



Westunes Vol. 71 No. 1

Spring 2021



# WESTUNES

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



**2021 FWD President Bill Rosica**



Far Western District Family and Friends:

As you all know by now, your District Board decided to forego the "Contest at Sea" for October 2021 because of a couple of key points:

- The State of California, the Federal Government, the Center for Disease Control and the World Health Organization cannot assure us that this Carnival cruise will be able to sail during the weekend of October 15-18, 2021.
- The Last day to have your deposit refunded is fast approaching (March 13)
- Those of you who did sign up and paid your deposit, were for the most part, audience members with very few competitors. This would have made for a very short contest.

Please note that we did not cancel the cruise. The Far Western District had to decide what was best for the District. We were excited to bring this type of activity to our District, but Covid-19 was just too unreliable for planning purposes. As of today, Carnival is still planning on sailing October 15 and returning on October 18, 2021. Some folks may want to join Donna and her husband Greg for a great time of sailing, singing tags and meeting up with old friends. Your upgrades and \$300.00 on-board credits are still in effect.

For those of you who choose not to go on the Cruise, your Board is working on Plan B, which is to hold our Fall Convention and Contest in Fresno, California in October 2021. Again, the people who enable us to meet in person need to tell us when we would be allowed to gather and under what protocols. We are working as if that will be decided in our favor in the near future. However, we realize that each competitor will need some lead time to prepare for such an event, so Plan B, like the cruise is in flux.

These are uncertain times, and your Board realizes that the Contest at Sea came at the worst time, due to Covid-19. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me. I don't have all the answers, but I know the Division VP's along with the rest of your Board will assist you in your quest.

Bill Rosica  
Far Western District President





# WESTUNES



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### Here are some Advertising Rates (per issue)

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

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## Greater Los Angeles Chapter

By Ron Larson

### Keeping the Dream of Musical Excellence Alive in Challenging Times

#### The Masters of Harmony Use Zoom for Meetings and Rehearsals

On March 11, 2020, 100 Masters men met with **Tony De Rosa** for a rehearsal designed to hone their contest set for the 2020 International Convention in Los Angeles. Because of rehearsal restrictions related to the COVID pandemic, that was the last in-person chorus rehearsal of 2020. Keeping together the brotherhood of one of Barbershop Harmony Society's most successful choruses became a real challenge. Starting in March 2020, the Masters became one of the first barbershop choruses to meet regularly online using Zoom. That allowed the 60 plus regularly attending members to receive a modicum of rehearsal opportunities, training on the finer points of vocal production, and it helped keep the bonds of fellowship alive. However, Zoom's technical limits made it impossible to hear ensemble singing in real-time since it can currently handle only 2-3 audio channels simultaneously, not the 60-plus that would be needed. The differences in sound delay (latency) from the many different chorus members' Internet connections would have to be equalized or at least minimized to performance levels deemed acceptable, a technological dream for now-isolated choral singers all over the world.

#### Enter the World of JackTrip Virtual Studio Rehearsals

After considerable research, the Masters of Harmony board of directors decided to make JackTrip Virtual Studio equipment worth \$300 each available to all chorus members as long as they remain members. This became possible when **Rich Owen** and **Walter Tang** collaborated to win a generous grant from the Los Angeles

County Department of Arts and Culture. The equipment consists of a Raspberry minicomputer with a sound card designed to reduce signal latency down to 28 milliseconds or less, which is considered CD quality sound; professional-level headphones, microphone and adjustable tripod stand so that members can sing while standing up. Preliminary experiments with members between Los Angeles and San Diego singing from home using the JackTrip equipment produced harmony considered satisfying. Once in-person rehearsals resume, the equipment can be used for extra full chorus rehearsals or just sectionals. It will also make coaching sessions easier to schedule by eliminating the time and expense of travel.

### **The First-Ever Masters of Harmony Virtual Christmas Show**

The Masters of Harmony decided to use a mixture of songs from previous Christmas shows while adding two songs, “Joy to the World” and “Silent Night,” recorded at home by 58 members using their smartphones. The recordings were sent to MOH members **Peter Burt**, in charge of audio production, and **Gary Stone**, who handled video production. Director **Alan Gordon** worked many hours with Peter and Gary to mix these individual recordings into something that looked and sounded like the nine-time gold-medal-winning Masters of Harmony chorus. The show was titled “Making Spirits Bright.” Barbershop Harmony Society funding made it possible for the December 5 show to air at no cost to viewers who registered online and free to all viewers thereafter until December 31. Since viewers were encouraged to make donations to the Masters of Harmony, Harmony Foundation International managed that aspect of the performance. Many viewers took advantage of an opportunity to help the Masters maintain a viable presence online and elsewhere by making donations. The show drew rave reviews from places as distant as South Korea, Rome, Israel, as well as many of the 50 states, with many viewers hearing a MOH performance for the first time!

### **The Masters of Harmony Annual Awards and Installation of Officers Event**

One year ago, President **Joe D’Amore** said 2020 would be a year like no other, and it certainly was! The road he envisioned for us disappeared under the weight of COVID-related restrictions imposed on people all over the world. In his opening remarks for this year’s online event, Joe retraced our path from that last public rehearsal on March 11, 2020. He called on members to embrace “The Wondrous Road Ahead” as the chorus seeks to remain on the cutting edge of our Society and the choral world. The keynote speaker was **Erin Howden**, for many years our dear friend, coach, and mentor. Barbershop Harmony President **John Donehower** was installing officer. The top awards were granted to the following members; Director’s Award—**Peter Burt, Grant Goldstein, and David Tautkus**; President’s Award—**Rich Owen, Ed Schackman, and Gary Stone**; Doug Maddox Master of Harmony Award (Barbershopper of the Year)—**Bart Halberstadt**.

### **Mark Freedkin Joins Masters of Harmony Hall of Fame**

In an enormously popular decision, the Masters of Harmony board honored one of the chapter’s most productive members ever with this rarely granted honor. Here are some of Mark’s notable accomplishments: winner of nine chorus medals (seven golds); President’s Award (1999 and 2017), Director’s Award (2010), Barbershopper of the Year (2001); Auditions Coordinator, Grant Proposal Writer, Assistant Baritone Section Leader, Choir Genius Administrator, Truck Driver, Vocal Assessor, Webmaster, Masters of Harmony Youth Festival doyen (1994-2017). We offer many thanks to Mark’s wife Shellie for supporting Mark and graciously sharing him with us over these past 25 years!

### **Masters of Harmony Membership Update**

It was with great sadness that the Masters of Harmony announced the passing of two of its beloved multi-gold medal members **Gene Clements** and **Ed Sweatt**.

**Tom Fazekas** (bass) was welcomed into membership and **Don Shively** (bass) was reinstated after a seven-year absence.





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”.

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 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***

# Harmony Camp

The dates for Harmony Camp 2021 are October 22-24, 2021 and we are hopeful by this time in the fall Camp will be possible. As I heard this weekend while watching Midwinter, “The Time to Dream is Now, The Time to Plan is Now” and we are doing just that.

We have invited Midtown as our headliner quartet and they have indicated they are interested. Midtown placed 5<sup>th</sup> at International Competition in Salt Lake City in 2019 with “KJ” as their baritone (previously, he was the baritone of “Lunch Break”). KJ grew up in the Sierra Foothills and first sang with the Nevada Placer Sierranaders as a high school student.

Clearly, Harmony Camp 2021 will be a rebuilding year for camp. We will be working with Music Educators as to how we can assist them in jump starting their program once schools are back in session with in-person learning.

In addition to a wonderful weekend of close harmony, Harmony Camp provides an environment where we not only mentor the boys with our harmony, but we also mentor them as responsible adults. In addition, this environment provides space and freedom for the boys to express themselves, to be themselves within a supportive environment where there is no pressure to impress – just be who you are and be accepted for who you are. It is a magical place for discovery and growth that many boys experience for the first time in their lives.

Friends are made; and a few quartets are even made with those new friends. And with the music that the boys have learned, those quartets already have a few songs that they can sing together. Some of these quartets have even gone on to compete in the High School quartet contest the following Spring.

Unfortunately, there will not be a high school quartet contest in 2021. But the Barbershop Midwinter Convention/Contest has evolved into quite a festival for youth with both young choruses and quartets competing. And Midwinter 2022 will be held in Pasadena in January of 2022.

We will be sending information to the Music Educators regarding both Midwinter 2022 and Harmony University (Virtual) at the end of July 2021. Although much of the “personal touch and networking” is lost with a virtual program, it is also less expensive and more accessible so that more Music Educators could be able to attend the virtual Harmony University.

It is up to each of us to ensure that the Music Educators in our neighborhood know of these opportunities.

Richard Lund, Director  
FWD Harmony Camp  
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530-621-1904

## Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund for FWD Harmony Camp

Although Harmony Camp 2020 could not be held this year, our Endowment Fund for Harmony Camp at the Sacramento Region Community Foundation continues to grow, reaching a total of \$158,000 as of December 31, 2020.

We are looking forward to 2021 and trust it will be characterized as a year of hope and resurgence. However, we can continue to make an impact as we continue to grow the Steinkamp Fund, thereby ensuring funds are available for future generations of young men to experience the excitement of a weekend of barbershop. We are hopeful and planning for Harmony Camp 2021 for the weekend of October 22 – 24, 2021 at Sly Park Education Center. Our teaching quartet is Midtown, already confirmed and quite excited to join us.

Donations may be made through cash gifts, appreciated stock and IRA Charitable Rollovers. Let’s get this thing over the 200K level at which point we can start to use small amounts of these funds!

Visit the Sacramento Region Community Foundation [www.sacregdf.org](http://www.sacregdf.org) and click on Give Now. The Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund for Far Western District Harmony Camps is listed on the drop down menu of organizations.

You may also donate a gift of appreciated stock to the endowment means you will avoid capital gains and can deduct the fully appreciated value regardless of the original purchase price. A stock transfer form is available at [www.sacregcf.org/year-end](http://www.sacregcf.org/year-end).

Should you have questions, you may contact me or the Sacramento Region Community Foundation, 916-921-7723 ext 2021.

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# Bill Rosica

Far Western District President  
[president@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:president@farwesterndistrict.org)



## The State of the District

Hello to all the members and friends of the Far Western District (FWD). I hope everyone has stayed safe through this pandemic which has altered our hobby to its roots. For those who have gone through the Covid-19 illness, I pray for a full recovery and for those who have lost friends and love ones, my thoughts and prayers are with you and yours.

Who could have known that last March would be the last time we met to harmonize together?

As for me, March 11, 2020 my Chapter was being coached in preparation for International. The next week we were home waiting to see how long this virus would last. Here we are now still wondering the same thing.

During this time, your Board has been working on many fronts with the Society and Chapters throughout the District. Your Division Vice Presidents (DVP) have been tasked to meet with their respective Chapters through ZOOM®. I have asked that each DVP set up quarterly meetings with their respective Chapters to assist those Chapters in planning their direction during this Pandemic. If you have not been contacted or have not participated in these meetings, please contact your DVP for additional information.

There have been quite a few programs which were cancelled over the past year which made it difficult to operate. Many Chapters had their spring shows cancelled as well as Divisional and preliminary contests. Of course, International in Los Angeles fell victim to Covid-19 as well. Our Fall Contest at Sea was not cancelled, merely postponed until October 2021. Those Chapters who planned for Christmas Shows had to re-design their efforts or worse yet, cancel altogether.

Not all the news is bad, however. Your District had

some major shortfalls because of low attendance at our two major Conventions and Contests prior to 2020. Because of the District not having these contests, we made up some of our lost revenue and are on our way to being solvent once again. We also saved money on the Board traveling to these conventions to hold our Board Meetings and House of Delegates (HOD) Meetings. I'm sure there are a few saying, "If they didn't have those meetings, maybe we really don't need them". Well, we did have those meeting using ZOOM®. And yes, we still need to conduct District Business a couple of times per year. Actually, we had quite a few more participants than we normally do at face-to-face HOD meetings.

Scott Suwabe, District Chorus Development Manager has begun putting the Director's Guild back together. This will allow budding new musicians to get the coaching they need to become a Front-Line Director. They will also train Section Leaders and Assistant Directors. This is a very important piece of our puzzle to get our membership back to your Chorus. Please give Scott a call with any questions. Charles Carothers, District Community Outreach Manager with assistance from Rob Menaker, VP of Music and Performance is in the planning stages of introducing our hobby to some of the underserved communities. This project has been pushed out to February of 2022 but should be a real fruitful endeavor. Both Jeremy Loper, District Membership Manager and Kenny Rios, District Youth in Harmony Manager had plans for 2020 and 2021, but Covid-19 kept them from implementing anything concrete.

Since we were able to save money and decided not to change the dues schedule, look for some discounts on upcoming conventions and your Leadership Academy will be held via ZOOM® at no charge. This year we elected two new Division Vice Presidents; Rich Postal, Northwest Division and Kathy Kileen, Southwest Division. We welcome both to the Board with Kathy being



the first female on the Board.

At this time the International Convention and Contest in Cleveland is still a "Go" and will be ready for competitors in July. The Preliminaries for Quartets will be held with video submittals. Brett Littlefield is working to get that nailed down, so keep an eye out for more information.

Our Fall Convention and Contest at Sea is still on the calendar for October 15-18, 2021. The Cruise line moved our Deposit deadline from February to March, which gives us an additional month to make plans. Carnival also gave each cabin that rolled over their reservation from 2020 a \$300.00 on-board credit and a cabin upgrade. If the District decides that a contest is not feasible, we have had some discussions regarding a "FWD Coming out of Covid Cruise" with those of us still interested in having a little fun. Please know that your safety is of ultimate concern to the Board. We are in contact with Carnival through Donna Hisey to make sure all the CDC Protocols will be followed. Hopefully, the vaccine will give us a good start on being able to conduct this cruise safely.

In talking to the other District Presidents, I find that the FWD is in great shape. We have some plans for late this year as well as early 2022 which involves the AIC and some of our local Chapters, so stay tuned. As a final thought, I want to borrow something Erin Howden said at The Masters Installation in January. She said, "You are exactly where you should be", which is another way of saying There is a reason for everything. Make the best of what you've got. Look forward not backward. What can we do to make ourselves better when this Pandemic is over?

We've been given lemons, so make lemonade and open a stand. Better yet, make orange juice and become a magician. (Stolen from MOH Lead Ted Allen)

# Nick Papageorge

Executive Vice President  
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Hello to all;

I hope that you are all well, and I hope that you are keeping your Barbershop activities going strong even though we are in a crazy time for choral music. President Bill and I have been keeping up to date with the Divisional and Chapter activities that have kept the District going, without "singing together!". The Leadership Academies that taught our new Chapter officers how to keep their Chapters strong in the next year were very successful! I believe the SoCal East/West Academy was the last of our Divisions to have their school a few weeks ago.

I would like to give my thanks to the So Cal East/West Leadership Academy faculty: President Bill Rossica (President class), Jim Maas (Secretary Class), Rich Owen (Treasurer Class), Rob Meneker (Music/Performance Class), Bryan Forbes (Program VP), Jeremy Loper (Membership), and David Melville (Marketing)!! These great leaders gave their time and knowledge to make this Academy a huge success.

I can't wait until we can all be together again at a Contest/Convention. Until then, stay safe and keep up the virtual singing!



# Adam Kaufman

VP Arizona Division  
[dvp-arizona@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:dvp-arizona@farwesterndistrict.org)

A year ago, I was getting ready to compete in two different Quartets at two Division Contests and the Spring Prelims...

A year ago, I had officiated at Chapter installations...

A year ago, I had never heard of Zoom...

This year, I also officiated at a couple of Chapter Installations. This year those installations were done on Zoom, and I was completely comfortable on that platform as I shared my screen to show the virtual certificates for the incoming officers. Thank you to the **Sun Cities** and **Phoenix** Chapters for asking me to be there and install your boards. I applaud your Chapters

for their commitment to bring some normalcy to your members.

We are all more than a bit tired of what has become the “New Normal”, however we are resilient, we are creative, we are dedicated...we are Barbershoppers. We will continue to meet, we will continue to find ways to improve at our craft, and we will come back ready to sing! Never in my life did I ever think I would be looking forward to getting a shot...well two shots... unless they happened to be of tequila!

“It’s a new dawn, it’s a new day ... and I’m feeling good!” (Newley and Bricusse, 1964).

Please remember, I am always willing to bring any of your ideas and comments to the Board, so 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.



Well, my fellow four-part harmonizers, since last I wrote the COVID-19 virus has made its presence known in our household. Both my wife, Isaura, and I experienced the virus without realizing we had it.

It was sometime in December when Isaura came down with her annual sinus infection. One problem: After taking the prescribed medication from her doctor, it did not go away the way it normally does. After a couple of weeks like this, without experiencing any additional problems, her doctor suggested she have a test for C-19 (COVID-19). She did as she was instructed and was told it would take a few days for the results. Well, a few days turned into nearly two weeks. And YUP! She tested positive.

During this time, I had a slight nose drip which is no big deal since we live in the heart of California’s agricultural belt, the Central Valley. When we first moved to the Valley I was told, “If you don’t have allergies,

you will.” They were right. The effects of allergies made preaching two services on Sunday morning very challenging. So, I chalked up my current nasal drip to that. But then I realized I couldn’t smell anything, nor was I able to taste anything. I ran a test on myself by spooning out a big dollop of Skippy peanut butter. It just rolled around in my mouth producing no taste. Then I put a dab of chocolate syrup on my fingertip and licked it up. Nothing.

It was at this point that Isaura’s test came back positive. I debated being tested since I was well past the quarantine stage, but I was encouraged to get tested anyway.

The medical assistants met me outside in the parking lot of my doctor’s office and did the Q-tip nose swab. An uncomfortable five seconds or so, but no big deal. They told me I was no longer infectious, with confirmation coming a few days later that I had indeed, been infected with C-19.

I’m happy to report that both my sense of smell and taste have returned, and Isaura and I are doing very well. We are grateful to the Lord as we are aware that many friends have had serious bouts with this virus. Isaura was born with a weakened immune system, and I have eight stents in my heart from heart disease, plus prostate cancer.

Now, for this hobby of ours. It would seem that C-19 is going to have the last say for some time to come. As you are aware, most everything has been cancelled well into 2021. So, let me suggest that you take time to connect with your Chapter on the weekly Zoom calls. It is an excellent way to stay in touch with the folks you’ve enjoyed singing with prior to this pandemic. It is nice to see those familiar faces and share some good-natured ribbing while singing a few songs. And, you’re right! It’s not the same, but until we can come back together, it’s an alternative I can live with.

Another option: Meet together with some of your Barbershop friends and, using social distancing and masking, join together singing the Old Songs. I get together every few weeks with anywhere from 8-12 guys to sing and it reminds me of how much I enjoy this hobby, and why I love ringing those chords.

Until we sing again!





**Rich Postal**

**VP Northwest Division**

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**Kathy Kileen**

**VP Southwest Division**

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Even though there are no in-person meetings to sing, Barbershop IS alive in Nor Cal West. Over the last few weeks, I was fortunate to conduct installation of officers at three of our Chapters. In all cases, the guys attending seemed to be having fun and can't wait to resume in-person singing again. In many cases the one fact that is predominant is that attendance is down significantly. There is one Chapter, the Peninsulaires, who are also experiencing reduced attendance, however, the percentage of that reduction due to Covid 19 seems not too bad. In performing the installation of officers, I was able to be an attendee for the entire rehearsal. One factor that I see is that their program for the meeting is very varied and robust with many activities. They are looking forward to the day that in-person meetings and performances can resume. There was even a portion of the meeting devoted to stage presence for a new song. They also just finished a Holiday Zoom show where other outside singers, both men and women participated. The product of this should make these guys and ladies proud and kudos to the folks who did the audio and video editing.

Another question from the guys, during a Q and A session is that they all are looking for a FWD response as to when it will be OK to get back in person. Naturally, the response should always err on the side of caution, follow CDC guidelines, continue to be patient, and expect some direction from the Barbershop Harmony Society and their experts in Nashville. Our MOST important asset is our singers and we can not put them at risk. With the availability of Covid vaccines, there may be sunny skies ahead. Keep singing, keep a reason for the men to attend the zoom meetings, and let's all look forward to getting together again.

Before I begin with my quarterly report on the "State of the Division" I would be remiss if I failed to take this opportunity to thank those who were instrumental in putting me in this position. I am honored to be part of this great organization as a whole and feel particularly privileged to serve on the board of this renowned District, a District that has the reputation of being in the forefront of influence within the Barbershop Harmony Society.

In my new position, I will strive to be a positive role model, an advocate and support for both the Chapters and the BOD. I hope that my experience and perspective born from many years as a Sweet Adeline, my years as an associate BHS member, and my years as a full-fledged BHS member, will serve to help me become an active and contributing member of this body.

I hope to do this without inadvertently offending anyone or stepping on too many toes while finding my way. I say this jokingly, but I realize there's a real possibility it might happen. This is new territory and there are no examples to follow. There are no written rules. No one has gone before. We're forging a new path.....together.

And speaking of forging new paths, this year's Mid-winter Virtual Convention paved a whole new highway. It was quite amazing! I'd like to hear of your experiences. I have to say it was a kick getting to visit with friends from the Evergreen District in real time. As avatars. Mind blowing!

I am accustomed to the convention keynote speakers to be moving, inciteful and heartwarming. I was not disappointed with three keynote speakers at this year's event. All had poignant stories to tell, but Blair Brown, newly elected member-at-large of the BHS BOD, spoke about something that touched my heart.

She spoke eloquently about those things that make Barbershop people so special. How it's not just the music, although that's what attracts us initially. It's the people who become family. It's all about the people who step up for you when things are not the best. It's the people who check in with you if you've gone astray and stepped back from your Barbershop circle. It's the people who love you for who you are and what you contribute to their lives. It's the huge heart of Barbershop.

Here's what Barbershop is not. It's not labels that define us. It's not male or female, it's not our skin color, it's not what we do for a living. It's none of the things that society deems successful or meaningful. It's the heart that we bring to the gift of music we share. It the fact that we are present...that we are family. WE are here for each other!

Having said that, it really is about the music too. Sharing that sound and the feeling of ringing chords is our calling. Without music, we'd have never found the rest!

As to the state of the Southwest Division: Although I have been in contact with most of the Chapters under my watch, I am having difficulty connecting with all of them. Those Chapters who have not updated their incoming elected officials with BHS and FWD membership are unknown to me. Your Chapter won't show in reports if there are no leadership names supplied. I can't be your liaison if I don't know you and can't reach you. Please help me do my job.

I am very encouraged by the number of Chapters who have adapted to the limitations of our current unfortunate situation. Many are staying connected with Zoom rehearsals and variations of the sort. I would love to hear what it is working for you, what you have found to be successful. And just as important, I want to hear what isn't working. I need to know how I, and the District, can be of assistance. How can we help?

One last thought. This pandemic could quite possible present us with a silver lining. I know it has made me far more appreciative of those things being denied us by our Covid-19 restrictions. Once this is resolved, we are going to be in the unique position of being able to offer to all what so many of us have longed for. We have what people are going to want. Community, camaraderie, music, friendship are just the start of what we have and I think people yearn for just those things.

Let's put our heads together and be prepared to offer a joyful singing experience when we are once again able to rehearse together in person. Let's put together a plan to gather up our members and bring them back home to us. Let's put together a plan to reach out to our communities. How about we put together a plan to perform, in some safe manner, at the ceremonies to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9-11? I kinda like this idea. What say you?



Hello, all and Happy 2021,

Wanted to let you know a few things that are happening in 2021 from the Far Western District VP of Music and Performance.

As you are aware, many if not all Chapter meetings are happening virtually for now. While this isn't the same thing as meeting in person, they can be super fun, informative and give you time to see your riser mates and do some catching up. Many Chapters are inviting guest speakers to attend their video chats adding some variety to teach Barbershop craft, Society history, performance tips, etc. If you are one of the ones who are in charge of putting together the agendas for your meetings, we are creating a list of guest speakers that are available to come and join your Chapter for an evening. Please feel free to contact me and let me know what type of guest you are looking for and I'll match you with someone who can help you out. Hopefully, we'll be together in person soon, but in place of that, please take advantage of this resource to enhance your virtual meetings.

We have another very exciting program that I mentioned previously but wanted to mention it again. At this time, the SCVA (Southern California Vocal Association) Close Harmony Festival is still on track for the spring of 2022.



The tentative plan to promote this festival is as follows:

- April 2021 will open slots to high school music educators for appointments from AIC Quartets in Sep/Oct 2021. This will give music educators plenty of time to schedule plans for these visits by Quartets.

- Sep/Oct... 5-6 AIC Quartets will descend on LA-area high schools for in-person singing, training, etc. Thursday, Friday.... hoping to visit underserved communities where 50% of students are on free or reduced meals. The purpose of these visits is to promote the Feb 2022 SCVA Festival.

- Sep/Oct... On Saturday, LA area Chapters will produce a show featuring AIC Quartets, and local Choruses singing two songs each (presumably their contest set).

- Feb 2022... SCVA Festival and show with AIC Quartets and possibly the entire AIC and all its members to reprise the LA, 2020 show with charts and plans already designed.

Obviously, there are LOTS of details to work out (and we are at the mercy of the status of the pandemic), but if you are in the Southern California area, please be on the lookout for this to roll out this spring.

This will be a major outreach event at no cost to the District, so it's a win-win!

That's it for now. Stay healthy and safe and we'll see you all soon!



Virtual Barbershop has been going on for almost a year now. Who'd a thunk?

We left 2019 with so much promise after an incredible Fall Convention in Modesto. We fought off Heavy Metal in Sacramento, power outages in NorCal and

wild fires in SoCal that weekend and prevailed. The chords rang out!

We began 2020 focused on our Spring Convention in Ontario, then International in LA followed by the first ever District Contest at Sea. To quote John Lennon: "Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans." Lockdown, Quarantine, distance rehearsals with Zoom, in cars, with Jamulus, and JackTrip. Through it all we continue to sing and socialize.

As I write I am attending the virtual BHS Midwinter from my shed in Chula Vista and am thankful and amazed to have Barbershop in my life. I am also mourning the friends lost and the opportunities stolen by this disease. I am encouraged by the arrival of the vaccines and view Barbershop as a spiritual vaccine and path out of the darkness.

We are lucky to have this connection and positive influence in our lives. It is critical that we ensure the survival of our unique enterprise long after this challenge passes. The best thing you can do for Barbershop and yourself is to reach out to your friends in whatever way possible to share your love and encouragement. We are the stewards of Barbershop and all that comes with the music. History has trusted us with this challenge. Let's share this love with the world as we move into the light.

It is truly "Great to be a Barbershopper!"

Be safe out there and "Keep the Whole World Singing",



THE TIME IS **NOW**.

How can we plan for the future when things are a standstill? Now should be the best time to plan for the future of our youth singers. Granted, right now, we can't just show up at the local high school or college with a Quartet and expect to have an audience with a choir teacher or even the kids. Come

to think about it, we couldn't do that type of thing in the past either! Which means we have to plan...for the future...NOW.

The pandemic has given us the opportunity to think about the way we used to do things, how to improve and how to better implement those ideas. It has given us a break; a chance to re-evaluate things around us; a chance to appreciate what we have; a chance to plan for the future. I realize that some families are suffering through some really tough times and a lot of us have had to give up some of things we recently enjoyed. Like you, I have focused more on what's important...family; but not just my personal family. My Barbershop family is just as important! After all, "Barbershopping is not a hobby; It's a way of life!" Right? (See my article in Westunes, Fall 2020 for an explanation on that thought). This "way of life" dictates that we include our Barbershop family and as President of the Las Vegas Chapter, I would always start our weekly Zoom meeting by asking if anyone needed any help or KNEW of anyone needing any help during this time of the pandemic. Why? Because WE ARE family and we MUST continue to treat each other that way.

So how does this correlate with Youth in Harmony? The old adage that, "It take a village to raise a child," holds more true today that it did 12 months ago. Our youth have been even **more** limited in exposure to the arts, and specifically to four-part, a cappella harmony, than prior to the pandemic. Most schools have had to prioritize what programs to teach in an "essential-only," scaled-down curriculum and, unfortunately, choral programs (and the arts), are not at the top of that list. To repeat, our youth now have less exposure to our art form than any time in history. And we still have modern day problems plaguing our youth such as the lack of a male role model, single parent household and lack of acceptance among peers, just to name a few. As despairing as this sounds, it's not. Why? Well, we have been given an opportunity to "re-group"; to re-think; to re-establish ourselves. And it is because of that opportunity that we should be planning for the future NOW. You and your Chapter should be visualizing how we are going to re-introduce ourselves into our scholastic institutions and how we are to measure that success. I believe that people will be eager to see us perform once again and that music educators will welcome the chance to have us contribute to their music program. Whether at the high school or college level, we need to be there to **supplement** their program. And along

the way we may gain a member or two, however, our goal should always be to propagate our craft.

How are we going to do this? Good question! Kevin Keller was a keynote speaker at the Midwinter Convention and in his address he spoke of companies that employ a process to design new products/ services for their customers. It is called Design Thinking. It is a 4-step process and one of the steps is "What If?" As Kevin states, "That is where you get to dream unencumbered by what has been done in the past or not done in the past." (Here's the link in case you missed it: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pucYYi\\_p-Co](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pucYYi_p-Co)). In other words, dream... BIG. Don't be limited to what you've done in the past whether it has worked or not. All accomplishments are the results of a dream. Just ask the Masters of Harmony, the Ambassadors of Harmony or the Vocal Majority. It all started with what was conceived to be an "impossible dream." I know from first-hand experience. Just ask me next time you see me.

It all starts with a dream... and that is where you, as a Chorus member, come in. You need to dream. And you need to share those dreams with your Chorus, with other Chapters and with your District. As the Youth in Harmony Manager, I, and the Far Western District, want to help implement **your** dream. But I need to hear from you. No dream or idea is too "silly." Because we are dealing with mostly minors, I'll let you know what we can or can't do legally. With that said, I hope you will take me up on this opportunity to help you attract, retain and share our craft with high school and college kids. Please contact me through the FWD website and tell me your thoughts. Help me help **you** plan for the future. But the time is **NOW**. Let's take this time to put ideas down on paper and then watch as they become a reality. The time is NOW.

### HIGH PRIORITY — QUARTET —

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Over the past several months Don Shively and I have been working extensively in the Event Farm Virtual Campus used for the BHS Midwinter Convention. It was a wonderful experience, and FWD can be proud of the showcase that Don and I put together.

I also attended Part 1 of a seminar on “Pandemic Compliance & Safety at Live Events” in February which focused on mainly the health and safety issues, and will be attending Part 2 in March that will cover the legal and liability aspects.

As a result of uncertainty regarding the pandemic status by October, the need to make a Go/No-Go decision in March, and the question of when competitors can start meeting safely to rehearse, the FWD Board made the cautious decision to forego the Convention and Contest events that had been planned for the Fall Cruise, and we are presently looking at some alternative solutions.

One proposal, a.k.a. “Plan B”, is under investigation, and that is to hold an in-person convention in Fresno, California. However, as wonderful as that sounds, that

too is uncertain until we better understand the pandemic situation and the impact of vaccinations; the CDC and/or the State may still have regulations in force by October that would prevent such an event from happening. That being said, I feel it is essential that we have SOME type of event this year, if for no other reason than to give our members something to look forward to, so I have been developing a “Plan C” unitizing the Event Farm for a “hybrid” fall event. The Event Farm has many advantages over a Zoom webinar in that it has an excellent way to offer social interaction, live performances in a safe environment, and yes, even has the potential to serve as a “venue” for contests wherein the competitors actually get to see the audience response.

Judy Galloway (EVG) and I have been meeting with Dusty Schleier (BHS) as well as with Tom Shima (Event Farm) to talk about possibilities and pricing for either A) “renting” the BHS event farm for one or more events, or B) contracting directly with Event Farm for our own virtual campus. Both BHS and Event Farm are very keen on the idea and willing to be flexible. I don’t want to publish any figures in this report because we are still going back and forth, but hopefully I will have something solid to report by the Spring meetings.

On another front, BHS has, as most of you know, dumped their home-grown member system and replaced it with a new and “improved” Member Center II. To say it has been a less-than-successful transition would be a gross understatement. I am preparing a detailed analysis of all of the flaws I have uncovered, but I think it is going to take a lot more than individuals hollering to get anything done, and so I encourage President Rosica to engage with other district presidents to form a united coalition in protest.



BHS Virtual Campus





### Central Arizona Quartet Chapter By Bill Kane

The **Central Arizona Quartet Chapter** continues to have regular Zoom sessions, most recently enjoying a visit from **Boardwalk Quartet**, from Atlanta. This entertaining comedy foursome features “**Pookie**” from *Fred* on Bass, **David Calland**, **Uptown Sound** Lead on Bari or sometimes *Dapper Dan* **Chad Bennett**, **Brad Hine** on Tenor who probably gets tired of being introduced as Clay’s brother, and **Mark Schlinkert** on Lead, a 3rd generation Barbershopper whose dad sang in the **Roaring 20s**. Our guys and a bunch of guests had a great time getting to know the Quartet members and hearing/watching them perform. You can find a number of their performances on YouTube. We recommend them.

Our members have begun getting vaccinations for COVID-19. We hope as the level of vaccination increases in our population, we will be able to start rehearsing in person for a series of performances the City of Phoenix has commissioned us to do. Until then, we will continue Zooming.

January 23 was a sad day for the Chapter as our first member lost his battle with COVID-19. **Mike Elbert**, also President of the **Tucson Chapter**, had lost his wife to the virus earlier in the week. Here is Mike with a winning Arizona Division Platoon Champ Quartet (second from the right).



### Mesa Chapter By John Soper

The **East Valley Barbershop Harmonizers** from Mesa, Arizona, completed a successful fourth quarter, despite COVID-19. We continued weekly Zoom meetings, remaining focused on vocal and performance quality enhancement, while building our repertoire for future performances.

For the holiday season, the Chorus created virtual singing e-cards, featuring holiday songs performed by the Harmonizer Chorus. The holiday e-cards were marketed on social media and sent to loved ones across the country by our members, family, and friends. The process of recording vocal parts at home was a great learning experience for all who participated. Director **Russ Young** was our studio expert, blending our voices, video, and holiday graphics into a memorable holiday experience for all.

We would like to congratulate our newly elected 2021 Board members: **Phil Kraft** (President), **John Johnson** (Past-president), **Gary Somerville** (Secretary), **Adam Kaufman** (Treasurer), **Greg Grace** (Music VP), **Ken Brannon** (Chorus manager), **Michael LaPorte** (Membership VP), **Matthew Roberts** (Marketing VP), **Thom Olmstead** (Program VP), **John Stewart** and **Vic Bowen** (members-at-large).

We welcome you to join our Thursday evening online meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, visit our website at <http://evBarbershop.com>.

### Prescott Chapter By Sam Stimple

The **High Mountain Chordsmen** continue to protect the health of our Chapter members and their families and did not hold any formal Barbershop activities during the final quarter of 2020. The Prescott Chapter Board will meet soon to brainstorm its future direction.

### Salt River Valley Chapter By Eric Bjornsen

A **Cappella Syndicate** continued to meet over Zoom during the fourth quarter, which allowed its singers to keep in



touch, play a few games, and work on some new music. Zoom meetings have been well attended. As a testament to the commitment of the group, a recent meeting had 100% attendance.

The absence of public performances spurred the Syndicate to tackle the next-best-thing, a Holiday video entitled, *Christmas at Home*, which first aired December 20. This 55-minute video is still available for viewing on YouTube ([https://youtu.be/kcaly-9\\_XjY](https://youtu.be/kcaly-9_XjY)) and includes several tunes from their Christmas CD, *Syndicate Comes a-Caroling*. The production also included new music, a few amusing anecdotes from holidays past, and special Quartet appearances by the **Associates**, **Heat Wave**, and **Vocalocity**, the current Far Western District Champion. One of the highlights of the effort was a collage video of *O Come All Ye Faithful* where each singer performed separately but the entire ensemble was brought together through technology. The Syndicate owes special thanks to **Zack Wiegand**, who assisted with much of the video engineering. The group enjoyed putting it all together and being able to deliver some harmony to friends and family in an otherwise constrained Holiday Season. "This was fantastic!!!" said one viewer, "you found a way to bring your special talent and spirit to us regardless of current circumstances."

A Cappella Syndicate lost a dear friend, **Fraser Brown**, in December. Fraser, or Flex, as he was known to the Syndicate, was well-known and loved in Barbershop circles far and wide. He will be missed. More info on Fraser can be found at [ACappella-Syndicate.com](http://ACappella-Syndicate.com).

**Tucson Chapter**  
**By Frank Hartline**

The **Tucson Sunshine Chapter** has been meeting virtually since March 2020 after canceling our annual show due to COVID concerns. We did some caroling over the Christmas holidays and met for outdoor rehearsals, masked and socially distanced, under Director **Luke Diamond**. On December 12, we serenaded a housing area by walking down the street and singing Christmas carols to residents in lawn chairs as we passed. The event organizers fed us sloppy joes and cider afterward. Fun for all but very difficult to sing well through a mask. Since then, we have been recording Barberpole Cats. Our Director is putting them together, and we intend to send them out as Singing Valentines in emails and on Facebook for Valentine's Day. We are staying active and singing. We lost our President **Mike Elbert** to COVID in January. He was a many-term President of our Chapter and beloved Barbershopper.

**White Mountains Chapter**  
**By Everett Peterson**

The **White Mountain Chapter High Country Chorus** is not yet meeting, and it could be some more months before we do. Therefore, our officers have agreed to continue serving in their current roles for 2021. We continue to stay connected as a Chapter through group emails to support members who have experienced loss or illness. In the past couple weeks, we lost the wife of one of our longtime members to Covid-19. We also learned of the passing of a former member who was active in our Chorus 10 years ago. Several of our members have been fortunate to receive a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, so we're hopeful that we will be able to resume rehearsals in the coming months with a goal of performing our annual Christmas Show in early December 2021.



**Editor note:** After 18 long years, Roger Perkins is stepping down from the Northeast Division Editor responsibilities. Family matters now require his full attention and restrain his ability to continue. Besides that, he's older than I am, and I'm "Older Than Dirt". Roger is a 50+ year BHS member and is well known in the NE Division, if not most of the FWD. **A BIG THANK YOU TO ROGER.**

If you are interested in becoming the Northeast Division Editor for Westunes, please email Westunes Editor Ray Rhymer at [westuneseditor@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:westuneseditor@farwesterndistrict.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 Northeast Division members and chapters. The task is not difficult, but does require a commitment 4 times a year in late Jan, Apr, Jul, & Oct.

Or, you may contact David Melville, Marketing Director at [marketing@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:marketing@farwesterndistrict.org)



## California Delta Chapter By Blair Reynolds

Like every other Chapter, there is not much going on with the California Delta Chapter. To maintain connection and get our “comradery fix,” we hold Zoom meetings weekly on our regularly scheduled rehearsal night. Singing doesn’t work very well on Zoom and guys bounce in or out each week, as the mood strikes or time permits, but it’s really great to see each other’s faces and be able to catch up with what is going on in our lives on a regular basis.

We held our annual Installation of Officers on January 9, with Joe Cerutti, Music Director for the Alexandria Harmonizers and Director of Outreach for the Society, doing the installation. Joe is one of only three people in history to earn the title of “Master Director” in both Sweet Adelines International and the Barbershop Harmony Society. Due to pandemic restrictions, instead of a typical Awards Dinner we connected by Zoom and virtually “shared” a dessert and a beverage of choice (mostly adult), while Joe installed the following people to our Board for 2021:

President  
Music VP  
Marketing VP

Tim Huntsinger  
Keith Slater  
Dwayne Smith

Membership VP Richard Brunner  
Treasurer Scott West  
Secretary Tim Jackson  
Board Members-at-Large Jennifer Fulkerson  
(Outside Director), Charles Goldman and Jeff Asbury

We have just posted new learning tracks as our Music Team is preparing for when conditions allow us to get together, and we are all champing at the bit. Hopefully, it won’t be long before we can harmonize once again.

And last (and *definitely* least), we had a virtual fantasy football league last September through December, and the final standings show Rich Brunner in first, Blair Reynolds runner-up, and Tim Huntsinger in third. It was a lot of fun.

That’s it from the Voices of California. We send our best wishes to all for a wholly different and wonderful experience this year.

## Davis-Vacaville Chapter By Roy Mattice

We are simply meeting on Zoom and working on music we haven’t sung in a long time and/or never sung before.



## San Francisco Chapter – Cable Car Chorus By Charles Feltman – Musical Director

Since the Covid-19 shutdown began, our **Cable Car Chorus** singing has been mostly remote. This initially meant only singing “together” on Zoom along with recordings while muted. We experimented a little with “Jamulus” to see if we could improve the quality over our regular Zoom meetings. Thanks to a few of our members who are cyclists, we found a possible location near the Polo Field at the west end of Golden Gate Park. At the entrance to this area, there is a pedestrian/cycling underpass that has a regular steady wind. We decided to offer the option of singing in person while standing in this wind tunnel effect.

So, in October and early November, we decided to try and meet in person.

We found early Friday afternoons would be the best as this time had minimal underpass traffic. Those of us not at risk for traveling came to sing while masked at double arm’s length. We know other cyclists enjoyed this as they slowed down while passing our group to listen a little. Regrettably, as the post-Thanksgiving Covid-19 spike across the state rose, we decided to not attempt this again until it’s much safer. If things start to re-open in early 2021 our “wind tunnel harmonizing” can hopefully resume, other neighboring Chapters are welcome to join us!





# Southeast DivisionOPEN • Division Editor



**Editor note:** If you are interested in becoming the Southeast Division Editor for Westunes, please email Westunes Editor Ray Rhymer at [westuneseditor@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:westuneseditor@farwesterndistrict.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. Or, you may contact David Melville, Marketing Director at [marketing@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:marketing@farwesterndistrict.org)



# Southwest DivisionJustin McQueen • Division Editor



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

The Valley Harmony Singers wish to extend to all members of the Far Western District a Happy and Healthy New Year. May 2021 be the beginning of the end of the Stay-at-Home Order for all. Let's all get vaccinated so we can once again do what we all love the most; meet in person and sing 4-part harmony in the Barbershop style.

On January 11, 2021 the Valley Harmony Singers Mixed Chorus held our First Virtual Installation and Awards Meeting on Zoom. Our Installing Officer was **Shelley Herman**. Shelley was the B.O.T.Y. 1967.

He is also Past President and winner of the **Rang Hansen Memorial Award** in 2018. The theme of the installing ceremony was the characters of the "Music Man". Twenty of our members plus guests were present. We were also entertained by our youngest member, **Kevin Longobart** age 16. The following awards were presented:

**Tom Raffety** (our Director), Rang Hansen Memorial Award.  
**Bob Karlin**, Roger Dixon Memorial Award.

**Kathie Edwards**, Owen Edwards, Jr. Memorial Award.  
**Mark Wolf**, Doug Ward Memorial Award.

The Broken Donkey Award was presented to **Bob Czubiak**, past member, and **Ben Marder** B.O.T.Y. 2014.

The **2020 Barbershopper of the Year** is **Mathew Schreiber**. Mathew served our Chorus for many years not only as a Board Member, but in so many other ways. Mathew was a member of Encore, (Entertainment Community Outreach Ensemble). Mathew was also a member of one of our longest continuously running Quartets "Bill's Bari Pie". This was a well-deserved and long overdue award.

This year we presented the **Barbershopper of the Decade Award** to **Bob Karlin**. Bob was B.O.T.Y. 2006. Bob has served on our Board for several years as Communications V.P. and is our Chorus Music Librarian. Bob is also a member of the Music Team. Bob has written and directed several of our annual shows. He is very talented at graphic design, and has designed most of our fliers. Bob is also a member of one of the most entertaining Quartets in the Far Western District, "Oddly Enuf". Last year Bob helped set up our virtual rehearsal meetings on Zoom. Bob is also the Administrator of our new website on Choir Genius Groupanizer. What a guy!!!!



On January 25, 2021 **Rob Mance** was our guest speaker at our Zoom meeting. Rob's topic was, "Principles of Vocal Production". Rob is the Artistic Director of Central Standard Chorus and founding Artistic Director of SAI Chorus. Rob's presentation was both informative and enlightening.

This year seems to be the beginning of a new day. A day filled with promise and hope. Only time will tell how successful the major undertaking of vaccinating the country will be. In the meantime, the Valley Harmony Singers will continue meeting on Zoom, and try to be as innovative as we possibly can be.

### **Rincon Beach (Pacific Sound Chorus)** **By Brent Anderson**

Like all Chapters, we're very much missing personal contact, and although we have held Zoom meetings every week, and we're incredibly happy to have consistent member representation... it's getting old. But we're successfully managing to sing, exercise our vocal instruments, maintain our community and also to keep up with our music. So, when the time comes to be together, we'll be able to jump back into group rehearsals.

Each week we socialize for a few minutes and then start the "rehearsal" with a mental warm up. Most of them come from BHS videos shared from Harmony U classes, but occasionally, other "mind game" videos can be found on YouTube and the Internet. They are fun.

We have a vocal warm up and this is also, usually, by singing along with a video. **Tony DeRosa** has created a series of three vocal warm up sessions and we're grateful to him for his help.

We really enjoy **Kathleen Hansen's** many YouTube videos which not only are warm-ups, but many are instructional videos on vocal technique, singing in tune, reviving your voice and even instruction on how to use TE Tuner, which is a great app for your phone. Kathleen is an accomplished Sweet Adeline and also the Vocal Director for the **San Diego Men's Barbershop Chorus**. Just go to YouTube, type in **Khansenmusic**, and you'll find all her many, excellent, 12-14 minute videos.

A couple of our more tech-savvy guys have taken our rep songs and created audio and video files so we can practice and keep our music fresh. The music comes up on our Zoom screen and that song's learning track plays so we can sing along. We even have tags that way, with the music on the screen and then we teach each voice part separately, followed by a couple times through, with all parts. It's fun, and challenging, to learn voice parts other than our usual part.

We also have a "music appreciation" portion to our weekly meeting, where our musical leadership shows us videos of great musical recordings, and quite often, not Barbershop. We've seen choral performance, vocal jazz and many spectacular, professional, usually a cappella, performance artists.

Whereas each weekly get-together is "kinda the same" we mix it up and occasionally have a guest who shares ideas and stories and reminds us that there is other great Barbershop life outside of our wonderful little group of guys.

We are experimenting with an app called **SoundTrap**, which allows each singer to record songs or tags, by singing along with a learning track for synchronization, and then, like a professional recording studio, it allows each singer to sync their vocal recording with the recordings submitted by other members. You can create a virtual Chorus, or just choose to have your voice with three other parts and make your own Quartet. It's fun, and challenging, and we're still learning...

We installed our 2021 slate of officers in a Zoom meeting in late Dec. Most of our officers stayed the same, with **Russell Rawls** repeating as President for a second term. We also welcomed **Tony Korianitis** to the position of Program VP. **John Miller**, BHS Exec VP and two-time Quartet gold Medalist, was our installing officer and **Storm Front** was our entertainment as we watched the video from their appearance on our 2019 show held in Santa Barbara.

Many thanks to **Bobby Georges** and **Joel Levitz** who set up the video performances we enjoy each week.

Usually, we have a number of Quartets out delivering Singing Valentines, but we just couldn't get that done this year... but we still practiced the songs to be ready for next year. We remain optimistic and we are grateful for the science that has developed the vaccines which will soon allow us to again be together without fear of transmittal.

### **OCEANAIREs** **By MARTY MITNICK**

No, we are not sorry to see 2020 in our rear-view mirror. In spite of the pandemic, we in the **Oceanaires** were able to meet each and every week with the wonderful aid of that fantastic invention Zoom. Our virtual meetings under the direction of our terrific Director, **Laura Pallas Singer**, have been well attended. She has continued to teach us ways to improve our singing ability and keeping us up to date with our musical library. We are fortunate to have **Jim McElwain** as our President who has led us through a difficult year. In appreciation for all of his hard work, the following proclamation has been authored by our longtime member, **Frank De Vanzo**.



## Resolution for 2021

Whereas, **Jim McElwain** is an upstanding member of the **Santa Monica Oceanaires** Men's Barbershop Chorus: so upstanding that when he stands up many of us cannot see that high in the sky.

Whereas, **Jim McElwain** became the President of the **Oceanaires** Men's Chorus for the year 2020, following a hotly contested campaign for that office in which he invoked the name of each and every President of our Proud Country in order to achieve the high office of President of the **Oceanaires** Men's Chorus.


Whereas, following the onset of the Covid 19 Pandemic, said **Jim McElwain** has hosted, conducted, planned and cajoled the Merry Men of the **Oceanaires** Men's Chorus to continue their participation in the noble endeavor of Barbershop singing, acting as Supreme Host and Emcee for each and every rehearsal, Board Meeting and Chief Instigator and Inspiragator of all significant events, including the Group Christmas Card which has been disseminated far and wide and appreciated by all.

And whereas, **Jim McElwain** acted as the Party Master of the **Oceanaires** Annual Christmas Party where at he was honored by all those present as the most upstanding and honored **Oceanaire** for 2020, being responsible, along with our charming Director, **Laura Pallas Singer**, for the preservation and salvation of Men's Barbershop Singing on the West Side of the Greater Los Angeles Basin.

NOW THEREFORE,

We, the Santa Monica **Oceanaires**, do hereby unanimously resolve, proclaim and acclaim said **Jim McElwain** to be the Barbershopper of the year 2020, conferring upon him all entitlements, preferment, and honors, if any, pertaining thereto.

As a sign of wonderful commitment, **Jim McElwain** and the entire Board of Directors, have committed themselves to another year of service in their respective position



**VOCALOCITY**  
QUARTET

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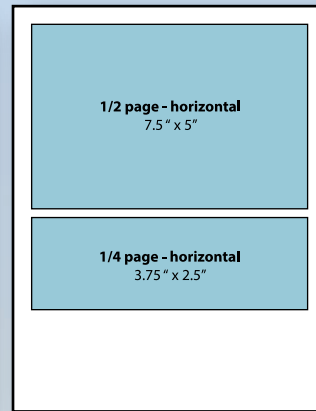
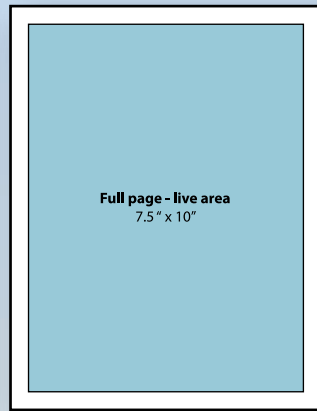
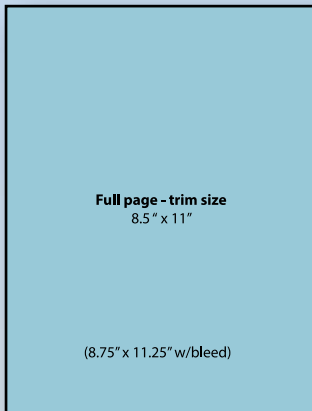


# KEEP CALM AND KEEP SINGING



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# WESTUNES Advertising Rates



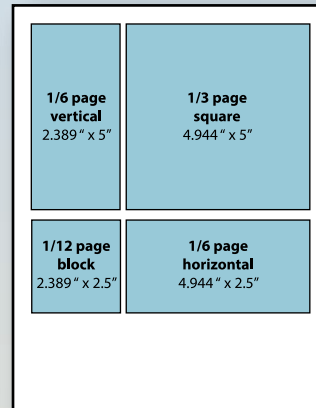
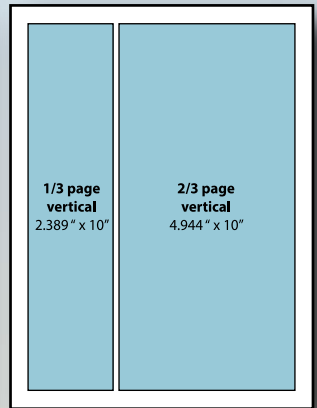
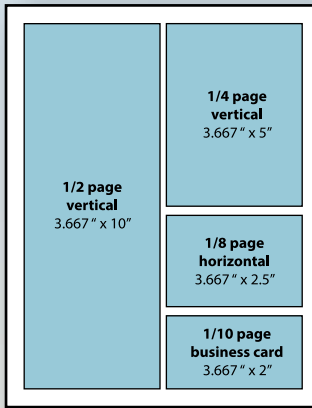
Ads must be received in one of the following digital formats:

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

## COVID-19 RESOLUTION ALL 2021 SPRING CONVENTIONS ARE CANCELLED

- March 10-13, 2022 FWD Spring Convention: Prelims, SE/SW Divisions, location TBD

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

## EVENTS REGISTRATION

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

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

### SOUTHEAST DIVISION

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

### SOUTHWEST DIVISION

Kathy Kileen  
[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  
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## EVENTS

Bryan Forbes  
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## FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Roe Darnell  
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## HALL OF FAME

Gordon "Moongo" Bergthold  
[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)



## Board of Directors

### PRESIDENT

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

### EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

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### SECRETARY

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### TREASURER

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

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

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

### VP ARIZONA DIVISION

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

### VP NORTHEAST DIVISION

Chuck Roots  
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### VP NORTHWEST DIVISION

Rich Postal  
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### VP SOUTHEAST DIVISION

Kyle Williamson  
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### VP SOUTHWEST DIVISION

Kathy Kileen  
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### VP CONTESTS & JUDGING

Brett Littlefield  
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### VP MUSIC & PERFORMANCE

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