finding additional resources on style, grammar, press release examples, and even readability tools to help you become a better writer.

IV. CONCLUSION

Writing effective press releases takes practice, and it's always a good idea to have a few people proofread them and offer suggestions, especially people who are not barbershop "insiders" and even better if they have some journalistic experience. Read your local papers to see what kinds of events are being published, and use them as examples for what works. Don't get discouraged if your press release doesn't get picked up. Use a different angle next time, and keep trying.



Who Had the Most Fun in Fresno?

There were 40 guys that had more fun than anyone else at the Fall FWD Convention in Fresno.

Why?

Cause they started singing in Quartets the day before most folks arrived. These fellows had learned four songs at home from high quality tracks that the Harmony Platoon put out. They got randomly assigned

into Quartets, and after rehearsing a while competed in a fun contest. These four guys had the best "luck of the draw" and won our first contest.



Forgive this Quartet for being slightly "out of focus" since they were so overjoyed at winning. They were called **The Next Quartet** and sang a challenging arrangement by Walter Latzko called *Jezebel*. From Left to Right, meet Tenor **Glenn Davis** from Santa Cruz, Lead **Ed Bostrom** from Alaska and Prescott AZ and a member of the Frank Thorne Chapter, Bass **Bob Standfast** of Sedona and Arizona Quartet Chapters, and Bari **Antwun Puckett** of Las Vegas.

You may recognize Tenor Glenn Davis from our Saturday night mike-testing Quartet Seaside, who went to Harmony University this last summer and made a very big jump in scores from their spring Division qualifying contest. Congrats guys.

Then everyone got shuffled into new combinations and competed again, leading to crowning a champ: **A Good Day**. They sang an arrangement that our own **Lloyd Steinkamp** penned for our very own "almost" International champs Pacificaires: *A Good Day*.



From Left to Right, meet Bari **Vic Guder** from Las Vegas, Lead **Logan Patrick-Miernicki** from San Luis Obispo and Santa Fe Springs, **Bass Antwun** Puckett from Las Vegas and Tenor **Jay Pryor** from Rincon Beach. You will notice that Antwun also won the Semi-Finals contest on Bari, and is in our fantastic FWD High School Champs Quartet.

Thanks to our contest judges Tenor **Ray Estes** and Bari **Mark House** of International Senior Champs High Fidelity, Tenor **Shel Givens** of FWD Super Senior Champs The Artul Codgers and Preferred Blend's Lead **Steve Hansen**.



To all the Chapters that Passed the Hat for Youth in Harmony, Thank You! If your Chapter didn't, and you would like to show your support, donations Identified for Youth in Harmony can be sent to Treasurer Rich Owen.



In addition to the Quartet contests, our Platoon group gave half-hour performances at two rest homes, singing both as a Chorus and in Quartets.

In our District we have many opportunities to promote Barbershop Harmony through Youth Outreach experiences. Camps, Workshops, Festivals, Shows, School Visits, are all a part of our District Vision. Youth Outreach takes place on every level of our Society. Chapters sponsor events year-round. Our District Sponsors a HS Quartet Contest every spring, and a Youth Camp every Fall. On the Society Level there are performing and contest opportunities at the Middle School, High School, and College levels for both Quartets and Choruses.



This past year has been full of Youth activities and this coming year will have even more events in each Division of our District.

Two fine directors were up front of the Platoon (Bolles and Patrick-Miernicki), which was assembled by organizers Suwabe, Salz and Kane. Left to Right, meet **Logan Patrick-Miernicki, Bill Kane, Scott Suwabe, Gary Bolles** and **Don Salz**.

As we close out 2018 how grateful I am for those who showed me what Barbershop Harmony was all about. I was in college singing in the men's glee club when men that would become my best friends came back stage and talked to me about "Barbershop".

The next Platoon you have a chance to join will be at Midwinter in Nashville next January, while FWD Spring Conventions will also feature Platoons. Why not come and have some fun with us. Watch for a chance to register either on the Platoon website, or FWD website: HarmonyPlatoon.org

I hope every member of our District will think about sharing this special Harmony with others. Several Young men in my life have expressed to me that their lives literally have been changed because of our Harmony and Friendship. After an amazing weekend of Barbershop Harmony, I took a young man to his job where I dropped him off at work knowing that at the end of his shift, he would walk to the bus stop in the cold and make the long trip home. The next morning, he would again walk to the bus stop to catch the bus

into town where he is attending our University. How grateful I am to share in some of the joy in this Young man's life.

tears, great times!! I look forward to the International Prelims in Stockton. I'll have more items on display. If you have any items that need to be shared with your fellow FWD members, drop me a note and let's discuss what it is and how it fits into the big picture.



I am so happy with those who've given to me many treasures from our District's history, from medals and pins, trophies and photos, to magazines and one-of-a-kind items.

Thank you Dale Jarvis, Maureen Fairchild, Myrna Lees, Paul Graham, Alan Gordon, Mike Lawton, Patrick Claypool, Martin Fredstrom, Ray Rhymer, Don and Rosye Salz, Gary and Al Mau and others.

FROM THE HISTORIAN

Reflections on our past, proud of the present and excited for the future.

Please don't toss out any of our history. Contact me and let's find a place for your treasures.

I am so happy being your Historian. The first display of the Traveling Museum was (as I've read in many emails, texts and articles) a huge success.

Look ahead to Stockton and seeing all 11 International Quartet Champion winning uniforms on display. More pins and medals, and more unique items from the great Far Western District.

Sharing so many items from my personal collection was a pleasure. Over 600 people stopped by the tables... shared some stories, donated some items, laughs,

Happy and safe Holidays to you all. Regards,





ARIZONA DIVISION

Bob Shaffer • Division Editor

Central Arizona Chapter

By Bill Kane

Several members of the Chapter participated in Quartet Platoon activities at the FWD convention in Fresno (**Gene Brandwein, Bill Kane, Don Salz, Bob Standfast and Jay Breen**). Bob Standfast was Bass in the Semi-Finals Champs “The Next Quartet”, singing a very challenging Walter Latzko arrangement of *Jezebel* made popular by International Champs “The Suntones”. Besides contests, Quartets and a Chorus from the Platoon entertained at a couple of local rest homes, including Nazareth House.

The Chapter will be meeting one Saturday each month through the winter preparing for Platoons at the Midwinter BHS convention and Spring FWD Conventions, as well as guys who will be attending 2019 Brigades. Registration forms for these Platoons will be found on their website: HarmonyPlatoon.org

Greater Phoenix Chapter

By Jerry McElfresh

The Phoenicians have moved to their new rehearsal and performance venue, the **Madison Center for the Arts** at 5601 N. 16th Street in Phoenix; where they meet at 7 p.m.

on Tuesdays. The brand new 950-seat theater was built by the Madison School District. The Phoenicians are looking forward to working with the school district to promote choral music and Barbershop, including a Harmony Explosion.

The Chapter’s slate of officers has been elected for 2019. Elected were **Jay Bartley**, President; **Howard Donley**, Executive Vice President; **Rich Kates**, Music VP; **John Mertens**, Membership VP; **Glenn Partridge**, Marketing VP; **Gene Brandwein**, Secretary; **Don Miller**, Treasurer; and **Aaron Burleson, Richard Muhn and Ken Stanton**, Board Members-at-Large. **Dan Ryan Sr.** continues as our Musical Director.

The Phoenicians enjoyed participating in the Far Western District Chorus Contest and they followed that up by hosting a successful afterglow room. A total of at least 15 Quartets entertained, and scores of Barbershoppers and guests visited during the night to enjoy the harmony.

Mesa Chapter

By Ray Aalvik

The East Valley Harmonizers added six new members this quarter. Leads **James Bohart, Larry Kaimer, Phil**

Kraft, Mike Licciardello and Jeromy McMahon, plus Bass **Marvin Evans**. Summertime attendance had its usual challenges but preparing for District Competition and starting on our Christmas show music provided incentive for good attendance.

The District Convention in Fresno was a great success for the Harmonizers. Our Director, **Russ Young** and some of his henchmen (**Bob Szabo, David Melville**, et al), created some wanted posters and a simulated newspaper to advertise the western theme for our contest songs. Many thanks to those who set up hay bales and other props, and to Greg Grace for the horses.

The East Valley Harmonizers were the Plateau A Champion and 6th overall with a score of 73.3. It has been 15 years since this group competed at the District level. Many thanks to the organizers of the event and to the judges.

In the Quartet competition, **Montage** placed 10th overall with a score of 72.4. Congratulations to **Greg Grace, James Souhan, Shreyas Amin and Cary Burns**. Also, congratulations to **Saucebox**, named Novice Quartet Champion with **Randy Bingel, Adam Kaufman, Bob Shaffer and Don Koehnlein**. In addition, a “well

done” to **Intonation** and their Lead, **Jeromy McMahon**.

If you find yourself in the Phoenix area on a Thursday night, please drop in and sing with us at St Mark’s Episcopal Church, 322 N Horne, Mesa, AZ 85203 at 7:00 to 10:00 PM. Come and have some fun singing with Russ, followed by some Quartet singing and then an awesome afterglow.

PRESCOTT CHAPTER

By Sam Stimple

The Prescott Chapter’s **Harmony For Lunch Bunch** met the fourth Friday of the summer months for good old-fashioned group singing. The Golden Corral buffet offers tons of choices that kept us eating and singing for nearly two hours.

The Chapter is enjoying it’s “new digs” at Las Fuentes Resort Village, 1035 Scott Drive, Prescott every Thursday evening from 7 to 9 PM. The resort village residents are ‘chord-ially’ invited to sit and listen to some of their old favorites as well as some new tunes.

Since we have been given no storage space in our new location, we donated our 4-section set of risers to the choral music program at Bradshaw Mountain High School in Prescott Valley. Ms. Amy Van Winkle is director and has introduced Barbershop Harmony to her choirs. **ANTIQUÉ PARTS** Quartet visits them regularly and are warmly received.

There were two summer Chorus performances at Boulder Gardens Care Center and the Veterans Administration in September. The

latter honored Missing-in-Action soldiers and former prisoners of war. USAF Col. (Retired) **Ron Byrne** was incarcerated for seven and one-half years in Vietnam’s Hanoi Hilton; he joined our Chorus 25 years ago and is approaching his 90th birthday.

The Chapter celebrated its 44th year with cake on September 27. Happy Birthday to us!

Sedona Chapter

By Michael McCaffrey

“I believe that singing is the key to long life, a good figure, a stable temperament, increased intelligence, new friends, super self-confidence, heightened sexual attractiveness, and a better sense of humor.” Brian Eno

Having no argument with this quote, **Harmony on the Rocks** spent the summer months perfecting the performance material for our November 4 concert. The theme this year is *Up On the Roof, 80 Years of Good Harmony and Bad Jokes*. Bad musical quotes notwithstanding, we will be featuring 22 confident, intelligent, even tempered, and long lived singers presenting the following repertoire: *Georgia on My Mind, When I Lift Up My Head, What’ll I Do, Lullaby In Ragtime, Love Me and the World Is Mine, Tin Roof Blues, Dream a Little Dream of Me, Red Rose Rag, Lost in the Stars, Swing Down Chariot, Bye Bye Blues, The Way You Look Tonight, Hey Good Lookin’, Memphis Blues, and I Told Them All About You/You Dear*. Hope to see you all there.

We also had an engaging and enchanting evening of

song at our Sunset Village Community in September. Finally, we have added a new Lead to our membership, **Nancy Martin**. This brings the female participant total in our Chorus to six. Everyone in Harmony (the BHS Strategic Vision since June), has always been a part of the Harmony on the Rocks philosophy and we welcome all singers to our family.

WHITE MOUNTAINS ARIZONA CHAPTER

By Doc Dockendorf

The **High Country Chorus** celebrated July with its 16th Annual show *Happy Trails II You*, a reprise of its 2005 show *Happy Trails*, which was ostensibly the most popular show in Chapter history. With our new Director, **Dr. Theresa Dick**, this year’s show did not disappoint, and our record audience gave us rave reviews. In addition to the HCC, we had guest quartets **Second Wind**, who had won the silver medal at the Rocky Mountain District Contest and finished a respectable 31st at the International Contest in Orlando. Also appearing was **One Voice**, a Sweet Adeline Quartet from the Phoenix area. In addition to our guests, we had three Chapter Quartets on the show, **Ponderosa Pines, Spectrum, and Pine Trails**. The Chapter wishes to thank the Mesa AZ Chapter for allowing us to borrow their Western Set for our show, and especially their member **Thom Olmstead** of Forest Lakes for delivering the set to Show Low from Mesa. This represents what Barbershopping is all about, going out of the way for our fellow Barbershoppers. The set for the Saloon scene was designed and constructed by **Mick Mitchke**, with

help from **James Burden** and **Jerry Schrunk**. Our show was recorded by our local TV Channel and will be rebroadcast during the year. Two weeks after the Show, the **Better Half Notes**, our Ladies Auxiliary, sponsored a potluck for the HCC at the Fool Hollow State Park. Our singing was overheard and enjoyed by the Park Ranger, and he invited us to come and sing for their guests in the future.

In August, Ponderosa Pines appeared on the Elks Club Ladies Auxiliary Talent Show, and the Chorus sang to an enthusiastic audience at the Fool Hollow State Park.

On September 11, the HCC sang a patriotic show for the residents of Juniper Ridge. It had been several years since we appeared there, and the response was so positive that we hope that it becomes an annual event. Later in the month, the Chorus performed its twice-a-year

cleanup of South Central/Woolford Road. This is the 18th year we have performed this civic duty.

On a sad note, we lost one of our long-time singers, Bass **Ron LaMar**, who passed away suddenly after a very brief illness. Ron had been elected to the 2019 BOD as Membership VP., and had served as Chapter President, Show Chairman, Section Leader, and Assistant Director. He will be missed.



Northeast Division

Roger Perkins • Division Editor

California Delta Chapter

By Jim DeChaine

The **Delta Chapter (VoCal)** placed 3rd out of 20 Chapters at the 2018 Far Western District Convention in Fresno, with one of our best scores in the brief 9+ year history of our organization, 80.6, with 46 men on stage. The second place Chorus qualifier, Fog City Singers, opted out of advancing to the International stage in Salt Lake City in July, 2019, and we are hoping for a wildcard invitation.

We had 17 members from VoCal competing among the 24 participating Quartets at District, with **Capital Ring (Dallas Halvorson, Larry Halvorson, Kevin Palmer and Mike Stewart)** winning the District Championship, and **Dynamix (Doyle Pope, Robert Lenoil, Bruce**

Morgan, James Morgan) placing third. Other VoCal members who sang in Quartets included: **Frank Brannon, Corey Phillips, Richard Lund, Jim DeChaine, Phil DeBar, Paul Goldsmith, Richard Kaiser, Dave Wallace, Bruce Sellnow and Steve Leipelt. R.I.C.K.S. Quartet (Richard Lund, Dave Wallace, Bruce Sellnow, Steve Leipelt)** won the **FWD Senior Quartet Championship.**

2019 new Chapter Officers are: returning President **Larry Womac**; Secretary **Tim Jackson**; returning Treasurer **Scott West**; Marketing VP **Tim Huntsinger**; returning Membership VP **Rich Hartmann**; Music VP **Rich Brunner**; Member-at-Large **Dwayne Smith**; returning Member-at-Large **Derick Sturke**; and returning Past President **Jim Maass.**

VoCal welcomes into the fold

two additional new members this quarter: **Tim Tuggle**, Lead, and **Manuel "Manny" Pacheco**, Lead.

Our annual Family Picnic was again enjoyed by members and their spouses. Repeat hosts were **Jim & Lorna Ingram.**

Central California Chapter

By Miles Sutter

After an absence of quite a few years the Golden Valley Chorus returned to Ripon where we've had many fans for many years. We presented our already popular Ice Cream Social at Immanuel Christian Reformed Church with about 50 very enthusiastic people in the audience. We were graced by two quartets, **H.I.C.K.S.** and **R.I.C.K.S.** - very different in

appearance, but very similar in sound [for those who don't know, the **H** quartet is comedy in costume and the **R** quartet is semi-serious]. Our own **Howard** and **Betty Barber**, along with banjoista **Steve Leipelt** entertained in the interlude. The result? We donated over \$400 to Youth Harmony Camp.

The GVC once again performed for the Ripon Senior Citizens with 18 members singing eleven songs. **Darrel Bright** was our MC for the evening. The audience, although small in number, was very attentive and appreciative.

Another milestone in the life of the Golden Valley Chorus, and an especially poignant one, since it's the next to last performance opportunity with our Music Director **Bruce Sellnow**. Our performance was memorable. We gave the audience a laugh and a tear.

GVC's quartet **R.I.C.K.S.** came home from the FWD Fall Contest crowned as FWD Senior Quartet Champs!

Folsom Chapter

By Doug Vestal

The **Folsom Harmony Express** performed at the **Atria** senior assisted living home with an audience of about 40 people. We celebrated the BHS 80th birthday. We started with a Quartet singing *Down Mobile*, first song sung at the first gathering. Along with the Chorus songs, two in-house Quartets also performed – The **Atria Quartet (Roger Perkins, Kent Borrowdale, Ken Potter, Doug Vestal)**, and the **Four Guys Quartet** aka **Denny's Quartet (Roger**

Santiago, Kent Borrowdale, Ken Potter, Les Cudworth).

We invited our wives and significant others to a dinner in their honor at our Annual Wives Recognition Dinner in September, held at the Spaghetti Factory.

Our Annual Recital *80 Years of Barbershop Harmony* was held at the Redeemer Covenant Church in Orangevale, where we rehearse. Our enthusiastic audience enjoyed songs from 1938 when the first Quartet sang *Down Mobile* all the way to Billy Joel's *For the Longest Time*. Four Chapter Quartets performed - **The First Quartet, Down Our Way Quartet, Denny's Quartet** and **The Atria Quartet**. Our headliner group was a mixed Barbershop Chorus named **Sound Bites**, a combination of former Sweet Adeline singers and Bass **Doug Vestal** from our own **Harmony Express Chorus**.

Nevada Placer Chapter

By Roger Perkins

The **Sierranaders** held their annual BBQ/Swim Party in August to celebrate the 35th anniversary of their charter (August 22, 1983). The party took place at the home of **Steve** and **Anne Evans**, who have provided their BBQ and swimming pool for about 20 years and it is greatly appreciated. We had over 28 in attendance with members, family and friends. Tri-tip was barbecued by **Roger Perkins** and everybody brought side dishes. **Ken Potter** provided the drinks. After the big meal we were entertained by Chapter Quartets and the **Sierranaders** Chorus.

A septet sang at the Gold Country Fair in September. President **Cliff Johnson** set up a table for the Nevada Placer Chapter with brochures and pictures in one of the buildings at the Fairgrounds. We sang at various locations from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to many appreciative people.

Placerville Chapter

The **Gold Rush Chorus** held their annual Cabaret Show in October. Featured Quartets were **Three Men & A Tenor, Chord Peddlers, the Atria Quartet, the Hangtown Harmonizers** and **Backroads**. The show was headlined by a trio, **The Muses (Elizabeth Dyer, Mandy Nicole & Melisa Brausch)**, who sounded very much like the Andrew Sisters. It was a fun show with well over 100 people in attendance.

Stockton Chapter

By Ben Buckman

The Chapter welcomed and accepted four new members in, **Bob Moore, Renee Beers, Les Cudworth** and **Tim Tuggle**. Welcome to the Portsmen. Our Chapter Quartet **Mixed Meta4** continues to practice and is quite active in singing out. Good job Joan and crew! Bill continues to do a great job of directing the Chapter each week.

The **Stockton Portsmen Mixed Chorus** took first place at the FWD convention in the MBHA category in Fresno. Of course there were no other Choruses competing in that category but we all had a wonderful time under the direction of **Bill Litz**.



Northwest Division

Don Shively • Division Editor

Palo Alto/Mountain View Chapter

By Larry Valencia

The **Peninsulaires Chorus** returned from District Convention in Fresno feeling good about our performance and continued improvement with the results. Many of the new techniques we have implemented are really helping with all aspects of our sound and look. The silly, but very effective use of “bubbling” is truly making a positive difference in our overall sound quality.

Congratulations to the newly elected Board Members: Chapter President **Michael Gordon**, VP Chapter Development **Mark Tabry**, Marketing and Public Relations Officer **Larry Valencia**, VP Music and Performance **Dave Kocharhook**, Chapter Secretary **Robert Howd**, Chapter Treasurer **David Morley**, VP Program **John Wanless**, and Board Members-at-Large **Eliot Rubinov** and **Art Ryan**.

The Holidays are upon us and we have dusted off our Holiday repertoire as we prepare for a busy December. Performances include our Christmas-themed Ice Cream Social and Cabaret Dinner, the Annual Holiday Train sing-out, and a usually chilly morning at The Palo Alto Farmer’s Market. Our Director, **Dr. Sean Abel**, is doing a superb job

at getting us into the Holiday Spirit. His patience, skill, knowledge, and goofy sense of humor makes every rehearsal a pleasure.

San Mateo County Chapter

By Tom Addison

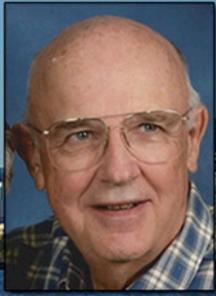
The **Faultline Chorus** had a very successful Annual Show called *Jukebox Saturday Night* from Doo Wop to Motown featuring the new Quartet **Easy Winners** and crooner **Jeff Cleary**. With tunes including *Only You*, *Brown-Eyed Girl*, *Shaboom*, and *Happy Together*, we entertained several hundred fans with music that expanded our Barbershop chops and surprised our audience, who enjoyed it immensely. We appreciate the BHS for providing such a wonderful variety of styles of music expanding our repertoire for the enjoyment of our members and our audience.

We are now diligently working on our Christmas music so that we can do our normal ten community sing-outs including riding the Cal Train Holiday Train from San Francisco to San Jose where, along with our brothers from the **Cable Car Chorus**, we sing to several thousand adoring fans.

Our officers for next year are President **Ed Sterbenc**, VP Music

and Performance **Tom Addison**, Secretary **Rich Alger**, Treasurer **Pete Wanger**, with at-large members **Tom Mulooley**, **Dave McCann**, **David Korts**, and **Bill Nott** looking suspiciously like the previous line up!





Southeast Division

Greg Price • Division Editor



Inland Empire Chapter

By Gaylord Spence

As alluded to in our summer article, our Chapter is in high anticipation of the planned Christmas show that we are planning jointly with our sister Chapter from the Sweet Adelines. Our Chorus, **Inland Sound**, and theirs, the **Inland Empire Chorus**, will produce the show for Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 2 PM that best exemplifies the top songs from both Choruses (and their top Quartets) Christmas repertoires. We are already having fun with this show and even plan on singing a joint song *Let There Be Peace* in 8-part harmony!

This all came together as a result of the very successful collaboration we had in having these ladies as guests on our August show. They have been super to work with and we're sure our audience then, and now for our Christmas show, have and will pick up on that spontaneity and excitement that we have and are still continuing to build together.

Palomar-Pacific Chapter

By Tom Redler

The highlight of the summer for the **Music Men Chorus** was our annual Summer Potluck Party. It was held at the Redler Home,

overlooking the Pacific Ocean on a beautiful Carlsbad day. More than 50 Chorus members, wives, and friends attended bearing plate-loads of delicious culinary delights. Of course they had to "sing for their supper," much to the delight of the neighbors! The main purpose of the annual event is to promote harmony and camaraderie amongst our members, and to provide an opportunity to just burst into spontaneous song without the rigorous structure of a performance or contest. A side benefit is the formation of new Quartets for the future. The joy of the party was unfortunately offset by the subsequent passing of one of our stellar Basses. Dr. **Robert (Bob) Landes** was a long-time Society member and the recipient of several Quartet contest medals. We had the bittersweet pleasure of singing at his memorial service, as he had requested.

On a more joyful note, we are proud to announce the first female recipient of our coveted Barbershopper of the Month award. No, it didn't come about as a result of the recent Society's "Everyone in Harmony" policy, but rather to the dedication and amazing skill and teaching ability of our Music Director's lovely wife, **Marlene Garstang**. She is a

former dancer and schoolteacher who volunteered to take on the enormous task of teaching choreography to a group of singers with dubious dancing skills. Much to our amazement, we were able to liven up our performances of *Ring to the Name of Rose*, and *There'll Be No New Tunes On This Old Piano* in contest; where, incidentally, we received our highest score in the performance category. So kudos to Marlene, for volunteering her time to make our Chorus experience more fun and entertaining.

San Diego Chapter

By Louis Regas

San Diego Sun Harbor Chorus held another end-of-summer production *Everyone in Harmony*. In addition to the efforts of the Chorus, our audience was entertained by the ringing harmonies of four Quartets, including our featured group, **The Newfangled Four**. The Chorus also focused its energies on our presentation at the FWD Convention in Fresno. It is Christmas in October, because we are now in full rehearsal for our 41st Annual Christmas Show. Yes, we are busy, but we are having a great time.



Southwest Division

Justin McQueen • Division Editor



Bakersfield Chapter

By Jim Mahoney, President Elect

The Golden Empire Chorus had some Chapter members who helped at the Far Western District Contest in Fresno on October 12-14. Some helped by hosting Quartets and Choruses as they took to the stage to perform, and some helped at the registration area. BMAL **David Fletcher** attended the House of Delegates meeting and actively participated in the governance of the District and voted on matters that guide our elected officers. He also voted on the slate of officers for 2019.

The Golden Empire Chorus is looking into possibly joining with the Visalia Mighty Oak Chorus for their annual show in April 2019. The two groups will work together to prepare that show in Visalia and then change venues for another show in Bakersfield.

The Chapter held its annual elections and selected the following members to the Board for 2019: President **Jim Mahoney**, Secretary **Wally Nicholas**, Treasurer **Rich Owen**, VP Membership **Mike Kennedy**, VP Music & Performance **Tank Waldrum**, BMAL **Dave Fletcher**, and BMAL **Jack Hulson**. They will bring new enthusiasm and

energy to move the Chorus forward in 2019 and work to expand the Barbershop experience to all members of the Chapter.

Pasadena Chapter

By Dr. Michael Alexander

The Crown City Chorus continues to live up to our motto, “Sing Well, Have Fun.” We are currently preparing for our Christmas show on Dec. 8 at the Westminster Church in Pasadena (which is also where we meet on Thursday nights). Our show will be a delightful combination of old favorites, and some songs which people will be surprised, delighted, and amazed to hear at a Christmas show, but all faithful to the tradition of Barbershop.

We are pleased to be seeing a growth in our numbers. With a reasonable and measured use of social media, Crown City is successfully reversing the trend towards shrinking membership and bringing new singers into the fold. Our ranks are growing at a comfortable pace, and we are getting very qualified singers who are new to Barbershop, but who are definitely talented and valuable members.

Crown City is also pleased to report that we considered the “Everyone

in Harmony” initiative of the Society seriously, and were able to reach a decision about how it works for our Chorus with an appreciation for what the Society is trying to do, but also with due consideration for our own character and history. We will not be going co-ed, not because we don’t believe in it, but because we realize that our Chorus has its culture and place in the lives of our singers, one which we feel works well for us and enriches the lives of our members, and we choose not to change it. We are comfortable, however, with the idea that other Choruses may feel differently, and will be delighted, should anyone ask us for direction, to steer potential members who want a co-ed Chorus, to one which welcomes them.

Whether you see us on the web, at <http://crowncitychorus.com>, or on Twitter (cc chorus) or, better yet, in person, we will look forward to seeing and sharing the joy of harmony with you.

San Fernando Chapter By Ben Marder President

The Valley Harmony Singers is proud to welcome our newest member, **Phil Lockwood**. In the past Phil has sung tenor & baritone in choirs. Today Phil has a rich

Barbershop Bass voice. Phil also is a very good musician, and he's happy to be singing again.

It is with our deepest sorrow that one of our beloved past members, **Tom Mayfield** passed away on August 13, 2018 in Illinois. Tom sang with the **Valleyaires Barbershop Chorus** for 16 years. Tom was Barbershopper of The Year 1994. He was also President of the Chapter. Tom started **Encore (Entertainment Community Outreach Ensemble)**. Encore raised thousands of dollars for the Chapter as well as for charities and Barbershop Youth Programs. Tom died from complications of Pneumonia, after going through heart surgery. Tom will be dearly missed by his family, and all who knew him.

On Saturday December 1, 2018 the Valley Harmony Singers will present our Fall Show *Beautiful Dreamer*, (see ad in this issue). We will be joined by the wonderful **River Oaks Women's Chorus**. For more information visit our Valley Harmony Singers Website.

Pray for those wonderful human beings whose lives were cut short in Pittsburgh, while attending a baby-naming Jewish Ceremony in their house of worship. Have a wonderful Holiday.

Santa Fe Springs Chapter

By Ron Larson

The Road from Orlando to Los Angeles 2020

The **Masters of Harmony** concluded their stellar 2017 International Championship year in Orlando with a swan song set that received thunderous applause from the

deeply appreciative 2018 Orlando International Convention audience. After witnessing some of the highest scoring Chorus performances ever seen at an International Contest, the MOH has set its sights on an even bigger challenge – hosting and competing in the 2020 International Convention in Los Angeles. In Orlando, **The Vocal Majority** won with a score just one point off its highest score ever, and the top nine Choruses scored over 90%! Needless to say, the bar has been raised for all contestants in future contests!

A New Chorus CD in the works

Many Masters singers have discovered that one of the best ways to fine-tune choral singing skills is by singing in demanding recording sessions. Thanks to the efforts of **John Loftus**, his St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach, California, known for excellent acoustics, became the studio for the first three of a series of recording sessions. Each session focused just on several songs. The Stephen Schwartz medley that was the centerpiece of the Orlando swan song set will be on the new CD along with other songs in the current repertoire. It should be released sometime next year.

The Masters of Harmony on Social Media

Realizing that many members are not natural sales people, **Sean Sherrodd** is encouraging members to promote MOH activities by using two popular social media platforms – Instagram and Facebook. The MOH site on Instagram ([Instagram@masters_of_harmony](https://www.instagram.com/masters_of_harmony)) currently has 1200 followers and the Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/>

[MastersofHarmony](https://www.facebook.com/mastersofharmony)) currently has 4,700 followers. Visuals on both sites are updated regularly, so we invite you to give us a visit!

2018 Far Western District Convention

Masters members took an active part in many of the activities of this year's Fall Convention in Fresno. The District Board meeting included MOH members **Craig Hughes** (President), Board members **Bill Rosica** (EVP), **Rich Owen** (Treasurer), **Craig Ewing** (VP Music & Performance), **Brett Littlefield** (VP Contests & Judging), and **Jeremy Loper** (Membership Recruitment & Education). MOH members handling important convention tasks included Craig Hughes and **Alan Gordon** (MCs), **Chris Peterson** (Singing Judge), **Kent Richardson** (Contest Administrator), and **Sharon Ernsberger** (Stage Manager). **Dallas Halvorson** and his father **Larry** were part of **Capitol Ring**, the Quartet Contest winner, and MOH Director **Justin Miller** led **Westminster** to the Chorus title. MOH members sang in 4 of the 25 competing Quartets, 8 of the 19 competing Choruses and directed 3 of them (Craig Ewing, **Royce Ferguson**, Justin Miller). The Convention dedicatee was **Dave Briner**, one of the Society's finest arrangers. The MOH family extends hearty congratulations to all who took part in this very successful convention!

Harmony Brigade Extreme Quartetting

Barbershoppers who enjoy Quartet singing may want to take a look at the Harmony Brigade Extreme Quartetting program (www.harmonybrigade.org). It offers a unique opportunity to form

Quartets with like-minded singers from other parts of the country or beyond. MOH BMAL **Jim Schumacher** recently took part in such a contest in Reno. It featured 33 randomly-assigned competing Quartets. The finalists did not learn which pre-learned songs they would be singing until just before going on stage! Jim's group included a Bass from Hong Kong, a Bari from Texas, and a Tenor just moving to Panama . . .and it won the contest! For a 10-minute video of Jim's experience at the Reno contest, visit his posting at (https://youtu.be/_xJdtg5pi8w).

2019 MOH Board of Directors

On October 10, the following members were chosen as leaders of the Masters of Harmony: President – **Joe D'Amore**, Secretary – **Maurice Freleaux**, Treasurer – **Skip Farrar**, VP Chapter Development – Sean Sherrodd, VP Music & Performance – **Dave Tautkus**, VP Operations – **Foster Howlett**, VP Public Relations – **Larry Icenogle**, Board Members-at-Large – **Hugh Brown, Jeff Harmon, Bob Hartwig, Justin McQueen, Lucas Purcell, Ed Schackman, Robert Shelton.**

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that the Masters of Harmony learned of the passing of former member, **Lisle Leete**. Lisle was a professional sound engineer at NBC and tirelessly used his experience to enhance MOH performances. His kind, easygoing nature and infectious smile endeared him to many in the MOH family. Rest in peace, Brother Lisle.

New Members

Sam Quiroz was welcomed into membership during the last quarter.

Santa Maria Chapter

By Gene Kai

The Central Coast Chordsmen are happy to announce the addition of **Jim Laurienti** our newest member in the Chapter. We have additional guests attending our Chapter meetings so the future is bright.

Currently we are working on Christmas music to present on our Christmas Show, Tuesday Dec. 11, 7 pm. At Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. We would love to see you all there. Check our website for more info. centralcoastchordsmen.org.

We recently concluded a marketing scheme to get the word out about our *Sweets And Old Songs* show held in September. Flyers, singing & Chapter brochures were handed out for a three-hour period on a Saturday at a local grocery store. It was well received and a great time experienced by those participating. Plans to promote our next show are in the making.

Santa Monica Chapter

By Marty Mitnick

ROCK THE BOAT COMPOSER TURNS 90 TO BARBERSHOP SERENADE

On Saturday, Oct. 27, **Waldo T. "Wally" Holmes**, composer of the 1974 hit song *Rock the Boat*, trumpet player with "The Yankee Wailers" a traditional jazz group, and director of the *Sweet and Hot Music Festival* in Los Angeles, celebrated his 90th birthday with over a hundred of his closest friends and fellow musicians. Among the musical groups that performed was a Quartet from the **Santa Monica Oceanaires** consisting of **Patrick Kellogg**, Tenor; **Jack Walton**, Lead; **Brian Hatfield**, Baritone and **Wally Mees**, Bass. The Quartet regaled Wally and his guests with *Heart of My Heart, Hello, Mary Lou*, and *Zip-a-dee-doo-dah/Happy Birthday*. Back when the "Sweet and Hot" was still happening, the **Oceanaires** made a number of appearances, bringing acapella singing to Jazz audiences not very familiar with Barbershop. Saturday night was just one more instance of the same, and the audience was very pleased.

Our previous very talented director **Ben Lowe** has returned to Los Angeles after spending four months in Italy perfecting his operatic talents and performing. The **Oceanaires**, under the direction of Master Director **Lora Palas Singer**, performed admirably at the District competition in Fresno by earning the status of First in our Division, 4th in Southern California, 7th in the State of California, 8th in the District, and AA District Champion for the first time.

The newest **Santa Monica Oceanaires** Quartet called **Fermata The Blue** have been busy since their inception, with **David Livingston** singing our power Lead, **Andrew Lehto** floating in the Tenor part, **John White** giving a full-rounded Bass, and **Jim Leedom** filling in those Baritone cracks. Their first job was a half-hour concert in Monterey Park for a 90th birthday

party - amazing that they had that much material to perform in less than two months! Next was a 50th High School Reunion at the Canyon Grille in Burbank. Their most recent job was certainly the most challenging. They were asked to sing Saturday night October 27th at a benefit scholarship fundraising concert to honor the memory of Anna Burleigh, a huge supporter of the Culver-Palms United Methodist Church in Culver City. But on Saturday afternoon we received a text from Andrew that he had sprained his ankle and would not be able to sing. Ahhh! But our brother-in-song, **Steve Watson**, came to the rescue. (He even had his tux in the car!) Steve drove up from Long Beach with 30 minutes to spare ... and we nailed it! The audience

went wild after our first song, and continued their enthusiasm to the end. Kudo's never-ending to Steve!

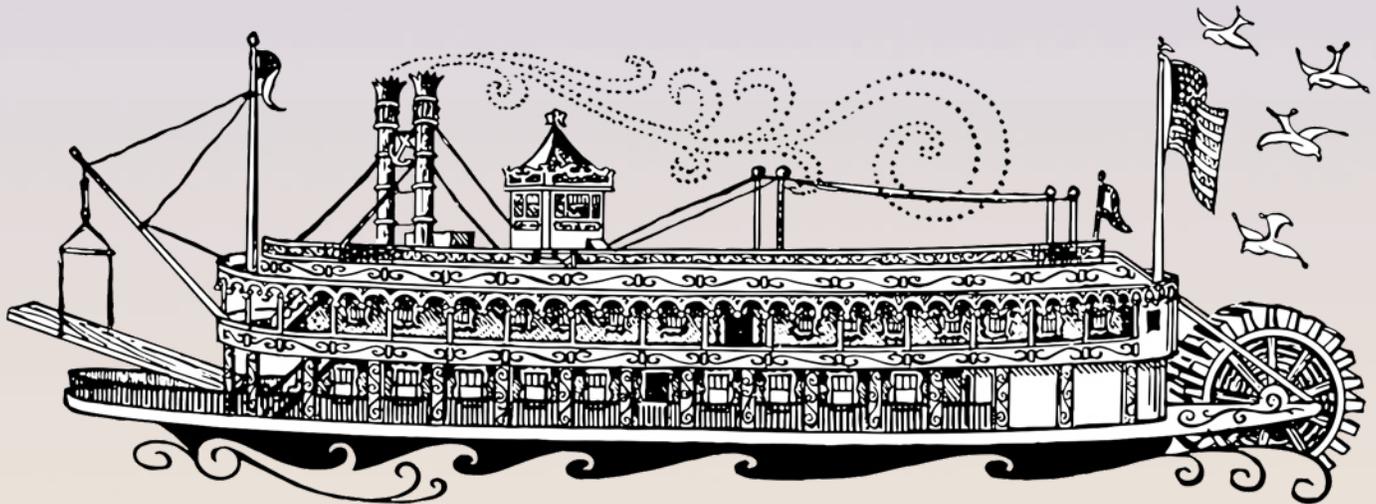
South Bay Chapter

By Barry Waite

Our *Scarface - the Musical* show was a big hit! We sold out all four shows! We learned that you shouldn't sell more tickets than you have seats. Who knew? We had a great ice cream social with the **Westminster Chorus**. It is great fun to hang out with such talented and fun people. That we raised a good sum of money is the cherry on top of the sundae.

The South Bay Coastliners are inviting men from the community to spend November learning

Christmas songs with us to perform at our holiday show. It's a great opportunity for guys to check out Barbershop singing on material they are familiar with and with a commitment of just a few weeks. For those who don't have time to sing with us regularly, it's a chance to have some fun. For those who have been interested in checking out Barbershop, this is an easy introduction. Joining us for the show (December 9 at 7 pm, Torrance First United Methodist Church), will be the **LA Southtowns Women's Chorus**. They have done a similar "join for a month" program with great success. In other words, we are proudly plagiarizing the idea. Sing on!



COMING SOON: Far Western District Spring Convention • March 21-14, 2019 • Stockton, California

HIGH PRIORITY
— QUARTET —

Bass

Dan Davenport
480-259-6633
HighPriorityQtet@gmail.com

2016 International
Sr. Quartet Champion

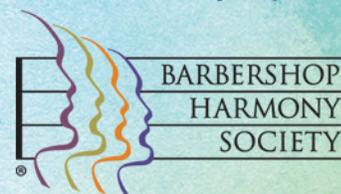
SINGING CHANGES LIVES

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

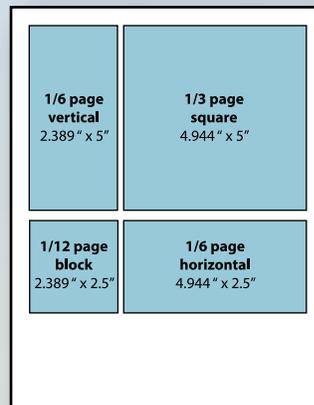
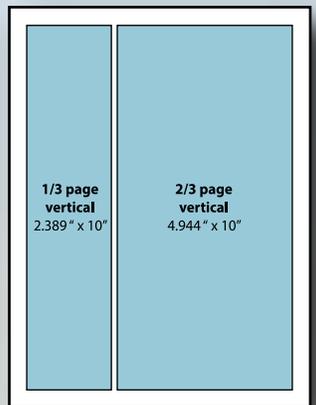
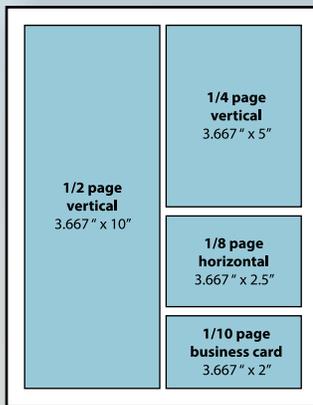
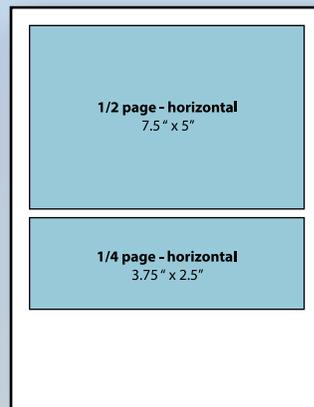
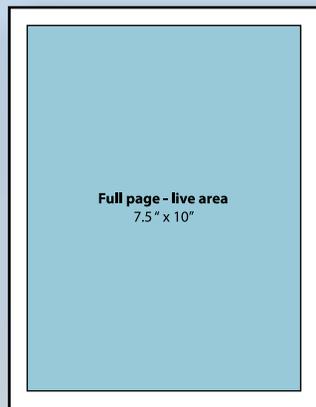
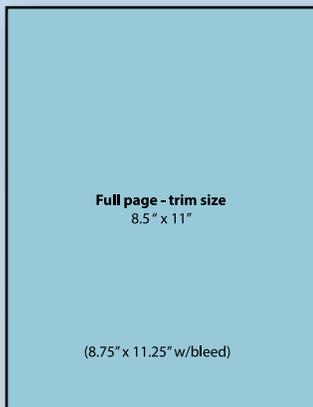


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Ad deadlines

Spring issue (March 1)

Ad deliverables by February 15

Summer issue (June 1)

Ad deliverables by May 15

Fall issue (September 1)

Ad deliverables by August 15

Winter issue (December 1)

Ad deliverables by November 15

When using Adobe Illustrator, all fonts should be converted to outlines and linked images must be embedded. Special effects such as glows, transparencies or drop shadows are not recommended; use Adobe Photoshop for these effects instead.

Ad Size	Trim Size width x height	1 Issue Full price	2 Issues 20% Discount	3 Issues 30% Discount	4 Issues 40% Discount
Full page - back cover	8.5" x 11"*	\$75.00	\$120.00	\$157.50	\$180.00
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Full page - live area	7.5" x 10"	\$50.00	\$80.00	\$105.00	\$120.00
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2/3 page - vertical	4.944" x 10"	\$35.00	\$56.00	\$73.50	\$84.00
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1/2 page - vertical	3.667" x 10"	\$25.00	\$40.00	\$52.50	\$60.00
1/3 page - square	4.944" x 5"	\$17.50	\$28.00	\$36.75	\$42.00
1/3 page - vertical	2.389" x 10"	\$17.50	\$28.00	\$36.75	\$42.00
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1/4 page - horizontal	7.5" x 2.5"	\$12.50	\$20.00	\$26.25	\$30.00
1/6 page - horizontal	4.944" x 2.5"	\$8.75	\$14.00	\$18.38	\$21.00
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* Full Page, trim size ads must provide bleeds at .125", resulting in finished document size of 8.75" x 11.25"

Events

DISTRICT CALENDAR

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

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

- **January 22-27, 2019** International Midwinter Convention, Nashville, TN
- **March 21-24, 2019** FWD Spring Convention, International Quartet Prelims, NE/NW Division Contests, Stockton, CA
- **April 12-13, 2019** Arizona Division Convention
- **May 10-11, 2019** SE/SW Divisions Convention in Ontario, CA
- **June 30-July 7, 2019** International Convention, Salt Lake City, UT

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

LEADERSHIP SUMMITS

- **January 12, 2019** - Arizona
- **TBD** - Northern & Southern CA

EVENTS REGISTRATION

Register for FWD Conventions at events.farwesterndistrict.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

Chuck Roots
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

FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Roe Darnell
financial-dev@farwesterndistrict.org

HALL OF FAME

Bruce Sellnow
hof@farwesterndistrict.org

HISTORIAN

Dan Jordan
historian@farwesterndistrict.org

LAWS & REGULATIONS

Peter Feeney
lawsandregs@farwesterndistrict.org

MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS

David Melville
marketing@farwesterndistrict.org

MEMBER RECRUITMENT & EDUCATION

Jeremy Loper
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

Steve Salmon
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

Chuck Roots
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