



WESTUNES

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

Volume 59

Summer 2009

Number 2



1 Masterpiece



2 Late Show



3 The Crush



4 Stardust



5 Hi-Fidelity



6 The Edge

Ø 7 FWD Quartets Qualify For 2009 International Contest in Anaheim

Late news: Audacity qualified in Evergreen District for International with a score of 76.6%

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



FWD Quartet Scores

Quartet	%
1 Masterpiece	85.8
2 Late Show	80.7
3 The Crush	79.9
4 Stardust	78.7
5 Hi-Fidelity	78.3
6 The Edge	76.3

7 Ready or Not
8 Tahoe Blue
9 Oasis
10 Highlight
11 Brewhouse
12 Equinox
13 RIFF RAFF

71.4
70.2
70.0
69.1
67.7
67.1
65.1

14 Hit
15 PHX
16 spam
17 Joint Venture
18 RatPaQ
19 Good Times!
20 Opus IV

64.7
64.5
64.0
63.2
57.8
52.6
50.2

Late news: Audacity qualified in Evergreen District for International with a score of 76.6%



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- Please identify people in photos clearly.

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Aloha Prescott
San Luis Obispo Visalia

Issue	Deadline	Chapter News Submittal	to Div Editor Deadline
Winter	1 Nov	25 Oct	
Spring	1 Feb	25 Jan	
Summer	1 May	25 Apr	
Fall	1 Aug	25 Jul	

These are new dates for the new
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or use the secure Society website login
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Well, the very first Spring Convention and Preliminary Contest combining two Districts is now history. The Far Western and Rocky Mountain Districts joined forces in Las Vegas on March 20 and 21. Although attendance was somewhat reduced thanks to the national economy, those who were there enjoyed a great weekend of music and fellowship. Six fine quartets from the Far Western District plus two from Rocky Mountain qualified for the International contest in July in Anaheim. The Las Vegas host chapter's City of Lights Chorus was very entertaining, and the High School Quartet Contest was won by the Timbre-Rings of Westview High School with a polished comedy set.

Society President Bill Biffle was the official Society representative for both Districts and somehow managed to appear at two BOD meetings and two House of Delegates meetings to bring the latest news from Nashville on Society doings. I think it would be fair to say that one of President Bill's chief concerns is membership, and he told us he has formed a nationwide task force to study new methods of increasing our numbers. By the way I have initiated a similar program for our District headed by Membership Chair Clark Abrahamson, and I'm sure you'll be hearing more about that in the weeks to come.

In other happenings at the Convention, the Carson City Chapter was awarded the District's Chapter of the Year Award for 2008 for their continuing work with youth and other members of their community. Congratulations on a job well done! Also, after a several months contest and numerous hours of debate, new names were offered for our Divisions to replace the complicated references we have been using. The new titles are simply Northeast Division, Northwest Division, Southeast Division, Southwest Division and Arizona Division and are effective immediately.

Also presented at our Board meeting was a comprehensive report on the results of our Fall Convention Survey, and I know that you'll be pleased to learn that those results were discussed thoroughly, and implementation has already

begun on many of your suggestions to make our conventions even more successful.

This year we are blessed to have our International Convention right down the road in Anaheim, less than a day's drive for most of us, thus saving a bundle in air fares. In addition to the world class competitions and the family fun of Disneyland, there will also be a very special Harmony Foundation Show featuring some of the best singers on the planet. The opening act is the fabulous, International Gold Medal Harborlites chorus followed in succession by The Ambassadors of Harmony, The Masters of Harmony and the Vocal Majority who, between them have won a staggering 19 Gold Medals! To fill the time required to move these choruses on and off the risers, entertainment will be provided by three of their chapter quartets, Vocal Spectrum, OC Times and Max Q! And, for the finale, all three men's choruses will join together for several songs! Truly a once in a lifetime experience!

After seven days of that kind of excitement, you would think there was nothing left to do for the rest of the year. But if you did, you would be wrong. Now comes the summer when we have several opportunities to help improve our singing and performing skills. First is the Society's oldest continuing school, Harmony University, from July 26-August 2 in St. Joseph, Missouri. It's a solid week packed with classes on every facet of our hobby from writing a song to putting on a show to developing personal skills as a singer. If you are unable to devote that much time this year, there will be another opportunity August 21-23 when the Far Western District will present another edition of Harmony College West.

Many of the same class subjects will be offered as well intensive coaching for a number of lucky quartets by some of the finest coaches anywhere. If you have never participated in one of these schools, I strongly urge you to do so. They are not only informative, but great opportunities to interact with other men who love to sing our style of music.

As always, Together in Harmony

**Motto:
Together
in
Harmony!**

FWD Sunshine Chairman Jim Holder

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AUDACITY

2009 International Senior Quartet Champions

Despite their name the members of AUDACITY are rather unpretentious individuals. Perhaps this is reflected in the quartet's easy musical style which they present in a warm, full sound which audiences find compelling and entertaining.

AUDACITY, formed in early 2007, has traveled to Illinois, Colorado, California and Tennessee to compete in various competitions. In Nashville they participated in the 2008 International Quartet Competition, thereby becoming the first Senior level quartet to qualify for this event since the Seniors level category was established in 1986. In October of 2008, they won the Far Western District Senior Quartet championship and qualified to compete in the 2009 Senior Quartet International competition in Pasadena, where they won the coveted Gold Medal. AUDACITY is proud to be your current Senior International Quartet Champions

John Fynmore, a commercial real estate loan officer, sings tenor in the foursome. The lead singer, Byron Bennett, is a regional sales manager for an industrial parts company. Fraser Brown, the baritone, is employed in computer technical support. Bass Greg Dodge's career is in commercial real estate brokerage.

All four men are members of the Greater Phoenix Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Byron has belonged to the Society for 25 years while John, Fraser and Greg are 40 year members.

Ultimately, the listener must decide if AUDACITY is audacious or if they are just four guys who love to share their music with people like you.

For availability and booking information, please contact Greg Dodge at (602) 628-9592 or email AUDACITY at Contact@AudacityQuartet.com. If you prefer stamps and snail-mail, Greg can be reached at 1807 E Vinedo Ln, Tempe AZ 85284-1787.



Jerry Fairchild - FWD Hall of Fame

by Dave Briner

This year's inductee has been a society member for 55 years. He started singing barbershop in his college fraternity quartet at ASU - the Four Phi Sigs. Well, now he knows who he is, so he can get prepared to come on up stage when I announce his name.

He joined the society in the Fontana chapter and was soon in a quartet called the Chord Steelers. Not long after that he started singing tenor with the Sidewinders, who represented the FWD in international competition in 1962 (5th place medalists), in 1963 (3rd place), and 1964, when they won the international championship. By now, I'm guessing most of you know who I'm talking about, unless you're relatively new in the FWD.

In 1959 he joined what became the Riverside Citrus Belters Chorus where he directed them to three FWD chorus championships. Under his direction in the international chorus contests, they placed 5th twice and 6th once. For 10 years he also directed a Sweet Adeline chorus in Redlands called the Citrus Blossoms.

In the 1970s he sang with the popular show quartet RSVP, appearing on many FWD and out-of-district shows. In recent years he sang in an FWD champion senior quartet "4 Old Times Sake" and represented us at International.

This man was instrumental in starting the gospel quartet "Good News" which presented gospel sings at 14 international conventions (1986-2000) and published 7 folios of Gospel barbershop arrangements with accompanying learning tapes.

So he was a great quartet singer and chorus director - but what else did he do for the FWD? Well, he has personally coached quartets and choruses throughout his barbershop career. In an administrative role, he served the district board (2005-2008) as Chairman of Music and Performance. In this role he organized and ran Harmony College West each summer, and other seminars for quartet and chorus director development. After the passing of our beloved Lloyd Steinkamp (also a member of the HOF), this man continued Lloyd's "Standing Ovation" program.

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HOW TO IMPROVE WITHOUT REALLY TRYING

As a member of the Far Western District Board, I am constantly thinking about how our barbershop experience might be improved. We love our hobby, but it can always be better. We could be having more fun, we could be attracting more members, putting on bigger shows, singing better and ... well, I'm sure you have your own thoughts, too. But don't take any notice of the title of this article. That was just an enticement. You're not likely to succeed at anything without really trying. Nothing just happens.

But who is responsible for making changes or improvements? Is it your Chapter leadership? Is it the District Board? The Society Board? Or ... is it you? Hmm. It's probably all of the above because we're a team. We all want the same things. The question is how can we work as a team to achieve our goals?

One of the things I've always enjoyed is listening to peoples' ideas. The more people talk, the more they're likely to come up with stuff. Stuff that can help improve things. But when was the last time your chapter had a meeting just to chat? I would think that meeting at least once a year just to discuss how things are going and trying to elicit ideas from the membership might be a good thing. You could call it a town hall meeting or a brainstorming session or a state of the chapter discussion. However you describe it, it could be an event that accomplishes a great deal. You should try it some time. You'd be amazed what might come out of it.

There's another way to come up with ideas and plans, too. It also involves guys meeting one another, but this time in smaller groups. How about groups meeting once a month, or once a quarter, for dinner before rehearsal. Chat about things. Come up with ideas – membership recruitment, show content, how to get more gigs, whatever. And don't

assume it's only chapter leaders who can come up with stuff. If properly encouraged, every man in the chapter could be a hero. The key word is "encourage". Ever hear the expression "well nobody ever asked me before"? How sad is that. In every chorus there is untapped energy and knowledge that could be put to good use. You should try that, too.

So I guess my message is to ask you to start talking. Involve as many men as you can. Hear what people have to say and then put the good stuff to work. You and your chapter are sure to benefit. And your chapter will grow, not only in numbers, but musically and funwise (is there such a word? Who cares. You get the idea). Let me know if you have any success with these ideas. I know they work.



Carson City Director Jim Crowley and President Dave Ramer with the FWD Chapter of the Year Trophies

Carson City received the FWD Chapter of the Year award at the Spring Convention in Las Vegas. Carson City has grown significantly in the last three years and is an avid supporter of Youth In Harmony in their area. The local high school chorus appears regularly on their annual show. They supported a chorus of young men who participated in the International Youth Chorus Contest at MidWinter in Pasadena in January 2009. Two student directors conducted the chorus in contest [how about that?]. Well done, Carson City.

**International Convention in Anaheim
June 28 - July 25, 2009
FWD: 6 Quartets 2 Choruses Will Compete
Come Witness ALL the Competitors!**

HOWARD MESECHER 1922-2008

Born in Davenport, Iowa in 1922. Played French Horn in his High School concert and marching band and later played in the military band.

Howard attended Kutztown State Teachers College in 1943-44 while in the U.S. Army Air Force. He then went overseas in the Infantry as a Sergeant and fought in the "Battle of the Bulge". After getting out of the hospital and a short time in the U.S. Government Sector of Berlin, he attended the Shrivenham American University in England where he also played the French Horn in the orchestra.

Howard joined the Society in 1952 and soon became a Chorus Director. His chorus sang in the Atlanta & New Orleans Int'l Chorus Contests. As a Voice Expression Judge and later an Interpretation Judge, he was elected to the CSD Hall of Fame. He served as Int'l C&J Chairman in 1967 thru 1971 during which time the Voice Expression category was revised to the Interpretation category. Howard was also Eastern Iowa VP from 1970-72. While serving as the director of the Davenport Chordbuster Chorus he sang in three quartets, the ViCounts, The Hub-Bubs and the Sounds of Music.

Howard and Ethel moved to Fresno, California in 1972 where he directed the chorus from 1972 to 1978, was FWD VP 1976-79 and was Fresno Chapter President 1986-87. He was sought after as a coach, even traveling as far as Australia & New Zealand as a Judge and Coach.

Mesecher served as FWD C&J Chairman from 1984 to 1987, was co-founder of the Chorus Directors Guild, was the first chairman of the FWD Senior Quartet Contest, is an Int'l Judge Emeritus, was an Area Counselor, and was elected to the FWD Hall of Fame for the year 1987.

Howard moved from Fresno to Cherry Valley, CA in 1990, where he was instrumental in forming the Hemet Harmonizers Chapter. He was active as their Director, Script Writer, Arranger and Board Member until the time of his death.

Howard and Ethel had six children: Shirley, Theresa, Rosalie, Thomas, Donald and Jacquelyn. Shirley, Theresa and Rosalie precede him in death. He is survived by his wife and other three children. Howard and Ethel celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary in November shortly before his death on December 3, 2008.

JIM McKEE 1929 – 2009

Born on May 1, 1929 in Seattle, Washington. At the age of 13 the family moved to Santa Ana, CA. His family were members of the Salvation Army church. Jim had the ability to play almost every brass instrument in the band, as well as several woodwind instruments in the symphony orchestra. Jim attended college in Long Beach and sang with a gospel quartet "The Harmonaires". He and Marilyn Waldron married in 1949 and they had four children, Michael [died in infancy], Steve, Sherry, and Brad.

Jim was one of the original Directors of the Crystal Cathedral Choir in Anaheim, directed the Long Beach Sweet Adeline Chorus, and was instrumental in forming the Southern California Novice Quartet Contest. He was very active with the Riverside Citrus Belters as a Director, singer, arranger during the late 70's and early 80's. Jim was instrumental in forming and directing the Redlands Chapter.

Active for many years in the Society's Contest and Judging Program. Jim was on the committee for changing the Sound category to the Singing category.

Jim and Marilyn went their separate ways and in 1976 he married Ruth McCormick who had four children; Patti, Robin, Donna, and Alec. He actively participated in the raising of all seven children from managing baseball, working with the Redlands Band Boosters, even escorting son Alec to China for a band competition. He had the opportunity to sing with his son Steve in the Citrus Belters, and with his son-in-law Ron Criswell and grandson Kevin in "Short Stuff and Company" quartet. Jim and Ruth sang together in a mixed octet called "The Marriage Go Round".

Jim was well known for his singing for 10 years with the very popular quartet the "RSVP", consisting of Bruce Maxey, Jim, Bob Henshaw, and Jerry Fairchild. The "RSVP" sang with Meredith Wilson, author and composer of the "Music Man" in Riverside; sang at the Don Ho restaurant in Honolulu; sang in Anchorage, Alaska, and many other out of the area shows. During his 62 years as a Society member, Jim arranged over 100 songs which he gave away (not a dime in compensation) to anyone that wanted one. Jim was elected to the FWD Hall of Fame for the year 1989.

In 2001 the "For Old Times Sake" quartet consisting of Ron Criswell, Jim, Bruce Maxey, and Jerry Fairchild won the Senior Quartet contest. Jim was one of the finest "woodshedders" around, and could sing all four parts to any song, (and tell you where YOUR note should be).

**FWD Fall Convention in Sacramento
October 8-11, 2009
Quartets & Choruses Will Compete
for the FWD Championship Crown**



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Hi Everybody,
 I hope you all remain healthy and happy.

Great News from the International Office and Mike O'Neill regarding Director's College. We have the MOST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS going to Director's College this summer. They are: Jay Ayers, Jason Dyer, Bill Borah, Neal Palmer, Duncan Gilman, Collin McKinney, Jan Young, Ronald LaMar, Adam Kitt, Jim Browne, Bobbette Gantz, and Robert Hartley. These directors will join many others in their quest to improve their rehearsal techniques for improved chorus performance. Director's college also helps fulfill many of the requirements for certification.

CDWI comes to Southern Oregon. If there is a director from our district that would like to share in this experience with them, they have 2 spots open for FWD Directors and would love to have you join in the fun. If you are interested in spending part of August 8th honing your skills in a CDWI, please contact me immediately so I can pass the information along to Bob Robson from the Evergreen District. For those of you who have not experienced a CDWI, besides being a great tool for refreshing ideas and tips for improvement, it is also one of the steps toward certification.

Yes, I did resign from directing San Fernando Valley. I asked President Lally and EVP Bernard Priceman if they wished me to resign from my position with the DMT, and both have reassured me that they wish me to continue serving as your Chairman for CDD. I am currently scoping out my options as a singer and potentially as a director.

IT IS OK TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FWD YOUTH EDUCATION FUND



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The Numbers:

Current Membership: 2923 – Down only 8 for the year so far. Could the downward trend be slowing?

We had 30 Chapters with membership gains, 32 with losses, and 24 with no change. That's also a positive trend, compared with previous months/years. Leading the charge so far is Redding, with a +6! Must be the clean air up north...

One more reason for hope – our Society's average new member age is down, from 47.15 in 2008 to 46.23 presently, reflecting a downward trend in our overall average age, from 62 to 59. Maybe we should be thinking of pacifiers with built-in pitch pipes?

Question – can we keep it up? Dang right!

Changes a-comin'?

I recently attended a "Membership Summit" in Nashville, along with twenty-some of the Society's best and brightest, the purpose of which was to examine what's wrong with our membership picture, and how best to change it. The Far Western District was well represented, including Keith Eckhardt, Ron Black (who's back in the District, thank goodness), yours truly, and, via telephone connection, Connie Keil.

There were some big, bodacious ideas floating around, representing some potentially major changes in the way we do business on all levels. The next step is for a Task Force, charged with analyzing the results and proposing appropriate actions, to move forward with the strategies and tactics to effect change. By the time you read this, some of the results will likely have been published – maybe even acted upon. Exciting stuff – stay tuned.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch...

On the local level, we're planning chapter-specific "Membership Workshop-Intensive" sessions, aimed at helping YOUR Chapter with YOUR membership issues. Again, by the time you read this, the program should be underway, and you'll hear about it.

...see 'ya around...



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The last few months of 2008 and the beginning of 2009 proved to be a great time for Music and Performance in our District. First of all, the fall contests were remarkable. It truly showed that the work and effort put forth by each member of each chorus and quartet was worthwhile. I applaud everyone who competed. Each of you improved musically with every rehearsal and every coaching session. Remember that any competition is more about what gets learned by the competitors on their journey, than the final outcome.

Secondly, we had five choruses who took advantage of the District's "Coaching Reimbursement Program." Each Chapter Music and Performance VP who attended

the Leadership Academy last fall is aware of how to get your chapter reimbursed for up to \$300 per year for expenses incurred for chorus coaches. If you need more information, contact me and I will walk you through the steps to reimbursement.

Four of our chapters also took advantage of the Standing Ovation Program (created by our own hero Lloyd Steinkamp) during the holiday season, and two more have just completed the Review. Those chapters contacted me and asked me to schedule one of our trained reviewers to attend their Christmas Show or Annual Show. Each of the chapters were thrilled to realize that their efforts had been well received by the audience, and they were receptive to the constructive comments provided to them by the reviewers. Make sure to contact me early if you would like me to set up a Standing Ovation Review for your Chapter's upcoming annual show.

Lastly, we have just finalized the date for Harmony College West. During the weekend of August 21-23, Cal State East Bay (formerly Cal State Hayward) will be the home for our annual school. We will have the usual classes, as well as some new ones. We have confirmed VOCAL SPECTRUM as guest quartet and clinicians, (as well as the best International-level coaches for our quartets) and the greatest faculty teaching our classes. Look for the ads in this Westunes and at the District website online for registration and more information.



Chair : Young Men In Harmony
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Wanted: Singing Grandpas

One thing we've learned over the years is that grade school kids love barbershop. They identify with the joy of making music, and that joy can last a lifetime.

While much of our youth outreach activity is focused at the high school level, where voices have changed and we can teach parts, the planting of the seeds of singing starts much earlier—and you don't have to sing like OC Times to make a lasting impression. The kids appreciate fun music being presented by men of the same ages as their fathers and grandfathers. The teachers appreciate the lesson that singing is an activity that can be enjoyed over a lifetime.

And thinking long term, it never hurts to spread the gospel of harmony in our communities.

I'll bet there's at least one quartet in every chapter made up of retired guys who can do daytime gigs, and who could have a ball visiting grade schools as "Singing Grandpas."

Several years ago when Bill Rashleigh was on the Society staff, he put together a "Seniors Quartet Elementary School Package" which includes pointers for success, a song list, even a script that can be followed. The approach basically is to be light-hearted and fun. Song suggestions include such numbers as Bill Grogan's Goat, Coney Island Baby, and Please Mr. Columbus, Turn the Ship Around. There can be singalong songs such as I've Been Working On The Railroad, and Row, Row Row Your Boat as a round. Most quartets have uptunes in their repertoire that would fit. The Society's Introduction to Barbershop Singing for Youth songbook can be an excellent source if the students are at the middle-school level, ready for one- and two-part harmonies.

Anyone who's delivered a Singing Valentine to a grade school teacher knows how thrilled and enraptured the kids are. They aren't growing up singing in the car, or around the family piano, like many of us did—so the happy surprise reaction is all the more intense.

I'll be happy to send a copy of the Rashleigh guide to anyone interested in promoting a singing grandpas quartet. Pick a school. Go for it.



HIGH SCHOOL QUARTET CONTEST

by Paul Girard

The 19th Annual Far Western District High School Quartet Contest (HSQC) was a wonderful event at this year's Side

By Side Joint Spring Convention of the Far Western and Rocky Mountain Districts in Las Vegas March 21, 2009. Five inspiring quartets from across the district competed. The winning quartet was the Timbre-Rings from Westview High School in San Diego, sponsored by the La Jolla chapter. They are Peter Yoon (Bass), Mark Suennen (Bari), Jacob Haren (Lead) and Cameron Sczempka (Tenor).

This impressive quartet was provided with music to I Got Rhythm in early December 2008. Based on YouTube videos of the 1999 International Barbershop Quartet champions, FRED, performing this song, they crafted their own choreography and performed it on their school's Romance Concert in late January, where the Ringmasters also performed. Their blend was resounding and the San Diego County Youth In Harmony coordinator, Paul Girard, was astounded and encouraged them to enter the HSQC. In six weeks, they learned a second song, Love Me And The World Is Mine. They were coached by Mike Lawton, the baritone of Revival, the 1998 International Barbershop Quartet champions, to refine the whole package. Their tonality, blend and just plain in-tune singing put them head-and-shoulders above the competition. They were rewarded \$500 for their school music program and received the FWD HSQC trophy. This year the trophy has been renamed in honor of Lloyd Steinkamp, who started the FWD HSQC in 1991 when he was FWD President. The photo shows the quartet with Judy Steinkamp, who was just delighted that the trophy had been won by a quartet from her and Lloyd's hometown.



Karen Childress-Evans accepts Music Educator Award of Excellence from FWD YIH Chairman John Krizek. See her acceptance letter on page 9



San Diego Unified School District

MISSION BEACH CENTER

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Karen Childress-Evans, Ed.S.

Director of Visual & Performing Arts

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

kchildressevans@sandi.net

Young Men Who Sing Barbershop Become Chick Magnets

Taken from the speech at the *Side By Side Joint Spring Convention*
of the *Far Western and Rocky Mountain Districts* in Las Vegas March 21, 2009
in acceptance of the Music Educator Award of Excellence

Thank you so much for this prestigious award. I was certainly surprised and flattered to have been selected. And I am delighted to be here to hear these wonderful high school quartets. I would like to thank Mr. Paul Girard for his tireless work and diligence to get young men singing together in the San Diego Unified School District. I have been involved with Barbershop for a number of years now, singing substitute tenor in my husband's quartet. And through my experience, I have had the pleasure of meeting some of the finest gentlemen who can sing, and Paul is one of them.

I have been in education for over 37 years, and I can share first-hand knowledge of the youth of today. Our young people, especially our boys and young men, are challenged daily with the need to belong, peer pressures, self-esteem issues, excelling in school, not to mention the myriad of other personal issues they bring from home.

In Barbershop, I have seen numerous examples of men of all ages bonding through music and harmony, humor and antics, team work and performance. When men sing together, it is a powerful experience both for the participant as well as the performer. The focus is constructive, the outcome is rewarding, and the experience is amazing. Isn't that what we want for our young men? With the constant social, emotional, and moral pressures on our young men to join gangs today, aren't Barbershop groups the preferred kind of "gangs" we want our young men to join?

Research continues to show that music makes our kids successful. Students who are involved with music have a greater chance of staying in school, do better academically, are less likely to have discipline problems, have better self-esteem, are more self-confident and cooperative, and demonstrate lower stress levels. I would like to see in my school district of 133,000 students, groups of young men in every school, meeting regularly to sing together. Instead of cutting music, our district needs to increase the opportunities for our students to access music.

I encourage everyone here this afternoon to go back to your community schools, seek out the music directors and help them build their choral ensembles. Our teachers don't have the time these days to do it alone. They are way too busy with performances and scheduling. What they need are people who can help recruit more young men into their programs, help teach the literature to their kids, and become mentors for their students. I hope that every one of you will go back Monday, contact your local choral teacher and ask what you can do to help get their young men to sing.

Barbershop is a fun, exciting and wholesome experience for our young men. Singing gives young men poise, confidence, and leadership skills. And what young man today does not secretly yearn to be a chick magnet? Barbershop builds chick magnets. And that's a good thing.

Color us entertaining!



The Perfect Gentlemen have a special genius for close harmony. Even better, they can make you laugh your head off. What a wonderful group."

*~ John Lithgow
Tony and Emmy Award-Winning Actor*

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People seen around the International Spring Preliminary Contest and Convention in Las Vegas.



People seen around the International Spring Preliminary Contest and Convention in Las Vegas.



2008 FWD Chorus Champions Voices in Harmony

by Max Bates

The Voices in Harmony chorus as an organization and chorus is in its adolescence compared to many chapters and chorus throughout the Far Western District.

Starting in 2005 there was a yearning in two San Francisco bay area barbershop choruses to revitalize their chapters and strive for a more fulfilling chorus experience. There were several joint discussions between the San Jose Garden City Chorus and the Bay Area Metro Pot of Gold Chorus to explore the possibility of combining choruses. The desire was to breathe new life into the musical experience of active and inactive chorus members, to increase the visibility of barbershop harmony in the bay area and to develop and master new skills that would, at the same time reward audiences and performers alike.

As in many circumstances of life, timing was everything. At the same time the joint chapter discussions were going on, Dr. Greg Lyne was looking for refuge from Kenosha's cold.

In the winter of 2005 Dr. Lyne was invited to California to direct a combined San Jose and Bay Area Metro chorus Christmas program in Livermore, CA. As we sang in that first "rehearsal" it was apparent to most everyone, that if Dr. Lyne decided to move to Northern California, we had much to learn and change to be able to make music in the "Lyne" fashion.

The chapters were combined, Voices in Harmony (VIH) was formed and Dr. Lyne did come to Northern California and agreed to direct this chorus. The first rehearsals were in January 2006 and by spring the chorus qualified to compete in San Jose at the district contest and finished second behind Westminster. VIH score in the district contest garnered an invitation to compete in the International Chorus contest in Denver, CO in the summer of 2007. Not yet two years old, the chorus placed 6th and came home to learn and improve.

The following fall of 2008 in Phoenix, VIH was able to become chorus champions of the FWD. The International chorus con-

test in Nashville was remarkable, for this still fledgling group, and despite fireworks (literally) during the ballad presentation VIH received the third place bronze medal for the contest performance. What a thrill.... Probably the first time that two of the first three places at an International chorus contest came from the same district. There is a statement about other pursuits in life that may apply here..."it will not be easy, but it will be worth it". Dr. Lyne demands of each chorus member, that which he believes you have the capacity to give, most often that level requires serious effort to obtain.

There are many, many who have led, directed, pulled, cajoled and otherwise encouraged the efforts of VIH, not the least of these are the administrative team members who have at the ready any and every administrative tool to be applied in the situations at hand.

It has been a delight to sing Clay Hine arrangements and to have those arrangements molded in the hands of Dr. Lyne. In addition, to have Cindy Hansen choreography augment and magnify the vocal performance.

There have also been other coaches from outside of the chorus who have blessed VIH with their knowledge and talent. Among those coaches were Jeff Baker, Brett Littlefield, Rik Johnson, and Allan Gordon.

VIH is looking forward to the International convention in Anaheim in July and is working hard to represent the FWD befitting of FWD pride and talent.

This past year as FWD chorus champions has been extremely rewarding, both in front of audiences large and small, young and old; and in the concentration and effort necessary during "ordinary" rehearsals. To feel the raw emotion generated by embracing a tender ballad as interpreted by Dr. Lyne's talented hands makes the "hard" work very rewarding.

Perhaps harmony is more than a description of sympathetic pitches but also uniting of voices and hearts..... Thanks for the HARMONY.

Rocky Mountain District



The FWD International Preliminary Convention in Las Vegas was combined with the Rocky Mountain District [RMD] on a trial basis. One benefit for us here in the FWD was the opportunity to witness some of the best quartets in RMD, and we were not disappointed. Both Storm Front and McPhly qualified to compete in Anaheim [you are going, aren't you?]. The other quartets performed ably and we appreciate them taking the time and travel to be with us. The RMD Scores follow:

RMD Final Scores

Quartet	%
1 Storm Front	84.0
2 McPhly	81.9
3 The Summit	72.8
4 Fastlane	64.3
5 Vocal Mischief	58.7
6 Brass Ring	53.8

RMD College Quartets also competed to represent the district in Anaheim in July. Congratulations to Revolution for qualifying.

RMD College Quartet Scores

Quartet	%
1 Revolution	73.6
2 Cosmo	63.6



RMD College Quartet Revolution



RMD College Quartet Cosmo



In Recognition of

OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENT

Presented To

KEITH ECKHARDT

For His Unselfish Devotion As Webmaster For The Far Western District Since 2001, His Continued Work In Raising Funds For The YIH Program, Being Active As The Convention Activities Chairman and As A Member Of The FWD Long Range Planning Committee. Keith Has Also Been Working With The Society Ebiz Team To Help Improve The Ebiz Website.

**FAR WESTERN DISTRICT
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
MARCH 20, 2009**

is the way the plaques reads. The picture captures Keith and Lorraine [his wife of 45 years] during the presentation ceremony. The FWD is fortunate to have men like Keith who give much more of their lives than “average” for the benefit of their fellow Barbershoppers in both the FWD and the BHS.

Some more background about Keith’s Barbershop career follows.

Keith and family moved to Placerville, CA in 1993 and he submitted his membership to the Society at

his first Barbershop chapter meeting. Over the next 16 years he held many chapter positions including President, Music & Performance VP, Marketing & PR VP, Librarian, and acting Membership VP. He was the 1999 Placerville Chapter BOTY and the Placerville Chapter was the 2003 FWD Chapter of the Year during this presidency.

In 2001 Keith approached then FWD Webmaster Tom McGarray to see if he could be an assistant. Tom agreed and suggested a short time later that Keith take over. A big thanks to Tom for initiating the district website.

The webmaster task kindled Keith’s interest in district activities. He created the “I’ll Sing With You” buttons which raised over \$2200 for YMIH. He also ran the IQ [I Quartet] sticker event that facilitated men singing. He was presented the President’s Award in 2003. Not having enough to do, Keith assumed the task of Convention Activities Chairman and then became a part of the Long Range Planning Committee. He also created an online method to apply for the Bachelor of Harmony award with the result that over 130 men earned the award for leadership.

Keith also initiated the monthly online eNews newsletter that focuses on future events. While not doing the above, he serves as the Harmony College West Webmaster and Administrator. And, recently he has been working with the BHS ebiz team to improve the ebiz website.

Keith sang in a number of quartets, including one with his son Kirk. With two other sons who also sing well, there may be an Eckhardt quartet in the future after Keith and Lorraine relocate to the Monterrey area in the not too distant future.

Keith considers Valentine’s Day the best Barbershop day of the year.



Voices in Harmony, Bay Area, CA



Greater Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ

**Order of Appearance for the
International Chorus Contest
in Anaheim, CA (revised)**

1st Session:

Mic-Tester Chorus: Independence, OH - Men of Independence

2nd Session:

Mic-Tester Chorus: Honolulu, HI - Sounds of Aloha

1. Salem, OR – SenateAires
2. Nashville, TN - Music City Chorus
3. Greater Toronto, ON - MegaCity Chorus
4. Bristol, England BABS - Great Western Chorus
5. Providence, RI - Narragansett Bay Chorus
6. Tampa, FL - Heralds of Harmony
7. Dallas Metro, TX - Vocal Majority
8. Northbrook, IL - New Tradition
9. Denver, CO - Sound of the Rockies
10. Elizabethtown, KY - Kentucky Vocal Union
- 11. Greater Phoenix, AZ - Spirit of Phoenix**
12. Alexandria, VA - Alexandria Harmonizers
13. Greendale, WI - Midwest Vocal Express
14. Central Texas Corridor, TX - Heart of Texas
15. Hilltop, MN - Great Northern Union

16. Toronto, ON - Toronto Northern Lights
17. Minneapolis, MN - Commodores
18. Bellevue, WA - Northwest Sound
19. Batavia, NY - Vocal Agenda
20. Stockholm, Sweden SNOBS - zero8
21. Mount Pleasant, MI - Mountaintown Singers
22. Wellington, New Zealand - Vocal FX
23. Cincinnati Western Hills, OH - Southern Gateway Chorus
24. Atlanta Metro, GA - Atlanta Vocal Project
- 25. Bay Area, CA - Voices in Harmony**
26. St. Charles, MO - Ambassadors of Harmony
27. Wasatch Front, UT - Saltaires
28. Greater Central, OH - The Alliance
29. Bloomington, IL - Sound of Illinois



2008 International Chorus Champions Masters of Harmony

by Ron Larson

Spring is a season for new growth, new possibilities and new opportunities, and indeed, it has brought all of those to the Masters of Harmony family.

On January 31, the Masters performed their Nashville contest set at the 2009 International Midwinter Convention in Pasadena's historic Civic Auditorium. OC Times and the Masters were the final performers at the convention and the large audience that stayed late into Saturday night showered the performances of both reigning champions with enthusiastic, sustained applause.

On February 21, the Masters once again provided logistical and coaching support for the 9th Annual Young Men's Harmony Festival, held on the campus of Orange Coast College. This all-day clinic helps support choral music education in local schools. Over 200 young men ranging in age from 14 to 18, representing 24 schools located in five Southern California counties, took part in this unique festival. Four schools were attending for the first time—an indication that word is spreading about how much fun this event is. Ken Potter, Justin Miller and Alan Gordon joined Mark Freedkin as clinicians and directors during the daylong events. That evening, the attendees got a chance to put what they learned on display by themselves, witness performances by four high school quartets, OC Times, The Crush, and Masterpiece, then join the Masters on stage for the concert finale. Feedback from the students, parents, and teachers involved in the festival has been overwhelmingly positive. Much of the success of this festival is due to the many hours of tireless effort put in by Mark Freedkin during the year to promote and organize the festival, now a model for similar programs throughout the country. In the nine years of this event, just over 1,900 students from 97 different schools have participated in one or more of the festivals. Some of the chords rung in the classrooms

and halls of Orange Coast College on festival days will undoubtedly inspire some of these young men to seek opportunities to ring more chords at barbershop chapters around the country. Indeed, some of them will have found a hobby they can share with family and friends for the rest of their lives.

On March 28, the Masters assembled at the Citrus College recording studio for a recording session designed to add the final songs for a CD to be released at the 2009 International Convention in Anaheim. In the sound booth were Glen Glancy and Bill Lightner of Omni Recording, who have recorded all of the Masters CDs, and who are to music recording what Erin Howden is to choreography. Fortunately, the often-grueling recording sessions went so well that no Sunday session was necessary, much to the relief of all in attendance!

On April 27, twenty-three Masters men met at a Westminster bowling alley for an evening of fun, fellowship and pizza, away from the rigors of Wednesday evenings on the risers. Kudos go to Scott Hansen for organizing and promoting the event, and to Glenn Hennessy, who had the evening's top score. Some of the participants were bowling for the first time and others struggled to recover long unused bowling muscle memory. While strikes and spares were in short supply, there was an ample supply of enthusiastic high fives when they occurred and for other efforts deemed worthy.

Since the last report, Rob Campbell, Johnathan Littlefield, Kevin Price and Josh Szolomayer have become members of the Masters of Harmony.

**International Convention in Anaheim
June 28 - July 5, 2009
Hosted by The Masters of Harmony
Quartet Contest Chorus Contest
College Quartet Contest
Larry Ajer Show Master's Class
AIC Show and MORE**

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT 2009 FALL CONTEST AND CONVENTION

Contests and Show

District Quartet Contest
District Chorus Contest
District Senior Quartet Contest
Show of Champions


HOSTED BY THE
Sacramento Capitolaire
OCTOBER 8-11, 2009
Memorial Auditorium
Sacramento, CA

Meetings and Events

District Board Meeting
House of Delegates Meeting
Past District Presidents Meeting
AH-SOW

REGISTRATION PRICES		<u>HOTEL INFORMATION</u>
ALL CONTESTANTS MUST BUY AN ALL EVENTS REGISTRATION FOR THE APPLICABLE AGE GROUP		All reservations must be made through the Sacramento Convention and Visitors Bureau Fax: 916-808-8414 or online at www.fwdconventions.org
ALL EVENTS EARLY BIRD (Postmarked by September 8 th)	ALL EVENTS LATE / ON SITE (Postmarked after September 8 th)	
ALL EVENTS: Adult\$40.00 Student (under 23).....\$20.00 Non-member under 13Free	ALL EVENTS: Adult.....\$50.00 Student (under 23).....\$25.00 Non-member under 13..... Free SINGLE EVENT \$25.00 each	

2009 FAR WESTERN DISTRICT FALL CONTEST AND CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s)	Chapter or City:	Member	Guest	Child/Student	District Officer	Chapter Delegate	AFWDC / VIP	Amount Due	
*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
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*Address									
City	State								Zip
Email	Phone								
Competing with:									

Mail one form for your party (up to eight names per sheet), and a check covering all registrations to:

AL TREADWAY - FALL REGISTRATIONS
11545 Lacey Rd. Galt, CA 95632

☐ Check here if you have a disability that may require accommodation in order for you to fully participate in the convention.

Make check payable to: **Sacramento Capitolaire** or include CC info below. **TOTAL ENCLOSED:**

☐ Visa ☐ M/C Number Card Expiration Signature

Find online order link at fwdconventions.org. Questions? Call 916-687-0390 or e-mail registrar@fwdconventions.org

You may FAX your Credit Card orders to: 916-687-0390

Barbershop Harmony Society - 2009 Far West District Fall Convention**October 8-10, 2009 - Sacramento, CA****HOTEL RESERVATION FORM**

BHS has blocked rooms at the following hotels for this event. *All rooms are subject to \$1.50 per room per night STBID Assessment and 12% Occupancy Tax.* Reservations can be made through the Sacramento Convention & Visitors Bureau using this form either by fax, email or regular mail.

HOTEL	ADDRESS	SINGLE 1per./1bed	DOUBLE 2ppl/1bed	DBL/DBL 2ppl/2bds	TRIPLE 3ppl/2bds	QUAD 4ppl/2 bds
Hyatt Regency	1209 L Street	\$139	\$139	\$139	\$164	\$164
Sheraton Grand	1230 J Street	\$139	\$139	\$139	\$164	\$189
Residence Inn Capitol Park	1501 L Street	\$129	\$129	\$129	--	--
Holiday Inn Express	728 16 th Street	--	--	\$99	\$109	\$109
Clarion Mansion Inn	700 16 th Street	\$86	\$86	\$86	\$86	\$86
BW Sutter House	1100 H Street	\$86.99	\$86.99	\$86.99	\$94.99	\$102.99
Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza	300 J Street	\$119	\$119	\$119	\$129	\$139

Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. The sooner you send your request in, the better your chances are of getting your first choice hotel. NOTE: Reservations cannot be made by telephone. Use one form per room requested.

DEADLINE: The last day to make reservations and receive the discounted rates is Sept. 17, 2009.

PAYMENT: You need to use a credit card to guarantee your reservation or send a check in the amount of one night's stay plus tax to hold your room. Checks should be made payable to: **Sacramento CVB-Housing.**

If a credit card is being used, please fill out the following: (NOTE: Your card will not be charged until check-in.)

Type of card: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Card #: _____

Name on card/Signature: _____

Name: I. _____

Please list any additional guests' names below:

Church Name: _____

2. _____

Address: _____

3. _____

City/State/Zip: _____

4. _____

Phone #: _____

ARRIVAL DATE: _____

E-mail: _____

DEPARTURE DATE: _____

ROOM CHOICE: (Circle one) SINGLE DOUBLE DBL/DBL TRIPLE QUAD

HOTEL CHOICE: Mark in order of preference, first (1) through seventh (7):

Hyatt Regency _____ Sheraton Grand _____ Holiday Inn Express _____ Clarion _____

BW Sutter House _____ Residence Inn _____ Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza _____

Please list any special needs &/or requests you may have: _____

Mail form to: Sacramento Convention & Visitors Bureau

1608 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

ATTN: Housing-Barbershop

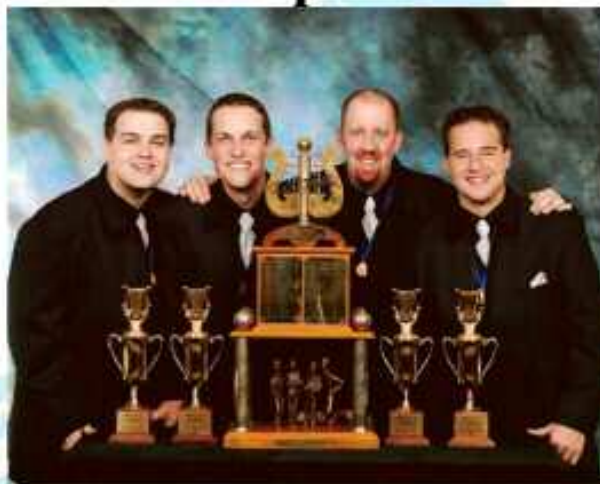
Or FAX to: 916-808-8414 ATTN: Housing-Barbershop

Or email to: jreilly@cityofsacramento.org (Julie Reilly) or jpudoff@cityofsacramento.org (Joline Pudoff)

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FAR WESTERN DISTRICT QUARTET AND CHORUS CONTEST AND CONVENTION MARCH 18-21, 2010 - Pioneer Center for Performing Arts

Contests and Shows

International Quartet Prelims
NE Division Chorus & Quartet
Contest
High School Quartet Contest
Show of Champions

HOSTED BY THE

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Meetings and Events

District Board Meeting
House of Delegates Meeting
AH-SOW
Youth Afterglow

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NOTE: ALL CONTESTANTS MUST BUY AN ALL EVENTS REGISTRATION.

ALL EVENTS EARLY BIRD
Postmarked by February 17

ALL EVENTS:
Adult \$40.00
Student (under 23) \$20.00

ALL EVENTS LATE/ONSITE
Postmarked after February 17

ALL EVENTS:
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March 19 and 20 - \$89

2010 FAR WESTERN DISTRICT SPRING CONTEST AND CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Res. () _____

Phone Bus. () _____

E-mail address _____

Chorus Name: _____

Quartet Name: _____

- ☐ District Officer
- ☐ Past District President
- ☐ Delegate HOD
- ☐ AFWDC Member
- ☐ Other

Mail one form for your party (up to 8 names),
and a check covering all registrations to:

Questions? Email: d-s.whitten@sbcglobal.net

Dick Whitten, Registration Chairman
7022 Cinnamon Drive,
Sparks, NV 89436

☐ **Check here if you have a disability that may require accommodation in order for you to fully participate in the convention.**

Make check payable to: Reno Silver Dollar Chorus, 2010 SPRING CONVENTION

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____ (fees are non-refundable)

Immediate Past President



Bill Cale

**9951 River View Circle
Stockton, CA 95209
209-473-2326
WKCALE@aol.com**

Chair FWD Nominating Committee

Gentlemen: It is that time of year when the Nominating Committee has to do it's most serious work. We need to submit to the Board of Directors, and then the House of Delegates, a slate of officers to lead the best and most important district in the barbershop Harmony Society. We are open to and, in fact encourage your input. We have not yet started our list for this year's elections, although we have a number of wonderful men in mind with whom we've already communicated. Please, send us your suggestions as they could very well fit into future plans if not our immediate ones.

In addition, we are attempting to build a data base of individuals who are capable and interested in serving as leader, assistant or helper in any of our functional committees, e.g. CSLT, Marketing, Member Services, etc. Come on aboard, it can be fun and satisfying and a way to pay back this wonderful hobby for all it's done for you.

Over the winter, some of the Past District Presidents met to review and discuss the surveys and comments accumulated by Keith Eckhardt after last Fall's District Convention. Thank you so much to all of you who participated in the surveys. We submitted a report to the FWD BOD in Las Vegas and considerable action is being taken as a result. I need to go a bit further in discussing two particular areas of member and administrative concern.

First, the dissatisfaction with facilities can only be corrected by the membership. Strong statement, but how does our Events Team know where to book a convention? We need chapters to step up and bid to

host a convention and do it far enough in advance all details can be worked out.

Second, there seems to be a feeling of entitlement among some members that hospitality rooms are to be run for them by someone else and a schedule should be published. Many years ago hospitality rooms began as places for chapters to retire among themselves, relax and sing after the rigors of competition. The refreshments were minimal and often brought in by individuals and a "kitty" was usually in evidence. The hotels made some meeting rooms available, depending on the contract. The rooms were not closed, but it was pretty much understood you went to your chapter's room. The quartets made the rounds and auditioned for chapter shows. The only chapter I'm aware of that has continued this practice is Reno. Your District President is provided with a suite so he can host the BOD and other leaders after their meetings. He also uses the suite for small meetings during the weekend. This suite is always provided as part of the convention contract with the hotel and any refreshments available are paid for personally by the District President. The quartets always come by as a traditional salute to the administration.

Years ago, the first time I went to the President's room, it was by invitation.

Please, FWD Chapters, get back on the hospitality train. The room doesn't need to be huge or fancy and the refreshment doesn't have to be extensive. You'll have a great time and the quartets will love you for it. Post your own sign on the bulletin board you'll be seeing in the registration area. Just think, maybe we won't have one hallway jammed with people trying to sing or get into someone else's hospitality room. You'll have private performances in your own hospitality room by some of the best quartets in the world. See you in Sacramento!

**FWD Fall Convention in Sacramento
October 8-11, 2009
Quartets & Choruses Will Compete
for the FWD Championship Crown**

Youth Harmony Camp 2009

by Richard Lund
Director, Youth Harmony Camp



Realtime, 2005 International Champs will join us for a second time this year at Youth Harmony Camp 2009, September 25-27, 2009 at Sly Park Educational Center in Pollock Pines, California. Gary Bolles, Music Dean, Connie Keil, Mark Freedkin and Ron Black will make up our incredible team of top Barbershop Clinicians.

Changing lives! Harmony Camp changes lives! We all know of Cory Hunt, Shawn York (OC Times), James Sabina (Metropolis), Jordan Litz (Late Show) and innumerable others whose lives have been directly affected and changed for the better because of Harmony Camp! The latest example of that phenomenon is, of course, Jason Dyer, bass of Epic (14th place collegiate quartet in Nashville). Jason has “taken off” and is following in those hallowed footsteps of those mentioned above. However, Jason is breaking his own path toward barbershop stardom by an early interest in directing. In addition to his performing prowess already demonstrated, Jason has done the near impossible of creating a new youth chorus that he is directing! When was the last time we saw a young college guy pull together a brand new chorus and direct that chorus. We’re with you Jason all the way!

But I also want to share with you another example of incredible success. I won’t use his name, but since Harmony Camp, barbershop provides “Joe”

direction in life. What a wonderful voice. He, along with three other young men put together a high school quartet and went out and took the contest by storm. This experience caused an incredible change in “Joe’s” life. He now has a scholarship in music to college next year; and is excited about his future. What better example is there!

We are still in the process of raising money for Harmony Camp 2009; so that these kinds of life changing examples can continue to occur. You **MUST** realize that it is you and your contributions that make this all possible. You have heard or read my pitch before that this Camp cannot occur without YOU. It is you and your chapters who contribute the money to make this work. It is you and your chapters who find the boys and get them to Camp by helping with their fees and travel. You are the unsung heroes in this whole experience. So know that; be proud of that accomplishment and keep it up. It simply won’t happen without you.

Another example that recently occurred is the passing of a Barbershopper in Southern California whose family requested donations to Youth In Harmony (YIH). The Barbershopper involved wrote to me for help in carrying out those wishes; and I let him know of the various YIH programs in his region. The point is that we are succeeding in getting the word out about YIH and people are responding. This is simply another wonderful way to support the Youth movement in our society that reaches far into the future.

Contributions by chapters or individuals can be made with a check made out to FWD Youth Harmony Camp and sent to Richard Lund, 6164 Windlestraw Road, Placerville, CA 95667.

Thank You All Ever So Much

**REMEMBER THE FWD
YOUTH EDUCATION FUND**

Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association The BQPA Board of Directors

by Jack Martin, President

The Spring, 2009 BQPA Quartet Festival is history. It was a rousing success with 150 attendees in total. Arrivals of the early birds began on Wednesday, April 1, with about a dozen singers. The Grace Inn Resort, in Phoenix AZ, where the Festival was held served our activities well. There was scheduled golfing on both Thursday and Friday morning which was enjoyed by several, with singing on every tee.

By Thursday evening the place was ringing with chords. I would guess about 50 singers were sharing fellowship and gathering in fours. By Friday afternoon the singing room and lobby area was awash in singers sharing friendship and engaging in quarteting.

The draw for the Friday evening contest was made around 3:00 PM and those participating were scampering around trying to find their quartet members and get in a bit of practice before the schedule contest at 7:00 PM. The contest was made up of 72 singers in 18 competing quartets. a judging staff of 4 people had been assembled (Joe Salz, Terry Aramian, Jack Martin and Joe's wife served as the chairman of judges) with some brief judging criteria and the best performing quartet, won the contest. The entertainment was really good, especially the quartet Gerry Carroll sang in. Gerry was a riot!

Our performance venue was a very large poolside canopy/tent with an excellent sound system provided by the Paradise Valley, AZ chapter and operated by member Stu Willcox. The audience was at full capacity and there were 18 pick-up quartets that performed in the contest, while the Arizona mini-tornado winds tested the canopy's framework. There were times when we wondered if the canopy was going to survive. In spite of all the wind and noise, we did end up with a champion quartet.

This fun filled event was capped by an appearance of the 2009 Senior Quartet Champions, "Audacity." They captivated the audience with their performance. They again performed a limited number of songs at the afterglow in the Lobby of the Hotel. A bit later Later many of us enjoyed the presence of Teddy Bradshaw, Paul Graham (of the Western Continentals) John Erickson, (of Chords Unlimited fame) and the gentle giant, Bill Meyers who sang with the "Citations" quartet and later won gold with "Revival!" There were other earlier SPEBSQSA quartet

members in attendance, but their names escape me. I have a good memory, but it is short!

Saturday morning found about 75 folks attending the semi-annual general meeting of BQPA members. Every one expressed their satisfaction with the new BQPA logo lapel pin that had been developed and provided by Board of Directors. (thanks Jim Gallagher) The pin is about an inch and a half tall, and three quartets inch wide in the image of the BQPA Logo. Members were encouraged to wear this pin at all Barbershop functions. Several other forward looking programs were discussed for the future. Enthusiasm was high!

By Saturday afternoon the singing room, which was the hotel bar and lounge, was filled with wall to wall singers and other supporters of the BQPA. (The lounge was quite large and accommodating)

Saturday evening was enjoyed by all with a planned, parade of quartets, show. Paul Ludwig, from the Tuscon area put together a splendid presentation of 8 organized quartets from the surrounding area. They come from Tuscon, Las Vegas, Southern California and various communities in the Phoenix area. One of the quartets, I believe their name was the "OK Corral" was dressed in western attire, playing guitars and singing authentic western music. It was a refreshing change-up from the traditional Barbershop music we all love. The final quartet performing was "Oasis" who had done quite well in the recent FWD/RMD BHS prelims. Their great singing will linger in my memory for some time. The Arizona winds of Friday night had subsided which added a welcome flair to the festivities.

The remainder of the evening was enjoyed by all attendees and guests, hanging out in the hotel bar and lounge (singing room) engaging in all kinds of quarteting and bonding of friendships. Besides the various singing activities, the colorful dress of the quartets provided a pleasant visual atmosphere. There was such a crowd that the quarteting activities spilled over into the hotel lobby and surrounding hallways and corners, somewhat reminiscent of the lobbies of the headquarters hotel of earlier SPEBSQSA conventions.

I might add that the BQPA has experienced a substantial growth in membership since our September, 2008 gathering in Chicago. It appears that we must be doing something right.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the great buffet style, hot breakfast that came as complimentary with renting of a room. I have to say it was as good as they come with very little to be desired beyond what was provided. The prepared meals from the menu served for lunch and dinner was very tasty and reasonable in cost. Also the early April weather in Phoenix was wonderful. Sunny and warm in the daylight hours, with a moderate cooling breeze in the evenings, with a couple hours on Friday night being the exception.

Sunday morning found many of the festival attendees grabbing the hotel/airport shuttle, to make their flights to home. There were quite a few folks that had driven from Orange County and other southern California cities as well as the southern Nevada area. Actually, there were attendees from most every district in the BHS which says volumes for the fun and fellowship that exists in the BQPA activities.

I think one of the strong drawing points of the BQPA activities is that, we do not need to be entertained by outsiders. By and large, we provide our own entertainment by quarteting with one another. We are definitely a participating bunch as opposed to being spectators.

Negotiations are underway with the Grace Inn Resort in Phoenix for the Spring of 2010. The second weekend of April has been reserved, pending the completion of a contract. Plan now to be with us.

The next gathering of the BQPA will be another exciting Quartet Festival to be held September 10-12, 2009, in Chicago. Information can be found on the BQPA website, www.bqpa.com

Hope you will all consider joining us in Chicago.

**International Convention in Anaheim
June 28 - July 5, 2009
Hosted by The Masters of Harmony
Quartet Contest Chorus Contest
College Quartet Contest
Larry Ajer Show Master's Class
AIC Show and MORE**

**IT IS OK TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE
FWD YOUTH EDUCATION FUND**

IT'S ALMOST MIDNIGHT AT THE IRVINE CHAPTER

More and more small choruses are complaining about declining membership and the average age of its members. The California Promise Chorus of Irvine is no exception to the trend. Once a mighty chorus of over 100, its active membership has now fallen to under 30. But Irvine is far from giving up. In fact, it's showing FWD how small choruses should recover and develop an improved and youthful sound. The "old goats" are letting the "kids" move in.

This can do attitude is attributed, in no small part, to the chapter's new director, Justin Martin. Once the group's youngest member at age 12, Justin is now the Chapter's youngest Director at age 21. He has attracted a number of college students including music majors. In addition to directing and singing in the chorus, Justin and three other students harmonize in the Chapter's new quartet, "Almost Midnight". Justin is the Bass, Josh Szolomayer, Lead, Kevin Hurley, Tenor, and Albert Mabeza, Bari. They were all classmates either in high school or now at Fullerton Junior College. What's more they all carry fulltime jobs. Yeah, it's great to be young!

The quartet hooked up at college in early 2008. Then later in July, they traveled to Italy with the Fullerton College Music Department where they performed at a number of venues. Back at Irvine chapter, Josh, Kevin and Albert became section leaders and work closely with Justin to develop that improved chorus sound.

What's that, you think they're taking over! Well you're right! It's the game plan.

ORANGE QUARTET CHAPTER NIGHT AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

by Mark Sheldon, PR VP

On Monday, June 29, the Orange Quartet Chapter will take its weekly meeting to the International Convention in Anaheim. Everyone is invited to visit and see what a Quartet Chapter is all about!

We tentatively plan to meet at the Anaheim Hilton starting at about 7:30 pm. Details will be posted on our website (harmonize.com/orange) as they develop. To be included on the email update list, please contact PR VP Mark Sheldon. RSVPs are not required but we'd like to hear if you're interested. Please also spread the word to friends outside FWD.

We hope to see you in Anaheim!

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

2262 Bagley Ave
 Los Angeles, CA 90034-1109
 Deceased: March 22, 2009

Ed Note: Tom sent me the following email. I will miss Mike.

I want to give out the sad news of Mike's death on Sunday, March 22. (two days after I spoke to you at HOD. He was diagnosed with terminal cancer, bone and lung, just about 12 weeks after the funeral of his wife, Jacqui. They were very close friends of mine. Mike and I had formed the Quartet, "Sound Stage", some twelve years ago. We were Santa Monica members and he afterwards transferred to the South Bay Chapter. He was in two quartets there, and was much in demand for his sweet 'Irish' voice. I know Westunes will miss his diligent work.

Yours in Harmony, Tom Laskey

**FWD DVP for Division 1 SW****Bill Rosica**

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By the time you read this, the Southwest/Southeast Divisionals will have been over and we will have a few more qualifiers for the fall contest in Sacramento. Speaking of contests, even with the tough economic time, we should do what we can to attend in the fall. This is one of the District's moneymakers and keeps our dues at an affordable rate.

With my second hat of International Convention General Chairman, I have been quite busy and have not had as much time to dedicate to my District position of Southwest Division VP. That being said, I still am planning to visit your chapter board meeting just to see how your chapter is doing. Membership is always on all of our minds and I know there will most likely be a discussion regarding this subject at your Board Meeting. If that discussion is not happening, please add it to your agenda and get back to me with any questions or problems with which I might be able to help.

For anyone who has yet to plan summer activities, the International Convention in Anaheim would be a nice place to spend a few days. "I really can't afford it", you say. How about volunteering to assist at one of the 48 doors at the Honda Center during a contest session? That will allow you to assist the MOH folks as well as see the contest for a minimal parking fee at the venue. If you plan to work the convention and not occupy a seat, we will give you a registration. Volunteer at any of the MOH, District or BHS Websites. For those who will be registering, it should be a real barnburner in both the Chorus and Quartet contests. The FWD will be well-represented.

To assist those Quartet contestants, the Association of Far Western District Champions (AFWDC) will be holding the Go for the Gold Concert in Fullerton in June. This annual event is always great entertainment for the entire family as well as very affordable.

That's it for now. I hope to be seeing you in one of the many activities we have starting in June and culminating in October.

Photo
 coming

New Division 1 SW Editor**Ken Day**

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ORANGE QUARTET CHAPTER MARK SHELDON

Dick Courchaine, already a member of Temecula, was welcomed as a dual member of Orange. The many individual guests this quarter included **Mel Miller**, who was one of the charter members of the chapter. Guest quartets included **The Edge**, who stopped in just before the International Qualification contest.

Dave Lowerre led this year's successful Singing Valentines program. In February **Bleu Lite Special** performed for a local Rotary Club. **Sound Choice** was the featured quartet at the Javapella Open Mic night in February.

In January about five from Orange participated in the California Chorus at Pasadena Midwinter. In March our representatives at the Las Vegas Convention included **Paul Sandorff**, who presented the retired FWD Bulletin Editor of the Year plaque back to its sponsors from Ventura, and presented a new travelling plaque dedicated to **Orange Chapter Bulletin Editors Richard and Dorothy Acton**.

In April several chapter members travelled to the BQPA convention in Phoenix. On April 20 several visited Mission Viejo Sweet Adelines at their pre-contest performance.

RINCON BEACH**KEN DAY**

We reluctantly said goodbye to our director, **Jason Remley**, in December and we wish him well in his future endeavors. His new quartet **The Edge** appears International bound. Because he gave us plenty of notice, our search committee came up with some really promising candidates to take over. After 5 weeks of auditions, we chose **Bobbette Gantz**. Bobbette comes with great credentials as a Master Director, coach and judge in SAI. She has 34 years experience and also directs the Channelaire SAI chorus of 90+ members. We have the possibility of many future combined shows.

Since the first of the year, we have added 4 new members. **Matt Burnham** spent several years with the Arlington, Texas Chapter before relocation to the Hawaiian Islands for 9 years. Now back on the mainland, Matt sings baritone. **Jim Rodriguez** has several years of musical theater under his belt but no barbershop-

ping experience and is also a baritone. Two transfers from the **Valleyaires** are bass **Bill Crom** and tenor **Bill Chase**, who realized that **Rincon Beach** is closer than the **Valleyaires**.

We started sending out invitations to high school music educators in August and September telling them about our 1st Youth Music Festival on February 7, 2009. **Bernie Sentianin** chaired the event and **Nick Papageorge** and **Dave Tautkus** were facilitators. **The Edge** worked with the individual voice parts. **John Sargeant**, the choral music instructor at Newbury Park High School supplied the venue and the choral boosters provided the food for snacks, lunch and dinner. **Mark Fredkin** of the **Masters of Harmony** was terrific in sharing his materials on how to accomplish this. We had 26 boys sign up and they all seemed to have a great time.

SANTA MONICA OCEANAIREs **MARTY MITNICK**
Installation of officers for 2009 was held at the Little Taste of Hoboken Restaurant. **Cory Brenden** installed: Pres – **Vance Heron**, Membership VP – **Bruce Schroffel**, Music VP – **Aaron Mood**, Prog VP – **Jim Leedom**, PR VP – **Alan Hanson**, Sec – **Jerry Walker**, Treas – **John Smurda**, BMAL – **Terry O'Shaughnessy**. For another year of exceptional activity and getting things done our **BOTY** recipient was **David Erickson**.

Valentines Day singing was a complete success with over 60 presentations of love songs by our quartetes.

Our very own **Sound Stage** quartet performed at the "Colleagues for Life" celebration, culminating the University of Southern California Emeriti Center's 30th Anniversary Year. The USC Emeriti Center honors and serves more than 2,300 retired faculty and staff, and an audience of 180 people attended two panel presentations and the celebratory luncheon. **Todd Kolberg**, the Oceanaires' Director sang Lead, accompanied by bass **Tom Laskey**, Bari **Alan Hanson**, and tenor **Harry Stasney**. **Jerry Walker**, co-host of the USC celebration, joined Sound Stage to sing "Happy Birthday" to seven super-seniors aged 90 years of age or more.

On Sunday, April 19, 2009 the **Oceanaires** were invited to again perform at the closing ceremony of the "Walk for Life" cancer fund raiser. This year's participation was especially meaningful because we recently lost one of our own **Mike Martin** who lost his battle with cancer. We are also praying for **Clay Benton** who is currently undergoing treatment for this horrific decease.

SAN LUIS OBISPO **RUDY XAVIER**
The Gold Coast Chorus delivered one of our best performances ever at our annual show "Girl of My Dreams" under the co-direction of **John Staley** and **Don Poole**. Our headliner quartet was 1995 Sweet Adelines International Champion **CHICAGO FIRE**. We are so appreciative of the support and direct participation from our sister chapters, the **Central Coast Celebration** and the **Pacific Horizons Chorus**. Members of both choruses contributed to backstage management, and helped us with the CCC Sweet Adelines doing everything from cameo roles to

complete numbers. Chapter quartets **Fascinatin' Rhythm** and **Suite** sang as well as special quartets formed for the show, **SLO Motion**, **The Dreamers** and **Broadminded**.

VENTURA **JAN TAVARES**
The Channel Islands Clippers enjoy the Singing Valentines Program. We just love doing it because the men always cheer and the women always CRY! **TAKE 4**, a senior quartet consisting of tenor **Jim Sumstine**, lead **Bill Butala**, bass **Wayne Breese**, and bari **Tom Leese** performed to a cheering crowd at Ventura High Auditorium during the intermission of the Ventura County Concert Band presentation of "Magic Melodies". **TAKE 4** also sang twice on radio 1520 KVTa to advertise our Valentines in the Ventura area and delivered SVs while driving here and there through a driving rain storm! They did 3 days of Singing Val gigs in total.

Tenor **Lu Hintz**, lead **Ray Eden**, bari **Bill Minea**, and bass **Rod Frykholm** did SVs in Camarillo. Ray and Rod are visiting members of the Conejo Valley chapter. **The 4 Jays**, tenor **Jan Tavares**, lead **Jim Wilson**, bass **Joe Smith**, and bari **Jay Shapiro**, enjoyed that 12 hours together so much that they are trying to be a chapter quartet as in "A quartet is born" ... (sigh). Many thanks to our Chapter Development VP and Valentine Master Committee Chairman **Bill Butala**.

FWD President **Bob Lally** and EVP **Bernard Priceman** attended our installation. Our master of ceremonies was Immediate IPP **Joel Rogosin** who presented our chapter officers for this year: IPP [himself], Treas **Jay Shapiro**, Mu&P VP **Jim Sumstine**, EVP & Chapter Dev VP **Bill Butala**, Sec **Jim Wilson** and Pres **Jan Tavares**. Then **Bob Lally** swore in our 6 officers and emphasized that Barbershop must always, above all else, be fun. Finally special recognition to our fine chorus director **Jim Browne**, the major force behind the chapter's improvement.

WHTTIER **NORM BERNIER**
The Whittier Choralaires are on the RISERS again and moving under the direction of **Paul Gutierrez**.

June 20th will be our next show intitled "MUSIC of AMERICA" **Shelley Herman**, Soundman and past member, has written the script to compliment each music presentation. **Richard Manis**, Show Chairman, long time member and past president has chaired many shows to his credit. **Norm Bernier**, President, accents the stage using his artistic talent again.



FWD DVP for Division 2 SE
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By the time you read this the combined Southeast and Southwest Division Contests will be over.

I sorta wish they had a name other than "Contests," because me thinks that puts a little fright into the thought of participating or not whether it be for a chorus or a quartet.

Sure, winners and the others are scored, and you may not want to be the one who doesn't place so well, but in the larger picture, there's always more to the divisions' gathering. You get some great feedback from the finest "coaches" (judges) in the BHS as to how well you are doing and what you can do to become better. This translates into all of your music / singing, and is especially significant in how well you perform for your own paying audiences that you want to keep returning.

Plus, there's the opportunity to see your old barbershopper friends, to make new friends and maybe learn a new tag or two. This is the fellowship part of our gatherings, and its a very important part of our barbershopping lives.

To those who attended, I say, Thank you. To those who did not, I hope to see you in the ranks next year!

By the way, don't forget, we are the Southeast Division, now.



Division 2 SE Editor

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BREA

DAVE GUNTHER

The Gaslight Chorus experienced many firsts over the last year. Being a young chapter, many of the things that other chapters consider traditional are brand new to them. Two things of exceptional note for this year have been the inauguration of their website <www.gaslightchorus.org> and their first Awards and Installation event. **Taylor Anderson** of the **Masters of Harmony** created the website and continues to host it.

Their first-ever Awards and Installation event was held in the home of Gaslight member **Ken Olson**. He and his gracious wife Luanne did a marvelous job of hosting the event.

Ken Olson received the *Gaslight Spirit Award* for all of the hard work he does in the background, such as setting up risers, gaining access to their rehearsal room, and opening his home for this occasion. **Bryan Forbes** earned the President's Award for being so helpful to their chapter president Larry Gassman, especially for being Larry's primary driver to and from chapter events and to see his wife Melinda, who at this writing is still recovering from December's medical problems. Nepotism aside, **Matt Ordaz** clearly deserved the Director's Award, as he has proven himself musically not only in his improvement as a singer, but also as a leader in the Lead section. Finally, the BOTY was presented to **Dave Gunther**, who has contributed to many of their chapter firsts, including starting their weekly electronic bulletin, obtaining Gaslight T-shirts for their members,

and getting the website going. Installing officer was **Gene Clements** (SE DVP) who made sure that all of their chapter officers were soundly convicted for doing their jobs and sentenced to continue doing them for the rest of the year.

COACHELLA VALLEY

TERRY MANN

They just finished their first year under their challenging but rewarding revitalization program as proposed by Music Director **Dick Reed**. They will continue year round, never go dark, and conduct weekly meetings with the continuing goal of improved quality of sound, more fun and more members.

Their improved music quality as well as their enthusiasm and fun made us more attractive to men who visited us, and their membership is up significantly from a year ago. Their newest members are four high schoolers who formed a quartet as a result of hearing Metropolis sing at their 2008 annual show! Their Annual show this year was the most financially successful, and the best quality singing of the past 10 years. Next year they will add a Valentines Day project!

Everyone gets to share in the credit but they are especially grateful to their two, yes 2, BOTYs for 2008 the other for 2009: **Dick Reed** and **Blaine Mack**! In addition, they are grateful for a strong and enthusiastic Board, headed by their very able, first Snow Bird President, **Carl Hasselwander** of Michigan who is now in his second year. It would be remiss not to celebrate their four Section Leaders: bari **Al Alexander**, lead **Alan Harrell**, tenor **Blaine Mack** and bass **Doug Affleck**.

EL CAJON

MIKE DORMAN

The Music Masters chorus is really enthusiastic about the year 2009! The quality of their singing is improving every week, thanks to their indefatigable chorus director **Tom Anderson**.

Their Valentine appearances were jam-packed with wonderful audiences, who were greatly appreciative. Their annual flower show on April 19 left the listeners duly impressed. (The venue for the show was Coronado, the town where military folks go to retire, and one could their hearts swell when they sang country-loving songs. "Yes," they proudly report, "we are very confident about the rest of 2009,...wish us luck!"

FULLERTON

DICK COTE

Chapter Marketing and PR Vice President **Don Levering** (who also just became PROBE's Membership VP) provided a thought provoking item asking "Who thinks up these quartet names?" His answer involved the creation of "Gang Green" a foursome consisting of **Kent Fossum**, **Bob Calderwood**, **Hershel Green** and the author.

Stan French's HFLB reports that the sessions are sill "humming along." The moral of that story is that if you haven't joined them on a Friday noon at Giovanni's Pizza, (southeast corner of Imperial and Harbor in Fullerton) you don't know what you are missing...Come sing with your mouth full."

The "Chapter Desert Rat and Long Distance Affiliate **Al Bell** penned a nostalgic story titled "Memories are Made of.... Memories..." where he opined about the past and in a special note to editor **Dick Cote**, outlined his four year Navy stint, where he concluded his flying career in a forced water landing of a seaplane in the San Diego bay due to a port engine explosion. Memories, Memories...

HEMET

BRUCE SMITH

Clay Panlaqui current VP of Vocal Training was named the BOTY for 2008 at their recent Awards Dinner. Also named were **Norm Pabst** as president (however, has subsequently withdrawn), **Dave Kelly** IPP and acting president pro tem, **Harry Kaylor**, VP Music and Performance, **Ed Youngs** VP Chapter development; **Art McMahon** Secretary and **Bob Couse**, Treasurer.

INLAND EMPIRE

DAVE COVEY

Singing Valentines brought tears of happiness to over 60 individual Valentines; and that doesn't count the spectators who gathered around the recipients on many occasions, wishing someone would express their love in such a beautiful way. In a few instances, they even serenaded a whole office staff. Advertising on the local radio station contributed to their success.

In March, they did it again: three performances in a 36-hour period, including a singing appearance on a telethon for a local library association. Their show was rated "one of the best, if not the best" by many of their customers. **Dick Girvin** was their emcee.

No "two-song syndrome" for them, and, as the saying goes, "you can take that to the bank." They're welcoming visitors regularly, and plan to be welcoming them as new members soon.

LA JOLLA

PETER HENSLEY

The chapter's annual Holiday show was very successful, and in addition to the chapter chorus and quartets, for the first time it featured two special ensembles: Semi-Sweet, a sextet of singing moms; and past FWD Senior Champs **California Crossroads**, two members of which are local and two members are in the **Brea** and **Masters of Harmony** chapters.

Singing Valentines and the efforts to provide singing valentines to spouses of deployed military was coordinated by the military community's Operation Home front. The local NBC TV station followed one of the quartets, **Eclipse**, around during their singing for the military, recording their activities.

The San Diego and Palomar Pacific chapters assisted in the singing for the military. Other chapter quartets participating in the effort included **Added Attraction**, **Smooth Sailin'**, and a number of other combinations of members. The chapter was rewarded by some very moving letters from the deployed marines in Iraq, who greatly appreciated the unexpected surprises received by their wives. February also brought the first edition of the chapter newsletter, the *Pacific Coast Harmony Limelight*, edited by Pete Hensley.

YIH Chairman **Paul Girard** has been very busy working with youth and high school educators. He hosted the fantastic young college champs from Sweden, the **Ringmasters**, taking them to many local high schools, enroute to the Midwinter Convention. He took a local high school quartet **Timbre-Rings** from Westview High School to the High School Competition in Las Vegas, where they won first place. They were coached locally by **Mike Lawton**, baritone of past International champs, **Revival**. **California Crossroads** helped headline the 8th Anniversary Celebration for the **Riverside** Chapter.

LAS VEGAS METRO

JOHN C. THOMPSON

The Installation Banquet saw the 2009 officers installed:

Pres **Peter Feeney**, VP Music & Perf **Greg Dreyer**, VP Program **John Mackey**, VP Mktg/PR **John Thompson**, VP Chapter Develop./Membership **Randy Preston**, Treas **Wes White**, Sec **Len Newman**, and Members at Large **Herb Craig** and **Martin Judd**. Special awards went to **Greg Dreyer**-BOTY, **John Mackey**-Presidents Award, **Randy Preston**-Directors Award, **Herb Craig** and **Randy Preston**-BOQ.

The Chapter was proud to host the FWD/RMD Joint International Quartet Prelims Spring Convention in Las Vegas from March 19 – 22. It was a lot of work, with jobs and functions shared by virtually every one of the 40 man chorus. A huge "Atta boy", along with a Certificate Of Appreciation, was presented to **Greg Dreyer**, who took on the monumental task of Convention Chairman. This was the first time that two districts of BHS have held a joint convention, and it was a huge success. Twenty-eight quartets took the stage, including their own chapter quartets: **Stardust**, **Ready or Not**, **Good Times** and **Rat Paq**. **Timbre-Rings**, from Westview H.S. in San Diego, won the 19th annual FWD High School Quartet Contest, with second place going to **The League Of...** from Ponderosa/Oak Ridge/Visa Del Lago high schools, and **JAG**, from Liberty High took third place. **Revolution** was the RMD Collegiate Quartet Champ, and qualifies for Bank Of America Contest in July. In the Chorus competition, the **Las Vegas Metro "City Of Lights"** Chorus Qualified for District Competition, and is on their way to Sacramento in October.

The special thanks again to 2008 International Quartet Champion **O C Times** for performing on the "Show of Champions", and entertaining us throughout the Convention

RIVERSIDE

BILL SHOVA

The chapter is preparing for the arrival (after July) of their new director **John Brockman** (of The Crush). In the meantime Director **Mike Smith** is actively preparing the "Gang" for their appearance at the SE/SW Contest on May 9. Also their chapter website has been revived: www.thenewgangchorus.org.

SAN CLEMENTE

DON THOMAS

The Beach Cities Harmonizers had performances at a fundraiser carnival for the Vista Hermosa park development, another at the San Clemente Villas by the sea, followed by their annual show at St. Andrews by the sea. They are committed to

supporting their local communities in their many endeavors as well as youth vocal music programs.

SAN DIEGO

MILOS KOUTSKY

The Sun Harbor Chorus under the direction of **Ms. Kathleen Hansen** is showing great progress. Ms. Hansen is now an "Associate Member" of the Society. Performances at various senior citizen condo facilities are the targeted plans for this year. The holiday season will be coming around soon. Just as it happened last year, they will start the "Bell & Tinsel" music August.

TEMECULA

JORDON MALBROUGH

The Wine Valley Harmonizers of the Temecula Chapter's focus is on the Quartet experience. Using the Quartet methodology of learning music every member learns to sing in a Quartet each week. Our Quartet members sing in the Old Town area of Temecula on the second and fourth Saturday of each month to support the area's "Old West" spirit. Either strolling the streets or in front of the "Old West Outlaw Gun Fighters, our Quartets share "Barbershop Harmony" with Visitors and Patrons of this community.



FWD DVP for Division 3 NW

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ALOHA

JACK Y HASHIMOTO

The Aloha Chapter Installation Banquet had over 70 chapter members, spouses, and friends gathered to review 2008 and honor those who went beyond the call. **Dr. John Char** was presented the President's Award by Pres. **Zig Palagyi**. BOTY went to **Don Raymond**, BOTY 2007 **Jeff LeFebvre** presenting. Don was recognized for his tireless leadership in chairing the 2009 Pan Pacific Festival. The 2009 elected Board of Directors were sworn in: Pres **Zig Palagyi**, VP PR **John Char**, VP M&P **Rich Cordeiro**, VP Program **Ed Reid**, VP Chapter Development **Bill Joor**, Sec **Dan Tom**, Treas **Glenn Crowder**, and Directors at large **Kawika Mitchell**, **Larry Paterson**, **Ernie Hong**, and **Jack Hashimoto**.

One of our most enjoyable annual events was Singing Valentines. Chaired by **Dan Tom**, **Hank Drayton**, and **Rick Klemm**, 31 singers comprising a multitude of quartets, two drivers, 10 sign wavers, 8 order takers and other helpers set out on February 13 and 14 to sing into the hearts of Sweethearts all around the island of Oahu. Tears and smiles were the order of the day, and we even made money.

We were invited to be the featured chorus in the E Himeni Festival held at the Pearl City Cultural Center on Oahu. E Himeni in the Hawaiian language means "hymns". The festival participants were student choruses from high schools, colleges and universities in Hawaii. The students and their directors treated us to a night of delightful song. It was pure joy for us to sing before the students, who gave us rousing ovations. We sang five songs that brought the house down.

We bid goodbye to **Mary Jane DeCrow**, wife of our great arranger and baritone **De DeCrow**. The services were held at the Oahu Cemetery Chapel. It was memorable, as we celebrated her life. The chorus sang two of her favorite songs: *Beyond the Reef* (which De arranged) and *The Story of the Rose*.

BOTMs are for December, **Jeff LeFebvre**, January **Dan Tom**, February **Hank Drayton** and March **Tim Hopkins**. *Friends of Four Part Harmony* collected a whopping \$7,000. Thanks to chairman **Bob Sypowicz** and the generosity of the donors. New members added to our ranks include bari **Ric Higashide**, lead **Frank Jimine**, and bass **Phil Chang**.

EUREKA

MAC GARDNER

The Old West was the theme of the **Humboldt Harmonaires** 2009 spring show, "Deep in the Heart of Texas". Every chorus member was decked out in western garb, from regular cowhands to gamblers to a mortician. Our fans loved it when the curtain opened to show such a disreputable gang.

They loved the singing, too, favorites being "*Happy Trails*," "*Cool Water*," and "*Home on the Range*." Director **Jon Majors** kept us on our toes, and Emcee **John Meyes** and local quartet **Mirth First** kept the audience laughing. Our guest quartet **Riff Raff** hit all the right notes with a good mixture of humor.

Sincere thanks go to our Show Committee: Don Atterbury, Chairman; Don Setterlund, Street Signs; Rod Strom, Tickets; Steve Plourde, Publicity; Bill Kohse, Scenery; Harvey Raider and Dick Johnson, Afterglow.

Doyle Doss produced a beautiful program brochure, and **Carl Nelson** lead the way again as Ad Chairman. Harmonaire members sold 212 ads this year. Leading salesmen were **Carl Nelson** 29, **Don Setterlund** 36 and **Mac Gardner** 60.

Otis Harriel, a talented violin "virtuoso: and graduate of McKinleyville High School, won the \$1,000 Harmonaires scholarship. He drew raves when he performed on the show. His mix of classics and "fiddle" tunes brought a standing ovation.

FREMONT/HAYWARD

RAY SPINOSA

The New Dimension Chorus recently held a 'Back to Barbershop Night' to which all former chapter members were invited. It was good to see some old friends, meet some new ones, and hopefully some will consider re-joining the chapter. Highlights of this year's Singing Valentine proceedings included **SBlendid Tonics** serenading a female bartender and **Tune By**

Four learning 'I Love You Truly' in between performances on Valentine's Day, to accommodate a last minute request.

The Town Square Harmonizers participated in the annual fund raiser of the Santa Clara Women's League. Proceeds benefit senior citizens programs in the city of Santa Clara. The evening featured a melodrama in which our own **Pete Sparaco** played the part of the deputy sheriff who eventually arrests all of the evil doers in this fun filled farce. Way to go Pete. Later, Pete and the other members of the quartet treated an appreciative audience to a set of old fashioned barbershop songs, including a hilarious parody of the old favorite "*Side by Side*".

The Town Square Harmonizers also entertained at a Rotary Club function. A collection was taken up which netted over \$300, which was donated to a local charity.

Tune by Four sang the national anthem on opening day for the Fremont Little League. Tenor **Jeff Harris**, a coach on his son's team, then went on with his coaching duties. It was a cold blustery morning with a threat of rain, but this did not dampen the spirits of either the Little Leaguers, parents or the quartet.

PALO ALTO/MOUNTAIN VIEW DEAN JAMES

At our last rehearsal, we were all dressed in pirate garb and making ready for our spring show with guest stars Masterpiece, and are looking forward to the combined convention in Fresno in mid May.

Steve Sammonds and **SPAM** introduced barbershop to the at-home audience of *Colorful Journeys of Success*, a local TV show.

We're inviting all Bay Area Barbershoppers, and especially former Peninsulaires, to join us on the afternoon of Saturday, September 26th for a celebration of Steve Sammonds' 20th anniversary as director of the Peninsulaires! This bash will be held at Cubberly Community Center in Mt. View.

SAN FRANCISCO DON KINGTON

At this writing the men of the **Cable Car Chorus** are preparing to perform at the Memorial Day, May 25, 2009, ceremony at the historic Presidio Military Cemetery. This will be the second year the Chorus has performed at this annual event. The singers will provide "*The National Anthem*" and "*God Bless America*."

SAN MATEO THOMAS ADDISON

The Golden Chordsmen welcomed four new members, all of whom helped out with our Spring Show. The show, Goodnight Sweetheart, filled the newly redecorated Burlingame Intermediate School Theater, our home for the last 20 years. Our guest groups were the a) **Fly Right Sisters**, singing songs of the Andrews Sisters and the Glen Miller Era, and b) our Chapter quartets **Sound Judgment** and **the TrebleMakers**. All joined the Burlingame Intermediate School advanced chorus to entertain over 400 guests at two shows and an afterglow.

SANTA CRUZ

ED WARNER

So far this year we have participated in two days of Valengrams deliveries, three high school quartets from Brentwood, Jag, Eiva and Pink Ladies sang in January at several of our high schools and now we are preparing for our Cabaret show in May. We had our first Special Guest Night which was very successful in bringing new visitors by giving them a free ticket to our Cabaret. We are excited in seeing several new members joining our small chorus this year.

SANTA ROSA

RAY CROWDER

One of our star baritones, **Mike Ferrel**, is back on active duty with the Redwood Chordsmen after a two month stint starring in a local church musical production. Happy Birthday to our old (old?) buddy, **Lynn "Brit" Brittan**, who turned 86 in March, and to **Dave Bowman**, who is quickly approaching 90.

The Redwood Chordsmen performed at Oakmont's Berger Center and for the Santa Rosa Rotary Club on the 5th. The chapter hosted a fund raising performance of the off-Broadway musical, "I Love You, You're Perfect. Now Change", at Santa Rosa's Sixth Street Playhouse. In addition to serving, the chorus serenaded the happy audience.

Just One More Song performed at the Windsor Golf Club for more than 200 employees of H & R Block who were attending an "end of the tax season" celebration and luncheon. The quartet's lead, **Wayne Hovdesven**, is well known to many of the folks in attendance. **Fool's Gold** serenaded a large audience at Santa Rosa's Hyatt Hotel for the folks of Symmetricom, for whom the quartet's bass **Bob Lappin**, is employed. **Bill** and **Elsie Smith** hosted a celebration of life for the Chordsmen and their families on April 26th in honor of their daughter, Gloria, who passed away earlier this year.

Welcome to two newest members, bass **Richard Parry-Jones** and lead **Robert Cortez**.

SF BAY CITIES QUARTET

CASEY PARKER

A Noteworthy Night...

Homecoming... Our chapter returned to Harry's Hofbrau. President Steve handed out awards and certificates through the evening. He awarded our newest member, **Dave Tuttleman** his membership kit containing traditional barbershop music and the Society Seal. Dave is no stranger to the Society having rejoined after a hiatus. Steve gave **Casey Parker** his 15th Man Of Note Award. Still handing out tributes, Steve honored **Jordan Makower** with his fourteen year renewal. **The Disqualified Four** sang their contest repertoire. Woodshedmeister **Dennis Baker** provided us with another "rose" song.

Alan Stoddard, of Campbell, California passed away as a result of a stroke Sunday, April 19 at age 80. Until his hearing loss forced his dropping out of active singing, Alan was an active barbershopper in several chapters including Palo Alto--Mountain View, San Jose, and San Francisco Bay Cities Quartets. He also sang with the Santa Cruz Chapter on occa-

sions. He was a member of the Society for 36 years, and had 2 'Man Of Note' Awards to his credit. Alan will be buried in his home state of Montana.



FWD DVP for Division 4 NE

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By the time you read this we will have held our combined Northwest-Northeast division convention in Fresno. And both divisions will be sending their quartet and chorus representatives to our Fall Convention in Sacramento. We will also have held a high school quartet contest. This contest we had both boys and girls quartets.

It's been a quite a while since we've had a convention in Sacramento. There is so much to see in this beautiful and historic city. We need all of you to attend and join in the fun. If you aren't there you will be missed! I hope all you are planning on attending the October 8 – 11 event.



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CARSON CITY

RALPH QUOSIG

Our Mayor proclaimed Barbershop Harmony Week as we regaled the Board of Supervisors with song.

Efforts in youth harmony are paying dividends. Not only did we sponsor the Carson City HS barbershop chorus, 38 strong, to Pasadena to compete in the youth chorus festival, but it was the only chorus with student directors – yes, two. Previously we sponsored five students to Director's College and two directed the youth chorus.

We now have eight youth quartets in the Carson City area: four in middle school, three in high school, and one at Western Nevada College, three of which are young ladies quartets. .

Three years ago none of this was happening. Most of the credit goes to Chorus of the Comstock director **Jim Crowley** and past president **Rook Wetzel** who is largely responsible for obtaining several grants to support the youth development. Youth development is a major part of our membership growth plan.

President **Dave Ramer** continues to build upon BOTY **Rook Wetzel's** excellent tenure last year. We've enlisted newer members to service, and they're answering the call.

The Carson City Chapter was pleased to receive the FWD

Chapter of the Year Award at the Spring Convention in Las Vegas. We recognize the award was made because of the chapter growth and participation in YIH.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

MILES SUTTER

It is the intention of the GVC to acquire a paid performance the last Tuesday of every month in order to sustain ourselves as a chapter. Our first such performance was at the beautiful Samaritan Village Independent Living Facility in Hughson. We had a great turnout of members, all 28 prepared to sing their best and look great doing it in our new shirts, black formal trousers and black shoes. On the docket was 12 songs, together with The Old Songs medley, which consists of at least 5 more songs, 2 quartets, (Good Time Harmony and The Four Tune Hunters), each singing 3 songs. Bob Chapman on piano provided the pre-show entertainment. To say that we entertained royally would be putting it mildly! The audience was enthusiastic and appreciative, with many fine comments.

As is our custom on the last Tuesday of the month, we went out for pizza!! The venue was Figaro's Italian Pizza Parlor in Hughson. Thanks to Dr. Bob Clark for making the arrangements. It was a very satisfying evening performance. A great time was had by all.

Forty-seven scheduled valengrams were delivered, together with the impromptu requests that this event always inspires, on Feb. 13th and 14th. This year we had fewer requests than in previous years, but we also had only three quartets delivering those requests. There aren't enough words to express our thanks to the members who give of their time to perform each and every year! Members of Collaboration, Fourtune Hunters, Good Time Harmony, His Story IV and Ron Russell's quartet made up the three quartets needed to perform throughout the day. Considerable credit for the success of this day goes to Ron Russell and Howard Barber, who handled all the phone calls. Ron arranged all the time slots plus the materials (maps, flowers, schedules, cameras, film, etc.). A tremendous accomplishment for one individual! A major reason for this greatly successful event was the advertising that was made available. Grady Williams supplied us with the displays, posters, and handouts and was able to advertise the event via the Merced radio station. Howard was able to get some last minute advertising in the Merced Newspaper. Well done, guys!

Saturday, February 28th, together with the downtown festivities of the annual Ripon Almond Blossom Festival, the Golden Valley Chorus had the distinct pleasure of sponsoring the novice quartet contest for the second year in a row. Under the guidance of Howard Barber and Bruce Sellnow it was a successful undertaking. M.C. for this afternoon's event was Roy Anderson. The official photographer was Derick Sturke; Sherman Verver held down the registration desk and handled the all important entrance fee; Grady Williams popped all the free popcorn; Dain Goad was in charge of the soft drinks and water. The program was printed by Grady Williams. It was a pleasure seeing Jim Turnmire once again. As our former chorus director and mentor,

he has always been a supporter of GVC. The sound check quartet consisted of Dain Goad, Mike Viss, Bruce Sellnow and Dave Wallace. Out of the nine quartets competing emerged Pay Dirt as the 2009 Novice Quartet Champ of NorCal East. Congratulation, guys!

The evening was topped off with a very-well attended afterglow at Mountain Mike's in downtown Ripon. Howard Barber emceed the event and was the quartet/program coordinator. All nine of the participants performed at the afterglow, and treated us to more delightful sounds of barbershop, including a special quartet made up of the contest judges and contest administrator!

DAVIS-VACAVILLE

ROY BELLHORN

Our annual show at the Vacaville Performing Arts Theater had both an afternoon and an evening performance of "*Sentimental Journey*". **Brewhouse** was our headliner quartet, admirably backed up by **D'Vine** (SA) and college champs **Epic**. **The High Rollers** and **Berryessa Gold** were WVC chapter quartets that provided their usual admirable performances. Newcomer chapter quartet **High Point** provided further entertainment. The Chorus repeated "*Sentimental Journey*" at the historic Woodland Opera House. **Encore**, an all-ladies octet, was the featured headliner group; the **High Rollers**, **Chordizone**, **High Point**, and **Berryessa Gold** were the Chorus' performing chapter quartets. This was the inaugural on-stage performance for **Chordizone**.

Singing Valentines had **Berryessa Gold** providing a command performance at the Davis Senior Center, and the WannaBees at UC Davis' Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. **The High Rollers**, **Chordizone**, and **High Point** also helped fill the numerous requests for Singing Valentines.

The High Rollers performed for the Allied Arts Club of Sacramento and at the St. Johns Retirement Village.

The Chorus and chapter quartets, in conjunction with vocal groups from the Vacaville and Winters school systems, performed their annual "Harmony in Our Lives" fund raising event. Proceeds from the show are donated to the school systems for advancing their music programs.

FOLSOM

HERSH ROBY

The Folsom Harmony Express presented more Singing Valentines this year than either of the last two. Biggest reason was the bit on the Friday Morning Show on Sacramento's leading radio station, KFBK. **Amy Lewis** and **Ed Crane** welcomed the **Harmony Express** quartet with open (very literally) arms. Amy just loves Barbershop Singers singing Love songs. A big hooray for the members who performed Singing Valentines: **Charlie Clark**, **Jim Campbell**, **Doug Vestal**, **Jim Lauppe**, **Ozzie Palos**, **Russ Duane**.

Wil King received the 2008 BOTY award. Wil took on a difficult job of Membership. He attended Membership conferences,

presented many ideas and strategies to the Board for reaching out to the community, including personally meeting with High School and Junior College Vocal Music teachers, and spear-headed the formation of a recurring Far Western District Membership conference call to encourage Membership discussions between Chapters.

Roger Perkins installed our 2009 chapter officers: Pres **Doug Vestal**, Sec/Treas **Stan Trumbull**, Music **Charlie Clark**, Membership **Wil King**, Sunshine **Les Cudworth**, and Members at Large **Bob Roberts**, **Russ Duane** & **Robert Edmonds**.

FRESNO

DAVID REITZEL

The Gold Note Chorus welcomed four new members this quarter: bass **Dale Deis**, lead **Jason Franklin**, bari **Jerry Pierce**, and tenor **T.J. Wheat**. [*Ed note: seems like a quartet to me*]

Under the leadership of **Jim Turnmire**, the GNC is preparing to host the May 16 Northeast/Northwest combined division contest at Fresno's Roosevelt High School. The evening before, there will be a high school quartet contest, open to boys', girls', and mixed quartets.

Adam Kitt, who sang with Masters of Harmony, was appointed GNC's interim director. Under his direction, the GNC had a sing-out in March for the Fresno Women's Trade Club. In April the GNC performed at Fresno's Mennonite Community Church in appreciation for its hosting the GNC installation of officers for the past several years. Thanks to **Harold Fast** and **Doug Yarrow** for arranging the dinner.

Associate Director **John Hays** led the GNC singing patriotic songs honoring POWs at Fresno's Veterans Hospital.

NEVADA PLACER

ROGER PERKINS

Singing Valentines were quite a challenge this year. With V-Day falling on Saturday the Sierranaders offered them on both Friday and Saturday. We didn't anticipate the snow, however. With almost half a foot of snow we had to cancel all the Friday performances in the Grass Valley area. However we were able to handle all of the jobs in Auburn with only one-inch of snow. Saturday went OK for all areas. Thanks to our quartets **New Edition**, **Chord Miners**, and **Pacific Standard Time**.

Our annual show theme was *Radio Days* and former chapter member **Duane King** came over from Salinas to be our M.C. Duane did a great job with his delivery and sense of humor. Headliners were the **Stage Hogs** (**Les Dergan**, **CJ Sams**, **Bill Wilson** & **Bob Clark**) from Southern California. They were very entertaining and kept the audience laughing.

NORTH VALLEY

DENNY STRUB

The Sound of the Foothills Chorus will be having our Spring Show in Oroville May 2nd in the "50-year-old" State Theater. Adding to our chorus will be: **Tahoe Blue**, **Volatile**, **GESUNDHEIT !**, **The California Heat Chorus** (SAI), and **The Bidwell**

Generals. Oroville seems to love barbershop so with **Don Franklin** chairing, it should be a wonderful night.

Our newest quartet "Volatile" (average age 24!) is composed of: tenor **Caleb Smith**, lead **Matt Sutter**, bari **Jordan Spencer**, and bass **Tom Prosser**. So far this year we have welcomed into the fold **Dewey Dumer**, **Jerry Gioia**, **Bob Hood**, **Jack Dewees**, and **Scott Delong**.

PLACERVILLE

BILL PECK

The **Heart of Gold** competed at the MidWinter Convention in Pasadena. The Chorus consists of 31 young men who are attending or have recently graduated from Oak Ridge or Ponderosa High Schools. As part of the Youth Harmony Festival, they performed two songs in the barbershop style and sang a third a cappella, using three-part harmony. They were entertained by the **Masters of Harmony** and the top five 2008 International quartets. They got to sing with **OC Times** and tags with medalists. The experience was exciting enough for them that they are continuing as a chorus under the direction of **Jason Dyer** who is also doing some directing of the the **Gold Rush Chorus**.

"**The League of....**" quartet sponsored by the Placerville Chapter won second place in the High School Quartet Contest at the FWD Spring Convention in Las Vegas.

The FWD Awards Committee selected **Keith Eckhardt** to be the Spring Convention "Honoree" in appreciation for his extraordinary services to the district. The committee also selected **Richard Lund** to be the Fall Convention "Honoree" in appreciation for his rescuing the Youth Harmony Camp.

Bill Peck was judged to have the best bulletin in the FWD and won the Bulletin Editor of the Year award. The Gold Rush Gazette now goes forward to the International Bulletin Contest representing no only the chapter, but the FWD.

STOCKTON

KEP KEPLINGER

The Portsmen had a very successful Singing Valentine season this year. On Thursday we sang at two different hospitals, one in Stockton and the other in Lodi, to the employees. We continued to sing for individuals and businesses on Friday and Saturday. Four quartets from the Chorus sang.

Fourmost, a quartet consisting of lead **Jan Roston**, tenor **Al McIntire**, bari **John Eilers**, and bass **Marc Jantzen**, were in the Annual Murphy's Irish Day Parade and strolled around town afterwards for the celebration on March 21st.

Fourmost had an opportunity to help the education system at the University of the Pacific in Stockton. **Fourmost** also had the pleasure of singing for a lady on her 95th birthday.

Tune Struck, consisting of lead **Bill Litz**, tenor **Al Wolter**, bari **Steve Taylor**, and bass **Bob Yater**, sang for two opening day baseball games, Modesto Nuts and the following week the Stockton Ports.



FWD DVP for Division 5 Arizona

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I have had the privilege to attend installation dinners and visit Arizona Chapters, and attend the Spring Convention in Las Vegas and the Arizona Division Contest in Phoenix.

The Arizona Division Contest featured 13 quartets and five choruses from all over the state. Audacity won the quartet contest followed by Equinox and Oasis, all three from the Greater Phoenix Chapter. The chorus contest was won by the Spirit of Phoenix chorus followed by the Tucson Barbershop Experience chorus. These quartets and choruses earned the right to compete at the Far Western District Fall Convention in Sacramento next fall.

InHarmonix, a collegiate quartet from Flagstaff (Northern Arizona University), finished fourth and scored high enough to qualify for district except only one of the quartet belongs to the Society which disqualifies them from advancing to the FWD contest. That issue is being addressed by several members of the Greater Phoenix Chapter and hopefully they will become members of the society and active in the chapter.

This brings up an important challenge to all of the chapters in the Arizona Division and FWD. There are young men who love to sing four-part harmony and know the OC Times songs already, but they can't afford to join the society or pay the necessary costs of being a member. We are attracting young men to the barbershop world but we aren't doing enough to help sustain or maintain their existence in the chapters. Some chapters provide scholarships and other means of providing a means for these young people to join and participate but most of us just concern ourselves with our own survival. During these challenging economic times it's difficult to look beyond our own needs, but if we are to perpetuate our society and "keep the whole world singing", we're going to need to address this situation in earnest.

The following statement is not my original thinking but it's adapted from things I've read and how I sum up our situation. We all face adversity in our life. And so many times, it's how we react to it that will determine our destiny. We have the energy, time and capital; where should it be invested?

I say the answer to the question is, with our youth.



Division 5 Arizona Editor

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GREATER PHOENIX CHAPTER JERRY MCELFRISH
BOTY is **Mark House**, baritone, learning-track artist and quintessential quartet man. Mark contributes to our learning tracks and even worked on one several months ago when he hospitalized.

Highlights of our annual show, "*How the West Was Sung*," were performances by four of the top 10 quartets in the Far Western District [all chapter quartets]. Also, guest entertainer **Rex Allen Jr.** was presented with a membership badge as the newest member of the **Spirit of Phoenix** chorus and the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Audacity, one of the four top 10 district quartets on our show, had just won the seniors quartet championship at the International Midwinter Convention [chapter members John Fynmore, Byron Bennett, Fraser Brown and Greg Dodge].

Jeff Dolan, former assistant director and bass section leader, rejoined the Spirit of Phoenix (SOP) in those roles. Jeff also directs the Tucson Barbershop eXperience chorus. **Rodney Armstrong** was named visual team leader.

The Kindred Spirits, the chorus-affiliated women's group that has done so much for the SOP over the years, gave its top award to **Pauletta Bartley**, who has kept the chorus looking neat and well-dressed for some 20 years. The Spirit Award went to **Marcia Larson**, a new member. **Sheryl McKinney** presented the group's President's Award to their treasurer **Dana Bjornsen**.

PARADISE VALLEY CHAPTER LEN LEVINE
Collin McKinney [bass with the Spirit of Phoenix] is the new director of the **Cactus Chordsmen**, replacing **Dan Ryan**, who is pursuing an advanced degree in music from ASU.

The chorus expanded its repertoire and is rehearsing diligently towards future performances. A Guest Night held on April 27 provided the necessary platform for increasing membership. Entertainment was provided by the local **Dry Heat** and **Gotta Sing** quartets. We appreciated the support from Valley chapters for the Cactus Chordsmen's efforts to increase our membership and we look forward to their continued participation.

PRESCOTT CHAPTER SAM STIMPLE
The Prescottones Chorus, presently without a full-time music director, continues to review repertoire songs and sing many golden oldies. Program VP **Hap Lovejoy** is promoting more quartet singing each week. New members **Bill Hill** and **Ed Bostrom** have come to enjoy the thrill of caressing barbershop chords with chapter veterans.

We reprised last October's successful show "*Wild & Woolly West*" in late January with great local news coverage. A week later, Prescott was treated to a concert by the local Sweet Adelines International Song of the Pines Chorus and the popular Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Champion Ringmasters. Chords are comments are still being heard all over town.

Nearly 30 members and guests enjoyed the chapter's annual installation and awards banquet. **Ed Massa** received the 2008 BOTY award for his excellent work with the chapter's Singing Valentines program over the years. Our 2009 campaign delivered 40-50 singing valentines.

SEDONA CHAPTER LEE SHOPTAUGH
The Sedona Chapter is mourning the loss of Director **Charlie Lyman**, who lost his battle with cancer in April. Charlie, a longtime Society member, has directed the Harmony on the Rocks Chorus and Sedona Chapter since it was chartered in September 2001. Charlie was one of the founding members of the **Dallas Vocal Majority** and won eight gold medals with that chorus. Even though he was fortunate to have had this magnificent barbershop experience, Charlie was very comfortable working with a small chorus and making everyone feel that they were an important part of the group. Charlie was instrumental in initiating the Singing Valentines program; arranged several songs for our repertoire, and wrote a couple of parodies that are also in our repertoire. Charlie headed a quartet that participated in a local production of *The Music Man*. He successfully planned and executed annual shows for the Sedona chorus each of the past four years. Charlie was the driving force behind the chapter's success from the beginning.

The chorus is moving forward under the direction of **John McDougald** and trying to connect with the public.

SIERRA VISTA CHAPTER ED RAYMOND
The Cochise Chordsmen chorus continues to work on four new numbers being polished to perfection in preparation for coaches' critique. Chapter quartet **Watering Hole #3** (**Fred Whitley, Dave Germain, Bernie Martus, and Paul Godwin**) continues to perform locally at a number of venues.

We visited the local juvenile detention facility where we gave a short history of the Society, explained barbershop singing, sang several songs, described the joys of barbershopping, and answered questions. And, we performed at a grade school at Fort Huachuca. The base provides training courses for the military, mostly covering Intelligence and Communications. There were over 100 children in the audience, and we again provided history, explained the mechanics of barbershop, sang a variety of numbers, and took questions.

SUN CITIES CHAPTER BOB MCGOWAN
The DesertAires were busy with the annual show "*Remember When*". Guest quartet **Happiness Emporium** received standing ovations for their varied and entertaining routines. Sharing the bill with them was **Sound Agreement**, 2008 Novice Champs in Division 5. Chapter quartets **Slo Motion** and **Sun Cities School Board** also performed.

Slo-Motion appeared at a nearby Baseball Spring Training Camp to sing the Star Spangled Banner, as did **The Rainbows**, our third chapter quartet.

Perennial Master of Ceremonies **Bud Hesterman** was privileged to appear as Arvide Abernathy in the Arizona Broadway Theater presentation of *Guys and Dolls*. Bud, who anchors our baritone section, has appeared in numerous singing rolls.

Thanks to the efforts of Marketing VP **Jack McGill**, local newspapers and Sun Cities recreation publications have run feature stories on the chorus. These media outlets would like to publish human-interest stories about our members, and Jack is pursuing this avenue.

The DesertAires competed recently in the Far Western District's Division 5 Chorus Contest at Moon Valley High School in Phoenix and garnered the Plateau A Championship plaque. This marks the first time in several years that the chorus was judged good enough for third place in the competition.

TUCSON SUNSHINE CHAPTER JACK STATLER
Tucson Barbershop eXperience (TBX) is on the move, averaging 10 additional singers on the risers over this time last year.

Eight chapter quartets delivered 77 Singing Valentines. This year's campaign was organized by **Wes Krause**, who also sang in one of the quartets, and monitored by his wife Sue at Valentine Central throughout the two days.

TBX performed a fund-raiser show in the recently renovated Tucson Estates Auditorium for the local American Legion Post.

In full cowboy regalia, TBXers gathered before 7am prior to the closing of access to streets and parking for the Tucson Annual Rodeo Days Parade. Under the direction of Jeff "Wyatt Earp" Dolan in long coat and iconic flat-black cowboy hat, TBX, singing from the street, entertained the crowd in the grandstands and kicked off the parade with an enthusiastically received rendition of the Star Spangled Banner.

The Tucson Sunshine Chapter's Annual Show "*It's a Great Day for the Irish*" featured an original playlet by Director Jeff "Father Mac" Dolan. Seven chapter quartets performed on the show headlined by FWD Quartet Champion Masterpiece.

A TBX VLQ comprised of 15 singers joined the 129th Year Celebration of the arrival of the railroad in downtown Tucson.

Tucson Barbershop eXperience won 2nd place overall, AA Chorus Champion, and earning the Most Improved Chorus award. Chapter quartet **Joint Venture** won 1st place in the Seniors contest.

WHITE MOUNTAINS CHAPTER DOC DOCKENDORF
The High Country Chorus (HCC) held an excellent all-day workshop with **Farris Collins** [bass of Bank Street, International quartet medalists] as our coach. He is currently director of Albuquerque's Duke City Sound Chorus.

HCC performed at our annual Big Band and Barbershop Show,

which supports Northland Pioneer College, our nine-year partner. Assistant Director **Alan Beste** also directs the White Mountain Big Band.

In April 18, we celebrated the chapter's 9th anniversary. Sunshine Chairman **James Burden** and Music Librarian **Joe Stone** provided the refreshments. Chapter Historian **Larry Kennedy** displayed a nine-year collection of photographs and show programs.

Twenty-one singers participated in the Arizona Divisional Chorus Contest, where HCC finished in fourth place. Chapter quartet **Pine Tones** won the Novice Quartet Championship.

We welcomed three new leads into the chorus: **Steve Pansulla**, **Will French** and **Jark Burden**.

YUMA CHAPTER ROB BAILEY

The Territorial Prisonaires performed several concerts, sharing the stage with chapter quartets. This winter we saw the genesis of three new quartets: **The Cell Tones** (lead **Gary Head**, tenor **Johnny Miller**, bari **Dave Schuman** and bass **Fred Stenger**); the **Foothills Four** (lead **Ken Turnbloom**, tenor **Gerry Mack**, bari **Larry Lickfield**, and bass **Wayne Scobie**); and **Interstate Eight** (actually an octet or VLQ depending on who's in town) with leads **Frank Swanson**, **Ken Turnbloom** and **Ray Worth**, tenors **Dennis Dyer** and **Gerry Mack**, baris **Larry Lickfield**, **Horst Bulda** and **Bud Thompson**, and basses **Wayne Scobie** and **Rick Weed**. **The UnFourGettable Arizona Sun-Dried Water Company** (www.unfourgettable.com) has reorganized with lead **Art Sullivan**, tenor **Tom Honaker**, baritone **Rob Bailey** and bass **Chuck Rogers**. The three quartets and the VLQ delivered Singing Valentines and radio spots, did sing-outs and, of course, accompanied the Prisonaires at our concerts. The chapter also spawned an 18-member gospel group.

The chorus welcomed **Bill Ellenberger** back to direct part of our show package.

If you're in town, please visit us at Graceway Fellowship Church, 7849 E. 24th St., Yuma, on Tuesday evenings, 6:30pm for Gospel, 7pm for "The Old Songs." We Keep The Whole World Singing at 9pm and occasionally mosey down the sidewalk for pizza afterwards. Call Rob at (928) 502-2652 for more information. After the end of May, call ahead to make sure we're not on summer break.

Chorus Directors Wanted
Aloha Prescott
San Luis Obispo Visalia



2009 High School Chorus of competing Quartets under the direction of Rick Spencer, BHS Director



1 Timbre-Rings - Westview HS

2 The League of ... - Ponderosa HS,
Oak Ridge HS, Vista Del Lago HS



JAG - Liberty HS

Ring Tones - ? HS

Noise Appeal - Tesoro HS



Timbre-Rings with the New Lloyd Steinkamp Trophy

WESTUNES

Magazine

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT
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Ray Rhymmer, Editor
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CONVENTIONS, SHOWS, EVENTS

2009

June

6 Sacramento Ahoq
6 La Jolla Show
6,7 South Bay Shows
13 Go For The Gold Show
20 Whittier Show

6/28-7/5 INT'L CONV Anaheim, CA

Host: Masters of Harmony

August

15 Reno
21-23 Harmony College West, Hayward

September

12 Carson City Show

October

8-11 FWD Fall Convention Sacramento

23 Nevada-Placer Auburn Show
24 Nevada-Placer Grass Valley Show
23,24 Eureka Show

November

1 San Fernando Valley Show
3-7 SAI Int'l Conv, Nashville, TN
7,8 Walnut Creek Shows
7,8 Santa Cruz Shows
14 Leadership Academy **1 Day**
21 Leadership Academy **1 Day**
28 Santa Fe Springs Shows

December

4,5 Fullerton Shows
6 Freemont-Hayward Show
12 Bay Area Show

2010

January

9 Leadership Academy **1 Day**
16 Leadership Academy **1 Day**
26-31 MidWinter Conv Tampa, FL

March

6 Tucson Show
18-21 FWD Spring Convention
Reno

April

10 NW Divisional - Open for Bid
17 AZ Divisional - Open for Bid

May

8 SW Divisional - Open for Bid
15 SE Divisional - Open for Bid
22 NE Divisional - Open for Bid

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 Leadership Academy **1 Day**
20 Leadership Academy **1 Day**

2011

January

8 Leadership Academy **1 Day**
15 Leadership Academy **1 Day**
18-23 MidWinter Conv Tucson, AZ

March

5 Tucson Show
17-20 FWD Spring Convention, TBA

April

9 NW Divisional - Open for Bid
16 AZ Divisional - Open for Bid

May

7 SW Divisional - Open for Bid
14 SE Divisional - Open for Bid
21 NE Divisional - Open for Bid

July

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

2012

March

3 Tucson Show
15-18 FWD Spring Convention, TBA

July

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

2013

March

14-17 FWD Spring Convention, TBA

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 Pittsburgh, PA

2016

June

7/3-10 INT'L CONV Nashville, TN

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