



WESTUNES

Magazine

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

Volume 58

Spring 2008

Number 1



2008 FWD President Bob Lally

The FAR WESTERN DISTRICT includes
Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and Southern Utah



*Phil Gold
The Perfect Gentlemen
goldtenor@aol.com*

Back To School

Two years ago, one of my quartet mates, Tim Reeder, suggested that we audition for the Los Angeles Music Center's Education Department. He had performed at schools for many years with his vocal jazz group, Vocal Works. So The Perfect Gentlemen, members of the South Bay Coastliners (Hey Hey South Bay!), auditioned for them at an elementary school in Burbank on Halloween morning. During our performance, the school's power went out (lights, sound, everything!). As we stood in the dark in front of 500 elementary students, as tough an audience as one could already face, we muddled through our performance. When it was over, the Music Center representatives said they have never laughed so much during an audition and we were offered an opportunity to perform our educational show.

Just one problem: we didn't have an educational show. Over several months, we discussed story ideas and performed excerpts of our work for the education division's artistic director. In the end, we wrote "100 Years of Harmony".



Based on a routine originated by the 139th Street Quartet, we adapted our own rendition of "Salute to the 20th Century", and turned it into a 45-minute action-packed, three-ring circus of period costumes and props, complete with a re-creation of the Norman Rockwell cover of the Saturday Evening Post, audience participation with the help of a teacher, appearances by such iconic artists as Elvis, The Beatles, and The Beach Boys, and finishing with a rap and hip hop tune that weaves its way through the audience.



We have now performed our show 74 times at 37 different schools from Oxnard to San Clemente and from Ranch Palos Verdes to Riverside. That's a lot of miles on all of our cars! However, in this climate of arts under funding and under appreciation, we feel a responsibility to help expose students to music at school. It is how all four of us learned to love music and entertaining.

As former or present members of the Dapper Dans of Disneyland, we have experienced being touched by the wonder and innocence of a child walking down Main Street and discovering our group singing. We now have a chance to give something back to this generation: to teach them about music, to give them a bit of historical perspective about where music has been, and to encourage them to become its future.

If just one person sees our show and becomes excited about music and pursues it, then we will have succeeded. Many students may never go to a theatre or a concert hall, let alone sing with other people. It is both a rewarding and humbling experience to perform these shows and we are honored to have been given this opportunity.

To find out more about "100 Years of Harmony", please visit our website (www.theperfectgentlemen.us <<http://www.theperfectgentlemen.us/>>) and click on "educational shows," or call (818) 244-4361. The Perfect Gentlemen are Dan Jordan (lead), Jim Campbell (bass), Tim Reeder (baritone), and Phil Gold (Tenor).



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Spring	1 Feb	25 Jan
Summer	1 May	25 Apr
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or use the secure Society website login
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District President



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As I'm writing this I just returned from the Midwinter Convention in San Antonio, and what a great one it was! If you've never attended a Midwinter before, you should really consider it. It's very relaxed and has a completely different atmosphere from the July Conventions. For one thing, unless you're a competitor in the Seniors Quartet Contest, you have a lot more time to enjoy the convention activities and get a little sightseeing done in the convention city itself. And the singing you hear... my, my, it's the best we have to offer with the top five medalists from the previous year's convention each doing their show package over two nights of great shows. Also, this year there was a lot more casual quartetting around the hotel lobbies, restaurants and other parts of town than I remember in a long time. It was also the second highest attendance ever for any Midwinter convention.

Other things you would have seen and heard included a great Seniors Quartet contest. This competition achieves a higher level every year with the influx of many of the better singers from the Society into the Seniors category. This year's winning quartet was Eureka from the Southwestern District containing such past favorites as lead Art Swanson and bass Brian Beck. Ably representing the Far Western District were Vintage Gold in a close third place finish and California Crossroads in a solid eighth place out of a field of twenty-five.

Arguably everyone's weekend highlight took place on Saturday afternoon when six choruses of young men took the stage in the first ever Youth in Harmony Festival. They came from all over the country including a chorus all the way from New Zealand, and they brought a breath of fresh air and an optimistic look at our future with them. Each group received a standing ovation and the winning chorus was from nearby San Marcos, Texas. Plans are already underway for the second year's edition of this event to be held right here in the Far Western District in Pasadena next January. It's hoped that the number of entrants will grow, and my own personal goal is to have multiple entries from right here in our own District. If you have any ideas along this line, please contact John Krizek or me with your thoughts.

If nothing else, with the convention so close to home I hope you'll take this opportunity to come and join in the fun and harmony.

The other subject worthy of note was the dinner held for Chapter Presidents on Thursday night. All Chapter Presidents in the Society were invited to attend as guests of the District Presidents, and in addition to enjoying a nice dinner had a chance to mingle with District and Society leaders as well as Staff members and hear all about current and new Society events and programs. I hope that all our District Chapter Presidents will be on the lookout for next year's invitation and join us in Pasadena.

Finally, there were multiple meetings of the Society leadership with many topics discussed, but I want to touch on one in particular. During one of the meetings of the District Presidents, we were all struck by the sharing of ideas among the various members taking place in the group. Then someone said, "Well, after all we're all in this together." That really resonated with me, because as I've said here before we're all members of the same team, and if we work together we can accomplish a whole lot more. So, in keeping with the past practice of District Presidents coining a phrase or motto for their term of office, here's mine... "Together in Harmony!"

**Motto:
Together
in
Harmony!**

Before I close, I want to urge all of you to come to the District Preliminary Contest to be held in Bakersfield, March 14-16, in conjunction with the SoCalWest Division Convention and Contest. It will be a chance to hear some marvelous singing as well meeting and greeting old friends and ringing a few in the halls. It's not too late, and I know there are some good seats left.

I look forward to seeing you in Bakersfield... stop and say hi, and let's sing one!

FWD Sunshine Chairman Jim Holder

**560 W. Groverdale St
Covina, CA 91722**

**626-339-9434
jmh82031@verizon.net**

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District Executive Vice President



Also
OPS Team Co-ordinator
Ivan Jensen
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WOW!!! Having just returned from Mid-Winter Convention in San Antonio, I find it real easy to be excited about the future of our hobby. I am not going into details about the convention or the time spent in San Antonio except to say that I feel the Society is in very good hands and we are heading in the right direction. I found this past weekend to be one of the most fun filled, entertaining and educational barbershop week-end's I have had in several years and I feel that with some help from all of you, we will be able to have many repeat performances in the years to come.

A couple of years ago, President Bob wrote an article for the Westunes that I think is worth repeating so I am going to beg, borrow or steal some of his article and repeat it again. Bob stated that "one of the primary duties assigned to the District EVP is coordinating the efforts of the various committee chairmen and their activities" I could not agree with him more and I look forward to doing just that. We have some very talented and experienced individuals heading up Music & Performance, Chorus Director Development, Events, Marketing & PR, Membership and Youth in Harmony but it takes your help to get the most out of these talented leaders. We need your help to bring their skills and ideas to you and your chapters so all of us at District and Division can help you solve any problems or concerns you may have and to make sure all of us have a very special barbershop experience every time we rehearse or perform. If you are interested in any of these areas, please do not hesitate to step forward and let the chairmen or your elected representatives know of your interests and/or concerns so we can address these things as a team and a family. If we all work together, we will all have more enjoyment with our hobby.

Again, just as a couple of years ago, we are preparing for a Spring Convention and five Division Conventions/Contests, and I hope each of you will attend the Spring Convention and at least your division event. Remember, these event are only as much fun as you make them. If we can make them as much fun as this past weekend, we will be on a barbershop high for the rest of the year. Competing to win is not everything, but

the fellowship, education and musical development gained is priceless.

What a great way to spend a weekend visiting with friends, singing some tags, learning from others and listening to our great style of music. Register now and enjoy those Early Bird rates. Will see you there.

I know it is a little early, but not more than a minute or so. Have you made your reservations in Nashville for the International Convention? Homecoming to Nashville will be an experience of a lifetime. Visit our new Society Headquarters, sing a tag in the entry way, hear and see wonderful music from all parts of the world including our very own Far Western District representatives. What a week that is gong to be.

Make your plans for Harmony University in St. Joe, MO in August and/or Harmony College West then cap off the fall with a trip to Hawaii for Pan Pacific Convention in October and followed the next week with SAI Convention in Hawaii.

Are we having fun yet? I can hardly wait, but know that I can get excited by just making reservations to attend many of the events. I think we are gong to have a wonderful year and you are going to make it even better.

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**Chair: Chapter Support & Leadership****David Updegraff**

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We have just completed a very successful Far Western District-run series of COTS programs, including one in Arizona for the first time in recent memory. All of the COTS were one day in length, were designed to cover basic material while giving an opportunity for interaction among officers, and were designed to keep costs low. Each COTS was priced at \$30 per participant, and although all costs are not in at this writing, it is likely that we came close to breaking even for the first time in recorded history.

Many thanks are due to Past-District President Chuck Hunter, COTS Coordinator, for the yeoman's effort he put into organizing the COTS programs. After the evaluations of the COTS sessions are analyzed, we will begin putting together our program for next year.

If you are interested in Membership and Marketing (and who isn't?), please watch this space for information on a combined Membership and Marketing effort being designed for next Summer's Harmony College West. No details are yet available for this, but it should prove to be a winner!

Finally, the redesign of the Chapter Counselor program is well underway. Rather than sending out a survey, I have decided to simply solicit input to the process via this vehicle. If you have any suggestions or ideas on how to improve the Chapter counselor program, please let me know. We are planning to offer a complete re-training of Chapter Counselors for Harmony College West in July, based on the re-design currently underway. Your input would be welcome.

Many thanks, and keep on barbershopping; it's a lifesaver!

**Chair: Chorus Director Development****Jim Crowley**

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A Chorus Director Workshop Intensive (CDWI) is scheduled on February 16th for five pre-selected local front line directors. The San Fernando Valley Chapter (Valleyaires) is the host chapter.

There are two CDWIs (NorCal & SoCal) coming up in September for five front line directors each. The CDWI is

an intensive, hands-on learning experience, and the benefit to your Chapter is immense. The student director tuition charge of \$100 is WAIVED for the host Chapter Director.

Mr. Mike O'Neill, Chorus Director Development Specialist from BHS Headquarters, will be visiting the SoCal area on March 27-29. A "Director of the Future" class is scheduled on Saturday, March 29th at (TBD) for assistant directors, section leaders and those with a strong interest in becoming a front line director. Contact me ASAP if your Chapter would like to host this FREE event at your meeting location! Aspiring directors will enjoy a day of outstanding instruction and education by Mr. O'Neill. The class limit is 40, so sign up with me soon!

**Chair: Contest & Judging****Russ Young**

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Contest registration on the BHS website appears to be functional, so register there if you haven't already. Remember the 28 day in advance deadline. Contact me if you have a problem.

**Chair: Convention Activities****Keith Eckhardt**

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No submittal - occupied with Convention preparations and computer issues for the FWD.

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Spring 2008 Convention

I hope all of you are planning to attend the Spring Convention on March 13-16 in Bakersfield. It's not too late to register! This year it combines the International Quartet Prelims with the SoCal West Division contest. The High School Quartet Contest will be held as well. The Valleyaires are hosting this event. A complete schedule will be posted on the FWD web site when exact times are determined - in some cases the schedule depends on the total number of competitors. The tentative schedule is:

FWD Board Meeting Thur., 2:00 pm, Holiday Inn Select
Council of Retired Active Past Presidents Friday,
9:00 am, Holiday Inn Select
House of Delegates Friday, 1:00 pm, Holiday Inn Select
Quartet Prelims (all quartets in all categories)
Friday, 6:45 pm, Harvey Auditorium
SoCal West Chorus Contest Saturday, 10:00 am,
Harvey Auditorium
High School Quartet contest Saturday, 2:00 pm, Harvey
Auditorium
Quartet Finals (Int'l Prelims) and Show of Champions
Saturday, 6:45 pm, Harvey Auditorium

Note: The venue for this event only is the Harvey Auditorium at Bakersfield High School, --**NOT**-- the Rabobank Auditorium (formerly the Bakersfield Civic Auditorium) connected to the Holiday Inn Select. There will be a map of the area on the web very soon. A list of restaurants close to the venues will also be available

Future Conventions

Spring

2008	Mar 13-16	Bakersfield, CA hosted by the Valleyaires
2009	Mar 19-22	Las Vegas, NV hosted by the City of Lights Chorus
2010	Mar 18-20	Accepting bids
2011	Mar 17-20	Accepting bids

Fall

2008	Oct 9-12	Bakersfield, CA hosted by the Masters of Harmony
2009	Oct 8-11	Sacramento, CA hosted by the Capitolaires
2010	Oct 7-10	Bakersfield, CA hosted by the Gold Coast Chorus, SLO
2011	Oct 13-16	Accepting bids

International

2009 Jun 28-Jul 5 Anaheim, CA
hosted by the Masters of Harmony

I hope you plan to attend all of these. Please note the conventions that are not yet hosted. This may be a good opportunity for your chapter. There are division contests to host as well. For those chapters thinking about hosting a spring or fall convention, keep in mind that you can do this in one of two ways: you can provide the manpower for the days of the contest (chapter for hire) for a fixed fee, or you can run the whole thing for a percent of the profits. Keep in mind that if a suitable venue is not available near your chapter, the events team can help you find a venue in another city and you can host it there. Please consider doing this - this is how we get some variety in our convention locations.



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A little over a year ago I began to look at some of our websites. I had remarked to you at that time that we had many sites that were out of date, and the overall look of those websites was perhaps “outdated”. Today we are looking pretty good! In fact there are some great websites in the Far Western District; perhaps we should have a “contest”!? Well, at least something to think about. I did notice that some of the Chorus’ did not have a listing on our FWD site, which surprised me. Please take a look at the find a chapter info page, and update your info with Keith Eckhardt.

This year promises to be a great year for marketing opportunities. As all of you know, on May 10th we will be engaged in the Singing for Life North American Blood Drive! Here in the FWD, we boast the largest number of participants, with 24 chapters signed up, that's about 29 % of all of our Chapters! That is actually outstanding! I believe we will have some great stories that we can share - so look to our next Westunes for those!

Speaking about the blood drive, if you haven't signed up by now, it may not be too late to help out! I think we have a good representation of Chapters in the larger metropolitan areas, and if they haven't asked you yet, the chapters who are singing may be looking for "extra" groups to join them throughout the day. I would hope that all of our members who can lend a hand will do so!

If you haven't noticed yet, I have begun publishing a short newsletter called "tidbits". By the time of this publishing, there should be two newsletters on the FWD website for you to take a look at. Please understand that the success of this newsletter really depends on you, our members. I would welcome your comments and suggestions. If there is something that you would like me to write about, please let me know.

Recently, one of the larger chapters asked me, “What are you going to do for us”? Without political commentary, I would suggest the question be thought about in a little different way, “What is it that each of us can do for the benefit of our District, and of our Society”? Remember, we are all in this together. Growth can only come when all of us are actively engaged in marketing our chapters and in good Public Relations with our communities.

Keep Smilin', Keep Singin'

**Chair : Member Services****Clark Abrahamson**

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Howdy...

Whassup for 2008 - Membership-wise?

Welllll, since you asked - 'coupla things:

Regrettably, there's been no data available from the Society Membership database since March 2007, so I can't really report accurately on how we did in 2007. Sorry 'bout that. I'm being a pest to get the info available once again.

That said, I thought it'd be appropriate to share what I'm planning for 2008:

- Goals/Aims:
 - o Reinstitute membership data analysis/reporting.
 - o Membership increase - net gain of 200 members by year-end.
 - That's around 2 new members per chapter - shouldn't be too much of a stretch.
 - o To help reach the goal, I'm planning the following:
 - Membership workshops -stay tuned for details.
 - Emphasis on new target prospects
 - o Youth festivals
 - o Ethnic/Minority outreach
 - o Other genre exposure - let them know we exist and vice-versa.
 - Membership events - festivals, AFAs, etc.
 - Musical product improvement
 - o Director involvement in membership programs
 - Member involvement - everyone's involved in membership
 - o Membership experience
 - Increase the "fun factor"
 - Member/guest surveys - what do members want? How can chapters provide it?
 - Chapter meeting analysis - ditto above.
 - Inter/intra chapter activities - visitations, picnics, other events.
 - Encourage greater participation in District/Society Events
 - o Incentives/Education
 - Membership Training:
 - o I'm developing, with Chuck Hunter's help, a series of Membership Workshops (perhaps to be called "Summits"). Elements of the workshops:
 - To be held outside the COTS environment
 - To be launched within the 1st quarter - as early as February

- 1-day sessions - likely on weekends.
- Designed to be highly interactive, with "facilitators" rather than "lecturers".
- Highly portable - adaptable to single or multiple chapter sessions.
- Attendees - anyone interested in Membership issues - specifically Member VPs, Presidents, Marketing/PR VPs, Music Directors
- Emphasis on planning, importance of musical product, Director influence - as they relate to membership.
- Stay tuned for further developments.
- Ongoing:
 - o Communications:
 - Westunes articles
 - Email Blasts
 - Personal Contact
 - Website presence - Membership section
 - DVP involvement/support

See 'ya around...

**Chair: Music & Performance****Jerry Fairchild**

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IT'S COMING! IT'S COMING!!

HARMONY COLLEGE WEST 2008

JULY 18TH, 19TH, 20TH

Harmony College West will be back at the University of Redlands. Those of you who have been here know that the University hired Redlands' best caterer to run the cafeteria. If you've been here, you know what I'm talking about. It is truly something to look forward to. - in addition to a whole bunch of great classes and the finest quartet coaching this side of.....well, not this side of anywhere, just the finest coaching! You don't believe me? Just read some of the evaluation comments from last year's quartet members: "I loved it. Can't wait for next year." "HCW is a TREMENDOUS value--I'd call the experience PRICELESS!" "We felt we got the maximum value out of our time and money." "I loved the coaching." "We are already GREATLY improved as a direct result of HCW!" "The best coaching we ever had on all aspects of coaching. We 'old timers' even learned a lot."

We're going to have some dy-no-mite classes again this summer and we've added some new ones! In no particular order:

1. Beginning Sight Singing.

I know, Barbershop can be done without knowing how to read music, but here **you can make learning music easier and faster.**

2. Intermediate Sight Singing. Same comments here.

3. Special Coaching for Plateau A Choruses.

Last year's chorus - Davis-Vacaville were thrilled with their experience with this class/coaching.

4. Voice Production.

When you are young you need to learn how to use your voice. When you are old, you need to learn how to take care of your voice.

5. Barbershop Arranging.

Rather than having to pay someone to arrange your song, do it yourself.

6. Contest Emcee.

The FWD needs men to emcee contest sessions.

7. Quartet/Chorus Emcee.

Every quartet and every chorus NEEDS one - a GOOD one.

8. Tag Singing.

For most quartet men, this is where the most fun is. Don't miss out!

9. Barbershop Acoustics.

This is what makes our style of music so special.

10. Show Production.

How to create a great Show.

11. Director of the Future.

Every chapter needs one. YOU can be it!

12. Comedy.

Each quartet and chorus needs comedy. Here's how. Not "Did you hear the one about..."

13. Marketing.

We have the product. Learn how to sell it.

14. Public Relations.

People need to know how good we are.

15. Membership.

The only way to save our Society.

For the past 6 years the FWD has been able to provide Harmony College West schools, with ever improving classes and quartet coaching for the same price - \$150. This, despite the fact that the cost of living has increased nearly 20%! We are trying to keep the cost of registration for classes at the same price again this year, in spite of the huge increase in the price of gas and airfares, as well as the increases for room and board at HCW. However, you can still register for 10 hours of instruction again this year for the same \$150.....if you get your registration forms and payment (checks payable to Far Western District) in before Monday, June 16th. Send them to Keith Eckhardt, 5449 Robert Road, Pollock Pines, CA 95726. That will be the "Early Bird" price. Registrations received after that will be \$175.

I have made a concerted effort to improve the level of coaching for quartets at Harmony College West. This year

eleven of the coaches will have earned an International Quartet Gold Medal. Three of the coaches have directed International Gold Medal Choruses. One has an International Quartet Bronze Medal. Seven of them have sung in District Championship quartets. If that isn't the highest level of qualified quartet coaches for a District Harmony College, I'd like to hear of one better qualified.

Which brings me to another case of having to face reality. Quartets who want to improve can find no better value in coaching than HCW, particularly when we have such a strong coaching staff. The cost of registering your quartet for HCW will be \$200 per man. The student/teacher ratio for quartet coaching is much lower than in the classes. We can't continue to cover that with the same registration fee. And don't forget your registration entitles you to attend two one- hour classes on Friday afternoon at 3:00 and 4:00 as well as two nights and five top-class cafeteria meals, a super Saturday night show with Realtime as our AIC Gold Medal headliners and then a free pizza party. All that for \$200 per quartet member! Can't be beat!

To repeat: registrations and payment (checks made out to Far Western District) must be received by Keith Eckhardt, 5449 Robert Road, Pollock Pines, CA 95726 by June 16th. That is the date I have to give the University the number of quartets registered.

Please watch for the next E-News. It will have additional information about Harmony College West.



**Chair : Young Men In Harmony
John Krizek**

1190 Tanglewood Rd.
Prescott, AZ 86303
928- 277- 4347
EI: jkrizek@aol.com

Our Future is Happening

Lest there be any lingering doubts about the value of young men getting involved with barbershopping, they were dispelled at the Society Midwinter convention last month in San Antonio. Two hundred college-age and high school-age singers in six choirs who came from New Jersey, Wisconsin, and as far away as New Zealand, participated in the first Society-sponsored Youth In Harmony festival. They not only blew the top off the Memorial Auditorium, they filled the headquarters hotel lobby with reverberating tags and high fives.

And it was all Westminster's idea, to get more young guys singing barbershop. One group in the Seattle area already has a license, with plans to be a Westminster-type chapter. I heard talk of others. I saw members of O.C. Times being treated like rock stars, teaching tags at

every opportunity. We should all be very proud of our guys—they are out there creating the future of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

The only negative was, there was no group from the Far Western District participating in the festival. After this first-year success, there's no doubt next year's event will be bigger. And where is next year's Midwinter? Pasadena.

I hear often the complaint that music teachers aren't responsive to the overtures of our chapter representatives—they are too busy, or just don't care for barbershop. Yes they are a busy lot, and we can't force our way into their attention span. But the testimonials and the cumulative track record keeps building—all we need to do is keep providing all the support we can, wherever we can, and with appreciation of the challenges faced by our education community.

And we can keep doing so with the knowledge that we have a wonderful product to offer—and, given the opportunity, our growing army of fine young ambassadors will carry the torch for barbershopping well into the future—and indeed, KEEP THE WHOLE WORLD SINGING.

Support the HIGH SCHOOL QUARTET CONTEST -- Bakersfield, March 15.

Encourage COLLEGE QUARTETS to compete in the divisional contests.

Remember YOUTH HARMONY CAMP coming again in September.



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650-965-3305 E: davidhaedtler@hotmail.com

VocalEase
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Make your plans now to be part of the **2008 Pan Pacific Convention** on **October 30th through November 2nd, 2008** in Honolulu, Hawaii. The venue will be the beautiful historic **Hawaii Theatre Center** (hawaiiitheatre.com) and the headquarters hotel will be the **Ala Moana Hotel** (alamoanahotelhonolulu.com).

A competition and fun filled event for barbershoppers who reside on the Pacific Rim, encompassing **New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Alaska, Hawaii** and Society chapters from **Far Western** and **Evergreen** bordering on the Pacific. If you can't compete, come anyway and enjoy the fun. **The Sweet Adeline International 2008 Convention** is in Honolulu the following weekend. You can take in two fun filled barbershop events for the price of one air fare and enjoy paradise at the same time.

For REGISTRATION and INFORMATION:
www.PanPacificHarmony.org

Via e-mail:
info@panpacificharmony.org

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**2007-2008 Far Western District Quartet
Champions
2007-2008 Lloyd B. Steinkamp
Standing "O" Award Recipients**

Happy New Year, FWD!

2008 is in high gear! Before we know it, the four of us will be has-been's...again.

In this edition, we're focusing our article on the FWD's Lloyd B. Steinkamp Standing "O" Award. We were blessed to be named its first recipients and we're still on Cloud Nine over it. We will cherish this incredible honor forever.

Each of us holds Lloyd in a special place in our hearts, so we thought we'd share some of our feelings and maybe even a "Lloyd-ism" with you.

During the early years of Kidder and Sons, we were often among adults and expected to act like adults. Lloyd was truly a kid at heart who encouraged our "goofing around." He insisted that we just be kids. I loved listening to Lloyd pretend to be upset at not being able to reach the last bass note of Wagon Wheel. Lloyd arranged Kidder and Sons FWD champ swan song, "Thanks for the Memories." My understanding is that Judy helped develop some of the parody words of the song which made it even more special. Lloyd was one of the "good old" guys who helped teach us it was not over until the "short stocky guy" sings. He always found a way to laugh and to make others laugh, too.

Todd

If I had to describe Lloyd in one word it would be that he was an "entertainer." Whether he was singing in a quartet, directing a chorus, serving as MC of a show or contest, or just standing around in a hospitality room or afterglow, he had the uncanny ability to entertain people of all ages. As an audience member, I was drawn to watch Lloyd perform. If he was going to be somewhere, I didn't want miss it! Being selected by an audience to receive

the Lloyd B. Steinkamp Standing-O Award means just as much to me as any district championship. It is recognition of success in what this "hobby" is really all about -- entertaining people.

Scott

I first encountered Lloyd back at a Mini-HEP school around 1980. I was a young college music-major and had sung barbershop for several years, but had never encountered the Society. I met many men who, like me, loved to sing vocal harmony. Unfortunately, most all of them were way older than me and I figured barbershop was a musical sport for "old guys." Then I went to a general session led by this screwy, old guy named Lloyd...yes, he was old even then. He had the group engaged in the action while he taught everyone a song. Even though he was clearly the leader of the session, everyone felt comfortable making wisecracks at him from the audience. Each time they did, Lloyd always had an even bigger comeback for them. I laughed hard that afternoon and learned a new arrangement in the process! Lloyd bridged the age gap for me and helped me see that barbershop was truly as much about the fraternity and camaraderie as it was about the singing. Lloyd always cared first about the entertainment value of what we gave our audiences from the stage and how we shared our love of this great hobby with them. For that reason, I'm thrilled to have been honored with this first annual award in his honor.

Rich

Let's see...when did I first fall in love with Lloyd Steinkamp? Was it in 1979 when, performing on my first show with the Pasadena Chapter, I laughed myself until I almost wet my pants over Lloyd's patter as MC? Or, was it in Lloyd and Judy's hotel room in Pasadena at a convention a few years later, with stepdaughter, Jill, sleeping under a stairwell, when Lloyd - while holding my hands and expressing himself as only Lloyd could do, using the most colorful of words, as sincere, loving tears poured down his cheeks - encouraged me to transcend the obstacles, to

[Cont'd on page 12]

dream big, and do what ever I needed to do to help launch that funky little organization we've come to know and love - the Masters of Harmony. Or, maybe it was during the times when Lloyd was in the audience as SRO or Finale sang, and less than a millisecond after we finished a song (up tune or ballad...it didn't matter to Lloyd), he could be heard bellowing in that familiar, nasally, bass/tenor voice of his, "Atta boy, Gary!!!" causing everyone in the quartet to giggle uncontrollably.

I don't really know when it happened. What I do know is that I'm a better man because of Lloyd Steinkamp. And, for this, I am eternally grateful.

Joe

VocalEase is truly honored to receive this award. Thank you, FWD, for your love and support.



The Incarcerated Intermediates

(l to r:)

REPROB8 Trevor Misplay, tenor

265 LBS Bryce Irvine, lead

T42&24T JHoly Maui, bari

2S2PID Alike Hussey, bass

**REMEMBER THE FWD
YOUTH EDUCATION FUND**

Aloha Chapter January 2008

A quartet of 13 and 14 year-olds, "The Incarcerated Intermediates," competed this January in the Aloha Chapter's annual tag contest. Dressed as escaping convicts, they regaled the audience with "Who'll Take My Place When I'm Gone?" and "Run to the City of Refuge." Besides winning prizes for "Most Unique" and "Best Costumes," the youngsters placed 2nd overall out of ten quartets!

Three of the kids sang last year in a barbershop group associated with the Honolulu Boy Choir; the fourth was a guest performer on the Aloha Chapter's Christmas Show. Rehearsals featured almost as much singing as eating (hot tip: invest in Pizza Hut).

FWD Spring Convention in Bakersfield

March 13-16, 2008

High School Quartet Contest

Saturday Afternoon

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2007 FWD Chorus Champions Masters of Harmony

by Ron Larson

On Thanksgiving weekend, the Masters of Harmony kicked off the 2007 Holiday Season with their annual Christmas shows at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center in Long Beach. One week later, the Masters participated in the annual Santa Fe Springs Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony. Continuing a tradition dating back to 1988, members of the chorus provided quartets for the city's Santa Claus Float program. During the nine days of this year's program, 28 men formed quartets and took barbershop-style holiday music throughout the city.

For their 2008 Awards & Installation Banquet, held at Knott's Berry Farm Resort Hotel, the Masters broke with tradition and, instead of having one keynote speaker, the honors were done by a truly unique foursome - John Sherburn, Dan Jordan, Bobby Gray, Jr., and John Miller, members of the *1985 International Quartet Champion*, The New Tradition. Board Member and Master of Ceremonies B kept the festivities moving along and the large audience thoroughly entertained. Brett Littlefield, bass section leader and bass of the *1996 International Champion Quartet* Nightlife, was named *2007 BOTY*. The young men of The Crush, a quartet starting to make its presence felt in international competition, were honored as Quartet of the Year.

Masters members Russ Squires and Mark Freedkin continue in their tireless efforts to promote barbershop harmony to young men. After several years, Russ succeeded in getting his youth chorus initiative off the ground. This year's International Midwinter Convention, held in San Antonio, featured the first International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival, which proved popular for competitors and attendees alike. More than 200 singers, including some from New Zealand, took part in the inaugural event. Mark, on the other hand, continues to see the Young Men's Harmony Festival grow. This year's all-day event, to be held at Orange Coast College in February, will attract nearly 300 high school young men and help develop skills that will enrich them and their respective campuses. Thanks, Russ and Mark, for bring-

ing our wonderful hobby to these young men. Some of them will repay your efforts and our Society with enthusiastic participation for years to come.

Since the last report, John Forrest, Colin Plain and Rich Stanford were welcomed into the fold.

Memories of Lloyd Steinkamp and the Memorial Service

*by Rosye Salz, Husband is Don Salz
Son of Joe Salz, Lead of the Desert Knights*

The purpose of our visit to San Diego was to attend a memorial service, to celebrate the life of Lloyd Steinkamp. Co-accidentally, Don got court order to visit some prisons around San Diego and LA that week.

No one could ever be able to replace Lloyd's ability and contribution for the music. Lloyd Steinkamp was a child actor on the Broadway stage in New York, he was also featured in some radio plays, and he was a barbershopper. His first barbershop experience was in Washington, DC in 1945. He sang the tenor / bass part in the Desert Knights Quartet, with Joe Salz (Don's father) (lead), Sam Aramian (baritone), Charlie Rastater (tenor). They won district contest 50 years ago. Although the Knights have never won the international championship, they are well known internationally. This is the longest quartet that has ever registered in the society. Their last show was in Phoenix, AZ last year.

Lloyd arranged over 350 barbershop songs, over 250 Glee Club and Liturgical songs. He sang with and coached a lot of barbershop quartets and choruses and won several medals, always around the district and international stages as MC, champs' chorus director (made up chorus that consists of all district's quartet champs), Hall of Fame. He worked a lot of times with youth because he really cared the youth and the preservative of barbershop music. He directed some big choruses, and brought San Diego chorus to a 5th place in international. He was the funniest MC, and he always made others feel good no matter who they were. He was the most creative person.

[Continued on page 14]

[From page 13]

One thing I always remember (because my husband always told me) that Lloyd never asked for an arrangement fee for his songs. We got "The Lydia" from him, that song is always become a big laugh in our show. He didn't commercialize his talents. He was 79 years old on December 2006. He started 173 barbershop chapters plus one in Japan. He and his wife Judy moved to San Diego and became a member of Tierrasanta Lutheran Church, service choir the past 14 years, served as Church Council of Worship & Music, was an Assisting Minister & Communion Server, taught Sunday School in that church. Judy, their children and grand children most all the time became Lloyd's joke materials on the stage. Judy is also a singer, she sings with a good Sweet Adelines chorus in San Diego. I think they won international few years ago.

The wonderful memory I have with the Desert Knights and their family in most conventions is that we had time together with Mom and Dad and Lloyd and Judy for dinner, the first evening before the convention. Then we went to some body's room, spent time together as a big family, snacking, drinking, laughing and told stories until 1 or 2 in the morning. Lloyd always had some stories to tell that made all of us laugh a lot. I learned a lot about how they loved and cared each other and kept the relationships in good shape and strong. All the family that lives around me are really not at all like the images of bad Americans' life we got from Hollywood movies (when I lived overseas). I believe that a lot of people from overseas still don't know that Americans really care their family. I feel lucky that I am surrounded by good people and happy families.

No quartet has ever done what the Desert Knights did. They were the first barbershop quartet I saw in my life. They made their wives acted on the stage as their nurses, completely with some nurse's tools and costumes, so the quartet name became "The Desert Knights and Their Nurses". AND they were very funny! No matter how many times they did the same act, they still funny. The quartet and the wives love each other as a big family for more than 53 years. Their children played together when they were little and have very good memories about that. Charlie and Joe are friends since the first grade in elementary school (they are 77 years of age now).

It was a wonderful memorial service. Held in Tierrasanta Lutheran Church, San Diego. Lloyd wants a happy memory and leaves an afterglow of smiles when the life is done. About 800 - 900 people from all over country came to attend the ceremony in the church and afterglow. Too many people had to stand at the church because we didn't have enough seats. We and all the family came more than one hour before the ceremony began, and we were able to meet people we knew and talk to them. At least nine representatives of international quartet champions were there. Asked to sing in the ceremony were

"Nightlife" Quartet, a past International Quartet Champ from the Far Western District, and "The Westminster Chorus", second place 2006 international chorus (first place in 2007 after this was written). Gary Steinkamp, the oldest child of Lloyd, a loving brother to all of us, gave the personal reflection and tribute, he told some of his dad's jokes. He ended the words with the song his dad arranged "When I Leave the World Behind" and asked us to sing the tag with him. You can imagine the voice of hundreds barbershoppers singing that tag, then gave Lloyd a long applause. The pastor turned his head and looked with amazement and happiness on his face.

After the memorial service, we had an afterglow at the hotel where we stayed. It was wonderful to watch and listen to the Knights' kids talking to each other about their childhood memories. The entire event lasted about 9 hours. It was a happy event, the event that Lloyd wanted us to have when he left the world behind. The Scorpionaires Chorus (district quartet champions) sang their song that made all of us couldn't stop crying, "Metropolis" a comedy quartet sang a Lloyd's song, and a made up chorus sang another Lloyd's song called "Rosie". (I remember the Knights put me on a chair in front of every body then sang this song FOR ME when I just arrived from Australia - my first barbershop experience!!). Not too many people singing on the stage considering so many best international singers were there, but so many talks and laughter and singing around the room. It felt more important to talk and show the love and care to others that time. We all sure that Lloyd was happy to see that we all had a good time.

It was a great honor to know Lloyd Steinkamp and his big Desert Knights' family, AND to become part of the family.

Don and Sally, our best friends drove from Hemet (near Palm Springs) to join us for the memorial service and afterglow. It was a great surprise for me and at the same time I felt the love and support to see how our friends came to join us.

[Editor note: Thanks to Rosye for a heartfelt letter. Although this was written about a year ago, the thoughts are quite appropriate today, a year after Lloyd passed. Let us not forget Barbershop is family.]

Lloyd had great passion for his "kids", and he would be so pleased today to see the Youth In Harmony program growing throughout the Far Western District and the Barbershop Harmony Society. The BHS held the first Youth Chorus Contest at the MidWinter Convention in San Antonio in January 2008. The FWD Youth Harmony Camp continues. An Arizona Youth Festival was held in Tucson last fall with nearly 200 young men and women attending. Thanks, Lloyd, for your passion for Barbershop, your passion for the "kids" and for the memories.]



2007 International Chorus Champions Westminster

Greetings from the Westminster Chapter! We would like to take this opportunity to announce the appointment of a new interim Director from within our own ranks, Justin Miller. Justin is one of the earliest members of the chorus and comes from great barbershop lineage. Since 2002, he has served as the Presentation Coordinator for Westminster, as well as for the Masters of Harmony - where he was recently appointed as an Assistant Director. He is currently an applicant in the Music Category and has sung in two college medalist quartets. Justin is a senior at Chapman University in Orange, California, where he is finishing his degree in Music Education.

Justin's appointment comes after the recent resignation of Royce Ferguson as our Musical Director. Since taking over as Director in 2004, Royce poured himself into the job and molded the Chorus into the great musical ensemble that you've come to know. Unquestionably, the sound that Westminster is famous for is a direct product of a Royce's training. He is, bar none, the best voice teacher the Society has today. The Westminster Chorus thanks him for his patience, talent and vision, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

We wrapped up 2007 with our 3rd Annual Awards Banquet/Holiday Party! Several special and unique awards were handed out to the members who went above and beyond for our Chapter throughout the year. The Rockstar Award went out to our best performer (Christopher Rutt), The Graduate Award was given to our most improved member (Marshall Voit), and The Sundowner Award went to the member who is consistently the last one singing tags in the parking lot after a show until 3am (David Meye). Our chapter's Quartet of the Year is The Crush, our Rookie Of The Year is Lane Aiken, and we're are happy to announce that this year's Westminster Chapter Barbershopper of the Year, our "Mr. W" Award, was given to Sean Devine!

The 47th Annual Westminster Novice Quartet Contest was held at Servite High School on Jan. 19. A special thanks to EVERYONE who made this event possible - the quartets who competed, the fans who cheered, our sharp judges, John Miller for serving as MC, and our contest chairmen - Sean Devine and Phil Ridout.

Mark your calendars for our "Fantasy Quartet Show" - Sunday, March 30 at 3pm. This year's show is being held at Whittier High School - 12417 Philadelphia Street in Whittier, CA. The concept for this year's unique show came from discussions that take place all the time in our circles, when the common question is posed "who would be in YOUR favorite 'dream' quartet?!" - we've seen threads like this on the harmonet and similar email lists for years... and, after a few days of postings and people's pitches for their favorites of all time, nothing actually comes of it. Well, this time it's different! Last fall we featuring a live website that recorded the votes for your favorite members of the AIC on their respective winning parts, and Westminster secured the winners of this 'Fantasy' line-up to appear on our '08 Spring show! Hundreds of votes came in from YOU, the barbershop community, and we are now proud to announce the winners and the guest quartet for our show this March 30th:

Tenor - Tim Waurick (Vocal Spectrum - 2006)

Lead - Joe Connelly (Interstate Rivals - 1987, Keepsake - 1992, PLATINUM - 2000)

Baritone - Tony DeRosa (Keepsake - 1992, PLATINUM - 2000, Max Q - 2007)

Bass - Jeff Oxley (Rapsallions - 1984, Acoustix - 1990, Max Q - 2007)

This will surely be a once in a lifetime performance - and we are so thankful to these above champions for clearing the time in their busy schedules and agreeing to perform in this truly spectacular show! Appearing along with our 'Fantasy Quartet' will be The Crush, OC Times, and your hosts - the 2007 International Champions - The Westminster Chorus.

Please go to www.WestminsterChorus.org for more info!

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Harmony Camp 2008

Yes it's February; yes the weather is awful. Right now it's transitioning between rain and snow in the foothills but it is also time to start thinking about Youth Harmony Camp. Harmony Camp 2008 will take place September 26th - 28th at the Sly Park Educational Center in Pollock Pines, California. What a great facility this has been for us for these past five years. I still have fond memories from last year's Camp watching Tom Metzger, bass of Realtime, helping carry the risers out to the truck after our Show on Sunday morning. That image in my memory is just a small encapsulation of the incredible contribution the guys from Realtime made at Harmony 2007. Thank you once again, Realtime!

Our incomparable and committed staff of Gary Bolles, Connie Keil and Mark Freedkin, will once again be part of Harmony Camp 2008 and we are working on a very special surprise addition for the staff. Our headliner quartet is Late Show, our very own rising star quartet. They placed 13th at Denver last summer; but have you heard them lately? I tend to get around to a number of shows, and the sound from these guys is simply heart stopping! They are going to be a force in Nashville!

Have you read the wonderful articles in the Harmonizer on starting a YIH program and encouraging the young people in your community to strive to be the best that they can be? The hottest chapter in Northern California right now in that respect is the Chorus of the Comstock in Carson City. Jim Crowley, their new director, has energized the Chapter's YIH program to new levels of activity. Jim is actively working with all of the schools in the area; he is bringing along a number of high school quartets; and will also be teaching an Introduction to Barbershop Singing at Lake Tahoe Community College in the Spring quarter. What a program!

As always this time of year, we are in full fund-raising mode. My hat is off and very appreciative to all the wonderful choruses, organizations and individuals who so generously contributed financially. Without YOU Harmony Camp 2007 would not have happened.

Here is the list and THANK YOU:

Fremont	200
Davis Vacaville	300
Nevada Placer	300
Walnut Creek	300
Humboldt	300
Santa Cruz	395
Stockton	400
Sacramento	520
Folsom	695

Central California	750
Reno	1,000
Palo Alto - Mountain View	1,025
Placerville	2,000

Additionally, we owe a Special Thanks to the following organization and individuals:

Thursday Songsters (San Diego)	300
Ted and Marcia Davey	200
Harvey Hunt	100
Paul Girard	100
Ed Galusha	140

Several Chapters sponsored quartets and / or several boys. We especially welcome the first time participation of the Redding Chapter.

This is a Very Impressive group of organizations and individuals who share in the support of Barbershop Singing for the young men of our region. There is no greater commitment to the future of our Barbershop Harmony Society or the youth of America than to contribute to this wonderful weekend retreat for so many young men! Thank you all once again.

I welcome your call or email to discuss / answer questions regarding Harmony Camp 2008 and ways in which you and or your Chapter would like to support the Camp.

Richard Lund, Camp Director
rwlund@earthlink.net
530-621-1904

FWD Spring Convention in Bakersfield
March 13-16, 2008
High School Quartet Contest
Saturday Afternoon

Metropolis To Go To Pioneer to Qualify

Bob Lally, FWD President

I have approved a request by Metropolis to compete out of District due to a work conflict for one of their members. They will be competing for score/qualification at the Pioneer District Preliminary Contest, April 26th. I wanted to give you all a heads up as a courtesy.

I have no doubt that they will qualify and go on to represent our District in Nashville with their usual style and humor. It will be a pleasure to have them back on the competition stage.

2008 FWD BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY
DIVISION 3-4 NCWH/NCENN
CONVENTION/CONTESTS
SATURDAY MAY 17, 2008
DELTA COLLEGE, STOCKTON, CA
WARREN ATHERTON AUDITORIUM
 A ONE DAY EVENT HOSTED BY THE
STOCKTON PORTSMEN CHORUS

Please type or print clearly.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

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

Singing Part: Lead Tenor Bari Bass

Chapter / Chorus _____ Quartet Name _____



Competition Status (check one)

Chorus Contestant Quartet Contestant
 Non-Competitive Member Guest

Full Early Bird Registration Type (Check One)	Full Late/On Site Registration Type Received after April 19, 2008 (Check One)	Official Use Only
<input type="checkbox"/> Full..... \$30.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Child / Student \$15.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Non-member under 13... Free <p style="text-align: center;">EARLY BIRD CUT OFF RECEIVED AFTER APRIL 19, 2008</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Full..... \$40.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Child / Student \$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Non-member under 13... Free <p style="text-align: center;">All Single Event Non-Member Registration Type SOLD ON SITE ONLY..... \$20.00 each</p>	<p>Date Recd. _____</p> <p>Check # _____</p> <p>Badge Code _____</p>

Form CR-300D (Rev-01-08)

Guest Name	City	Child Student?	Fee	Official Use

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Please make check payable to **STOCKTON PORTSMEN – DIVISION CONTEST**

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Return completed form with payment to:

Miller Keplinger Registration Chair

1724 Meadow Ave. Stockton, CA 95207



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.

Questions? Call: (209) 472-7060



Arizona Youth Festival

Ron Hayes, Festival Chairman

September 8, 2007. Almost 200 young men and women from southern Arizona high schools attended the event which was sponsored by the Tucson Unified School District, The Tucson Sunshine Chapter and the Tucson Desert Harmony Chapter of Sweet Adelines. Clinicians were Connie Keil and Charla Esser with assistance from Dayle Ann Cook and Jeff Dolan. Ron and Annie Hayes coordinated and produced the event. Tucson Chapter quartets Eastsiders and Sonoran Sound as well as Tucson Desert Harmony quartet Havin' A Blast participated as teaching quartets.

Thanks to support from the local BHS & SAI Chapters, our Division, District, Regions, Society YIH/YWIH programs, the local school district, and, the Arizona Music Educator Association, our first YIH Festival was a great success. This plans to be an annual event. I hope our success can be an inspiration to other chapters.



Barbershop Sounds

By HOPE PIERSON
The Press-Enterprise



New Members (l to r:) Jerry Orloff, Gold Standard Chorus membership VP with three of the chorus's newest members: David Finau, Dale Absher, and Brandon Eddy.

Think Barbershop -- Think Young!

The most recent new members of the Gold Standard Barbershop Chorus (Santa Cruz Chapter) are all students at Cabrillo College. Jerry Orloff, membership VP of the chorus, welcomed 2008's newest members with Barbershop Harmony Society folders. All three became interested in four-part harmony when quartets from the chorus sang at their high schools. (l to r:) David Finau graduated from San Lorenzo Valley HS where, as a senior, he played Sir Harry in *ONCE UPON A MATTRESS*. Dale Absher and Brandon Eddy are graduates of Harbor High, where Brandon, as a senior, played the title role in *BYE BYE BIRDIE*.

For more information on Gold Standard's YIH program, visit www.sctbarbershop.org and click on Music Educators Page

contact:
Lawrence Stern
Gold Standard Chorus publicity/YIH
831 476 6246

A new barbershop style singing group Temecula Chorus was formed by Jonathan Friedman of Temecula and Arbe Kraft of Murrieta in January. "Our goal was to have an outlet for local residents so they wouldn't have to drive out of town," Friedman said.

Friedman, who drove to Santa Fe Springs to perform with a barbershop group called The Masters of Harmony, wanted to go somewhere closer to home.

"The opportunity in our area with its growing population is to have a charitable, fun, fraternal men's singing organization for the local community," Friedman said.



The 12-member group is in the process of completing paperwork to become a charter member of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

The group recently held a new membership night and passed out fliers to the community. "We wanted to create a fun men's chorus where men can learn how to sing. We are interested in young singers as well," Friedman said.

The group has established a high school quartet, the Great Oak Four from Great Oak High School. They sing in four-part barbershop style but they are not a "traditional" barbershop singing group, Friedman said. The Great Oak Four will be singing cover songs familiar to audiences, including versions of songs from Elvis, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra and the Beatles.

Some of Friedman's duties as musical director will be to choose the music and teach members the mechanics of barbershop singing.

The group practices from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Sterling Senior Communities in Temecula

Wouldn't It Be **eXtreme** Fun to **Quartet** These Dynamite Arrangements?!!

Blue Skies—asb Keepsake
Dinah—asb Michigan Jake
If I Only Had a Brain—asb 4 Voices
You're Nobody Till Somebody Loves You—asb Excalibur
Lullaby—asb Gas House Gang
Too Marvelous for Words—asb Michigan Jake
Mam'selle—asb Vocal Spectrum
Louise—asb Michigan Jake
When I Lift Up My Head—asb Nightlife
One for My Baby—asb State Line Grocery

YOU CAN!! At Harmony University's First Ever eXtreme Quartetting Brigade July 31-Aug 3, 2008

That's right! Harmony University is hosting **HUXQB—Harmony University eXtreme Quartetting Brigade**—alongside Harmony College and Director's College this summer!!!!

What exactly is an XQ Brigade? It's a two day, wall-to-wall, quartetting *blast* with other ambitious quartetters who have memorized their parts, rock-solid, and are ready to do some finely tuned quartet singing! Pole cats?—*NO!* Brigaders quartet great arrangements made famous by medalist quartets!! For a fuller take on the exciting array of Brigade activities, review Lorin May's excellent *Harmonizer* article (July/August, 2007, cover story www.harmonybrigade.org/hb-harmonizer-july2007.pdf).

Who can be included? XQ Harmony Brigades provide high-quality quartetting opportunities for ambitious singers looking for a challenge. Brigade participants include District Champs and Internationally ranked quartetters as well as many men who, due to time, geography or other constraints, are unable to participate in enough fulfilling quartet experiences. The repertoire is challenging—only quartetters with the capability and the work ethic to memorize all 10 arrangements listed above, and who come prepared to quartet them well, in a public performance, are welcome to apply. Showing up unprepared or only partially prepared is not an option—XQ Brigades are specifically for those who can quartet the arrangements, even the most challenging ones, and will show up FULLY ready to do so.

Where are other XQ Brigades? How does one start? The original XQ Brigade—North Carolina Harmony Brigade—started in 1993. In recent years NCHB has helped foster Indiana Harmony Brigade, Atlantic Harmony Brigade and now Harmony University eXtreme Quartetting Brigade—HUXQB. In addition to the marvelous experiences, XQ Brigades are renowned for the HUXQB will include a short class on “How to Start a Brigade.” This “Brigade Starter” class is an optional opportunity open only to prepared HUXQB participants who wish to attend. Currently more XQ Brigades are in formative stages, notably in Michigan, the Rocky Mountain area and Florida.

How is it determined that a participant is prepared? A great fun and easy way! A preparedness checking system inspires everyone to quartet the songs!! Those not prepared are excluded from many Brigade activities the rest of the weekend.

Where are the applications? What's the deadline? How much does it cost?

- Harmony University eXtreme Quartetting Brigade Application & Registration 2008 is available on the Society's website: http://www.barbershop.org/ID_107931
- The absolute deadline is March 15, but apply earlier if possible. There are limited slots—35 per voice part—and it's expected they will go quickly. Besides, early application allows more time with the music and learning tracks.
- The cost for HUXQB Thursday evening till Sunday is **\$240.00** payable with the Application & Registration. If you want to attend Harmony U classes through the week, then switch and become a Brigade participant starting Friday morning for the last two days, just add **\$40** to the regular pricing guidelines advertised for the full-week Harmony U.
- Money will be refunded on HUXQB applications which are turned down. The applications may be turned down for either of two reasons:
 - application information does not convince the Application Review Team that the applicant has the ability, experience, accomplishment and commitment to be a successful Brigade participant;
 - all available slots have already been filled for the applicant's voice part.

The Application Review Team is comprised of experienced "brigaders" who make the subjective determinations. The Team's goal is to position quartetters for success. Due to the way Brigade activities are set up, an under-prepared singer disrupts success for many others. For a successful XQ Brigade, each participant needs to be so well-prepared that other participants can't wait to quartet with him!

Guys, the testimonials from quartetters who have participated in XQ Brigades are numerous and overwhelmingly positive. The Indiana Harmony Brigade has a number of testimonials posted on its website which may be accessed through the central Harmony Brigade website: www.harmonybrigade.org In so many words, the testimonials collectively say this:

- Brigade is the most fun in barbershopping—more rewarding than any other event they've ever been to—no hype—it's for real.

If you have the capability and the work ethic, HUXQB will be an amazingly worthwhile experience! And you can share the opportunity! Please pass this article on to other Society Members you know who have the capability and would likely get huge thrills from HUXQB participation! Register now! http://www.barbershop.org/ID_107931

**REMEMBER THE FWD
YOUTH EDUCATION FUND**

**FWD Spring Convention in Bakersfield
March 13-16, 2008
Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
Come Join in the FUN!**



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It's 2008 (but you probably knew that) and the start of what should be another great barbershop year. But are you ready? Are you going to Spring into action? Is your membership fired up, ready to put on a show or two, ready to compete, give blood (there's a major Society blood drive in May), attend conventions, get the word out and recruit a few new members? I hope so. Let's face it, if you're planning to do any of the above, you are probably going to have good barbershop year. It just takes a little dedication and commitment to insure it.

But what do you actually have in store this year? Anything different? That would be a good idea because if things are not working but we keep doing the same stuff over and over, how can we expect different results? A few months ago I was a COTS instructor, for the recently revived Program VP track. In my class I tried to fill the students' minds with ideas as to how to make their chapter meetings and chapter social lives fun. Of course, there's a serious side to our hobby, as I well know from my own chorus. But we also need to enjoy the lighter side of barbershopping and there are so many ways to do this, even if you are preparing for a show or a contest. If your Program VP is doing his job well, your members will be counting the days to your next week's meeting. And that's great for barbershopping.

One of the things I learnt teaching at COTS, though, was that we sometimes take for granted that our newer members are aware of everything that's going on. We older members know all about our Divisions and District and the Barbershop Harmony Society. But don't assume that our newer members are so educated. For example, we do tend to forget to tell them how much fun conventions are. There were men in my class who had never been to a convention. They didn't realize that some of the best quartets and choruses in the country would be singing there, or that they'd get the opportunity to sing with guys from all over the place, or that there'd be fun classes on a variety of aspects of our hobby. So let's talk our conventions up. Both the Spring Preliminary and the District Contests are going to be in Bakersfield this year and that's a very accessible place for so many barbershoppers. And the cost is minimal compared to the pleasure they give. Let's all be there and make them the biggest and best for years. Just tell a new guy and he'll be there ... and you with him, hopefully.

I hope 2008 is your best barbershop year ever. Make it so!

PASADENA

TIM SINGER

The **Crown City Chorus** held its annual Installation and Awards Banquet on January 27, 2008. Outgoing President **Randy Thorpe** officially passed the torch to incoming executive **John Hursey**. We thank Randy for his excellent leadership these past two years. Other new officers, installed by the peerless Bernard Priceman, SoCalWest VP, are Sec **Jose Ochoa**, Treas **Dick Winger**, VP of Music & Performance **Steve Peacock**, VP of Chapter Development **Phil Ayden**, VP of Marketing & PR **Jay Marcott**, VP of Operations **Leonard Jensen**, and MAL **Sean Chasworth**, **Clyde Yocum**, **John Lyons**, and **Barc Tucker**.

Achievement Award winners were **Dick Winger**, **Bob Lagassie**, **John Hursey**, and **Joe Ozer**, Behind the Scenes Award **Leonard Jensen**, President's Award **E. Phil Ayden**, and the 2007 **BOTY Phil Wolf**. In a moving ceremony, 2006 BOTY, **Dick Winger** reluctantly relinquished his crown, to the obvious pleasure of wife Joan, whose year of subjugation has finally ended—she once again rules the roost.

A quick mention of the continuing progress in the cooperative reconstruction work we are doing with Wilson Middle School, under the capable and tireless leadership of **Phil Ayden**. Phil finished up the vertical storage and riser storage projects on the stage and continued with the cleanup work. The place is looking very good, and both the school and the chapter are very pleased.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

PETE BENNETT

Congratulations to the SLO Chapter's newest registered quartet, the **Postmen**; lead **Rich Brownell**, tenor **Thomas Bourne**, bari **Blaine Hamilton** and bass **Kurt Walker**. Rich and Blaine are rookies this year, and it's Kurt's first quartet, too.

The holidays took a big bite out of our Chorus schedule, and we were eager to start 2008 with a return on January 7th to our Monday night habit. That was followed immediately by our Installation and Awards Dinner on the 12th. Long-time local barbershopper and 1996 BOTY **Dave Prigge** did the honors in the format of the game show "*Who Wants to be a Board Member?*", complete with the traditional "lifelines." Chapter quartets and SAI Region 11 Champs **Rio** (lead by Dave's wife Dani) entertained.

The 2007 Board did a great job last year, and happily most Board Members are returning in 2008. New to the Board this year are Music VP **Rick Ridge** and MatL **Jeffrey Guss**.

Director **Rick Marshall** presented his Director's award to both **Pete Bennett** and **Rudy Xavier** for their "contributions to the musical growth of the... Chorus." The talented **Logan Patrick-Miernicki** received the Founders Trophy as he was inducted into the Don Miernicki Hall of Fame (yes he is the founder's grandson!). And 2004 & 2006 BOTY **Rick Snodey** presented the BOTY trophy to **Pete Bennett** for 2007.

SANTA CLARITA

BILL WOLF

With a new name, **Men of Harmony**, a new director, **Duncan Gilman** and a new Board our new year is off to a new exciting start. Duncan has been inspiring our chorus with his energetic style. Our new members, visitors, who have sung in other chapters, and our chorus regulars are all impressed with his youthful style which brings vibrancy, enthusiasm and joy to our rehearsals. Chapter President **Larry Fletcher** has very ambitious plans for membership expansion, the improvement of our sound and image. New member and now Membership Director **Cliff Jacobs** is very creative and has just the right stuff to build our member base. New program Director **Craig Smith** is looking to expanding our range of venues. One recent unique event, was our local **Blue Plate Special** quartet singing, "Sweet Marie" in a film project titled, "A Sea Of Troubles".

SANTA MONICA

JERRY WALKER

Every year the **Oceanaires** are in great demand during the Holiday Season. The chorus gave eight performances, highlighted by "A Season for the Children," a joint holiday show with the Santa Monica Chorus, the longest established Sweet Adeline chapter west of the Rocky Mountains. The Venice High School Allegros, under the direction of Wendy Kornbeck, were featured guests; and we supported the ABC 7 "Spark of Love" toy drive in cooperation with the Santa Monica Firefighters.

Caroling in the Century City Shopping Center has become an annual tradition, bringing smiles to hundreds of busy shoppers; and we were pleased to be invited to entertain at Matteo's Restaurant for Claire Heron's private party. The Culver City and Pacific Palisades Women's Clubs also have requested regular appearances by the Oceanaires.

We were delighted to welcome three new **Oceanaires**, **George Haag**, **Joey Lutz**, and **Bob Wilson**, bringing the total number of new members to six in the last six months. We are pleased that four high school students who participated in the holiday show have continued to sing with the Oceanaires every week.

New chapter officers are: President **Bob Lipson**, Sec **Robert Leeburg**, Treas **John Smurda**, Chorus Manager **Ken Scholtz**, VP Development **David Erickson**, VP Music and Performance **Aaron Mood**, VP Programs **David Zasloff**, VP Public Relations **Jerry Walker**, Music Librarian

Earl Trusty, and BMAL **Jim Leedom** and **Bruce Schroffel**. IPP **Jerry Walker** has served for two years.

SOUTH BAY

MIKE MARTIN

For the second year, the Coastliners spearheaded the annual Christmas benefit performance for the Salvation Army at the Redondo Beach Auditorium. Featured headliner was **Shirley Jones** who emceed the program with **Ross King** of local TV station KTLA. Featured on stage were **The Coastliner** chorus under the direction of **Pete Neushul**, **LA South Towns** under the direction of **Caroline McLean**, the International Children's Choir and the South Bay Children's Choir. Chapter quartets also singing were **Ready, Willing and Mable**, **Sound Union**, and **Docs on the Rocks**. **Michael Thorpe** directed the audience in several Christmas songs finishing with Miss Jones' reading of the Christmas Story.

The Coastliners Chorus and the **Sound Union Quartet** (**Denny Lawrence**, **Rick Llewlyn**, **Karl Jacobs** and **Keith Klein**) also participated in the South Town's Christmas show with other chapter members **Joe Nagle**, **Jim Campbell**, **Dan Jordan**, **Michael Thorpe** and **Stam Hill** adding their significant talents in major parts of the show.

South Bay again participated and performed in the annual El Segundo Christmas parade along with approximately 75 other entrants and picked up a first place trophy. After numerous Christmas appearances around the South Bay area the chapter made its final season performance at one of the worlds largest shopping centers, the Del Amo Mall in Torrance.

This quarter started off on a sad note as the chapter had an unexpected passing of long time member and chapter stalwart **Bernie Baron**. Over the many years he had been with the chapter he had held about every office while always volunteering to do more. The chapter attended a memorial service en masse for Bernie at the King Harbor Yacht Club where he had also been a long-time and very active member.

The chapter held its installation luncheon this year at beautiful Simon's Waterfront Restaurant in Fisherman's Village in San Pedro Harbor where Mr Jim Campbell performed a humorous installation of new chapter officers. Don Duperon has returned for a second year as chapter president with a great slate of officers to guide South Bay through the new year of 2008. Entertainment included **Ready Willing and Mable**, **C-Nile Sound** and the double threat of **Docs on the Rocks** who not only sang but performed as a brass quartet of saxophones as well. And the beat goes on. Hey! Hey! South Bay!

RINCON BEACH

KEN DAY

Since returning from Ireland, the **Rincon Beach Chapter** spent about five weeks brushing up on our Christmas

repertoire to prepare for our two holiday shows, one in Santa Barbara at the Unitarian Society Church and the other at the Simi Valley Cultural Arts Auditorium. Director **Jason Remley** and his fiancé **Emily O'Brien** were married on January 5th. It was a truly spectacular ceremony with lots of music featuring Jason's brother **Jeremy** in a duet with **Kenny Potter**, **VoCa**, the **Hypnotic Quartet**, soloists- **Cheryl Coleman**, **Pam Pieson**, **Gerry Papageorge**, and **Mary Taylor**.

WHITTIER

PATRICK BOYLE

"Oh my" and other admiring expressions followed by a jubilant applause greeted the life sized illustrations of early 20th century Christmas cards descending from the ceiling to the background of the set during our "*A Christmas Card from the Choralaires*" Christmas Show. These gallery worthy illustrations were drawn by our very talented 2007 President **Norm Bernier**. The art, scripted to appear in the middle of the show, provided a warm atmosphere enhancing the Christmas at home setting. The audience show evaluation cards had a number of long-time supporters stating that this was the best Choralaires sets they have seen in over ten years.

Marshall Detro's gifted M. C. voice pleasantly presented Dale Hardin's script. Director Paul Gutierrez's musical interpretation and stage presence filled the theater with the warmth and good will feeling associated with Christmas. The Long Beach Chapter and their Director, Ray Cooley, joined us enhancing the richness of the Barbershop sound we all enjoy. The Whittier Chapter expresses our appreciation, and gratitude to Long Beach for their participation in the show.

2008 President **Bill Niemand** and the Chapter are delighted to announce that we have returned to City of Whittier for our weekly rehearsals. Our "new" home is appropriately named Harmony Hall.



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APPLE VALLEY

JIM DUGDALE

Attending to this year's Apple Valley chapter theme of helping to "*Keep music alive in our public schools*" was

quite a fun-filled challenge for the **Hi-Country Harmonaires** throughout 2007. In general, this was done by having the Harmonaires chorus and the Harmonaires Music Team quartet perform for several area elementary schools; by donating many "*Get America Singing...Again*" song books to several elementary school music teachers; and by including elementary children as performers on the chapter's annual Spring and Christmas shows.

At the Barbershoppers' Christmas show, early arrivals were treated to a "Power Point Presentation" prepared by **Kristen Taylor**, Apple Valley chapter chorus director. Numerous Barbershop activities that were carried out by the Hi-Country Harmonaires during the year were presented. The show included the Harmonaire chorus, two groups of elementary children from the Zion Lutheran church school and a youngsters' hand chime choir - all under the direction of **Kristen Taylor**, and two quartets - the **Desert Sun Tones** and the **Music Team**. The show was brought to a close with all of the children joining the Barbershoppers on stage for the finale with two songs - "*Let There be Peace on Earth*" and "*We Wish You a Merry Christmas*".

BREA

JOHN GASTON

The **Gaslight Chorus** stands proud of its fifth place finish at the recent District Contest in Phoenix. The **Spirit of Phoenix Chapter** deserves all of the accolades for an excellent job managing the convention

The **Gaslight Chorus** presented its 5th annual Christmas show titled '*Christmas Treasure*' at Brea's own Curtis Theatre. As is the tradition, the chorus performed several new arrangements penned by Chorus Director **Phil Ordaz** as well as the usual seasonal favorites.

The Chapter has sadly bid farewell to one of its most revered members. Bob Tomes transferred his membership to the Chapter Eternal.

The Gaslight Chorus recently welcomed **Kyle Blomgren** as the newest addition to the Bass section. Several returning guests are also on track for membership. **Larry Gassman** is the 2008 president. Being a small chorus, everyone will have a job critical to the achieving the chapter's mission.

EL CAJON

MIKE DORMAN

The **Music Masters** chorus held the annual installation of officers with **Craig Hughes** as the master of ceremonies.

The officers: President **Gary Mathews**, Sec/Treas **Roger Simpson**, VP Chapter Development **Jim James**, VP Programs **Paul Schmidt**, VP Music & Performance **Ed Herron**, Chorus Manger **Al Conte**, Services Chairman **Maury Rapkin**, Bulletin Editor **Mike Dorman**, and BMAL **Frank McLaughlin**, **Joe Perry** and **Joel Starr**.

On January 29, the chorus entertained the residents of Chula Vista's Fredericka Manor. They reported that it was a real thrill to share the songs, and fun, with such an appreciative audience!

HEMET

BRUCE SMITH

The January Issue of Hemet's now on-line bulletin UPBEAT was an 8 pager with many, many great color pix of the recent show. **The Stage Hogs** with **Katie and CJ** made their mark on the Hemet and San Jacinto audience -- a sellout crowd.

New officers for 2008 include: President **Dave Kelley**, IPP **Bill McNaughton**, VP Music and Performance **Jack Morrisseau**, VP Chapter Development **Norm Pabst** with the able assistance of **Ed Youngs**, Sec **Arthur McMaho**, Treas **Bob Couse**, Program Chair **Jim Bunton**, Sunshine Chair **Bob Pavlik**, BMAL's **Harry Kaylor** and **John Chandler**. Director **Howard Mesecher** has two associate directors in **Jack Morrisseau** and **Clay Panlaqui**. The installation of these fine officers was conducted by SCE Digester **Dick Girvin**.

INLAND EMPIRE

DAVE COVEY

The Harmony for Lunch Bunch meeting each Friday in Redlands is attracting much attention. Not only was there representation from all the nearby chapters (Inland Empire, Riverside, Hemet, Apple Valley and Coachella Valley) but also it netted the focus of a well read magazine titled, *Mad About Redlands*. The Winter edition, 2007, carried a fine two-page article complete with color pictures of the "bunch" at the local Pizza Shoppe (Sic)

The chapter quartet **Reflections** provided musical support for a charity event in October for a local icon **Kenny G**. Pictured in the bulletin was the appreciative rock star and the tenor from **Reflections**, **Don Sevesind**.

New officers for 2008 include: President **David Morketter**, VP Music **Tom Wallis**, VP Program **Tony Shone**, VP Chapter Development **Harry Sundquist**, VP Marketing & PR **Phil Crawford**, Treas **Don Sevesind** and Sec **Don Miller**, and BMAL **Leroy Lapp**, **Don Gilbert**, and **Charles Caruthers**.

IRVINE

STEVE YOUNG

The California Promise chapter completed a successful 2007 season with a rousing Christmas show followed by several performances at local senior care facilities. During 2007, they have added 12 men to the risers including five singers under 30 years old. Additionally they sponsored ten men from a local high school to the 2008 Youth in Harmony festival.

New director **Rich Hasty** has them working on all new songs for their Mother's Day show (May 11, 2008). They will have a new and exciting chapter quartet performing

as well as several other acts. For updates and ticket information, visit our website <http://www.cpchorus.org/>

ORANGE QUARTET CHAPTER

MARK SHELDON

The **WaveMakers** sang in a Veteran's Day Service at the Orange Elks Lodge. **As Good As New** and **Bleu Lite Special** performed in separate church holiday programs.

Organized by **Bob Calderwood**. **Bob Lindley**, baritone of the **1953 International Quartet Champion Vikings**, presided over the installation of officers. Awards announced by outgoing President **Mike Werner** went to: **WaveMakers** (Quartet of the Year), **Glenn Ragland** (Rookie of the Year), **Bob Calderwood** (President's Award), and **Mark Sheldon** (BOTY). Special recognition for Chapter Service was given to **Phil Roth**. Entertainment was provided by chapter quartets including **Bleu Lite Special**, **Balderdash "Lite"** (with **Ken Tillmanns** as bari), **WaveMakers**, and a new quartet called **MASH** (for "Mad About Singing Harmony") with T **Ed Paulvir**, L **Jeff Parmer**, Br **Stan Tinkle** and Bs **Don Derler**.

The chapter continued a holiday tradition by visiting the Chapman Medical Center to sing Christmas carols. The chapter sang to nurse's stations and a support group led by **Mike Werner**. Then "Lite" versions of **Balderdash** and **WaveMakers** visited patient rooms.

Valentines Chairman **Dave Gryvnak** organized a uniformed tour by **Bleu Lite Special** and **Balderdash "Lite"** of businesses in downtown Orange in the first weekend of January to promote Singing Valentines. **Bob Calderwood** and **Ken Tillmanns** provided photographic coverage.

RIVERSIDE

BILL SHOVA

New 2008 officers are President **Gaylord Spence**, Sec **Fritz Grunenwald**, Treas **Joe Shaw**, VP for Chapter Development **John Richardson**, Able Assistant for Membership **Geoff Mordue**, VP for Music and Performance **Phil Crawford**, IPP **Bill Shova**, BMAL **John Hawes**, **Paul Rowse** and **Dick Girvin**.

February 4 will see another "Guest Night" ably honchoed by BLING's Tenor, **John Hawes**.

SAN DIEGO

DON RENZ

To start 2008, Stan very nearly blew off the whole year by permitting - under Fräulein Direktor's disapproving glare - singing The Old Songs while seated.!

They were pleased to welcome guests **Dave Peterson** and two "Returnees:", **Caleb Stevens** and **Greg Michaels**. Both of them are former members and participated in last year's Christmas Show. Greg was in the "Biker" quartet, and Caleb shared the acting lead with Editor Don. **Jeff Ebner**, who visited several times last fall, also visited. Jeff is an accomplished Barbershopper, and assisted with some coaching.

SAN DIEGO NORTH COUNTY

STEVE HINKLE

First Things First -- In Dec of last year the 2007 BoD voted a Name Change; from Palomar Pacific to San Diego North County Chapter of the BHS. This will become official after a FWD vote in March. We look back on our 54 year history with pride, and forward to a new era of providing to those who will follow **The Music Men's** continuing legacy of community service and contribution to others through the gift of song, offered up in 4 part harmony.

NOT YET with T **Richard Bailey**, L **Woody Cady**, Br **Steve Butler** and Bs **Roger Hufferd** won the Oct. 30 Music Men Novice Quartet Competition .

On Thanksgiving Day, The North County Times ran a Cover Story that spotlighted The Music Men Chorus, complete with a 5x7 color picture on page one, and with quotes from some of the guys, including Chorus Director, **John Hulbert** and VP Marketing, **Chuck Youde**.

In the Dec. 12 edition, Today's Local News featured a two color picture, Front Page article devoted entirely to Chorus member, **Dick Stern**. While offering an abbreviated chronicle of his 50 years in Barbershop, this story, entitled "*The Song Remains*", focused on Dick's amazing ability to sing after a debilitating stroke 5 years ago.

Woody Cady (VP-YIH) and Chorus Director **John Hulbert** (along with several TMM quartet members) began working with a dozen boys from Oceanside's El Camino High School. John and Woody began another "WOW" experience with Mount Carmel High in Rancho Penasquitos.

In January: Our Vista Show was SRO; we welcomed Ms. **Lucy Cartano** as Assistant Director; **Steve Butler** was named *BOTY*, **Don Dawson** received the President's Award; **Joe Pascucci** and **Dick Stern** received the Director's Award; www.musicmenchorus.org became our New Web Address; and we moved our rehearsal location to California Center for the Arts - Escondido.

TEMECULA

TOM SPEARS

There's a new kid in town! A new chapter has started in Temecula, California.. This chorus (now known as the Wine Valley Harmonizers) started rehearsals in January of 2007, without a name, and pretty much with few plans other than to harmonize, sing well, and enjoy fellowship. That first night brought out 14 singers. Subsequent rehearsals had anywhere from 7 to 10 singers attending, as the chorus repertoire formed. Then on September 11, 2007, the Temecula Wine Valley Harmonizers celebrated with a 9/11 remembrance and an official licensing signing ceremony from the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Still getting the organizational aspects of a BHS chorus worked through with official registration set as a goal,

they pursue the requisite membership roster. As of this writing they are very close, now with 15 on the books (including the Director), and at least two more in the pipeline. As soon as that magic number of 16 is achieved, they will enthusiastically register and join competition. Look out!

Chapter President **Dick Courchaine** has been barbershopping eight years now, previously associated with **Palomar Pacific Music Men** and **San Diego Sun Harbo**. Sec/Treas **Jordon Malbrough** started barbershopping in 1986 and has sung with several choruses. The Wine Valley Harmonizers are directed by Mr. Jonathan Friedman. Jon a barbershopper since 1977 and was in 11 choruses (including the Masters of Harmony for several years).



FWD DVP for Division 3 NCWH

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Depending on when you receive Westunes, the NorCal Novice Contest hosted by Stockton is either fast-approaching or just occurred on Saturday, February 23 in Ripon. The novice quartet contests provide a wonderful opportunity for newer members, and not-so-new members, to perform in front of an appreciative audience and a panel of judges. If you haven't missed it, please join us in Ripon to cheer on these quartets or get your own quartet to wade into the contest pool.

With the combined division contest in 2008, our NorCal West chorus and quartet contests will occur several weeks later than usual on May 17 in Stockton. Remember that choruses and quartets can elect to participate in performance only mode and not be judged. I hope that the extra weeks this year encourages more quartets and choruses to perform this year. The combined convention promises to provide both competitors and audience members a full day and evening of singing and fun. Come join us in Stockton!

Although the figures I managed to pull together are preliminary, I am encouraged with the membership numbers I have seen from 2007. By my count, 7 chapters increased membership and another 4 chapters maintained their membership. That's 75% of our chapters that did not show a decline in membership last year. Overall division membership appears to have increased around 2% (the numbers are not perfect because of multi-chapter memberships). That is great progress compared to the declines we have shown before. I would love to hear from the chapter development vice presidents what programs have worked for them so that we can share your success story with everyone else in the district and Society.

Spring time can be very busy with shows and conventions, but we also have an opportunity to join the national Sing for Life blood drive on May 10. If your chapter has not signed up to participate, please do it today. However you spend your time enjoying this great hobby in 2008, I wish you all great success. If there is anything I can do to help your Society membership even more worthwhile to you, please contact me. I would love to hear from you.



Division 3 NCWH Editor

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ALOHA

JACK Y HASHIMOTO

We had our Thanksgiving potluck dinner at the Ala Wai Club House. Thanks to **Pauline Mitchell** for coordinating the food items and **Ed Reid** for chairing the event.

Our Christmas Show was entitled "*Rudolph Retires?*" It was a fun spoof of the day Rudolph decides that he needs to spend more time with his family, and goes on to regret it. Bill Joor and Jeff LeFebvre were show co-chairmen, while Larry Paterson did yeoman work on the ticket sales. Kudos also go to Stage Director Stephanie Conching and Music Director Mark Conching.

On November 11 on board the USS Missouri, we celebrated Veterans' Day with a performance. The Aloha Chapter was recognized by the USS Missouri board with a plaque made from the wood of the Missouri's deck for our numerous performances aboard the Missouri since 1999. With tears in our eyes and lumps in our throats we honored the veterans of all wars and sang the patriotic songs of our history such as the Star Spangled Banner, God Bless the USA, and the Service Medley. Chorus Manager **Ken Nelson** must be thanked for his part in arranging this performance. We performed for the All-State Honors Choir at historic Kawaiahao Church in Honolulu on January 27. Our goal was to have a positive influence on the young singers of the Honors Choir so that they go on to sing in choruses and choirs the their future lives.

At our annual Installation and Awards Banquet, **Ken Foreman** received the President's award. 2007 BOTY was **Jeff LeFebvre**. Officers installed included President **Zig Palaygi**, VP Program **Ed Reid**, VP Public Relations and Marketing **John Char**, VP Music & Performance **Scott Nessler**, VP Membership **Bill Joor**, Sec **Dan Tom**, Treas **Ron Watanabe**, IPP **Glenn Crowder** and BMAL **Kawika Michell**, **Ernie Hong**, **Larry Paterson** and **Jack Hashimoto**. Thanks to event chair **Ed Reid** for his work.

BAY AREA

MAX BATES

October ended with a surprise VIH rehearsal visit by none other than the nationally prominent motivational speaker **Tony Robbins**, who gave some kind words of encouragement to the chorus.

VIH presented two holiday concerts in December. The chorus performed to a packed house at the newly completed Bankhead Theater, of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center. VIH was joined on the show by the University of California Men's Chorale from UC Berkeley, Pacific Pride a new women's chorus also being directed by Dr. Greg Lyne, and **Late Show**. VIH gave a concert in the recently renovated California Theater in San Jose. Special guests for this concert were the Menlo Brass Quintet, who not only performed their own entertaining set, but joined with VIH in delightful renditions of "*Sleigh Ride*" and "*Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*". Again, **Late Show** was the buzz of the crowd.

Cindy Hansen visited the VIH to debut the contest up tune choreography.... It's time to get in shape ... Someone has said, "Singing is an athlete event".

At the VIH awards banquet, **Alan Gordon**, baritone of the 2004 International Champion Quartet "*Gotcha*" was the keynote speaker. Attendees were also treated to a couple of songs from "*Element*" VIH's newest quartet. Awards were given to: **Steve Roth** - Rookie of the Year; **Rob Sequeira** and **Chris Hebert** - Director's Award; **Jay Breen** - President's Award; **Chris Hebert** - Singer's Choice Award; **Bruce Selnow** - BOTY and Special Awards to **Randy Meyer** and **David Headtler**.

EUREKA

MAC GARDNER

GO! GO! GO!

Dick Johnson is famous for more than just having survived nine knee surgeries. He was awarded 2007 BOTY at our recent Installation Dinner. Dick has been with the Humboldt Harmonaires Chorus for 46 years, longer than any other member.

"All I Want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth" was a fan-pleasing song for fans attending our Christmas programs. Our success at "blacking out" those two teeth as we sang added laughs and smiles.

Quoting Shakespeare: "Therefore my age is as a lusty winter, Frosty, but kindly." As You Like It, Act 2. What he really meant was---"Sometimes it's a battle to get to rehearsal on Monday night, but at age 93, I still love to sing!" **Glenn Woods**, Charter Member.

FREMONT/HAYWARD

RAY SPINOSA

The New Dimension Chorus participated in the annual Light up the Season festivities in Hayward including a visit

to a local barbershop where passersby were treated to a concert of traditional songs of the season. Later, the chorus performed at a program for the American Society of Irrigation Consultants, an event held in downtown Pleasanton.

Finally, the chorus initiated what will be an annual event by putting on a holiday show at Prince of Peace Church in Fremont. Guest performers included both a men's and mixed chorus from Mt. Eden High School in Hayward. **Mixup**, a Sweet Adelines quartet, contributed an unconventional version of *'The Twelve Days of Christmas'*. Topping off the day were performances by the **New Dimension Chorus** and two chorus quartets.

MARIN

DON HODGE

The **Marin Golden Gate Chorus** completed its first full year and second fall performance under Director **Phil DeBar** (yes, Santa Rosa's own Phil DeBar), with slowly increasing membership and steadily improving quality.

At holiday time, the chorus and two chapter quartets entertained at Thanksgiving dinner for folks who might not have had one on their own. This otherwise happy occasion marked the final performance with the Marin chapter of long-time lead, quartetter, chapter Secretary, PR man, show director, Valentine organizer, and overall impresario **Ralph Kling** who moved up to the Pacific northwest to begin a new chapter of his life with a new chapter. A few weeks later the choristers shared some good barbershop cheer with holiday shoppers, carolling in two Marin shopping centers.

In January we installed a new slate of officers, with newcomers VP Marketing **Mike Vaughn**, and Sec **Don Hodg**, Secretary, joining veterans President **Paul Goldsmith**, VP of Music and Performance **Jon Goerke**, and Treasurer **Roy Harvey**, our terpsichorean bari who is now back on his feet after thoroughly tearing all the ligaments in one knee.

The chorus just completed the first of three weekly performances at local retirement homes in the run-up to Valentine's Day, delighting the audience and earning an invitation to return.

MONTEREY PENINSULA

DAVID WHORF

The **Monterey Cypressaires** held their annual "Installation Banquet" with **Joe Pintacura** as our "MC" for the luncheon event. Our Chorus Director, **Kristen Thompson** was presented with a signed photo of the chorus from last years Norcal Competition. **Howard Straus** was awarded *BOTY*. The following officers were installed: **Sam Kier** - Pres, **Stan Gilles** - Sec, **Robert Read** - Treas, **Steve Brooks** - VP, Mu&P, **David Whorf** - VP, Publicity & Mktg, **Bryan Epps** - VP, Membership.

PALO ALTO/MOUNTAIN VIEW

DEAN JAMES

Managed by our Membership and Marketing VP, **Dave Kocharhook**, the Peninsulaires formed a special Holiday Chorus that performed 13 gigs during December. He used press releases, word of mouth, and fliers to invite men in the area to join this special chorus. Six men did. Two of them have become permanent members, and a third is about to do so. The Holiday Chorus sang at two hospital walk-about, two retirement communities, four assisted-living centers, a city's tree lighting, a hospital out-patient party, a church, a stop of a Santa train, and the shops and streets of a small town. Often we sang just a few feet from our audiences. Their smiles, the sparkle in their eyes, and, later, their thank-you cards amplified their genuinely appreciative applause.

A surprise visit to a rehearsal of the Santa Cruz Chapter provided a joyous finale to a great barbershop December.

SAN FRANCISCO

DON KINGTON

With **Todd Troutman** having decided to not continue as the Cable Car Chorus interim director, **Charles Feltman** has again accepted the position. Because of his new responsibility Charles, reelected as President for 2008, resigned that position. Veteran S.F. Chapter member **Ed Rategan** agreed to come out of "barbershopping retirement" and head the Chapter for 2008.

The Chapter held its Officer Installation Dinner. Palo Alto-Menlo Chapter member **John Jones** accompanied by his wife Kathy, officially installed the 2008 Board of Directors in his capacity as the Chapter's counselor.

In brief remarks John quoted passages from the Chapter's 50-year written history, which illustrate that the organization, formed in 1945, was virtually the "mother chapter" for Northern California.

SAN MATEO

THOMAS ADDISON

Jim Bryant, San Mateo's former director and long time Far Western District Barbershopper, was the installing officer at the installation banquet. **Andrew Eichenbaum** was welcomed back as President for his second term, Treasurer **Arnie Miller** for his 6th term, VP Music and Performance **Tom Addison** for his 7th term. VP of Chapter Development is **Dave McCann** and VP Membership is **Tom Dickerman**.

The Chordsmen are planning for another busy year starting with Spring Show, Ed Sullivan Revisited, a variety show featuring Sweet Adelines quartets PDQ and Lipschtick in March. After our traditional summertime events with Hot Dogs and Harmony at San Carlos Days in May and Art in

the Park in June, we will spend the summer working on craft and new music as we prepare for our Halloween Cabaret in October. Never a dull moment for our busy little chapter.

SANTA CRUZ

LAWRENCE STERN

Gina Jett MC'd a fast-paced Installation Dinner keeping the words to a minimum and singing at the max. **Pat Lanphier**, formally a pillar of our chapter, but now a Florida resident, served as Installing Officer. **Duane King**, returning as chorus director when **Jim Davis** moved back to Carson City NV, led tags. Awards presented: **Jim Land**, Rookie of the Year; **Jean Bernard**, Most Improved; **Caralyn Steinberg**, Pat Lanphier Animation Award; **Jordan Johnson**, O.C. Kashamoto Award; **Lawrence Stern**, Pride of the Chorus Award; **Kim Orloff**, BOTY (female); **Dan Jett**, BOTY (male). A vigorous school visit program has restarted. Three of our current young members (**Dale Absher**, **Brandon Eddy**, **David Finau** -- all now at Cabrillo College) got interested in BBS when Quartets from GSC visited their classrooms.

SANTA ROSA

RAY CROWDER

Jim Estrella got a big surprise in January when his wife, Evelyn, dropped by the chapter meeting with cookies and goodies to help celebrate Jim's 70th birthday. Lots of good eating, and lots of good singing.

President **Jim Dechaine** selected February 24th as the date of our annual Installation Dinner and Awards Ceremony. **JIM** has done such a great job as President that he wants to go on, and on, and, Etc...

Our chapter quartets are all getting prepared for the annual Valentine Day performances. Santa Rosa currently has three registered quartets, and several guys have volunteered to form backup quartets for any overflow requests.

Sound Check announces that they're looking for a new baritone now that **Scott Douglas** has had to drop out. They were the 2007 NorCal West Novice champions, and we wish them the best of luck in their search.

The Redwood Chordsmen are tentatively scheduled to sing in April for the Sonoma County Council of Mayors. This is a large group of mayors, and councilmen from all over Sonoma County, and the guys are really looking forward to performing for this event.

Wayne, and **Joyce Hovdesven** will be hosting the spring social for the chorus, and family members. This has become a popular event in the Santa Rosa chapter, and everybody looks forward to it.



FWD DVP for Division 4 NCENN

Jim Turnmire

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Greetings to all my friends in the NCENN Division!

It is great being back in the saddle again as your FWD VP. It's been a few years since I've been in this position, and am looking forward to serving and meeting more of you in the coming year. Unfortunately, I'm going to have to miss our Division convention in May and our International Prelims in March. I had already scheduled a major trip (74 days on a trip to Africa!!!. Don't feel too sorry for me!) before I was asked to return to the board in this position. I will be thinking of you during this time.

I am encouraging all the NCENN chapters to seriously consider participating in the Division contest/convention in May. It is very centrally located in Stockton. It's been several years since we held a convention here. It is a wonderful city with a wonderful venue for the contests. It would be terrific if we had the largest turnout ever for this event. I am going to miss being there since I have attended every division convention/contest, except one, (heart attack!) since I joined our Society in 1975.

I would very much appreciate hearing about all happenings your chapter plans on having. Please invite me to your shows. I might even be able to attend!



Division 4 NCENN Editor

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CARSON CITY

RALPH QUOSIG

The fun-loving **Chorus of the Comstock** new officers for 2008: **Rook Wetzel** -P, **Curt Sonderegger** - VP Program, **Paul Muller** - Sec, **Dave Smith** - VP Membership, **Fred Harlow** - Treas, and **Ted Nagel** - IPP. We expect a new year that's even more challenging. In 2007, participation increased over 300%.

Our sold out annual show featured **Late Show**, **Tahoe Blue**, **Wild Cards**, the **Carson High School Choir**, and the **ROTC Color Guard**. Two HS quartets, **Harmonium** (gals) and **KAP'D** (guys), are just a part of our continuing effort to encourage youth to join our barbershop spirit. Every week students join our rehearsal. It's great to see youth embracing Barbershop.

Jim Crowley is mentoring a high school student project - Barbershop Harmony and Quartet Performance. Our chapter is sponsoring **Third Try** (Carson HS) to the FWD High School Quartet Contest. We are looking for a HS director to attend BHS Director's College this summer. Jim began his course Introduction to Barbershop Harmony at the Lake Tahoe Comm. College. We are looking for a high school quartet to sponsor to HCW this July. We also continue our youth program by featuring in our annual show **Let It Ride!**, who placed 9th at the 2006 Int'l Collegiate Quartet Contest and plan to compete again this year.

Wild Cards had a great time and received a standing "O" at the Veteran's Day celebration in Carson City. There were any number of WWII vets...much memorabilia and great camaraderie.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

MILES SUTTER

The **Golden Valley Chorus** held their 11th annual installation dinner with **Herb Andrew** and **Dick Compton** acting as co-emcees. They did a take-off skit from Abbott and Costello's famed "Who's On First" routine. FWD President **Bill Cale** was the installing officer. Awards: **BOTY** to **Roy Anderson** as well as the Special Award from the President for writing and directing their Fall show; Director's to **Ron Russell**; President's to **Dain Goad**; RookieOTY to **Scott Erickson** and the GVC Logo Contest Winner was **Juan Quijano**.

We entertained the senior citizens of Turlock with our annual package of Christmas favorites and barbershop songs. The job of roasting the seven turkeys this year fell into the capable hands of GVC members (and wives). The kitchen crew repeated their usual splendid job of preparing the dinner for our senior friends. They were: **Ray Baker**, **Stu McElwain**, **Scott (Rookie-of-the-year) Erickson**, **Floyd Rough**, **Juan Quijano**, **Dick Compton**, **Ted Meyer**, **Joe Gornick** and **Scott Hutchinson**, who also purchased and handed out the turkeys after the awards banquet. **Ron Russell** was the lone spotter and the 18 chorus members were able to serve everyone in 20 minutes. Thank you, **George Tallman**, for the sound system, and **Herb Andrew** for handling the MC chores so professionally. **Collaboration** entertained the audience prior to the chorus' formal appearance. The "12 Days of Christmas", under the supervision of chorus director **Dain Goad**, is always a favorite audience participation among the seniors. **Terrell Chambers** beautiful rendition of "Silent Night", together with **Herb Andrew's** narrative and chorus backup, was a highlight of our performance. It was great to see **Chris and Phyllis Baird** in attendance!

DAVIS-VACAVILLE

ROY BELLHORN

The following 2008 officers for the **West Valley Chorus** were installed: **Tom Powers** - Pres, **John Minkler** - Sec, **Claude Rohwer** - Treas, **Steve Rollins** - VP Music, **David**

Knight - Membership, **Roy Bellhorn** - VP Marketing & PR, **Bob Benson** - MAL, **Bob Hansen** - show chairman. **BOTY** is **John Minkler**, current (and incoming) Chapter Secretary.

Our 2008 annual show "**Tribute to Broadway**" featured that perennial comedy favorite **Atonic Explosion**.

As expected, the chapter's formal and informal quartets were kept on the move with performances at various Holiday functions and senior citizen functions.

FOLSOM

HERSH ROBY

The **Folsom Harmony Express** held their annual installation dinner with installing officer **Roger Perkins** who did some juggling and a couple of magic tricks while introducing the new officers: **Doug Vestal** - Pres, **Charlie Clark** - IPP, **Wil King** -Membership, **Stan Trumbull** - Sec, **Tom Reeves** - Treas, and **Bob Roberts** and **Robert Edmonds** - MAL. **Kent Borrowdale** continues as Chorus Director. **BOTY** went to **Doug Vestal** who is bass section leader and helps with almost everything.

FRESNO

DAVID REITZEL

Year's end was a busy, yet sad time for the **Gold Note Chorus**. Baritone **Pat Henley** passed away in November. Pat's quartet **Harmony Spectrum** was 1989 FWD Champion. Singing at his funeral were the surviving members **Brad Wilcox** - tenor; **Richard Nielsen** - lead and **Jim Turnmire** - bass, with **Howard Barber** of Merced standing in for Pat. We last saw Pat when he MC-ed our installation of officers in 2007 and sang a couple of numbers with **Harmony Spectrum**.

Our big Christmas show featuring the **GNC Chorus**, **Voices Unlimited**, and the **California Heartland Chorus**. Also performing were Leslie Knudsen's elementary school choir, the Jubilation Singers, several quartets and octets, the Performing Arts Singers from Roosevelt High School, Dede Nibler's quartet, Dolce, Second Hand Joes and Silver and Gold, plus the Harmon8s, a women's octet from Voices Unlimited—all masterfully MC-ed by Ken Strauss.

Then we were on the road, doing a double show beginning at the Manchester Gates elementary school in Fresno in honor of Dede Nibler's retirement as Manchester choir director. We ended the evening at Washington elementary school in Madera 20 miles north entertaining President Bill Holden's flock, he being the principal. We closed out the year with an appearance on KMPH TV in Fresno, singing Christmas music.

Jim Turnmire, our globe-hopping ambassador of Barbershopping and our favorite Bass, is now Associate Director of the **Gold Note Chorus**.

Jim Mahoney, a member of Time in a Bottle, presided at our annual installation banquet in January. The quartet backed Jim up with several tunes as he made his admonishments to the new officers and gave them bags of stuff. Our own quartets, Route 99 and Silver and Gold, added to the festivities, and helped us honor Treasurer Mike Smith as our BOTY. 2008 officers are **Bill Holden** - Pres, **Bill Golden** - Sec, **Mike Smith** - Treas, **Jim Warner** - VP Chapter Development & Membership, **Wes Jackson** - VP Music & Performance, **Richard Wayne** - Marketing & PR, **Dean Clark** - Program Chairman, **Doug Yarrow** - Chorus Manager, and **Terry Starr** - IPP. MAL are **Mike Ragan**, **Jim Rathbun**, **David Reitzel**, and **Steve Quan**.

NEVADA PLACER

ROGER PERKINS

The **Sierranaders** held two very successful Cabaret Shows. The theme was a 50-year tribute to The Music Man. **Jim Turnmire** came up from Fresno to do a great job as MC while playing the role of Prof Harold Hill. **New Edition**, **Chord Miners**, **Stampede** and **Pacific Standard Time** all performed. The chorus closed the first half with *76 Trombones* to a Standing "O".

Clark Abrahamson installed 2008 officers and had us all singing with a clever routine. "Hey lallee lallee lallee, hey lallee lallee low." Officers are **Chuck Kaul** - Pres, **Dick Serns** - IPP, **Dan Wilson** - Program VP, **Verne Bagby** - Membership, **Steve Mathews** - Music and Performance, **Ron Murray** - Sec, **Bill Beck** - Treas, **Tim Martin** - VP Marketing & PR, and **Tony Prowense** and **Dave Bishop** - MAL. The **Sierranaders**, **New Edition**, **Pacific Standard Time** and **Chord Miners** performed. BOTY was **Tim Martin**, a three-year member who takes his hobby seriously and has stepped in to take charge of P.R. He was responsible for the chapter getting new uniforms as well as transporting our risers. He sings tenor in the chorus and **Pacific Standard Time** quartet. When help is needed he raises his hand.

PLACERVILLE

BILL PECK

The **Gold Rush Chorus** donated \$700 taken in at their Fall show to the Ponderosa High School's Vocal Program. Raffle prizes were donated mainly by **Neal Sisson**, **Neil Knutsen** and a friend of **Keith Eckhardt**. Handling the lobby chores were **Adele Sisson**, **Sue Miller**, **Donna Pearson**, **Edna Knutsen**, **Andrea Rail**, **Phiz Peck**, **Patsy Miller**, **Bobbie Bunch** and her daughter.

RENO

JAY CICCOTTI

Our Christmas show "*Memories*" under the direction of **Bill Weiser** was received with much enthusiasm. Featured performers were **Tahoe Blue**, 2007 NorCal East/NorNV Divisional Champions and 2007 Far Western District Finalists and **Reed High Schools** 16 voice Vocal Ensemble under the direction of **John Lorentzen**.

The New Year began with a music staff and chorus determined to rededicate themselves to singing excellence. We continue to sing the National Anthem at UNR Wolf Pack basketball games with at least one more date open.

The **Silver Dollar Chorus** Board of Directors for the year 2008: **Richard Whitten** - Pres, **Norm Carlson** - Sec, **Jack Riggsbee** - Treas, **Carleton Truman** - VP Music & Performance, **Jay L. Ciccotti** - VP Publicity & Public Relations, **Don Riemenschnitter** - VP Chapter Development/Membership, and **Dave Cameron**, **Nick Dimeo** and **Gene Preston** - MAL.

The Silver Dollar Chorus honored Carl Truman as BOTY.

VISALIA

DEE BAUGHMAN

The Chorus performed many holiday sing-outs at various locations including Downtown Visalia as part of their Christmas promotion. Installed by the **Four Tune Hunters** Quartet of the Central Valley Chapter, 2008 Pres is **Dee Baughman**. BOTY is **Jerry Mitchell**, a three year member. The Chapter lost two valued members as last years: **Dave Warner** (2006 BOTY) and **Paul Barlow** passed away. Paul was a former member of the Hanford Kingsmen Chapter for many years.

The Chorus now has it's own web site, www.mightyoak-chorus.org thanks to **Craig Peterson**.



FWD DVP for Division 5 ASNSU

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It is my privilege to serve you as your Division Vice-President and thanks to **Ivan Jensen**, 2008 has roared in like a lion. **Ivan** arranged for **Bill Kane** of the Greater Phoenix Chapter to take over the division Events Chairman and I will be working closely with **Bill** in planning future Division 5 programs.

DVP January schedule included the installation for **Sun Cities**, travel to **Show Low** and the **White Mountain** Chapter installation, the first regional COTS session in **Mesa, Arizona** [it was great to see 13 of 16 division chapters represented], and the presentation of the Greater Phoenix BOTY award to **Mr. John Bloomquist**.

The Arizona COTS meeting was a success because of many individuals. **Ivan Jensen** scheduled the meeting and did much of the internal arranging with the hotel, restaurant, and instructors. **Charlie Nardin**, President of the Mesa Chapter handled registrations and shuttle service from

the airport. Ray Kahler of the Mesa Chapter arranged for the use of his church for the meeting and the Mesa Chapter members helped in many areas that insured the success of the day. And last, but not least, those who attended the seminar made it a very enjoyable event; Carson City, Nevada, not in our division, sent three men to learn more about chapter leadership.

I intend to visit every chapter in the division in 2008. One of the perks of being DVP is to visit chapters from Arizona, Nevada and Southern Utah and see old friends and new in their own environments. I've already talked with many of you and I look forward to singing with you, discussing ways to enrich your chapters, and to help motivate leadership to retain and recruit new singers.

I will try to insure that each and every chapter receives the benefits that are available from our new Society headquarters in Nashville. You will have the attention of each of us on the FWD leadership team.

Please plan on attending the ASNSU Divisional Contest on April 19th, in Glendale, Arizona, at Moon Valley High School. The Tucson Chapter, as host, has arranged for a special discount at the Ramada Inn just off Interstate 17 on Cactus Avenue. This is a wonderful opportunity to launch a quartet and perhaps qualify for the FWD Contest in October.

I'm looking forward to 2008 and will make myself available to each chapter in Division 5.



Division 5 ASNSU Editor

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CASA GRANDE

LOREN ENGLUND

The Desert Sounds Chorus joined with Tucson Sunshine Chorus and Saddle Brooke Canada del Oro Chorus for a combined Christmas concert entitled *"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year"*. There were three performances, one in each chapter's venue. Our concert, under the direction of **Rogers Hornsby**, was well attended by an appreciative community. 80 or more barber-shoppers performed for very receptive audiences, which was inspiring for both singers and listeners.

In early December the chorus helped celebrate the grand opening of the Promenade Shopping Mall in Casa Grande.

GREATER PHOENIX CHAPTER

JERRY MCELFRISH

With the successful hosting of the FWD Fall Convention under our belts and the results of other district contests

known, the **Spirit of Phoenix** chorus was delighted to find that it had won a wild-card slot in the 2008 International Chorus Competition as one of three FWD choruses that will compete. The Music Team and Director **Russ Young** began to look for exciting new contest songs and the first one, the ballad *"No Arms Could Ever Hold You,"* by Jimmy Webb (*"By The Time I Get To Phoenix"* and others), was introduced to the chorus.

Three successful Christmas shows in east, west and central venues in the Valley pleased our audiences and provided additional cash for the treasury. Past International Champion Scottsdale Chorus (Sweet Adelines International) and several of our fine quartets added an extra measure of entertainment.

The Christmas shows weren't even off the calendar before preparation began for our 2008 Singing Valentines program and our annual spring show, *"I've Been Everywhere,"* with three performances in March.

Several of our quartets gained fame for themselves, the chapter and the Society with television performances at large sports events during the holidays. **Music Box** appeared on the local PBS station's *"Home for the Holidays: Musical Treasures"* program, which was broadcast three times during the week prior to Christmas. Also on the show were Bronzeworks Handbell Ensemble, Native American flutist R. Carlos Nakai and guitarist William Eaton. A new quartet, **Foresight**, formed when it had the opportunity to perform the National Anthem before an estimated 50,000 fans at the 19th Annual Insight Bowl Game at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe. New quartet **Sound Agreement** sang the National Anthem at the Phoenix Suns game the next week.

LAS VEGAS

ROC PUCCI

The Gamble-Aires and our own Broadcast quartet and Sweet Adelines quartet **Wildfire**, entertained a nearly full house at our Christmas show entitled *"This Was Your Life Ebenezer Scrooge."* A video presentation based upon the old "This Is Your Life" TV show was filmed in Heaven and another very hot remote spot with Ralph Edwards, Ebenezer and some of his old friends. Of course, the quartets and chorus performed live.

Broadcast quartet entertained with several of their popular numbers at our 2008 Installation Banquet and **John Waugh** aired some comical video outtakes from our Christmas show. 2008 officers are: **Bill Lusk** - Pres, **Rick Ives** - VP Music, **David Larson** - Sec, **Phillip Sonneman** - Treas, and **Rich Coon** - VP of Marketing & Public Relations, Chapter Development and Programs. **Nick Pizzo**, former member of the Gamble-Aires and international gold-medal winner from the Westminster Chorus, did a fine job as installing officer. Awards were handed

out to: **Rich Coon** - President's Award; **Rick Jones** - Director's Award; **Phillip Sonneman** - Sparkplug Award (a new category because he single-handedly sold 44 tickets to our show); **Gary Bishop** - RookieOTY; and **Roc Pucci** - BOTY. **Mary Greene** (wife of member **Gary Greene**) and **Wildfire** quartet members were given honorary **Gamble-Aires** membership certificates for all their help throughout the years.

LAS VEGAS METRO

JOHN THOMPSON

The **City of Lights Chorus** was a busy bunch through this past Holiday Season. This year's show was a comedy "*Santa Lite*", with the reindeer and Mrs. Claus concerned over Santa's weight gain, and his ability to fit in the sled. In addition to the two main shows at Winchester Cultural Center, the chorus also held performances at the Las Vegas Little Theater, Sun City Anthem Performing Center, and entertained holiday visitors at the Springs Reserve Festival of Lights. Among our featured quartets were **Stardust**, **Rumble Seat Daze**, **Ring** and **Wildfire** from Sweet Adelines, as well as choral groups from the College of Southern Nevada and three Las Vegas high schools.

2008 board members are: **Peter Feeney** - Pres, **Ed Cotton** - Sec, **Wes White** - Treas, **Gordon Lankenau** - VP Music, **John Mackey** - VP Program, **John Thompson** - VP Marketing/PR, **Randy Preston** - VP Chapter Development/Membership, **John Lenox** - IPP, **Herb Craig & Martin Judd** - MAL. Plaques presented at the installation were: **Jay Dougherty** - Director's Award, **Randy Preston** - President's Award, **Scott Fewell** - BarbershopperOTQ (3rd Quarter), **Gordon Lankenau** - BarbershopperOTQ (4th Quarter), and **Wes White** - BOTY.

PRESCOTT

SAM STIMPLE

The **High Mountain Chordsmen Chorus** were singing guests on the Yavapai College Music Department's Choral Union Concert held October 21 in the beautiful state-of-the-art performance hall on the college campus. In December the chorus and chapter quartets were featured as part of 110 music groups for downtown Prescott's annual Acker Musical Showcase.

The highlight of the fall was the chapter's annual show "*Happy Birthday, Harold Hill The Music Man at 50*" held at the new Prescott Community Center on November 3. **Music Box** from the Greater Phoenix Chapter was the featured quartet.

Our chapter meetings recently were blessed with many guests who attended our shows or holiday performances.

High Country 4 quartet was honored to sing for Georgia McEuen's 100th birthday in early December at the Prescott Valley Adult Day Care Center. Georgia is the mother-in-law of chapter member **Rich Ludwigson**. Her favorite song is "*Georgia On My Mind*."

SIERRA VISTA

ED RAYMOND

Our 2008 Installation Dinner was heavily attended by spouses, progeny and significant others. The new officers are: President **Fred Whitely**, VP Music & Performance **Paul Godwin**, VP Chapter Development **Dave Germain**, VP Program **Ed Raymond**, Treas **Bernie Martus**, and Sec **David Jones**. In an unprecedented move, both **Dave Germain** and **Bernie Martus** were acclaimed BOTY.

Our chorus presented a program at the Veritas Religious Academy in Sierra Vista, attended by all their classes, both male and female. Director **Dave Germain** explained the makeup of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Students grouped in the four vocal parts, and the function of each was explained. A chorus member taught each voice part of a selected tag and each group sang their respective parts, after which the four student groups sang the tag in unison. The result was an overwhelming success.

Christmas time found our chorus caroling at the local health center, Life Care Homes, an assisted living residence, as well as a special care residence. We look forward to these happy presentations each year. Our quartet **Watering Hole #3** continues to perform on request at private parties and local restaurants.

Several of our officers attended the January COTS event in Mesa. The Society's new format for the training program was educational and the instructors were "top notch."

SUN CITIES

BOB MCGOWAN

It is with pride that the **Sun Cities Chapter** reports a net increase in members for 2007, to 70 members, although some are inactive due to health considerations. The **Desert Aires** joined the Society in 1996 with twelve members and has grown steadily since that time. With members averaging in their 70s, the chapter has seen a number of their singing comrades join that great chorus in the sky, and this past year we lost several, but gained new members as well.

As a senior group of barbershoppers, we meet during the afternoon hours, rather than at night, as most chapters do. We consider ourselves an entertainment chorus. As such, our annual shows are tailored to entertaining the public; we have a performance schedule that takes us to nearly twenty venues each year. We put together shows that feature eight to twelve chorus numbers and a mix of quartet spots. Over the years we have delivered many personalized love songs, as we usually field four or more quartets for the Singing Valentines program. The **Sun Cities Chapter** has made a pronounced impact on the surrounding area known as the West Valley.

This past January, we rounded out our season with a presentation of the "At the Movies" show before an enthusiastic audience.

We welcomed **Bud Hesterman** into the *BOTY* fraternity. Bud, who is now on his 35th year with the Society, is our premier master of ceremonies and a really talented guy.

TUCSON

RON HAYES

Congratulations to the **Tucson Chapter** on its 60th Anniversary celebrated during the chapter's Installation of Officers Dinner. **Connie Keil** was the installing officer.

The **Casa Grande** and **Canada del Oro** chapters joined the **Tucson Chapter** for its 2nd Annual Holiday Show "*The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!*" Choruses and quartets from each chapter presented a variety of holiday favorites. The combined chorus of 80 men joined together in the finale. Performances at three venues were presented over two days.

The **Sunshine Chorus** recently moved to the Tucson Jewish Community Center, a beautiful new facility suitable to provide for our rehearsal and performance needs for years to come.

We operated an exhibit in the Tucson Family Arts Festival, attended by approximately 30,000 people. Tucson's own **Sonoran Sound** quartet conducted a live workshop.

Six of our chapter officers attended the Division 5 COTS in Phoenix. This well-attended school was the first held in Arizona for decades.

WHITE MOUNTAINS

CARL DOCKENDORF

The **High Country Chorus** members ushered for the City of Show Low and the Arts Alliance of the White Mountains at the Side Street Strutters Concert. The Christmas performance schedule included an appearance at the Snowflake Twelve Days of Christmas Celebration, performances at Wal-Mart, Soltera and Infinia Assisted Living facilities, and a "*Big Band and Barbershop Christmas*" Show. The **Pine Tones** performed at the Greenhouse Nursery for the "*Spirit of the Wild*" gathering, where we shared the stage with a huge wolf.

We were pleased to have AZSUSN Divisional VP **Gordon "Mongo" Bergthold** as our installing officer, and **JDJ** and the **Upright Bass** as our entertainment at our installation banquet where **Everett Peterson** was named 2007 *BOTY*, **John Welker** received the President's Award, **Joe Stone** the Most Improved Singer Award, and **Ron LaMar** as our Spark Plug winner.

January brought some bad news. We lost **Vic Vickoren**, one of our original chorus members from 2001. **Lloyd Lange**, lead of the **Pine Tones**, had gall bladder surgery,

and will have to undergo open heart surgery in February. The doctors told **Lloyd (79)** that he will have to give up skiing, a huge disappointment.

Our 2008 budget includes funding for nine members to attend Harmony/Directors University.



1978 International Champion Bluegrass Student Union lead **Kenny Hatton** was in Arizona on business the second week of November. Pictured are Spirit of Phoenix Chapter members **Bob Szabo**, **John Bloomquist** and **Gary Steinkamp** with **Kenny Hatton**.

Chorus Director Wanted - Visalia

Visalia is a chapter of 50 men, with average attendance of 33, and meets on Tuesdays of each week. We would like to get someone with Barbershopping experience. Please contact:

Bob Peden
(559) 584-4976
tenorbob@sbcglobal.net

REMEMBER THE FWD YOUTH EDUCATION FUND

FWD Spring Convention in Bakersfield
March 13-16, 2008
Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
Come Join in the FUN!

From Rincon Beach To the Emerald Isle

This was the title of our recent Fall show but it also was the underlying theme of our most recent travels. Many of the members of the Rincon Beach Chapter really enjoy traveling. That is if work schedules and finances are available. In 2003, a trip was made to St. Petersburg, Russia and in 2005 the chorus traveled to Harmony College (as it was then called) in Missouri. In 2007 it was time for another adventure. (Actually in 2006, we were invited as a wildcard entrant to the International Contest and Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana-which was a terrific experience.)

Two of our Chapter Past Presidents, Bob Lally and Michael Marion put their heads together and envisioned a trip to Europe somewhere. Ideas for travel that were discussed included Wales, Germany, and Ireland. A poll was held among the chapter membership and Ireland seemed to be the most popular venue. Bob and Michael met with Doug Weaver from Witte Travel of Grand Rapids, Michigan at the Indianapolis Convention and began fleshing out ideas.



Being a member of IABS (Ireland Association of Barbershop Singers) as well as a member in the Barbershop Harmony Society, Bob Lally suggested that maybe we could not only perform in Ireland but it was possible that we could compete as an International entrant in their International Irish Barbershop Convention. Messages were sent to Gunner Karlsson, the IABS Chairman, and we became official entrants in the International portion of their competition.

The Irish International Conventions are very similar to ours except that they are only three days long. Friday night has the National Quartet Contest (open only to Irish quartets) with both female quartets and then male quartets competing in separate competitions. Our own Metropolis Quartet was the Mike Warmer quartet. Saturday morning starts with the National Female Chorus competition followed by the International Male Quartet Contest. After a short break, the International Female Quartet Competition takes place, followed by the National Male Chorus Competition. Lastly, The competition between the International Men's and Women's

Choruses take place. There were four men's choruses interspersed with four women's choruses.

We finished second overall in the International Chorus Competition. The winning Chorus was The New Harvest Singers from The Netherlands, a terrific singing women's chorus. We actually placed first in Singing, second in Presentation and third in Music. What a thrill it was to win a silver medal.

There were a total of three entries from the USA in the competition. We had a quartet called the Rincon Rovers in the International Male Quartet Contest and there was a ladies quartet called Change of Heart that received a Bronze Medal as well as our chorus. Other International entries came from England, Scotland, Sweden, Finland and The Netherlands.

We visited four main cities in Ireland, during our visit. Cork, Killarney, Kilkenny and Dublin, with side trips to the Dingle Peninsula in Killarney and the Rock of Cashel and the Waterford Glassworks in Kilkenny. In Dublin we visited St. Patrick's Cathedral and Trinity College, both the oldest in Ireland.



We had the opportunity to sing at a Mass at St. Augustine Church in Cork, at O'Donohoe's Pub in Killarney, at the Paris, Texas Pub and at the Rock of Cashel in Kilkenny, and at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. We did our final performance at the Crumlin Bowling Club in Dublin as a joint performance with the Mello Chords, an Irish Barbershop Club. They sang the first half of the show and we sang the second half before the Mello Chords joined us in singing the Irish Blessing and Keep The Whole World Singing.

The sites that we saw and the places that we visited will long be in our memories. What a beautiful country and what hospitable people. Everywhere we went, the Irish people were polite and friendly and they really made the trip rewarding. During the eleven days that we actually spent touring in Ireland, we saw many interesting sites and I'm very sure that each of us our own favorites but it will never be enough to see everything.

CONVENTIONS, SHOWS, EVENTS

Univ of Redlands

2008

March

- 1 Coachella Valley Show
- 1 San Mateo Show
- 1 Tucson Show
- 7-8 Greater Phoenix Shows
- 13-16 FWD Spring Convention
Bakersfield Host: Valleyaires
Int'l Prelim & SCW Division Contests
- 30 Westminster Show

April

- 3-6 SAI Region 11 Conv, Bakersfield
- 3-6 SAI Region 12 Conv, Sacramento
- 5 Laguna Hills Show
- 5 Visalia Show
- 12 Fullerton Show
- 19 San Luis Obispo Show
- 19 A/SN/SU Division Contest
Glendale, AZ Tucson host
- 26 Eureka Show
- 26 Fresno Show
- 26 Palo Alto Mt View Show
- 26 Palomar Pacific Show
- 26 Pasadena Show
- 26 Santa Fe Springs Show

May

- 3 Santa Cruz Show
- 3 SCE Division Contest [TBA]
- 10 Inland Empire Show
- 10 Placerville Show
- 11 Irvine Show
- 17 NCal Combined Contest
Stockton, CA
- 17 Santa Fe Springs Show
- 31 Nevada-Placer Show
- 31 Whittier Show

June

- 7 Bay Area Show
- 7 Santa Fe Springs Show
- 13-15 South Bay Shows
- 29-7/6 INT'L CONV Nashville, TN

July

- 17-18 Harmony College West

September

- 13 Walnut Creek Show
- 20 Bay Area Shows

October

- 9-12 FWD Fall Convention, Bakersfield
Host: Masters of Harmony
- 24-25 Nevada-Placer Shows
- 30-11/2 Great Pacific Harmony –
2008 Pan Pacific Convention
<http://panpacificharmony.org>

November

- 4-8 SAI Int'l Conv, Honolulu, HI
- 15 COTS 1 Day
- 22 COTS 1 Day
- 29 Bay Area Shows

2009

January

- 10 COTS 1 Day
- 17 COTS 1 Day
- 25-2/1 Int'l MidWinter, Pasadena

March

- 19-22 FWD Spring Convention
Las Vegas Host: City of Lights
- 26-29 SAI Region 11 Conv, Bakersfield

April

- 2-5 SAI Region 12 Conv, Sacramento

May

- 10 SCW Divisional (TBA)
- 17 SCE Divisional (TBA)

June

- 6/28-7/5 INT'L CONV Anaheim, CA
Host: Masters of Harmony

October

- 8-11 FWD Fall Convention
Sacramento Host: Capitolaire

**Clear all show dates with
FWD Secretary, Dick Girvin**

November

- 3-7 SAI Int'l Conv, Nashville, TN
- 14 COTS 1 Day
- 21 COTS 1 Day

2010

January

- 9 COTS 1 Day
- 15 COTS 1 Day

March

- 18-21 FWD Spring Convention
Open for bid

May

- 10 SCW Divisional (TBA)
- 17 SCE Divisional (TBA)

June

- 6/27-7/4 INT'L CONV Philadelphia, PA

October

- 7-10 FWD Fall Convention, Bakersfield
Host: SLO Gold Coast
- 19-23 SAI Int'l Conv, Seattle, WA

November

- 13 COTS 1 Day
- 20 COTS 1 Day

2011

- 7/3-10 INT'L CONV Kansas City, MO
- 11/18-22 SAI Int'l Conv, Houston, TX

2012

- 7/1-8 INT'L CONV Portland, OR
- 10/30-11-3 SAI Int'l Conv, Denver, CO

2013

- 6/30-7/7 INT'L CONV Toronto, ON
- 11/5-9 SAI Int'l Conv, Honolulu, HI

2014

- 6/29-7/6 INT'L CONV Minneapolis, MN

2015

WESTUNES

Magazine

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