



Westunes Vol. 70 No. 1

Spring 2020



# WESTUNES

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



**2020 FWD President Bill Rosica**

**INSIDE:** • 2020 Spring Conventions • 2020 Fall Cruise • Retire? Me?

## FWD 2020 Spring Conventions

Go to the FWD website to register and to get detailed information

### **CHANGED FROM BUENA PARK**

The Far Western District will celebrate its 2020 Spring Convention in Torrance, California on March 19-22. The International Quartet Preliminary competition will be held in conjunction with the combined contests for the Southeast and Southwest divisions. The quartet and chorus contests will be held at the North High School Auditorium, while meetings and other events will take place at the headquarters hotel, the Holiday Inn Gateway Torrance.

Contests are open to Men's, Women's, & Mixed quartets/choruses. ALL EVENTS ARE OPEN SEATING



The Arizona Division of the Far Western District will celebrate its 2020 Convention in Mesa, Arizona on April 24-25. The quartet and chorus contests will be held at Smith Junior High School (new venue), while meetings and other events will take place at the Embassy Suites headquarters hotel.

Contests are open to Men's, Women's, & Mixed quartets/choruses.



The combined Northeast and Northwest divisions of the Far Western District will celebrate its 2020 Divisional Convention in Stockton, California on May 15-16. The quartet and chorus contests will be held at the Mamie Starr Performing Arts Center at Ronald E. McNair High School, while meetings and other events will take place at the headquarters hotel, the Best Western Plus Heritage Inn, a 10 minute drive away.

Contests are open to Men's, Women's, & Mixed quartets/choruses.





# WESTUNES

Ray S. Rhymer, Editor • Now in his 19th year

## EDITORIAL STAFF

### Editor in Chief

Ray S. Rhymer

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

### Marketing & Advertising

David Melville

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

### Westags Newsletter

Jerry McElfresh

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

### Arizona Division Editor

Cherie Kaufman

[editor-az@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:editor-az@farwesterndistrict.org)

### Northeast Division Editor

Roger Perkins

[editor-ne@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:editor-ne@farwesterndistrict.org)

### Northwest Division Editor

Don Shively

[editor-nw@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:editor-nw@farwesterndistrict.org)

### Southeast Division Editor

OPEN

[editor-se@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:editor-se@farwesterndistrict.org)

### Southwest Division Editor

Justin McQueen

[editor-sw@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto: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](http://farwesterndistrict.org).

## Here are some Advertising Rates (per issue)

Ad Size	1 Issue	2 Issues	4 Issues
Full, Inside Covers	\$60.00	\$48.00	\$36.00
Full Page	\$50.00	\$40.00	\$30.00
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**

# 2020 FALL CRUISE

**CONVENTION & CONTESTS • OCTOBER 8-11 • LONG BEACH • ENSENADA**

*This is so exciting that we're inviting EVERYONE to attend the FAR WESTERN DISTRICT 2020 Fall Convention on a Three-Night Cruise aboard Carnival Imagination® Sailing October 8-11, 2020 • Long Beach, California - Ensenada, México*

*Our package deal includes: Accommodations, Meals, Amenities, Cruise Fare, Taxes, Port Fees and Gratuities. Secure your room now with a refundable deposit.*

Visit [farwesterndistrict.org/2020-cruise](http://farwesterndistrict.org/2020-cruise) for information and pricing  
**For best cabin selection, make your deposit NOW!**

Contact Donna Hisey to make your booking  
714-801-7674 • [dhisey@cruiseshipcenters.com](mailto:dhisey@cruiseshipcenters.com)

*Be a part of History!*

Get On Board for the

**FIRST-EVER**

**BARBERSHOP  
CONVENTION  
& CONTESTS**

**AT SEA!**

# Book Your Fall Cruise by end of March

It's full steam ahead for the 2020 Far Western District Fall Convention Cruise aboard the Carnival Imagination, leaving Long Beach on Thursday, October 8 and returning Sunday, October 11. Folks from all over the country are buzzing about this unprecedented event, and we're anticipating that there will be a large contingent of barbershop enthusiasts coming from near and far to join us for what is sure to be the biggest party ever. Quartet Semifinals will be held on Thursday night, the Chorus Contest and Quartet Finals will be on Friday, and Saturday is set aside to play in Ensenada on the beach, in the water and on-board ship, with the Show of Champions on Saturday night. You can watch the competitions and shows in the theater or on closed-circuit TV in the lounge. Wow!

## DO NOT BOOK THROUGH CARNIVAL!

In order for the Far Western District to take control of the ship, we need to have everyone book their cruise through Donna Hisey, our official agent on this cruise. You will also miss out on the additional perks that our group will receive. If you are worried about Carnival points, you will still get all your points by booking through Donna.

If you already did your booking through Carnival, please contact Donna ASAP, and she will advise you on how to switch over to the Far Western District group.

We realize you might be hesitant to put down your deposit and commit to an event so far away, especially if you don't know if your quartet or chorus is going to quality. We've solved that problem! It's an Open Contest. Everyone in Harmony! Any FWD Chorus or Quartet, mixed or unisex, who WANTS to perform/compete is eligible. That's it: you're in! The only condition is that you need to enter and perform/compete in your spring divisional competition, which is a great opportunity to sing before a large, enthusiastic audience and get high-quality coaching on your performance to make October's performance even more fun.

**We need you to put your deposit down now.** There are still some cabins set aside for the District but they will be released to the general public in April so get your berth now. Whether you are a competitor or just someone who enjoys a barbershop good time, we need you to act now to reserve your cabin and make sure you don't miss out. We can have up to four people in the cabins which really reduces the cost. We have a spot for you and your friends and family. This is going to be a party you won't soon forget. This will be awesome!

In addition to our quartet and chorus contests, and other convention activities, the ship provides a host of activities for all ages, with stage shows, live entertainment, comedy acts, dancing, movies, casino, mini-golf, fitness center, and more. You can lounge by the pool or take a splash on the water slide, and for the ultimate in relaxation you can pamper yourself with a trip to the spa. There are numerous activities for kids, and a serenity adult-only retreat for those who prefer to enjoy some quiet time.

Unlike hotels, cruise ships book far in advance. Also unlike hotels, prices are PER PERSON, not per room; this is because amenities and all meals are included. The Far West-

ern District has locked in group pricing on 500 cabins based on double occupancy. For those on a budget, you can book for three or even four to share a cabin.

The first 500 cabins booked will receive a complimentary bottle of wine and an invitation to a cocktail party (age permitting), hosted by the cruise line. We are also coming up with some additional prizes for the first to pay their fare in full.

Some people have wondered about the cost. Carnival Cruise Lines has sharpened their pencil and given us great rates because they want this to be a big success. Since "lodging" includes all your food, this three-night cruise is actually cheaper than staying three nights at one of our normal FWD hotels. Note: Everyone attending the convention will need to register in advance; there will be no on-ship registration.

## A deposit is all it takes to get started

The amount of the deposit varies by the type of cabin and the number of persons. And remember, the total price includes accommodations, all meals, amenities, cruise fare, taxes, port fees and gratuities. Once your refundable deposit is made, you can pay the rest on installments, so by the time you come on board it will be a done deal, so you can relax and have fun on the cruise and convention.

## Book with Donna Hisey (714) 801-7674 • [dhisey@cruiseshipcenters.com](mailto:dhisey@cruiseshipcenters.com)

A few things to note...

- Passengers booking as a single will be charged for two deposits and cruise fares.
- Inquire with Donna about optional Vacation Protection Insurance - includes Trip Cancellation, Travel Insurance, and 24/7 Worldwide Travel Assistance. For more information visit [www.carnival.com/about-carnival/vacation-protection](http://www.carnival.com/about-carnival/vacation-protection).
- Convention registration is not included in the cruise fare.
- A current passport is recommended. Proof of citizenship required for re-entry to the U.S.

U.S. citizens can sail on U.S. cruises with ports of call in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Caribbean that start and end in the same U.S. port (called a closed loop cruise) if you have some notarized documentation even if you don't have a passport.

In lieu of a passport you'll need an original or notarized copy of your government-issued birth certificate and a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license.

That being said, having a passport card or passport book is the most straightforward way to ensure you can get on your cruise without any hassle, but it's not your only option for these types of cruises.

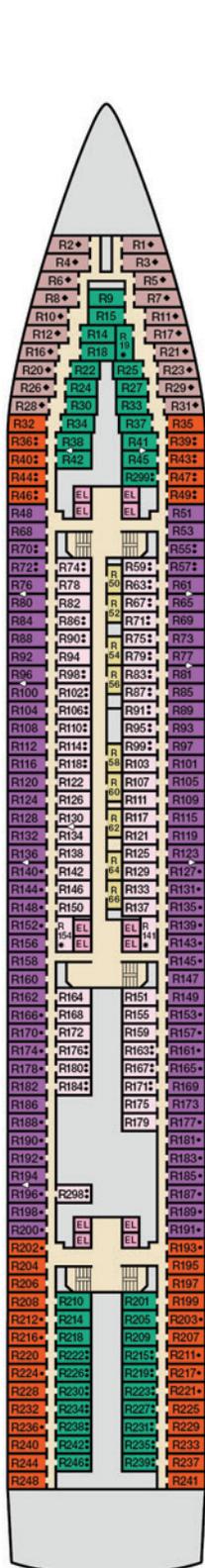
**More information at [farwesterndistrict.org/2020-cruise](http://farwesterndistrict.org/2020-cruise)**

**ACCOMMODATIONS SYMBOL LEGEND**

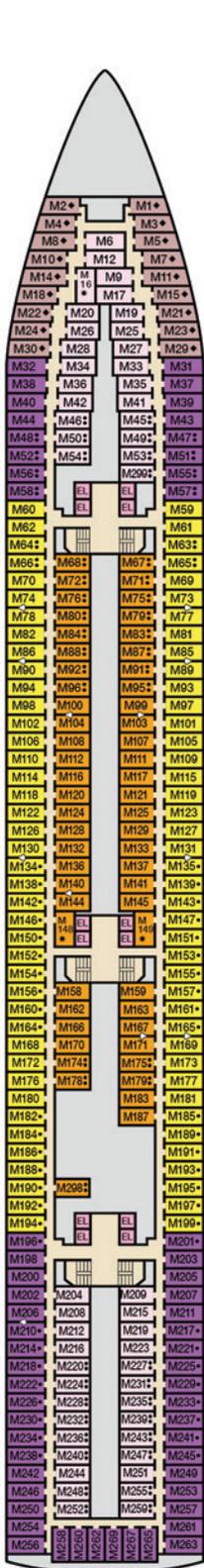
- ★ 2 Twin Beds (convert to King) and Single Sofa Bed
- 2 Twin Beds (convert to King) and 1 Upper Pullman
- ◊ 2 Twin Beds (convert to King), 1 Lower Pullman, and 1 Upper Pullman
- ⊖ 2 Twin Beds (convert to King) and 2 Upper Pullmans

- † 2 Twin Beds (convert to King) and Double Sofa Bed
- ◆ Stateroom with 2 Porthole Windows
- ◁ Connecting staterooms (ideal for families and groups of friends)
- ✱ Twin beds do not convert to a King Bed.
- U Unisex Wheelchair Accessible Restroom

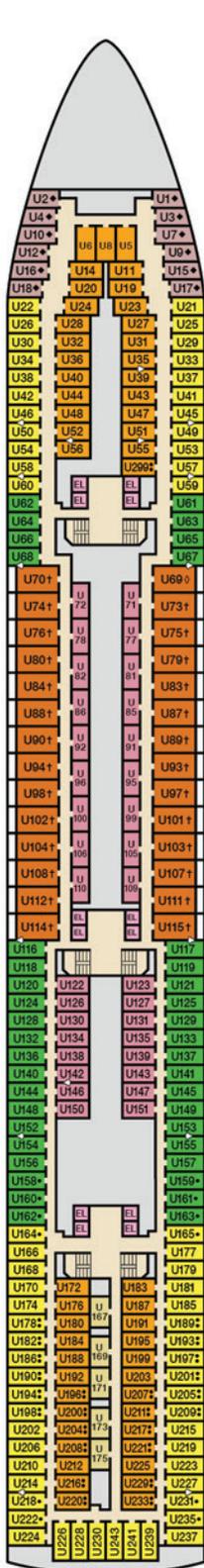
Ⓜ All accommodations are non-smoking.  
 Accessible staterooms are available for guests with disabilities.  
 Please contact Guest Access Services at  
 1-800-438-6744 ext. 70025 for details, or visit  
<http://www.carnival.com/about-carnival/special-needs.aspx>.



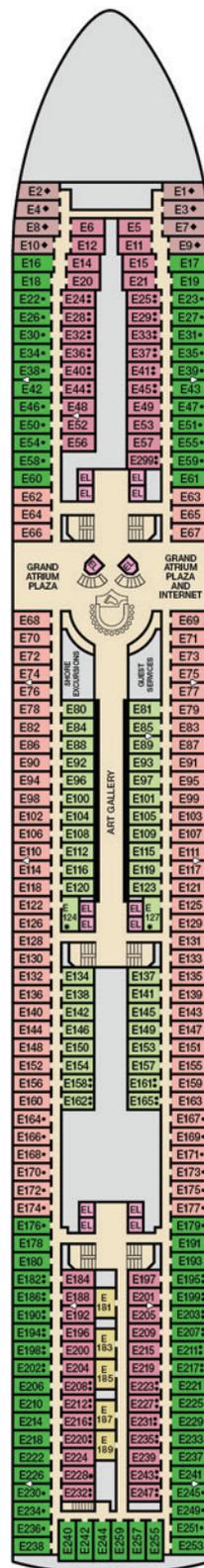
Riviera • Deck 4



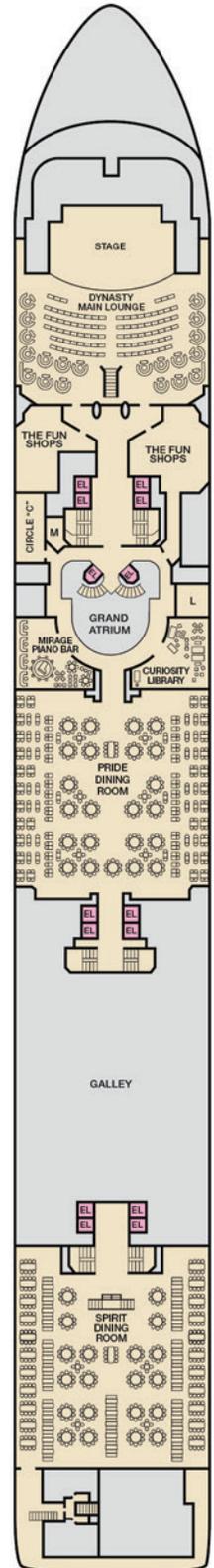
Main • Deck 5



Upper • Deck 6



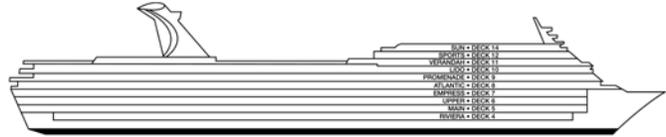
Empress • Deck 7



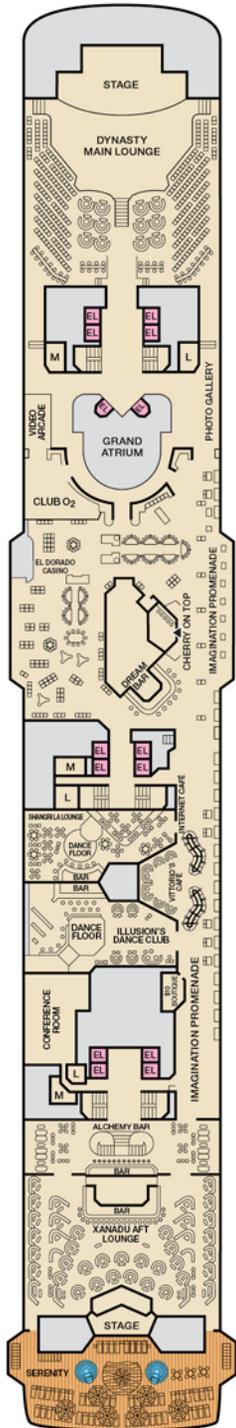
Atlantic • Deck 8

**CATEGORIES**

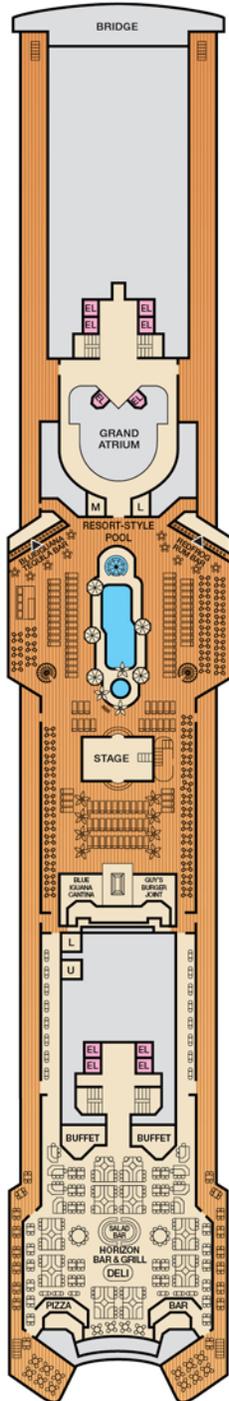
- 1A** Interior Upper/Lower
- PT** Porthole
- 4A** **4B** **4C** **4D** **4E** **4I** Interior
- 6A** **6B** **6C** **6D** **6E** Ocean View
- OB** Junior Suite (obstructed views)
- JS** Junior Suite
- GS** Grand Suite



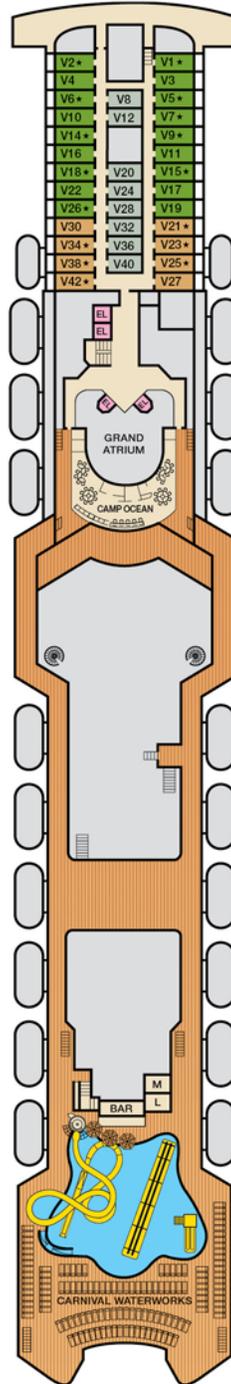
Gross Tonnage: 70,367 Length: 855 Feet Beam: 103 Feet  
 Cruising Speed: 21 Knots Guest Capacity: 2,056 (Double Occupancy)  
 Total Staff: 920 Registry: The Bahamas



Promenade • Deck 9



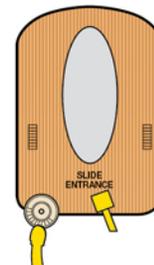
Lido • Deck 10



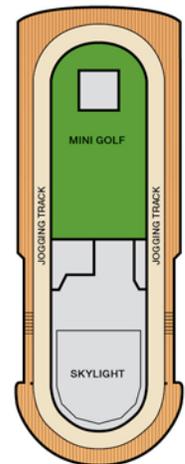
Verandah • Deck 11



Forward Sports • Deck 12



Aft Sports • Deck 12



Sun • Deck 14



## Santa Fe Springs Chapter

By Ron Larson

### The Masters of Harmony Perform a Unique Trilogy of Christmas Shows

#### Christmas Concert #1 (La Mirada) – November 30, 2019

For the first time in twenty years, the **Masters of Harmony** returned to the La Mirada Performing Arts Theater and joined the **Harborlites Chorus** for a reprise of several very successful joint concerts there in the 90s. The chorus songs included “Mary, Did You Know?” plus the ever-popular “Please Come Home for Christmas” featuring **Les Weiser**’s solo accompanied by his saxophone and harmonica, and a new traditional Hanukkah song, “Maoz Tzur,” arranged by **Grant Goldstein**. The Harborlites repertoire included “We Need a Little Christmas,” “The Secret of Christmas,” and “O Holy Night.” Guest quartets included **The Newfangled Four (Joey Buss, Jackson Niebrugge, Jake Tickner, Ryan Wisniewski)** and from the Harborlites, **Dragonfly (Carol Krenek, Amber Carroll, Catherine Berriz, Jennifer Philbin)**. Interspersed throughout the program were the delightful holiday songs of the **Jessica Ragsdale Trio (Jessica Ragsdale, Dylann Asa, Mina Choi)**. The combined choruses sang “My Christmas Wish for You,” “Go Tell It On the Mountain” and the “Hallelujah Chorus” with such gusto that the audience likely hoped it would not be another twenty years before these choruses shared the same stage!

#### Christmas Concert #2 (Cardiff-By-The-Sea) – December 14, 2019

Thanks to the efforts of **Tim Truesdell**, the Masters were granted the opportunity to perform at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church for the first time. Joining the Masters for this historic appearance was La Jolla’s **Pacific Harmony Chorus**. Just as in La Mirada, the show opener “Gloria” produced a high level of audience appreciation that continued unabated to the finale. Among the Pacific Coast Harmony selections were “White

Christmas” and “Mary Had a Baby.” The highly enthusiastic audience reception led the parish council president to suggest that this appearance by the Masters be made an annual event!

### **Christmas Concert #3 (Jurupa Hills High School) – December 15, 2019**

The Masters show in this 400-seat auditorium marked the first-time performers were able to utilize its recently upgraded state-of-the-art audio and lighting system. The guest stars were 23 members from the high school’s award-winning drama program, *Players of the Palace*, expertly coached by **James and Molly Griffen**. To a rapt audience of largely of family members, the young students performed four songs from their recent musical, *Elf*, and joined the Masters for the show finale.

### **Santa Fe Springs Christmas Tree Lighting and Christmas Float Program**

Over the years, the Masters of Harmony have honored the generosity of Santa Fe Springs for making its Town Center Hall available for chorus rehearsals and storage of chorus equipment. One event is to perform a mini-concert on the evening of the lighting of decorations on a huge Christmas tree. This year, that was done on December 7 under the direction of Interim Director **Alan Gordon**. The other program involves providing quartets to sing on a float to entertain children and their parents awaiting the arrival of a float carrying Mr. and Mrs. Claus and a contingent of comely elves. Some of the quartets performing were chapter foursomes such as **Top Notch (Bob Heron, Dan Place, Larry Goodfriend, Art Taylor)** and **Six Feet Off Bass (Eric Emmons, Leonard Jensen, Mark Travis, Willie Daw)**. Other foursome combinations made performance debuts on the float. The program is so much fun that some participants sing on more than one night and some quartets have been participating for over a decade!

### **Casting Call/Guest Night**

On January 15, 2020, after tireless organizing work led by **Mark Travis**, the Masters held a casting call/guest night designed to bring in new members and encourage former members to return. Thirty-six such guests filled the risers for an introduction to the Masters of Harmony way of singing. **Dr. Chris Peterson** first took the assemblage through warm-ups. Director Gordon then led the group through some of the new MOH repertoire, including portions of one of the contest songs for the upcoming 2020 International in Los Angeles. After rehearsal, about 45 went to nearby Maggie’s Pub for food and more singing.

### **Annual Awards and Installation of Officers Banquet**

Members of the Masters family gathered at the Yorba Linda Country Club to install the incoming Board of Directors. **Gary Stone**, resplendent in his white dinner jacket a la Captain Stubing of *Love Boat*, kept the evening’s activities going smoothly. Keynote Speaker **Gary Steinkamp** pointed out that that the MOH is truly unique in the world of Barbershop – winners of nine world championships under four different directors! President **Joe D’Amore** reminded the audience that the daunting task of hosting the 2020 International Convention while competing to win is possible to dreamers willing to do what it takes to make their dreams reality. Director Gordon urged us to approach the tasks ahead of us with a sense of urgency bordering on foolishness to those who don’t share our vision and our passion. The Jeff Baker Award (Quartet of the Year) was presented to **Six Feet Off Bass**. **Justin McQueen** won the Larry Ajer Performance award. **Mark Travis** received the Doug Maddox Master of Harmony Award (Barbershopper of the Year), an acknowledgment of the tremendous work he did to make the chorus trip to Russia such a success and for his work organizing the highly successful Casting Call/Guest Nights.

### **New Members of Chapter Eternal**

During the past year, the Masters bade a sad farewell to four members as they joined the ranks of the Chapter Eternal: **Dave Briner, John Rambo, Rob Ransom, and Lou Tedesco**.

Since the last issue of *Westunes*, **Spencer Randell** was welcomed into membership.



### Masters of Harmony Partners with City of Hope

In late 2019, the Masters of Harmony established a partnership with City of Hope, a leading cancer and diabetes research and treatment facility in Southern California. The Masters committed a portion of the proceeds from their November 30th Christmas Show to be donated to City of Hope in support of their outstanding work in patient cancer treatment.

Here, Masters of Harmony President Joe D'Amore and representatives of the chorus present their donation to Kevin Kate McQuhae, Senior Director of Development in City of Hope's Office of Philanthropy.

We anticipate that this will be just the beginning of a long and mutually beneficial relationship between the Masters of Harmony and City of Hope.



## Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund Year-End Update

I am writing to bring you up to date on the status of the Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund for the Far Western District Harmony Camps, hereafter referred to as the LSEF that is held locally with the Sacramento Region Community Foundation, the SRCF.

The LSEF was established in the spring of 2015 by resolution of the FWD Board of Directors with the goal of growing the fund to a size large enough to provide financial support for the NorCal Harmony Camp and establish additional weekend long Harmony Camps within the FWD.

As of December 31, 2019, the LSEF has a balance of \$130,708.62 and as noted in the year end letter from the SRCF the *“Endowed investment returns for 2019 topped 17% and continue to meet or exceed long term benchmarks for the last 3, 5, 7, and 10 years.”* In fact, the \$15,866 total net return on investments credited to our LSEF represents a return in excess of 19%!

In growing the LSEF we have been blessed with a donor who provided a double match in 2017 and 2018 for all donations up to \$400. In 2019, we were blessed with another donor who matched donations up to \$5,000. During calendar year 2019 the Fund received donations from 21 individuals.

Our fundraising GOAL for 2020 is to reach our primary level of \$200,000 at which time we will begin to withdraw a portion of the fund in accordance with the policies of the SRCF to help fund Harmony Camp. The policies of the SRCF are set up to guarantee that all of the SRCF funds grow over the years.

On a personal level, I am always challenged to think of my “WHY” for Harmony Camp. And yes, it does continue to evolve. Harmony Camp provides a path forward for so many boys who have attended, boys who may be challenged economically, who may live in single parent families, or who may not have a focus in their lives. At camp our volunteers provide a positive male role model for life, one that many of the boys have never experienced. More globally, Harmony Camp uses the unifying nature of music to “reach” these boys, so many of whom are “drifting”, and looking for something to move them. Some of them find it with barbershop music without even realizing that they were looking.

Thank you for your support of the youth of our communities.

Richard Lund, Director  
FWD Harmony Camp  
530-621-1904  
[rlund@innercite.com](mailto:rlund@innercite.com)

## Harmony Camp 2020

Harmony Camp 2020 is coming up October 16-18, 2020!!

Newfangled Four will be our headliner quartet. Cannot get any better than that for reaching out to the boys and finding that one or more boy(s) who is right now lost and needs a direction to his life. NF4 can do and does that with their inimitable style!!!

Newfangled Four has also shown their support of Camp by appearing at Camp more frequently than any other quartet out there. This will be their first time as headliners, and it’s about time!!

I get excited just writing these words and thinking about it.

Of course, we also have those wonderful clinicians headed by our Dean, Gabe Caretto, who has led us through most of these 17 years and provided the charisma and leadership that is always needed for Camp. His rock-solid leadership with the quartets and the other clinicians has resulted in this Harmony Camp being one of the top Camps in the country.

We are looking to invite a number of music guys and volunteers for Camp along with the regulars who have helped make this Camp one of the premier Camps in the country.

And Thank You all for your support of the FWD Harmony Camp. It is truly you who make this work. Without your financial support none of this would ever happen.

Richard Lund, Director



## **The Crescenta Valley Quartet Chapter**

2409 Florencita Dr. Montrose, CA 91020 - Mondays 7-10  
Announces A New Program in Barbershop Quartet Singing

### **What we DO! - Always! (almost)**

1. Guarantee a chance to sing at least FOUR songs with an award winning (first place) quartet, every Monday 7-10pm



2. Welcome **ALL, including women**, who love to sing **Barbershop QUARTET Style**
3. Sing tags and woodshed songs
4. Share singing tips and ways to **IMPROVE** our sound
5. Provide quartets as a community service and/or for **MONEY**
6. Eat healthy snacks (mostly) and drink pure water

### **What we DON'T do! - Ever!**

1. Chorus
2. Sing on the risers (for three hours or three minutes)
3. Choreography that requires cartwheels
4. Beatle tunes or Rap "songs" requiring vocal percussion
5. Compete in BHS adjudicated contests
6. Pirate members from other chapters

Bob Saxe: 818-590-2423

robert\_saxe@earthlink.net

David Kilpatrick: 213-215-4257

dkil@mac.com

# Retire? Me?

Anyone who has fifty plus years singing barbershop is probably approaching or perhaps has already passed the age of retirement. Well, let me join the chorus of voices who disabuse you of retiring. It's not all it's made out to be, and I haven't even retired yet.

A common topic of conversation among those over sixty is retirement. When are you retiring? Have you decided? What will you do? That last question captures the real essence of it all. If you have nothing to do, what will retirement be like? You can't just hang around the house. If you're married, very quickly your spouse will let you know you aren't wanted. Oh, you're still tolerated—even loved—but twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week? Not on your tintype, buster. You have to get out of the house. Leisure is an attractive way to spend time, but only if you have other pressing needs. As an occupation, leisure is a sure route to either insanity or death. Nobody can do nothing for twenty-fours a day, and that you must face.

Maybe, like me, you like your work, you find it invigorating and challenging, and you're paid well. You're respected by your peers, and you do not fault on your responsibilities. Perhaps you agree with Isaac Asimov's statement about Michel Eugene Chevreul (1786-1889): "He was one of those fortunates who live into extreme old age without every living long enough to retire" (*Asimov's Biographical Encyclopedia of Science and Technology*). You want to continue doing whatever you're good at without ever leaving it. Thus, retirement may not be for you.

If it is, however, if you really do intend to retire, you must prepare yourself. You can't just walk away from a lifetime of work or commitment to nothing. I imagine this should be easier for you as a barbershopper because you already have this hobby or avocation called singing. Every chapter needs people like you. The president of the chapter could use you on a committee; does your chapter have a historian? Have you ever been show chairman, or secretary, or treasurer? Each one of those jobs requires full application of your talents.

Maybe the chapter doesn't need you. Then you ought to consider volunteering. This can be at a school, church, or civic organization. In Phoenix Duet will accept nearly anyone to drive home-bound "neighbors" to medical appointments, to do grocery shopping, to do handyman chores, to open and read mail, to pay bills, or to help figure out income tax. Zoos and museums need docents on a regular basis.

This could be the time in your life to polish your woodworking skills, to expand your painting horizon, to write that book you've been thinking about, to build onto your home. There are experts in nearly every field at the local community college or university who will willingly help you. Have you admired the media "biographical" presentations at funerals? You could teach yourself to do that, too.

Retirement should not spell the end of your life. But unless you have some reason to get out of bed in the morning, you may be paving your way to death. Too many people die after they discover that retirement is a short trip to a dead end. Don't let this happen to you. Get involved and stay involved.

**Don Richardson**     **50-year member**



Bill was born in February 1948 to parents Joe and Peg Rosica. During his formative years, Bill was exposed to different types of music. Peg enjoyed the smooth tones of Perry Como while Joe would play songs of Mario Lanza. Both enjoyed the Big Band Era since they grew up listening to Tommy Dorsey and Glen Miller, which allowed Bill to appreciate different types of music.

Bill's first time on stage was first grade where the good sisters of the Dominican Order taught the class, "Christmas in Killarney" for the annual Christmas Show. Joe found the Barbershop Harmony Society in 1960 and the legacy began. Bill would tag along to rehearsal once in a while in his early teens, but the Society did not encourage younger singers in those days so it would be a while until Bill became a Barbershopper.

In 1968, while attending Bakersfield College, Bill went to see a group of singers called, "Up with People". The singing bug had bitten him, and he soon joined a local group of "Up with People-Singout Bakersfield". His brother Mike would soon join playing drums.

After getting married, starting a family and graduating from college, Bill received a phone call from a local Barbershopper, asking why he had never joined. His response was, "No one ever asked me". Well with a little encouragement he joined the Bakersfield Chapter of Barbershoppers and has been a member ever since.

Life changes in January of 1998 led Bill and a few others to make the 136-mile drive from Bakersfield to Santa Fe Springs to audition for the Masters of Harmony. Bill joined MOH just in time to compete in a Divisional contest in May of 1998. In October of that same year, he competed in Phoenix and had his first District Championship pin. Nine months later, in Anaheim, Bill would join 130 of his closest friends to win his first International Chorus Championship with MOH. He went on to serve on the Board of Directors as President and win five more gold medals a silver and a bronze.

Bill served on the District Board for 12 years under 5 different presidents, Bob Lally, Bernard Priceman, Russ Young, Gordon Bergthold (Mongo) and Craig Hughes. 10 of those years were as Division Vice-President and the last two as Executive Vice-President. Bill also served as the 2009 International Convention Chairman, in Anaheim.

Bill and his wife Mary, continue to live in Bakersfield, California with their Calico cat, Sabrina. They enjoy photography, music and going to Outback Steakhouse from time to time. Mary's encouragement has been a key to Bill's successes, both as a singer and an individual. While Mary is not interested in sports, Bill is an avid Notre Dame, San Francisco Giants and 49er's fan.

Don't be surprised if you see the District think more outside the box under Bill leadership, as Bill has been known as the "Idea-Man" in both his Chapters. Two examples are bringing VM to Bakersfield a few years back and the current "Contest at Sea" for this October.

**ROB MENAKER  
TREVOR WAY  
ERIC BJORNSEN  
DAN DAVENPORT**

**480.259.6633**

**VOCALOCITYQUARTET@GMAIL.COM**



# Bill Rosica

Far Western District President  
president@farwesterndistrict.org



Well it's a new year and I believe "A New Beginning". We'll be seeing lots of new things starting with our contests which may contain Mixed Quartets, Female Quartets, Mixed Choruses and Female Choruses. Of course, this just complements our history of Male Quartets and Choruses. Hopefully, this will increase the attendance at our contests with more audience members and more competitors or even groups singing for evaluation only.

Secondly, our Fall Contest and Convention will be held at sea this year departing from Long Beach in October. Although this will be a little different and more compact, it will leave more time to sing tags and have a lot of fun. Saturday will be a completely open day to go ashore and see a little of Old Mexico, with an evening of singing including a President's Reception, where you can see your favorite Quartet while enjoying an adult beverage of your choice. Contact Donna Hisey, if you haven't already.

While we've made some great strides in membership over the years, I've decided to be more proactive in talking to our Chapters. I have a proposal in front of our Division Vice Presidents (DVPs) to conduct quarterly Zoom Meetings with all their individual Chapters in a Roundtable setting. We often hear from our Chapters regarding issues, but by that time it is almost too late to help. So, talking to each other in our own Divisions on a quarterly basis might give everyone a chance to weigh in and help each other out.

We have some new faces on the District Management Team. Joining us as Chorus Director Development will be Scott Suwabe, while Youth in Harmony Director will be Kenny Rios and in his second year as Director of Membership will be Jeremy Loper.

The Board will have a couple of people we know but will be new to the FWD Board. Kyle Williamson will assume the role of Division Vice President of the SE Divi-

sion, so former DVP, Nick Papageorge can take over my duties as Executive Vice President.

As for me, my training by Immediate Past President, Craig Hughes is done, but that doesn't mean I'm done learning. Lots of things come up during the year and it will be my job to get answers. If after talking to your DVP, you can't get an answer, I'm always close to my phone to talk.

I'm looking forward to a very fun-filled and prosperous year. I can't fix everything, nor do I want to, but your Board is here to serve you, the members, in any way they can to make your Barbershop experience a memorable one.

Everyone in Harmony



Nick Papageorge  
Executive Vice President  
evp@farwesterndistrict.org

Hello to all

It gives me great pleasure to be writing to all of our Far Western District members as your new Executive Vice President! Who would have thought back in the 1970s that a young 20-year-old music major at Occidental College would become EVP of the greatest District of the Barbershop Harmony Society? For those of you who don't know how I got into the Barbershop Harmony Society (SPEBSQSA), I'd like to take this first article to share how Barbershop **found me!**

The Occidental Glee Clubs had always been one of the finest College Choirs in the nation. I was lucky to be

chosen to be a member of that amazing choir in my freshman year, and needless to say, I was in awe of the voices of the upper classmen. One Saturday we had a morning rehearsal followed by a picnic at Griffith Park. After our lunch, there was a talent show. One of the best acts of the day was a Barbershop Quartet of Juniors and Seniors.

Fast forward to my Junior year in the fall of 1972. My best friend, Peter Beers and I found two other guys and we put together the "Glee Clubs Barbershop Quartet." However, this time, the Quartet actually rehearsed and learned more than one song. In fact, we started having mid-quarter, mid-week concerts in the Occidental Chapel. We actually had standing room only for those concerts. One of our classmates invited his dad to see us sing at one of those concerts. His dad's name was **Jack Kelly**. Little did we know that Jack was one of the most sought-after, and funniest MCs in our District, and the Society. Jack took us to a Crescenta Valley Chapter meeting, and we were blown away. We couldn't believe that there was a "Chapter of Barbershop Singers," let alone an "International Society of Barbershop Singers," in existence. He also said we needed to compete! And the competition was in a month! Our response was, "WHAT?"

Well, unfortunately the Crescenta Valley Chapter had a rule that new members were required to come to six Chapter meetings before they could become members of the Chapter. That timing would not allow us to compete. But the South Bay Chapter didn't have that rule. So, Mike Senter, (a prolific arranger and Bass of our 1972 International Champion Quartet, "The Golden Staters") invited us to a "sing-out" at a mall in the South Bay where we sang for the public, and at the same time, we sang for our induction into the South Bay Chapter! The Chapter officers had a meeting right after our performance and inducted us into their Chapter (and the Society), as members of the South Bay Chapter.

While Mike taught The Occidentals how to compete, Earl Moon taught us how to be "Barbershoppers!" He taught us that Barbershopping was not just competing! He told us to find out how each of us could **help the District**. And we did: three of us became Directors of Chapters in our District. I directed the South Bay Chapter (without, and with my wife, Gerry) and the Whittier Chapter (both with, and without, Earl Moon). Peter Beers directed the Crescenta Valley Chapter. And Russ Walker directed the Ventura Chapter. I have always been proud of how "The Occidentals" gave back

to the District that taught us what Barbershopping was really about!

So, my message to you is, "give back!" Give back to your Chapter by helping in any way you can. Give back by finding out what your Chapter needs, and volunteer. I guarantee that your Chapter has many jobs that still need to get done, or offices that need to be filled. Be a Chapter member that fills that job or even steps up to be a leader. It can only make your Chapter better, and your Barbershop life fulfilling!

Our FWD forefathers gave back! And they left a legacy of excellence. Those of us in leadership positions know that we must preserve and exceed that legacy.

And as for me? Well, who knew that that kid at Occidental College would make Barbershop harmony a pivotal part of his life? After all, we were merely four guys who made our Occidental Glee Club singers laugh and have a good time when we sang this Barbershop stuff. And all four of us are forever in debt to Jack Kelly for "finding us." Heck, I even married a Sweet Adeline International Quartet Champion! What can beat that?

All My Best



Wow, what a busy time of the year! There are so many things that have happened since my last article it is difficult to put them all down.

January was a busy month for me. I performed five installations including **High Country Chorus, Southwest Vocal Alliance, Tucson Barbershop Experience, Desert Aires Barbershop Chorus, and The Phoenixians**. Thank you to all of the Chapters who invited me to officiate. A special congratulations to the Board of Directors of the Southwest Vocal Alliance. This is their first ever, duly elected Board as a newly formed Chapter, and I look forward to seeing and hearing them at contests and shows for years to come!

The Arizona Division Contest and Convention will be held April 24-25, 2020, at Smith Junior High School located at [10100 E Adobe Rd, Mesa, AZ 85207](https://10100%20E%20Adobe%20Rd,%20Mesa,%20AZ%2085207). This is a new location from past years. The website <https://events.farwesterndistrict.org/arizona-division-convention> has complete details. Something new for this year is the High School Quartet contest. This contest is open to any Quartet - Male, Female, or Mixed - of high school age. All members of the Quartet and a chaperone will be given a free all-events pass. Similar High School Contests will be held at all Far Western District Division Contests. The High School Quartet with the overall highest score will be named FWD High School Quartet Champion and receive a monetary prize to support the music program at their school. Please encourage any high school-aged student you may know to form a Quartet and compete. For more information, go to <https://farwesterndistrict.org/events/high-school-Quartet-contest>.

Also different for the Division Contest this year is every Quartet and Chorus that competes at the 2020 Spring Division will automatically qualify for the first of its kind **Convention at Sea** October 8-11, 2020. If you have not gotten your cabin yet, what are you waiting for? Do you really want to miss the boat? For more information, please go to:

<https://farwesterndistrict.org/2020-cruise>.

Spring is almost here, and we all know what that means...shows! There are numerous Barbershop shows going on in the Arizona division in the next couple of months:

\*February 22, 2020- The **A Cappella Syndicate** presents "A Cappella Del Sol Music Festival". Go to <https://acappelladelsol.com/> for more information.

\*March 1, 2020 – The **Sun Cities Chapter** presents their show "Musical Memories". Go to <https://www.desertaires.net/> for more information.

\*March 8, 2020 – The **Mesa Chapter** presents "One Song at a Time". Go to <http://evBarbershop.com/2020Show> for more information.

\*March 28,2020 – The **Prescott Chapter** presents "High Country Chordsmen Spring Show". Go to <http://highmountainchordsmen.org/> for more information.

Finally, we are getting ready for the Spring Prelims, and with it, the Spring Board of Directors Meeting

and the House of Delegates (HOD). I encourage each Chapter to have a representative at the HOD if at all possible. This is the best way for all of your ideas and opinions to be heard. I am also always willing to bring any of your ideas and comments to the Board, so please feel free to drop me an email, [a.kaufman@yahoo.com](mailto:a.kaufman@yahoo.com), or give me a call on my cell, 516-770-3743.

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



What a year 2020 promises to be! If possible, I'm already excited and exhausted at the same time!

Let's think about it. We have our Spring Convention coming up in May. It will be here before you know it. We'll be meeting in Stockton this year. The exact venue is yet to be announced, but stand by! It's coming! Set aside the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> for this time of Barbershop singers to gather.

The "Big Daddy" of our calendar year is always the International Competition. Make plans to meet with us in Los Angeles, June 28 – July 5. If you've never attended an International, this should be on your "bucket list." It is a fun time to experience our hobby in all its glory. It's not just for those competing in Quartets and Choruses. As always, this is an energy packed week of all things Barbershop.

However, the other great event opportunity rivaling International this year is our Fall Convention on a cruise ship! How cool is that! Mark your calendar for October 8-11 and meet us in Long Beach for the ocean cruise to Ensenada. The rest of the Barbershop world is watching us, with just a smidgen of jealousy, I should think. Perhaps other Districts in future years will have cruises in the Caribbean, or on the Mississippi River, or on the Great Lakes.

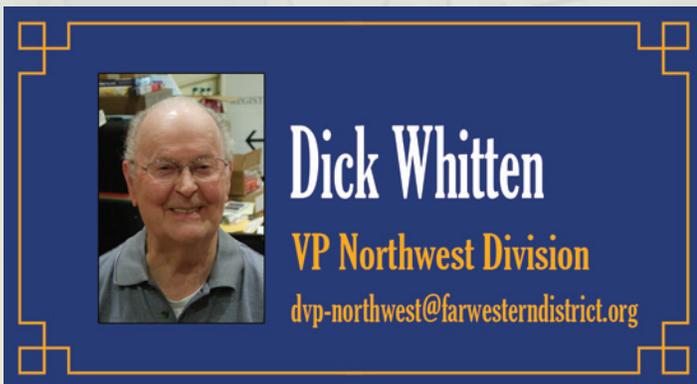
On a more personal note, I'm looking forward to traveling with VoCal (Voices of California) on their trip to

England in May. They were invited to join BABS (British Association of Barbershop Singers) for their Annual Convention. We'll sing with them throughout their week, plus other venues during the eight days that we're traversing England. My wife, Isaura, and I are making plans to visit more of England following our time with our English hosts. Two years ago, I did my DNA test which came back with results that have me 86% English, and 14% Scottish, Irish and Welsh. You might say I'm searching for my roots!

In my last report, I brought you up-to-date on the attempts to revive Fresno's Gold Note Chorus. Much effort has been poured into bringing this Chapter back to its former level of performance that many of us remember when Ron Black was their director. You'll be seeing them back in the mix very soon.

Make sure you visit the FWD website to see all that is taking place this year. Each of our Choruses have shows throughout the year. Check for dates on the FWD Calendar <farwesterndistrict.org> Make every effort to attend a fellow Chorus' show this year. It is so encouraging to come off the risers and into the lobby where you see Barbershoppers from other Choruses there to congratulate you for your performance. What a great hobby!

Let's ring a chord together!



Now that all the Chapters have their slate of officers elected and properly installed, the new year is under way and we are reminded of our obligations to report the elected officers and their titles to the Society and the District so the new and continuing officers can function and get the information they will need to operate.

As some of you may know we had to cancel the North Divisions' Leadership Seminar this year again. I personally want to apologize to the membership and as-

sure them we will do something in the future to offer officer training to the incoming officers of our Chapters. We have talked about doing so with a Webinar or online in some manner so we can do all the Divisions at the same time.

The Santa Rosa Chapter put on their second very successful "One Day Harmony Youth Camp. They had 70 plus high school young men and young woman attend the event which featured a faculty of coaches and Directors from the Sonoma County high schools with Deke Sharon returning as the dean. It was an outstanding event and the students were all very positive in their comments about it. In the evening they finished the day with a performance by the young people as a free concert so their parents could come and hear the results of the day.

All the Chapters in the Division are readying for the District Spring combined Division Contests. Everyone I have talked to in the Northwest Division is looking forward to seeing all the best in the Divisions. In preparation for this event the Golden Valley Chapter will host the Northern California Novice Barbershop Quartet Contest and it will have Male Quartets, Mixed Quartets, and a High School Quartet Contest with complete scoring analysis and a critique. Hopefully some of the groups will advance to the Division Contest

I have been working on a trip up the Redwood Highway to visit our newest District Chorus and one of our older ones. The Eureka Chapter has been around the District for many years and the Arcata Chapter is waiting for their charter. Eureka is a Mixed Chorus and Arcata is a Female Chorus. I will try to visit both on the same trip. I believe some of the members sing in both groups.

I am also trying to go to the Monterey Chapter and then Santa Cruz the next night. We will see if I can be successful with each of the trips I have planned.

Respectfully submitted,





*your business, your children, EVERYTHING else changes around you. But all change starts with you."*

— Jim Rohn

The **Valley Harmony Singers** for example, decided to embrace the change and invited women to join them. They are loving the new sound, and meeting nights are exciting. They have brought in 10 new members in the past year; 7 women and 3 "younger" men. Accepting the change has revitalized the Chapter and the experience for the members.

**The South Bay Coastliner Chorus** hasn't been excited about Contest for several years however they have embraced this opportunity to be competing onboard a cruise ship and decided to be a part of the entertainment in the showroom. Most of the members, and wives, will be on board and my wife and I, for one, look forward to the fun they will bring.

Tickets to shows are hard to sell, so my Chapter, **Rincon Beach**, decided to give them away. We solicit sponsors for our non-profit Chorus and then we give them "free" tickets for them to give to their family, friends and employees. The sponsors get acknowledgement in a printed annual yearbook, and sponsor revenue has helped us to keep large enthusiastic crowds at our shows, and frankly, allows us to bring in top-notch talent, like **Ringmasters, Newfangled Four, Main Street, Storm Front** and this year, Sept. 12, in Santa Barbara at 2 PM, will be **Crossroads**.

*"A bend in the road is not the end of the road...Unless you fail to make the turn."*

— Helen Keller

How are you and your Chapter reacting to the bend in the road? Are you embracing the change as a chance to try something new, or are you in danger of crashing?

The FWD has a young man who is our Membership Coordinator, **Jeremy Loper**, and he's a member of both the **Masters of Harmony** and **Westminster**. I think you'd agree those are two Chapters to emulate, not only in the quality of their singing, but also for their vitality and ability to be attractive to "youthful" singers. We also have **Kenny Rios**, who oversees our Youth in Harmony programs. Both can be contacted by going to the <http://farwesterndistrict.org/> website, and under About, go to District Officers. Each of them is happy to discuss your current membership situation and give

*"We can't be afraid of change. You may feel very secure in the pond that you are in, but if you never venture out of it, you will never know that there is such a thing as an ocean, a sea. Holding on to something that is good for you now, may be the very reason why you don't have something better."*  
— C. JoyBell C.

There is a lot of change happening in the SW Division, in the FWD, in the BHS. Chapters are aging out...not bringing in any youth, not singing as well as in the past. It's not as "easy" as it was in the past. People were more willing to join the Chorus, and audiences didn't have so much to do, so they bought tickets and came to our shows. And when I went to Contest in the past, I used to think we might win, but now, with those super-Choruses...well, why bother? Change.

And there's a Fall Convention on a cruise ship. *"What if I get sea-sick? And it's not just one day; it's three days. That's going to cost more money."* Change.

And now the BHS says women can join the society and my men's Chorus will be competing against not only mixed Choruses but maybe even all-Female Choruses. Change.

I could go on and on about how change is inevitable, and how the only certainty in life, is change, and it's time to "venture out of our pond." But what I'd really like to say is that perhaps we, the collective you and me, need to change. Accept the new reality and embrace it. Change our attitude and look forward to the new opportunities and possibilities this provides.

*"Look, if you want things to change, YOU have to change. If you will change, everything will change for you. Don't wait for things to change. Change doesn't start out there. Change starts within. And when you change, miraculously, your relationships, your health,*

ideas and examples of what's working in the appeal to more "youthful" members.

*"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future."*

— **John F. Kennedy**

Making a change is really easy. You simply change your *attitude* and then walk the talk. If a change you need to make is, for example, to work on your music at home, between rehearsals, then just say, *"I will work on my music a little bit each day,"* and then schedule it, like maybe today, after lunch. If you agree that change in you, will help you to be a better Chorus member, a better member of the team, and a good example to others, then just commit to do that. How? Commit yourself to just 5 minutes on your music. Surely you can find 5 minutes, can't you? (*Here's a secret. No one spends just 5 minutes...before you know it, 20 minutes, 30 minutes has passed...*).

Got a bad attitude about any of the change and uncertainty? Pick a topic and just say to yourself, *"I will change my attitude and focus on what might be positive about this change. I'm going to give this change a chance and support this change as an opportunity for things to be better."*

You know, maybe the Society is not doing this TO us, but FOR us?

*"When you take control of your attitude, you take control of your life."*

— **Roy T. Bennett**, [The Light in the Heart](#)

Sorry if this quarterly message is a little "preachy" but as I check in with my Chapters, and I ask what I can do to help, I see many Chapters are having a problem with change and uncertainty, and I can't make that go away. But I can change my attitude about change, and I know that if each of us looks to improve in that fashion, I'm very excited about all the new fun we'll have, together, in this great Barbershop lifestyle we enjoy.

See you in the spring, in LA in July, and on board the cruise ship in October.

In Harmony, and anxious to help. 805-452-1393 is my cell.



Hello Far Western District! It's my distinct honor to serve as your Vice President of Music and Performance for this year. As a way of introduction, I have been singing Barbershop for over 40 years. I sang actively in the Masters of Harmony Chorus for almost 30 years and am currently singing in the Mesa Chapter. I also have been an active Quartet singer for longer than that! I truly love this hobby and look forward to offering any assistance your Chapter or Quartet might need.

I am responsible for all musical activities within the district that will improve and expand the musical knowledge and performance abilities of the membership (Choruses, Quartets, and individuals).

For Quartets we will be addressing:

- Building/rebuilding Harmony Platoon in the FWD
- Developing and building of one-day/one-evening Quartet workshops
- Revival of the Harmony College West

Harmony Platoon - It seems that the number of participants over the last ten years has declined and it's being viewed as something that we just "do" because we have done it. We would like to build numbers of Platoon participants significantly in all Platoon events. This is a great way to get your "Quartet fix" if you don't currently sing in an active group. In addition, you just might meet your next Quartet members there!

Quartet Workshops - At one point in our history, these were common and quite successful in bringing registered Quartets, pickup Quartets and "mix & match" pickup Quartets to one place for a day of coaching and a "parade of Quartets" show at the end of the day. What a wonderful way for your Quartet to work

with top coaches to improve in all areas of singing and performing.

Harmony College West - this was previously called the FWD HEP school. It's a Barbershop weekend for registered Quartets, pickup Quartets and general students on a school campus. I'd love to have a featured AIC as well as District level Quartets as instructors and coaches to teach a variety of classes in all aspects of our Barbershop hobby.

For the Choruses, we'll have top-level coaches available to work with your Chorus in any area where you feel some guidance may be helpful. We can schedule someone to help for an evening or a weekend day retreat as well.

Think that's about it for now. These are some of my thoughts of ways to help us promote, expand, and improve the level of music in our great District. If any of you have ideas that you want us to consider implementing, please feel free to reach out and make the suggestion.

I am here to help us all achieve more!



Greetings to the Far Western District. I am honored to serve as your Immediate Past President. That simply means that I have completed my two terms as President and will remain on the Board of Directors in an advisory role during Bill Rosica's Presidency. While Bill doesn't need much help, I am pleased to support in any way possible.

2020 is going to be an amazing time to sing and play in the Far West. We look forward to amazing Spring Division Contests, International in Los Angeles and our Fall Cruise. The FWD is continuing a legacy of innovation and excellence. Please plan on joining us in the celebration. Here's a quick reminder to book your FWD Fall Cruise now. Cabins are going fast. You will

find all the info you need at:

<https://farwesterndistrict.org/2020-cruise>

My last official duty is to present the 2019 President's Award and the 2019 District Chapter of the Year Award. A Chapter from each Division was nominated for the District Award. Here are the nominees:

Division 1 – Southwest Santa Fe Springs Chapter  
Masters of Harmony

Division 2 – Southeast Westminster Chapter  
Westminster Chorus

Division 3 – Northwest Palo Alto/Mountain View  
Chapter Peninsulaires

Division 4 – Northeast Fresno Chapter  
Gold Note Chorus

Division 5 – Arizona Sedona Chapter  
Harmony on the Rocks

All five were outstanding in 2019 and very worthy of recognition but there can only be one District Chapter of the Year. I will announce the Chapter of the Year and my President's Award at our Spring Convention in Buena Park - CHANGED TO TORRENCE.

I want to thank you all for allowing me to serve as your President for the past two years. Everyone in the District contributed to an outstanding experience.

It is truly "Great to be a Barbershopper!"

Please tell all your friends!!



Having recently taken this position, I can't begin to express how humbled I am to take on such an awesome role and at the same time, how excited I am about the direction I see our District and the Society taking when it comes to our youth.

As we all know the youth are the key to a healthy future. "Gettin' 'em hooked" in high school, or in college, and then understanding that these new "souls" to Barbershopping may only stay with our Chapters for a couple of years is important and sometimes hard for us older Barbershoppers to comprehend. Yes, most of our school-age kids seem to move on and settle in another part of our great country as they determine their career moves and take on the added responsibilities of families. However, most also seem to return to our Society to engage in the art form of singing that we call "Barbershop!!" And, it usually isn't the Chapter they originally joined! We shouldn't care as to which Chapter they eventually join but, instead, realize that we have played a part in keeping our art form alive and have given these young adults an avenue to escape a less than kind world.

Planting the seed at a young age is vital to our future and helps to keep music alive in our schools even though music programs are the first to be cut when it comes to school budgets. Getting kids involved in music is important.

As WE know, music (and especially a cappella singing) creates an inner energy to which there is no equal. Coming home after a hard day's work and being able to "ring" a chord or create an overtone or to enjoy the Brotherhood we share at a Chapter meeting offsets a difficult day. Having that Barbershop escape has kept many of us sane over the years. That is why music is important to our youth and to our future. We all say that, but what are we doing to perpetuate that concept on a Chapter level?

That is where YOU come in. As I initially stated, I am excited about the direction the Far Western District and the BHS is going with our youth. Both have sponsored programs to empower our youth through 4-part harmony.

In the Far Western District, we are fortunate to have programs such as the Youth Harmony Camp (special thanks to FWD Harmony Camp Director Richard Lund!!). The FWD has now moved the High School Quartet Contest to the Divisional level to allow MORE kids to participate without the expense of having to travel a far distance to the District Convention. On February 8, I was fortunate to see SCVA Youth Barbershop Day being run by one of our own Barbershoppers from the Westminster Chorus, Antone Rodich, and see the 6<sup>th</sup> place International Quartet (from our FWD), the

New Fangled Four, conducting sectionals for most of the day with the high school students, both male and female. I then saw the Masters of Harmony, the Westminster Choruses and the New Fangled Four perform to a theater full of high school kids and their parents.

The Society yearly celebrates our youth with the Youth Chorus Festival at our Midwinter Convention with the Varsity Quartet, Varsity Chorus, Junior Quartet and Junior Chorus competitions.

So what's left? YOU and your CHAPTER. It's time we ALL step up to the plate and develop some type of program within our own Chapter for our youth.

How? Within the next couple of months, I will be reaching out to your Chapter Officers to see how I, and we, as a District, can help you build or become part of a successful youth program. I will be sharing what works and what doesn't work in an effort to help you and to avoid re-inventing the wheel.

If you have any ideas that you'd like to share, please feel free to contact me directly.

I'm looking forward to working with you and hearing from you, soon!



Well...it's a new year and as I wrote this latest installment as your District Historian, it's the Chinese New Year, Superbowl Sunday on Groundhog Day and calendar Palindrome to boot (02-02-2020)...this won't happen again for 900 years!!! How's that for History and Trivia?!

As we move forward our FWD International prelims and SE/SW Divisionals will be taking place in Buena Park on March 19-21. There won't be a museum display at this event as yours truly will be competing in a Seniors Quartet...but...if all goes as planned, there'll be a grand booth display in Los Angeles at the International convention.

Over the years we've had two great Intl Conventions in L.A. in 1957 (I was 7 months old), it was labeled "A Bit of Heaven in '57" (BOHIFS)...our Quartet Champions were The Lads of Enchantment from New Mexico (SWD) and the Chorus Champions were The Californians from Berkeley under the direction of Dave Stevens. The next time Los Angeles hosted the convention was 10 years later in 1967. This time it was "More Heaven in '67" (MOHIFS). The Quartet Champions were The 4 Statesmen from the NED. Chorus Champions were The Dapper Dans of Harmony from Teaneck NJ.

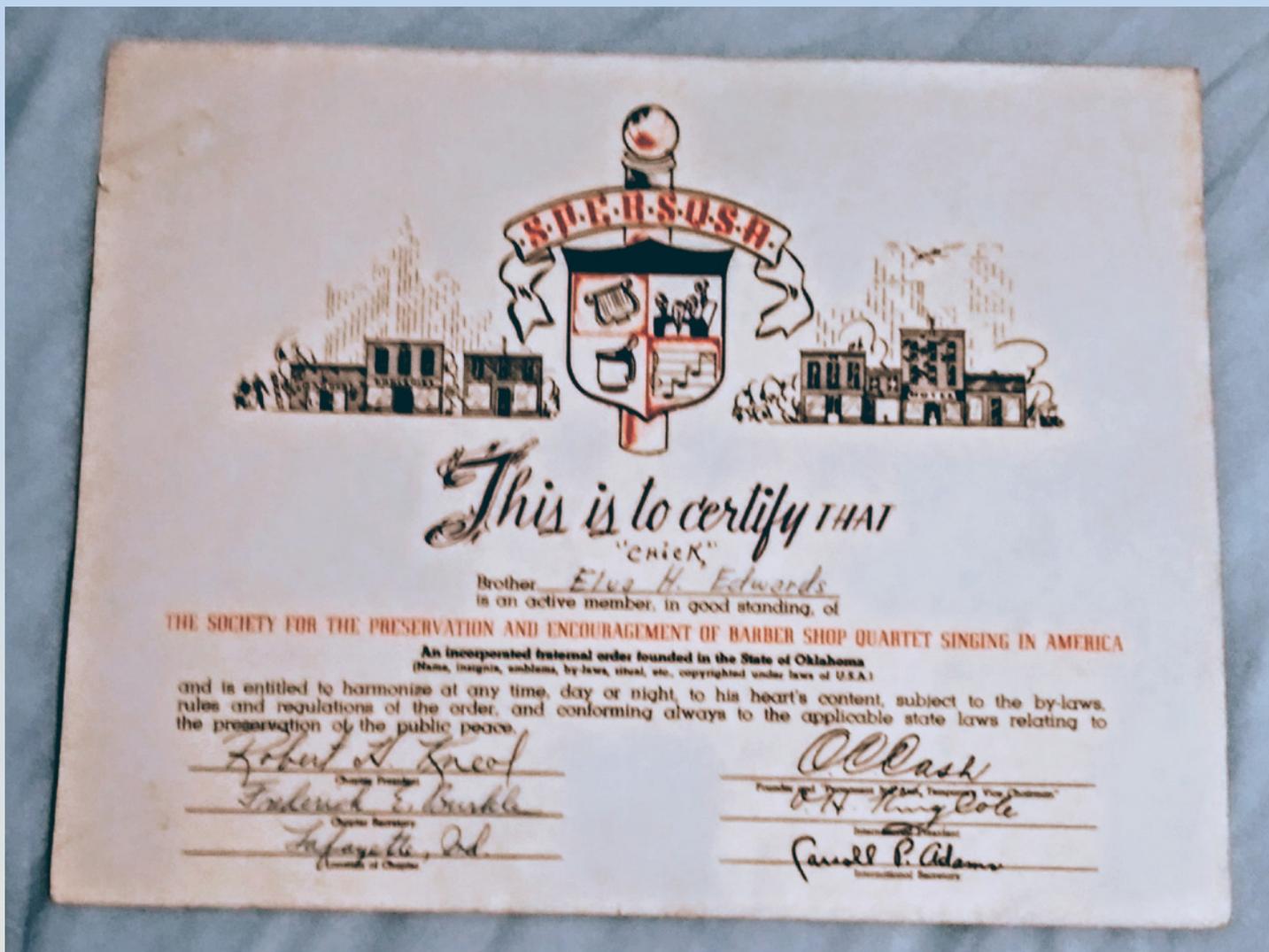
And now...53 years later...Downtown LA will have chords ringing for an entire week..."Heaven O'plenty in Twenty-Twenty" (my acronym).

So...join us one and all. Share your words of support for an FWD booth with Bill Rosica, our new FWD President.

Here are a few photos of some newly acquired items to my collection. Keep The Whole World Singing!

Regards,





**FWD Historian**

*Ed. note: An early SPEBSQSA Membership Certificate signed by OC Cash. Ever see one before?*

**NorCal Novice 2020 Contest Results, Modesto, CA**

Six quartets participated in the 2020 Novice contest held Centenary Church in Modesto February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The winner of the men's quartet contest was Fourward Motion representing the Palo Alto –Mountain View Chapter and the winner of the mixed quartet contest was Royal Flush representing the Stockton Chapter.

The six participating quartets represented seven chapters. Our MC was Bill Cale who provided several thought provoking stories from the past. Our mic tester quartet was Tune Struck, singing better than ever, and our incredibly able judges were Paul Engel, Mike Cating and Jamie Bedford, with contest administrators Chuck Hunter, Sr. and Ben Porter, both of whom also did an incredible job. The members of the Golden Valley Chorus provided all of the manpower needed to put on a truly stellar event.

Following the contest an afterglow was held at the church with the quartets singing more of their repertoire, and lots tag singing.



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been caught up in this dilemma, and our mail gets stopped before it even arrives at the sender.

It's all about REPUTATION. When your mailing list is old and contains increasingly more bad addresses, when recipients report your email as SPAM, and when you don't utilize the prevailing authentication mechanisms, your sender address or even your entire domain can get blacklisted. AOL, Yahoo, and MSN/Hotmail tend to be very "trigger happy" when it comes to blacklisting and dealing with them to get it removed is the email equivalent of root canal.

**So how can you avoid this?** Here are some things you can do. (If these terms are too technical, they are explained in more detail at the web page I will share with you later in this.)

**List Subscription** – work with your webmaster to make sure these set up correctly on your web site:

- **OPT-IN** for your mailing lists, meaning allow people to subscribe themselves.
- Use **reCAPTCHA** on your subscription form to prevent "bots" from subscribing.
- **Double opt-in** confirmation for your subscriptions.
- An **API service** to verify the email addresses during subscription

These apply whether you are hosting your own email list or using a third party such as MailChimp.

**Mail Authentication** – have your webmaster work with your web hosting provider to make sure these are properly set up:

- **SPF** (Sender Policy Framework) authentication
- **DKIM** (Domain Keys Identified Mail) authentication
- **DMARC** (Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting & Conformance) Authentication
- **PTR** records (reverse DNS lookups) for sending your IPs
- Make sure your **MX record** is set up properly

These would apply when you are hosting your own email list server, or you are using a third-party service that sends mail using your domain name.



## Demystifying email list "rocket science"

In previous issues we've talked about email lists and how important they are to our marketing plan. We've talked about email list services such as MailChimp that can jump start your email campaign. We've talked about ways to write an email that people will always open. Our next challenge is getting those emails delivered successfully.

**What's that? You just press "Send" and it gets delivered, right?**

In theory, yes, and that's how it was back in the "old days", but unfortunately there are numerous hurdles behind the scenes that make it more complicated in today's world. Simply put, things used to be as simple as a backyard barbecue, but along came SPAM, Phishing, Malware and the like to wet on our charcoal. In response to this, many internet providers, email services, and email programs have incorporated filters and other mechanisms to block this type of traffic in degrees ranging from moderate to paranoid. Unfortunately, many legitimate email senders – including us – have

Things you can do yourself, and would apply in all cases.

- **Do not buy or rent lists.** Take the time to build your own from people who WANT to receive your mail.
- **Clean your email list regularly** – this is something you should do at least once a year. There are a number of services that will do this for you. The one I prefer is zerobounce.net
- **Make sure your domain/IPs are not on any blacklists.** There are a number of services to assist you with this.

If you find yourself having been blacklisted, there are free and paid whitelisting services. It may take some effort, and will require a lot of patience and persistence, but it can be resolved.

Further reading: I highly recommend *“The Guide to Email Deliverability”*. It explains things very well and is a good resource for learning more about this topic.

<https://www.zerobounce.net/guide-to-improve-inbox-and-delivery.html>



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**Central Arizona Quartet Chapter  
by Bill Kane**

The **Arizona Quarter Chapter** was commissioned by the City of Phoenix to provide a public performing art exhibit. Since this commission, our monthly meetings have been in preparation for an hour-long Parade of Quartets show which will be performed each month over the next year at locations in Phoenix, such as libraries and parks. This is a great opportunity to introduce new audiences to Barbershop. The Chapter will make time in March to perform as a Chorus for the first time at the Arizona Division contest, and again in the fall at the FWD contest on the cruise ship. Several Quartets will be entering into these Contests as well. Most of our members will continue to participate in Platoons at these Conventions and many will be in Harmony Brigades in North America and Europe.

**Greater Phoenix Chapter  
by Jerry McElfresh**

The **Phoenicians** honored **Gene Brandwein** as their 2019 Barbershopper of the Year at their Annual Installation and Awards Dinner. Gene has served for several years as Chapter Secretary and this year will be a Board Member-at-Large. Gene is an avid Barbershopper and also belongs to the **Desertaires** Chorus, the **Arizona Quartet Chapter**, and sings in a Quartet as well as keeping our Chapter on the straight and narrow as Secretary. Congratulations, Gene!

Also during the Annual Dinner, which included a three-entrée Italian dinner prepared by “Chapter chef” **Jay Bartley**, the Chapter Board was installed by Division Vice President **Adam Kaufman**. Board members for 2020 are President **Jay Bartley**, Secretary **Mike Bickerstaff**, Treasurer **Howard Donley**, Membership VP **Glenn Partridge**, Program VP **Ethan Pike**, Music VP **Rich Kates**, and Members- at-Large **John Mertens**, **Gene Brandwein** and **Jerry McElfresh**.

The high point of the Christmas music season for the Phoenicians was their joint performance before a full house with the **West Wind Harmony Sweet Adeline Chorus** directed by our own **Bill Shaw**. Each Chorus and several Quartets sang separately then the two Choruses took to the risers to sing four songs arranged for Mixed Choruses. The quality of singing by all performers resulted in a standing ovation from the enthusiastic audience.

The Far Western District Arizona Division and Phoenicians Chorus were represented at the BHS International Seniors Quartet Contest in Jacksonville, FL, by **Hometown Heroes**, who qualified high enough in the Fall District Contest to be invited to the Midwinter Convention Contest. Quartet members **Les Dergan**, Tenor; **Rob Baltensberger**, Lead; **Dan Ryan**, Bari; and **Rich Kates**, Bass, scored 11<sup>th</sup> among 27 competitors from the U.S., Canada, and foreign countries around the world.

**Mesa Chapter  
by John Soper**

The **East Valley Barbershop Harmonizers** enter 2020 ready to grow upon our success in 2019 as “Most Improved Chorus” in the Arizona District and the “Far Western District Plateau A Chorus Champions”. The Mesa Chapter currently has more than 70 active members, with stellar leadership by Director **Russ Young**. This past quarter we welcomed **Dave Fouts** to the Harmonizers. Dave sings Bass and has been a BHS member since 1988.

Our 2019 holiday season was a success, including performances in Our Savior Lutheran Church in Mesa, Arizona, and the First United Methodist Church of Gilbert in Gilbert, Arizona. A free VLQ holiday performance was also provided for the Blinded Veterans Association - Arizona Central/Northern regional group, at the Veterans Administration Health Care System in Phoenix.

Our recently elected 2020 board was sworn in at our Annual Awards Banquet led by incoming president, **Phil Kraft**, who brings a wealth of Barbershop knowledge as well as professional leadership experience in non-profit organization management. Phil replaces Past President **John Johnson**, who has skillfully led the organization over the past three years. Other Board members for 2020 are Treasurer **Bernie Esberner**, Secretary **John Soper**, VP Marketing **Matthew Roberts**, VP

Music **Greg Grace**, VP Membership **Michael LaPorte**, Chorus Manager **Ken Brannon**, and Members-at-Large **Gene Burns** and **Gary Somerville**. Numerous members received awards for their contributions to the Chapter during 2019 including **Shreyas Amin**, who was selected as the Mesa Chapter's "Barbershopper of the Year".

If you are ever in the Phoenix metropolitan area, we invite you to join us Thursday evenings from 7:00-10:00 pm at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 322 N. Horne, Mesa, AZ 85203. For more information, visit our website <http://evBarbershop.com>.

### Prescott Chapter by Sam Stimple

The starting blocks are in place, and the runners are ready to sprint. The fourth quarter of each year is filled with opportunities to share songs that we love with many kinds of audiences. In early October the **High Mountain Chordsman** performed at Sharlot Hall Folks Arts Festival in downtown Prescott. The open-air amphitheater created a wind tunnel for both singers on stage and audience huddled on concrete benches. The Chorus and Quartets were well-received in spite of the unusually strong breeze.

A slate of Chapter officers was elected in October: Chapter President is **Gary Zeck**, Secretary is **Ed Wolfe**, Treasurer is **Dick Patton**, VP Music & Performance is **Tommy Keenan**, VP Membership/Chapter Development is **Gordon Ralph**, VP Program is **Ed Roush**, VP Marketing/PR is **Dick Patton**, Board Members-at-Large are **Larry Bennett** and **Terry Boren**, and Performance Coordinator/webmaster is **Ed Massa**. And so, it's onward to 2020!

On November 11 the Chorus proudly sang *An Armed Forces Medley* and *God Bless America* for service veterans who reside in Stoneridge Country

Club, Prescott Valley. Our Chordsmen membership is proud to have several veterans including a former Prisoner of War.

The Chorus and Quartets donned Santa hats and sweatshirts for our annual nursing home circuit during the first two weeks in December. Despite a grueling schedule, we were always buoyed by the smiles, waves, and high fives of senior citizens in 20 care centers. For the 27<sup>th</sup> year it was a privilege to sing for 90 minutes as part of the Acker Musical Showcase in the lobby of a local bank.

As New Year's Day approached, **Ed** and **Eleanor Wolfe** graciously hosted a year-end potluck in their beautiful home for members and spouses. As well as good eats, there was plenty of singing time. Happy New Year to All!

### Salt River Valley Chapter by Eric Bjornsen

As the weather got cooler, **A Cappella Syndicate's** schedule heated up, getting busy with performing in the Phoenix Area and beyond.

In October, the Syndicate applied the finishing touches to its preparations for the District Contest, including a few special rehearsals. The efforts paid off, as the ensemble delivered an audience-pleasing performance that earned a third place finish. Their score of 80.3 also earned an invitation to the 2020 International Competition, which they happily accepted. The Syndicate was also well-represented in the Quartet competition. Their own **Eric Bjornsen** sang Baritone in the winning Quartet, **Vocalocity**, with a score of 81.8, his first ever FWD Championship. Syndicate Chapter Quartet, **Heatwave (Mark Spriggs, Kent Pyper, Marco Teti, Jim Hanson)**, also performed in the competition, as did **Greg Singleton**, who competed in a District Quartet

for the first time, singing Baritone with **Intonation**.

The holiday season provided several opportunities for the Chorus to perform, including their own holiday show in Phoenix and several private events. They also brought down the house as the featured ensemble at a show produced by the **Tucson Barbershop Experience** Chorus. The group was again honored to be one of several performers at a sold-out Solstice Sunset Concert in Phoenix, produced by Artistic Director **Lynne Haeseler**. Syndicate Co-Director **Gary Steinkamp** also assisted in the production of the event.

A Cappella Syndicate is grateful to have received regular coaching from Harmony Incorporated Performance Category Director and BHS Performance Judge **Theresa Weatherbee**, who provided her expertise in a number of rehearsal sessions.

### Sedona Chapter by Michael McCaffrey

"The Evolution of a Barbershopper, 50 Years and Counting" was the theme for the **Harmony on the Rocks** Annual Show in 2019. Celebrating 63 years as a Barbershop member and 50 years as a Director, **John McDougald** led a spirited historical perspective of his musical life. He was ably assisted by the 2019 Far Western District Quartet Champions, **Vocalocity**, as well as Harmony on the Rocks Quartets, **Surround Sound** and **Quintessential Quartet**, as well as the Red Rockapella Quartet, **Plan B**.

This was followed rather quickly by a performance at the Phillip England Center for the Performing Arts in Camp Verde where we reprised our 2018 show, "Up on the Roof - 81 Years of Good Harmonies and Bad Jokes". This concert also included **Vocalocity**, as well as **Surround Sound** and **Quintessential Quartet**.

For those in the Christmas mood we performed for the Sedona Gem and Mineral Club Christmas Dinner in early December and even were treated to a wonderful holiday repast before the performance. Rounding out the year a small contingent of Harmony on the Rocks singers regaled the staff and students of Sedona Charter School with Christmas carols at their holiday celebration.

**White Mountains Chapter  
by Everett Peterson**

The **High Country Barbershop Chorus** held our Eighth Annual Christmas in the Pines Show on December 17 at a local church hall. In addition to our Chorus, we featured local school choirs from our Blue Ridge and Show Low communities. We took donations from the more than 400 in attendance, using

all those funds as well as additional funds from our Chorus, and distributed \$2,300 to support these school choirs as well as a guitar ensemble from Show Low High School who performed that evening. Our Arizona Division VP **Adam Kaufman** installed our 2020 officers at Charlie Clark's restaurant in Pinetop. Awards were presented, including our BOTY recipient, Music VP **Tom Wallis**.



**California Delta Chapter  
by Blair Reynolds**

**Voices of California** presented its annual Holiday Show at the Harris Center (Three Stages Theatre) in Folsom on December 7, and nearly sold out the 800-seat theater in a matinee performance. The theme was "A Very Elvish Christmas," and the Chorus enjoyed singing Elvis Presley holiday numbers such as *Blue Christmas* and *Santa, Bring My Baby (Back to Me)*. We can affirmatively state that "Elvis is alive," as over 50 of them were onstage for this performance. In addition to the Chorus, our own Artistic License, R.S.V.P. (Reconciliation Singers Voices of Peace), The Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus, and The Spokes (UC Davis Women's a cappella group) were guest performers.

On January 4, our new officers were installed to begin our 2<sup>nd</sup> decade at our Annual Installation and Awards Banquet, with **Larry Halvorson** the Installing Officer. The Chapter officers for 2020 are: President Tim Huntsinger, Music and Performance VP

Raphael Pazo, Chapter Development/ Membership VP Rich Brunner, Marketing VP Dwayne Smith, Treasurer (returning) Scott West, Secretary (returning) Tim Jackson, Board Members-at-Large Anthony Miller and Keith Slater, Outside Board Member-at-Large Jennifer Fulkerson.

**Larry Womac** (our Immediate Past President) is the Chapter's 2019 BOTY, and the following also received awards:

- President's Award, **Keith Slater**
- Director's Award, **Wayne Raymond**
- Member Award, **Keith Slater** (voted upon by all Active Members)
- 2018 Rookie of the Year Award, **Anthony Miller**
- 2019 Rookie of the Year Award, **Tim Tuggle**
- Above and Beyond Award, **Sal De Jesus**
- Ansel Lundberg** and **Rich Hartman**
- VoCal Mates' Award, **Patsy Miller**

The Chapter amended its bylaws last October to add an Outside Member-at-Large to the Board, and we are pleased to introduce **Jennifer Fulkerson**, the Choral Director of Antelope High

School. Jennifer received her Bachelor of Arts in Music Education, with distinction and Magna Cum Laude honors, from Sonoma State University in 2005. She went on to teach award-winning ensembles at the Marin School of the Arts, Petaluma High School, and Santa Rosa High School in Sonoma County before landing at Antelope High in Roseville in 2013. She is an Associate Member of the Barbershop Harmony Society, and has attended both the FWD Youth Harmony Camp and the Society's Harmony University as a music educator.

**Central California Chapter  
by Miles Sutter**

November 16 was our seventh and final year for the "Better Together Benefit" Choir Concert in Modesto. Modesto area churches joined forces to benefit various food pantries in our community. Eight participants gave of their time to entertain the very generous people of Modesto and surrounding area. The event is free to all community residents. You were invited to bring a bag of non-perishable,

non-breakable groceries as part of your admission fee. The Holidays are typically a rough time for food banks, as donations tend to dwindle. This event normally generates a couple tons of much needed food that is distributed to local food banks the following day. This year we were able to collect 3,257 pounds of food for the needy. The **Golden Valley Chorus**, 17 members strong, sang "*I'm Sitting on Top of the World, Hello Mary Lo*", and our traditional, *Armed Forces Medley*, in honor of Veterans Day. We were given a standing ovation as we left the stage. The finale was the combined voices of 8 choirs, 280 strong, singing *America the Beautiful*.

Entering the Bethel Retirement Community lobby to perform our Christmas program, we were greeted with beautiful music coming from three cellos. **Chuck Roots** directed the 17 "Merry Men", all dressed up in their Christmas attire, putting forth a beautiful, holiday sound that we will remember as one of our best performances...ever! **Chris Todd** soloed on *White Christmas* as did **Roe Carnell** on *Silent Night*. Many residents wandered in as we began our program, but no one left once they heard the glorious sound coming from the GVC. Chuck Roots was the MC for this evening's performance, providing the lead in narrative to many of our 10 Christmas songs.

Being able to share the Christmas spirit with so many wonderful and enthusiastic senior citizens, family and guests at the Casa De Modesto Retirement Center made the season truly bright! With all the Chorus members decked out in Christmas colors and attire, it was indeed festive. The auditorium again was at capacity, with 250-300 guests, some SRO. **Chuck Roots** was again the MC for this evening's performance, providing the lead in narrative to many of our 13 Christmas songs under the direction

of **Zack Stillman**. The evening's performance also included the always requested "12 Days of Christmas", together with the participation of our audience.

#### Folsom Chapter by Doug Vestal

The Folsom Chapter Harmony Express Chorus performed at the Atria El Camino Gardens Senior Living facility, and included many Patriotic songs since Veterans Day was three days away. Director **Kent Borrowdale** prepared a script that guided the attendees through each song with a short introduction delivered adroitly by our guest Master of Ceremonies, **Stan Trumbull**.

The Folsom Chapter Harmony Express Chorus performed at the Veterans Day Ceremony at Sylvan Cemetery in Citrus Heights, CA. We've been invited to sing at this event for many years and look forward to it each year. Our mix of Patriotic and uplifting songs was appreciated by the attending public members, veterans and local dignitaries. On November 20, we honored our wives and other guests at a dinner event at the Spaghetti Factory. It was a fun time of fellowship and singing.

Our Chapter was invited by the Nevada/Placer Chapter to join them and sing Christmas songs at the Victorian Christmas street fair sing-out on two Wednesday evenings. Several of our members were able sing with them.

We had our installation of officers at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Roseville. Our installing officer was **O. C. Cash** (played by **Roger Perkins** in full old-time dress costume). **Les Lorenzen** will start his 4<sup>th</sup> year as President, VP Membership **Bill Randolph**, Secretary **Doug Vestal**, Treasurer **Burt Weichenthal**, and Members-at-Large **Gordon Fawkes**,

**David Newell** and **Chuck Nozumi. Les Cudworth** will once again be our Sunshine Chairman. **Kent Borrowdale** has been our Chorus Director for 18 years.

#### Nevada Placer Chapter by Roger Perkins

The **Sierranaders** performed once again at the Wednesday evening Victorian Christmases in Nevada City on December 11 and 18. We have been doing this for about 35 years and it is always fun. Many people walking by will stop and listen to us singing the Christmas songs. It helped to have three members from the Folsom Harmony Express to assist us. It was a rainy evening on both nights, but not bad enough to keep people away.

Our Installation Dinner this January was at Mountain Mike's Pizza in Auburn, and we installed our own officers. It was an informal occasion and we greeted our officers, President **Burt Weichenthal**, Secretary **Dan Clark**, and Treasurer **Jim Kraywinkel**, and served pizza, of all things.

#### Reno Chapter by Steve Shurtliff

**Dave Gaunt** has now assumed all duties of Director. He is not only a gifted performer, but has taught both vocal and instrumental music for over 20 years. His consistent energy and enthusiasm both inspires and amazes all of us. We are very fortunate to have him as our Director.

We had a very full Christmas season... the Chorus did five performances in December, and both our Quartets (**Barbershop Express**, who has been performing for many years, and our newest Quartet, the **Saturday Morning Singers**) also performed on separate occasions. All performances were very well received, and all in all the Holiday season proved to be very successful.

**Stockton Chapter**  
by Sue Atkins

The **Tunestruck Quartet** has only sung intermittently together. Bob had to leave quickly after our District performance in Modesto to harvest his late variety walnuts, so **Derick Sturke** stepped in to sing in the VoCal Afterglow Room. **Tunestruck** out for a couple of songs on two occasions when the Chorus sang at O'Conner Woods and at Micke Grove Park. The next Tuesday started with a 6:30 am call to help spread Holiday Cheer and awareness for the Woodbridge Wince Country Christmas on Channel 31's Good Day Sacramento. Next was an hour's worth of Carols and songs for the Almond Drive Christmas Party at Woodbridge County Club. We sang again at O'Conner Wood for the PEO Sisterhood. Another annual visit for us this time of year is to Astoria Gardens Senior Living in Tracy. The two hours there always fly by.

**Royal Flush** was a card short at the Division Contest in Modesto, but we added the Joker (**Derick Sturke**) to fill in for Paul on Bass and we all got a chance to sing in the Harmony

Platoon together. Rich from VoCal sang Bass for a couple of songs at the Afterglow Saturday night. We had the honor of singing the National Anthem at two ceremonies for the SJ County Sheriff's Department; first community members who have served as valuable volunteers such as Neighborhood Watch and other positions. Portsmen's own **Al Wolter** was honored for his service to the town of Woodbridge. Congratulations, Al!

**Visalia Chapter**  
by Bud Case

**Lee Smith**, PR-VP, organized our Christmas Caroling in senior facilities as he has so faithfully for more than two decades. He also arranged for the Chorus to carol in the participating businesses in Hanford's downtown. Except for the Hanford sing-out our singing in senior facilities is our contribution to our community as we bring Christmas cheer to the hearts of many that can't get out to the season's festivities. We presented our first Christmas Concert in December at the church where we have met for many years. Our guest Quartet from Fresno (**Rapport Quartet**) added some singing.

Santa even made an appearance to the delight of children from 3 to 93!

**Don Laursen** (Harmony Foundation Treasurer) did a bang-up job as installing officer as he challenged us to continue as the Chapter's leadership: President **Dee Baughman**, PR-VP **Lee Smith**, Membership VP **Ken Stake**, Music VP **Norma Lovelace**, Secretary **Bud Case**, Treasurer **Maria Ashby**, and Board Members-at-Large **Charles Lovelace**, **Pat Harrison** and **Ken McNutt**. As you may notice we have two ladies on our board as we have opened our Chorus to women and have gained six new very active members to help us keep singing.

Music VP **Norma Lovelace** is our 2019 BOTY recipient. She has been very active for the past two years in the Chapter and is well deserving for all she brings to the Chapter. She follows in her husband's footsteps (**Charles Lovelace**, BMAL and music librarian for five years) as well as her father, **Wayne Snell** (41 years a member, several Quartets and leader)! She has demonstrated boundless energy, enthusiasm and organizational skills in all she does for the Chorus/Chapter.



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**San Mateo County Chapter  
by Tom Addison**

The **Faultline Chorus** had a successful holiday season singing to several thousand people on the Caltrain Holiday Train traveling between San Francisco and San Jose. Many thanks to our Barbershop brothers from the **San Francisco Cable Car Chorus** who joined us again for this endeavor. This is the fifth year we have performed together for this event. At our annual planning meeting President **Ed Sterbenc** welcomed members of the Board of Directors: Treasurer **Pete Wanger**, Secretary **Rich Alger**, VP Music and Performance **Tom Addison**, Membership and Communications **Bill Nott**, and Members-at-Large **Tom Mullooly**, **Dave McCann**, **Lance Mangano**, and **Shaun Collins**. Together, we planned our 2020 schedule and introduced the theme for our Annual Show *Music of Sinatra*. Musical Director **Mark Fish** has arranged *Fly Me to the Moon* as our signature theme song for this event. As we move into the new decade, we have welcomed several female members of our Chapter, embracing fully the national directive to enjoy “Everyone in Harmony.”

**Palo Alto/Mountain View Chapter  
by Larry Valencia**

The **Peninsulaires Chorus** wish our Musical Director, **Dr. Sean Abel**, all the best as he moves on to his new adventure. We thank him for his dedication to us over the past five plus years. Sean definitely “raised the bar”

and we will stay on this track. We’ll miss you Sean!

We are actively working to find our next Musical Director. Our VP of Music and Performance, **Dave Kocharhook**, along with Chorus Assistant Directors, will make sure that we maintain the bar that has been set.

We delighted our guests at our **Ice Cream Social and Cabaret** performances, featuring Chapter Quartets and **Joe Eding’s** fabulous renditions with his Saw Playing. This event was our final performance under the direction of **Dr. Sean Abel**.

Annual Holiday performances brought the Joy of Barbershop Harmony of the season’s tunes to our audiences at The Holiday Train at the Sunnyvale Caltrain station, The Mountain View tree lighting, and at The Palo Alto Farmer’s Market.

Thank you, **Chris Hebert**, for officiating the installation of our 2020 Chapter Officers during our luncheon at Don Giovanni’s Restaurant in Mountain View. Officers installed were: Chapter President **Dana Chase**, VP Music and Performance **Dave Korcharhook**, Treasurer **David Morley**, Secretary **Paul Freudenthal**, VP Chapter Development **Eliot Rubinov**, VP Marketing & PR **Gene Morrison**, VP Program **John Wanless**, and Board Members-at-Large **Brian Healey** and **Jim Sherman**.

The 2019 Chapter awards were also presented at this event by Past President **Michael Gordon** and **Dave Kocharhook**. *The Board Award* was

presented to **Bob Howd** in December during his last visit (RIP Bob), *President’s Award* was presented to **Jim Sherman**, *Rookie of The Year* was earned by **Gene Morrison**, and *Barbershopper of the Year Award* went to **Dave Morley**. **Dr. Sean Abel** was inducted into the *Hall of Fame*.





If you are interested in becoming the Southeast Division Editor for Westunes, please email Westunes Editor Ray Rhymer at [westuneseditor@farwesternndistrict.org](mailto:westuneseditor@farwesternndistrict.org) or call me at 916-791-2134 to chat. It's an opportunity to donate a little time back to the FWD on behalf of your Southeast Division members and chapters. The task is not difficult, but does require a commitment 4 times a year in late Jan, Apr, Jul, & Oct.



**Rincon Beach Chapter  
by Bill Chase**

**Pacific Sound Chorus** had a busy Christmas season which included two Christmas shows at churches in Camarillo and Ventura. Our Ventura show also featured **Channel Island Harmony Chorus** under the direction of **Jim Browne** and the Sweet Adelines **ChannelAire** Chorus directed by **Lee Hayes**. We also performed at several locations in the Santa Barbara area during the month of December.

Our Chapter officers for 2020 are: President **Russell Rawls**, IPP/Chorus Manager **Bill Winfiel**, VP Membership **Brent Anderson**, VP Music **Doug Van Bogelen**, VP Marketing/PR **Bobby Georges**, VP Program **Joel Levitz**, Secretary **Phil Allin**, Treasurer **Gary Wetzell**, BMAL **Arvid Russell** and **Tony Koriantis**. Rookie of the Year award went to **Chris Coulter**. Other awards

presented were: Dulcet Tones Award - **Tony Koriantis**, Workhorse Awards – **Bobby Georges**, **Doug Van Bogelen**, **Joel Levitz**, and Vision Award – **Brent Anderson**.

Our installing officer was **Joe D'Amore**, current President of the Masters of Harmony and four-time FWD Quartet Champ. He has also earned numerous gold medals with the **MOH**. Guest Quartet for the evening was "**Notable Quartet**", a very talented and entertaining area college Quartet.

Two of our Pacific Sound members, **Brent Anderson** and **Ed Fuller** attended the Midwinter Convention in Jacksonville, FL with their wives, **Sue** and **Sandy**.

**San Fernando Valley Chapter  
by Ben Marder**

On January 19, 2020 the San Fernando Valley Harmony Singers held their 60<sup>th</sup>

Annual Installation & Awards Banquet. Installing Officer **Ed Schackman** started in Barbershop 31 years ago singing in the L.A. and Conejo Valley Chapters. In the mid 90s Ed joined the Valleyaires Barbershop Chorus where I enjoyed singing with him in the Bari section for many years. Ed was also the first Bari to sing Tenor in "Bill's Bari Pie" Quartet. In 2013 Ed joined the world renowned Masters of Harmony Chorus where he earned several medals including a Gold Championship.

**Jack Press** was installed as Chapter President. The following awards were given out:

**Kathie Edwards**, Lady of the Valley Harmony Singers.

**Mathew Schreiber**, Order of the Broken Donkey Award.

**Phil Lockwood**, Owen Edwards Jr. Memorial Personal Best Award.

**Kirk Prather**, Roger Dixon Memorial Award.

**Bob Karlin**, Rang Hansen Memorial Award for assistance to the President.

**Phyllis & Bill Cohen**, Tom Mayfield Memorial Award for Community Outreach.

Last year one of our beloved past members, **Doug Ward** passed away. Doug sang Lead and Bari in different Quartets, and had a wonderful full Baritone voice. He sang with energy, enthusiasm, and spirit. A special award was established in honor of Doug's name. The first winner of the Doug Ward Memorial Award for Humility, Service, and Innovation was awarded to **Jeffery Bunch**. Last, but not least, I was honored to present our highest award to a man I brought into our Chorus and the world of Barbershop singing 10 years ago. The San Fernando Valley Chapter Valley Harmony Singers Barbershopper of The Year Award of 2019 went to **Dave Kirby**.

Last year was a turning point for the Valley Harmony Singers, as we became a Mixed Chorus. We have brought in 10 new members, 3 men and 7 ladies. It's made a tremendous difference in our overall sound. We now are 50% under 70 year's old. Our youngest member is just 15. The future is starting to look a lot brighter.

#### **Santa Monica Chapter by Marty Mitnick**

Bringing holiday joy to music lovers far and near **The Oceanaires** and its Quartets performed at the following venues: Cedars-Sinai Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit, arranged by **Katie**

**Boeck**; Grace Lutheran Church in Culver City; caroling along Restaurant Row in Culver City including the Fire Department; The Salvation Army's Silvercrest Retirement Home in Santa Monica; Santa Monica Place Shopping Center and singing while strolling on the Santa Monica Pier. Our Quartet **Generation Gap** appeared on TV Channel 11, "Good Day LA"

The **Oceanaire's** Quartet **Fermata The Blue** performed for Teledyne Corporation's Christmas Party held in an airport hangar, which houses a museum filled with vintage aircraft. The metal construction with a high roof allowed the sound to really ring and resonate through the building. Now that was really Barbershop Heaven. Next on the agenda was a fundraiser for an elementary school, with all of the young students really enjoying the sound of "Barbershop".

The new year was started off by our Annual Installation of Officers Luncheon. We were entertained by our very own **David Livingston** and his **Velvet Frogs Quartet**. The Master of Ceremonies and Installing Officer was **Bruce Schroffel**.

The 2020 officers are: President **Jim McElwain**, Secretary **Pat Kellogg**, Treasurer **John White**, Immediate Past President **Jerry Walker**, Chorus Manager **Ken Scholtz**, Marketing and PR **Wally Mees**, Membership Development **Tim Singer**, Music

and Performance **Jim Leedom**, Social Media, Technology & Web Development **Chuck Bevitt**, Communications Manager and Sunshine **Marty Mitnick**, Costume Manager **Alan Hanson**, Members-at-Large **Jack Fry**, **Frank DaVanzo** and **Tom Laskey**.

#### **South Bay Chapter by Scott Suwabe/Barry Waite**

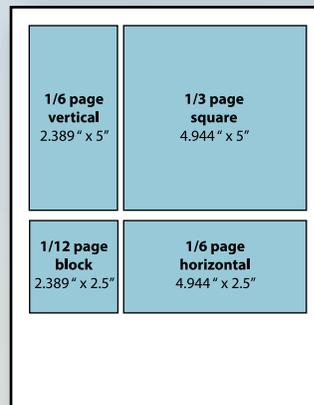
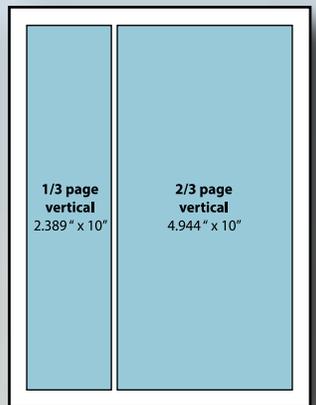
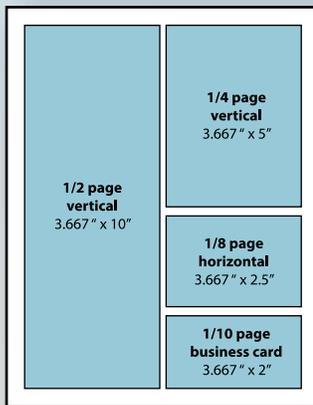
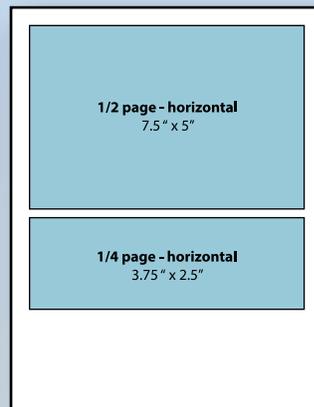
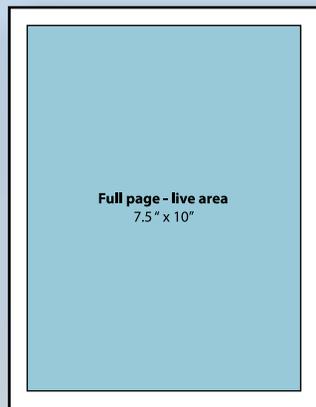
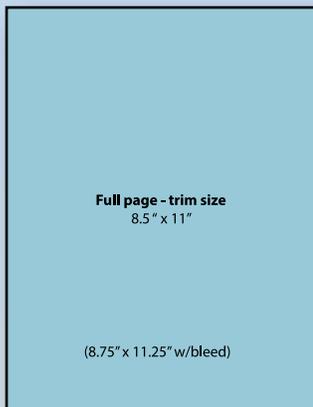
Greetings from South Bay!! We had an eventful 2019 and are looking forward to what 2020 has in store for us. We had three new members join us from our Annual Show, which is super exciting. Our Installation Banquet is coming up at the time of this article being written, and we are honored to have Immediate Past President of the Far Western District **Craig Hughes** as our Installation Officer. Look out for us at contest as we gear up for the cruise. Though we may be small in October we hope to evoke laughter and fun with whatever we decide to do.

After rehearsal, we often hang out at a local restaurant. We were surprised to find one night that they had closed early, so we found a nearby place online that turned out to be karaoke night. We told the doorman we were Barbershoppers, and he said, "Thank God! We need some decent singers tonight." The host wrote us down on her list after we explained we would do a cappella karaoke.

When our turn came, five of us (two Basses) took the stage and sang *Goodbye, My Coney Island Baby*. You'd think no one there had ever seen anyone sing before! Everyone had a camera out to do a video or take pictures. Afterwards, they shook our hands and thanked us profusely. Hmm... maybe we'll go back some time. Okay, we already did! This time, we had eight guys and did *Drinking Man's Diet*. Yup, they liked it! A good audience is a good audience, however you may find them.



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## Ad deadlines

**Spring issue (March 1)**

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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
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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](http://farwesterndistrict.org/events/calendar)

## UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

- March 19-22, 2020 FWD Spring Conventon, Prelims & SE/SW Divisions, Torrence, CA
- April 17-18, 2020 AZ Division Conventnion, Mesa, AZ
- May 15-16, 2020 NE/NW Divisions Convention, Stockton, CA
- June 28-July 5, 2020 International Conventon, Las Angeles, CA
- October 8-11, 2020 FWD Fall Conventon, Cruise - Long Beach, CA
- March 11-14, 2021 FWD Spring Convention: Prelims, NE/NW Divisions, location TBD

For an extended list of conventions, visit [farwesterndistrict.org/events/conventions](http://farwesterndistrict.org/events/conventions)

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Register for FWD Conventions at [events.farwesterndistrict.org](http://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](mailto:dvp-arizona@farwesterndistrict.org)

### NORTHEAST DIVISION

Chuck Roots  
[dvp-northeast@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:dvp-northeast@farwesterndistrict.org)

### NORTHWEST DIVISION

Dick Whitten  
[dvp-northwest@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:dvp-northwest@farwesterndistrict.org)

### SOUTHEAST DIVISION

Kyle Williamson  
[dvp-southeast@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:dvp-southeast@farwesterndistrict.org)

### SOUTHWEST DIVISION

Brent Anderson  
[dvp-southwest@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:dvp-southwest@farwesterndistrict.org)

# Member Services Directory

## AWARDS

Chuck Hunter, Sr.  
[awards@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:awards@farwesterndistrict.org)

## CHORUS DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Scott Suwabe  
[cdd@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:cdd@farwesterndistrict.org)

## ETHICS

Russ Young  
[ethics@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:ethics@farwesterndistrict.org)

## EVENTS

Bryan Forbes  
[events@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:events@farwesterndistrict.org)

## FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Roe Darnell  
[financial-dev@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:financial-dev@farwesterndistrict.org)

## HALL OF FAME

Bruce Sellnow  
[hof@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:hof@farwesterndistrict.org)

## HISTORIAN

Dan Jordan  
[historian@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:historian@farwesterndistrict.org)

## LAWS & REGULATIONS

Peter Feeney  
[lawsandregs@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:lawsandregs@farwesterndistrict.org)

## MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS

David Melville  
[marketing@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:marketing@farwesterndistrict.org)

## MEMBER RECRUITMENT & EDUCATION

Jeremy Loper  
[membership@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:membership@farwesterndistrict.org)

## NOMINATING

Gordon Bergthold  
[nominating@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:nominating@farwesterndistrict.org)

## QUARTET ACTIVITIES

OPEN  
[quartetactivities@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:quartetactivities@farwesterndistrict.org)

## WEBMASTER

David Melville  
[webmaster@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:webmaster@farwesterndistrict.org)

## WESTAGS NEWSLETTER

Jerry McElfresh  
[westags@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:westags@farwesterndistrict.org)

## WESTUNES EDITOR

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

## YOUTH IN HARMONY

Kenny Rios  
[yih@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:yih@farwesterndistrict.org)



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

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

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

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

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

### VP ARIZONA DIVISION

Adam Kaufman  
[dvp-arizona@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:dvp-arizona@farwesterndistrict.org)

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Chuck Roots  
[dvp-northeast@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:dvp-northeast@farwesterndistrict.org)

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[dvp-northwest@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:dvp-northwest@farwesterndistrict.org)

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Kyle Williamson  
[dvp-southeast@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:dvp-southeast@farwesterndistrict.org)

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Brent Anderson  
[dvp-southwest@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:dvp-southwest@farwesterndistrict.org)

### VP CONTESTS & JUDGING

Brett Littlefield  
[drcj@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:drcj@farwesterndistrict.org)

### VP MUSIC & PERFORMANCE

Rob Menaker  
[music@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:music@farwesterndistrict.org)