



Westunes Vol. 71 No. 3

Fall 2021



WESTUNES

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

ALERT

August 4, 2021 — In light of the current COVID Delta variant and in the interest of the health and safety of the membership of the FWD, the October convention and contest scheduled for Gilbert, AZ is CANCELLED.

Choruses wishing to qualify to compete at the 2022 International in Charlotte, and Senior Quartets who wish to qualify to compete at the 2022 Midwinter in Pasadena may do so by video submission to be received no later than Saturday, October 9, 2021.

Please contact

**Brett Littlefield (DRCJ) (drcj@farwesterndistrict.org)
as soon as possible to express your interest and to receive instructions on making and submitting your video.**

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

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Thank You, Jim Halvorson, for Your Outstanding Leadership of the Las Vegas Silver Statesmen Barbershop Chorus!

It's a bittersweet moment for the Silver Statesmen Barbershop Chorus of Las Vegas as we bid a fond farewell to our longtime Director, Mr. Jim Halvorson.

Jim took a group of men with different levels of musical experience, but with a shared love of singing Barbershop, and molded them into an award-winning chorus. He turned every rehearsal into a Master Class on vocal performance and technique. He demanded the best and we responded with our best. He patiently guided us over the musical rough spots and praised us when we got it right.

Even during the uncertain times brought about by a global pandemic, the certainty of Jim's able and steady stewardship of our chorus was a beacon of inspiration for all of us. As a dedicated music teacher and award-winning Barbershopper in our District and Society, Jim's musical expertise enriched and educated us. His wry sense of humor lifted our spirits. And his integrity, ethics, and decades of commitment to Barbershop set the standard to which we all aspire.

During the lockdown, Jim used his encyclopedic knowledge of Barbershop to take our chorus on a fascinating online historical journey of Barbershop singing that captivated both veteran Barbershoppers and newcomers alike. This fostered a greater appreciation of what makes singing Barbershop unique. It has also served to remind us why we love this distinctive style of music and why our Barbershop brotherhood is a "way of life" that we all embrace.

Under the most challenging circumstances brought about by COVID-19, Jim kept our chorus laser-focused on honing and improving our vocal craft. He leveraged innovative technology such as *Smart Music* to help us improve our individual and collective performance skills. He challenged us to expand our musical horizons through participation in a unique "virtual chorus." And, even though we met on *Zoom* instead of in-person for more than a year, he continued to inspire us to take our award-winning and signature "Silver Statesmen Sound" to new heights of excellence.

These are but a few of the many reasons why we were most fortunate to have Jim Halvorson as the Director of the Silver Statesmen. Therefore, on behalf of the Board of Directors and membership of the Silver Statesmen Barbershop Chorus, we hereby express our sincere and heartfelt gratitude for his inspiring leadership, unfailing dedication, and outstanding service to our chorus.

Jim, from the first hello, to the last goodbye, it's been awfully nice to know you. We'll miss your talent and your leadership. Wherever your musical journey takes you, we hope you'll drop by from time to time to join us in a few tags. Good luck and God-speed. You will be missed.

In Harmony,

The Silver Statesmen Board of Directors
and Barbershop Chorus
Las Vegas, Nevada

The **Silver**
Statesmen
SilverStatesmen.com

HARMONY CAMP 2021

Although difficult to write an article on Harmony Camp 2021 given the uncertainty of COVID in October 2021, so I decided to think a bit outside the box and focus on our plans, our hopes, and our dreams for both this year and on into the future. We are currently planning that HC 2021 will happen. We have our fingers, toes, and elbows crossed, realizing that with the latest surge in Covid, the probability of another cancellation is possible.

We have Midtown coming from back east, we are discussing new ideas regarding our Saturday morning classes and a format change for our Sunday show. It's going to be truly spectacular. Our clinicians (Gabe Caretto, Dean; Ron Black; Chris Lewis; and Bruce Sellnow) have selected the song each will direct.

Our first outreach emails have gone out to former HC attendees and music attendees. We have had very positive responses from both. We even have our first registration. Comments from one parent said, "our youth need this at this time". Thank you".

Historically our outreach has gone through choral music programs in the schools, and this has been quite successful. However, in this time of limited opportunities for musical growth both in and out of school, we are expanding our outreach to those boys whose schools may not have a music program or those who may not participate in the music program at their school. In 2019 we began sending materials to community groups / organizations (Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, etc.) that may have contact with young men who may have an interest in attending Harmony Camp. This year we will also be sending out informational materials to church organizations. We have the informational materials available and would be happy to forward them to you should you be familiar with groups in touch with young men. Personal contact is always preferable, however if you have groups that you feel may have an interest, I am happy to send materials to them.

We have also been in discussions with a group in the San Jose area that provides programs in the middle schools. The discussions are in the early stages, however what is extremely exciting is that a former Harmony Camp attendee is the person who brought this opportunity to us and is an integral part of the potential opportunity.

So, yes, there are exciting things going on with our Harmony Camp program. Please join our outreach program – let us know what you need to reach out to the schools and organizations in your community. As always, please provide suggestions / comments.

There is a magic in the music we make so let's share it with the youth of our communities. We are close to providing ongoing funding for Harmony Camp. Let us now work together to provide ongoing outreach to our communities.

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

LLOYD STEINKAMP ENDOWMENT FUND FOR FWD HARMONY CAMP

Although communicating with you about Harmony Camp 2021 was difficult given the uncertain times in which we live, my message regarding the Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund for FWD Harmony Camps is upbeat and positive. As of this writing, the fund is at \$180,000. Earnings for the period ending July 2021 have not yet been added.

Our hopes and plans for the future with respect to Harmony Camp are tied inescapably with the Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund and its inexorable climb toward that magic \$200,000 level where we can start withdrawing funds in support of Harmony Camp. The truly positive aspect of this fund is that it will almost always grow, as the stock market continues its climb. The folks at the Sacramento Region Community Foundation have done an excellent job guiding the investments so that a sound and solid financial future for our Harmony Camp and future youth activities in the Far Western District are almost certainly on track.

We are governed by the rules of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation (SRCF) for withdrawal of funds in support of Harmony Camp. Their rule for withdrawal in any one year is currently four percent of the rolling average of the preceding twelve quarters. That number is calculated for us and is included on every statement that we receive from the SRCF at the end of each quarter. This amount will obviously grow with each passing quarter as the rolling 12 quarter average grows. The Fund will continue to grow with the investment returns of the SRCF even with the withdrawals allowed by the SRCF for the FWD Harmony Camp.

Our dreams are that some day off in the future, more boys in the northern region of the FWD will know of Harmony Camp and will look forward every year to being able to come together at Harmony Camp and experience the joys of barbershop harmony and culture. And as the message of barbershop expands, boys from across the Far Western District will have the opportunity and privilege of being able to attend a Harmony Camp in their region. It can happen. It can happen with good leadership. Let's all strive to make it happen.

The unifying nature of music is never more apparent than what takes place at a weekend of Harmony Camp. The success of the Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund for FWD Harmony Camps ensures that we will be able to continue to fund Harmony Camps into the future.

Thank you to all the donors who believe in the future of our youth and the future of Barbershop and continue to make this weekend possible!!!

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



Greater Los Angeles Area Chapter Masters of Harmony by Ron Larson

The Masters of Harmony Get Back on Stage

The Masters find a new rehearsal home in La Mirada

In December 2019, the Santa Fe Springs City Council decided not to renew the agreement that allowed MOH to use its Town Center facilities for the previous 32 years. Public Relations VP **Larry Icenogle** joined **Ron Andreas** and **Bart Halberstadt** to canvass local areas for suitable rehearsal and equipment storage space. The search led them to the La Mirada United Methodist Church and with the help of MOH legal advisor **Kirt Thiesmeyer**, a contract was drawn up just before the MOH coaching session with **Tony De Rosa** on March 11, 2020. Who knew that March 11 coaching session would be the last rehearsal the Masters would have for the next 15 months because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic?! However, with the unwavering support of LMUMC Pastor **Paige Eaves**, the agreement came to life in mid-2021. Pastor Eaves, her church chain of command, and MOH leaders worked tirelessly to make sure that MOH rehearsals would be in full compliance with CDC, national, state, and local guidelines. The first in-person MOH rehearsal was held on June 16 at Smith Hall on the LMUMC campus. Rehearsals since then have averaged 55 members with 96% of them fully vaccinated.

The Masters of Harmony safe-return-to-rehearsals protocols

Because of the known risks of unprotected indoor singing, a MOH Safe Return Committee was formed to study and coordinate full implementation of current CDC, local government and LMUMC requirements to make the rehearsal experience as safe as possible. The committee was made up of **Craig Hughes, Dr. Chris Peterson, Larry Icenogle, Hugh Brown, Justin McQueen, and Kirt Thiesmeyer.**

In addition to taking these rehearsal precautions, the MOH purchased and installed top-of-the-line MERV-13 filters for the HVAC system in Smith Hall. The building itself has four open doors on each side of the hall and eight ceiling fans circulating air continuously to promote good airflow through the building during rehearsals. Spacing guidelines used by choruses such as **Alexandria Harmonizers, Sound of the Rockies, Vocal Majority** are maintained throughout the rehearsals.

Marketing the Masters of Harmony in La Mirada

Sometimes being forced to change is a blessing in disguise. The move from Santa Fe Springs to La Mirada offers greater opportunities to market the MOH. The population of La Mirada is 2.5 times larger. It has a larger high school and a private college with an enrollment of 6,000 students thus offering greater youth

outreach opportunities. VP of Marketing **Bart Halberstadt** says the MOH will reach out to its new community home by joining the La Mirada Chamber of Commerce, meeting the mayor, and by Christmas caroling at assisted living facilities. The MOH will be offering a benefit performance in our new church home and will propose musical collaborations with La Mirada High School as well as Biola University. Events such as these will be posted on the MOH email newsletter, available on Facebook and our public website. Kudos go to **Kenny Rios** and **Mark Freedkin** for making Masters events such as these visible to our social network followers.

The Masters of Harmony-Alexandria Harmonizers "Stars and Stripes Forever" Virtual project

The Masters of Harmony-Alexandria Harmonizers collaboration to produce a virtual recording of John Philip Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever" in time for the July 4th "Tribute to America" program was a big success. The video was shown at the 2021 Virtual International. Los Angeles TV station KTLA Channel 5 broadcast a portion of it on its Weekend News segment. The MOH posted it on its Facebook page and it is now viewable on the Masters of Harmony YouTube channel.

Masters of Harmony Outreach to Minority Communities

AIC and BHS are sponsoring a community outreach program that brings some of our top quartets with different racial backgrounds to communities that seldom experience a musical style that began with minority singers. This showcasing of barbershop talent can pave the way for barbershop workshops in local high schools. Community Outreach Manager **Charles Carothers** is working on developing the MOH version of that outreach program.

The Masters of Harmony Chapter Eternal

It is with sadness that the Masters announce the passing of long-time member and nine-time chorus gold medalist **Dan Place**. During his 32-year stint with the Masters, Dan served as a board member-at-large (six terms), VP-Marketing, VP-Public Relations, and staff writer for MOH publications. He shared the 2003 Quartet of the Year award (**Top-Notch**) with **Larry Goodfried, Art Taylor** and **Les Weiser** and the 1997 Harmony Union award with his wife **Gay**.



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

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Bill Rosica

Far Western District President
president@farwesterndistrict.org



FWD WEBSITE ANNOUNCEMENT

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Please contact Brett Littlefield (DRCJ) as soon as possible to express your interest and to receive instructions on making and submitting your video.

Here it is in the middle of Summer, already and FINALLY, some of us are back to singing with our brothers and sisters. Your Board met in June in Fullerton for the first time, in person, since Fall of 2019. We even sang a little in between our other Board duties. I won't go into all that business. You can view that on the District website (Media, Board agendas and Minutes).

Your Board is very excited about another event or two as well. In the planning stages is a visit to some underserved schools in the LA area by members of the Association of International Champions (AIC). Tim Broersma, Antone Rodich, Kenny Rios, Rob Menaker and Charles Carothers are working on a visit to some local schools to introduce Barbershop music to some students who may not know about our type of music. Workshops at several schools are in the works so that the students might get a chance to "Sing with the Champs". Tentatively, this will happen sometime in January. Also in January, the Midwinter Convention will be coming to

Pasadena, California. Stay tuned for more information about a Senior's District Chorus Contest.

As I mentioned earlier, some Chapters are getting back together to sing in person. It sure would be nice to see some of those stories in the next Westunes. Check this edition for the name and email of your Division Editor. Speaking of Westunes: our editor, Ray Rhymer will be retiring from his position at the end of the year after completing 20 years of service. What a great job Ray has done over the years. Having been an Editor-in-Chief myself, I know how much is needed to publish such a great magazine. Thanks Ray. You can't go far. You're still an Emeritus Editor and we shall call on you from time to time.

Finally, please make use of your Division Vice Presidents. They are there to serve your needs. There are some Chapters that never participate in our polls and never answer phone calls from the Division VPs. We, as a Board, can only help you if we know what you're doing or not doing. We have five very dedicated people who have a wealth of experience and would love to share it. Whether it's filing your required paperwork to the State or Federal Government or finding out if your music is legal or maybe some ideas about membership, these gentlemen and lady are available. And, of course, you can always contact me at President@farwesternDistrict.org.



**ROB MENAKER
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DAN DAVENPORT**

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Adam Kaufman

VP Arizona Division

dvp-arizona@farwesterndistrict.org

There is nothing more intimidating than a blank piece of paper when you need to write something, and you just don't feel like you have anything new to say.

We wanted to have a Fall Convention, and the virus got in the way...again.

Many Choruses and Quartets are back rehearsing in person here in Arizona, and this is a good thing. We are back to ringing chords, standing together in solidarity, and enjoying each other's company, and this is a good thing. We were getting ready to do it on a grander level, and we still are...that grander level will just have to wait a bit longer. This will be a good thing.

Keep singing, keep striving, keep calm and sing.

There are good things to come.



Chuck Roots

VP Northeast Division

dvp-northeast@farwesterndistrict.org

Man, am I glad that we are back singing together in person! I've been traveling for several weeks so I've been unable to sing with my Chorus for a few weeks, but it sure was great to get back with the guys at GVC (Golden Valley Chorus). This past Tuesday night we finished the evening singing a tag, which is what we normally do.

But this particular evening we were definitely ringing some chords. Zach Stillman, our Director, is a high school music teacher and likes having some fun. So, he picked "From the First Hello to the Last Goodbye" as our tag.

If you've never ripped this tag, make sure you petition your Music Team and Director to give it a go. I sing Tenor with GVC, but after we'd run through this tag a whole bunch of times my voice was starting to feel the effects of hitting the last note the Leads post for the final chord. The version we sang is in the key of F. The Leads post to the F, which for me is a stretch. It really becomes a stretch after singing this tag over and over. Did I mention that I was the only Lead at rehearsal that evening? The summer months do that. But one of the Baritones, Greg DeMers, came over to help me out.

I spoke with Zach after we concluded our evening, telling him that singing tags as a Chorus, then breaking into a Quartet to ring that chord, is one of the primary reasons I love this hobby of ours so much.

Honestly, if it hadn't been for my voice faltering at the end of the evening, I'd probably still be there!

How about you? Are you back singing with your Chorus again? If not, get off that couch and start doing what you love: Ringing Chords! Your friends are waiting for you!

Hope to hear you ringing soon!



Rich Postal

VP Northwest Division

dvp-northwest@farwesterndistrict.org

Isn't it GREAT to hear four-part harmony again live. As we work our way through the pandemic that has affected us all during the last 16 months, the happiness to ring chords with your friends again is a real boost to our spirit. Some groups are resuming in person while still trying to protect all by using singing masks. Others are checking CDC vaccination cards before admitting anyone into their rehearsal. Others are still in the zoom mode. In our Northwest Division I know of at least three Choruses that have lost their meeting hall. Two are also looking for a new Director. Attendance has been down from pre-Covid numbers in almost all cases. The main point is that we all have new challenges as we move forward, and your Chorus is not alone solving these problems. Sometimes it is hard to know how to approach these issues. I encourage you

to reach out to your membership, your Chapter Board, and also to your Division Vice Presidents for guidance where needed. Most of these men have many years of Barbershop experience and have seen and developed plans for resolving what sometimes seems an unresolvable problem. Be patient, and while you work through the challenges, keep singing, inviting guests, performing for your friends and neighbors, and rebuilding your Chapter to suit the goals of your members.



I believe we Barbershoppers to be an incredibly creative group of people. I say this because I hear of the many ways we devise rehearsals to meet the needs of "our" particular Choruses. Many are just beginning to rehearse in person. Some rehearse in person, but outdoors. Others rehearse indoors with outdoor breaks. Still others are continuing to meet by Zoom on regular rehearsal nights with an added in-person rehearsal on a weekend afternoon. Some still rehearse using both Zoom and Jamulus plus in-person rehearsals on occasion. It's a matter of whatever works for you and your Chorus....works!

One thing that stands out to me is the fact that this is still uncharted territory. We're all just finding our way with this new normal. This not quite post pandemic normal. And if we can add the joy that singing brings back into our lives that's even more to be celebrated. So, sing every chance you get with anyone and everyone you can find to sing with...even if it's just tags. You'll be better off for it.

If you've had the opportunity to read President Bill Rosica's message you will know that your BOD met in person this past June. It was such a treat for me. My first in-person meeting to observe and participate in an honest-to-goodness FWD board meeting. Quite inspiring I must say. Wanna know the best part? The tag singing on Saturday night!! Some of us haven't sung a note outside of along with the car radio in months and months. It was a blast!

I trust that when we do come together that we will remember to treat each other with kindness. None of us knows of the other's journey. We do not know the reasons behind your choices and it's not necessary that we know. What is necessary is trust. I trust you to make the best choic-

es for yourself and your loved ones. And you trust me to make those same choices. We need to respect each other's choices, and be kind and loving to one other.

Lastly, I want to remind the Chapter leadership of the Southwest Division that if there are any questions, concerns, or comments for me, they need only to pick up the phone or shoot me an email. I'm here to serve as your liaison to the board and I'm eager to help in any way possible.



I am moving into the fall with measured optimism for a continued recovery to normal.

Our **Barbershop Normal** is a little different than the general public's but then so are we! We measure our joy in locking close harmonic chords followed by a big hug. Nothing comes close to the celestial ring and laughter of an exultation of Barbershoppers. We practice and listen in solitude, but our real joy comes with four or more.

I am fortunately singing in three Choruses that returned to rehearsal in June. All three stayed together during the "alone" phase using the familiar internet tools. Getting back together (outdoors, indoors, masked and without) has been a gift. While it reminds me of the good old days, the gift of togetherness comes with responsibility for each other. All three of my Choruses have different requirements for attending. It is important to honor those requirements without reservation. You can and should express your thoughts but adhere to the group wishes. It is much easier to ring a chord with friends!

Sing every day! Stay safe and in touch!! **Barbershop Normal** is just around the corner!!!

It is truly "Great to be a Barbershopper!"

"Keep the Whole World Singing"



Kenny Rios

Youth in Harmony

yih@farwesterndistrict.org

As another surge of the Corona 19 Virus has descended upon us, I find myself at a loss of words as to what it's done to our ability to go out and perform in public again. Hard hit was our 2021 Fall Convention which has been cancelled. Plans that were being made to bring our youth back into the world of A Cappella music at our October Convention had to be postponed.

But that doesn't mean we should give up. You can still reach out to local high schools and colleges and just ASK how you and your Chapter can assist the Music Department during this time of resurgence. Maybe there is nothing we can do, but the key is that you have to make contact and ASK. The contact alone will let these schools and music educators know how we view the importance of music education to our youth.

On a positive note, looking at the immediate future, Richard Lund is still planning the annual Harmony Camp in October. I will be looking at youth events in Southern California (to include Hawaii), and Nevada at the beginning of next year and can hopefully bring something to Arizona as well. My focus for the next few months will be to have our youth involved in the High School Quartet Competitions taking place next spring at Divisional Contests throughout our District... so stayed tuned!! This won't be easy and I'm going to need your help. If you have a High School or College Music Educator in mind that we (you and I) can contact NOW for the forming of future Quartets or that might be interested in showcasing their A Cappella ensemble, please contact me and let's see what we can put together for next spring. As we all know, our future is in our youth and the time to take action on our future is now.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!!

Las Vegas Chapter Director Search

The Silver Statesmen Barbershop Chorus from Las Vegas, Nevada, has an opening for a front-line director with a solid knowledge of Barbershop music. This director should be able to help us achieve our chorus goals:

M: Membership: To have constant growth in numbers

U: Unity: To be together in our commitment to our chorus and in all that we do

S: Singing: To improve our craft

I: Innovation: To have new ideas / imagination as it develops forward progress

C: Community: To give back to our community in form of involvement

More chorus information can be found at:

silverstatesmen.com

Contact: Wally Smulson (Music VP) at:

wsmulson@gmail.com or (847) 693-1418

Please apply within the next 30 days.



David Melville

Marketing & Public Relations

marketing@farwesterndistrict.org

My message this time is brief: like you, I am disappointed that we will not be celebrating our love of barbershop harmony together at the Fall Convention; but at the same time, I am relieved that our FWD Board of Directors had the wisdom to know it was in everyone's best interest to cancel the event.

My sincere respect goes to FWD President Bill Rosica and his team for taking on this very difficult topic and allowing opposing views to be heard. Together they concluded that the health and safety of our members was paramount and thus reached a unanimous decision.



Central Arizona Quartet Chapter
By Bill Kane

Our Quartet Chapter continues in-person rehearsals with virtually all members vaccinated. Several of our Quartets are in preparation for the FWD Fall Contest scheduled to be held at the Convention this October in Arizona. A number of our guys will compete in more than one Quartet! The Chapter is looking forward to a return of our half dozen “snowbirds”, so we will be at full strength for the performances we have been commissioned to do by the City of Phoenix, either later this fall or next spring.

Mesa Chapter
By John Soper

The **East Valley Barbershop Harmonizers** from Mesa, Arizona, returned to in-person rehearsals in June, while maintaining Zoom meeting access for those who are not yet able to attend, including those with COVID-19 health concerns and winter-resident members who reside outside of Arizona during summer months.

Our focus since reconvening in-person rehearsals includes re-engaging members who were inactive during the past year, reestablishing a quality unit sound to pre-pandemic levels, establishing and rehearsing the Chorus repertoire that we will perform in 2022, and preparing the Chorus for our return to competition at the Far Western District Convention in Gilbert, Arizona in October.

We would like to welcome two new members to our Chapter and the Harmonizer Chorus, **Dave Schwalm**, formerly with The Phoenicians Chorus, and **Dave Petersen**.

We welcome you to join us at our Thursday evening rehearsals from 6:45PM to 9:30PM at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 322 N. Horne, Mesa, AZ 85203, or online via Zoom. For more information, visit our website at <http://evBarbershop.com>.

Prescott Chapter
By Sam Stimple

During the second quarter, Prescott's **High Mountain Chordsmen** grew by two singers. We welcomed **Bob Geinosky**, dual member with Sun Cities Desertaires, and **Damien Gnese**, a teenager... Wow!

Antique Parts Quartet faithfully meets weekly. They sang (live!) “The Star-Spangled Banner” at the opening night of the Prescott Frontier Days Rodeo in late June. This Quartet loves to entertain the Chorus during cookie ‘n’ coffee break. Recently the Quartet donned white styrofoam skimmers and wore some of Nashville's colorful parts badges: “Tenors are Turr-ific”, “Leads are Luv-able”, “Baris are Be-guiling”, and “Basses are Bu-tiful!”. We had a badge for **Ed Roush**, our esteemed Chorus arm waver, that says “Directors are Dillies.”

The HMC Chorus performed at Prescott's Annual Memorial Day Remembrance program, held at the Citizens Cemetery. The program honored local men and women who served in our nation's armed forces, and who paid with their lives so we can enjoy the freedom to laugh, love, and sing. The Chorus also provided two hour-long Barbershop programs as citizens waited to participate in a wellness clinic at Findlay Toyota Center in Prescott Valley.

Members and guests, including fun-loving lady Barbershoppers, still gather every 4th Friday for Harmony for Lunch Bunch at the Golden Corral buffet in Prescott.

Salt River Valley Chapter
By Eric Bjornsen

In April 2021, **A Cappella Syndicate** resumed its in-person rehearsals after the COVID interruption. The guys were excited to be back and singing once again with their brothers.

Most of the Syndicate energies were spent in building back its repertoire and improving upon some new music that had been introduced over Zoom meetings last winter. Much of the effort was in preparation for private gigs and Chapter shows that are scheduled for

later this year, including its own holiday show.

As rehearsals started up, the Syndicate was fortunate to have been joined by three new members that had been in various stages of the audition process over the last 18 months. All three guys bring young, crisp voices and fun personalities to the mix – **Parker Rognrud, Terry Kim, and Jason Bullock.**

The Syndicate submitted a video to the BHS to play during the recent International Virtual Convention and were thrilled at the positive reaction from those that watched. Vis-à-vis the 2022 International Chorus Competition in Charlotte, NC, the Syndicate has started the planning process and is looking forward to the event. Syndicate musical leadership continues to be in demand by the Society; Artistic Directors **Gary Steinkamp** and **Brent Graham** are also active BHS judges.

Sedona Chapter **By Michael McCaffrey**

After 12 months of Zoom practices, **Harmony on the Rocks** has finally returned to face-to-face singing, albeit with masks in place. We have yet to decide if we will have our yearly concert but at the moment it looks as though we will postpone until 2022.

White Mountains Chapter **By Everett Peterson**

The **High Country Barbershop Chorus** began in-person rehearsals on July 13, with an option to join rehearsals by Zoom. The Chorus rehearses every Tuesday at the Blue Ridge High School Choir room from 6:00 to 7:35 pm with optional Quartet time until 8:30 pm.

The High Country Barbershop Chorus has been a traditional all-male Chorus, but as the Chorus regroups, they have plans to become a mixed Chorus and will welcome new male and female singers to visit rehearsals. After three rehearsals, singers may be invited to join the White Mountain Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society upon approval of Director **Theresa Dick** and the Chorus Board.

The Chorus tentatively plans to resume their popular *Christmas in the Pines* show at St. Mary's Catholic fellowship hall in Pinetop on Tuesday, December 14, featuring the Chorus and several area school choirs and music groups. Admission will be by donation with funds distributed to the participating school music groups.



Fresno **By Ron Whisenant**

STOKING THE FIRE!

The Fresno Chapter has worked hard over the last 12 months. We have had several activities laying building blocks to begin a new Chapter.

During the Pandemic we were able to have a Zoom meeting with VoCal's Director Gabe Caretto. We also hosted Tim Waurick and Tony DeRosa. I asked each of them to allow us to get to know them and have an intimate conversation with them.

It was a true blessing to get to know these men on a personal level. And I feel that this was the inspiration for **Stoking the fire!**

The highlight was learning about the men that inspired these great performers. Each of them shared how they were influenced in the Barbershop experience through high caliber individuals. This was the first building

block we needed to put down as a cornerstone to the foundation. **This stoked the fire** in me to re-build the Fresno Chapter that represented great men who inspired others. I felt a responsibility to begin reaching out to people I knew that could help us with the best building blocks.

A meeting was scheduled with **Terry Star, Jim Turnmire, Chuck Roots** (NorthEast VP), and our new Director **Randy Berger**. The purpose of this meeting was to lay out the two distinct differences that occur in a Chapter meeting. Through this meeting we learned about the importance of the individual over the music. This brought a total focus on the importance of the man and the investment we need to make in the individual Barbershopper. This was the second cornerstone: to put the member first, thus ensuring that we invest in all our members.

Over the past three months, the Chapter has met on a regular basis at a local pizza parlor. The event was a so-

cial activity, just singing tags and pole cats. Again, the focus was on the individual, ensuring they never felt that they were taken for granted. We used this time to put together a care package for our Zoom guests consisting of a card being signed by the membership and two bottles of wine (a red and a white). Like a barber pole (Ha Ha)!

Many people were invited and one night we had up to 30 individuals in attendance.

A huge blessing has been the acquisition of a new di-

rector, the aforementioned, Randy Berger. The music committee has also selected songs for Gospel, Patriotic, a show package, plus a short Christmas package.

Preparations are being made for the July 6 launch, with the focus that no member is left behind!

New name badges have also been made and we want to make sure that everyone is made to feel like they are a Gold Member of The Gold Note Chorus! The fire has been lit!

See 2 Frsno pictures below



Northwest Division
Don Shively • Division Editor

NO SUBMOITTALS

Southeast Division
OPEN • 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 or call me at 916-791-2134 to chat.

Or, you may contact David Melville, Marketing Director at marketing@farwesterndistrict.org



Southwest Division

Justin McQueen • Division Editor



Rincon Beach Chapter Pacific Sound Chorus By Brent Anderson

We are again singing in person! In July we had our first in-person rehearsal, outside, on the patio of **Ed Fuller's** home. Ed was one of two of our members who lost his home in the 2018 Thomas Fire and his beautifully rebuilt home, with the large, covered patio, is perfect for what the Chapter needs for renewed rehearsal in light of the Covid pandemic. Depending on the CDC and other factors out of our control, we'll hope to be back in our regular rehearsal hall in Sept.

After much discussion, the board decided that proof of vaccination must be shown to sing in person, and sadly, we do not have 100% participation at this time. We are mostly working on holiday music as we have several holiday performance opportunities already booked. We have had a few guests in attendance, including John Sargent, who is the choral music director at a local high school. We also sponsored "Sarge" to a scholarship at Virtual Harmony University and he is loving learning more about, and experiencing, Barber-shop singing.

The Chapter also offered all the paid membership, a \$100 stipend towards the cost of VHU and several members enrolled in classes.

Last year, during the lockdown and with the arrival of her baby, **Courtney Anderson** stepped back from the directorship and so we are without a permanent director at this time. Musical leadership is handled by the music team and **Bobby Georges** is very capably leading the Chorus in the interim. Anyone interested in applying for the job of permanent director should contact me at 805-452-1393.

Assuming this damn virus will cooperate, we are optimistic that we'll soon be at full attendance and have plans to use social networking to tell guests of our existence.

San Fernando Valley Chapter Valley Harmony Singers By Ben Marder

Greetings from the Valley Harmony Singers Mixed Barber-shop Chorus. We are still averaging 19 members plus guests per week. We were all looking forward to returning to in-person Chorus rehearsals at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Van Nuys, CA. the middle of August. Just when you begin to feel like we're almost out of the woods, Los Angeles County has had a 150% increase in the delta variant coronavirus in the workplace since the middle of July of the mainly unvaccinated. We may have to continue our virtual rehearsal meetings on Zoom for another month or two.

On June 28, 2021, **Chris Burns** from the Tampa Bay Heritage of Harmony Chorus was our guest speaker. Chris is a former member of the Valleyaire's Chorus, and **Dapper Dans**. Chris presented a very lively and informative session on the importance of visual presentation in telling the story of the songs we perform. He emphasized that each member of the Chorus visually and mentally thinks of the person and event in our lives that relates to the lyrics we're singing. He also conveyed to us that it's ok to express emotion as long as everyone is on the same page. It was a wonderful and very meaningful presentation for our members to hear. If we can put his words into practice, we will all improve by leaps and bounds.

Our latest new member on Meetup is **Isaiah Nwukor** (Tenor). Isaiah joined our Meetup on July 25. He has

already attended one of our rehearsal meetings on Zoom.

Our Music Team under the leadership of our Director **Tom Raffety**, and Assistant **Jeffery Brunch** has done a wonderful job in thinking of ways we can get the most out of Jamulus. Our break-out room sessions are not only keeping our sections intact, but are also giving each member a chance to sing and get feedback from their section leader. We're all looking forward to the day we can greet each other in person and all sing beautiful 4-part harmony in the Barbershop style. We're also looking forward to the day we can perform for friends, loved ones, and our followers to show them what we've been rehearsing for the past year and a half. Stay well and safe.

**South Bay Chapter
Coastliners
By Barry Waite**

**Here's a news flash: The Coastliners actually sang!
And.... for an audience!**

In March 2020, we were scheduled to sing at the Manhattan Beach Senior Villas. We have sung there several times over the years, and they are always a good audience. We were sorry to have to cancel, so it was really nice to get a call from them recently asking if we'd sing at their Independence Day celebration this year. We had just started singing together again, and it was a good incentive to get our voices back in shape. We've been rehearsing outside and trying to remember our old material while actually recruiting a new member. How did it go you might ask? The gig was great! There was a good turnout of singers. We sounded better than we had any right to expect, and the audience clearly enjoyed it. We were reminded how much we missed singing. Really, really missed it. So good to be back together!

HIGH PRIORITY — QUARTET —

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

*2016 International
Sr. Quartet Champion*



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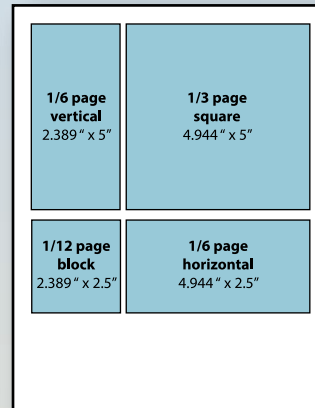
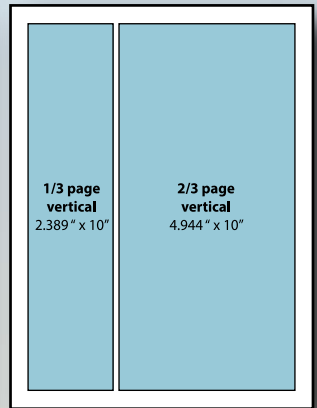
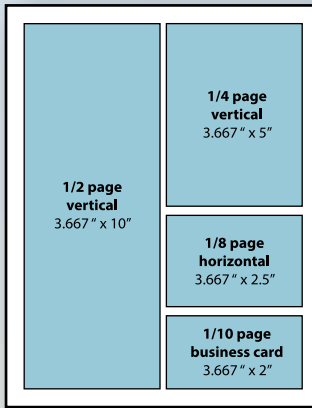
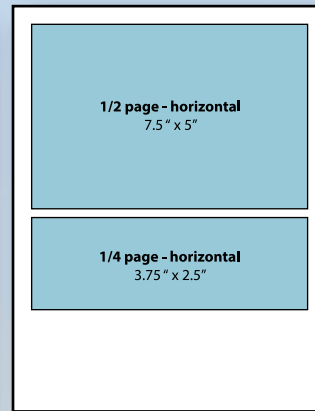
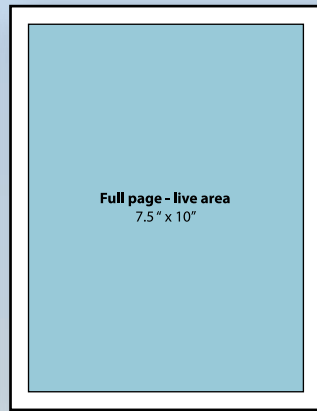
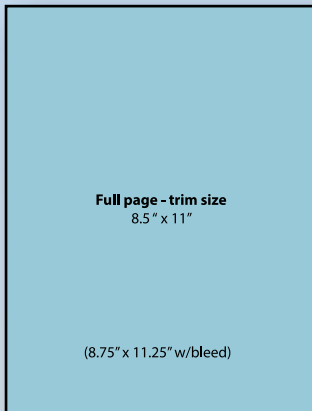
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Events

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View the official Far Western District Calendar at
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- October 7/10, 2021 FWD Fall Convention: **CANCELLED**
- 2022 FWD Spring Convention, with Int'l Prelims & SE/SW Divisions: date and location TBD
- 2022 NE/NW Divisions: date and location TBD
- October 13-16, 2022 FWD Fall Convention: Fresno Saroyan Theater and Double Tree Hotel

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

EVENTS REGISTRATION

Register for FWD Conventions at
events.farwesterndistrict.org

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

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