



Westunes Vol. 70 No. 3

Fall 2020



WESTUNES

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



Ron Black (2010)



Russ Young (2016)



Joe Salz (2002)



Chuck Hunter Sr. (1999)

Richard Lund (2014)

Gordon Bergthold (2019)



Nick Papageorge (2011)



Bruce Sellnow (2017)



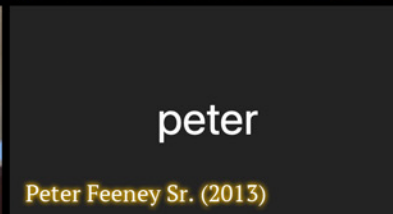
Ray Rhymer (2004)



John Krizek (1994)



Sam Barger (1998)



peter

Peter Feeney Sr. (2013)

Far Western District Hall of Fame

On July 1, 2020, long-time barbershopper Gordon "Mongo" Bergthold was inducted into the esteemed FWD Hall of Fame.

The ceremony, typically held at Spring Conventions, was held on a ZOOM conference. Chuck Hunter and Richard Lund joined Mongo at his home where he was presented with his Hall of Fame award, name badge and membership pin.

INSIDE: 2021 Fall Cruise • MOH • LSEF • ZOOM • Historian Pix



The VELVET FROGS are an entertaining vaudeville barbershop quartet. We love singing the songs and doing the routines your audience eagerly anticipates, and we are proud to “look the part”.

We'd jump for joy to be on your show, and we will have your audience hoppin' in the aisles with our croakin' !

Contact CJ (our baritoad) at 562-425-2924 or email your request for information to: mcjsams@verizon.net

Visit us on Facebook at:
<https://www.facebook.com/velvetfrogs/>
We hope you will “like” us !



See some
of our
Velvet Frog
antics on
YOUTUBE

**Far Western District Senior
Quartet Champions**

**2-time International Senior
Medalists**

**Voted “audience favorite” at
past 5 district contests**

**“Top Performer” with
booking agency GIG SALAD**



WESTUNES



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

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor in Chief

Ray S. Rhymer

westuneseditor@farwesterndistrict.org

Marketing & Advertising

David Melville

marketing@farwesterndistrict.org

Westags Newsletter

Jerry McElfresh

westags@farwesterndistrict.org

Arizona Division Editor

Cherie Kaufman

editor-az@farwesterndistrict.org

Northeast Division Editor

Roger Perkins

editor-ne@farwesterndistrict.org

Northwest Division Editor

Don Shively

editor-nw@farwesterndistrict.org

Southeast Division Editor

OPEN

editor-se@farwesterndistrict.org

Southwest Division Editor

Justin McQueen

editor-sw@farwesterndistrict.org

Westunes Vol. 70 No. 3

Features

Fall 2020

4

2019 International Chorus Champions Masters of Harmony

Their 2020 3rd quarter report is presented for your information.

6

Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund (LSEF)

Given the BHS/HFI saga, the security of the FWD LSEF funds in the Sacramento Region Community Foundation is explained. Rest easy.

7

FWD Harmony Camp

Harmony Camp 2020 may have finally found a "silver lining".

9

2021 Fall Convention Cruise

FWD President Bill Rosica shares a comprehensive presentation of most of the details you'll want to know about the plan, scope, and ship accommodations.

16

ZOOM to rebuild our fraternity

Marketing Director David Melville encourages chapters to use ZOOM to rebuild a fraternal foundation.

17

FWD Historian Article and Pictures

Check out some historical pictures - do you recognize anybody?

Departments

- 9 The President's Page
- 10 Board of Directors Reports
- 14 District Management Team Reports
- 17 FWD Historian
- 20 Arizona Division Digest
- 21 Northeast Division Digest
- 21 Northwest Division Digest
- 22 Southeast Division Digest - Editor request
- 22 Southwest Division Digest
- 26 Member Services Directory

WESTUNES

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

Here are some Advertising Rates (per issue)

Ad Size	1 Issue	2 Issues	4 Issues
Full, Inside Covers	\$60.00	\$48.00	\$36.00
Full Page	\$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.

© 2020 Far Western District.



Santa Fe Springs Chapter

Fall 2020 Westunes

By Ron Larson

The Masters of Harmony Navigate Uncharted Waters

Did the Masters of Harmony catch a break on March 11, 2020?

On Wednesday, March 11, the **Masters of Harmony** met with their vocal coach **Tony DeRosa** for work on the contest songs planned for the 2020 International Contest in Los Angeles, a contest the Masters were scheduled to host. It was a very productive session as Tony did his usual stellar job of coaching. However, that would be the last time the Masters men would meet together to rehearse or perform because of measures taken to mitigate the dangers of the rapidly spreading COVID-19 virus.

Why choral singing in the COVID era can be risky.

Just one day before that rehearsal, Seattle's **Skagit Valley Chorale** held a 2.5-hour rehearsal taking precautions suggested at that time. Although the virus had already been killing people in the Seattle area, one hour to the south, Skagit County hadn't reported any cases, schools and businesses remained open, and there was no prohibition on large gatherings. Sadly, over **the next three weeks, 87% of the 61 members in attendance became ill with the virus and** two members died. It is now believed that one or more of the singers without symptoms spread the virus through aerosols singers normally produce in large volumes as they sing to fellow singers who breathe in deeply in order to sing. As bad as it became for the Seattle Chorale singers, the outcome could have been even worse since half of its members did not attend that rehearsal. We wish our Seattle brothers and sisters in harmony full recoveries as we wait hopefully for the day when, once again, all of us can rehearse and perform the music we love so much.

If necessity is the Mother of Invention, ingenuity is its father.

The current health crisis has impacted performers and audiences all over the world at a time when the beauty and joy of music has never been more needed. With in-person rehearsals unavailable for the foreseeable future, performers have sought innovative ways to reach their audiences. One ingenious solution has been for performers to record themselves individually, often using just the capabilities of smart phones, and then have them stitched together electronically, to produce performances of remarkable clarity, beauty, sensitivity and power. One of the first barbershop choruses to do this was The **Sound of the Rockies** chorus, directed by former MOH Director, **Mark Hale**. His chorus recorded a song aptly named for our times, "Go the Distance." https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CD4HS0_xN1I.

Another example of great virtual barbershop harmony is the recently released "This Is My Wish" sung by Barber-shop Harmony Society's AIC Chorus. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFWT5--F9ZU>.

Masters of Harmony meetings on Zoom

Since that memorable March 11 meeting with Tony DeRosa, as many as 84 Masters of Harmony members have been meeting regularly online using the Zoom app. The meetings start at 7:30 PM usually with a warm-up similar to those used in live rehearsals. Director **Alan Gordon, Grant Goldstein, Dave Tautkus** and **Dr. Chris Peterson** have given instruction on certain music principles. Alan often takes us through sections of our current repertoire, teaching us what he expects to hear when we meet again. A very helpful Zoom feature is the ability to type chat questions or comments which the person in charge can choose to answer during the meeting. On some occasions, members can be sent to "Breakout Rooms" led by section leaders for work as sections or even smaller groups. During these online sessions, the Masters have received excellent online coaching from Mark Hale on the art of performing swing music; Music Judge **Steve Tramack** on singing elements that help determine contest scores, and two sessions with our choreographer guru, **Erin Howden**. In particular, Erin's sessions encourage us to become the song we are singing so that audience members are taken to their own stories through our music. One of the blessings of such meetings in this time of isolation is the camaraderie that comes from maintaining contact with our brothers-in-harmony. As **Fred King** once said, "It isn't music that makes the fellowship; *it's the fellowship that makes the music.*"

Marketing the Masters of Harmony in the era of isolation

Even in the era of limitations posed by the ongoing health crisis, all choruses have ongoing expenses that must be met. Accordingly, MOH Vice President of Marketing **Bart Halberstadt** has acted to help the Masters deal with this challenge. The "Support" page on the MOH website now lists the ability to accept recurring monthly donations by credit card through PayPal. A brief solicitation video will be sent to our Constant Contact email list. A thank-you/reminder will be sent to supporters who are part of our Masters Circle patron program. Any future performances listed on social media will be provided a link to our website support page for those wishing to help financially.

Publicity about the Masters of Harmony in the era of isolation

Larry Icenogle, MOH Vice President of Public Relations has his work cut out for him during this era. As he points out, MOH currently has no performance product to provide for the foreseeable future so his job is to keep the MOH name "out there." Our planned "Walk for Hope" event with our City of Hope partner was going to feature an MOH ensemble, but that event will now be done virtually. Our future rehearsal site at the La Mirada United Methodist Church remains open to the Masters and may feature future concerts there whenever California state requirements as well as Barbershop Harmony Society recommendations and CDC guidelines can be met.

Harmony Camp and the Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund (LSEF)

The current discussions between the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) and the Harmony Foundation International (HFI) may have raised questions in your mind regarding the status of the Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund for FWD Harmony Camps (LSEF) and the relationship among BHS, HFI and LSEF.

You've come to the right place for enlightenment.

Patsy and I learned a great deal about fund raising and what makes donors comfortable years ago when we were active in the Palo Alto YMCA raising money for the "Y". We didn't know it at the time, but we got a really good education from the "Y" in Fund Raising 101. And one of the fundamental concepts of fund raising is Keeping It Local. If, as a donor, I know that the money I am donating will always be close by and in the hands of a really large and successful Local Foundation, that tends to give me the greatest confidence possible that my money will always be there, growing and providing the greatest benefit over the years.

So, back in 2015 when we were looking for the right place to establish our Fund, we looked at a number of Foundations around the Local region and one stood out head and shoulders above all others, the Sacramento Region Community Foundation which at the time had holdings of around 120 million dollars - currently, the SRCF holdings are almost 150 million dollars. We also looked hard at HFI which at the time had holdings of somewhere around 3 million dollars. And because of that large difference between the size of the two Foundations (HFI and SRCF) and the desire to keep the money local, the FWD Board approved placing the fund with the SRCF.

And to further emphasize the point, the LSEF is a part of the Far Western District. The LSEF is currently administered, under the rules of the SRCF, by the Director of the FWD Harmony Camp who is actively raising money for the Fund. Furthermore, under the rules of the LSEF, money can only be withdrawn to assist in financing the FWD Harmony Camp when the LSEF reaches \$200,000; and the amount withdrawn is

governed by rules of the SRCF so as to maximize the growth of the capital within the Fund.

However, when the LSEF reaches \$400,000, administration of the fund shifts to the FWD Board to be used for FWD Youth Activities. The Fund will stay within the SRCF.

Thus, as a fund within the SRCF, our "little" LSEF has grown quickly through the years and is currently right about 127 thousand dollars, well on track for our target of 200 thousand dollars when we can start to take money out to help finance Harmony Camp.

The point of all of this is to give you the greatest amount of comfort with your donations to the Steinkamp Endowment Fund (LSEF) and for you to understand that your money is being held by a very large and local Foundation, the Sacramento Region Community Foundation. Should you have questions please contact me.

Thank you all for your continued support,

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





**KEEP
CALM
AND
KEEP SINGING**



**FAR WESTERN
DISTRICT**

Harmony Camp 2020

Harmony Camp 2020 (Ha Ha Ha)

There is a saying that “every cloud has a silver lining”. I believe that with Harmony Camp 2020 we may have finally found our “silver lining”.

Upon realizing that Harmony Camp 2020 at Sly Park would not be possible for the weekend of October 16 -18, we made contingency plans to hold Harmony Camp Lite 2020, a one-day camp in both the Sacramento and Bay Area. But again, current circumstances are such that even this is not possible in October 2020.

We then contacted music educators (ME) who have attended Harmony Camp with their students or have over the years had boys from their classes attend Harmony Camp proposing a one-day virtual camp using Zoom. The ME that we are working with came back right away with the overriding concern that the boys would be spending at least four hours a day on Zoom this Fall in their classes and possibly the entire school year. One more day on Zoom would probably not be very appealing to them. However, our ME also noted that she is dealing with lesson plans and worrying about how to appeal to students this fall every day on Zoom.

SO, we are now proposing to provide once a week sessions with a Barbershop focus that the Music Educators can simply plug in to their classrooms. These weekly sessions could incorporate a high level quartet who not only would do some singing but also teaching in the Barbershop style. There could be an ongoing lesson on the Barbershop style, a class on vocal production, etc.

Music educators have already volunteered to review the “lesson plans” in advance for us.

Our challenge is identifying quartets and teachers to create these sessions. We have started this process by reaching out to some of the quartets / individuals that we know who might find this interesting.

Thus, in summary and quite frankly our “silver lining” will be to provide a service to music educators while also promoting the barbershop style and culture in our schools and communities.

Should you have any additional ideas or thoughts please share them with us.

Richard Lund, Director

FWD Harmon Camp

rlund@innercite.com

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



Bill Rosica

Far Western District President
president@farwesterndistrict.org



As you all know, this Covid-19 battle has thrown us all into a place we've never been before. The news seems to change every day. During this time, your Executive Vice President and yours truly have been on Zoom Calls, not only with our Chapter Rehearsals, but with BHS and HFI following the methods of fundraising. These calls are very enlightening and passionate, as you might imagine. We will continue to have these conversations until a resolution is found.

Also, during this time, we have been working with Donna Hisey on the postponement of the 2020 Contest-at-Sea. The event has been moved to October 2021, with all cancellation and final payment dates amended to February 2021 and July 2021 respectively. I think Donna's letter will give you a better feel for what we are trying to accomplish [below]

Contest at Sea participant:

Carnival Cruise Line has cancelled the sailing of the FWD Convention at Sea, and the District Board has rescheduled for Oct. 14-17, 2021. All participants are being moved to the new date.

Many of you were aware that the Board already was working on the postponement due to guidance from the Barbershop Harmony Society and other concerns, but here's what the official cancellation by Carnival means to you:

1. No one will see additional charges at this time. When the rebooking process is complete, the new deadline for cancelling your booking for refunds will be Feb. 14, 2021, and the final-payment deadline will be in July 2021.
2. Carnival is bringing a more modern ship to Long Beach, which means more stateroom, dining and entertainment options. That ship is undergoing improvements as of today.
3. Carnival is giving **\$300 on-board credit, per cabin,**

to those who remain booked for 2021. Those who cancel but then want to re-book will not get OBC and may pay more.

4. It is still a good idea for anyone who thinks they may want to participate in the 2021 event to book ASAP, because there may be new capacity limits or other restrictions. It's a new opportunity for Barbershoppers to dominate the ship!

Please note: **The transition to a new ship and date is still going to take some time.** There will be questions about stateroom assignments, and I will be addressing those with each person as needed. Unless there is an emergency, please hold questions until we can share specific information. Remember, there is no risk waiting until February, when new safety and sanitation protocols will be evident. We will be sharing details when they are approved by the CDC.

Donna Hisey

Cruise & Travel Advisor

Mobile (714) 801-7674

Complimentary Concierge Service

"The highest compliment I can receive is when you refer your family, friends or business associates to



Join me on a Rhine river wine cruise Nov 2020 and on a Rhone river wine cruise Aug 2021. Group rates. Limited availability - call now

So now you know what we know. There are other Districts looking at what the FWD is proposing and deciding if their Districts might do the same thing on the east coast or even on the Mississippi river. Again, the FWD is leading the way. Please let Donna get all the cabins transferred to 2021, at which point she will be able to answer any questions regarding our postponed Cruise and handle your requests in a professional manner.



Before writing this Article (my third as EVP), I struggled with what my message to you all would be as we enter the Fall of a crazy year. We were told to cancel all meetings and performances so that we would not be near enough to anyone who may have the Coronavirus, which we did. Then we were told not go out of our own homes, which we did. Then, we were told to wear masks, which we did. **And then**, thankfully, we were taught how to use a computer app called "ZOOM." When we all learned how to utilize Zoom, we at least got to see, talk to, and sing with each other again. Certainly, it is not quite the same as actually being with each other on the risers, but it is helping us. It is helping us be together again. It is helping us to individually sing again. (how many of us sang while we were in quarantine?) **AND**, it is allowing us to sing 4-part Barbershop Harmony again! So, just make sure you get on your computer and join in with your Chapter Members, or your Quartet, to sing, sing, sing!

As we all know, the Los Angeles International Convention has been cancelled, and our FWD Fall "Ship Cruise" Convention has been re-scheduled to be our FWD **2021** Fall "Ship Cruise" Convention. It will still be fantastic, but we will have to wait another year. I hope that all of you are still doing warm-up exercises, so that you'll be ready when your Chapter has its next meeting/rehearsal!

President Bill and I attended about three weeks of "ZOOM" meetings with all of the District Presidents and Executive Vice Presidents. We had 8-day, 2-3 hour-a-day discussions about the HFI/BHS dispute. We heard from Marty Monson and others who are running business for the Society. And then we heard from HFI and their leaders. After the presentations from both sides, the group of District Presidents/Vice Presidents discussed what we heard, and then what we wanted to say to the Society about the problem. We appointed a group of five of us to have meetings with Marty and the others, and that effort continues.

And right after our HFI/BHS meetings, we had more ZOOM meetings to discuss the nominees for the available Society Board positions. We listened to speeches from all of the candidates and then the entire group of Presents and EVPs discussed them all. (President Bill and I were having a private messaging conversation as well.) In the end, all of the Presidents voted; President Bill placed the votes for our District. It was certainly an interesting process.

AND THEN, Dusty Schleier got us into a ZOOM meeting about next year's International Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. It sounds as though it is going to be a **huge** event. More information to come.

Stay safe and continue to be six feet from your Baritone,



Absence makes the heart grow fonder. We have all heard this expression, but how many of us really understood it until now? Yes, we have our Zoom meetings, yes, we have our virtual Quartets and Choruses, and nothing can replace the "real deal".

I am here to tell you to not give up hope! The time will come when we can all get together, when we can all "sing a song, ... ring a song, let harmony be true", when we can all "bust a chord". Until that day, we can take advantage of this time for personal growth, learn some new music, work on our vocal techniques...watch ourselves in the mirror while we sing and make sure we are learning to "live the music" Let's all sing like nobody's listening ... your family will forgive you!

In case you have not heard, the FWD Contest at Sea has been moved to next year, October 21-24, 2021. If you had booked your cabin for this year, that booking will be automatically moved to next year. We will be on a bigger ship, with a bigger theater, and they are giving us all an extra \$300.00 per cabin in shipboard credit. (Can you say cocktails?) This cruise is poised to be a huge coming out party, that major blowout that we can all look forward to... I know I am!

I am so proud of the Chapters here in the Arizona Division, many of whom have taken to the whole online thing and are using it to their advantage. I know that Mesa and Salt River both are meeting on a weekly basis, the Arizona Quartet Chapter is meeting about once a month, and the Phoenicians recently started their Zoom sessions. If your Chapter is not one of those who have embraced this technology, or if you feel you don't know what to do, please reach out to me, and I will help connect you to the right people to help.

In these difficult times we need our brothers and sisters in song more than ever. There has never been a more important time than now to "Harmonize the World" ... "One Song at a Time".

As always my metaphorical door is always open, and as your representative to the BOD of the FWD, if there is anything I can bring to the BOD for you, or if there are any questions I can help get answered, please do not hesitate to contact me. My cell number is (516)770-3743 and my email is a.kaufman@yahoo.com.



Recently, I've been getting together with some fellow Barbershop singers every few weeks where we sing mostly in a circle, being careful to implement "social distancing." Ringing chords once again put a pep in my step! It was glorious!

One of the books we were required to read while I was in seminary focused on the various ways congregants could better participate in the worship experience. It was broken down into individual chapters for each suggested worship practice. The chapter I enjoyed above all the others had to do with music, and in particular, congregants engaging in singing. Many people stand uncomfortably in the pews, unwilling to open their mouths and let the words come forth. The chapter in the book explained in one word exactly what the individual worshipper needed to do: SING! I had to chuckle over that one!

Those of us who relish and feast on the sound of four-part harmony may find ourselves feeling a bit inadequate when it comes to rejoining our Chorus whenever that long anticipated occasion occurs. I suspect you may feel you aren't up to singing at Chorus level after being forced away for so long. *Au contraire*, my friends! Granted, you may have not been singing, and since many of us are well past 60, our voices are not necessarily producing the dulcet tones we once crooned, nevertheless, four things will happen when you return. 1) You will be in good company, because, if the rest of the guys are honest, they'll admit that they haven't been singing all that much either. 2) Singing is in many ways like riding a bike. Once you climb back on after not having ridden for years, the memory kicks in and you quickly remember the joy of rolling down the street. 3) You are Family! As a member of the Chorus, your presence is invaluable because not having you there diminishes us as a group, and the absence of your voice reduces the overall sound when we ring those chords. And 4) You being present at our rehearsal will be a terrific shot in the arm for the rest of us, and this is especially true for your Director!

In the meantime, brush up on The Old Songs, and the songs from your Chapter's repertoire.

Just remember: SING!



Here it is time to write the article for the Westunes Magazine and I look for something to write about. Covid-19 has surely taken a toll on weekly singing and our annual get-togethers and conventions where we sing with one another and see all the friends we've made in our hobby through the years. Well I for one, enjoy the weekly ZOOM meetings of my two Chapters, and because we are doing this the fellowship remains constant. I ZOOM every Wednesday with the Redwood Chordsmen in Santa Rosa and then on Thursday with Voices of California in Sacramento. That keeps me in touch with many of the people in the Northeast

Division and some of my local friends in Santa Rosa without having to wear a mask or worry about exposure to the virus. We have had some guest speakers from faraway places such as Tennessee, Virginia, and Southern California. We had a night when we heard about the relationship between BHS and HFI. That was extremely interesting.

Using Zoom type software, each Chapter can hold weekly meetings and their Board meetings. Also, their Music Teams can plan activities for the Chapter. Singing at a meeting isn't the only thing we do. We can plan virtual activities such as performances and coaching sessions. We can work individually, and send recordings to someone in the Chapter who can put all of the recorded tracks together. The result can be shared with all members upon completion. In doing this, each track sent in could be critiqued just like the Chorus is at Division Contest, and the singer can work toward improving his or her technique. Some of the virtual Choruses and Quartets we are hearing sound really good, and I like trying to be a part of something like that.

We must all realize this pandemic is here for a while. Singing in groups is going to be one of the last things to return to normal, so we need to create a way to enjoy our hobby and the fellowship that it brings us. When we can return to normal it will be as rewarding as it was when we first got involved in Barbershop.

Until next time,



SW Division check-in...

It is bizarre, and I'm sure you all agree, that while we can't physically be together singing, sharing, maybe even giving a hug or two, we appreciate our Chapter leadership teams for doing what they can to keep the community alive. It may even be longer than the "normal" recovery before we "super-spreaders" can once again get together and sing, but it's important and great fun, to at least keep in touch via Zoom calls.

But, overall, and I'm sure you also agree about this... This Sucks!

I just wanted to say hello and congratulate your Chapters who are getting together in a virtual nature and experimenting and exploring connections and overall, making great efforts to keep your communities together. I belong to Rincon Beach Chorus in the Ventura/Santa Barbara area and based on my own experiences, I'm impressed at what we can do.

Our first virtual meetings were merely social...a chance to see each other, ask how we all are doing, share good stories as well as personal issues, to communicate the general feeling of all being in this strange situation "together" and expressing a desire to help each other cope and thrive, as well as survive.

By communication with other Chapters as well as input from BHS Headquarters about other successful Chapters and best practices, we've learned ways to make our weekly virtual meetings beneficial, useful and even more fun. For example, we are watching incredibly helpful, instructional, Kathleen Hansen (Musical Director, San Diego Chapter) YouTube videos on Chorus vocal techniques (search KHansen music on YouTube). We are having mental and vocal warm-ups and singing current repertoire songs, and even though we can't hear each other, just the physical act of singing, keeps us in vocal shape so, eventually, when we are finally physically together, we'll still have our vocal skills and can move forward.

Indeed, during this time I've heard from many of you that you are self-motivated and have chosen to improve your voice. What an excellent chance to take the lemons we've been given and make lemonade.

Many of you enrolled in various classes at Virtual Harmony U. Now, I've been to several in-person Harmony Universities and there's not a better musical experience out there, but I must tell you, this virtual Harmony U was awesome and great. The BHS put together a collection of classes, pertinent subjects and very capable instructors that will rival the best education at the world's highest institutions of learning. If you missed it, I predict most of it will be available online at BHS and I strongly advise you to look up the courses and take some classes. What an opportunity to expand your knowledge of our hobby and most importantly, set yourself up for more enjoyment, satisfaction, and musical fun.

What are the various Chapters doing to make virtual meetings fun and interesting? Warm-ups are important and this is the time to teach and perfect vocal and breathing techniques. BHS has both mental and physical warm up videos on their YouTube channel. Speaking from experience, they are great fun and worth sharing with our membership. Some Chapters are privileged to have recordings of previous Chapter shows, some featuring top Quartets, and have hosted watch parties, more than likely during a happy hour session. Show your guys selected sections of the videos. It might be for entertainment, or it might be to showcase and learn from, particularly great performances. Many of us are visual learners rather than just listening to lectures from the person out in front.

There is even a way in Zoom, to have individual “break out rooms” where you can have, say, all the Basses go to one location with their section leader and work on a particularly tough musical passage. Not that Basses usually have musically tough issues, but...I’m just sayin’...

In addition to singing through a few Chorus songs every week, Rincon Beach has also instituted a Music Appreciation segment of the program where we give our members some exposure to other top a cappella groups. It might be Barbershop champs, but it also might be other a cappella groups such as The Real Group, Idea of North, Singers Unlimited, Manhattan Transfer, and Rockapella. Lots of enjoyment, as well as lots to learn from seeing the top vocal groups, not just Barbershop, in the a cappella world.

Many top, talented Barbershoppers have consented to be available to participate in your weekly Zoom meetings. Rincon has had a visit from Brent Graham, and I’ve witnessed other Chapter meetings where top Society arrangers, judges, and vocal coaches have consented to sharing 30 minutes of knowledge. Got any ‘Barbershop heroes’ you’d like to have visit with your guys? Just ask them...

You can get a good idea of what the other Chapters in the FWD are doing by reading the various Division Digests. Many thanks to the SW Division Digester, Justin McQueen for diligently coaxing info from his SW Division Chapter contacts.

One thing you might notice in the Digest from Rincon Beach and personal to me, is that my daughter, Courtney Anderson Georges, who is expecting her first

baby in just a few weeks, will be stepping back from being the front line Director of our Chapter. During this COVID situation, we’re not currently on a Director search and she’ll still be around, but not officially the Director anymore. She’ll be plenty busy with my new granddaughter, as well as trying to keep her HS choirs together, not to mention her Regional Champion Sweet Adeline Quartet, Swingtime. We thank her for her service to the Rincon Beach Chapter.

Aloha Chapter put together a very cool virtual choir in the early months of this isolation and it is excellent. <https://youtu.be/aACPfFZkC8> Congrats to Mark Conching and Sounds of Aloha Chorus. Very well done and with permission, (ask permission to mconching@hawaiiintel.net), I’m sure you can feel free to share their message of “Wonderful World” with your friends and fans. Just say “We’re sad to not be able to be together in person but here’s a message from one of our brother Barbershop Harmony Chapters with a message that we sincerely share and convey to you. We send wishes for your safety and good health, we hope to be back singing in public soon, and in the meantime, it’s a Wonderful World...”

I’ll remind you that each Chapter has spent years developing relationships in your own communities, and I know how quickly they can forget. Keep in touch. Here’s an idea: Send each contact this Aloha Chapter virtual sentiment of “Wonderful World” with a message about “...missing being able to entertain in person but we send this wish to you at this time and we look forward to when we can once again sing for you in person and share our love of music, harmony and community.” Heck, I’d venture they won’t even know it’s not “you,” and the effort will keep your Chorus in the front of their mind.

Here’s a Barbershop Cruise/Convention update. As published elsewhere in this issue, the Oct. 2020 convention has been postponed to Oct. 2021, and this first-of-its-kind convention/contest at sea will be even better. Everyone who reserved a spot for this 2020 year, has been moved to a similar, if not identical cabin, on an even larger, newly-remodeled Carnival cruise ship, and each of you has received a \$300 on-board credit toward food and drink and other amenities.

If it turns out you are uncomfortable being on a cruise ship, even way out in fall of 2021, you can still get a refund up to February 2021. So, for now, relax and let the world events unfold and make your final cruise

decision next year. Both the FWD and Carnival Cruise lines are doing everything possible to give you a fabulous vacation. Considering what has happened, your FWD Board as well as our Carnival Cruise rep, Donna Hisey, have negotiated incredible benefits for you. On the ship, or even before we board the ship, be sure to thank FWD President Bill Rosica and Donna for taking such good care of you.

A favorite quote of mine is, "A crisis is a terrible thing to waste." There are opportunities presented to us during this crisis; opportunities to technically grow, to learn new ways to support our members, to inspire our Chorus members to vocally improve, to learn more about the entire Barbershop Society, to watch YouTube Barbershop videos, to have extra time to learn your music and perfect where you breathe, to lose weight and better fit into your Chorus costume... You get the picture. Don't lament your situation but instead, look to the opportunities presented by this "crisis."

I'm proud to be your Division VP and if you ever want to talk about your Chapter, any issues, or just to chat about Barbershop in general, feel free to call my cell phone at 805-452-1393.

In harmony,



Greetings to all from my "shed" in Chula Vista.

This is my second message from Quarantine. I hoped that we would be singing face to face by now but forced isolation seems to be the new normal. I am truly sorry for the hole the virus has hollowed out but thankful that we have something special to help fill it. Our Barbershop Family offers an escape from the very real challenges we face. Phone calls and meetings on-line, Facebook conversations and YouTube Concerts, Harmony University Classes and the forthcoming Legacy Quartet Championship provide some Barbershop Magic to feed our spirit. We are fortunate to have each

other and must share our family with others whenever possible.

I have "visited" Chapter meetings across America, rehearsed and performed with Virtual Choirs around the globe and have enjoyed presentations by the best Barbershop has to offer. Please join in on this unique opportunity to make friends and learn. Many Barbershoppers can point you in the right direction. Don't hesitate to ask. We are here to help.

Speaking of the Legacy Quartet Championship - this virtual event will feature vintage contest sets by the best Quartets that just missed gold. It will be presented (Semifinals: August 22 and Finals: August 29) as a free online event. Chat rooms and the ability to judge will be available for a fee.

Note: 5 of the 25 contenders come from the Far Western District. I know other Districts are planning on "rigging" the vote so let's pack the judging panel and vote for the best (FWD) Quartet.

We have a lot to be proud of and cherish as we weather this current storm. Rekindle old and build new friendships with the singers and the songs that make us a special group and uniquely prepared to move forward with love and passion.

It is truly "Great to be a Barbershopper!"

Keep the Whole World Singing,



Barbershopping is not a hobby; it's a way of life.

What?!? Barbershopping is not a hobby? It's a way of life? And what does that have to do with Youth in Harmony?? Let me explain.

What have you learned from Barbershopping? To sing better? Brotherhood? How to get an audience to stand up and cheer (a standing ovation)? Yes, but I'm sure so much more.

Think back to the first time you got hooked on Barbershop. Was it from a show? Maybe it was as a guest at a Chorus rehearsal? Maybe it was from singing a simple tag where you heard an unbelievable sound of which you were a part? Think back...first time you got hooked. How old were you? For a lot of us, we were already adults with a wife, kids or lots of other responsibilities. For others, they started as a youngster. In either case, we all wished we had discovered Barbershopping earlier in our life, right?

For me, Barbershopping has always been a weekly escape from everyday havoc and having to deal with living in a crazy world. It became "that old friend" with whom, after having a conversation, I would walk away somehow always feeling better. It became that hot meal or comfort food on a cold winter night. It became that nice feeling of laying my head to rest on a soft, freshly laundered pillow after a long, hard day. Each week I knew that I could escape from the world and go to rehearsal...even a bad rehearsal was good!! And yes, of course, there were times where I didn't really feel like going to rehearsal, but once I got there, everything changed. It became different. That warm feeling of family would settle in with each song we would sing. And if I didn't have to get up early the next morning, I would look forward to the afterglow for the opportunity to sing some more. On the way home, I would always be thankful that I "dragged" myself to rehearsal that night; thankful for the music that helped me through another week; thankful for the feeling of belonging. I always knew that all of us gathered once a week for nothing but music. No political agenda; no bombardment of religious views; no personal speeches; just music. And I knew I could be me. Me. I could... just...be...me. Other than with my wife at home, I could just be...me.

And as the years passed, I began to see a true sense of family and Brotherhood in the Barbershop world. I began to see how we accept each other for who we are. I began to see how we truly cared for each other. And I also began to see how it crept into my personal life. I began to see how all the positives of Barbershopping were reflected in my way of thinking. I began to see how a tag that was stuck in my head could draw a smile from me while under adverse conditions or could help me stay awake while working a graveyard shift.

The close Brotherhood we share repeats itself weekly or every time we see each other at a contest or oth-

er Barbershop event. We drop politics, religion and personal beliefs and leave it at the door just to share ourselves with each other and that is because of the music; the camaraderie; the Brotherhood.

That Brotherhood is learned behavior. It is an experience that none of us wants to, or will ever, forget. It silently creeps into our everyday living. It unconsciously invades our spirit and whether we realize it or not, it does affect how we treat other people. A retired police officer once told me a funny story of how he pulled over three kids in a car for a minor traffic violation late at night. Seeing that the kid was truly remorseful for a minor mistake, there was very little traffic on the road and knowing what a ticket could do to a young driving record, the officer decided to use his discretion and give the kid a warning instead of a ticket. But how the officer approached it was funny. He asked the young driver, "Do you want a ticket or do you want a warning?" Naturally, the young driver said, "Sir, I would really appreciate a warning." The officer replied, "OK, but you have to do me a favor." Then he asked the kid and his other two buddies in the car, "Do you sing?" The kids asked, "What?" The officer repeated, "Do you sing?" All three indicated not very well to which the officer replied, "Well, here's the deal. I'll issue you a warning if you each can sing a short song with me." Dumbfounded but willing to take on a challenge, the kids willing agreed. The officer, who sang in the local Barbershop Chapter, took the time to teach them the bell chord of "Hello" as sung by the New Tradition Quartet of the mid 80s. Not an entire song, but just the opening bell chord. After hearing themselves sing the bell chord a couple of times, the kids seemed excited and were now instructed to find a fourth person to take the place of the officer and to attempt to teach that new person the officer's part in the chord. The officer also told me that the kids were so amazed that they wanted to learn something else. Unfortunately, the officer had to return to his patrol duties but he pointed out that the time it took to teach a simple bell chord was actually less time than it would have taken to write a ticket (leave them wanting more, right?) and he felt compelled to give these kids a positive experience, something to talk about for years to come. With that, the officer said he "sternly" warned the young driver to pay better attention to his driving ended with, "Have a good night."

Whether we realize it or not, Barbershopping becomes a way of life.

So what does this have to do with Youth in Harmony?? Everything! A well known African proverb simple states, "It takes a village to raise a child," and this proverb is more apparent in our present day culture. A lot of kids come from complicated situations at home. This may or may not include one or both parents. Other kids are being raised by relatives. Other kids are bullied. Other kids don't have a father or mother figure to look to for guidance. The list can go on and on. Now, I'm not suggesting that Barbershopping is the end-all to the problems associated with our youth. But it does become our responsibility, as a community of Barbershop singers, to provide an avenue by which we can be mentors and examples of how to treat others. It is up to us to bring youth into our organization and provide a threat-free environment in which they can learn; learn music, learn confidence, and learn to find their selves. Barbershop *is* about music, a way of life, but it's also about providing the opportunity for our youth to experience the support, threat-free environment and Brotherhood that we share. That experience will be a life changing event for our youth. They will be fortunate to experience what **we** have experienced in Barbershopping. To that end, it means we have to develop programs with our youth in mind. There are many ways for individuals and Chapters to support Youth Outreach. No one program fits all circumstances. There are many variables, depending on Chapters and individual resources, and community needs. But the results are the same. **Barbershop becomes a life-style; a way of life.**

Parts of our District have been very successful in developing and maintaining programs while other parts have never tried any type of Youth Outreach. With the Coronavirus still having an influence on our ability to get together and sing, we now are limited to online meetings. With that in mind, Northern California and Las Vegas, Nevada, are looking at some type of online programming for our youth. Northern California will concentrate on High School youth while Las Vegas will attempt to attract both High School and College. The two programs are different but both seek to reach our District's youth. If successful, I'm hoping to share these resources with the rest of our District to help bring these programs to other Chapters throughout our District during this time of uncertainty. Stay tuned as exciting things begin to take place in the Far Western District!

In the meantime, if you have an idea or suggestion on how to serve our youth, please feel free to contact me. There are some parameters we have to follow when dealing with youth under 18 years of age, however all challenges have a solution and all ideas or suggestions will be considered!

With that in mind, stay healthy, stay safe and continue to stay in touch with each other. After all, Barbershop music is not a hobby; it's a way of life!!



My message to you this time is short: if your chapter has not yet hopped on the ZOOM bandwagon, get on the phone with your chapter leaders and urge them to get something going. Last time I provided a detailed overview of what ZOOM can do, and how many chapters are using it to meet on a regular basis, and there is an excellent "get started" video on the district website's front page.

Some chapters are meeting socially while others are rehearsing repertoire and learning new music, and even having sectionals. Some chapters are going even further, building virtual chorus performances similar to the recent AIC finale.

But more than that, what I've seen are more members reaching out during ZOOM meetings, sharing their experiences, their ups, their downs, and it occurs to me that this is an amazing opportunity for us to build a strong foundation of friendship within our chapters.

There was a time when those kinds of bonds were a normal part of any good chapter, but times changed and everyone suddenly got too busy and the fraternity diminished. Well, nowadays most of us have more time on our hands, so let's use this opportunity to talk, and get to know each other, and become an extended family once again. I truly believe if we do that, we will become better than ever once we are able to be together and sing together again.



During these difficult times, let's focus on Preservation and Encouragement...

Brotherhood, Sisterhood, Peace and Love.

Hello my FWD friends!

There are two things we can all do to make each day a little better...not only for ourselves, but for each other.

Firstly, I am asking each of you to take the word Preservation to heart. Our history means so much to our future. Please don't throw out those hidden-away treasures. Share them with your dedicated Historian. Whether it be medals, lapel pins, trophies, recordings, promo photos, Westunes and Harmonizers, name badges and one-of-a-kind items...it all tells a story.

Secondly, encouragement is key to us all getting back together to harmonize...sooner than later.

Make sure you take time, each and every day, to sing. All genres are welcome! Whether it's your favorite soloist, big band, rock band, Quartet or Chorus....put on a shuffle mix of songs and SING!!!!

Check out www.deantracks.com where you can find hundreds of Barbershop offerings...this site was created by former FWD member, multiple District Quartet Champion: Dean Waters. You'll love it!

As for items you care to donate, drop me an email and let's discuss what you have.

I have been working on a Virtual Museum. The many items I've personally collected will be available online 24/7-365 for viewing. Learn about the history behind each item.

Until we gather again to reminisce, socialize and SING....keep your voices warm and share this beautiful poem with all your singing friends.

Be safe. Be positive. Be happy.

The Gift to Sing

[James Weldon Johnson](#)

1871-1938

***Sometimes the mist overhangs my path, And
blackening clouds about me cling;***

But, oh, I have a magic way

To turn the gloom to cheerful day,

I softly sing.

***And if the way grows darker still, Shadowed
by Sorrow's somber wing,***

With glad defiance in my throat,

I pierce the darkness with a note,

And sing, and sing.

I brood not over the broken past,

Nor dread whatever time may bring;

No nights are dark, no days are long,

While in my heart there swells a song,

And I can sing.

Respectfully submitted,

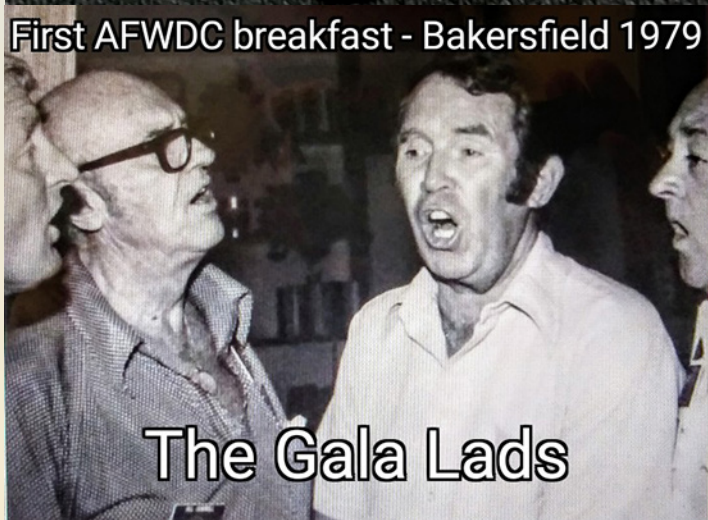
Dan Jordan

FWD Historian

Curator/Singer

danjordan1234productions@gmail.com









Editor's Note: *I am continually amazed at the resiliency of our Barbershop Chorus Chapters and the ways in which they are weaving technology into Barbershopping to stay connected, improve their craft, and support each other and their communities. Stay Strong and Stay Healthy!*

Central Arizona Quartet Chapter **By Bill Kane**

The **Central Arizona Quartet Chapter** continues to meet via Zoom. Each meeting has a guest interview where we learn about the secrets of success from a well-known FWD Quartet singer. So far guests have included **Nightlife/Masterpiece Tenor Rob Menaker**, **High Priority Tenor Ray Estes**- our Chorus Director, and two-time FWD Quartet Champ Bass **Rick Wells**. In addition, we borrowed a fun idea from the **Mesa Chapter**. We had each guy record his part on a tag, then fifteen different Quartet combinations were formed (names not announced), and we held a virtual contest. Everyone who entered a track wound up in one of the top three Quartets. It was a fun exercise to keep us all singing in our current virtual world.

Mesa Chapter **By John Soper**

The **East Valley Barbershop Harmonizers** are taking the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to focus on areas that are critical to our long-term improvement as a Chorus, and

which can be addressed through virtual interaction and independent activities. This includes the introduction of additional vocal exercises that can be practiced by members daily to improve vocal quality. We are providing opportunities for Chorus members to record, listen to, and submit vocal recordings for their respective parts for selected songs. These member vocal tracks are combined with voice recordings from other Chorus members to form virtual Quartets. The result is that many of us are, for the first time, hearing ourselves sing from a listener's perspective, and discovering vocal areas that we can focus on for personal improvement.

Our Music Team is leading efforts to upgrade Chorus learning tracks to better reflect the nuances of vocal performance and interpretation used by our Chorus. Likewise, our presentation sub-team leaders are creating learning videos that provide excellent tips that members can use to enhance effective "storytelling" in future performances.

Our board has taken an opportunity to address several items that have been previously tabled due to focus on our busy performance and contest schedule. This includes updating our Chapter's mission statement and bylaws.

We are thrilled to welcome **Gordon "Mingo" Berthold** and **Terry "T-Bone" Morrison** to the Mesa Chapter and East

Valley Harmonizer Chorus. Gordon is a 56-year member of the society and has held numerous leadership positions, including President of the Far Western District. He is an accomplished vocalist, having performed with several Quartets. On July 1, 2020, Gordon was inducted into the FWD Hall of Fame. Terry comes to us from the Dixie District, with 26 years of service to the Barbershop Harmony Society, having sung with the North Georgia Barbershop Singers, The Big Chicken Chorus, and several Quartets including Stay Tuned, Serenade, and By Design. Finally, we'd like to congratulate longtime Mesa Chapter member **Jim Beutel**, who has achieved an amazing 60 years of service to the society.

During the COVID-19 pandemic we are currently forgoing face-to-face rehearsals. However, interested candidates are welcome to join our online rehearsals each Thursday evening, beginning at 7PM, Arizona time. For more information, visit our website at <http://evBarbershop.com>

Prescott Chapter **By Sam Stimple**

The **High Mountain Chordsmen** are eager to resume weekly rehearsals when permission is granted by our host, Las Fuentes Resort Village in Prescott. While we were able to provide two mini performances held outdoors at senior living centers, there were no other Chapter activities in the second quarter of 2020. The membership is

grateful to Chorus Director **Ed Roush** for providing online classic tags and learning tracks every day.

White Mountains Chapter
By Everett Peterson

Our **White Mountain High Country Barbershop Chorus**, the far

easternmost Chorus of the Far Western District, has not met since March. Our popular July show was cancelled, but we are hoping to perform our show next July. The wife of longtime member **Steve Countryman**, Regina, passed away recently at 61 due to complications with ulcer surgery. Her service was August 1. We're doing

what we can to support Steve. Our Director, **Dr. Theresa Dick**, is sharing learning tracks for us to keep working on our songs. Our Chorus is continuing partial support to Theresa during this time.



Folsom Chapter
By Doug Vestal

The Folsom Harmony Express started back on Wednesday evening, July 8, and held a meeting with only five members and three parts. It's a start

in the right direction. The Chapter meets at a VFW hall, which is a private club which was open to members only. However, it is closed again and the Chapter is meeting outdoors near the club building.

Visalia Chapter
By Bud Case

The MOC holds Zoom meetings each week as we await the possibility to get back to regular rehearsals.



San Mateo Chapter
By Tom Addison

The **Faultline Chorus** sadly bid goodbye to our Director **Mark Fish** who had been with us for only a year. His other activities of teaching violin, directing a church choir in Half Moon Bay and teaching music remotely were simply too extensive to allow him time to learn about a new hobby directing our small Barbershop Chorus. We are now

looking for a new director. But given the current disruption by Covid-19 and the ease of which it spreads by singing, it will be some time before we can get together again. In the meantime, our Music and Performance VP, **Tom Addison** and **Bill Nott**, our Membership VP and Technology Chairman, prepare our weekly Zoom Meetings for the fifteen dedicated members who show up every Tuesday for fellowship, singing, and general good times

together. Both Tom and Bill attended virtual HU and have shared a wealth of information available to them with the group. **Pete Wanger**, our Treasurer, also provides a bi-weekly compilation of news, cartoons and short videos to lighten the emotional load we are all feeling as we miss this in-person weekly chance to share this wonderful hobby.



If you are interested in becoming the Southeast Division Editor for Westunes, please email Westunes Editor Ray Rhymer at 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
Pacific Sound Chorus
By Steven Herman**

The other night my busy brain would not allow me to sleep as I worried about what I was going to write for this Chorus update. The deadline was closing in on me. I kept coming up empty so I decided to stop trying and allow my muse to do her job. So she says to me, "I thought you would never ask. How about a train theme?" "Perfect", I replied, "Is it ok if I call it a train motif?" "Whatever blows your skirt up", was her reply (my muse is a bit of a smart ass). I love bluegrass music (I have been known to fiddle around with the mandolin) which is replete with train songs. One of my favorites is "Bringin in that Georgia Mail" by Flatt and Scruggs, my favorite version done by the Sam Bush Band. Keeping Barbershop Harmony singing

alive during a period of time where we actually cannot do what we normally love to do and what keeps us energized, positive, happy, and motivated to bring happiness and joy to others through our music is at least, if not more, important than bringin' in that Georgia mail.

So, to continue with my train motif, (see, I got it in there), the Pacific Sound Express keeps rolling along albeit mostly virtually. To further pound home my train motif, a non-stop, fast moving train requires the constant shoveling of coal to keep the fires burning and the train running at full bore. Pacific Sound has a core group of talented individuals who do the hard work of shoveling the coal, so to speak, and keep the train running using their mastery of the virtual world which is alchemy to moi. They take the recordings that we send in and through

some sort of digital magic turn them into virtual choirs. At rehearsals we watch and discuss instructional videos, some from Harmony University, concerning subjects like vocal warm up, practice, developing a routine, vocal exercises, skill building, and establishing and focusing on goals. All good stuff to keep you in the game.

To keep everyone involved, each week one individual picks two tags and another three repertoire songs for all of us to work on for the next rehearsal. Ha, just remembered we are working on "I've Been Workin' on the Railroad", Dawn lights on Marble Head, or Marblehead, the Massachusetts town where this colloquialism emanates from. Sorry for this major digression.

Our illustrious and very pregnant director, the lovely and talented **Courtney Georges** will be stepping

down from her directing duties while remaining active as she goes on a well-deserved maternity leave. She will be sorely missed. I thoroughly enjoyed being directed by Courtney. Her love of what she does is infectious and shines through. For me she was at least as entertaining as she was instructional. As a school teacher, her students are very lucky.

Our board is offering members 100 bucks each to take virtual classes at Harmony University! We are hoping to participate in the contest cycle next year, go on the cruise in October, and we are already planning songs for the holidays. So, until we are able to sing together again, sing with me in virtual reality, "Bringin' In That Georgia Mail."

**San Fernando Valley Chapter
Valley Harmony Singers
By Ben Marder**

On March 19, 2020, a mandatory California statewide stay-at-home order was issued.

At that time everything changed in our personal and secular lives. All the things we took for granted were no longer available to us. One of the hardest things to accept was that our wonderful Chorus was no longer able to meet, sing, and perform because of the pandemic.

Our Director **Tom Raffety** and Music Team leaders were faced with some very difficult decisions. How do we continue with the Chorus without meeting in person? **Technology was the key. Zoom** would be the answer. It's not perfect by a long shot. Zoom affords the Valley Harmony Singers to virtually meet, rehearse, converse, and try new things.

One of the newest things we are trying are the **breakout rooms**. Each of the four sections are assigned to a breakout room. In the room,

each person, individually sings into his computer, smart phone, or iPad against a prerecorded disk or tape containing the other 3 parts of the song being worked on that week. There is no delay or distortion of sound using this method. The section leader can evaluate the performance giving suggestions. This has turned out to be a very effective method.

On Zoom we have also displayed photos and videos with some success. In the future we plan to invite guest speakers from the Society to inform the Chorus on the latest information and changes going on this year. We also plan to have different entertaining and interesting history of the Barbershop Harmony Society of the past and present. Our Chorus has been averaging 20 members per virtual meeting. We also have had some inactive members join us.

It is with a heavy heart that I must report the passing of one of our most beloved members, **John Wright**. John joined the Valleyaires Barbershop Chorus in 1982. John mostly sang Baritone, but he could also sing Tenor. He was a member of two Quartets, **All-in-Accord**, and **Bill's Bari Pie**, which consisted of three Baris and one Bass, Bill Cohen. John was a very good athlete. In his prime John was a surfer, runner, and he loved working in his garden. He was a great storyteller, writer, and he loved reading about history. John had a great personality and was generous, positive, and optimistic. He volunteered as an ambulance driver in the British Army in WWII. John attended Occidental College where he studied economics. It was there where he met his wife Margie and his future fellow Barbershopper, Frank Wilken. John worked as a real estate appraiser. He had four sons.

John sang for many years in **Encore**, Entertainment Community Outreach Ensemble. Encore performed at convalescent hospitals, active and

assisted living homes as well as religious and social clubs through L.A. CA. It was my privilege to have managed and directed Encore for six years. Encore brought joy and happiness to some people who had very little in their lives. We helped lift their spirits with song, the universal language.

My friend John will be deeply missed by both family and friends who knew and loved him. It's kind of ironic that one of our new songs this year is "**SURFIN' U.S.A.**" John would have loved that. Stay well and safe, this will pass someday.

**Santa Monica Chapter
Oceanares
By Marty Mitnick**

With so much time on our hands because of the pandemic, aren't we fortunate to have the wonderments of Zoom and Facetime at our fingertips.

Our **Santa Monica Oceanares Director Laura Singer** has made good use of these electronic wonders by having our weekly virtual rehearsals. What a terrific way to keep in touch with one another. A few of our Quartets have rehearsed outdoors with adequate spacing but that has been the extent of our getting together. Until next time be well, be safe and follow the rules.

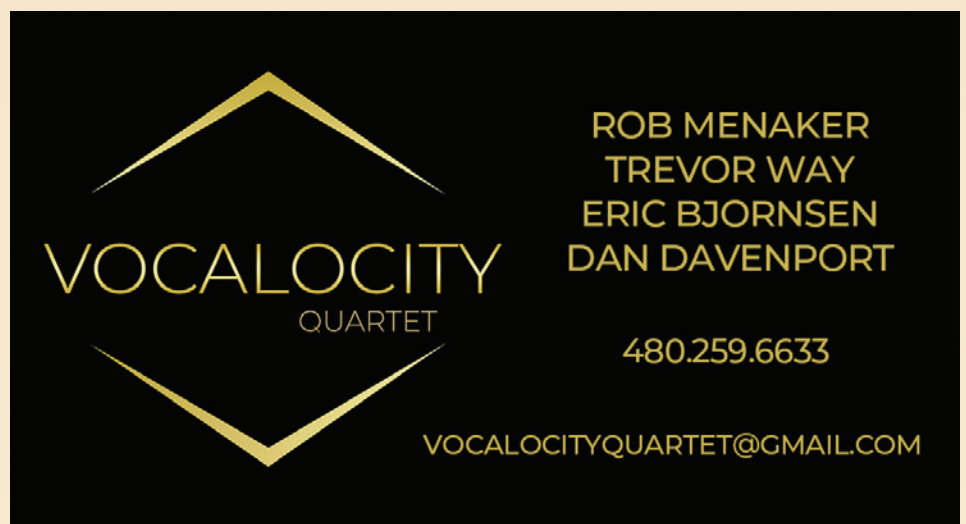
**South Bay Chapter
Coastliners
By Barry Waite**

Wow, you should have seen it! We just almost did the most amazing show last month! This year's **Coastliner** spectacular was going to be *Crimea River*, following a crazy cast of characters as they create a 1930s film noir and chase after a Faberge egg. Well, you'd have to see it to understand it. I am the chairman of the show that wasn't.

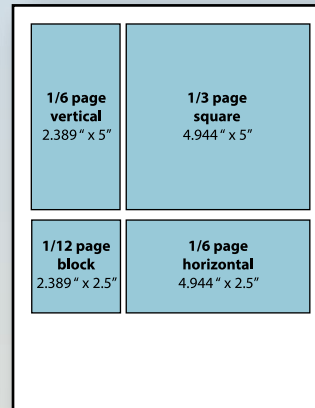
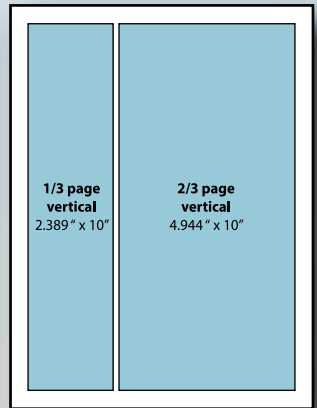
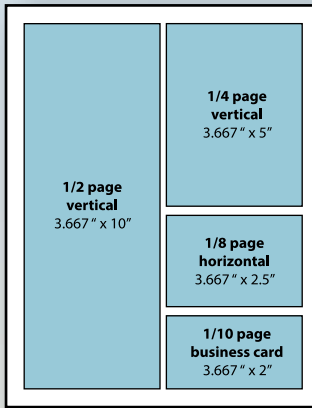
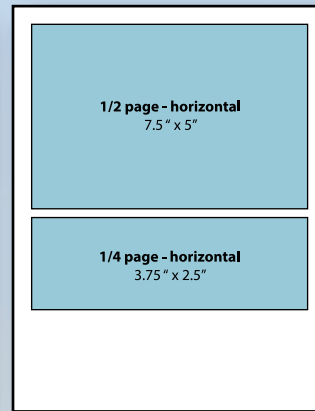
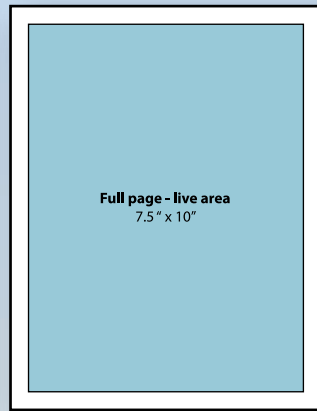
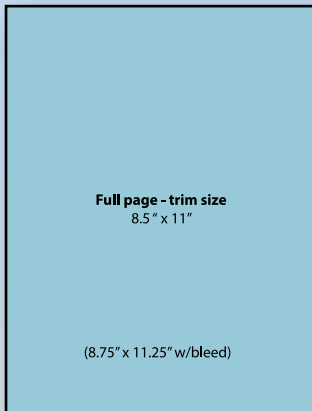
We had a great location, a nearly

complete script, most of our songs learned, and even a Barbershop set with a real barber chair. Then we all went into lockdown. We would have been so good! No one would have blown a line or sung a wrong note. Not one! You would have been stunned with the brilliant staging and tremendous acting. The Quartets would have rung those chords so perfectly that the building would have been resonating with harmony for days.

When we finally get to do the show next year, perhaps we will attain that same level of perfection we would have hit last month. Meanwhile, we are watching our old shows together on Zoom each week. There is talk of doing a compilation video to share with our fans. Naturally, none of them is as great as last month's show would have been, but they are pretty darn good. *Titanic* and *The Not So Great Gatsby* were thoroughly entertaining. Let us know if you'd like to sit in with us, virtually speaking. As always, guests are very welcome. President **Scott Suwabe** is doing music theory classes too. We appreciate how many different ways he can explain the same thing until we get it!



WESTUNES Advertising Rates



Ads must be received in one of the following digital formats:

PDF, EPS, JPG, or TIF (300 dpi+)

To reserve ad space and submit your ad copy, use the on-line form at:

farwesterndistrict.org > News > Advertise in Westunes

For any questions, please contact:
marketing@farwesterndistrict.org

Ad deadlines

Spring issue (March 1)

Ad deliverables by February 15

Summer issue (June 1)

Ad deliverables by May 15

Fall issue (September 1)

Ad deliverables by August 15

Winter issue (December 1)

Ad deliverables by November 15

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

Ad Size	Trim Size width x height	1 Issue Full price	2 Issues 20% Discount	3 Issues 30% Discount	4 Issues 40% Discount
Full page - back cover	8.5" x 11"*	\$75.00	\$120.00	\$157.50	\$180.00
Full page - inside front, inside back cover	8.5" x 11"*	\$60.00	\$96.00	\$126.00	\$144.00
Full page - live area	7.5" x 10"	\$50.00	\$80.00	\$105.00	\$120.00
Full page - trim size	8.5" x 11"*	\$50.00	\$80.00	\$105.00	\$120.00
2/3 page - vertical	4.944" x 10"	\$35.00	\$56.00	\$73.50	\$84.00
1/2 page - horizontal	7.5" x 5"	\$25.00	\$40.00	\$52.50	\$60.00
1/2 page - vertical	3.667" x 10"	\$25.00	\$40.00	\$52.50	\$60.00
1/3 page - square	4.944" x 5"	\$17.50	\$28.00	\$36.75	\$42.00
1/3 page - vertical	2.389" x 10"	\$17.50	\$28.00	\$36.75	\$42.00
1/4 page - vertical	3.667" x 5"	\$12.50	\$20.00	\$26.25	\$30.00
1/4 page - horizontal	7.5" x 2.5"	\$12.50	\$20.00	\$26.25	\$30.00
1/6 page - horizontal	4.944" x 2.5"	\$8.75	\$14.00	\$18.38	\$21.00
1/6 page - vertical	2.389" x 5"	\$8.75	\$14.00	\$18.38	\$21.00
1/8 page - horizontal	3.667" x 2.5"	\$7.50	\$12.00	\$15.75	\$18.00
1/10 page - business card	3.667" x 2"	\$5.00	\$8.00	\$10.50	\$12.00
1/12 page - block	2.389" x 2.5"	\$4.50	\$7.20	\$9.45	\$10.80

* 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
farwesternndistrict.org/events/calendar

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

- Oct 2020 Fall Conv-- CANCELLED
- March 11-14, 2021 FWD Spring Convention, Prelims & NE/NW Divisions, Stockton, CA
- April 23-24, 2021 AZ Division Conventnion, TBA, AZ
- Apr 30-May 1, 2021 SE/SW Divisions Convention, TBA, CA
- June 27-July 4, 2021 International Convention, Cleveland, OH
- October 14-17, 2020 FWD Fall Convention, Cruise - Long Beach, CA
- March 10-13, 2022 FWD Spring Convention: Prelims, SE/SW Divisions, location TBD

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

EVENTS REGISTRATION

Register for FWD Conventions at
events.farwesternndistrict.org

Sunshine

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

ARIZONA DIVISION

Adam Kaufman
dvp-arizona@farwesternndistrict.org

NORTHEAST DIVISION

Chuck Roots
dvp-northeast@farwesternndistrict.org

NORTHWEST DIVISION

Dick Whitten
dvp-northwest@farwesternndistrict.org

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

Kyle Williamson
dvp-southeast@farwesternndistrict.org

SOUTHWEST DIVISION

Brent Anderson
dvp-southwest@farwesternndistrict.org

Member Services Directory

AWARDS

Chuck Hunter, Sr.
awards@farwesternndistrict.org

CHORUS DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Scott Suwabe
cdd@farwesternndistrict.org

ETHICS

Russ Young
ethics@farwesternndistrict.org

EVENTS

Bryan Forbes
events@farwesternndistrict.org

FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Roe Darnell
financial-dev@farwesternndistrict.org

HALL OF FAME

Gordon "Moongo" Bergthold
hof@farwesternndistrict.org

HISTORIAN

Dan Jordan
historian@farwesternndistrict.org

LAWS & REGULATIONS

Peter Feeney
lawsandregs@farwesternndistrict.org

MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS

David Melville
marketing@farwesternndistrict.org

MEMBER RECRUITMENT & EDUCATION

Jeremy Loper
membership@farwesternndistrict.org

NOMINATING

Gordon Bergthold
nominating@farwesternndistrict.org

QUARTET ACTIVITIES

OPEN
quartetactivities@farwesternndistrict.org

WEBMASTER

David Melville
webmaster@farwesternndistrict.org

WESTAGS NEWSLETTER

Jerry McElfresh
westags@farwesternndistrict.org

WESTUNES EDITOR

Ray Rhymer
westuneseditor@farwesternndistrict.org

YOUTH IN HARMONY

Kenny Rios
yih@farwesternndistrict.org



Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Bill Rosica
president@farwesternndistrict.org

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Nick Papageorge
evp@farwesternndistrict.org

SECRETARY

Jim Maass
secretary@farwesternndistrict.org

TREASURER

Rich Owen
treasurer@farwesternndistrict.org

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Craig Hughes
pastpresident@farwesternndistrict.org

VP ARIZONA DIVISION

Adam Kaufman
dvp-arizona@farwesternndistrict.org

VP NORTHEAST DIVISION

Chuck Roots
dvp-northeast@farwesternndistrict.org

VP NORTHWEST DIVISION

Dick Whitten
dvp-northwest@farwesternndistrict.org

VP SOUTHEAST DIVISION

Kyle Williamson
dvp-southeast@farwesternndistrict.org

VP SOUTHWEST DIVISION

Brent Anderson
dvp-southwest@farwesternndistrict.org

VP CONTESTS & JUDGING

Brett Littlefield
drcj@farwesternndistrict.org

VP MUSIC & PERFORMANCE

Rob Menaker
music@farwesternndistrict.org