



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

Fall 2008

Number 3



*Miller Photography
Louisville, Kentucky
Left*

*Lorin May
BHS, Below*

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Far Western District Association of Chapters in the Barbershop Harmony Society, Inc.

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Issue	Deadline	Chapter News Submittal	to Div Editor Deadline
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Sometimes when it's time to write one of these articles it's difficult to find something pertinent to say. Well this time it's different because there are so many things I want to tell you about. So, pardon me if it's a little jumbled, but here goes.

- Everyone knows by now about the great showing by the Far Western District at the International Convention in Nashville in July... 6 Quartets, 3 Choruses and 4 College Quartets. Gold Medals in Quartet and Chorus plus additional medals in Chorus and College Quartet. Congratulations to all of our competitors for their fine showing. Also, the Chorus Gold was handed off by last year's champ, also from the Far Western District.
- Remember that we're just approaching the season to elect new Chapter officers; I hope your nominating committees have been busy. We will again be offering multiple Leadership Academies (our very own replacement for COTS) with separate sessions in Northern California, Southern California and Arizona. They will again be one-day sessions at a very modest cost, so I hope you'll send your entire board plus any other interested members. Be sure and send your Chapter Secretary since there will be special training in the new Society computer system.
- Next year our District will have the honor of hosting both the Midwinter Convention in Pasadena in January AND the International Convention in Anaheim in July. Both of these events will be loaded with exciting features, but I want to call your attention to two in particular. First, in Pasadena we will have the Second Annual Youth Choral Festival. The first edition of this took place last January in San Antonio and was one of the highlights of the weekend. There were six of these young choruses in Texas, and we hope to have many more in Pasadena. If you know of a local group of young men who love to sing, steer them to John Krizek, our Youth in Harmony Chair or James Estes in the Nashville office for further information. You'll help insure our future

**Motto:
Together
in
Harmony!**

and at the same time give some young men the thrill of a lifetime. There will also be a special event in Pasadena for the rest of us. It will be the chance to perform in a chorus composed of interested barbershoppers living in California. You will get an opportunity to sing two great arrangements under the direction of Dr. Greg Lyne to open the Friday night show. Materials will be provided in advance, and details will be readily available on the Society and District web sites. Believe me, singing in a large group like this with Greg Lyne directing is an experience you'll never forget.

- In March our District will be making more history when we join with the Rocky Mountain District to hold a combined International Preliminary Convention and Contest in Las Vegas. This should make not only for a very high level quartet contest, but an opportunity to join together with our brothers from the East for some great casual singing and fun. To add to the mix, we're also holding a small chorus contest for any chorus in our District with 30 singers or less that would like to compete for score only in lieu of competing in their own Division Contest to qualify for the Fall contest. There will also be groups from Rocky Mountain, so we have to limit our entry to the first 10 of our choruses to submit their entry. It should be a great way to qualify for District in a really fun environment.

Well, as you can see, our future is filled with a lot of opportunities for making music, learning our craft and just plain having fun. There's truly something for everyone, so start making your plans now, and I'll see you there. If you can't find the information you need anywhere else, feel free to drop me a line, and I'll be happy to steer you in the right direction.

Finally, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the service of two fine men who worked diligently to make your musical experience and mine a better one. Jim Crowley has had to step down from his post as Chair of Chorus Director Development, and Jerry Fairchild has relinquished his position as Chair of Music & Performance. Jim did major work in setting up Director training events throughout his term, and Jerry, among his many other duties, has made our Harmony College West into one of the finest regional barbershop training events in the Society. A thousand thanks and best wishes to both of them. Taking on the CDD position is Dave Tautkus, and assuming the M&P Chair will be Nick Papageorge. I've known both of these men for a long time, and they bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to their jobs. Welcome aboard!

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As I set down to write my article for the Fall Westunes, I can not help but bubble over with excitement. There are so many positive things happening in the Society, Districts and Chapters that one cannot help but feel good about it. With that being said, I need to back up to November of 2007 when I went to Nashville with President Bob to attend the District Presidents meeting. While there I heard this great idea about inviting youth to the Mid-Winter Convention in San Antonio for a Youth Chorus Festival. I have to admit, I thought it was a great idea but I had my doubts it would be successful. Over the next couple months the excitement continued to grow and I heard there were several groups that had signed up for the event. As you have probably heard, there were 200 youth on the stage in San Antonio and the excitement and energy that came off that stage was unbelievable. It did not stop there either, I saw and heard more singing in hotel lobbies and on street corners than I have seen and heard in several years. To think we will be having another Youth Chorus Festival in Pasadena at the 2009 Mid-Winter Convention is very exciting and I for one can hardly wait. One of the best things will be that FWD is hosting the event in our own back yard. Being close and travel not as expensive we have a great opportunity to share some of our youth with several hundred of our friends from around the Society. What an opportunity for us to get our youth from around the District involved. I have not been able to stop thinking about this since January, then a couple of weeks ago I went to International in Nashville and WOW! Was I impressed again? From that youth festival in San Antonio, the Society has added either one or two new youth chapters and I cannot recall in recent years seeing and hearing so many young people singing in both choruses and quartets on and off stage. From my perspective, the youth movement is alive and well in our Society and in some Districts more than others. Overall, it is working and we need to stay on top of it to make it work even better. Take this opportunity to not only attend the Mid-Winter in Pasadena, but sponsor a group of

youth to sing and compete in the event. You will never be sorry you did. If for one reason or another, you are unable to get a group together or sponsor a group, take as many youth as you can to the convention so they can experience what is going to happen. I honestly think it could be a life changing event for any youth who may be present to witness such a great experience.

I know there are several topics I should have included in this article, but I trust the other officers will cover them so I can share my excitement about the youth. There are many resources available to help our youth, let's put them to good use and watch the average age of our Society drop and the membership rise. Share the spirit, become a youth supporter and get several hundred of our own youth to Pasadena.

Get-um Singing

FWD Sunshine Chairman Jim Holder

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jmh82031@verizon.net

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Quartets at 2008 Harmony College West [and more]



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Hi Everybody,

Here I go jumping on to a moving train. Thank you to Jim Crowley and Jim Turnmire for their continual work to offer our directors better training and opportunities. What an honor for me to be asked by our district leadership to serve as committee chair for Chorus Director Development.

We have some great things happening. On-going training: Recently there were opportunities for the OiF (Outstanding in Front) program for potential new directors. Mike O'Neill was the guest faculty for that. Thank you to Wendy Kornbeck for providing space (Venice High School) and young men to work with in conjunction with the Santa Monica Chorus and Aaron Mood.. Last week, Jim Turnmire was the guest faculty for the OiF class at HCW. Thanks again to Jim, Wendy, Aaron and Mike for helping make these opportunities possible. I have heard many positive comments. We also held a CDWI with combined choruses of San Fernando Valley, and Santa Clarita, with 4 directors (Duncan Gilman, Todd Kolberg, and Ray Kahler from AZ) David Leeder and Raymond Schwartzkopf as our trainers. What an awesome boost for our skills. So really, why am I doing this? I see areas that have been very successful and are running at full steam, programs still in the fledgling/formation process, and hopefully a couple of new things that we can bring in for our directors.

1. We have a pretty good average at this point in regard to need for directors. I know we have a couple of needs that I will address later, but we have a pretty high average around the society for competent, energetic and enthusiastic directors. Our goal is 100%, and we have a few ready in the case of future needs and/or potential new choruses. The choruses that have contacted me are: Prescott, AZ, and a near future opening at San Luis Obispo. Thank you to those who have been helping in the interim, let's put our heads together and see if we have anyone interested. I will post any openings that I am told of on the FWD website when I am notified.

2. I would like to start an up to date database of available, willing and competent temporary directors to help

for vacation/illness/business conflict fill-in. I already have 2 on my list, but they are not geographically desirable for the openings that I am aware of. Let's get a large list going so that each is taken care of.

3. An updated list of each director and assistant director and where each lies in interest and training for their certifications. I know that I personally have never finished my pursuit of this, but have restarted my own interest and would like to use this as a possible guide for upcoming/future training at CDWI's, SCW, and possibly at conventions and Director's college.

4. Each division should have at least 1 CDWI available for their directors. I would like to accomplish this prior to next summer so if you have a chorus that would volunteer a facility and singers for a half day, please let me know.

5. Communication for directors via a discussion group through the FWD website. Keith Eckert and I will be working to make this a password protected area for us to directly communicate successful practices and difficulties that some might want help with. I would like input as to how to make this a fruitful and effective place for us.

6. Establish a potential assistant for CDD in each large metropolitan area. Ideally, these volunteers would be available for local contact with the directors in their area (since time and budget do not always allow me to handle things personally) as well as potentially training my successor, this would allow us to draw on the strengths of others. (I do not, nor ever will claim to be the expert. I believe that many people possess talents I could only hope to have).

I have a couple of other things I have been asked to look into, like a possible revitalization of the Chorus Director's Guild among other things. If you have an idea, opinion, or topic of potential discussion, please contact me. I look forward to talking, emailing, mailing, and working for you.

Our music is in our hands!



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The Fall District Convention is nearly upon us, and that is where most of my efforts are concentrated right now. Registrations are close to, but slightly behind, what they usually are at this time of the summer. Don't forget that the Early Bird cutoff is just after Labor Day. No discounts after that date, no VIP seating after that date, and no choruses sitting together if requests are postmarked after that date. And most of our hotels will not be giving you the convention rate after that date. If you haven't taken care of business yet, please do so now so you don't miss out and/or pay more than you have to!

Speaking of choruses sitting together, I have received only two requests from choruses wishing to be seated together this fall. I usually have 12 or more by this time. All you have to do is let me know that your chorus wants to be seated together. Sending an estimate of the total along with as many registrations together as you can will be helpful.

At the International level, we have the Midwinter Convention coming to Pasadena in January. Those from the FWD who heard the Texas Chorus last year in San Antonio (for sure) and any member of the FWD may want to sign up for the California Chorus, which will sing at the Midwinter convention under the direction of Dr. Greg Lyne. Here's a chance for an experience many of us would not otherwise have. Contact Danielle Cole at BHS Headquarters (dcole@barbershop.org) to sign up. There were plenty of openings in all parts as of Aug. 5th, but signups will be brisk, so don't miss out.

Following the Midwinter Convention is our International Prelims in Las Vegas on March 19-22, 2009. We are joining the Rocky Mountain District to make this a first-ever joint prelims, so you won't want to miss this one! Registration and hotel forms will be available at the fall convention and in Westunes after that.

We have the NCE-H, NCWNN and AZ division contests already well along the planning stages, and hope to have SCE and SCW firmed up by the time you read this. And don't forget that International is in our own back yard this year, in Anaheim. Register early for the early bird rates and better seats! The webcast is OK, but nothing beats seeing it all in person! The FWD should have several choruses and many quartets in contention again this year. Plus you can hear the outgoing chorus and quartet champions, also from the FWD.

See you all in October!

With International over, we begin to look to our fall activities; Shows, our District Convention, and perhaps some type of Men's Holiday Chorus program...

So how do you get the word out about everything that you are doing? Have you considered local Street Fairs, or Art (and / or Wine) Festivals? Our chapter just spent two days over the past weekend at the Fremont Art and Wine Festival (Now known as the Festival of the Arts). This particular festival boasts the largest street fair west of the Mississippi; with an attendance of close to 400,000 each year!

Because of the "face time" we put in at a booth, we have recruited several folks over the years, including yours truly! We come prepared with "Society" documents, flyers advertising our Chorus, and our most recent Newsletter. We simply stand out in front of the booth, listen to some CDs, and greet the folks on the street! It is a simple question when we catch someone with eye contact... "Do you like to sing?" While the most common answer is, "who me? - I can't carry a tune in a bucket" (Trust me, that answer is standard!). However, we also strike up some great conversations!

A few suggestions when you take this type of approach. First, don't ever get pushy! If folks are interested, you will be able to recognize this in the response (or non-response, usually with their "body language"). Look them straight in the eye; if they avert your look, it is most likely because they want to move on. Those that want to listen will "hang out"!

Secondly, be as brief as possible. Most of my fellow Barbershoppers know me as a verbose and overly loquacious individual; too often I tend to bore folks to death if given the chance! There is an old adage in the Marketing and sales arena, it is called the "KISS" principle... Keep It Short Stupid!

Another thing you will need to keep in mind is the actual "acquisition" of the booth itself. Booths at these fairs can be expensive. Please ensure that you sell the organizers the fact that you are a non-profit community based group; this should get you a reduced rate. Simply put, put on your "sales cap" and convince them to lower their price!

Within the next year, there will be great opportunities for the FWD. Remember that our Midwinter will be in Pasadena, followed by the International Convention in Anaheim. Talk it up with your chapters - make the Journey!

At the Prelims in Bakersfield, I had the opportunity to prepare a bunch of materials for a class on Press Releases. Keith Eckhardt assisted me with some great ideas. Unfortunately, it's was a class that no one attended! However, I have all the material in electronic format if anyone is interested. Please feel free to drop me a line and I'll send it your way.

One last note. Singing for life will return again next year! As you know, we had some logistical problems with one of the Blood donation groups. But, as with everything in life, there were lessons learned! I hope that we will get better at this as the program matures.

Keep Smilin', Keep Singin'



Chair : Member Services
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 186 Big Valley Rd
 Folsom, CA 95630-4648
 Phone: 916-983-1141
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Howdy -

The numbers: As of the end of June, depending on what data I'm looking at, current FWD membership is somewhere between 2879 and 2992 (there's a discrepancy in the numbers received from BHS data files vs. an audit done by our intrepid Webmaster, Keith Eckhardt - I'd tend to rely on Keith's numbers). Either way, we still appear to be on a downward spiral, to the tune of about 330 less members since the beginning of the year.

Here are some other interesting numbers:

- New members - last 90 days: 39. Yay!
- Non-renewing members - last 90 days: 193. Boo!

As I've stated before, those numbers may not reflect actual data, since there continues to be a significant lag time between what chapters are reporting and BHS database updates.

Gloom and doom? Maybe, but keep in mind that our membership decline mirrors not only the Society's trends, but indeed the trends of virtually all organizations - church memberships, civic organizations, arts groups... Reasons? All over the map:

- High gas prices
- Less discretionary time available - working longer hours, second jobs, etc.
- "Cocooning" effect - people tend to stay home, watch TV, etc.
- More competition for leisure time - TV, Computers, Electronic games, etc.
- and more.

So - what do we do about it? Same ol' story. It all begins with the chapter - more specifically, the individual member. More specifically yet - YOU!

As a society, we do pretty well in the recruiting arena - we seem to get people in the doors. Problem is, we seem to have difficulty in converting guests to members, and convincing members to stay. In a word - retention.

I have an old marketing mantra I trot out frequently, which states, simply, "People do things for their reasons - not ours."

Space in this column prohibits a lengthy dissertation on that premise, but perhaps the questions each and every member (read: YOU) might ask ourselves include:

- What am I doing to promote the benefits of membership to prospective members, guests, and new members?
- What am I doing to make guests/new members feel wanted, needed, and part of the family? To instill pride in membership in my fellow chapter members?
- What can I do to make the reasons people come, join, and stay "their reasons - not mine"?

...See 'ya around...



Retired Chair: Music & Performance
Jerry Fairchild - Outgoing Words
 671 W Cypress Ave
 Redlands, CA 92373-5817
 909-792-8618
 E: jerryfairchild@verizon.net

Harmony College West was considerably short on quartet registrations as well as individual registrations. I believe this was not an uncommon situation throughout our Society.

Nevertheless, it was the feeling of many of the veterans, both staff and student, that this was the very best Harmony College West ever. The staff was the finest ever.

The Saturday Night Show was given to a full house who were thrilled with every quartet who sang. The first half, consisting of the ten quartets which had come for coaching, closed with our current FWD Senior Champions and 8th Place International Senior Quartet, and the audience responded appropriately.

The Crush, from the L.A. area, and International Collegiate Silver Medalists wowed the audience, and Real-time, 2005 International Champions, showed everyone there what real championship singing sounded like! The audience went wild! After coaching quartets Friday night and all day Saturday they still had enough to (to use a kid's phrase) "blow us away!."

Then the pizza party!

It was heard as guys left Sunday morning, "Boy! Wait until I tell the guys in the chapter what they missed!"

I have loved my opportunity to have some input as to what is offered at HCW to members of the Far Western District. I implore those of you who haven't arranged to attend HCW yet, to save your money, carpool - whatever, and make plans to do so right now!



Chair: Music & Performance

Nick Papageorge

1661 Brookdale Ave

La Habra CA 90631

562-691-4072

E: n.papageorge@verizon.net

Hello to all my FWD friends;

Well, it looks as though Jerry has retired and is ready to turn the VP of Music and Performance office over to me sooner than I had expected. I am humbled and excited.

On behalf of the entire FWD I would like to thank Jerry for all of the fine work he has done as Director of Music and Performance. Jerry is responsible for the great successes we have had in the area of Music and Performance for the past few years (especially in our Harmony College West weekends), and I would like all of you to personally thank Jerry whenever you see him (or write him an email).

My first and foremost goal is to visit each and every chapter in our District. I want to get to know just what makes your chapter work, teach you a song, ask you a few questions, encourage you to participate in our District activities, and inform you of all of the opportunities available to each chapter and individual singer through my office. I would hope that by the end of my tenure, your personal enjoyment and fulfillment of barbershop harmony will be greater.

Also, I want to make a concerted effort to double the participation at District functions, such as conventions and schools. This can only help our district, both musically and financially. As I see it, more participation is a win-win situation. Each member has an enjoyable musical experience while learning more about this hobby, and the District receives income that allows us to have continued educational programs and functions.

I am hopeful that I can inform and persuade many of you to take advantage of those Music and Performance tools which are available to each and every member, quartet and chapter. As I travel throughout the district, I will be encouraging the use of the Standing Ovation Program,

District financial aid for coaching, mentoring, and more.

Finally, I am looking forward to helping President Bob continue to make this the greatest and most forward-thinking District in our Society. After all, most of the Society's programs were ours in the first place (but don't tell them that!).

Yours for a Song,



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

1190 Tanglewood Rd.

Prescott, AZ 86303

928- 277- 4347

El: jkrizek@aol.com

Another school year is under way. Have you booked a school choir for your next show? Made contact with any new teachers? Remember every year it's a new ballgame as far as educators are concerned.

Another Youth Harmony Camp is upon us. September 26-28 at Pollock Pines in Northern California, honchoed by the Placerville Chapter. Once again Richard Lund and music director Gary Bolles are lining up a spectacular learning experience for young men and their teachers.

The new *District Young Men In Harmony* brochure is out and available—a beautiful job by Tim Truesdell of the MOH. Several hundred copies are already circulating. It's designed for use by chapters and quartets to tell people what it's all about, and fits in a #10 envelope. If anyone needs extras, let me know.

Westminster has a new feature film! *Westminster Chorus Road to Gold* provides an absolutely professional, theater-quality inside look at our young superstars, from the inception of the idea to the championship in Denver. I give it "five stars" or whatever the highest possible rating can be. I may be biased, but I highly recommend it, not just for barbershoppers but families and the whole wide world.

Festivals, anyone? The Tucson guys are hard at work on their third annual Youth Harmony Festival scheduled for September 6th, with Connie Keil as lead barbershop clinician. The Tucson festival is co-ed, with participation by Sweet Adelines. They hope to improve on last year's event when almost 200 students participated. Contact Ron Hayes at roan-tuc@cox.net.

Meanwhile Rincon Beach plans to introduce a Central Coast Youth in Harmony Festival next February 7th, to be held in Newbury Park. Contact Bernie Sentianin at bsentianin@eeitiger.com.

How about youth choruses for the Society's **2nd Annual International Youth Barbershop Festival** to be held next January in Pasadena? Jim Crowley is organizing a high school chorus in Carson City, with good support from the community. He reports Cory Hunt will assist as director. In San Diego County, a youth chorus is planned with directing input by Allan Webb, Jason James, and John Hulbert. Paul Girard, San Diego County YIH Coordinator, is pulling the strings. Any others?

With all this youth activity going on, there's lots to talk about, and lots of information to exchange and keep current. Which leads me to this plea:

WANTED: A YIH website coordinator for the FWD. Keith Eckhardt tries to keep up as the District webmaster, but there's just too much going on. Anyone out there who can help, please contact me or Keith.



**VP - Financial Development
Harmony Foundation
David Haedtler**

210 Ada Ave
Mountain View, CA 94043-4907
650-965-3305 E: davidhaedtler@hotmail.com

No article this issue.

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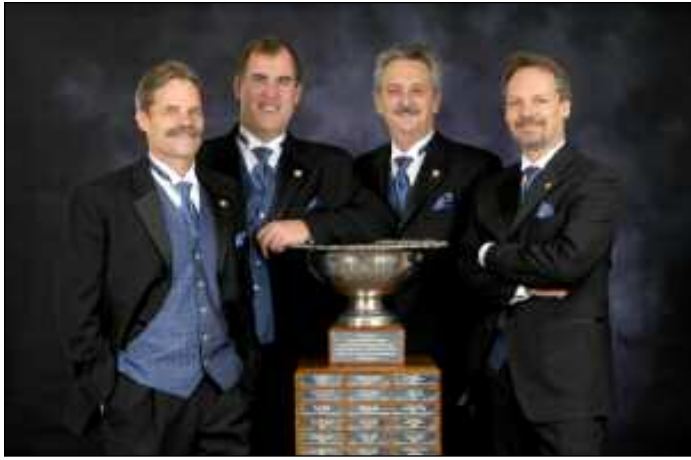
Make your plans now to be part of the **2008 Pan Pacific Convention** on **October 30th through November 2nd, 2008** in Honolulu, Hawaii. The venue will be the beautiful historic **Hawaii Theatre Center** (hawaiiitheatre.com) and the headquarters hotel will be the **Ala Moana Hotel** (alamoanahotelhonolulu.com).

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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 For international, call:
 1-303-530-4907



2007 FWD Quartet Champions

Hello, Far Western District!

Well...it's hard to believe that our championship year is about over. At the FWD Convention this year, we will pass the baton on to another fine Far Western District quartet. We've had a great time representing all of you, and we're also looking forward to celebrating with our new champions in Bakersfield.

Before we go to the Land of Has-Beens, we'd like to share some thoughts with you about our experiences this year and some personal reflections about our year as champions, our lives, and Barbershopping. We hope you enjoy...

=====

I became involved in Barbershopping around the age of four. I don't remember a time my dad was not singing in a quartet. My brother, Scott, and I shared a bedroom for most of our childhood. We would fall asleep listening to my dad's quartet rehearsing, then wake up and woodshed two parts throughout the day. We first learned the art of harmony through osmoses.

With the help of our older brother, Aaron, dad started teaching us tags and we eventually became Kidder and Sons Incorporated and eventually won the Far Western District championship in 1987. That was the first FWD championship Scott and I won singing in a quartet together.

As our families grew, Scott and I went our separate ways, sang in other quartets and competed against each other. When the opportunity presented itself, I jumped at the chance to sing in another quartet with him.

When VocalEase won last year, it was more than just another championship for me. I have always believed that to win in the FWD is an honor. To win and see your broth-

er standing with you as he did years ago, is a special feeling that I cannot put into words.

Todd

=====

Our championship year has allowed me to step away from "The Chase" for a year and pause at the pinnacle to appreciate all the things that barbershop is for me:

It's a team sport and a creative outlet. It's nights out with the guys and doing something that's unique, anachronistic, and perhaps a bit quirky. It's a fraternity of guys I like to hang out with, a venue to be creative and sensitive, and a way to make people laugh. It's where we share our special gifts, a way to travel and see interesting places and make new friends all the time, and a place to interact with men that share my beliefs and morals. It's a way to achieve something that I can be proud of and that my family can be proud of me for; something I can share with my sons and they can think, "My Dad's a Champ!" It's something I can be passionate about and not embarrassed about because everyone else is passionate about it as well. It allows me to and my friends to build great things. We work and we work and we always expect that the next performance will be our best and perhaps that one will be, "The Perfect Shot."

I appreciate the breadth and diversity of the FWD and I know it's a District that values and appreciates its champions. So, it's an honor to hold that trophy, even if it's only for a year.

Rich

=====

As I reflect back on our championship year, one overriding theme comes to mind - for me it was a year filled with reunions. My "reunion tour" actually began on the weekend of the Far Western District convention last October in Phoenix when I had the opportunity to sing on the AFWDC show with both Finale and Kidder and Sons, Inc. For K&S, it marked the first time in over 15 years that my dad, brothers, and I had performed on stage together. Wow... what a thrill that was! (And yes, I still fit into my old tux!)

Since then, VocalEase has performed on several shows throughout the FWD, and competed at the Evergreen District Prelims in Portland and the International competition in Nashville. Each time I have had the opportunity to renew old friendships, and met new barbershoppers that I now consider "old friends." All this to say that this wonderful hobby of ours is about much more than just

[continues on page 12]

[from page 11]

singing a few songs here and there. It's really about making lifelong friends. So, the next time you see me, wherever that may be, please be sure to come by and say "Hello". We can never have too many friends... especially for a soon-to-be has-been like me!

Scott

=====

It's been quite an interesting year for VocalEase. We've had some great experiences appearing on Far Western District shows, getting reacquainted with old friends and meeting new friends. We've had some great coaching over the year with Gary Steinkamp and Mark Hale for which we will be eternally grateful. We had a great time competing out of district with our brothers in the Evergreen District. And, our experience on stage in Nashville at International will be something we remember forever. Being in the audience to experience our brothers in the Masters of Harmony and O.C. Times win tandem gold this year was icing on the cake. Way to go, guys!!

Through it all, our wives and families have stood behind us all the way (as usual). Their patience and devotion to our pursuit of the rewards in this hobby is offered unconditionally; for this we are honored and humbled.

Joe

=====

We've tried to be the best quartet champions we could be for you - our brothers and sisters in the Far Western District. And, we've done all we could to represent ourselves in a manner consistent with our being named the first Lloyd B. Steinkamp Standing "O" Award winners. From what we've gathered through audience reaction and comments, we've done a pretty good job.

We want to thank you for your support, for your laughter and applause. Now it's time to crown a new quartet champion and for us to be has-beens...again.

That's cool. Party on!

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2007 FWD Chorus Champions 2008 International Chorus Champions Masters of Harmony

by Ron Larson

The Road to Nashville

Every chorus pursuing an international championship knows the road to Gold will not be easy, nor should it be.

Each International contest path the Masters of Harmony has taken has presented its own unique challenges. In 2007, when the Westminster Chorus narrowly defeated the 2004 International Chorus Champion Ambassadors of Harmony on a tiebreaker, the road to Nashville suddenly got steeper, the challenge more daunting. The men of the Masters knew the Ambassadors felt they could go eyeball to eyeball with any barbershop chorus in the world and not blink, because they had already done so once. Adding to the competitive mix were strong challenges from Denver's Mile High Chorus and the rapidly improving Voices in Harmony chorus, led by former MOH Director Dr. Greg Lyne.

To meet the challenge this year, the Masters relied on a meticulously laid out plan that preceded the 2007 Denver contest. The contest package drew on the skills of two arrangers who have been so instrumental in past Masters successes--David Wright and Aaron Dale. For the ballad, Director Mark Hale reached back to a 1999 David Wright arrangement of "My Wonderful One," a song penned by Dorothy Terriss and set to music by Paul Whiteman and Ferde Grofe. This stunningly beautiful ballad helps singers and audience members alike revisit the love they feel for the wonderful ones in their lives. For his choice of an uptune, Mark used a seldom-performed traditional song skillfully arranged by Aaron Dale, "Yona From Arizona." Our choreographic genius from Toronto, Erin Howden, worked her usual magic to design an appropriate visual package. "My Wonderful One" clicked quickly with the Masters but "Yona" jelled much more slowly. Fortunately, the Masters have an outstanding choreography coach in front row performer Justin Miller, who worked tirelessly with Erin's plan to help both songs reach

the high artistic levels witnessed in Nashville. Gary Steinkamp provided important tips on communicating each song's message visually, by coaching both the chorus as well as individual members to make sure there were no "dim bulbs" in the Masters visual marquee--help that turned out to be critically important to our Presentation scores. Through the year, each section was guided by a talented section leader, each one now a Gold Medal quartet winner--Brett Littlefield (Nightlife) worked with the basses, Pat Claypool (OC Times) with the baritones, Sean Devine (OC Times) with the leads, and Rob Menaker (Nightlife) with the tenors. Their tireless reinforcement of Mark's vocal plan for Nashville helped him prepare the Masters for the biggest challenge in their history. As a result of thorough and consistent application of the plan by this talented leadership team, the men of the Masters were better prepared for an International contest than at any time in their history.

Between the Phoenix and Nashville contests, the MOH has had unique opportunities to take our hobby to some relatively untapped audiences. KTLA News, one of Los Angeles' oldest TV stations, showed OC Times singing "It's Only A Paper Moon" as part of a Mother's Day celebration. Six days later, the Masters staged their annual show at Long Beach's Carpenter Center. It was a homecoming of sorts for former MOH Director Jeff Oxley, who sings bass with the spring show's featured quartet Max Q, 2007 International Quartet Champion. A few days later, Masters members got some very timely and helpful coaching tips from Dr. Greg Lyne. This remarkable collaboration of competing directors is typical of the brotherhood shared by barbershoppers around the world. In what other arena of competition do you hear of a group leader trying to help a direct competitor improve their performance level, possibly increasing the scoring distance between them?

This year's mountain retreat, designed to hone the Nashville performance package, was held in a church camp nestled among the pine forests of Idyllwild. It was a weekend of highly focused work. Shortly before this retreat, the Masters learned it may have been their last chance to work in person with Erin Howden, who has been such an important part of our success over our last three

[Continues on page 14]

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contest cycles. Her inspiring presence will truly be missed. On June 7, the Masters sang in the Walt Disney Concert Hall, one of the world's most acoustically perfect music halls. They shared the stage with the University of Michigan Men's Glee Club, long known as one of America's premier university glee clubs. Although the two groups presented different choral styles to the mostly non-barbershop audience, each group was enthusiastically received. Long-term beneficiaries of this joint concert will be barbershop chapters around the country who gain some of these talented young men as members because of what they heard and experienced at Disney Hall.

What a contest Nashville was for the MOH, OC Times and the Far Western District! For only the third time in Society history, the winning chorus and quartet came from the same chapter (1978 Louisville Thoroughbreds and Bluegrass Student Union, 1996 Masters of Harmony and Nightlife). Dr. Lyne's Voices in Harmony chorus continued its move to the top echelon of chorus competitors by taking third place. Special kudos go to Westminster Director and MOH choreography specialist Justin Miller. He directed the Westminster Chorus as it put on a dazzling performance that showed why Westminster won in Denver last year and why it nearly defeated The Vocal Majority the year before in Indianapolis. His quartet, The University Vocal Band Express, took 4th place in the Collegiate Quartet Contest all of this in addition to being a front row performer with the Masters!

Sadly, not long after returning to Southern California, the Masters family mourned the sudden, untimely passing of Rich Hasty, one of the men who helped found the Masters over twenty years ago and one of the 139 men who took home a chorus Gold Medal from Nashville. Rich was his usual chipper, wisecracking self through the events in Nashville. Just the night before his death at age 41, he had directed his Mission Viejo Sweet Adelines Chorus. He will be sorely missed, not just in the Far Western District, but also throughout the Society he loved so much and on which his extensive contributions as director, coach, arranger, judge and just plain friend to so many left a lasting imprint.

Since the last report, the Masters welcomed four new members: Brian Hinds and Phil Ordaz, both baris; Matthew Ordaz, lead; and David Meye, bass. Bill Power, bass, returned to the fold after a long absence.

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OC Times 2008 International Quartet Champions

Dear Friends -

I guess it's time to take that step and admit to ourselves that sometime we have to come down from the high we've been on since July 5th. It's almost impossible to explain just what winning the quartet and chorus championships mean to us, but I guess that's part of the year as a champ... coming to grips with the reality that all the rehearsals, the time on the road, hours spent coaching and the many shows and tags shared with friends have really paid off. It's an odd feeling, fulfilling a lifelong dream... it's part relief, mostly elation and a healthy portion of shock.

The past few months have been full of hard rehearsals, chorus practice, coaching and somewhere in there, work and loving our families. We'd be remiss to forget to acknowledge several key people and organizations that have nourished OC Times to where we are today.

First, the District of Champions - the great Far Western District. For many years the FWD has been a proving ground for great quartets and choruses alike. The the level of competition and encouragement between quartets, the great coaches and leaders and of course the great family we share in the FWD, have made us who we are today. The support from our choruses, the Reno Silver Dollar Chorus, the Westminster Chorus and the Masters of Harmony. The innovation and inspiration of our mentors and friends, Rob Menaker, Jeff Baker, Brett Littlefield, Mark Hale and Aaron Dale. Our loving families--mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, wife (Lani York), daughter (Kalea York), and girlfriends. Your patience, guidance, support and love made all of this possible, we truly could not have done it without you. Finally, we thank our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for the talents He gave us, the loving people He put in our lives, and the opportunity to share His love through our music.

The past few months have also brought much change for the OC Times family. Baby Kalea York, is the light of both Shawn and Lani's lives and a particular highlight in ours as well. Cory graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno in May and moved to Lake Tahoe to work at an environmental policy and consulting firm. Furthermore, Patrick is getting back to work on his "ten year plan" at Orange Coast College. Finally, Sean graduated from Azusa Pacific University and recently accepted a position with the Harmony Foundation in Nashville, TN at the beautiful BHS headquarters.

With all this change, many of you may be wondering "whatever is going to happen to OC Times?!" We want you to know... we're going to be around for a long, long time. We love innovating, performing, entertaining, teaching and sharing with barbershoppers, youth and any audience that is willing to lend us an ear. We're always accepting shows, youth harmony camps and other performances - and we don't see an end in sight.

On a much more serious note, we also recently lost a good brother in Harmony, Rich Hasty, a fellow member of the Masters of Harmony, comedic genius, accomplished arranger, esteemed judge, great friend and loving husband and father. His sudden passing reminds us all that our time here is so short... we're so blessed to be a part of such an amazing family of barbershoppers. At a recent Masters of Harmony retreat, we were urged to remember that for some people in the audience -- and even on the risers -- it may be their last... little did we know how true those words would become. Pray for the Hasty family for strength during this trying time and find comfort in knowing that Rich is singing praises in the "chorus in the sky." It was an honor knowing you, Rich.

That same family lifted Cory up when he was injured earlier this year. Your cards, e-mails, teddy bears and prayers paid off and he is making progress with his vision daily. All of these events have made us realize how truly great is to be a barbershopper. We count ourselves blessed to be a part of this wonderful family.

We are humbled and honored to be your quartet champions. We promise to represent you well -- to close out all the afterglows we can, sing tags with any willing singer, teach the youth, support our choruses and spread the love of barbershop to audiences wherever we are privileged to go. We look forward to what exciting things the coming years have for us, and for barbershop. Until we meet again...

Sincerely yours,

Shawn, Sean, Pat and Cory

OC Times
2008 International Quartet Champions
www.octimesquartet.com

Open Letter to All Chapter Presidents

How much is \$10 worth to your chapter? How much is a \$20 or \$30 expenditure from your coffers worth? One of the figures is what you should be spending to further the marketing and public relations of your chapter.

You see, \$10 is what it costs your chapter to pay for the membership in PROBE of just one person from your chapter. There are three members who should be members in good standing of PROBE (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors). Those members are the Bulletin Editor, the VP for Marketing & PR, and the Webmaster. Are all three of those people members of PROBE? If not, why not? Like so many others have, did you just plain forget?

Now, some of you may ask, "What good is it going to do to have those people become a member of PROBE?" The answer is fairly simple. How much good do you want it to be? How can PROBE help?

Number one would be that it will help give you the tools to better publicize your chapter. In today's world, the most useful means we have of communicating what we are about is through the worldwide web. That's right, your web page will do more to interest other men to check out your chapter than most any other means. More people turn to the web to find things than the yellow pages, the newspaper or radio and TV. Even those who have their interest piqued by individual contact (personal invitation) go to websites to find out more about a group. Is your website attracting new "clients," for lack of a better term?

The weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, occasional bulletin or newsletter is a great way to keep the interest of members, visitors, and families up. It can be used much like any magazine in doctors' offices, to send to show sponsors, widows of members who have passed on - the list really is endless. Is your bulletin attracting and keeping interest up? If you don't have one, would you like help in getting one started?

Just what efforts is your chapter making at marketing - getting your "brand" out there for the local world to see? Do you need help in all of that? Are you satisfied with how the public perceives you? Could you possibly use any help with that?

PROBE is here to help in many different ways. As an official affiliate of the Barbershop Harmony Society, we want to help your chapter succeed in any way we can with these areas, and more. Also, as an affiliate, we exist and are able to do things for you and the Society through the

dues that are charged for membership. If you figure the math, the more members we have, the more finances we have to help not only your chapter, but others as well.

As a legitimate expense, how much is \$10 per person for three people to be able to gain so much help and knowledge? I would think that every chapter would want to make sure that those three people hold valid membership in PROBE. Until it happens, you won't know how much benefit it is to you. [As an aside, I would also think that every district would want to be paying for the membership for their district bulletin editor, VP of PR & Marketing and the district webmaster.]

Of course, some of you may say, "We don't need the help. Those three people are doing just fine and are helping very much as is." Great! Now, how much help could they be to other, sometimes struggling chapters through their membership and contributions to PROBE?"

Looking at my own chapter, I can honestly say that the membership in PROBE for all three of those people has been invaluable. It has given new ideas for marketing and public relations to our VP in charge of that. It has helped our webmaster, although a professional, with ideas he hadn't really thought of. It has also shown him things that unfortunately don't work on web pages. As far as my job as bulletin editor, I can't express how much positive feedback I have gained which has helped me become a better editor - not the best, but better than I was, and continuing to improve.

Take the time at your next board meeting to instruct your treasurer to write a check for membership for each of those men. Need an application? Email me and I'll send one your way. (You can also find one on the PROBE website: <http://www.harmonize.com/PROBE/Membership.htm>. I'm looking forward to meeting a lot of new members and gathering knowledge from them in district meetings and at Nashville. Maybe I can even share a little with them. We're here ready to help. \$10 for a world of help is cheap!

Sing-cerely & Humm-bly,

John Elving
PROBE VP - Bulletin Editors
Outstanding In Front - Certified Trainer
6806 Peaceful Pines Rd
Black Hawk, SD 57718
Email: leaderman@earthlink.net
Phone: 605.831.9680



1 OC Times



8 Metropolis



24 VocalEase



29 The Crush



32 Stardust



48 Audacity

International FWD Quartet Scores

Rank	Quartet	%
1	OC Times	89.7
8	Metropolis	86.5
24	VocalEase	79.5
29	The Crush	77.4
32	Stardust	78.0
48	Audacity	76.4

**REMEMBER THE FWD
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International FWD Chorus Scores

Rank	Quartet	%s
1	Masters of Harmony	95.0
3	Voices In Harmony	89.8
11	Spirit of Phoenix	85.2

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October 9-12, 2008
Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
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2008 International Champions Masters of Haramony Mark Hale Directing



2008 International 3rd Plade Medalists Voices In Harmony Dr Greg Lyne Directing



2008 International 11th Place Spirit of Phoenix Russ Young Directing

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Mail this form to *Bakersfield Convention & Visitors Bureau, 515 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93301*
or FAX to: (661) 325-7074

Please note that the *Holiday Inn Select* will be a *Marriott Hotel* by contest time. This does not affect your reservation.



Dr. David Anthony Dehner receives "Award of Excellence" plaque from Dan Jett, president of the Gold Standard Chorus (Santa Cruz Chapter)

This presentation was done during the ninth high school quartet visit this semester, with Dan Jett, Gold Standard Chorus president, singing bass. Eight other chorus members have rotated in quartets to visit Aptos, Harbor, Georgiana Bruce Kirby Preparatory School, Monterey Bay Academy, Monte Vista Christian, Pacific Collegiate, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, and Soquel high schools.

The "raising thousands of dollars for vocal music" that Dr. Dehner refers to, is not an exaggeration. Over the last five years GSC has put on a fund raiser, SING FOR YOUR LIFE, every year. High School choruses are invited to sing what they sing best, while GSC sings barbershop for them and their parents.

GSC also brings in top teenage quartets (Element, UnderAge, And Then There Was Harmony) in the belief that nothing sells barbershop to teenagers better than seeing their peers doing it well. Next SING FOR YOUR LIFE is scheduled for October 25,26.

Attention FWD Officers and Committee Chairmen!

Call for reports

Prior to both Spring and Fall conventions the FWD district office is required to provide on the FWD website and/or via mail/e-mail, a brochure containing reports prepared by the officers, directors and Committee Chairmen for the members of the FWD Board of Directors and the House of Delegates. **This is the call for these reports.**

The resultant Delegate's Brochure is a compilation of these reports and is required by the FWD SOP to reach delegates thirty days in advance of the scheduled date of the HOD meeting. The next BOD meeting will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, October 9, 2008 and the HOD meeting is at 2 p.m. on Friday, October 10, 2008. In order for these reports to meet these required dates it will be necessary that your inputs reach this office on or before **August 25, 2008.**

Please note that it is your responsibility to provide these reports in a timely manner. Inasmuch as these reports form part of the recorded history of the district they should be written containing facts and with a historian's viewpoint. If you are unable to provide them in time for distribution via the Delegate's Brochure, you will be required to print and manually distribute your report at the House of Delegates meeting. If this later instance is the case you will need approximately 100 copies. Such late reports will be included with the Delegates Brochure for the District's Historical Files.

District President, Bob Lally, has requested that a second copy of your report be forwarded directly to him (via e-mail or s-mail; boblally@cox.net, or **1357 School House Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108**). This report may be identical to that provided for the HOD, or it may be modified to contain information for the board only. If there are proposed action or agenda items for the board, these should be clearly identified so they can be included on the BOD agenda. Note that the reports in the brochure will be acted upon by the BOD as a "Consent Agenda" and only items requiring Board action will be carried on the BOD "Active Agenda" for the BOD meeting. Further, your verbal update reports at the BOD meeting should contain only new material, should be as brief as possible and be summarized on paper for the archival purpose.

The following guidelines should be followed.

1. Reports via E-mail are solicited. Your report can be in a standard e-mail message format, and/or you can provide it in the body of the e-mail message or as an attachment. If you must submit your report via regular mail, please have it printed on 8 by 11 standard printer paper, and mailed to the address below, as well as to President Bob.
2. The following heading is requested:
To: FWD House of Delegates
From: (your name and title)
Date: October 2008
3. Do not number your pages
4. Please do **not** write explanations or instruction to the secretary on the pages of your reports for the HOD.
5. Please keep them as brief as possible, while providing pertinent and necessary data.

Your timely response will be appreciated.

Dick Girvin
FWD Secretary
34888 Lyn Ave
Hemet, CA 92545
dickgirvin@juno.com
951-926-8644

Far Western District Nominating Committee Report

<u>Office</u>	<u>2008</u>
President	Bob Lally
Executive VP	Bernard Priceman
IPP	Bill Cale
Secretary	Dick Girvin
Treasurer	Jim Sherman
Division 1 VP	Bill Rosica
Division 2 VP	Gene Clements
Division 3 VP	Steve Sammonds
Division 4 VP	Jim Turnmire
Division 5 VP	Gordon Bergthold

Respectfully Submitted, Peter Feeney, Chairman
John Krizek Jim Sherman Terry Aramian

Additional nominations may be made in accordance with Standard District Bylaws, Art. V (Section 5.05 c) which state:

Nominations may be made from the floor by any delegate provided that he has obtained the consent of his proposed nominee and has notified all delegates in writing at least 10 days in advance of the meeting of his intention to make such a nomination.

ANNUAL FWD NOR-CAL NOVICE QUARTET CONTEST - 2009!

Hosted by The Golden Valley Chorus

Contest Date: February 28, 2009 starting at 4:00PM
Contest Location: Calvary Reformed Church, Ripon, CA

That's right! It's Nor-Cal Novice Quartet Contest time again! This fun-filled event has been a critical stepping stone in the development of so many quartet men in past years. Let's keep that tradition going! This year's contest is being hosted once again by the Central California Chapter's Golden Valley Chorus! The venue is in Ripon, CA in the heart of the Central Valley. Quartet registration fee is \$25 and audience General Admission is only \$5 per person. Afterglow follows at the local Mountain Mike's Pizza.

For more information or for online Quartet Registration and tickets, please visit <http://www.gvc.org/novice>

Ripon's Almond Blossom Festival also is happening so there are plenty of craft booths and activities throughout the area, a perfect time for our wives to go browse.

We look forward to making new friends and seeing some old ones again and bust a chord or two! See you there!

Dain Goad
dgoad@gvc.org Nor-Cal Novice Quartet Chairman
Director - Golden Valley Chorus, Central California Chapter



Art Taylor, Top Center

“Amazing Record Set in Nashville”

by Allen Fossenkemper

In baseball it's Nolan Ryan, in basketball it's Michael Jordan, in boxing it's Ali, and in Barbershop Chorus singing it's Art Taylor..... WHO?

July 2008 marked another milestone for the Far Western District when the Masters of Harmony and OC Times won the International Championship in the same year. This was the third time the FWD accomplished a “sweep” in the same contest event. The Phoenicians and Golden Staters did it in 1972 then MOH and Nightlife in 1996 and now the Masters and OC Times in 2008. As they say on TV, “But wait, that's not all!”

Unknown to all but a few people in the Nashville audience, there, in the back row of the bass section of the Masters, stood a 49 year FWD babershipper who was about to achieve the incredible distinction of winning a chorus gold medal in all four voice parts, and he would do it in all of the FWD “three-peat” choruses and this would bringing his total chorus winnings to a whopping nine (9) gold medals.

Art Taylor, long time MOH Lead, was faced with a dilemma in 2008. Do to a chronic allergy problem he could not achieve the high vocal standards he expected of himself as an MOH member. Should he layout of the competition in Nashville or switch to another voice part where he could make his contribution? A long time four part quartet man (Art won an International Seniors Silver as Tenor in Mutual Fun) he decided to approach Brett Littlefield (MOH Bass Section Leader) with the request to audition for the section. Given the nod Art, in two weeks, learned his part, auditioned and passed the MOH requirements to sing bass.

Already a back row man in the lead section he moved to the other side of the chorus and took his place with the back row basses...

“And now you know the rest of the story.”

FWD Youth Harmony Camp

*Richard Lund
Director, Youth Harmony Camp*

August!! Oh My!! Harmony Camp is just around the corner - September 26th - 28th in Pollock Pines - and we are in high gear finalizing plans for Harmony Camp 2008. With our venerable music staff of Gary Bolles, Connie Keil, Mark Freedkin, and Marty Lovick (Evergreen District) in place, Camp will once again be an amazing experience for 80 or so young men who are either just being introduced to Barbershop and Barbershop harmony, or are already dyed in the wool, hooked on Barbershop young men like Jason Dyer of Cameron Park. I've mentioned Jason before in this column, but now that he has completed his freshman year at Sac State - wait a minute, I thought Harmony Camp was just for High School boys.

It is. But each year we get requests from parents and choral directors asking that we include boys on either side of the "high school" age template. Our policy regarding these requests is that although we target high school aged boys; we welcome that college freshman who just can't seem to get enough of Barbershop and Harmony Camp. We also allow and encourage the boys at the other end of the spectrum, those in middle school but with a different set of guidelines. For the younger boys it is terribly important that they receive proper guidance and chaperoning. We wouldn't want them to be corrupted by those "older" boys now would we (smile). The way we do this is to talk with the parents or the choral director and insist the younger boys have dads or related adults accompany them to Camp and act as their personal chaperones. With these guidelines (which we do not relax), the boys are virtually guaranteed a quality experience.

Looks like this year is going to be another Banner year for Harmony Camp! Gary and his staff are cranking up to ensure that the foothills will Ring with Barbershop chords from lots of young voices. With our headliner quartet Late Show and our many dedicated volunteers, a truly exciting Camp is fast approaching. And in addition to ringing those chords we will enjoy our share of ice cream at the end of the day.

Harmony Camp is truly an amazing experience and a wonderful way for choral directors to jumpstart their music programs. My fellow Placerville Barbershopper and one I consider the dean of YIH programs, Ron Murray, related a story about Janet Matranga of Ponderosa HS and Natalie Miller of Oak Ridge HS. At one point in a recent meeting with the two of them Natalie said that she didn't dare start the boys on barbershop until well into the year, at which time Janet stopped her abruptly and said something like "No that's wrong; if you start the boys off from

day one, they hear the chords and get pitch retention So much quicker. You have to start them with barbershop right away." Ron just beamed!

We want to Thank a number of Chapters for their Strong and consistent financial support of Harmony Camp. We simply could not do this without your commitment to introducing this wonderful hobby of ours to the youth of our society..

Sacramento	\$620
Placerville	\$2,000
Folsom	\$530
Reno	\$1,000
Visalia	\$350
Sutter Creek	\$400
Davis Vacaville	\$350
Santa Cruz	\$160
Stockton	\$100

Fleet Reserve	\$350
Of El Dorado Co	
Barbara Prigg	\$280
In honor of Harry Prigg	

This is what it takes to make Harmony Camp happen. It is that long-term grass roots commitment from regular barbershop guys from all of the above chapters who have shown over and over that is the real base, the real source from which the magic of Harmony camp explodes. It is You. Yes, you, the guy reading this article. You and your generosity "make it happen" every year. So we Thank You. The Boys Thank You. The District Thanks You. And the Society Thanks You. You are creating the future of the Society. It is these boys who will be the leaders, gold medalists and Joe Barbershoppers of the future.

Thank you one and all.

REMEMBER THE FWD YOUTH EDUCATION FUND

**FWD Fall Convention in Bakersfield
October 9-12, 2008
Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
Come Join in the FUN!**

**FWD DVP for Division 1 SCW****Bernard Priceman**

5150 Avenida Hacienda

Tarzana, CA 91356

818-345-4125

E: bernard@thepricemanteam.com

Well, the SoCal West Division took it all in Nashville - with chorus and quartet gold medals coming home to the best Division in the best District of the best hobby in the world! The Masters of Harmony pulled off their seventh International Chorus championship against fierce competition from the fabulous 164 man Ambassadors of Harmony chorus out of St Charles, Mo. and O.C. Times, also from The Masters (but OK, we agree to share them with the great Westminster chorus from SoCal East) clinched their well-earned gold medal, also against tough opposition. This is only the third time ever that both gold medals went to the same chapter and last time, 12 years ago, it was also the Santa Fe Springs chapter with chapter quartet Nightlife (though they were all in SoCal East at the time).

As a member of Masters, I enjoyed the three dark weeks we got as a gift from our leaders. It allowed me to visit local chapters who meet on Wednesday nights - San Fernando Valley, South Bay and Whittier (who actually now meet on Tuesdays). I love visiting my chapters to chat with members and to see how they're doing and I can tell you that all three chapters are doing well, as are most of the chapters in SoCal West. They're putting on shows, improving their singing, competing and generally having fun. Many chapters are also recruiting successfully, though membership numbers still slip because we have to replace our aging members. The best way to succeed, of course, is to attract local youth. Getting in to schools with young or old quartets can make a big impact on kids. They learn to appreciate music and get to know about barbershop, for when they have more time. And because of the hard work of many Far Western District go getters, teachers have become much more open to allowing us through their doors.

On a totally different matter, I have been checking recently to make sure that chapter filings have been done properly. Both the IRS and the Society are looking for chapter returns each year and, sadly, many a chapter has not yet filed. I hope chapter leaders reading this will prod their secretaries and treasurers to get the job done better. I also notice that though we have many great web sites among our chapters, some of them have out of date content. Most chapters have at least one capable fellow, when it comes to web site management. Please prod them, too, into updating your sites.

Next, it's that time of the year, when chapters begin to think about who will lead them in 2009. Nominating

Committees should be in full swing by August, in readiness for October chapter elections. Then it's off to COTS and at the new bargain price levels, we hope that every single chapter will be sending Board members for training ... perhaps even their entire Board.

Lastly, what article for Westtunes would be complete without the call for attendance at upcoming conventions? In October it's the great Far Western District Convention, right in the geographic center of our world - Bakersfield. Next January and July it will be the opportunity of the ages, to be able to be at two International Conventions in our own back yard in the same year - "Midwinter" in Pasadena and the huge International Convention in Anaheim. Wow! What an opportunity indeed. Start planning now. Conventions are the greatest way to meet friends old and new, and to see the best of the best quartets and choruses performing. They offer the finest value for money to be had anywhere.

Have a great Fall, everyone. See you in Bakersfield, Pasadena and Anaheim!

**Division 1 SCW Editor****Mike Martin**

2262 Bagley Ave

Los Angeles, CA 90034-1109

310-558-4949

E: martinmt@aol.com**RINCON BEACH****KEN DAY**

We participated in the Far Western District International Prelim Contest and Convention/ So Cal West Divisional Contest. placing first which will allow us to participate in the Fall Contest.

We wish to congratulate the **Masters of Harmony** for winning the 2008 Gold Medals and also the quality placements of the **Voices of Harmony** and the **Spirit of Phoenix** Choruses in Nashville. The Far Western District was brilliantly represented, this year by it's choruses and it's many fine quartets. **OC Times** was an awesome Gold Medal winner too.

In April we participated in the 50th anniversary celebration of Ventura's Poinsettia Pavilion, a formal affair. On April 25th, we participated in a fund raising show at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church. We shared the show with the Ventura British Brass Band and many talented people from the church membership.

SAN LUIS OBISPO**PETE BENNETT**

We were fortunate that as we were breaking in **Logan Patrick-Miernicki** as our interim Director, we had several visits from **Bill Borah**, a charter member of our chorus. We took advantage of his coaching ability; we're glad that

he's "one of ours." In June the **Central Coast Celebration Chorus of SAI** held their annual show. With a western theme they needed cowboys for their saloon gals to flirt with, so they called on the **Gold Coast Chorus** to provide some. Three of our quartets, **The Postmen**, **The Maestros** and **Fascinatin' Rhythm** performed on the show.

John Staley and **Dane Howalt** went to Nashville for the International Convention. Dane sang with many champs. John sang with his other chorus (he's been a San Jose member longer than he's been a member here,) and came back with a big grin and a bronze medal. Nine of us (**Fascinatin' Rhythm** & 5 individuals) attended HCW 08 in Redlands - it was one of the best yet. **John Saylor** won the second annual Rick Kirn Memorial Scholarship and sang with more of his heroes than he ever imagined.

Blaine Hamilton is excited to be heading out to St. Joe for Harmony University. We paid the tuition for a local HS choral director to attend the Music Educators' track, which we expect to pay great dividends to our YIH efforts.

Contact us if you can recommend a permanent front-line director for our healthy chorus.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

BRUCE POEHLMAN

The **Valleyaires** performed our annual Spring Show "A Musical Kaleidoscope" which included OC Times as a featured quartet just before they won the gold medal at International! **Mark Tillman**, with his assistant **Nancy Ng**, did an amazing job putting the show together. Also featured were chapter quartets **The Usual Suspects**, **Oddly Enuf**, **Priority Male**, **Sixty Something**, **Westside Story**, and **Bill's Bari Pie**. The script was written by **Parke Perine**, featured a great cast, and to top it all off, our Director, **Dr. Dave Tautkus**, directed and performed on stilts! Special thanks also go to **Michael Schoonhoven** and **Jeffery Bunch** for putting together great sets.

Our Ice Cream Social titled "I'll Have Nuts With That" was held in July. This show features quartets - any in the area who are interested in performing. The theme this year was comedy, where we asked each quartet to present at least one comedy or novelty song, which proved to be a real crowd-pleaser. In addition to our featured quartet, **Masterpiece**, we were fortunate to have in **Loony Tunez** to get back together after a 14 year hiatus! Also performing were **IMPACT**, **Priority Male**, **The Usual Suspects**, **Oddly Enuf**, and **Bill's Bari Pie**. Thanks go to **Bill Horst**, our show chairman, **Steve Demmer** (who made sure we had enough Ice Cream for all), and **Mark Tillman** who provided amazing novelty items and decorations.

SANTA CLARITA

BILL WOLF

Santa Clarita is fortunate enough to have one of the finest quality, most prolific musical theater groups anywhere, The Canyon Theater Guild. It is a fertile field of extra

experience for the fine voices in our **Men of Harmony** chorus. One of our Lead singers **Jack Matson** is a regular with the guild singing and acting recently in "My Fair Lady". Another of our lead singers **Marv Roter** filled in the chorus of "With a Little Bit of Luck". In the recent past our members appeared in a local WWII production to sing "Coming In On A Wing And A Prayer".

Our chapter supported the **Valleyaires 'Ice Cream Special'** by sending our **Blue Plate Special** quartet consisting of **T Duane Mooring**, **L Jack Matson**, **Br Bob Lang** and **Bs Call Erickson**. Director **Duncan Gilman** attended both for our chapter and as a member of the Valleyaires.

SANTA MONICA

JERRY WALKER

More than 80% of the **Oceanaires** members participated in Harmony College West on July 18-20. **Steve Shannon** coached the chorus for about six hours on Saturday. He advised the members that barbershop singing is more difficult than any other vocal form of music, and it requires a high level of individual commitment.

The Spaghetti Serenade dinner cabaret Italian banquet with six entrees satisfied the pallet of 225 guests. **David Erickson** was unanimously voted BOTM for his Herculean efforts. He also earned the special designation of "Barberchopper and Chef of the Year." **Eileen Erickson**, **Wendy Kornbeck**, **Susan Leedom**, **Alice Sarles**, and **Kathleen Walker** contributed their culinary talents to the Spaghetti Serenade. **Dan Barling**, **David Erickson**, **Bob Heron**, **Jim Leedom**, **Aaron Mood**, and **Bruce Schroffel** entertained in two quartets. The **Sirens** [SAI Quartet] and the Venice High School "Allegros" also provided delightful entertainment. **Bruce Schroffel** performed as El Moldo the Magician and was Emcee for the evening.

Our dear friend and youngest member **Joey Lutz**, died tragically in the ocean off of northern Panama on vacation. Joey was a popular Santa Monica High School teacher and he sang lead in the Santa Monica Oceanaires. The **Oceanaires** sang "Irish Blessing" at Joey's funeral.

SOUTH BAY

MIKE MARTIN

The **Coastliners** under the direction of **Pete Neushul** performed at the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life" benefit in Torrance. The big event of the season for South Bay was the presentation of their annual zany show. This year it was "Brazen Saddles" the true story of Buffalo Bill (sort of) with **Bob Griffiths** in the title role. Special guest was **The Perfect Gentlemen**. Also appearing were the infamous "Denny" Goodman Orchestra (DoG) and **Ready, Willing and Mabel**. **Louise Stein's** portrayal of Fannie Oakley was outstanding. The mime group **10 West** participated with wonderful slapstick comedy. Chapter quartets appearing were **Asterisk**, **Docs on the Rocks**, **Sound Union**, **5th Amendment**, **Buffalo Bill Quartet**, **The Tone Rangers** and **The Resounders**.

John McCabe, a **fifty year member** of the chapter, celebrated 60 years of wedded bliss with his bride Ada. Most of those 50 years, Ada was active in the *Hey Hey Honey's* who are wives and sweethearts who support chapter activities.

South Bay welcomes new members **Mike Luparella**, **Lou Carter**, **Ron Guss** and **Tom Schleiser**.

WHITTIER

PATRICK BOYLE

Chapter President **Bill Niemand's** young and worried face turned to relief and smiles after the final Spring Show performance of his first-ever experience as a scriptwriter and show director. **Dale Hardin's** script writing expertise "got me through some of the rough spots." Bill selected **Ron Leutbecher** as the MC while from the sound booth, sound man extraordinaire, **Shelley Herman's** occasional responses were comically received by the audience. Music Director **Paul Gutierrez** directed the chorus with his usual warmth that permeated the theatre. **Norm Bernier** outdid himself with outstanding stage decorations.

The Chorus has accepted two tasks: one is to learn new songs for the Christmas and Spring Shows, and the other is to develop some chapter problem solutions. Using the charrette method, **Bill Niemand** posed seven questions to the membership aiming to get input to help enhance the appeal and image of singing barbershop in our Chapter.



FWD DVP for Division 2 SCE

Gene Clements

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Mission Viejo, CA 92692-1029
Phone: 949-581-5544
EI: GRClements@aol.com

The International Convention in Nashville was one of the best ever! What a treat to tour our BHS HQ. The contest venue, another arena, was as close to the major hotels as you can get. The weather was great and that made walking the to and fro routine pleasant as well as visiting the many restaurants and shops in the immediate vicinity.

I hope all of my FWD brothers are taking pride in the quartet and chorus contests' results. Its only the third time in our BHS history that both the quartet champs and the chorus champs came from the same district. Guess what.... the FWD has two of them: MOH and Nightlife in 1996 in Salt Lake City, and MOH and OC Times in Nashville, 2008. And, The Westminster Chorus was the retiring chorus champs and well represented the FWD in singing-off their championship.

Southern California is indeed the 'hot bed' of barbershop singing (let us not forget that the current SAI chorus champs is Harborlites!).

Some of our SCE chapters are involved with membership workshops, but not enough of you are. Increasing membership in every chapter should rank right at the top of your chapter's priorities. GET INVOLVED !! I will be contacting every chapter president to GET INVOLVED with one of these workshops. Its 'grow or die" guys. Its as simple as that. In the end of July, three chapters were represented at Saturday workshop hosted by the Fullerton guys. All attendees agreed it was well worth their time, given all of the ideas presented and the ensuing discussions. Now, its YOUR turn !!

In Harmony,



Division 2 SCE Editor

Dick Girvin

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BREA

DAVE GUNTHER

The **Gaslight Chorus** was very happy with their performance at SoCal East, and had three quartets representing them as well. **Chords Gone Wild** with director **Phil Ordaz**, their ever-popular Brea quartet **Four Fifteen** with **Bryan Forbes**, **Larry** and **John Gassman**, and **Adam Kitt**, and their newest quartet, **Thirty-One** with **Dave Gunther**, **Mark Stokes**, **Nathan Wagenet**, and **Ken Olson**, all competed. **Thirty-One** was so new that they were still getting their songs approved by the judges moments before going on stage

As a way of building camaraderie among their troops, most attended the **Westminster Fantasy Quartet** show as a group. They performed a 60-minute show for a local church in which they were paid with a free-will offering. Part of the proceeds will go to the Lutheran World Hunger Fund. The Chorus was also commissioned to sing at the 78th birthday party of one of their most enthusiastic supporters, who has attended every one of their shows. Up next will be the very popular "*Harmony UnderThe Stars*" youth benefit show put on by the Fullerton chapter. This will be an exciting experience for them as they will be sharing the stage with the **Fullerton Orange Empire Chorus** and their 2007 International champions, the **Westminster Chorus**.

COACHELLA VALLEY

TERRY MANN

In March the **Coachella Valley Sand Blasters Chapter** began a 'Reformation' with the return of **Dick Reed** as Music Director after a seven year sabbatical during which he served as President for two years, Secretary for five years and VP-Music for three years. He returns as Music Director with a Music Team of four section leaders":

Blaine Mack -Tenor, **Alan Harrell**-Lead, **Doug Affleck**-Bass, and **Dr. Al Alexander**-Bari.

Dick's Reformation Plan 'was accepted unanimously by their Board and is summed by saying "The BHS/SPEBSQSA is not a social club, it is a singing society..." The plan has a very 'on purpose' set of methods and activities with goals and a schedule for the attainment of same. Serendipitously, their membership began to grow, simultaneous with the implementation of his/their new program. After an absence of 8 years, they expect to see all at the SoCal East Division convention in 2009 for performance and in 2010 to compete!

Their repertoire was recorded on four part learning CDs by Dick and distributed with the sheet music, with one song sung in four parts by **Tim Waurick**. Every week includes the learning of at least one new tag, highly focused practice of one or two sections of several repertoire songs, and an effective warm up exercise.

They have not 'gone dark' this summer. You inactive Sand Blasters that are still living in the valley, please come check them out. Things are different.

EL CAJON

MIKE DORMAN

The **Music Masters** chorus members are "all energized to the max" about their big annual stage show, coming on Sunday September 21. It promises to be a flat-out super event, with loads of wonderful songs, terrific quartet singing, and fun presenters. Director **Tom Anderson** is betting that every Barbershop devotee in the Southwest will want to take in this show! Call Ed Herron at (619) 447-2898 for tickets and info.

FULLERTON

DICK COTE

Just coming off a successful annual show, and bouncing back from further down the scoring list in 2007, The **Orange Empire Chorus** netted the Most Improved Chorus Award, Plateau A Champion and an over-all third place in the recent SoCal East Contests. This year the Orange Quartet Chapter stepped up to host the contest and their Orange neighbors, Fullerton, jumped in to help them bring it off. Paul Sandorff, Bob Calderwood, Pet Saputo and the Fullerton gals, the Orange Blossoms, seemed to be everywhere, helping out.

New member, **Steve Hansen**, publically thanked the chapter for welcoming him into the 'positive experience' of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Bits from the Board meeting:

- New Member **Bill Wilson** was welcomed into the group
- The possibility of a multi-chapter visit with **Brea Chapter** was referred to the PVP **Don Darter**.
- **Stan Sharpe** volunteered to have vocal production coaching for all chorus members.

- A member-retention plan is being prepared
- Many members plan to attend the Pan Pacific Convention

HEMET

BRUCE SMITH

Hemet's **Golden Harmony Quartet**, recently performed for the Quarter Century Wireless Association, a group of amateur radio operators, with Tenor **Bruce Smith** as a member of both.

A busload of **Hemet Harmonizers** and their wives will attend the Harmony Under The Stars annual program.

76 new names have been added to the chapter's mailing list and five of them asked about joining.

INLAND EMPIRE

DAVE COVEY

Eleven chapter members attended Harmony College West, and came back glowing with enthusiasm. That would have been an even dozen, but medical complications interfered with one member.

It's hard to tell which the stronger result was: technique or motivation. Both are in ample supply at present. They believe every chapter should encourage as many members as possible to attend.

They're trying to stay ahead of the curve, planning not only for their 2009 Show, but some members are already working on theme and content for the 2010 Show.

IRVINE

STEVE YOUNG

Bass **Justin Martin** joined their college chorus for a tour of Italy. They returned to southern California with lots of pictures and some wonderful stories.

They are greatly saddened by the news of the unexpected death of their director **Rich Hasty**. Well known in the barbershop world, Rich was with Irvine for little over a year, but the improvements in their vocal production cannot be understated. They lost a mentor and a good friend to their chapter. **California Promise** is proud to include his songs in many of their upcoming performances and dedicate their efforts to his memory.

ORANGE QUARTET CHAPTER

MARK SHELDON

The **Orange Chapter** was thrilled and relieved at the success of the SoCal East Spring Convention and Contest, which they hosted. The effort was led by **Paul Sandorff** and graciously supported by many Barbershoppers from Orange as well as from neighboring chapters.

On May 10 they remembered **Floyd "Blackie" Blackwell** at a "Celebration of Life" service, which included performances by chapter quartets **WaveMakers**, **Shenanigans**, and **Balderdash**. At Blackie's request, the service was immediately followed by a Picnic with lots of singing.

During the Singing for Life blood drive, **WaveMakers** and **Bleu Lite Special** took turns serenading the Santa Ana donor center. The **WaveMakers** also provided entertainment for the Huntington Beach Eastern Star Lodge.

PALOMAR PACIFIC

STEVE HINKLE

The **Music Men** held their Annual Show on April 26, and a 'big doins' it was - featuring quest quartets **Masterpiece** and **California Crossroads** - along with special appearances by both **The El Camino** and **Mt. Carmel High School Choirs**. The Show got a feature in The Poway News Chieftain.

With his 'can-do' enthusiasm in taking the role of Chapter Librarian, **Dick Schulze** was named BOTM for April.

The chorus - working in conjunction with The San Diego Blood Bank - sponsored the Singing for Life Blood Drive in Escondido. Chair for the event was **Les Lenzner**.

John Hulbert, Norm Pincock, Al Leuthe, Ken Burns, and Bill Scofield went to Nashville and **Roger Hufferd, Ken Burns, Jerry Mills** and **Larry Anderson** attended HCW.

RIVERSIDE

BILL SHOVA

The **New Gang On The Corner** welcomed new members **Charles Carothers, Ken Clark** and **Chuck Mason**.

Plans are going forward involving special preparation for the Fall Chorus Contest, with coaches **Dawn Castiglione, Ken Potter** and others scheduled to work with the chorus.

SAN CLEMENTE DON THOMAS

They welcome their new members **Paul Bube, Allen Hill, Art Overman, John Skipper** and **Darrel Kitchens**.

The **Beach Cities Harmonizers** are having a joint show with the San Clemente Choral Society at St. Andrews church on Saturday evening October 4th.

SAN DIEGO

DON RENZ

The **Sun Harbor Chorus** supported the local Blood Bank drive and participated in *Spring Sing*, a concert held at the North Chapel of the former Naval Training Center, now redeveloped as a residential and business area called Liberty Station.

A new and colorful performance costume, a Hawaiian shirt over white trousers, will be in evidence at their annual appearance at the Balboa Park Organ Pavilion for the summertime Concert in The Park series.

The chapter was saddened by the passing of long time San Diego member and chorus sparkplug, **Bob Gray, Sr.**, more widely known in FWD and BHS as the father of **Bob Gray, Jr.** of **The New Tradition** and **Saturday Evening Post** quartet fame.



FWD DVP for Division 3 NCWH

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Despite the record heat in Stockton, the combined NorCal convention was a great success. There were a few unexpected hiccups, but overall everyone appeared to have a great time with the opportunity to perform for a larger audience as well as mix, mingle, and sing with our NorCal East brothers. The follow-up survey showed that a large majority liked the combined convention format and would do so again, perhaps with a Friday/Saturday format to make the scheduling a little less tight.

Congratulations to all of our division champions and award winners: Vintage Gold (Quartet Champion), Motley Q (Senior Quartet Champion), Out of the Blue (Novice Quartet), Voices in Harmony (Chorus Champion, AAA Plateau), Peninsulaires (Most Improved Chorus, AA Plateau), and Cypressaires (A Plateau).

I was not able to attend the International Convention in Nashville to personally witness the Voices in Harmony bring chorus medals back to Northern California. If my calculation is correct, it had been 26 years since a NorCal chapter had medaled. I know how much work those men put in to make it so. Of course, it was pretty good week overall for the rest of the district with OC Times and the Masters of Harmony winning!

Although we tried to schedule another combined convention for 2009, Delta College is not available and we were unable to secure another adequately central venue. Therefore, the NorCal West-Hawaii Division convention will take place on Saturday, April 4, 2009 at Woodside High School in Woodside. We successfully used this site in 2007. Please make sure you put this date on your calendar TODAY - I would love to see all our choruses and a bunch of quartets come out to compete or perform. The convention co-hosts will be the Bay Area and Palo Alto-Mountain View chapters.

Of course, we still have the district fall convention in Bakersfield this October. I wish the best to all of our NCWH representatives, but I want to extend a special invitation to every other member of the division to come down for a weekend of good fun and good singing. We want to see a lot of lobby singing and hospitality rooms this year. Come join the party!



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ALOHA

JACK Y HASHIMOTO

The Sounds of Aloha presented our annual Spring show at the historic Hawaii Theatre Center. This year it was *"The Musical Misadventures of Robin Hood - Barbershop in Tights"*. Guest Quartet was **OC Times**, last year's Silver and this year's Gold Medal International Champions. Also on the trip were Shawn York's wife Lani and daughter Kalea. Lani grew up in Hilo on our big island of Hawaii, and Shawn was a member of the Aloha Chapter, while Lani worked on her Master's Degree here. Also on the bill were our own quartets **The Pacific Trades**, **Tropical Nights** and the **Kahuku High School's Vocal Motion** ensemble. Mahalo to show Co-chairmen Bill Joor and Jeff LeFebvre, Musical Director Mark Conching, Stage Director Steph Conching, Script writer Scot Izuka and all others who played key rolls in the success of our show.

The Aloha Chapter was part of the BHS nationwide "Singing for Life" campaign, spearheaded by our own **Jim Camp**. On Sunday May 11 our quartets descended on the Blood Bank of Hawaii's donor center in Honolulu and serenaded the blood donors. We also brought along our own blood donors, as **Pauline Mitchell**, **Rod Schultz**, **Bill Joor** and **Sandy Joor** donated a pint each. For his work in this project Jim was awarded BOTM for May.

We had the distinct honor of being invited to participate in *"Na Kane"*, a gathering of male chorales in Hawaii, which took place at the Kawaiahao Church in Honolulu. The guest chorus from California was the Azusa Pacific University Men's Chorale, under the direction of Harold Clousing. Other groups performing included the Ragazzi Ensemble, Hawaii Youth Opera Chorus, Director Nola A. Nahulu, the Samoan Gospel Heralds, Director Nada Marriott, and the Kamehameha Alumni Glee Club, Director Aaron Mahi. It was great to experience the different singing styles of the participants.

BAY AREA CHAPTER

MAX BATES

What a thrill packed few months. **Voices in Harmony** (VIH) participated in the combined divisional contest held in Stockton in May. The combined divisional format was especially enjoyable allowing us to renew barbershop acquaintances with fellow barbershoppers we don't often see. A VIH "Hats off" to the **Stockton Chapter** and all who made the convention a success. Congratulations to those quartets and choruses who we will be able to cheer for in Bakersfield this October.

On June 7, 2008 VIH presented a very successful show at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. Guests on the show were **Pride of the Pacific**, a Sweet Adeline chorus from Pleasanton, (Also directed by **Dr. Greg Lyne**). International Quartet Champion, **RealTime** thrilled the near capacity house with their finely tuned and wide ranging musical talents. VIH's own District High School quartet champion **Element** also represented themselves very well in a slot on the show.

On June 22, 2008 VIH was able to again enjoy the George Lucas, Sky Walker Ranch sound stage to complete a very successful recording session.

As most of you are aware VIH was extremely pleased to be one of three choruses to represent the FWD at the International Convention and Contest in Nashville. We were thrilled to present to the rest of the Society the quality of music and performance coming from the FWD, even with the fireworks during the contest. VIH had six father-son pairs singing in the Nashville contest and a number of first timers on the International stage. There was one new member who sang for the first time in a contest at International. WOW! That is a testament to the fact that there is a draw for young singers who want to work hard and enjoy the fruits of their labors.

Congratulations to **Masters In Harmony** and **O.C. Times** for championship performances. With VIH placing third in the contest, that marks the first time in Society history that two of the top three choruses were from California.

As part of VIH's civic involvement we performed an out door concert for the San Leandro Public Library on July 26th. The concert was open and free to the public and resulted in at least one individual coming to the next week's VIH rehearsal.

A hearty THANKS to all who were at the Nashville Convention. We felt your support on stage from curtain "up" to curtain "down". Again, what a thrill to receive that support.

EUREKA

MAC GARDNER

There is no summer hiatus for the Humboldt Harmonaires. Shortly after our big spring show, we donned Humboldt Crabs baseball caps for a special performance at the Arcata Community Ballpark. It was our umpteenth traditional appearance at the season's opening game for the Humboldt Crabs, the oldest semi-pro baseball team in the nation. We always sing the *"Star-Spangled Banner"*, but the fans and players especially love our special version of *"Take Me Out to the Ballgame."*

We are still getting fine publicity for our continuing promotional spot on the Fox Network's local TV station. The spot shows our entire chorus singing simply, *"You're*

watching Fox 29." The music was cleverly arranged by our former director **Bill Edmondson**. Bright smiles follow. In another traditional event, we combined Harmonaires, family members and guests for our annual Ice Cream Party at the famous Bon Bonniere in Oldtown Eureka. We even had to bring extra chairs to fit us all in! Passersby slipped in, heard some songs (and even sang along) and reluctantly moved on.

Our next BIGGIE is our family Stale Hot Dog Roast hosted by Don and Nancy Setterlund near Ferndale. Don's infamous Cow Pasture Golf is always a big draw

FREMONT/HAYWARD

RAY SPINOSA

The **New Dimension Chorus** competed at the NorCal West convention, and also made two appearances at local community events.. The chorus performed for a group of seniors at the Masonic Retirement community in nearby Union City, and also at the Newark Library. Among those attending were all four members of the outstanding Sweet Adelines quartet **Underage**. They were gracious enough to perform a couple of songs for the appreciative audience. The chorus was invited back to perform at the library again next year.

After many years of rehearsing at Chabot College in Hayward, the chorus has a new home at Calvary Lutheran Church in San Lorenzo. Rehearsals are still on Thursday evening from 7:30pm to 10:00pm and all are invited to attend.

SAN FRANCISCO

DON KINGTON

The week that **Cable Car Chorus** music director **Charles Feltman** attended the Chorus Directors' course at Harmony University, veteran barbershopper **Paul Engel** filled in as chorus director. At Charles' request Paul introduced the members to his prize-winning song "*When You Ring A Chord On A Cable Car*." Its last public performance, as far as is known, was at the 1990 International in San Francisco where it had won first prize in the Society's song contest.

Paul's ditty, so meaningful to S.F. audience and singers, is one of four new charts being learned and polished by the Chorus. One is a melody known by all Americans, called "America" by us, but this time with the original words, "God Save the Queen." Then there is a short sea shanty. How many barbershop groups have ever harmonized to a sea shanty? The fourth, and strangest for a bunch of U.S. barbershop singers, is "Rule Britannia." Why these four? A visit to the S.F. Chapter's website www.sfcablecharchours.org the details of the Chorus's fall activity will be revealed.

SAN MATEO

THOMAS ADDISON

Director **Judaline Ryan's** chorus improvement project has included personal voice analysis, and individual coaching

in singing skills with goals of improving each members ability to participate in the joyous hobby of singing and entertaining our audiences. A long range planning meeting this month resulted in several suggestions to help improve the relevance of our Chapter Meeting experience.

Seven **Golden Chordsmen** made the trek to Harmony University in St Joseph's this year. The group will be led by **Owen Doyle** (attending for nearly 30 years) and **Peter Wanger** (a more modest 10). The information and skills learned over that intense week of education will also be incorporated into the chorus improvement plan, ensuring broad based and comprehensive participation in the education of new and old members alike.

Our summer's busy activities have included two Hot Dogs and Harmony events that have not only pleased our fans, but filled our coffers making treasurer Arnie Miller a happy man!

SANTA CRUZ

LAWRENCE STERN

The Gold Standard Chorus has moved. After 15 years in the Cypress Room of Peachwood's Restaurant in the Pasatiempo Inn, the chorus moved to the music room at Santa Cruz High School. In addition to better acoustics, because the room has tiered seating it is much easier for director Duane King and assistant director Jordan Johnson to see everyone's face. The new rehearsal space evolved from our lending our risers to the Santa Cruz High chorus in 2007, to our storing our risers at the school long term, and then to our rehearsing on a temporary, conditional basis in April and long term approval in June. Chorus president Dan Jett feels the move demonstrates the benefits of establishing relationships with high schools.

SANTA ROSA

RAY CROWDER

During the International convention in Nashville, **Ray** and **Joyce Crowder** noted that there were ten former Santa Rosa chapter members who were competing onstage in five different choruses. Are the Redwood Chordsmen a great springboard to the International stage, or not? **Jim** and **Delain Dechaine** were also in Nashville, as was our fine director, **Phil Debar**, who was judging in the singing category throughout the week.

Here's a big welcome to our newest member **John Hayes** who will be a valuable addition to our bass section. It's also been great to welcome back some of our old timers **Roger Westberg**, **Bruce Bell**, and **Chris Miller**.

Dan and **Nancy Schell** did a fine job hosting the chapter's bi-monthly "social" gathering on June 29th, and we're already looking forward to our "late summer" party at the home of **Gary** and **Debra Smith**.

SF BAY CITIES QUARTET

DICK ZUNKEL

Temperatures soared, but Harry's Hofbrau air conditioner kept pace with the hot chords coming from the banquet hall. Secretary Casey gave a [Webcast] report on the recent International Chorus and Quartet contests held in Nashville, and the VIH crossed over the threshold into medalist category with an impressive 3rd place win competing with the likes of **Masters of Harmony** and a hard charging Ambassadors of Harmony. **Dennis Baker** brought another "rose" tune for our woodshedding consideration, a melodic Irving Berlin collaboration "*Just Like the Rose*."

We were pleased to welcome guest **Paul Freudenthal** (PAMV Peninsula Chapter) with his fine lead voice.



FWD DVP for Division 4 NCENN

Jim Turnmire

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I'm back!!! I had a fabulous trip to Africa. I was a bit sorry to have missed our combined NorCal conventions, and the International Prelims in Bakersfield, but I've gotten over it. I'm glad to be home and getting back in the saddle for our Division.

How about a little bragging??? Last year our division qualified just 1 quartet and 3 choruses to go to the District Contest. This year we qualified three quartets and 5 choruses. In addition to that, the Placerville Chapter qualified to compete at District. I believe this is the first time for them. Congratulations to them!

Here are some statistics that we are very proud of: The Fresno Chapter improved their overall score by 103 points. The Central California Chapter improved their score by exactly 100 points. Fresno improved their average from 66.9 to 75.5 (+8.6) and Central California improved their average from 61.2 to 69.6 (+8.4). Congratulations to both these chapters for their improvement. Working smart has its rewards! Also congratulations to the Reno and Sacramento Chapters for qualifying to compete in the District contest.

The Fresno Chapter has decided to host the 2009 NCENN Division contest/convention. Since it was 10 years ago when they last hosted, they decided it was time to step up to the plate and host again. We hope to see even more chapters participate next year.



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CARSON CITY

RALPH QUOSIG

The Genoa Gentlemen, with T **Jim Crowley**, L **Jim Davis**, Br **Howard Stevens**, Bs **Bob Lappin**, strolled around Mormon Station Park in nearby Genoa, NV, for over an hour singing barbershop favorites...much to the delight of 4th of July revelers.

Thanks mainly to considerable efforts by Pres. **Rook Wetzel** and Dir. **Jim Crowley**, our commitment to the Youth in Harmony continues: Carson City Chapter was awarded a grant from the Nevada Arts Council to kick off a new barbershop chorus at Carson High School. The chorus will begin this fall under the direction of gold medalist **Cory Hunt** (congratulations to **OC Times**). The chapter sponsored five students to HU's Directors College to study music theory and directing in the barbershop style.

Other efforts continue to support Youth in Harmony such as sending the new boy's chorus to the 2009 Midwinter chorus competition in Pasadena next January. The boy's quartet we sponsored to HSQC at Bakersfield is now attending Univ. of Nevada Reno. They will now compete in collegiate competitions. Our efforts at the high school level are paying BIG dividends for our chapter and BHS. We find the old adage to be true: if you want to hang on to something you must give it away.

Jim Crowley completed teaching a 12-week course entitled "*Introduction to Barbershop*" at Lake Tahoe Community College. In addition to the history of barbershop harmony, Jim covered equal temperament, just intonation, the circle of fifths, and the elements of vocal production and voice matching. Gosh...don't you wish you had attended.

About a third of The Chorus of the Comstock meets regularly for breakfast each Monday. The patrons enjoy our early morning serenade.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

MILES SUTTER

May 10th was the Singing for Life Blood Drive sponsored nationwide by the Barbershop Society. Approximately twelve GVC'ers gave a half a day of their time at Modesto's Delta Blood Bank for this nationwide event!

Thank you **Terrell Chambers** for heading up this event. If all other blood banks were as successful as ours this day, then this could very well be an annual event. This

day was just another opportunity to feel good about being a barbershopper!

We were NCE/NN Most Improved Chorus as well as Plateau A Champions! We strove for a 40 point improvement, and we received a 100 point improvement! All the months of preparation truly paid off. We made a great first impression on the presentation judge with our white tux and gold vest and tie. The music judge said our singing of "Each Time I Fall in Love" was good enough to be on the International stage! **Voices in Harmony** is our new West Division AAA chorus champion with **Fresno** becoming our new East Division AA champion. They finished 1-2 in competition with GVC only 71 points behind Fresno. **Brewhouse** is our NCE Quartet Champion, and **Silver & Gold**, NCE Senior's Quartet Champion. And with considerable assistance from **Steve Taylor** and **Bob Yater**, **Tune Struck** is Novice NCE Quartet Champion.

DAVIS-VACAVILLE

TOM POWERS

The **West Valley Chorus** director, **Ollie Brilhante, III**, sang with the **Voices In Harmony** earning a third place chorus medal in Nashville. Ollie now makes us work twice as hard and his efforts are very well received. Our rehearsal attendance figures are increasing. The influx of newcomers is instigating new in-house quartets. It is now common to have anywhere from 3 to 5 quartets singing during the break.

Roy, the Can Man, gets to collect the recyclables for additional revenue for the chapter. This program began about 15 years ago under the direction of **Earl Briggs**, a wonderful tenor who left this earth about 6 years ago. This program is a great success, and over the years hundreds have been recycled from the basements and garages of chapter members.

FRESNO

DAVID REITZEL

The **Gold Note Chorus** had two Memorial Day singouts with associate director **John Hays** magnificently presiding. First was an evening rendition of patriotic songs at Fresno's Northwest Church, followed the next day by another in the annual Memorial Day program at Fresno Memorial Gardens, with its impressive Avenue of Flags, flyovers, bagpipe band performance, and color guard.

John again directed the GNC in patriotic songs at the dedication of a Vietnam War Memorial provided by Vietnam Veterans of America. The memorial is in black stone and located at the entrance to Fresno's Veterans Hospital.

Dede Nibler, assisted by **John Hays**, **Eric Essayan**, and **George Western**, directed the GNC in an out-of-doors program at The Windham, a retirement center in Fresno. Featured quartets were **A Tonic Explosion**, **Silver and Gold**, **Second Hand Joes**, and **Great Dames**. The latter two combining for a rendition of "*Baby, It's Cold*

Outside." Ambient temperature at the time: 105 degrees. The audience, already enthusiastic, noticed this right away.

For Gold Noters not attending the Nashville International and for those on vacation at the time, it is rumored that a barbershop festivity occurred July 3 at the home of **Hugh Schaffer** of **A Tonic Explosion** fame, where tags were heard well into the night.

Our condolences to the family of **Rich Hasty**, a former director of the **Gold Note Chorus**, who passed away shortly after receiving a gold medal as a member of **Masters of Harmony**.

NEVADA PLACER

ROGER PERKINS

The **Sierranaders** celebrated 25 years of harmony in the Foothills with a special annual show on May 31 entitled "*Thanks for the Memory*". We were able to get some of the early chapter quartets to reunite for the show, including the **Auburn Associates**, **Stratus 4**, **The Stairwell 4** and **Foothill Express**. Also featured were **The New Edition**, **4T9r4**, **Stampede**, **Chord Miners** and **Pacific Standard Time**. Our headline quartet was the current FWD champs **VocalEase** who did a bang-up job.

We did a one night show this year at Bear River High School for the first time. They had students to operate their sound system and lighting. They also provided a work crew to set up their risers for us and help in any way possible. We will be back for our show next year. We also featured a group of young singers from the neighboring Magnolia Middle School called **The Starmakers**. They sang, danced and performed acrobatics that made us all wish we were teenagers again.

The annual Lake Francis campout took place July 5 to 8 with many of the usual suspects in attendance. Once again the Wagon Masters were **Roger** and **Phyllis Fox**.

The **John Gurule Memorial Somewhat Serious Quartet Contest and Bean Feed** [that's a mouthful] was held as always in early June. As Membership VP of our chapter John started the contest 18 years ago, and it is still going strong. John moved to Arizona a few years ago and sang with the **Tucson Chapter**. He died in January and this was a fitting tribute to a great guy and avid long-time barbershopper. This year a mixed quartet from **Placerville** called **Beauty & the Beasts** took first place! **T Elizabeth Randolph**, **L Robert Lenoil**, **Br Brandon Dyer**, and **Bs Jason Dyer**. Second was **Imagine That: Keith Slater**, **Al Tredway**, **David McCartney**, and **Bob Roberts** representing **Sacramento**, **Folsom** and **Placerville**. Rounding out the top three was **Turtles: Elizabeth Randolph**, **Jason Dyer**, **Bill Faulkner & Richard Lund**.

NORTH VALLEY

DENNY STRUB

The North Valley Chapter is alive, well, and growing under the new fun direction from **David Burdine**. We are even talking about going back into competition next spring as well as having one or two small shows.

Denny Strub and **Gene Warner** (Co-Membership V-P's) have welcomed four new members (so far) this year: **Al Bedrosian, Bob Hubbard, Jordan Spencer, and Bob Britton**. The goal is at least eight new members in 2008! It looks like their 72 years of combined experience may be paying off.

Treas **Al Salazar**, Music VP **Bill Peterson** accompanied Director **Dave Burdine** to Harmony University.

We have met twice so far this year with our neighbor chapter Chico for a night of pizza and singing, a great idea from N-V Pres **Don Franklin** and Chico Pres **Jacque Williams**.

We were all sorry to learn that member **Paul Mooney** lost his home near Paradise in our recent devastating fires. Fortunately though, he says that he will come out of this tragedy OK. He did, however, have to borrow a "chorus shirt" when the chorus sang for a Chico Outlaws baseball game - right after the big fire.

PLACERVILLE

BILL PECK

The Gold Rush Chorus had a successful show on May 10 with attendance of 400 plus. The show featured **The Perfect Gentlemen** who performed a fast-paced, entertaining and funny package. Also featured on the show was a Sweet Adeline quartet consisting of local high school students, **And Then There Was Harmony** plus the NCE/NN College quartet champs, **EPIC** from Sacramento State University. They sang extremely well and went on to place 14th in Nashville in the International College Quartet contest.



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Following the Division 5 Contest April 19th, Drew Ellis from Nashville visited Arizona and conducted two membership workshops; one in Phoenix on May 20th then in Tucson on May 21st. Both events were well attended and Drew was able to discuss and present the "Two Steps to the Future" program developed by the Barbershop Harmony Society.

June 13th and 14th was spent in Fullerton at the FWD Board Meeting and "Go for the Gold Show" which was a

fine preview of the quartets who represented us in Nashville. Then on June 30 I traveled to Nashville for a week of wonderful entertainment of quartets and choruses. Our own Division 5 Spirit of Phoenix Chorus finished 11th in a highly competitive contest won by the Masters of Harmony.

Tucson had three representatives at Sacramento attending Clark Abrahamson's Membership Workshop. They were the only Division 5 Chapter represented according to Clark.

On July 12th the White Mountains High Country Chorus presented their annual show with two full houses entertained by the chorus and several quartets including Nexus from Colorado. As of this writing the chapter has seven men attending Harmony University in Missouri.

The Fred Koch Memorial Bash will be held in Phoenix on August 22nd and 23rd and includes a novice quartet contest, parade of quartets, VLQ contest and golf on Saturday morning.

The Arizona COTS is scheduled for November 15, 2008 and will be held in Mesa hosted by the Mesa Chapter. Mesa hosted the event last year and it was very successful with representatives coming from Nevada and Arizona Chapters.

Division 5 is very well represented in the FWD by Ivan Jensen our Executive Vice President and David Updegraff in charge of Chapter Support and Leaders. The division chapters are each working on membership recruitment and retention as well as developing chapter meeting programs that attract singers.

I look forward to hearing from the various chapters in our division and want the leaders to avail themselves of the many opportunities for help within our Far Western District.

In Harmony,



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CASA GRANDE CHAPTER

BY LOREN ENGLUND

Our chapter was pleased to provide support to our Director **Rogers Hornsby** for attendance at Harmony University. He urged all "cool climate" vacationers to keep prepared for our Annual Christmas Concert November 29th and Annual Spring Show in March 2009.

Singing Valentines Fundraising Chairman **Loren Englund**, assisted by **Carl Schultz**, reported a successful effort with three quartets singing 44 engagements. **Sam Warfel** stepped down after serving two years as chapter president and handling numerous other duties. Much could be said about the advances in chorus growth and performance during his tenure. **Jim McBride** agreed to take over as president for the rest of the year.

GREATER PHOENIX CHAPTER JERRY MCELFRISH

Larry Wilson, who won an international quartet gold medal in 1982 as lead of **Classic Collection**, joined **Fraser Brown** as an assistant director of the **Spirit of Phoenix** chorus, assisting with warm-ups, helping with sectional rehearsals and acting as bass section leader, replacing **Jeff Dolan** in those roles. Jeff still directs the **Tucson Sunshine Chapter**. Larry also sings lead with the chorus. Although he has competed in quartets and directed choruses in the top 10s in International, competing on the risers is a first for him.

Our wives and sweethearts in the Kindred Spirits did a great job of hosting the second annual Spirit of Phoenix Chorus and Family Picnic which included a lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers and all the trimmings, fun games and lots of good singing, including a pickup quartet contest judged by the wives.

The chorus adopted a new casual uniform (bright red Class B shirts and distinctive name badges) for wear starting with this summer's International contest. Classy new black and white shoes and polka dot ties were introduced in Nashville.

A weekend rehearsal was held at the Francisco Grande Resort near Casa Grande with coaches **Greg Lyne**, **Dawn Castiglione** and **Nick Papageorge** helping the chorus make great strides in its vocal and visual presentations.

The chapter honored four members who have reached the 50-year Society membership milestone. **Paul Graham**, **Bob Robinson**, **Sam Aramian** and **Terry Aramian** (like father, like son) were recognized for attaining that goal. Bob is still active with the chapter, singing tenor.

Drew Ellis, BHS manager of membership services, visited the chapter after a meeting with representatives of chapters in the Phoenix area to talk about membership.

LAS VEGAS GAMBLE-AIRES LARRY LITCHFIELD

The **Gamble-Aires** recently performed two very successful shows which garnered significant advance local media coverage. Our annual spring show a presidential primary parody called "*Ballot Box Barbershop*" was an undisputed smash under the capable joint musical direction of **John Waugh** and **Albert Weiss**. A well-timed, near-full-page,

illustrated colored editorial layout in a local newspaper (with major interviews of choristers **Roger Buehrer**, **Flip Sonneman** and **Rick Ives**) contributed to the large audience turnout. The show featured two guest quartets **Broadcast** and **Older 'n Dirt** plus a special appearance by the local award-winning Sweet Adelines quartet **Wildfire**. Our repertoire was polished and the guys looked spiffy on the risers in their tuxedos. Two weeks earlier we offered the same performance before enthusiastic senior residents at a nearby Sun City retirement community.

Immediate Past President and VP of Chapter Development **Rich Coon** received a surprise telephone call direct from an airman serving in the war zone in Iraq and stationed at nearby Nellis Air Force Base. The airman asked Rich if a chapter quartet could sing "happy birthday" to his five-year-old daughter and a love song to his wife. **Broadcast** showed up at the airman's family home on a very hot Saturday afternoon wearing broad smiles, snazzy red vests, and red string ties. They sang the two requests (including "*Sweet and Lovely*" for the airman's wife) to a living room crammed with neighborhood friends and a bevy of admiring, rambunctious kids. They added a half-dozen other songs to the delight of the yelling, applauding crowd. Hugs and smiles were shared by the singers and their new fans-for-life!

As Las Vegas' oldest barbershop chapter, the **Gamble-Aires** is revamping their organizational and community images. Visibility, promotional creativity and consistent professionalism can reap huge results by attracting new singers, securing media coverage and booking gigs. To this end, the chapter enhanced its accessibility and collateral materials with (1) a snappy new logo typeface; (2) an eye-catching news release format; (3) a new 4-color recruiting/marketing brochure; (4) media and patron mailing list improvements; (5) new personalized business cards for members to distribute to prospective singers, plus member-personalized recruitment posters for our singers to place on bulleting boards, in store windows and as e-mail attachments; (6) a direct chapter PR phone line and e-mail address for the media; and (7) planning for a new interactive facelift for our chapter website (gambleaires.com) that tells our complete story with pizzazz and imagination. This image revamp has attracted many prospects to our weekly rehearsals.

PARADISE VALLEY CHAPTER LEN LEVINE

The **Cactus Chordsmen** performed a very entertaining sing-out at the Desert Foothills Jewish Community Association. The choreography by **Paul Bridgeman** during the Mr. Columbus number was hilarious and allowed the audience to get into the act.

An Alumni Night brought back many former singers including members of the **Dry Heat Quartet**, who performed a few numbers for old times' sake.

The collegiate quartet **Tagteam** performed their contest songs at one of our recent rehearsals and went on to finish 8th at International in Nashville. Quartet members included **Danny Ryan Jr.**; **Brian Fox**, current **Cactus Chordsman**; **Kevin Meyer**; and former member **Sam Wamboldt**.

PRESCOTT CHAPTER

BY SAM STIMPLE

The **High Mountain Chordsmen** hosted and participated in an intensive chorus coaching session on April 3rd with **Larry Wilson**, lead of international champion quartet **Classic Collection**. voices!

Prescott's **Antique Parts** comported in division. Tenor **Rich Ludwigson** performed with a recently broken left arm, which he proudly displayed in a colorful sling.

One of the chorus's favorite annual performances is for the residents of Arizona Pioneers' Home. Besides relishing the delicious refreshments, a very enthusiastic audience enjoyed the songs so much that we encouraged them to sing along. One resident is 92-year-old **Del Chesley**, a former member AND a retired barber.

Planning began for an interchapter visitation with Sedona's Harmony on the Rocks sometime in July. Prescott sponsored the Sedona Chapter a few years back and shares at least one dual member, Roger Fitch.

SUN CITIES CHAPTER

BOB MCGOWAN

We welcomed new director **Gerald (Jerry) Roland**, who brings to the position some impressive credentials. Roland became a student of voice and piano in elementary school, continuing his studies through high school and the conservatory. Later, he added directing to his repertoire as well as several other musical instruments. At 16, he directed sacred music in his church and over the years continued his career as the minister of music in several churches of various denominations in the Milwaukee area. As a vocal soloist, Roland said he "married them and buried them" because he sang at so many weddings and funerals.

Roland's introduction to barbershop-style music came quite by accident when he saw the SPEBSQSA lapel pin on a friend. He was subsequently invited to the next rehearsal of his friend's chorus . . . and got hooked. His background in the Society includes 10 years as a singer and eight years as a director.

More than 50 hopefuls gathered at Peoria Sports Complex recently for the chance to be a part of an American tradition: singing the national anthem at a sporting event. One of the early auditioning acts was **The DesertAires'** own **Slo Motion** quartet with **L Jerry Roland**, **Br Ed O'Connor**, **Bs Bud Lowry** and **T Gene Sprengle**.

Several of our members have left for health reasons **Lloyd Eitemiller**, **Chuck Feist**, **Stan Gudeman** and **Charlie Uhler**, and we welcome two new members **Eugene Brandwein** and **Gary Johnson**.

TUCSON SUNSHINE CHAPTER

RON HAYES

Summers in the Southwest are a relatively slack period for Barbershop Harmony Society chapters due to vacations and the return to the north by our winter "snowbird" members.

The Tucson Chapter Board of Directors voted earlier this year to change the officers' term of office from a January to December calendar to July 1st through June 30th calendar. An all-day planning session will be devoted to bringing the new officers on board in preparation for an active and busy year. This does not mean that the chapter is idle. New quartets are being formed under the leadership of Chapter Quartet Promotion Chairman **Jim Greer**. A chapter Novice Quartet Contest was held on June 25th with nine quartets participating. The winning quartet **Matinee Idle**, judged by **Chord Conspiracy**, will be attending Harmony University.

Our church singing ensemble under the direction of **Hap Haggard**, has been rehearsing for our summer program in which we fill in for choirs on Sunday morning at various churches in the community.

Music Director **Jeff Dolan** and Chorus Manager **Paul Ludwig** continue preparing the chorus for the upcoming district contest in Bakersfield.

On September 6th the **Tucson Sunshine Chapter** and the **Tucson Desert Harmony Sweet Adelines Chapter** will be co-sponsoring the 3rd Annual Southern Arizona Youth in Harmony Festival. Last year's well-attended event drew 193 students from local high schools. Under the chairmanship of **Ron Hayes**, **Annie Hayes** and **Connie Keil**, the festival continues to be successful, receiving recognition from many within and outside of the community.

REMEMBER THE FWD YOUTH EDUCATION FUND

**FWD Fall Convention in Bakersfield
October 9-12, 2008
Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
Come Join in the FUN!**



Jerry & Maureen



Ears Alert!



3 Gold Medals Chat



Father & Son



EPIC Sings



HCW Staff Rests



Hi-Fidelity



Pizza Is Good



Coaches Dan & Dawn



Alan Gordon and Friend



Brian Philbin & Jerry



Reatime Gets Standing "O"



The Crush Performs



YIH Singers Singing



Sean Devinee - New Gold

Some 2008 Harmony College West Participants & Staff

2nd Annual International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival

January 31, 2009
Pasadena, CA

- Competitive and educational!
- Different age brackets for high school and collegiate groups!
- Financial assistance available!
- Bring your men's choir or combine your men into one choir!
- Receive written and live feedback from judges!

The mission of The International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival is to:

Enrich young lives through a cappella vocal music while perpetuating the barbershop harmony style.

Promote excellence in young male choruses by providing the best overall musical experience in an educational environment where students can learn from top adjudicators and performers, as well as from each other.

Provide a deeper understanding of an authentically American art-form, and to send students home with a new-found passion for singing, making music a part of the rest of their lives.

www.barbershop.org/youthchorus

Contact Festival Coordinator James Estes
at jestes@barbershop.org for more info!



CONVENTIONS, SHOWS, EVENTS

2008

September

- 13 Bay Area Shows20
- 20 Central California Show

October

- 4 San Clemente Show
- 9-12 FWD Fall Convention, Bakersfield**
Host: Masters of Harmony
- 17 Nevada-Placer Show
- 18 Prescott Shows
- 18 Stockton Show
- 18 Walnut Creek Show
- 24-25 Carson City Shows
- 25 Nevada-Placer Show
- 25 San Francisco Shows
- 25-26 Santa Cruz Youth Outreach Show
- 30-11/2 Great Pacific Harmony –
2008 Pan Pacific Convention
<http://panpacificharmony.org>

November

- 1 Central California Show
- 1 Placerville Show
- 1 San Mateo Show
- 2 San Fernando Valley Show
- 4-8 SAI Int'l Conv, Honolulu, HI
- 8 Mesa Shows
- 15 COTS 1 Day AZ in Mesa**
NCal in Stockton
- 22 COTS 1 Day in Los Angeles**
- 22 Monterey Peninsula Show
- 29 Bay Area Shows

December

- 6 Pasadena Show
- 6 Reno Show
- 7 Casa Gande
- 7 Fremont-Hayward Show
- 12-13 Fullerton Shows
- 13 Santa Fe Springs Show
- 13-14 Hemet Shows

2009

January

- 25-2/1 Int'l MidWinter, Pasadena**

February

- 21 Santa Fe Springs Show
- 28 Coachella Valley Show
- 28 NCal Novice *Host: Central California*

March

- 7 Casa Grande Show
- 7 Coachella Valley Show
- 14 Tucson Show
- 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
- 4 Fullerton Shows
- 4 NCWH Divisional (TBA)

May

- 2 SCW Divisional (TBA)
- 9 SCE Divisional (TBA)
- 16 NCENN 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

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

- 6 Tucson Show
- 18-21 FWD Spring Convention**
Open for bid
- Clear all show dates with**
FWD Secretary, Dick Girvin

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

March

- 5 Tucson Show

July

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

2012

March

- 3 Tucson Show

July

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

2013

June

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

2014

June

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

2015

June

- 6/28-7/5 INT'L CONV Nashville, TN

WESTUNES

Magazine

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT
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