



WESTUNES

Magazine

WESTUNES, established in 1951, is the official publication of the
Far Western District Association of Chapters in the
Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of BarberShop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

Volume 54

September/October 2004

Number 5



2004 International Champions GOTCHA!



4 Metropolis



2 Int'l College Four Score



17 Finale



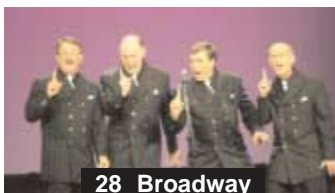
18 O.C. Times



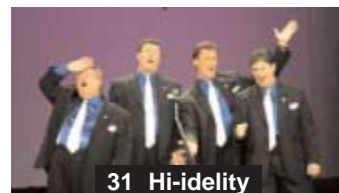
9 Int'l College Men-So-Forte



20 Q



28 Broadway



31 Hi-idelity

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[Please include old and new addresses]

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Greetings, Far Western District

Louisville Convention

Congratulations to our new International Gold Medal Quartet Champion, **GOTCHA!** Their performance in Louisville was superb. I wish you all could have been there to see their exquisite artistry and to feel the excitement in the arena as they sang on Saturday night, July 3, 2004. I am sure many of you saw their performance on the net. It was just wonderful! I am very happy I could be there to feel the exhilaration shared by so many of us in Freedom Hall in Louisville. I hope the feeling came through your computers. It was a moment to remember! Congratulations also to **Metropolis** who won a bronze medal for fourth place! Congratulations to **Westminster** on doing such a splendid job on Saturday afternoon. It was a performance of which you all would be very proud. From their first note the young men of **Westminster** sounded like the champions they are. No hesitation, no jitters. It was just great!

The Far Western District had five quartets in the top twenty, two in the top ten, and seven quartet and one chorus representative overall. Thank you to all who made this a special week for the Society and for the FWD, especially our qualifying competitors: **GOTCHA! Metropolis, Finale, OC Times, Q, Broadway, Hi Fidelity, and Westminster.** You all can proud that these men represent the Far Western District, and prouder still that you and they are members of our Society.

Congratulations also to our college quartets! Their performance in Louisville in the MBNA College Quartet Contest was outstanding. Two quartets, **Four Score** and **Men-So-Forte** represented us. **Four Score** took second place contest with a score of 75.5 and **Men-So-Forte** placed ninth with a score of 72.1. These young men take great pride in our district and we take great pride in them, our collegiate quartet representatives.

How to Pronounce Our Name

Barbershop Harmony Society! Simple, wouldn't you say. I looked up the word barbershop in my Merriam Webster and here is the definition when it is used as an adjective, as in barbershop harmony: *of a style of unaccompanied group singing of popular songs usually marked by highly conventionalized close harmony.*

I think that definition is the main reason that the Society Board voted to use Barbershop Harmony Society as our new "*doing business as*" name. Our formal legal name remains the same. I sure hope you all didn't fall in love with a name, because, "What's in a name?" said Shakespeare. Try out our new name everywhere you go. Our new moniker is easily understood and will still generate those smiles. Now, if it can generate some more new members...

Changes at the Society Headquarters

I want to wish the very best to the men and women who, due to economic necessity, recently lost their jobs in Kenosha. The action was taken to reduce costs in our headquarters office. I know how difficult it is to be unemployed and I can only hope that each and every one of them land on their feet. I also know how difficult it is to make this kind of decision. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who were laid off and those who had to make the difficult choice it was.

If At First You Don't Succeed...

If you have not heard about the proposed amendment to our SOP regarding quarter qualification for the district contest put forward by the **Central California Chapter** please read all about it in the pages of this issue of Westtunes. Please inform your self regarding the issue and please let your district delegate to the House of Delegates meeting in October know what you think. The House of Delegates will be asked to approve or defeat the amendment at that meeting. Every vote counts, so make sure your chapter has a delegate with the proper credential at the meeting.

Come to Bakersfield

Please make sure you plan on attending our convention in Bakersfield beginning October 1, 2004. The House of Delegates meeting begins this year at 1 p.m. on Friday afternoon. If you would like to attend the board of directors' meeting, and all members are welcome; it begins at 2 p.m. on Thursday afternoon, September 30, 2004. I think it is going to be a wonderful convention and I am very confident that if you make the trip to Bakersfield you will not regret it.

We Have Lost a Good Friend

Just a few days before the start of the convention in Louisville we lost a dear friend and a giant in our Society. **Dr. Val Hicks** was a gentleman who was a friend to us all. I met Val a few years ago and was immediately struck by his genuine interest in our chapter chorus, in each individual member and in helping us all improve. His value and worth as a man went far beyond his talent and his willingness to so freely share it with others. Val was an example of what is best in the nature of man, and he rarely missed an opportunity to show us how a real hero behaves. I will miss Val, as I am sure you will as well.

Motto:
**"Keep a
Melody
Ringing in
Your Heart."**

Christmas Stays the Same

**MASTERS
OF HARMONY**

harborlites
chorus

Saturday, November 27, 2004

2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

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direction of Pam Pieson

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audiences with the pictures she
projects through the songs she
sings.

Plus a select group of some of the
most decorated a cappella singers
in Southern California.



Mark Hale



Pam Pieson

TICKET ORDER FORM

Saturday, Nov. 27, 2004 2 p.m. 8 p.m. Qty. Total

All seats \$25

☐☐

Qty.

Total
\$

Discounts available for groups of 20 or more.

If mailing your order, please remember to enclose a
self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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more, check our Website

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OPS Team Co-ordinator**

Bill Cale

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Stockton, CA 95209
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I have a Val Hicks story I want to share. Many of you, in NorCal especially, will recall that I participated in several quartets that were reformations of the same six guys. They were very successful quartets in that we always made the top ten at District and Pre-Lims and were regularly booked on shows throughout the Far Western District and up into Evergreen. Over the years we developed a wonderful relationship with Val. We spent hours going over music with him when he was in Fresno, when he lived in Santa Rosa, in a rehearsal hall at the University of Utah and even assisted him in a college level class he presented mid-day, mid-week in San Jose. Val gave us first shot at a number of his arrangements and original songs.

As I said, we were successful to the point we EXPECTED to score well in competition. The time came when we didn't do well at all and we were sitting off to the side of the auditorium hanging our heads and waiting for our turn at the Evals. Up the side aisle came Val in his measured pace wearing his trade mark smile. He walked up to us and said, "Do you want to score better next time?" Well, we immediately perked up thinking he had some magic music for us that would really do the job. As we waited in anticipation, Val looked at each of us individually, broadened his smile and said, "Sing better," and walked away. He was absolutely right!

Val, we miss you already. Thank you ever so much for your contributions to the vocal music we all love so much. Rest in peace.

Now, on another note, COTS is not intended to help you sing better. Cots is here to help you manage how you chapters operate in order to help your members enjoy Barbershopping to its fullest. Look for the sign up form elsewhere in this issue. We'll be at the LAX Hilton November 13 and 14 and at the Sacramento Arden West Hilton on November 20 and 21. The Society CSLT Committee is hard at work refining the course work to meet current needs. Those of you in NorCal will have the added opportunity of bringing your wives to experience the extraordinary shopping available at the Arden Fair Mall or visit historic Old Sacramento before or after COTS.

See you at COTS!

**FWD Fall Convention in Bakersfield
September 30-October 3, 2004
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jackie.wheatley@prodigy.net



FWD Sunshine Chairman George McCay

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Chair: Chorus Director Development
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 Fresno, CA 93720
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DO YOU TALK TOO MUCH?

As the frontline director, you probably are the most musically knowledgeable man in your chapter. Right? And you have these great pearls of wisdom that you would love to impart to your singers. Right? Unfortunately many directors spend too much time imparting these pearls, and not enough time in teaching, demonstrating and having the men sing.

When you are fixing something, how much time do you spend on giving instructions? Are you trying to fix more than one thing at a time? Do you acknowledge the corrections and praise the men when they do things right?

Studies have shown that even many experienced directors spend only about 50% of the chorus time singing, and the other 50% talking. Well, you may respond by saying "Of course, that's other directors, and not ME!" You may be right. However, you quite possibly may spend more time talking than you realize. I suggest that you have someone video tape your entire time in front of the chorus. Check the amount of time the chorus is singing vs. the time they are listening to you. You may be surprised!

Decide ahead of time what you want to accomplish at your rehearsal. Plan more thoroughly. Find quick ways to say the same thing. Economy of words will give you more time for singing.

Are you sensitive to the body language of your chorus? Do they look bored? Are they paying attention to what you're saying, or are they talking amongst themselves? All of these are signs of the director talking too much. To be an effective director you must be able to read these signs.]

Take a hard look (listen?) at your rehearsal skills. You just may be able to get twice as much accomplished with half the words.



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The More the Merrier ... or maybe not!

On the surface the concept of the more the merrier has strong appeal, particularly in terms of encouraging participation in our barbershop competitions. What could be more encouraging than having as many contestants as possible at our division, fall, and

international preliminary competitions? Not only does it provide an opportunity for as many men as possible to experience the thrill of being on the contest stage, it also generates additional income to pay the ever-increasing costs of running our conventions.

Unfortunately less thought has been given to the duties required of the judging community we must utilize to conduct our contests. The demands placed upon these individuals has in many instances reached a point where they have become unreasonable and as a result, in recent years a growing number have refused assignments in some districts, including the FWD.

Let us consider this years fall contest to highlight the problems. We will have a triple panel, meaning that including the contest administrators there will be 11 men seated in the judging area. Two of these men will be from the FWD, Contest Administrator Dick Girvin and Music Judge Phil Ordaz. Of the remaining judges two are from Ontario, two Minnesota, one Florida, one Colorado, one Texas, one Illinois, and another from Ohio. Flying to Bakersfield is extremely expensive. The lowest fares bring men into LAX. Of course you have to drive to Bakersfield from there, and with traffic it takes two hours. Flying east to west none of these men should have any difficulty in arriving in Bakersfield in time for the Friday evening contest session. Getting back on Sunday is an entirely different story considering travel time to the airport, the need to check in for flights early, and the time zone loss of up to three hours for some of the men involved.

As a consequence of the concerns that many judges have expressed about being overloaded on some weekends the Society Contests and Judging Committee has developed and adopted a document containing guidelines and limitations on the use of judges at society contests.

The adopted guidelines define a panel work day to include travel time, meals, session time, category time and evaluations, and any other function at which judges are expected to be present. The following is defined as a typical work day for a district level contest by the SCJC:

Friday (or arrival day) – Panel work day shall conclude no later than 1:00 AM

Friday night – Panel rest time shall be no less than 8 hours

Saturday – Panel work day shall be no longer than 16 hours

Saturday – Panel work day shall conclude no later than 1:00 AM

Saturday night – Panel rest time shall be no less than 8 hours

Sunday (or ending day) Panel work day shall conclude no later than 11:00 AM

In our October contest we currently have 24 quartets in the semi-finals round on Friday evening with competition scheduled to begin at 7:00 PM, preceded by dinner and a judges' meeting. Assuming that the contest runs on schedule the announcement of the finalists will be made at approximately 10:45 PM. The 15 quartets that did not qualify for the finals will need to be evaluated. A minimum time of 10 minutes per judge, or 30 minutes total, is required for each evaluation session. With a triple panel

it is possible to evaluate 18 quartets in an hour, so the judging panel will theoretically be done with their work day by midnight. Of course for some of the judges this will be 3:00 AM on their internal body clock.

Saturday morning the chorus competition begins at 10:30, and is scheduled to conclude by 3:00 PM. During a 10 minute intermission the panel will wolf down a lunch backstage. Evaluations for the 23 choruses can be accomplished in an hour and a half employing a bye round, so the panel will be ready for dinner somewhere between 5:00 and 5:30. After dinner it's back to the auditorium for the quartet finals, slated to begin at 7:00. The actual contest session should be completed by 8:30, following which there is an intermission and then the show of champions, which is scheduled to end at 10:30.

The 10 finalist quartets now require evaluations, and the problem is where to schedule them. In the past Sunday morning has been used, but it obviously is difficult, sometimes even impossible, for some of the judges to participate because of the travel time to LAX, the need to check in early, and the loss of hours when flying west to east. Hence evaluations for the finalist quartets will have to be held on Saturday evening. Where does one schedule them to have the least impact on the availability of the top 10 quartets to sing at the afterglow and in hospitality rooms? For some this means during the Show of Champions, and for others immediately after the show ends. Is this ideal? Obviously not, but there doesn't seem to be any other time.

The package of sessions/evaluations for October seems to fit, but we didn't take into account the Seniors Quartet Contest, for which there were 11 qualifiers. Using eight minutes per contestant as a workable average we will have added an hour and twenty minutes to the contest session. Additionally, another half hour would be extended on the evaluation sessions, and suddenly we have a panel that will be over-extended and exhausted by the end of the convention. For this reason a separate contest with a different panel is planned for this year.

At the International Convention Wednesday presents by far the longest day for both the judging panel and the audience. Having served on five international panels I can vouch for the fact that it is an extremely tiring day in the judging arena. This year a total of 52 quartets competed between the two sessions. Fortunately there are no evaluations at the international level. Now consider that this year, between the FWD quartet semi-final round on Friday with 24 quartets, Saturday's chorus contest with 23 entries, and the quartet finals with 10, our judging panel will have sat through 57 performances, and will conduct 47 evaluations in less than a day and a half.

This is a fun hobby, and all involved volunteer their time and effort in return for the enjoyment which is engendered. But it should be apparent that too much of a good thing can have significant impact on the willingness of many volunteers to continue to give freely of their time and talent.



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BAKERSFIELD BUFFET - BUFFET

Bakersfield Fall Convention is fast approaching and one of the many things that has always been a problem is where to eat Friday and Saturday evening with only a very short time to find a restaurant.

As we did last year we have arranged with the hotel to have a buffet set up both days. We will try to start by 4:00 PM. The hotel can only set up the ballroom for 500 people. Last year we had people coming to the door 15 minutes before the evening contest and were disappointed because we had run out of food.

This year we will start selling tickets Friday AM and the cost will be the same as last year \$12.00. When 500 are sold there won't be any more. That is 500 for both Friday and 500 for Saturday.

Remember also that with the large number of quartets competing the Friday contest will start at 3:30 PM with 11 Senior Quartets. Plan to attend all of the functions that **Keith Eckhart** has planned. Come prepared for a fantastic week end.



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Do You Want A Website?

Many quartets and chapters have been adding their names to the growing list of barbershop groups that have developed websites. Very often in the early stages of planning a site the average barbershopper makes some wrong assumptions about how effective this tool can be in promoting their chapter or quartet.

To get the word "right from the horses mouth" I have turned to our own resident expert on the subject, Far Western District Webmaster—**Keith Eckhardt**. Keith not only developed and maintains this great tool for our district but he also does website developmental for a living.

Allen: Keith, the average barbershop chapter or quartet knows little about how the Internet really works. They tend to believe that having a website will open up a universe of opportunities by making their group visible to everyone with a computer. Is it really pos-



sible to expect a lot of activity if a chapter or quartet invests in building a website?

Keith: "Anything is possible but it is hard to imagine what an average computer user would type into the search engine (like Google or Yahoo) to get a valid response to their inquiry. Let's say that someone in Redondo Beach, California is trying to find a barbershop chapter within reasonable driving distance. If they type in "Barbershop Chapter near Redondo Beach" they aren't likely to get a valid match unless one of the chapters within 30 miles built their website with all the surrounding community names loaded into their key word file."

"All websites have a file called key words. This file is what the search engine examines when it is trying to find a match to an inquiry. So if the South Bay, Santa Fe Springs, Whittier, or Westminster Chapters didn't put 'Redondo Beach' in their website keyword file, it is not likely that our example search would find them."

"Additionally, if the website has not been submitted (registered) with the search engine companies it is not likely a match would be made even if the key word file contained the correct information because many search engine companies only examine websites that have been registered with them."

Allen: Keith, besides the key word issue what other things can be done to increase the likelihood that a website will be found?

Keith: "Make sure that your website is linked to as many other sites as possible. A link is simply your website name appearing in another website. For example, if you look on the FWD Website under "Find a Quartet," you will see many quartets have their website linked to the district site. This link will benefit them because the more places your website address appears the more likely that a search engine will find you and examine your key word file."

Allen: What is the least expensive way to create a website?

Keith: "Most all Internet providers give their users the tools and the space to create a "free" website as part of their monthly service fee. These tools are easy to use and will get you an adequate site that you can market through your membership."

Keith makes a very important point here. It is a common error to believe that a website is a way to market yourself to the world. As you can see with the keyword and registration issues only the most sophisticated and managed sites get a lot of "hits."

It is best that you think of your site as an information tool. It is a place you can point to for more information about your group. It can be a place where people who have been made aware of you can see show dates, meeting nights, records for sale, etc. But your site will still have to be marketed the old fashion way, by face-to-face contact, direct mail and lots of bodies.



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Membership Matters

For the first time in years it looks like we have a chance to stop the erosion in District membership this year. There are two things that we all can do to make this happen.

Contact any chapter member whose membership is due to be up for renewal within 90 days and find out if he is enjoying his Barbershop experience. See if he has any complaints that might be addressed. Ask him if there is anything missing that is detracting from his enjoyment. Ask him if he would change anything about his Chapter meetings if he were Chapter President. Ask him if he plans on renewing his membership. In other words, let him know that he and his opinion is important.

Make sure that at least three people in the Chapter call a member any time he misses a meeting. Don't have just one person or the same three do this all the time. You might consider having a different "team" every month make those phone calls. Tell him he was missed and show your sincere desire to see him at the next meeting. Be sure to get him involved. Give everyone in the Chapter some job or responsibility. Involvement and fun are the two most important factors in a member's decision to renew.

For all Chapter Members in Southern California we have something special.

Holiday Harmony at the Shrine Auditorium takes place on Sunday afternoon, *December 5th*. This is an event that you will not want to miss and you, I'll certainly want to be part of what could be the largest chorus ever assembled on a stage.

Here's the plan. Start telling all your non-Barbershopping friends about it. The event is **FREE** to all attending and we are forming a giant *Holiday Chorus of Barbershoppers* and non-Barbershoppers who will sing a selection of four seasonal songs. This is your chance to get a single event commitment from that friend that you know would love Barbershopping if he would only try it once. The invited singers will have opportunities to rehearse the four songs prior to the event.

The songs that the special Barbershopper/non-Barbershopper chorus will be singing are: *Jingle Bells*, *I heard the Bells on Christmas Day*, *Winter Wonderland* and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. If your Chapter needs music for these four songs, three are in the Green and White holiday songbook and the fourth, *Winter Wonderland*, is a Society arrangement. Still need music? Call Warren at (714) 742-0844.

We need a Chapter Chairman for this event for all Chapters in the following counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Ventura and Santa Barbara. Help make this a great success. Step up and volunteer to be a County Chairman. Chapter members outside this seven county area are **NOT** excluded, in fact we **ENCOURAGE** you to participate in the event. You should contact Warren Willard at (714) 742-0844 for details on how to be a part of this great event. Chapter Presidents, please appoint a Chapter Holiday Harmony Chairman as soon as possible and ask that person to contact me immediately. Send me his name, phone number and email address as soon as you have appointed him.

The idea here is to invite non-members to be part of this huge chorus and sing the four listed songs with experienced Barbershoppers. It will be up to the local Chapters to set aside some rehearsal time between Oct. 15th and Dec. 3rd for rehearsal of the four songs. There will also be a rehearsal on the afternoon of the event. I can assure you that a significant number of these invited singers will be interested in joining a local Chapter after the event in December. However, don't make that part of your pitch. Let them see for themselves how much fun it can be to be a Barbershopper. Their only commitment is to learn the four songs, with help from your Chapter, and sing with one or more of your Chapter members on the giant Shrine Auditorium stage, in front of thousands, on Dec 5th at 2:30 PM.

I have mentioned this event to a number of my non-Barbershopping friends and four have said that they will participate. Tell your friends; tell your male choir members. Tell everyone. And don't forget to tell them that they will also be entertained by a special show performance by the **Masters of Harmony Chorus** (5 times International Gold Medalists) and two or more top FWD quartets. And here's the best part, it's all free. I encourage the Chapters to use this event to kick-start their 2005 membership drive. And did I mention, **IT'S FREE**, not only for the participants, but for the audience as well.

Corporate sponsors are needed. If you know of a firm that would like to help us with this great event, please provide me with the contact persons name and phone number and tell them that I will be calling. Sponsorships start at \$100 and go to \$2,500 for a Platinum Sponsor. They will be recognized in the program that will be distributed at the event. They will also receive recognition on the web site and in Westunes. If you would like to help, send a **donation payable to Partners in Harmony** (note that it is for the *Holiday Harmony* event) and mail it to 5 Corte Tallista, San Clemente CA 92673, Attn: Warren Willard.

We are also looking for a printer or sponsor prepared to donate the printing of the program. Contact me for details. Another sponsorship opportunity exists for someone or a firm that will print envelopes to be inserted into the programs. We will use these to facilitate donations and names to add to our database of "*Friends of Harmony*".

We need to extend invitations to school music groups to be part of our guest audience. Invite Senior organizations in your community. Invite church choirs. Each Chapter will be given an opportunity to request the number of free tickets needed for your guests. Of course, every member of the massed Holiday chorus will want tickets for family and friends. All tickets will be distributed by the participating Chapters and our hosts, the Shriners. The Shrine Auditorium seats about 6,000 and we would like to fill each and every seat. There will be more about tickets in a later announcement.

Gentlemen, help us make this event so successful that it is repeated each year at the Shrine Auditorium. I would be remiss if I did not tell you that event is being made possible due to the generous donation of the use of the wonderful Shrine Auditorium by the **Al Maliaka Shrine Temple** of Los Angeles. This Harmony Holiday at the Shrine Auditorium event is our gift to the vocal music lovers of Southern California. Any donations not used for this event will be donated to the Far Western District's Young Men In Harmony fund.

Call that friend today and invite him to be a performer on the stage of the fabulous Shrine Auditorium this December. He'll thank you for including him.

For additional information, contact Warren Willard by email at Willard@cox.net



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WOW! A SUPER SCHOOL!

If you didn't attend *Harmony College West* in Redlands on July 16-18, you missed a great opportunity. The student quartets taped, some even video taped nine hours of top, super-helpful coaching. There were 9 (nine) Gold Medal winners (39%) on the coaching staff! There were also valuable classes in vocal production, MCing and arranging.

The Saturday night show was excellent and fast-paced, and what a bargain for the general public for only \$10.00. The student quartets each sang one song, after being introduced (as the unofficial class final) by one of the MC class. Twenty-three quartets in an hour and eight minutes! I'm sure we will see a goodly number of those quartets on the District stage in Bakersfield.

Then came the 2004 Far Western District College Champions and International Silver Medalists, **Four Score**. Boy, were they good! Watch out for them. Next was a great performance by our own **Hi Fidelity**. They keep getting better all the time. The headliners were the incredible **Four Voices**. They have been blessed

with four magnificent, God-given voices and the knowledge and talent to know how to use them!

The food in the cafeteria was outstanding. Everything was excellent: salad bar, fruit bar, dessert bar, regular entrees and veggies, fast food, Mexican - whatever and as much as you wanted. Cafeteria food was never like this when I was in college.

A survey was sent out to all students and staff asking them to evaluate the weekend - the coaching, the classes, the food, the dorms, and to make suggestions as to how to improve next year's Harmony College West. The responses were highly gratifying. Next year's HCW will be held on the campus of *California State University at Hayward*. The dates are *August 26 - 28, 2005*. Put these dates on your calendar. Get your quartet ready, get yourself ready for this marvelous learning opportunity next year.

There is another program you don't have to wait a year for. It is designed to improve the singing of your chapter chorus. I call it our **S.I.N.G.** program, **S**.inging **I**mprovement **N**ow **G**uaranteed.

Contact me and tell me your chorus would like to sing better. I'll send a list to you of proven, winning chorus directors (in your Division - to keep expenses down) who have volunteered to coach choruses to fix problems holding them back.

These director/coaches will come to you and work with your chorus. 50% of their expenses (no fees), up to \$150.00 per visit and \$300.00 per year per chapter will be paid by the Far Western District through the **S.I.N.G.**chorus coaching program.

If your chorus does only two or three of the things your coach suggests and shows you how to do, you can be guaranteed that your chorus will be singing better and enjoying it more!



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Just Getting Started in YMIH? Opportunities and Resources Abound

The start of another school year is a great time to launch, or renew, contacts with local schools. New teachers, as well as old, are getting their school years set up. There's no better time to ask that underlying, guiding question: "*How can we help?*"

We in the Far Western District are blessed with a wealth of experience and examples when it comes to youth outreach. Our success in getting young people involved in barbershopping is legendary. We just had a chorus—**Westminster**, with an average age of 20—finish in the top 10 at international. Two of our young, "hot" quartets—**OC Times** and **Q**—finished in the top 20.

We had two college quartets in the top 10, including **Four Score**, which started out as one of our high school competitors, earning a second place silver medal.

But all of this didn't happen overnight. By the time you read this, our ninth annual youth harmony camp will be at hand, or happening. Plans are in the works for a number of youth harmony festivals around the District, including the 5th annual MOH/SCVA festival next February. (The Southern California Vocal Association—some 300 music teachers—decided to abandon their annual winter workshop for young male singers last year, to join the Masters in sponsoring this event for their students.) Things like this didn't used to happen—but they do now, thanks to the efforts of Mark Freedkin and so many of our outstanding, giving quartets over the years.

So how can your chapter get started—if you don't already have a program underway?

The simplest thing any chapter can do is book a school choir on your show. Especially on a Christmas show. They'll appreciate the exposure and any financial boost you can provide. And you'll appreciate the extra applause their audience will bring to your chorus.

Book one of our outstanding high school or college quartets on your show. And if you can, get them to come a day early and visit a few school choirs. Placerville and other chapters now do this as a matter of routine. There are no better salesmen for our cause than these young people.

And when these young people see you enjoying this hobby, no matter how old you are, the message about the value of singing as a lifetime activity is clear—and appreciated. And that's more important than where you finished in the last contest.

Our wonderful District web site is loaded with help and information on youth outreach programs. You don't have to start cold. The resources are out there. Need help? Just ask—and you shall receive.



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Music and Mailing Labels (guest writer)

Loyal followers of WESTUNES learned that each district has a Harmony Foundation position like mine. And we share our district magazine articles. This one "sung to me" and I want to share it.

*The author is noteworthy tenor **Jim Wheeler** from the Rocky*
[cont'd on page 12]



2003-4 FWD Quartet Champions

Q

Mike Stewart, Bass

As promised, in this issue, we're going to hear from our bass, Mike Stewart.

Q: Mike, when did you start barbershopping?

Mike: I started singing barbershop when I was a freshman in college. At that time, I had only been singing for about a year, but had been an instrumentalist (playing the viola) since age nine. The choral department at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) hosts a choral festival for all the local middle and high school choral programs in northern Nevada. As part of the evening concert, our university groups sang to all the festival participants. Little did I know, the choral department had arranged to have the **Reno Silver Dollar Chorus** also appear on the show later that evening. They were wonderful! Many of you will remember Reno singing their "monk" package – what a great show! I realized behind one of the monk hoods was a high school JROTC teacher, **Tom Percy**, whom I had known for a few years. Following the chorus set, an absolutely amazing quartet sang. I had no idea who they were and did not know at the time that they had just won the 1990 FWD Championship. **Special Feature** stole the show . . . all the girls in the crowd were screaming so loud! Raymond has always told me that he'll never forget the high school girls swooning over the quartet that night. I thought, "Now THIS looks like fun!"

Q: So that night really "set the hook" for you to get into barbershop?

Mike: Oh absolutely! When I saw **Special Feature** and the **Silver Dollar Chorus**, I knew I wanted to get involved. **Tom Percy** invited two of my choir buddies and me to the next Reno chorus rehearsal. Within a few months, I signed up and began this wonderful barbershop journey I'm enjoying so much.

Q: Now, we've heard that you sang in the FWD's very first high school quartet contest. Explain how this happened, given that you were in college?

Mike: The youth harmony program was in its infancy in 1990 and 1991 and I suspect strict rules had not been developed by then. We were encouraged to participate in the high school quartet contest, even though three of us were in college. We sang at

the NorCal East Division contest in Chico in 1991 and then at the FWD Convention in San Diego later that fall. Our quartet, **The Four Knights**, did not sing especially well, but we certainly had fun! Of that original group of guys, I'm the only one still singing barbershop harmony.

Q: Since that time, you've been really involved in barbershop, right?

Mike: I really jumped right into the whole barbershop experience. Within a few years, I was on the chorus board, had attended several COTS events, religiously attend contests and conventions, served as bass section leader in the chorus, and even roped my girlfriend, Amanda (now my wife), into playing parts in chapter shows! We even had **Special Feature** sing at our wedding back in 1995! I was fortunate enough to sing in a number of quartets along the way, including **The Wild Cards** and **Qyduhmix** (with Cory). I wouldn't change these experiences for the world – I've learned so much from my involvement!

Q: You've had a really busy year with the quartet, job, and family. How do you strike a balance between all of this?

Mike: As you know, just two weeks after we won the district contest, my daughter Allison was born. She is a joy to behold and truly one of our biggest fans! Family time, my job as a legislative analyst with the Nevada Legislature, the chorus, and quartet all keep me quite busy. Although it's challenging, one just needs to set priorities and make sure family and job commitments do not suffer due to barbershop. Fortunately, my wife is so very supportive and encouraging. Without her understanding and unending support, I would never be able to realize my barbershop goals.

Q: Anything else to add?

Mike: Perhaps the best thing about singing barbershop is the fraternity. It's been so great to sing with the guys in **Q!** Robert has a lead voice to die for – I'd love to sing as lyrical and free as he does. I knew from the moment I sang tags with him back at Harmony College 2000 that he would make it with those great pipes! I always wanted to sing with Raymond. I literally wore out my **Special Feature** albums singing along with him . . . now I'm singing with him in person. What a deal! Finally, I have such a fantastic time singing with Cory. I've had the honor of knowing this great guy since he was seven years old! Cory is like a brother to me in so many ways and it's been wonderful to share with him so many fantastic barbershop moments. He's talented, intelligent, kind, and a most gracious and humble guy. When I grow up, I want to be just like Cory!

Of course, there are so many people who have influenced me as a barbershopper and performer. At the risk of sounding like Sally Field when she enthusiastically accepted her 1984 Academy Award for *Places in the Heart*, I definitely need to thank a number of folks: my wife **Amanda**, who supports me endlessly and gladly offers up performance suggestions; **Bill Weiser**, my voice teacher, mentor, and friend; **Lauren House**, who really got me into quartetting and asked me (as a 19 year old kid) to sing in a quartet with a bunch of really experienced guys;

[cont'd on page 12]

[from page 10]

Mountain District. Known more for his tenure with comedy quartet **Salt Flats**, he is also a Seniors Quartet Champion (1992), and former district president, among many Society accolades. Here are his thoughts:

I don't know if others are experiencing the tremendous increase in personalized mailing labels that I am, but I suspect you are. Every time I bring my mail home I have at least one set of labels asking for a donation for this, that or the other charity. I'll be honest. If I keep the labels without sending a donation (or throw them in the can), I feel a little bit guilty unless I send a donation. As I have evaluated what I contribute every year for these "free" labels, I am amazed.

However, I have solved my guilty feeling problem by prioritizing the charities I send to based upon my value system. What is one of the things I value most in my life? Honestly, I have found that preserving barbershop harmony in the world is among the top three things I value most in my life. It is right up there with my Family and my Church. Therefore, rather than collecting all of those mailing labels, I am sending what I would ordinarily send to other charities, to the Harmony Foundation whose mission is to preserve barbershop harmony for future generations. Did you know that 90% of SPEBSQSA members are non-donors to Harmony Foundation? The new direction is to encourage Barbershoppers to become regular donors to Harmony Foundation. Our new Harmony Foundation staff is attempting to increase the percentage of those giving to our own charity by structuring giving programs tailored to the needs and values of our membership. This effort is still being developed but we can expect more requests for our giving in the future.

I hope our Society doesn't end up sending mailing labels as I don't want any more. And I believe you don't want any more either. However, you may want to take a look at the charities you are giving to and see if they match what you value in your life. Let's build the Society's future together in harmony.

Thanks for these thoughts Jim. And to the readers, feel free to contact Harmony Foundation directly, or contact me on ways you can give. Let's B#.

[from page 11]

Gary Bolles, who several years ago "made me" take ownership of the bass part; all of Q's great coaches; all the quartets whom I've admired over the years; and of course, the great **Reno Silver Dollar Chorus** for their constant support and encouragement; . . . and the list goes on!

Stay tuned for the next issue of Westunes, when we'll wrap up our championship year, offer up the latest Q news, and provide insights into our future plans!

Comedy
Barbershop Style



Dick Williams, Tenor
Leon Higbee, Lead
Don Shelton, Bass
Bob Patterson, Bari
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METROPOLIS

• c/o 2206 Rockefeller Lane #3 • Redondo Beach, CA 90278
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a barbershop quartet

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Jackie & Steve Bishop Kim & Jerry Orloff
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CJ Bob Les Bill

The Stage Hogs

Barbershop Quartet

★ CJ Sams • Bob Clark • Les Dergan • Bill Wilson
★ Contact: 562.425.2924 • mcjsams@gte.net



2003-4 FWD Chorus Champions Westminster

Russ Squires, VP Chapter Operations

Wow, what a week in Louisville, KY! It's hard to believe that this chorus started a little over two years ago and just placed ninth in the world! We were honored by the enormous support from the FWD, and the entire Society. There are quite a few friends and supporters to thank including our two primary coaches **Mark Hale** and **Dawn Texeira**, wife of new champ Garry, and probably the hottest presentation coach on the circuit. Other coaches like the guys from **Nightlife**, **David Harrington**, and of course **Sandy Robinson**, from your current SAI champ quartet **Brava**, all gave incredible input into our journey (on an interesting side note, she has to be one of the most sought out coaches herself after having been the primary coach of the two "buzz" quartets **OC Times**, your 18th place finisher, and **Realtime**, who blew us all away with their top 10 finish).

We also want to further impart a few of the thoughts **Sean Devine**, **Terry Ghiselli** and **Russ Squires** tried to share during the webcast interview they did. This chorus was started by five young guys wanting to sing with their peers. The fact is this can be done again and again with the "right" help. When we decided to do this we talked to **Mark Hale** first to make sure there would be no conflict of interest with the local "big-gun" chorus. Contrary to our worries he was very supportive and told us that the Masters would help us every step of the way, and they have. All this to say that the big competitive chorus in your area cannot be afraid of this happening. We have heard from several people that local chapters have put the nix to groups like Westminster starting because they did not want to lose their young singers. This chorus started with 7 current or former MOH members. Of the 29 guys on stage in Louisville, 19 were brand new barbershoppers because of this chorus (Yes, that is 19 new members to our Society between the ages of 15-26). Next year in SLC you will probably see 15-18 of the guys on stage with the Masters. Why? Because they have witnessed the incredible support and overall excellence from a group of "older" men, and want to be a part. Further and perhaps most important, the Masters allowed us to do our own thing. They did not force their leadership upon us but rather let us forge our own path and identity which we have clearly done. Yet when we fell, no one was

there quicker to pick us up, put us on our feet, and get us going in the right direction again. This love and support is how our hobby will grow.

The great **Lloyd Steinkamp** imparted to us early on that this hobby was founded on *fraternity* and this chorus is the epitome of your local college fraternity both in our administrative structure, and in our fellowship outside of the music. Remember that young men will join for the fun of ringing chords, become enamored with the excellence in music, but will stay for life because of the fellowship and friendships this hobby can bring.

We want to leave with one last, and perhaps most important thanks. So many of you in this District opened your hearts to our chorus and showed it through incredible financial assistance. From the District giving us a check for almost \$9,000, to a group of 200 people raising nearly \$1200 in a simple pass the hat, to the "oldest average age" chapter in the District writing a wonderful check, we were shocked by all your generosity. Although we won't be competing in Bakersfield for many reasons, look for us to come back stronger than ever in 2005. We are proud to have represented the Far Western District at the International Contest and hope to do so again in the future.

We're looking forward to our Swan Song set on the Show of Champions this fall in Bakersfield; we hope to see you all there!





FWD Well Represented At 2004 Harmony College/Directors College

Far Western District members attended the 2004 HC/DC in force this year as can be seen in the picture above, and you won't believe that some didn't get in the picture. The FWD had faculty members, HC attendees, DC attendees, Mach 4 for Quartet Coaching and most of the Rincon Beach Chorus for chorus coaching. At least one Music Educators from the district was also in attendance. Singing songs every day composed or arranged by Dr. Val Hicks kept his memory alive for all attendees. Consider attending next year; you will have the time of your life. Some call it "Getting hot-dipped in Barbershop."

FWD Fall Program

by H.L. "Mac" McIntosh

I have been given the honor of creating the program for the Far Western District Convention to be held in Bakersfield September 30th through October 3rd.

If you would like to support our district by placing an ad in the program, the prices are as follows:

Full page ad - \$100.00 (8"X 5")

Half page ad - \$75.99 (4"X 5")

Quarter page - \$50.00 (business card 2"X 3.5")

Ads must be Barbershop related, please send camera ready artwork no later than September 9th, make the check payable to Far Western District. No check, no ad.

For those of you that wish to send electronic ads, please do so in a tiff format.

The address is: FWD Fall program
C/O H.L. McIntosh, 835 McKelvy, Clovis, CA 93611
h.mcintosh@comcast.net

Please include a telephone number and e-mail address in case I have any questions.

Four Score Silver Medalist International College Quartet Contest

The 2004 Far Western District collegiate champion, **Four Score**, took 2nd Place at the MBNA International Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest in Louisville, bringing the first-ever collegiate medals to the Far Western District in the 13-year history of the contest.

Four Score has been together for over five years, and we can be seen on score sheets dating back to the 2000 FWD High School Contest. We have competed at the past four Internationals, going from 19th, 15th, 8th, to 2nd place. We qualified as a wildcard in 2001, and have been the district's collegiate champs for the past three years in a row. The group is still comprised of its original four members, although we have since switched voice parts. **Four Score** is: tenor **Andrew Bearden** (San Diego State), lead **Matthew Shoemaker** (UC Berkeley), baritone **Matthew Fellows** (UC Berkeley), and bass **Jason James** (University of San Diego).

The quartet is separated between San Diego and Berkeley, and we rehearse over three-day weekends and school vacations. In January, **Four Score** toured seven San Diego-area high schools, introducing many young music students to barbershop. We were also a faculty quartet at Harmony College West, along with **Hi-Fidelity** and **Four Voices**.

The support of this district and the local chapters in San Diego has been instrumental in our success. We have to specifically thank our coaches, **Bill Myers, Ron Black, Kim Hulbert, Royce Ferguson, and Toni Cleveland**. With a lot of hard work and their help, we hope to take the collegiate gold next year in Salt Lake City.

The MBNA Collegiate Quartet Contest grows every year in interest, and the level of competition has been steadily increasing. This year, the Far Western District also sent another excellent college quartet, **Men-So Forte**, as a wildcard, who placed 9th.

Visit **Four Score's** website at <http://www.fourscorequartet.com>

Irvine's California Promise Chorus

Presents a "Concert at the Concordia"

October 16

In The CU Center - 1530 Concordia West, Irvine

With Special Guests on their First Ever West Coast Visit



2004 International College Quartet Champs from Saint Louis, Mo

*"With a contest performance that garnered two standing ovations, **Vocal Spectrum** from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri, swept the MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest. The four men demonstrated their total understanding of the barbershop style, and the quartet lived up to its name, delivering a vocal spectrum from breathless softs to dynamic louds with seeming ease. The members of Vocal Spectrum are Timothy Warwick, tenor; Eric Dalbey, lead; Jonathan Moroni, baritone; and Chris Hallam, bass."*

The California Promise Chorus



Terry Ghiselli, Director

2 pm show: \$15 all seats – group and student discounts

7:30 pm show: \$20 all seats – group and student discounts

Call – Bob or Betty at (949) 586-0796 robeli@cox.net



An Interview With GOTCHA!

By Grady Kerr – Medallion Editor
[Edited by Westunes Editor]

GK: Well, you received your new shiny gold medals just a few days ago, how do you feel? Has the smile worn off yet? Ya'll going to Disneyland?

Garry: It was an awesome experience, just awesome.

Chris: It was an exciting and emotional experience that I will never ever forget.

Alan: I was in disbelief as it was all happening. I'd compare it to an out of body experience. It didn't really hit me till the curtain closed.

Jim: My smile will always be there. I'm just so proud. It was a magical week.

GK: I happened to be backstage and got to watch you while they made the announcements, what was that moment like?

Alan: I got some good advice from **Brandon Guyton**. He told me to make sure to look around and take mental pictures so I wouldn't miss what was happening that moment. I'm glad he told me. As you saw, we were in a huddle, tightly holding on to each other . . . waiting. Last year we *knew* who had won and we broke our huddle and started congratulating **Power Play** early – this year we didn't break.

Jim: I had a pretty good feeling about it. But before they made any announcements I thanked the guys. I'm just so grateful to be singing with these guys.

Garry: We knew anything could happen so we waited to hear our name. I was holding the guys in that huddle and saying “. . . wait, wait, wait . . .”

Chris: If I remember correctly (gonna have to look at the video tape) I think Garry and Alan broke and darted out on stage right away, I held back a little.

Alan: I went up one side of those stairs and Garry took the other. *I THINK* Garry actually managed to hit *ONE* step on the way up.

Jim: I can't wait to see the video tape.

GK: I noticed Jimmy was the last out on stage to get the gold medal.

Chris: It was not Jimmy's idea to hold back, it was ours. We told him that IF we win we wanted him to come on last. After 30 times on the Int'l stage and a span of 34 years, he deserves his own time on stage to receive his long awaited gold.

Alan: Jimmy resisted but finally said ok. Just in case, we had our longtime friend **Bob Hodges** backstage to hold him back. We told Bob to tackle him if necessary.

Garry: We all felt this was for Jimmy. He has so many friends and has sung for so many over the years, that we wanted him to have his own ovation.

Alan: I really wanted to get out there and get my medal and then get out of the way to see Jimmy get his. Jimmy's gold medal was long overdue.

Chris: I think the audience got it. They started chanting, "Jimmy, Jimmy, Jimmy!" It was special to be there to see him get his gold medal. All I remember Jimmy saying as he came on stage was, "*Finally, finally.*" Seeing Jimmy win his gold medal was a highlight of my week.

GK: Going into this contest you were one of the favorites. Did that help or hurt?

Garry: Of course we were worried about the monster, **MaxQ**. Thankfully, the hype and focus on them took some of the pressure off us.

Chris: The hype and pressure was intense. However, we had so many supporters cheering us on - it was great. We pretty much had to keep telling ourselves to not believe any of the comments like, "*You're winning,*" and just stick to our game plan of one set at a time. Our philosophy was: "*Let the best man win.*"

I must tell you that the response from the audience after the *FIRST* song was almost overwhelming. Wow, it kept going and going, then peaked again. We had never gotten a reaction like that. It surprised us. I think it threw us a little. But I think we were at the top of our game all week. We tried to sing for the audience rather than ourselves. I think we managed to sing the music and not just notes and words. The audience relayed this to us.

Garry: After the first song, the reaction of the audience was overwhelming. We just rode that the rest of that set and the rest of the week. Montreal was great but the reaction this year was more intense on stage. I don't know why the audience was louder but we loved it. Of course we had everyone telling us we were on top all week and we tried not to believe that. After seeing the scores and the point spread, I figured maybe they were right.

Jim: I think Friday night was our best set. People seemed to love "*Jefferson Lord.*" I felt it on stage. I was shaken up a little bit by that much response.

GK: So you came off stage to a whirlwind of activity. You appeared on the webcast, had the photos taken, and then were rushed to the Champs Reception.

Garry: We visited the webcast and then had the photos made. It turns out that all four of our dads were in Louisville. This is the first time that has happened for us. We were sure to have a picture taken of the eight of us.

Alan: I was almost back to my senses by the time we got to the reception. I got to experience that "in person." Knowing several of the champs and talking with them about what was gonna happen "IF," we kinda knew what to expect, but nothing will prepare you for walking into that room. You can imagine it but it was

more than I could have ever dreamed it would be. So many of our idols were there. I got a real kick out of **Dan Burgess** coming up to me and introducing himself. I've been a fan of his for so long, how could he think that I don't know who he is?

Chris: One of my idols and good friend **Jeff Baker** of **Nightlife** came up and congratulated ME. Unbelievable.

Garry: A highlight during the reception for me was seeing **Second Edition** all there in person. We are all such big fans. Chris asked them to sing one and they stood in front of us and sang *Jeannie With the Light Brown Hair*. Awesome! It was so good... Chris cried.

Jim: No one really ever told me about what happens after you win, so it was all pretty much a surprise to me. I remember telling them all in the reception that I recognized most of them because they had all beat me before.

GK: So what happened after the smoke settled? Where do you go after the reception? Did ya'll get any sleep?

Alan: I think, collectively we got about 10 hours. We last saw each other about 5am the next morning. We went our separate ways and won't meet up again together for a few weeks. We're doing the Anacortes, Washington show. They're famous for "picking" the winners. Most champs will remember doing their show soon after winning.

Chris: Of course we're looking forward to singing for our FWD Convention on October 1st in Bakersfield. We'll be there with **Revival & Nightlife**. I think we'll be doing a song together.

Jim: Funny thing... about 6:30 a.m. I started up for my room and there's Garry over there woodshedding with some guys, and there's Alan over there singing tags with some other guys... just like we end up doing after shows. These guys are REAL Barbershoppers!

GK: What kind of preparation did you do in Louisville, rituals, coaching, warm ups, rehearsals?

Jim: Nothing, really. We each tried to stay in good vocal shape, stay "warm" and stay healthy, no alcohol, lots of water. Prior to the warm up room backstage we didn't really sing the songs much more than once each if that much. We were really prepared.

Garry: There's no such thing as "*peaking on stage*." You take what you rehearse and just do it. It seemed like we were in the groove that week. When we did our little warm up before the first set, "*IT*" was there. We just couldn't quit laughing and giggling. The sound was *THERE*. We looked at each other and said stop, stop now, see you on stage.

We do make it a point to rest. We force ourselves to take a nap or just lie down a few hours before each session. We also show up 15 to 20 minutes before it's time to sing. Some people get rather nervous when we're not in the "pipeline" and where they "want" us to be. We couldn't stand all that waiting and it works for the quartet.

Jim: I talk a lot. The guys made me become a "*monk*" and I just had to try to stay away from everyone. All week I was "in training." This was a JOB. We decided that we were NOT gonna defeat ourselves by getting tired. We're NOT gonna have a long summer (again).

GK: After placing second last year, what did you do different this year? ... Was there lots of coaching?

Jim: This spring we were very active... lots of shows, schools, and we did well at Mid-winter. What a blast! So, we were in great shape and ready for Louisville.

Garry: We started working and planning right after last year. We didn't take much time off after Montreal. A major influence was **David Harrington**. He was able to help us find the "ring" in almost everything. As he calls it . . . we were able to "*spank*" that sound.

Chris: We didn't get to spend as much time with our coaches this year as we would have liked, we were all so busy. So many helped us though the years including **Chris Hebert, Cindy Hansen, Dr. Greg Lyne, and Dawn Texeira. Kim Hulbert, David Harrington, and David Wright** were are main coaches and we were really lucky to find them.

Jim: I've been with them three and a half years. We worked real hard with Kim that first year and a half. She's a great teacher. Before Montreal we didn't have many shows, so we took that time to have weekend retreats. We brought in **Greg Lyne, David Harrington, David Wright, and Kim**. That solid work paid off. After Montreal we did the CD, and working in the studio to "*perfect*" the sound really helped, too. We had to tighten up our singing habits. Our recording engineer, (Masters of Harmony lead singer) **Lisle Leete**, inspired us with the catch phrase of the project . . . "*Forever is a long time to suck*."

GK: Your song selection for contest seems to be pure barbershop. Is that on purpose?

Alan: Yes and no. It turns out all six of our contest songs were public domain. We picked them because they fit our vocal strengths, and they also happened to be classics: *Old Mill Stream, Nellie, Nighttime in Dixieland, What More Can a Soldier Give*. That reaction to **David Harrington's** arrangement of *If I Had My Way* was pretty "long." I think it got the highest Presentation score all week. **David Wright's** arrangement of *Jefferson Lord* was outstanding.

Chris: That was our intention, we just like barbershop. A couple of them were new to us. We started learning both *Jefferson Lord* and *Old Mill Stream* in April.

Jim: We sing barbershop because we like it! We love ringing those chords. It's *FUN*. And it's exciting to get into the song and make the music "live."

GK: OK, I gotta ask, where did the quartet name come from?

Garry: I suggested the name. It represents the moment you hit that PERFECT chord and it rattles the hall. You know, the feeling you get when the chord hits the back wall and blows everyone away . . . GOTCHA! (can't forget that exclamation mark).

The "paint ball" theme on our business cards and webpage comes from a movie.

Gotcha! – 1985

Plot Summary: Jonathan plays a game called Gotcha in which he hunts and is hunted by other students with paint guns. Starring Anthony Edwards.

GK: This is Jimmy's 4th year with Gotcha! How did he come to join the quartet?

Garry: **Dan Jordan** heard we were auditioning for a new bass and told Jimmy. It was also one of Jimmy's patients, Joanne, who suggested he audition. Jimmy said, "Who? Me? They would never think of using an old guy like me." At the audition, Jimmy had learned three of our songs. He had them down cold. That impressed us and it was a perfect fit, too.

When Jimmy joined, he promised us, and himself, that he would "do whatever it takes" to win. The evolution from the bass of **139th Street** to the bass of **Gotcha!** took some effort. This is a different bass sound. But Jimmy did that. He worked very hard on his own and worked to adapt to the quartet sound.

Jim: I should point out . . . I was **NOT** their first choice. J

GK: Well, you're the CHAMPS now, like a dog chasing a parked car. Now that you've got it, what are you gonna do with it?

Alan: I think we'll just keep doing much of the same. Same style, same approach, same type of music selection, lock and ring – mostly barbershop. It's what got us here – why change? Not that we're crusaders for KIBBERS--we have a balanced diet of less traditional tunes. But it's what we love to sing and what sing best.

Jim: Our goal is to continue to get better, like Bluegrass and many others did. I think we'd like to be a model for future champs. One of my goals is to someday sing on a VM show (hint, hint). But right NOW... I'm just a happy boy!

It All Started One Night

At an afterglow in September of 1996, four members of the Masters of Harmony decided to sing a song. Three hours later, Garry Texeira, Chris Vaughn, Alan Gordon, and Scott Wilson exhausted the entire repertoire from three choruses and a few international championship quartets! Shortly after the 1996 Far Western District contest, Gotcha! became a registered quartet and bought matching socks.

The quartet spent 1997 moving through the competition ranks, including sweeping the Grand Championship at the Buckeye Invitational. Riding high from first year successes, Gotcha! qualified for their first International Quartet Contest for 1998 in Atlanta, with a 20th place finish. Upon returning, they immediately turned their focus to the 1998 Far Western District Contest in Phoenix, where they came home as the 1998 Far Western District Quartet Champions.

Since then, the quartet climbed through 12th, 8th, 6th, and 2nd in the world before capturing the International Championship in Louisville, KY, in July of 2004.

To date the quartet has performed in over 100 shows across the U.S., Ireland, and Canada on stage, radio, and television and plans to continue singing "their style" of lock and ring barbershop for years to come.



Ticket Prices / Order Form

___ Golden Circle @ \$25 = \$ ___
___ Orchestra @ \$20 = \$ ___
___ Balcony @ \$15 = \$ ___
___ Afterglow @ \$ 3 = \$ ___

Food and festivities after performance at
Chuck E. Cheese - within walking distance.

GRAND TOTAL \$ ___

**SATURDAY
OCT. 16th
8:00 PM**

harborlites
chorus

HARBORLITES' SEND-OFF TO INDY!

With Panache!

1990 Sweet Adelines International Quartet Champions

Nightlife!

1996 SPEBSQSA International Quartet Champions

And introducing a fabulous new

Mixed Ensemble!

Purchase tickets online:

www.harborliteschorus.org or send your check
payable to Harborlites to Joyce Burke,
248 Chaumont Circle, Foothill Ranch, CA 92610,
or call (949) 470-4878.

Include self-addressed stamped envelope. Orders received
after October 9th will be held at the Box Office.

Thank You for your order!

La Mirada Theater | 14900 La Mirada Blvd., | La Mirada Boulevard at Rosecrans

COTS Individual* Registration Form

NOV. 13-14
NOV. 20-21

LAX HILTON Hotel
SAC HILTON Hotel

Los Angeles, California
Sacramento, California

Everyone come have some FUN at the **FWD District COTS!** If you are going to be a Chapter Officer in 2005, you should be there. If you are interested in some of the great Supplemental Classes, you should be there. If you are interested in becoming a Leader in your Chapter and your District, **YOU SHOULD BE THERE!**

NAME				SPEBSQSA MEMBER NO.	
ADDRESS					
CITY/ STATE		ZIP		TELEPHONE	
CHAPTER				E-MAIL	

YOUR REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES LUNCH AND DINNER ON SATURDAY, BREAKFAST SUNDAY MORNING AND HALF A DOUBLE ROOM AND

THESE GREAT CLASSES:

What class will you be attending? (Check appropriate box)

☐ PRESIDENT ☐ SECRETARY ☐ TREASURER ☐ CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT
☐ MARKETING & PR ☐ MUSIC & PERFORMANCE ☐ CHORUS DIRECTOR ☐ YMIH
☐ CHAPTER COUNSELOR ☐ { DISTRICT CLASS TBA } ☐ SAMPLING (ANY OR ALL) ☐ District Officer

Fee Schedule – Postmarked before October 31: **\$125.** On or after November 1: **\$135**
 (Fee includes registration fee, meal package and room cost—double occupancy)
 **Single Room: \$175**
 **Want to come Friday night? Add \$50** for half a double room—no meals
 **Bringing your wife? Add \$50/night** Room cost only (meals/classes not included)
 **Not staying at the hotel? \$100** Registration fee and meals
 **Roommate: _____ Chapter: _____**

Enclosed is a check for \$_____ for **FWD DISTRICT COTS** (circle one)

SOCAL

Nov. 13-14, in Los Angeles

NORCAL

Nov 20-21 in Sacramento.

Make check payable to: **FWD**

Mail this form and applicable fees to:

* Group Registration Forms available

Registrations can be transferred but not refunded.

Dick Girvin
District COTS Coordinator
57 F Calle Cadiz
Laguna Woods, CA 92637-3941

email: **dickgirvin@juno.com**
 Phone: **(949) 380-0732**



In Memoriam: Dr. Val Hicks

February 6, 1933 - June 22, 2004

Text from article at 2004 Harmony College/Directors College, where Val had loved to participate and teach over many years.

Dr. Val Hicks was a pillar of the Barbershop harmony Society. He is in the elite class of our true teaching giants along with Earl Moon, Lou Perry and Dave Stevens and others. As a composer, he wrote songs such as "That Summer When We Were Young," "Singing Here With Dad" and "She Didn't Say No." He arranged literally hundreds of songs.

As an historian, he served as a consultant to the Smithsonian Institution and the American Groves Dictionary of Music. He also served as editor of our 50th anniversary book, *Heritage of Harmony*, which serves us today as the most distinctive account of our Society's history.

Instrumental in development of the Young Men In Harmony Program, he was a judge in the arrangement category for more than 30 years. He gave freely of his time at Harmony College for decades teaching a variety of subjects such as theory, arranging, songwriting and history.

Val was a friend to thousands of Barbershoppers, always willing to listen and inspire. He was a true "gentle" man. The Society will be forever indebted to him. This week, as you sing his songs, think of Val and know he will be greatly missed.

[Editor note: Songs sung in the general session either written or arranged by Val were: "I'll Be A Song And Dance Man Again," "Love's Old Sweet Song," "She Didn't Say No," "That Summer When We Were Young," "True Love" and "The Star Spangled Banner," a fitting tribute.]

OFFICIAL DELEGATES CALL Annual Fall Meeting FWD House of Delegates Bakersfield, California October 1, 2004

To: District House of Delegates (Chapter Presidents or alternates, elected district officers, active past district presidents living in FWD)

When/where: 1 p.m. Friday, October 1, 2004

Holiday Inn Select, Bakersfield, California. (Note new time for this meeting only.)

Eligibility: (Voting members): One delegate (or alternate) from each chapter, elected district officers, and past district presidents living in FWD and who are paid-up members of an FWD chapter in good standing.

Non-voting members: one delegate from chapters on licensed status, or newly formed groups on the date of the meeting, chapter counselors, district coaches and committee chairmen.

Quorum: Thirty percent of the eligible House of Delegates members. (No proxies.)

Registration: Chapter delegates are required to bring with them to the meeting the credentials card that is included in the HOD report found on the FWD Website (www.spebsqsfwd.org) and to present this card to the appropriate credentials officer upon arrival at the meeting.

Agenda: As set forth in the FWD Statement of Policy (Article III, Sec. 3.4), agenda items may be submitted by any Delegate however must be received by the district secretary no later than 45 days prior to the HOD meeting.

Recognition: Only members of the House of Delegates will be recognized for floor privileges.

Visitors: Visitors are cordially invited to attend the House of Delegates meeting, but are requested to refrain from taking seats at the official tables

Show by your prompt attendance and attention that you are sincerely interested in the business and progress of the Far Western District.

Dick Girvin
FWD Secretary

**FWD Fall Convention in Bakersfield
September 30-October 3, 2004
Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
Come Join in the FUN!**



Young Men In Harmony Youth Camp 2004

Harmony Camp
2004 - Sly Park

**With Music Director Bill Weiser
and FWD Champs: "Q"**

Youth Harmony Camp
Friday—Sunday, September 17 - 19, 2004
Sly Park Educational Center
Pollock Pines, California

Pollock Pines is nestled in the pines of the Sierra Foothills just off Highway 50 approximately half way between Sacramento and South Lake Tahoe.

Harmony Camp is designed for high school aged young men.

The cost is \$70 for the camp. Scholarships are available.

No young man will be turned away for lack of financial resources.

Check out our new website at: <http://spebsqsafwd.org/ymih/camp>

Yes, I am interested. Send me more information. This form is NOT for Registration. You will receive a Registration Package after filling out this form and handing it to your Music Teacher, or giving it to the nearest Barbershopper; or sending this form to the address below:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State & Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____ Email _____

Experience (optional) IIS Choir _____ Band _____ Other _____

This Camp fills up fast, so get your name in early.

Hand this to your Music Teacher

Give it to a Barbershopper

Or send the completed form to:

Richard Lund, Camp Director

6164 Windlestraw Road

Placerville, CA 95667

The Gold Rush Chorus of Placerville, CA is coordinating the Camp under the auspices of the Far Western District of The Society For The Preservation And Encouragement Of Barber Shop Quartet Singing In America, Inc. "SPEBSQSA". Website: www.spebsqsa.org

For More Information,
Contact Richard Lund
530-621-1904
Fax: 530-621-4438
Email: rlund@innercite.com

**"Teach The
Children To
Sing"**



COTS is for EVERYONE

By Dick Girvin, FWD COTS Coordinator

Are any of these names familiar to you?

Jerry Easter (Dean)
"Digger" MacDougal (President course)
Ted Leinbach (Secretary course)
Steve Stojowski (Treasurer course)
Dave Dicken (Chapter Development course)
Robb Ollett (Marketing and PR Course)
David Byrd (Music and Performance course)
J. Knickerbocker (Chorus Director course)
Bob Coant (YMIH Course)
Don Fuson (Chapter Counselor Course)

They will be—when you attend the SoCal FWD COTS class in Los Angeles on November 13-14, because they are the specially appointed instructors for the classes shown. What a cast!

And, if you are going to be at the NorCal COTS, November 20-21 in Sacramento, here's the equally prestigious group with whom you will be working:

Brian O'Leary (Dean)
Don Challman (President course)
Ray Briggs (Secretary course)
Dick Newton (Treasurer course)
Dave Dicken (Chapter Development course)
Bruce Anderson (Marketing & PR Course)
Mel Knight (Music and Performance course)
Dave Gelb (Chorus Director course)
Al Bonney (YMIH Course)
Judd Orff (Chapter Counselor Course)

It is COTS, the annual opportunity for the newly elected officers and every Barbershopper to see first hand, the inside view of what is going on in the Society along with hints and kinks on their own areas of interest. With this wide selection of talent from all over the Society, how can you not help but come away with all you need to know about your special job for 2005?

As can be seen, the various courses are primarily identified with the elected chapter officers, however, if you want to know more about ANY of the above jobs in your chapter, why not plan to attend and sample the wares? Even if you were there last year, you will find a new look with refreshing approaches to the old problems and innovative solutions to everyday situations. And, on top of that, here is a great chance to meet, mingle and enjoy singing with representatives of all the FWD chapters who have come together for the annual "drinking from the fire-hose."

"PLAN NOW to attend. Register early so you won't be left out. Wives are welcome—special shopping arrangements are being made for them.

See the COTS Schedule and signup forms elsewhere in this

issue. Send your chapter checks for \$125 ea (early registration) made out to FWD to:

Dick Girvin, COTS Coordinator
57 F Calle Cadiz,
Laguna Woods, CA 92637-3941
e-mail: dickgirvin@juno.com

Schedule overview

Saturday	
9-11am	Registration
11-1230pm	First General Session and lunch
1245-535pm	Classes and General Session
620-720pm	Dinner
730-930pm	Classes and General Session
930pm	Afterglow 'till?
Sunday	
7-750am	Breakfast
8-1050am	Classes
11-1130am	Last General Session

Directory Corrections

CONEJO VALLEY CHAPTER

Gary Wetzel has replaced John Ford as Chapter Treasurer
4251 Via Rio
Newbury Park, CA 91320





FAR WESTERN DISTRICT

and

S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., INC.



Contests and Shows

International Chorus Prelims
Overall and 4 Plateaus
Most Improved Chorus
FWD Quartet Championship
FWD Senior Quartet Contest
Show Of Champions

THEATER

Bakersfield Convention Center
1001 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, California
Bakersfield, California

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL

Holiday Inn Select - Hotel & Conference Center
801 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, California

Meetings and Events

Board Of Directors
House Of Delegates
PROBE - AHSOW
Hall of Fame Luncheon
Chorus Directors Guild
YMIH

REGISTRATION FORM

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT SPEBSQSA 2004 FALL CONVENTION/CONTESTS

September 30-October 3, Bakersfield, California

Please type or print clearly.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone Res. (____) _____ Bus. (____) _____

Competition Status (check one)

- ☐ Chorus Contestant ☐ Quartet Contestant
☐ Non-Competitive Member

VIP Status (check one)

- ☐ District Officer ☐ Delegate HOD
☐ AFWDC Member ☐ Past-FWD President
☐ Comm. Chairman ☐ Other

☐ Check here if you have a disability and may require accommodation in order to fully participate in the convention You will be contacted to discuss your needs.



Quartet Name _____
Singing Part: ☐ Lead ☐ Tenor ☐ Bari ☐ Bass

Chapter / Chorus _____

FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

Full Early Bird Registration Type (Check One)	Full Late/On Site Registration Type (Check One)	Single Events Registration Type (Check One)	Official Use Only
<input type="checkbox"/> Full.....\$30.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Child/Student.....\$15.00 EARLY BIRD CUT OFF Aug. 30, 2004	<input type="checkbox"/> Full.....\$40.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Child/Student.....\$20.00 All Competitors Must have FULL Reg.	<input type="checkbox"/> Fri Evening Qt. Semi Finals..\$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Sat Chorus Contests.....\$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Sat. Quartet Finals/Show.....\$20.00 (SOLD ON SITE ONLY)	Date Recd. _____ Check # _____ Seat # _____ Badge Code _____ Cash \$ _____

Registrants whose forms are received as a group will be seated together.

Guest Name	City	Child/Student? Y/N	Fee	Seat # Official Use

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____
(Member + Guests)

Please make check payable to: FWD FALL CONVENTION 2004

Return completed forms with payment to:
FWD FALL CONVENTION
c/o BOB CATHAWAY
6504 AUDENE WAY
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308

Questions? Call (805) 969-3696 or (661) 399-6292 - Email: rwathaway@cox.net



Phoenix chapters merging

By Phil Smith and Bill Kane

Everywhere **Russ Young** goes in the barbershopping world as a judge and a coach, he is bombarded with questions: Just what is going on in Phoenix? It's been pretty difficult to keep up with the news coming out of Arizona's capital city in the past two years.

About this time in 2002 came the first news that a new chapter was forming, taking advantage of a wealth of musical and administrative talent not currently active in any chapter.

The chapter chartered in November 2002, and by September 2003 had a 50-man chorus performing for its very successful charter show. After another successful show in February with the **Boston Common**, the **Pride of Phoenix Chorus** raised lots of eyebrows by finishing first in the Arizona/Southern Nevada/Southern Utah Division Chorus Contest with an 81 percent average score. The **Phoenicians** finished right behind them with a 78.5 percent average, with both choruses qualifying for the District Contest in Bakersfield.

About six weeks later came the real bombshell: The **Greater Phoenix** and **Phoenix Saguario** chapters were seriously discussing merger!

How can this be? Although many of the **POP** members were former **Phoenicians** and a natural rivalry had developed, it was always a friendly rivalry. The two choruses, which both met on Tuesday night only one mile away from each other, from the beginning had gathered at the same restaurant for their weekly afterglows; the personal friendships that had developed in the past were maintained, and new friendships were made. When the unexpected death of **POP** member and former **Phoenician Dar Jones** shocked both choruses, they came together to sing as a unit at the funeral. It got people thinking: Why do we need to have two choruses with very similar goals?

Allen Baum, a **Phoenician** who had been inactive due to illness, started attending **Pride of Phoenix** meetings and volunteered to explore whether a merger would be feasible. His conclusion in January 2004 was that each chapter had an identity that it was not ready to give up at that point. The **Phoenicians** certainly did not want to give up their chapter's 60-year tradition that included International Chorus Championships in 1972, 1976 and 1983. But the idea of merger was not going to go away.

After the Division Contest, **POP** Director **Russ Young** and **Phoenicians** Director **Fraser Brown**, who are longtime friends and sang together in **Standing Room Only** for 10 years, decided it was time to act. Nearly all the reasons for division had disappeared, and the chapters had the same musical goals. Allen Baum's research had found that there were no Society rules to prevent the merger of two choruses that had qualified for District.

So Fraser and Russ went to their boards to propose merger. On June 1, the two music teams met to work out details. By June 8, most of the two choruses' membership had become aware that something was going on, and merger was discussed at the two chapter meetings that night. Response was overwhelmingly favorable. The joint boards met the following Monday and set up a committee to work out merger details. In one meeting, the committee was able to come up with a written proposal that was approved by the joint boards on June 21. The following day, a letter was mailed to all members of both chapters outlining the proposal and setting an election in two weeks on July 6. A two-thirds majority of members in attendance of both choruses was needed for passage. This was easily achieved, and after holding separate elections, the **Phoenicians** came to the **POP** rehearsal site for a party and the first official rehearsal of the joint chorus.

The two boards then met to come up with a slate for election of a new board to govern the combined chapters through the rest of 2004. That vote was held July 27. Still to come as of Aug. 1 was approval by the boards of the Far Western District and the Society, but there was nothing to indicate there would be any problems.

How did the chapters work out their differences? It was agreed that the **POP** charter, for Chapter D-108, would be relinquished and all members would be transferred into Chapter D-002, the old **Phoenicians** charter, and that the combined group would be called the **Greater Phoenix Chapter**. The combined chapters will operate under the Policy Guidelines of Chapter D-108, except that all current performing members of each chapter's chorus will be included in the merged chorus. The chorus name will be voted on by the merged chapter membership by Sept. 1. In the interim, the chorus will be known as the **Greater Phoenix Chorus**.

Although it is summer and many men are out of town, about 80-90 men have attended the new chorus' rehearsals. In addition to polishing contest music, we are working on learning a joint repertoire of 12 additional songs chosen by the joint music committee from the current song lists of the two choruses. We are working hard, and things are progressing at a very fast pace, but we are enjoying every minute of it.

We're looking forward to seeing our friends from around the district in Bakersfield in October. If you want to know more about us, just ask any member.

2004

**FWD FALL CONVENTION/CONTESTS
BAKERSFIELD SEPT. 30-OCT 3**

HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT SPEBSQSA 2004 FALL CONVENTION/CONTESTS

September 30-October 3, Bakersfield, California

HOTEL	SINGLE	DOUBLE	DBL/DBL
Holiday Inn Select (Hdqs. Hotel)	\$78.00	\$78.00	\$78.00
Best Western Crystal Palace	\$89.00	\$89.00	\$89.00
Best Western Hill House	\$87.00	\$87.00	\$87.00
Four Points Sheraton	\$94.00	\$94.00	\$94.00
Red Lion Hotel	\$85.00	\$85.00	\$85.00
Doubletree	\$92.00	\$92.00	\$92.00
Hampton Inn	\$88.00	\$88.00	\$88.00
Ramada	\$64.00	\$64.00	\$64.00
Garden Suites Inn	\$55.00	\$55.00	\$55.00
Quality Inn	\$54.95	\$54.95	\$54.95

CUT OFF DATE IS AUGUST 31, 2004

RATES DO NOT INCLUDE 12% SALES TAX

Please complete form and return to:
THE GREATER BAKERSFIELD CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
P.O. BOX 192 BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93302-0192
Fax: 661-325-7074

ONLY MAILED OR FAXED REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED

Name: _____ Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: (____) ____ - _____ Fax: (____) ____ - _____ Email: _____

ARRIVAL DATE: _____ DEPARTURE DATE: _____

CHOICE OF HOTEL: Please select 3

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Type of Room: Single _____ Double _____ Dbl/DbI _____
Single: 1 bed 1 person Double: 1 bed 2 persons Dbl/DbI: 2 beds 2 persons

CREDIT CARD (ONE NIGHTS DEPOSIT)

Type: _____ # _____ Exp. Date _____

Cancellations will not be accepted unless a 48 hour notice is received.

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Before I say anything else... isn't it great to know that the 2004 International Championship Quartet is from your very own division! A huge congratulation to **GOTCHA!** for their amazing three set, first place finish! There was never a doubt from their first chord to their last, and they did it by singing hard core barbershop arrangements the way we all dream of doing it. Bravo! I also want to extend a special good wish to my friend **Jim Kline** on fulfilling a longstanding dream. Way to go, Jim!

Now, down to some business. As most of you aware some serious changes have taken place in our Society in the last few months. A new name, some lost friends in Kenosha and a new marketing plan in the offing. One thing, however, remains consistent, and that's the need to recruit new members in order to sustain all these plans. Of course when the appeal from our International Board is made it applies to all of our members nationwide, but how does it involve you? Back in January I issued a challenge to each of you to bring a visitor to one of your rehearsals who might be a prospective member. That's just *ONE* guest for each of you, and you don't have to recruit him, just bring him to a rehearsal. If he's the kind of man we're looking for, he won't be able to resist. Just make sure your music program is in decent shape and that your group is making some pleasing sounds. Add a healthy dose of hospitality and friendship, and the result should be a new Man of Note award for you and another fine singer for your chapter. If it turns out that your visitor isn't ready for membership yet, at least you've won a new friend for your chapter and possibly a show patron in the future. The key here is making the effort to get someone to visit your rehearsal. So if you haven't done that yet this year, you still have a few months to make it happen. Remember, this challenge isn't directed at 30,000 members or even at your chapter, it's directed at YOU. Your reward will be many more years of singing in your thriving chorus or quartet.

Last, if you haven't made your plans for attending the District Convention in Bakersfield in October, now is the time to make them. Far Western District conventions have always had the reputation of being mini Internationals, and this one will be no exception. Not only will you get to witness several great contests, but Ringmaster **Keith Eckhardt** is whipping up another load of classes, activities and funfests designed to make your stay a most entertaining one. There will also be the usual House of Delegates meeting where your chapter will have a say in how our District is to be governed in the years to come. Check elsewhere in this edition of Westunes for all the pertinent information for Bakersfield, and come sing a tag with three old friends! Let me know if you need a bass.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEYAIRES BRUCE POEHLMAN

The **Valleyaires** celebrated its 45th Anniversary with a party on July 21st. **John Wright** did a masterful job planning and coordinating a great event that included a video from our 1987 International Contest at Hartford, CT., photo albums, cake, and of course, lots of singing! **Lew Weitzman** did his usual great job MC'ing the event. Guest quartets included **Tortilla Flats** and the Sweet Adeline quartet **Happy Hour**; **Valleyaires** quartets included **Bill's Bari Pie**, **Ransom Notes**, **Sands of Time**, **The Usual Suspects**, and **the Great American Sound Company**. **Jim Summers** was honored for his continuing membership since the founding of the chapter. Dignitaries included **Bob Lally** (Division Vice President and an ex-Valleyaire) and **Bob Miller** (the "Voice of the LA Kings"). The evening came to a moving close as all guest barbershoppers and ex-barbershoppers joined the chorus on stage with "Keep the Whole World Singing".

SANTA BARBARA**NATHAN STAPLES**

The **Santa Barbara Chapter** and the **Flying Dolphin Chorus** have finally found a permanent home for our Tuesday night meetings and rehearsals: the MaraVilla community clubhouse, at 5486 Calle Real, between Patterson and Kellogg. The community residents have made us feel very welcome, and we're very glad to finally have a permanent place to call home!

Tremendous thanks once again to President **Ed Morin** and wife **Georgina** for all of their arduous work on our wonderful 2004 Annual Program! This year's program brought in great revenue from ad sales, and it features the debut of the new **Flying Dolphin Chorus** logo (designed by **Nathan Staples**). We all were inspired and pleased to see our good friends of **Metropolis** again earning medals with a flare at International Competition this year! Keep it up guys! The summit is in your sights!!

This August, the chapter bids a bittersweet and fond farewell to 7-year lead section member, past Rookie of the Year, and BMAL, **Dr. Nathan Staples**. Nathan and his young family are headed North to Santa Clara, CA, and a new career as professor of Biology in the San Mateo Community College District ... ["South Bay Area chapters, here I come!!"]. The close brotherhood of the **Santa Barbara Chapter** is a wonderful place to be introduced to the joys of singing Barbershop Harmony!

SANTA FE SPRINGS**KIRT THIESMEYER**

The **Masters of Harmony** is juggling its preparation for the Far Western District competition in October, challenging new music for multiple Christmas shows with stellar co-performers, **Harborlites**, and a sixth compact disc recording to be produced in time for the 2005 International Convention in Salt Lake City.

Much attention is being given, not only to singing and performance, but also to reducing the squeak of the risers into the microphones, an unaccustomed skill.

Two new members have been welcomed to the musical ranks, lead **Hisato Masuyama** and baritone **Aaron Mood**, each bringing his unique experience to the multi-phonic Masters.

Of course, we are pleased as parents by the admission of our chapter quartet **GOTCHA!** into the ranks of barbershop immortals – almost as if we had done the work ourselves – and proud of our nurturing tomorrow's successes, represented by the stunning performances of **O.C. Times** quartet (18th) and the **Westminster Chorus** (9th) at the recent international convention in Louisville. Sad notes: Chapter-affiliated quartets **Michigan Jake (Mark Hale)** and **Revival (Royce Ferguson)** retired; and we and **Metropolis** lost **Mike McGee** to Florida, his new life and wife. Oh, and **4th Row** also put their bright green jackets into the back of the closet.

Over twenty MOHers braved the incessant sunshine and pastoral setting of the University of Redlands to improve their skills at Harmony College West in Riverside; and six more went to Harmony College in Missouri, sucking up knowledge from the best. Finally, the Nominating Committee, chaired by Immediate Past President **Bernard Priceman**, is settling on a new slate of officers for the upcoming year; elections in September. Moss doesn't grow under MOH feet.

SANTA MONICA

JERRY WALKER

Bruce Schroffle was the creative genius who developed the script for the Oceanaires' very successful spring show on June 5, "*Hooray for Hollywood*," a musical visit to the Golden Age of movies. **Alan Hanson** and **Bill Dimpfl** earned the chorus' gratitude by doing a superb job of organizing the spring show, and **Steve Demmer**, **Bruce Schroffle**, **Jerry Walker**, and **Dick Keagy** also provided welcome assistance. **Marty Mitnick** and Jerry contacted sixty senior residential communities to invite their attendance.

The **Barnacle Bills** quartet with **Bruce Schroeffel** (lead), **Aaron Mood** (tenor), **Carl Rogers** (bari), **Tom Laskey** (bass), and **David Zasloff** (bari/lead understudy) did six weekends and 20 performances in the Santa Monica Theatre Guild's production of Meredith Willson's "*The Music Man*" at the Morgan Theatre. Meredith Willson's widow attended the show in mid-July, and told our singers that if they heard a fifth voice joining in, it would have been Meredith's, because he loved barbershop harmonies.

Eugene Hall (bass) and **Bob Lipson** (lead) have joined the Oceanaires as new members. **Bob Lipson** joined **Bob Heron** and **Jim Leedom** in attendance at the Harmony College West.

Bob Heron has done a fabulous job in the transition from Assistant Director to full-time Interim Director.

Our own **Sound Stage Quartet (Tom Laskey, Bob Heron, Harry Stasney and Mike Martin)** won the Super Seniors category at the SoCal West Ventura Contest.

SANTA MARIA

LU HINTZ

The **Home Town Harmony Quartet (Gene Kai, Bob Carlton, Lew Law and Bob Wilson)** may have sung their final swan song as Lew is moving to Texas. **Chuck Fredrickson** took first place at a recent tri-chapter quartet contest and **Ralph Musalo** was the recipient of the BOTM award for hosting that same event at his home.



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The number one problem in the Society today is dwindling membership. We are an aging society after all, with an obvious and unavoidable reason for loss of members. But younger men are out there and one of the chapters of the SoCal East Division has been an example to the entire Society as to how to find them. I'm referring to the new **Westminster** Chapter. Not only did they find a bunch of brand new members, but they molded them into a top notch chorus, placing 9th in the recent International Chorus Contest in Louisville, Kentucky! Way to go **Westminster**.

Actually, though the Society as a whole is losing members at the rate of almost 2% per year, SoCal East is not doing too badly. In the first half of this year, the entire Division has lost only one member. Four chapters have done particularly well - **El Cajon** (grown by 21% so far this year), **Coachella Valley** (18%), **Westminster** (14%) and the great **Fullerton Chapter** (6% - which is excellent for a 100+ man chapter). I hope others can start to do as well.

By the time you read this article, Fall will be fast approaching, along with the District Convention in Bakersfield, your Christmas Shows and elections for 2005 officers. The first two of these activities will be lots of fun and the last, if carried out with some thought, will insure lots of fun next year. Let's take a look at each activity.

I know that most of you have at some time or other attended a District Convention. Getting together with a couple of thousand of the greatest guys in the world is fun, isn't it? Even if you're not competing, the chance to hug old friends, sing with new friends and watch some of the finest quartets and choruses in the country is for sure worth the effort. And if you're new to the Society, this is THE time to check out our hobby at its best. You'll love every minute of it.

Next is your Christmas Show. It's often said that the journey is as much fun as the destination. Rehearsing, especially if you're

inviting guest singers to join you, can be lots of fun. Who needs an audience? Well, maybe to help raise a few bucks to put in the chapter coffers.

And finally, perhaps the least fun but just as important as the other two activities, is the election of officers for next year. I said above "if carried out with some thought" and with good reason. So often the choice of officers is without much real thought. "Sid never did Membership before – let's get him to do it". But is Sid the best man for the job? Does he have the time, the energy or the personality to get new members and keep them? Maybe there's someone better in the chapter. Look around. If a little more thought is put into choosing the right men for your 2005 Board, perhaps there'll be a better chance for success. A little thought will pay off.

That's it for now. See you in Bakersfield.



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BREA

JOHN GASTON

The **Gaslight Chorus** is continuing its steady process of attracting new members with the addition of two outstanding gentlemen. **Bob Tomes** and **Daniel Viramontes** have joined the lead section and have immediately contributed to the section's smooth sound. New members are the lifeblood of a new chapter.

The chorus recently participated in a four-chapter visitation consisting of the **Fullerton, Whittier, Irvine** and **Brea Chapters**. The evening was outstanding and a perfect reminder that chapters should be interacting and celebrating this pastime with each other much more often. A tip of the 'straw' hats to the Fullerton guys for a great night.

The **Gaslight Chorus** has moved forward with many new and challenging arrangements by their director/arranger extraordinaire **Phil Ordaz**. The chorus is also working on establishing an in-house learning CD program.

COACHELLA VALLEY

TERRY MANN

July and August is the time period when **The Sand Blasters** are "behind the moon", on the dark side, to paraphrase a Theater cliché. However, this year for the first time since 2000, they have an "augmented" double quartet of fulltime members who continue to meet on Tuesday evenings for their weekly harmony in song. This group could be called "*The Quartet Corps*", the guys in the ranks, who are the core of the chorus from which they are called to perform, when a registered quartet is not available.

This week they were visited by **Keith Eckhardt**, President of the **Placerville Chapter**, who 'augmented' their bass section nicely.

Their summer off from normal activities is being spent by the various committees in preparation for the next 'Season', which begins the first Tuesday of September (the 7th). Their next show will be a totally different presentation with a stage without a curtain and thus no entry from behind the curtain or 'back stage'. They are excited by this new venue, and it's smaller capacity which will allow patrons to fill the house for each of the two performances.. The Afterglow will be held in the Theater's rotunda.

A Valentine's Day activity is being planned and will be presented to the Board at the late August board meeting.. "The Quartet Corps" will augment the chapter's three registered quartets for the Valentine opportunity.

EL CAJON

MIKE DORMAN

The **Music Masters Chorus**, with every member feeling upbeat and enthusiastic, is coping well with the several midsummer member "vacation absences." The August third "sing-out" before *The Americans Night Out Against Crime* gathering exemplified the "can-do" approach of the chorus.

By the way, the members, by succeeding in "tuning their voices to the other parts" are realizing how much more fun they get out of their singing. It also encourages director **Tom Anderson** to want more and more improvement.

FULLERTON

DICK COTE

Fullerton's *Barbershop Clippin's*, a 14 time winner of the FWD top bulletin and twice honored as the top Society Bulletin, continues publishing monthly, setting high standards of content, appearance and timely reporting. The July/August issue contains 20 pages—jam-packed with local and Society news items and pictures, providing a real challenge for the digester to select items. The headline story from a new member **Dan Culver**, "tells it like it is." Past FWD President, **Deane Scoville**, provided a fine memorial story on the passing of the great **Val Hicks**; Monthly quartet activity reporting by **Art Clayton**, **Stan Tinkle's** historical review of the songs they sing, **Al Bell's** planning for the future, are only a few of the fine articles that appear in their July issue. Editor Cote, provides food-for-thought in his *Editorial Musings*, and in addition to his bulletin duties supports the chapter in many ways including several chapter quartets. Take it from the *Barbershop Clippin's*; Fullerton is a busy, happy chapter!

HEMET

BRUCE SMITH

With their annual show behind them, Music VP **Clay Penlaqui**, points out that it is time to start preparing for their Christmas performance scheduled for December 4 and 5. The theme and songs are expected soon. The Barber Polecat Program is back in full swing.

President **Dale Covey**, reports that despite the fact they are in the "dog days of summer," they need to look for areas of improvement, and suggests quartet or octet singing, membership grown, performances and public relations for starters.

IRVINE

JEFF YOUNG

It's always a pleasure to introduce new members to the chapter. Their latest additions are **Fred Pellicciotti** (rhymes with *Nellitoddy*), **Ralph Garcia** and **Wayne Jones** (returnees), and barbershop veteran, **Fred Eastman** (who sang Civil War songs, it is understood by some chapter members, during the Civil War).

The guest appearance of "**Special Edition**" quartet was recently enjoyed by the chapter. They include: **Dan Durfey** (MOH), tenor; **Jim Glasgow** (CPC) lead; **Jim Throgmorton** (MOH ret'd) baritone and **Jay Morland** (MOH) bass

Their latest performance was for an appreciative audience at the Palisades United Methodist church of Capistrano Beach on June 8. Their next event on July 3rd at Irvine City Hall, joined the City in saluting their Sister City in Japan by entertaining a group of 40 visitors.

LA JOLLA

MICHAEL BAUER

Pacific Coast Harmony has been very busy this summer. Of note were the performances onboard the USS Midway (CVA 41), which has been decommissioned and is now the San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum, and their 2nd annual Cabaret Show on June 12, where the chorus was delighted to feature the 1998 International Quartet Champions, **Revival**, as headliners.

The **La Jolla Chapter** celebrated its 2nd anniversary on July 23 and has recently completed the recording of a demo CD and marketing package. They've been working on the new contest set, and have coaching sessions with **Cindy Hansen** scheduled later this month. PCH extends its hearty congratulations to **Gotcha** for their stellar gold medal performance at Louisville.

ORANGE QUARTET CHAPTER STANLEY TINKLE

The **Orange Quartet Chapter**, which closes for Christmas and New Years only, celebrated Monday July 5 with patriotic songs. Quartets report that **Val Hicks'** simple and elegant arrangement of *The Star Spangled Banner* is a fine gig song in the proper setting.

They are encouraging quartets to learn uptunes for public performance as well as ballads and traditional favorites for their personal pleasure. Music VP **Rich Lewis** has made available to interested members the legal charts and recordings of ten songs that the chapter quartets want to teach to all comers. Chapter quartets **Indigo**, **Balderdash**, **Fermata the Blue**, **The Plaza City Serenaders**, **Orangetown Four** and **4/4 Harmony** will teach their favorite songs to volunteers who ask Program VP and Board Member **Don Engels** to schedule them in. *Let's Get Away From it All*, *Sittin' On Top Of the World*, and *Dream A Little Dream*, are early examples of the system.

Recently, Membership VP **Michael Werner** demonstrated the progress of the program by having Indigo begin a Tag Quartet performance of *Let's Get Away From it All*. Within fifteen seconds all Indigo singers were tagged out. **Balderdash** had the same result with *Sittin' On Top Of the World*.

The chapter expects that soon most of its members, including their in-house quartets, will have expanded their own repertoire with ten inspiring songs, taught by fellow enthusiasts.

PALOMAR PACIFIC

BILL NIELSEN

There is no summer slow-down for the **Pal-Pac Music Men's Chorus** since the Board has laid out a ambitious schedule for the members. Their newest inductees, two new basses, **Ed Ehrart**, and **Walt Krstich** and a new bari, **Tom Knox** all have comfortably fit into their respective sections already.

Several members including **Lloyd Steinkamp** and **Terry Aramian** and spouses attended the International Convention in Louisville, Kentucky and returned with many pleasant comments that they shared with the men.

The Chapter Board has announced that the **Music Men** will compete in Bakersfield in October. Two selections from the master repertoire are currently being evaluated for a final decision.

Recently, the chapter lost a long-time and lovable member. **Jack Fellows**, a veteran of three U.S. wars who was honored with a 21-gun salute at his memorial in Bonsall followed by the traditional presentation of the U.S. flag to his wife. Thirty chorus members led by **Terry Aramian** sang *I Believe* and *The Star Spangled Banner*. A chapter quartet of **Paul Bloom**, **Arlin Wilshire**, **Pete Hensley**, and **Marv Ewing** sang the *Lord's Prayer* and **Frank Hartog** sang a touching rendition of *Old Friends*. Jack faithfully served many years as PalPac's music librarian and will be sorely missed by all the men.

In late May, **Lloyd** and **Judy Steinkamp** hosted Society great, **Burt Szabo** for a few days which gave him the opportunity to visit and sing with the chorus, even singing some of his own arrangements much to his pleasure and the joy of each member.

RANCHO BERNARDO

JIM LARKIN

The Troub-a-dour, the chapter bulletin, in bright attractive color, tells of the ongoing activities of this busy chapter. Editor (and also President Pro Tem) **Jim Larkin**, has a headline story "*Leaders or Leaners*," in which he invites the chapter to make a "*leap of faith*," learning new songs and raising their singing to higher levels.

Hosting the RB Chamber Mixer netted the chapter a great time at the Oaks North Community Center, as well as a "fantastic news article" and picture in the local north county paper, just in time for their upcoming show.

Their June board meeting minutes, provided by Secretary **Larry Taylor**, identified the need for a new look at their "telephone tree," suggesting even a computerized system, a booth in the Carmel Mountain street fair in October may be in the offing, and dates for their 2005 show were attentively selected and April 17 or 24th.

SAN DIEGO

MILOS KOUTSKY

"We are back," reports scribe Koutsky, who continued by telling that **STEVE PAINE** has been directing the chorus since January with the sound improving each week and the members are having a good time.

June 12th, the chapter had two successful performances at the Joan & Ray Kroc Performing Arts Center in San Diego, in a two-act play written and staged by chapter members **Dave Miller** and **Carl Barlow**. The story was told about a couple growing old together through flashbacks depicting their 50 years of marriage.

The following day the chapter produced another performance featuring the **Westminster Chorus** along with quartets **O.C. Times, Q, Four Score** and the '98 International Gold Medalists **Revival**, who gave the audience quite a show as they prepared for their trip to Louisville, KY. The **Sun Harbor Chapter** states that they are indeed proud to have helped these groups make such a good showing at this year's International Competition.



FWD DVP for Division 3 NCWH

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In June I was fortunate enough to travel to the International Convention in Louisville. It surely was a great convention. All of our Far Western District Quartets and The **Westminster Chorus** did a great job representing the strongest district in the Society. Congratulations are in order for ALL! **GOTCHA!** realized the highest honor a quartet can achieve in winning the gold. They are now our new International Champions. One of the members of this fine quartet has maintained his membership in the **San Jose Garden City Chorus** and that means they now have a member with a Gold Medal. Congratulations **Alan Gordon**. Some of us watched Alan grow up singing in the chorus and them leaving to attend college in L.A. He joined the **Masters of Harmony** and maintained a dual membership with his home chorus in NorCal West/Hawaii. We should all be very proud of him.

At the convention the International Board of Directors voted to change the name of our organization to "*The Barbershop Harmony Society*". We will call ourselves by this new name, but we will still do business as [d.b.a.] the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America Incorporated.

I have to say that I sang more at this convention than many I have attended. There were many people from our own district in attendance and we did a good deal of singing. We, as a board, have been trying to promote more participation and I think it is starting to happen. While I am speaking to you about participation, I want to extend a hearty invitation to all of you to attend

the Fall District Convention. It promises to be a barn burner. Lots of things to do as well as contest sessions and singing opportunities. Come one come all! If I see you there, we will undoubtedly get to sing a few.



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FREMONT/HAYWARD

RAY SPINOSA

For the second consecutive year, the **New Dimension** chorus had the privilege of performing at a benefit for the San Lorenzo Library Summer Children's Program. The headliner was again pop pianist **Lanny Quidley**. The chorus performed a set of barbershop standards and also served as backup singers for pianist Quidley. At the end of the first half of the performance, chorus members strutted off the stage doing their best to interpret the accompanying African rhythms. Many thanks to **Dorothy Yanagi**, who graciously made both her home and piano available, so the chorus and Lanny could rehearse together.

Another repeat performance occurred at the All Saints Catholic Church in Hayward, where the chorus again attended mass and sang five religious songs during the course of the service. The reaction from the parishioners was very gratifying, one lady asking if the chorus could stay for another service, which unfortunately was not possible. However, we are at a loss to explain the remark about all the good looking men in tuxedos.

The results of the International competition in Louisville were of particular interest this year. First of all, hearty congratulations, to our own **Matt Fellows** who is a member of the college quartet, **Fourscore**, which won the Silver medal in the Collegiate Contest. Also, two years ago, the headliner for our chapter's first show was **Gotcha**, so we were all very pleased to see them win the big prize this year. This could be a selling point for future shows - sing for us - win the gold medal!!

ALOHA

JACK Y HASHIMOTO

International Judge and Performance Coach **John Coffin** decided to mix pleasure with pleasure, May 24 - 27, when he honored us with his visits to our rehearsals, both chorus and quartets. He coached us on both levels in his area of expertise, and really gave us a shot in the arm. John and wife Maureen were in the islands enjoying a little R&R during that period. Thanks, John.

On May 28 we performed at the annual Special Olympics opening ceremonies at Les Murakami Stadium on the campus of the University of Hawaii in Manoa. We proudly sang the National Anthem, and the State Anthem, "*Hawaii Pono*". We look forward to doing that gig next year.

June 5 found us enjoying each other's company at our annual Picnic and golf outing. Golf was held at the Ewa Beach International Golf Club, and it was chaired by **Steve Hokanson**. The picnic was at nearby Barbers Point (formerly Barbers Point Naval Air Station) Nimitz Beach. This event was chaired by **Ed Reid**, assisted by **Vic** and **Janet Harrington**.

Our mentor and good friend **Dr. Hank Hammer** visited June 17. Now residing in San Antonio, Texas, and active in Barbershopping there and internationally, Hank still keeps his ties with the Aloha Chapter, where his heart resides. Thanks for the coaching and inspiration, Hank. We love you.

Several of our members went to "Looville" for International, namely Director **Mark Conching**, **Zig Palaygi**, and **De DeCrow**. Zig hosted our traditional Aloha Chapter Reunion at one the city's fine restaurants.

MARIN COUNTY

RALPH KLING

The **Marin Golden Gate Barbershop Chorus** celebrates its 50th anniversary this October 24th with a star-spangled, red, white and blue 'Barbershop Bandwagon' Show. The show celebrates this election year with a third party convention of its own complete with; vocal brass bands; flags, bunting, campaign posters, straw hats, suspenders, campaign buttons, lots of barbershop quartets; and, even a third party candidate of its own!

During the year the Chorus and quartets provide entertainment for many retirement communities, as well as civic and charitable organizations. They also support vocal music in the schools through their youth outreach programs.

NAPA VALLEY

THEODORE LASSAGN

The Lincoln Theater in Yountville had just been remodeled to the tune of several million dollars and the manager asked the **Napa Valley Barbershop Chorus** to be one of the first attractions in their new venue.

We had put together a perfect show. Our headliners would be **Gotcha** and that funny group **Late Night Barbershop**. The chorus from **Rohnert Park** would be on stage with us. Our chorus had been working hard polishing the new songs.

We had also advertised and auditioned for new men singers who might be interested in performing in the auditorium, opening up the chorus to others in the community to join us on a one time basis. Fifteen enthusiastic and qualified singers had signed up. Then **Gotcha** became the internationals Champions. Wow! We were set.

We were deep into the words and music when we got the startling news that the Theater would not be ready in time, like there would be no seats. Perhaps not until November.

What to do? We were in shock! The high school auditorium was booked. The only other suitable stage was the Napa Opera

House. A wonderfully refurbished and intimate jewel of a theater of about 500 seats dating back to the 1870's. But, their schedules are set a year in advance. However, **Fred Davis** our show chairman asked anyway.

"We have one cancellation," they told him, "Which is Saturday October 23rd." Can you believe that is the same date of our canceled contract with the other theater, the same date that we have contracted with our headliners? That was it! We ran around in circles with lots of high fives. Back in business in the center of town where we could have been in the first place.

So, if you saw our advertisement in the July/August Westunes with the Lincoln theater address in it, take a look at our ad in this issue for the new down town address. With that beautiful theater and these great singers, it will be one heck of a show. See you there, either at the matinee or the evening performance.

PALO ALTO/MOUNTAIN VIEW

JOHN HEATHER

The **Peninsulaire**s have already established a steering committee, submitted budgets and booked the Heritage Theatre in Campbell, CA for their **2005 NorCal West/ Hawaii Convention** on April 9, 2005. The **Palo Alto-Mountain View Chapter** is pleased to be hosting this event and hopes for a good turnout from all the NorCal West Division Chapters.

S.F. BAY CITY QUARTET

CASEY PARKER

We had a good balance of parts for our mid-July meeting at Stuft Pizza. **Harvey Jensen** (lead/tenor) and **El Wirt** (bari/tenor) provided the top end of our evening's quartets. **Dave Laubscher** joined us for the evening's songs. Our newest member, **Joe Ingram** joined several of the evening's quartets while **Dennis Baker** alternated between lead and bass in his unmistakable style. Dennis brought us the woodshed session tune "*Hi Lili, Hi Lo*," an easy to harmonize ditty from the world of cinema. Our tag time session included "*Sunshine of Your Smile*" and "*Wedding Bells*."

The July 28 treat was the visitation of the **GARLIC CITY HARMONY** quartet, fresh from their three day tour at the Gilroy Garlic Festival. Orv did the tag session.

SAN FRANCISCO

DON KINGTON

Cable Car Chorus members are still patting each other, themselves and Director **Angela Suraci** on the back after their successful annual show on Saturday, June 26, at S.F. State University. For the first time in recent memory a matinee performance was added. In addition to Angela, big kudos go to Show Chairman **Jorge Protugal**, to **Charles Feltman**, author of the show's script, and to **Tim Williams**, who Mced the "*Trip to Loveland*" as the flight attendant of the "wide-bodied, lighter-than-air ship" (read 300-seat recital hall). It was a natural for Tim, his being an attendant with United Airlines.

[Ed. note: honors for a member of our FWD family]

The membership is also proud of one of its long-time, but seldom seen members -- **Joshua Feltman**, son of Assistant Director

Charles Feltman. Two of Josh's compositions were given their World Premier at Tanglewood, Massachusetts, during the last week in July. Josh joined the Chapter when he was eight years old and has continued his membership for 23 years. Josh graduated in 1997 from Tufts University (mathematics) and the New England Conservatory (music composition), where he was awarded the Chadwick Medal for exemplary musical service to the community.

He was active with the Chorus from 8 through 12 when instrumental music in the Oakland Youth Orchestra, then the SF Youth Orchestra as Second Chair Viola, and finally the high school jazz band he formed all took priority over barbershop. He did, however, spread barbershop harmony to Ticino (the Italian-speaking part of Switzerland) from 2000 to 2002 as music teacher for The American School in Lugano before moving back to the US to pursue his recent graduate degree.

Josh was awarded a Master's Degree this June by SUNY Stony Brook. The premier of his compositions was the result of an ASCAP Composition Scholarship he was awarded to the famous music camp at Tanglewood, in the Berkshire mountains of western Massachusetts.

SAN JOSE

DEAN JAMES

During its July 20 rehearsal, the **Garden City Chorus** had just finished its warm-ups when **Alan Gordon** arrived with the quartet gold medal hanging around his neck. Alan, the bari of **GOTCHA!**, started his barbershop career with San Jose when he was ten years old. (Look at the pdf file of the latest chapter Pitch on our web www.sjchorus.org.) In the picture Alan is standing on a box on the left in the second row.

The rehearsal singing was halted while Alan shared the excitement of **GOTCHA!** winning on the International stage. The quartet had agreed to get lots of sleep so Alan didn't see much of the convention. On Wednesday they "wowed 'em" on their first song, but some missing notes and words on the second song left them leading by only 20 points. The Friday set was the big winner. Although they were 95 points ahead of **Riptide** and 100 ahead of **MaxQ**, Alan didn't get much sleep Friday night. On Saturday night, the Barberpole Cat set, "...*Old Mill Stream*" and "...*Nellie*," was a big crowd pleaser. Alan was humbled by the multitude of "big-name" medal winners in the ballroom to help **GOTCHA!** celebrate their win.

WALNUT CREEK

DICK JOHNSTON

On Sunday, July 18, members of the **DEVIL MOUNTAIN CHORUS** enjoyed their second annual event at Woodminster Amphitheater in Oakland's San Joaquin Park. As it was last year, the affair was organized by **Brad** and **Carol Dewey**. The group gathered for a pot-luck picnic in the park, followed by an evening of the musical comedy *Annie* at the amphitheater.

The chorus sang at a meeting of Lions Club officials on August 7, followed by a sing-out at Walnut Creek's Concert in the Park the next day.

Brad and Carol also attended the convention at Louisville. Carol, who is a special correspondent for the *Devil Mountain Despatch*, has written a lively account of the affair, which will appear in the next edition of the Despatch.



FWD DVP for Division 4 NCENN

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Kinda quiet up here in the Northland the last couple months...summer doldrums, I s'pose.

However...some chapters were busy, busy, busy.

...**Stockton**, for example. Don't know how many readers of this article remember the good ol' days - back in the early '80s as I recall - when **Stockton** used to sponsor a multi-chapter picnic and quartet fest at Micke Grove Park (just north of Stockton). It was one the not-to-miss events of the year. Well, guess what, gang - it's baaaaak! - and with every bit of the fun, camaraderie, and non-stop quarteting of yore. If you were there (and gosh knows why you weren't if that's the case), on July 11th, you know whereby I speak. Thanks, **Bill Legg** and the **Stockton** crew, for bringing back this great tradition!

...**Nevada/Placer**, for example. The umpteenth legendary **Bean Feed and Somewhat-Serious Quartet Contest** on June 1st brought representatives from every chapter within b-flat range, and a plethora of - well - interesting - quartets performed., and/or stood up on that gosh-darn stage and made utter foolishness. And, thanks to **Q**, we had an impeccable, sometimes implacable, and totally imperturbable panel of judges.

...and I'll just bet your chapter was similarly busy - problem is, nobody tells me nuthin'! Seems to me multi-chapter events are on the rise in NorCal East/Northern Nevada. Now if we could just get the word out...wait...here's an idea...tell me - I promise I'll tell the world. What's up with your chapter?

Garbeau's Dinner Theater in Rancho Cordova presents "The Music Man" from September 3rd through November 7th. Appearing will be several of NCENN's finest quartets! For more info, go to www.garbeaus.com.

Q? Did themselves proud in Louisville - prediction: they stick together, they keep winning - all the way to the big one. Ya jes' gotta love 'em!

...Saw a few of your smilin' faces at events in Nevada Placer, and Micke Grove Park, Louisville, etc., and...

...see 'ya around...

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CENTRAL CALIFORNIA**MILES SUTTER**

May 22nd the **Golden Valley Chorus** performed its annual show, *Trains, Planes & Automobiles*, at Merced College. **Howard Barber** did an outstanding job as Show Chairman! **Collaboration, Common Bond**, and our featured quartet, **Whirlwind**, helped make this a memorable concert. Also performing were the Procrastinators (**Dale Williams, Dave Wallace, Mike Viss** and **Dain Goad**).

Chapter members attended the "*Hotdogs family and Harmony*" picnic at Micke Grove Park in Stockton and invited Sacramento and Folsom as well to a 'fun-in-the-sun' shindig. There were lots of games, and impromptu quartet contest, swimming, and a zoo and carnival for the families. **Bill Legg** coordinated the event. **Stockton** was also celebrating their *50th Anniversary*. Fifteen quartets competed with the grand prize for the winning quartet consisting of a trip to Salt Lake for next year's International.

James Earle Stucky joined the **Modesto Melody Makers** in 1990 and became a charter member of **Golden Valley Chorus** in 1997. He passed away on July 12th. 26 chorus members attended the funeral service where we sang "*Precious Lord*" and "*I'll Fly Away*" per his request.

August 15th the city of Ripon is going to celebrate the return of our own **Chuck Roots**, who has served his country in Iraq. He is the minister of Ripon's Free Methodist Church, and the celebration will take place in the City Park.

FRESNO**GORDON BERGTHOLD**

The **Gold Note Chorus** was well represented in Louisville by President **Chuck Irwin** and **Jane**, Membership VP **Gordon Bergthold**, Board Member **Jim Warner** and Director **Rich Hasty** and **Kristin**, and **Tom B Judy Doran**.

The Barbershop Harmony Society is a new name for SPEB-SQSA, INC., as approved by the International Board of Directors. What's in a name you ask? Just keep on improving the quality of singing like we witnessed at Louisville and the name won't be a problem. Everyone will know you're a barbershopper when they hear those wonderful chords sung by everyday guys like you and me.

NEVADA PLACER**ROGER PERKINS**

The **Sierranaders** were pleased to have another successful "*Somewhat Serious Quartet Contest and Bean Feed*" on June 1. It was attended by 110 barbershoppers, their wives and friends. The food was so good that we ran out of beans with about 20 people left to feed. The natives were not happy so they chose to

take two giant hot dogs leaving the two servers, **Tom Klasey & Roger Perkins** without dinner. The judges were Raymond, Robert, Cory and Mike. of **Q** from Reno. There were 20 quartets in the competition and we made a nice donation to help **Q** with their expenses in Louisville.

The International Convention was attended by **Bill Beck, Dave Bishop, Roger** and **Sally Perkins**. **Al** and **Jeanne Drouin** brought their quartet, **Prime Time**, which includes **Kent Borrowdale** (**Folsom** director) and **Kathie Fagerstrom**. We were more than thrilled to see **GOTCHA!** take home the quartet gold medal after having them as show headliners about 6 years ago.

We repeated our annual show, *Harmony Roundup*, at Sun City Lincoln Hills on June 25 to an enthusiastic sell-out crowd. Featured chapter quartets were **Essential Harmony, Chord Miners, Conventionaires** and the mixed quartet **Prime Time**. We also had **Hot Commodity**, an excellent girl's quartet, and **Highlight**, a S.A.I. quartet.

PLACERVILLE**FRANK MARTIN**

The **Stockton Chapter** picnic was held Sunday, July 11th at Micke Grove Regional Park, between Stockton and Lodi hosted by the **Portsmen Chorus**. Many families brought sumptuous feasts with watermelon and wine. There were members from at least seven chapters. **Keith Eckhardt, Patsy Miller, Richard Lund, Bernard Carlson** and **Frank Martin** represented the **Gold Rush Chorus**. After lunch, the singing started in earnest. Anyone who wanted to sing could do so, the only requirement being, no more than two singers from the same chapter in a quartet.

If you want to sing in a quartet and have never been asked, **Bill Peck**, our Quartet Activity Chairman has worked out a plan. Two names are drawn out of a hat with all the member's names in it. Each of these two individuals is to select three other members to form a quartet. The two quartets must choose a name, pick a song and sing it before the chapter the following week. They have a whole week to get together and practice. The plan appears to be working well.

BEN LOFTSGAARD passed away quietly in his sleep on the morning of June 25th, 2004. He was one of the first Chorus Directors in the Placerville Chapter. Ben was admired as being intelligent, congenial, compassionate, a great director and an all around "neat guy". He was known for his ability to make song arrangements at will. Arrangements would appear on sheets of paper, envelopes, scraps, and even as the chorus was singing. He will be remembered.

RENO**DAVE RAMER**

The chorus was in fine voice as we opened the Reno Rodeo singing the National Anthem. We are also learning a list of new music including an original opener written by **Raymond Davis**.

CONGRATULATIONS to our own "**Q**" as they attained the prestigious number 20 spot at International Competition. When

you attain any spot in the top 20 quartets you are in rarified air. You are really wowing them "Q". Thanks for representing us.

SACRAMENTO

FRANK KINNISON

The **Capitolaires** performed at the *Sacramento Jazz Jubilee* over Memorial Day weekend. Quartets also performed with the chorus as well as in the Railroad Museum and strolled through Old Sacramento singing barbershop tunes. The quartets were **Pot Luck, Gaslight, Top Cats** and **True Colors** (SA).

Alan LeVesu was BOTM in May. He is always a hard worker for the **Capitolaires**, but was particularly noted for his behind the scenes work as the coordinator of the barbershop events for the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee.

STOCKTON KEP KEPLINGER

The Micke Grove picnic was reinstated on July 11. This was an annual event for many years which was attended by barbershoppers in Northern California. The park is located between Stockton and Lodi. They hope to keep this fun event going in the future.

VISALIA

DEE BAUGHMAN

The Chorus sang in July at the Springville Community Music in the Park and the Kingsburg Community Band concert.

The "**Some Assembly Required Quartet**" has been active with three performances in June, one of which was performing for the Visalia Arts Council's fund raising dinner.

Director **Tank Waldrem**, continues to make improvement with his health, but is still not 100%. Our Associate Director, **Lance Jepsen** and Music V.P. **Bob Peden** have both filled in ably in Tank's absence.



FWD DVP for Division 5 ASNSU

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"The Winds of Change"

First of all I could not pass up the opportunity to share a little humor that I received via e-mail today. It seems to apply to many of us in the Division, District and the Society.

Another year has passed
and we're all a little older.
Last summer felt hotter
and winter seems much colder.

I rack my brain for happy thoughts,
to put down on my pad,
But lots of things that come to mind
that make me kind of sad.

There was a time not long ago
when life was quite a blast.
Now I fully understand
about "Living in the Past"

A little humor, I am sorry that is a fact, not humor. Our Chapters, Divisions, Districts and Society continue to get older and we are not doing much about it. In 1993, one of our Society Icons Dean Snyder (deceased) wrote a paper titled "*The Winds of Change*" and he started it by saying "The "*Winds of change*" are blowing! This is a fact of life in our Society – well- established by recent events. Moreover, "*winds of change*" represent a forecast of the "*things to come*."

I really believe now while the "*Winds of Change*" are blowing, we need to step up to the plate, take a might swing at a Randy Johnson pitch and put it right out of the yard. Our Society is undergoing change that will and does affect us all but I see every part of it as being positive and a step forward. I would ask that each and everyone of you log on to the Society Home Page and obtain a copy of the "*21st Century Harmony Barbershop Harmony Society Marketing Plan*" and after reading it through, tell me we have not gotten on to the jet stream and are riding high on the "*Winds of Change*". In case you had not noticed, I am excited about the changes already made and am looking forward to the ones being proposed. I think it is only going to make our Chapters, Divisions, District and Society bigger and better and I hope you will share that enthusiasm and excitement with me as we continue to enjoy this wonderful hobby we all share. "*Change is in the Air*" as "*The Winds of Change*" continue to blow.



Division 5 ASNSU Editor

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GREATER PHOENIX

BILL KANE

Biggest news by members of the **Pride of Phoenix Chorus** was their decision to merge the chapter with the **Phoenix Saguaro Chapter**, since a majority of them had sung together in the **Phoenicians** chorus over the years and remained close friends. Co-directors for the new chorus are **Russ Young** and **Fraser Brown**, who teamed up successfully in Standing Room Only's trip to the International medals. Assistant directors are **Cary Burns** and **Scott Cinnamon**. The chorus will be known initially as the **Greater Phoenix Chorus**, with a name search underway.

The chapter has elected the following men as their Board to lead them the rest of 2004, with other former officers agreeing to stay on as assistants: President, **Bill Kane**; Past President, **Marv Peterson**; VP Music, **Greg Dodge**; VP Program, **Ray Estes**; VP Membership, **Mike Goodrich**; VP Marketing, **Wes Stahler**; Secretary, **Keith Kelly**; Treasurer, **Jack Shuckhart**; Chorus Manager, **Jack Mauney**; Board Member at Large, **Gary Ciba**.

International in Louisville saw the chapter well represented, with **Russ Young** and **Randy Stringfellow** judging, while **Finale** and **Broadway** were competing. We are very proud of their efforts. Quartets who will compete from the chapter at Division contest in Bakersfield this fall include **Broadway, Music Box, High-Five, After Hours** and Division Senior Champs **Dry Heat**.

One of the most exciting developments since the chapters have combined has been visits from former members interested in returning to active participation, and guests new to barbershopping.

PARADISE VALLEY

ALLEN KORWIN

Summer is usually slow season here, as snowbirds and vacationers leave to escape the 110-degree heat. Before the seasons changed we opened a session of the state House of Representatives. They didn't recognize the sweet intro, but the whole assembly spontaneously rose to their feet when we hit the words "*God Bless America*," and gave us a ballpark-sized cheer at the end. Totally thrilling!

The chorus braved three hours of heat in July to stroll and sing in downtown Scottsdale for the Art Walk Festival. We also performed for the National Speakers Association packed black-tie banquet at Gainey Ranch Resort. Our PR campaign has been getting ink and resulted in at least five new members.

NOTE -- We've moved: now, rehearsing on Thursdays (was Tuesdays) at our original place, Church of the Valley, 4101 E. Shea Blvd., 7:30 - 10 p.m.

PRESCOTT

SAM STIMPLE

Thanks to Director **Josh Kerwin**, the **HighMountain Chordsmen** have a temporary place to meet. Josh is band director at Chino Valley High School, and the chorus is using his band room for its 7 p.m. Thursday rehearsals, a potential permanent meeting place.

The annual summer family picnic was held June 12 at Mountain Valley Park in Prescott Valley. Two couples from the Sedona Chapter were visitors. The food, fellowship and singing were all great.

Keith Kelly is using his talents and experience to teach stage presence to the chorus on the songs it will sing on its annual show Sept. 25 at the Elks Opera House in Prescott.

ST. GEORGE

KEN SUNDWALL

The members of the **St. George Chapter** are mourning the loss of our fellow barbershopper and friend **Val Hicks**, who passed away on June 22. Val retired to the St. George area eight years ago and became active in the **Color Country Chorus**. During his time with us Val served in many capacities including chorus director, annual show chairman, VP of music and performance, and chapter president. He was chosen as BOTY for 2003. The **Color Country Chorus** benefited greatly from his genius as a songwriter and arranger, and from his vast experience in the music industry. He

arranged numerous songs for the chorus for its use in Christmas shows, annual shows and other public performances.

A memorial service was held in Val's local church during which the **Color Country Chorus** provided all of the music. Included was an arrangement by Val of a sacred hymn: *As I have Loved You*. Because of Val's strong interest in encouraging vocal music among young people, the chapter is establishing the *Val Hicks Memorial Scholarship*, which will be used to help young people become involved in barbershop singing.

SIERRA VISTA

ED RAYMOND

Despite the normally low-key summer, **The Cochise Chordsmen** have been busy with a number of presentations. We performed at a ceremony honoring veterans of World War II early in July, at which local veterans of that struggle were introduced and applauded. Included were our own **Bob Blackwell** and **Bernie Martus**. The chorus also performed at the July 4th ceremonies at the new Southern Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Sierra Vista. More recently, the chorus and quartet provided song during the Sunday services of the newly dedicated Faith Presbyterian Church.

Our primary quartet, **Watering Hole #3**, provided entertainment in the Golden China restaurant at a dinner for the local chapter of the community service group Vicap. The quartet is booked for several additional appearances in the Cochise County area.

Our Music/Show Committee, **Fred Whitley, Bernie Martus, Dave Germain** and **Ed Raymond**, has continued to work with Director **Linda Gilbert** on the script for the annual show. We are looking forward to the return of our vacationing and snowbird members.

The chapter lost one of its charter members on May 12 when **Horace Huff** passed away. Horace also was a member of the **Four Mugs** quartet, which sang on many of the chapter's early annual shows.

SUN CITIES

BOB MCGOWAN

The heat of summer and vacations have slimmed our attendance, but our new 2005 show music is now fully distributed to the membership, and the circus theme has spawned a number of production ideas. Our members are enthusiastically embracing the theme and are showing that they will have a great time hamming it up as circus folk. The undertaking will put heavy demands on our construction crew, but it should be a crowd pleaser.

Our own **Bill Kimmel** and his wife **Louise** have returned from Louisville with high praise for the competition performances. We are pleased that the Far Western District was well represented in both the quartet and chorus competition. We noted from the live webcasts that the performances were of the highest standards, and are pleased to note that the Collegiate competition did well also. Several of our chapter members were able to make it to Louisville, and we eagerly await their reports on the restructuring of the Society.

Over the past few months, several members have undergone surgery, and we look forward to the return of **Lew Farr**, **Ben Hall** and **Ev Meier**. Our prayers go out to **Roy Jones**, who just had a medical procedure and is in rehab for a few days. Many old-timers may remember Roy. Also, **Bill "Rocky" Rockafellow** returned the hospital with an infection. Our prayers are with him.

TUCSON

FRED KOCH

Summer may mean a slow down with Chapter activities for many, but not the **Tucson Chapter**. For us it means the International convention in Louisville this year where 17 members and our ladies enjoyed the opportunity for a great dinner on Thursday night at Deke's.

Summer also is the time for our "**Tucson Sunshine Chapter Ensemble**" to fill in for church choirs. This year we programmed four Sundays during July and August for the ensemble under the direction of our Assistant Director, **Hap Haggard** and will provide music for Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian and Methodist churches in the Tucson area. The ensemble is 15 to 20 members of the **Tucson Chapter** who not only enjoy providing this free service, but the opportunity to then gather with our ladies for brunch following the service.

WHITE MOUNTAINS ARIZONA CHAPTER

DOC DOCKENDORF

The **High Country Chorus** presented its fourth annual show, "*Remember Radio*", on July 10. Both matinee and evening performances were held for enthusiastic and near-capacity audiences. The show featured **The McKenzie Touring Company** from Salem, Ore., and if you have not seen these guys or had them on your show, you should seriously consider having them. The audience absolutely loved them, and while they were on it was non-stop laughter. We were also fortunate in having the inimitable **Chuck Olson** there to play the sound effects man, the part he created at Harmony College, and he also had the audience in stitches with his antics. As they say, "*You had to be there*"! Additionally, we had the **Belle-Tones** (now named **Forever Four**), a dynamic girls high school quartet from Round Valley High school in Eagar, Ariz. Those of you who attended the youth harmony show in April, produced by **Jerry Fox**, heard them, and they are even better now. They are only sophomores, so we have already booked them for our next year's show (thanks for the suggestion, John Krizek!). Also appearing on our show were chapter quartets **Ponderosa**, as the **KORD Quartet**, and the **Pine Tones**.

Our chapter revamped and updated Web site, thanks to our bulletin editor, **Jerry Schrunk**. We invite you to visit us at www.spebsqsfwd.org/wmac/, and invite your comments and feedback.

BOTM: April was **John Welker**, May was **Keith Gore**, and June was **Alan Johnson**. We want to welcome new members **Jerry Howell**, **Charlie Lovett** and **John Graham**, all basses, to the chapter. You can't have too many basses!

YUMA

ROB BAILEY

With the arrival of summer weather and the departure of many

chapter members, the **Yuma Desert Sunset Chorus** is taking a summer break. But we'll be back, with a new show package, starting Aug. 24. If you're visiting the area, please call (928) 502-2652 for directions and details on rehearsals.

FWD Fall Convention in Bakersfield
September 30-October 3, 2004
Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
Come Join in the FUN!



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To All Far Western District Chapters and their Delegates to the House of Delegates :

This Amendment is based on a successful Rule that has been in place in the *Land O'Lakes District* for some years, with modifications to cover valid objections that have been made within the Far Western District. On July 12, 2004, the Board of Directors of the Central California Chapter endorsed this Amendment to the District of Policy and directed its delegate to present it at the October 2004 District House of Delegates meeting for consideration for adoption.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FAR WESTERN DISTRICT STATEMENT OF POLICY

The following wording is *stricken* from Article 8.3.1.1

"In no case may a quartet that has been eliminated in one division be allowed to compete in another division for the purpose of representing that division in the next District Quartet Contest."

Article 8.3.1.1 is *amended* to add the following paragraph at the end:

"e. Notwithstanding any other rule, for the sole purpose of attempting to qualify for the Fall District contest any quartet may compete in an division other than its home division without "cause" by submitting an application plus a fee of \$100 for each additional divisional contest. In the event it appears the number of such out-of-division quartets applying would require engaging a larger panel of judges, the Chairman of the Contest and Judging Committee (DACJC), may in his discretion reject such additional out-of-division applications and return the fees starting with the latest one received until the total number of competing quartets is reduced to fit within the prescribed limits for the judging panel. Such additional fees shall go to the District's general fund."

The comparable set of rules from the *Land O' Lakes District* are:

"D. Quartets may enter and compete in one or more division contests for a score to qualify for the Fall District contest. However, they are only eligible for awards in the division in which their chapter is a member. Quartets containing members from two or more chapters in different divisions must specify in writing to the VP C&J, prior to competing, the division in which they wish to compete.

"E. Frank Thorne Chapter members are considered to belong to a chapter in the division in which they reside." -

Commentary:

Is this necessary? : No.

Is this useful? : Yes.

1) Except for one quartet, which was actually an NCW-HI quartet that scrambled to qualify as NCE-NN in last-minute resolution of some lapsed-membership problems, NCE-NN will be unrepresented at the fall contest this year (although at least one other qualifying quartet has members dual with chapters in NCE-NN). The problem of score variations among the various divisions against a fixed cutoff percentage means that from time-to-time quartets will be included or excluded arbitrarily. Allowing quartets to compete at multiple divisions eliminates the arbitrary risk of scoring variations, while it gives competitive quartets an opportunity to work out over several contests their problems and improve their public performances in the effective quartet development crucible of the contest setting. It will encourage a quartet to "try again", and work on implementing A&R advice while it is still fresh in their minds. This is "encouragement".

2) It will produce a modest increase in revenue to the District and to Division conventions.

3) It will allow the most committed competitive quartets to experience in 3 months competition experience that would otherwise take five years.

Are there drawbacks? : Yes

1) Although written into the rule is a safeguard to prevent it from generating a need for expanding a panel at the Division level, there is none for the District level in the event the rule produces a increase in the number of quartets that make the cut.

2) It will increase the workload for the DACJC even if only modestly.

3) It may shortchange the talent for a quartet's home Division contest that a qualifying quartet should have entered but didn't because it already qualified out of Division, should that quartet choose not to compete anyway for any of the Divisional Championships.

4) One correspondent has complained that this would be unfair to possible wild-card quartets by making them continue competing in subsequent Division contests.

Thank you.

--Mike Barkley, 161 N. Sheridan Ave. #1, Manteca, CA 95336
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CONVENTIONS, SHOWS, EVENTS

2004

September

18 Santa Maria Show
25 Prescott Show

September 30-October 3

FWD Fall Convention

Bakersfield [District run]

October

9 Stockton Show
16 Irvine Show
23 Napa Valley Show
23 San Mateo County Show
24 Marin Show

November

6 Placerville Show
13-14 COTS-LA at LAX Hilton
20-21 COTS-Sacramento at
Hilton Arden Fair West
27 Santa Fe Springs Show

December

5 Rincon Beach Show
5 Bay Area Metro Show
12 Bay Area Metro Show
18 Santa Rosa Show
18-19 San Diego Shows
19 Irvine Show

2005

February

4-5 Davis Vacaville Shows

March

17-20 FWD Spring Convention
*Int'l Prelims & SCW Division
Contest, Burbank*

April

8-9 NCWH Div Contest
San Jose
16 Fullerton Show
22-23 A/SN/SU Div Contest

May

7 Santa Rosa Show
14 SCE Div Contest
14 San Jose Show
21 NCENN Div Contest

June

18 Bay Area Metro Show

July

3-10 **INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION Salt Lake City, UT**

17-24 HCDC MWSC St. Joseph, MO
[dates are a one-time change]

October

13-16 FWD Fall Convention
Pasadena [host: Santa Fe Springs]



9th Place International - Westminster Harmony Showcase Chorus

WESTUNES

Magazine

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT
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