



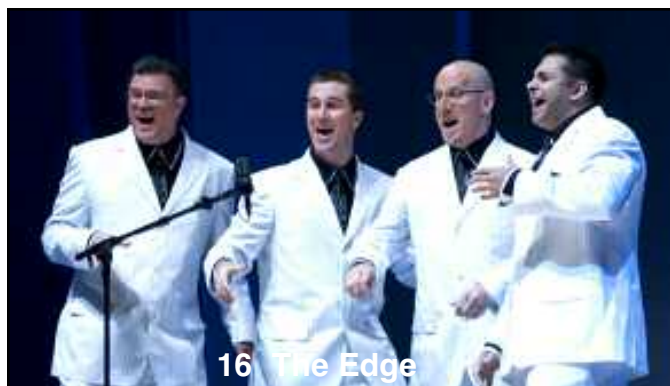
WESTUNES

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

Volume 59

Fall 2009

Number 3



6 FWD Quartets Compete in the 2009 International Contest in Anaheim

Photographs by Lorin May, BHS

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



2009 International College Quartet [CQ] Champions - The Vagrants
Cal-State Long Beach, Cal Baptist University, University of Redlands, Orange Coast College



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Sacramento City College, SCU Sacramento



19 The University Vocal Band Express [CQ]
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22 Let It Ride! [CQ]
University of Nevada Las Vegas



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

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Visalia

Issue	Deadline	Submittal	Chapter News Submittal
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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For those of you reading this who have always been members of the Far Western District, as I have, it may be difficult to realize what a wealth of barbershop riches we have in this part of the country. Everyone likes to think that whatever they happen to be a member of is the best, but let me point out a few facts, and then you decide.

In the past two years this District has been the home of the International Quartet Champions, the International Chorus Champions, the International Senior Quartet Champions, the International College Quartet Champions, Pan Pacific Quartet Champions, Pan Pacific Senior Quartet Champions, hosted two International Conventions and, most recently, the Choir of the World title was won by the Westminster Chorus at the prestigious Eisteddfod Festival in Wales.

In addition to this we have had chapters busy working with the youth in their communities bringing barbershop harmony into their lives, supporting their local school music programs, raising funds for local charities and organizations and providing the public with fine entertainment through shows and performances.

All this while still managing to enjoy each other's company on a weekly basis by joining voices in beautiful harmonies. And, having the benefit of all these accomplished singers nearby makes for a wealth of available coaching talent for all of our choruses and quartets to benefit from. So realize that not only do you have much to be proud of, but also a great deal to be thankful for. I know that I am.

Also, we're not through for the year yet with one of our busiest seasons approaching. We're just about to elect our new chapter leaders who will help us move forward in the year to come. Many of us will also be involved in the production and presentation of our Fall Chapter shows. Next, October will be upon us, and it will be time to assemble in Sacramento for a great Fall Convention. In addition to the competitions there will be other events to hear some great singing, and, most importantly, the opportunity to meet with old friends and ring some fine chords with them. Last Fall I was happy to see several chapters return to the pattern of hosting individual afterglow rooms on Saturday evening. Being able to mingle with your friends and hear all the great quartets up close and personal is one of the highlights of these gatherings for me... the more the merrier.

Following that great weekend, it's time to turn to the more serious business of sending your new and returning Chapter Officers off to your local Leadership Academy for training. As we did last year we will hold separate sessions in Northern California, Southern California and Arizona so that travel time and expenses will be kept to a minimum. Start planning now for your new board to attend, and your chapter will reap great benefits for the coming year. In addition we are going to have a trial program of a new method for making your weekly chapter experience more fun and rewarding. Its initials are CACM, and you'll be hearing more about it in the weeks to come.

I wish you all a happy and harmonious Fall and look forward to seeing you in Sacramento in October!

**Motto:
Together
in
Harmony!**

FWD Sunshine Chairman Jim Holder


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A Membership Idea from the Las Vegas Gamble-Aires “Barbers for Barbershoppers”


Immediately below is a picture of four Gamble-Aires members with a Barber [Neil Rozza] who is in the center. The certificate shown below is in the frame and was presented to Neil Rozza. Notice there are four members present - rather implies a quartet. Page 5 shows the “News” page that is used. You may not use this idea exactly the same way, but think of the possibilities - certainly worth a try, wouldn't you say?

Contact Larry Litchfield larrylitch@cox.net for details.







**LAS VEGAS**

BARBERS for BARBERSHOPPERS



In fond remembrance of those *Good Ol' Days* when close four-part harmony wafted throughout barber shops across America . . . and men of all ages gathered to sing the classic songs born in the eras of Vaudeville, Tin Pan Alley, early Broadway and other venues of bygone years . . .







The Gamble-Aires


Las Vegas' Premier Barbershop Chorus...Celebrating Its 50th Anniversary in 2010


. . . is proud to present this certificate to **CENENNIAL HILLS BARBER & STYLE** and its owner/barber **NEIL ROZZA, Owner/Barber** for being a supporter of the Las Vegas' Gamble-Aires!





CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Date: _____








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READ ALL ABOUT IT

Raise your hand if you love barbershop. Oh good. Almost everyone's hand went up. OK, you can put them down now. So I guess you read Westunes from cover to cover each quarter and that you're always on the Internet looking for interesting info about your hobby, right? You should be. But let's find out if you are. OK, this time raise your hand if you went to the BHS web site and watched that amazing winning performance by the Ambassadors of Harmony in Anaheim. Great. Looks like a few of you did that. OK, try this one - raise your hand if you can tell me how to find the names of former barbershoppers who live within 10 miles of your chapter. Hmm. That's not good. Three of you. That might be a useful thing if you want to increase membership in your chapter, don't you think? Worth surfing around to find. OK, one more - raise your hand if you know where to find a Public Service Announcement that you can use to promote barber-shopping in your area. Hmm, not too many of you there either. That's not good, especially if you're the chapter Marketing VP or Membership VP.

What's my point? My point is that if you do like your barbershop hobby, there's a wealth of information and fun stuff out there that you can read or look up on the Internet. I don't believe enough people take the time to do that, but if they did, they'd enjoy it and their hobby even more and benefit enormously.

So let's look at one of the points I made above. I got an email from a new Chapter President a while ago, asking how his chapter might grow. I asked him if

he'd been in contact with former barbershoppers who lived in the area. "How could I possibly find them?" he asked. "Not very difficult" I told him. Go to <https://ebiz.barbershop.org/ebusiness/>, click on "Members", click on "Search by Proximity" and uncheck "Current Members". Now you can see the names and contact info of all the men within X miles of your chapter who are no longer actively singing. Do you think one or two of them might want to come back after a long rest, or now that you have a new director, or now that you're singing so much better? I think so. So there's a tool that many of you maybe didn't know about ... but could use to great advantage.

The truth is that this new Chapter President could have found that useful tool himself but most of us are not brave enough or inquisitive enough to search out the resources we have available to us. There is so much on the Society and District web sites and in Westunes and the Harmonizer, you'd be amazed. Just take the time to read all about it and to surf around those web sites. It's fascinating. You'll see training videos, performance videos, articles about other chapters and how well they did in areas that you might be looking at yourselves. You can find directories, contest scores, Harmony For Lunch Bunch locations, print registration forms for conventions and see who was awarded what over the years. And so it goes on.

Bottom line is that there is so much happening in this great Society of ours, we need to be in touch with it all and to feel a part of it. And you can have fun and learn so much while doing it. And so I come back to the headline of this article and encourage you once again to "Read All About It".

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 27, 2009

BARBERS FOR BARBERSHOPPERS!
Las Vegas Gamble-Aires Create
Unique Cutting Edge Promotion

Barbers – those happy, talkative chaps who wield scissors, combs and razors often with lightning speed and dazzling dexterity – are in the sights of the Las Vegas Gamble-Aires, which celebrates its golden jubilee next year..

Well actually it's the *customers* the chorus is seeking...as new members!

Barbers For Barbershoppers is the moniker of an innovative new Valley-wide campaign aimed at drawing attention to barbershopping as a musical hobby — and the Gamble-Aires being the place to do it!

The target audience: guys getting their locks shorn! The promotion is reportedly the first of its kind in the global world of barbershopping and seems a natural when membership is dipping in chapters throughout the Society.

Barbers and barbershopping go together...and there's definitely a historic link. So a campaign seemed appropriate. If a pick-up quartet singing a Polecat in an old-time barber shop was a good enough setting for one of Norman Rockwell's most famous paintings, then 21st Century strip mall shops might still be suitable fodder for a modern day membership pitch. Here's how the Gamble-Aires are working it.

Members are being asked to visit their neighborhood barber shops (or hair stylists in some cases) and invite the owner (usually the first-chair barber) to become an official "supporter" of the area's venerable chorus with clear-cut benefits to the owner. Choristers get an instruction sheet telling them how to make their spiel...always with a smile and plenty of enthusiasm.

If a barber shop signs on, the owner (or boss barber) gets (1) a handsome full-color framed certificate depicting the Rockwell painting and appropriate verbiage (easily seen by waiting customers, of course!), (2) discounted show tickets and (3) half off the price of putting an ad in the chorus' show programs. In return, the barber is asked to post on the wall near the snazzy certificate the chorus' show fliers and occasional posters aimed at recruiting new chorus members and announcing other chorus activities.

For more information on the chorus or the new barber shop campaign, contact the Gamble-Aires at Larry-GALVpr@cox.net.

■



Featured Quartets:

- BROADCAST
- The FOUR SUITS
- Older 'n' Dirt



Gamble-Aires - Las Vegas
A Far Western District Chapter





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Getting up to speed so no article this issue.



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Congratulations to our directors involved in the Anaheim contest. You were a part of history and represented us very well: Dr. Greg Lyne and the Voices in Harmony, Russ Young and the Spirit of Phoenix.

And how about that fabulous Master's Class, Stage performance and Harmony Foundation Show that included performances of the Masters of Harmony under the hands and leadership of Mark Hale.

So, there is some interest in becoming a director, and interest in improving as a director.

In the next issue of the Westunes, I hope to have some "testimonials" from directors that went to Director's college in St. Joseph's. If you have never been you need to try to include it on your agenda for 2010.

I had a brain flare... how many of our directors from the district would be interested in gathering for lunch (sorry, not free) on Friday of the District convention to share with each other and share also with a director from outside our district? I have approached the district leaders about this possibility, and I have begun discussion with Jay Giallombardo, Music judge and until just recently, director of the New Tradition Chorus from Northbrook, IL. This may be the first step to restoring the CDG (Chorus Director's Guild) We may also expand this to be an awards presentation.

Fall convention also brings another director activity. There will be a beginning directing workshop on Friday of the District convention from 2-3. There apparently was enough interest prior to the cancellation of HCW to warrant inclusion at the District convention.

I have also approached the Director's Education lead for Region 11 of SAI and will be approaching the DE's in region 12 and 21 to see if we can start some cross-association training and fulfillment of director openings. I still need more input here on: 1. Choruses that need a director (permanent or temporary). 2. Directors who are available to direct on a temporary or permanent basis, 3. Training opportunities for all levels of directors.

What about director certification? There have been some changes, but I am working to find out what each of the interested directors need to have to certify.

The magic of music is in our hands.



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Have you ever actually counted what all takes place at the Fall District Convention? You probably know that the new District Chorus Champs and the District Quartet Champs will be determined. There'll also be new Senior Quartet Champs and the Super Senior Quartet Champs will be announced. Oh yes, Novice Quartet Champs too.

Your district board will meet to work on the issues that affect us all and keep our district running.

The House of Delegates will meet and your chapter representative will be asked to vote on important issues and also to select the district officers for 2010.

But there is more!

We are planning a Harmony For Lunch Bunch at a location near the HQ hotel and contest auditorium. It's a fun time to sing and get your harmonic vibrations going.

There is even more!

From 1pm to 4pm at the hotel you'll find three busy classrooms. These classes are open to everyone that is registered for the convention. Actually, these activities are what make it a convention.

12pm

Room A Open

Room B Open

Room C Woodshed Quartet contest registration and song selection

1pm

Room A **Group Singing** with Jim Turnmire, Northeast Division Vice President

Room B **Ring Chords Like Never Before** with Ron Black, certified Music Judge

Room C **Beginning Woodshedding** with the FWD AHSOW team

2pm

Room A **Tag Singing** with Jim Crowley, Carson City Chorus Director and Gnarly Tag Meister

Room B **Ring Chords Like Never Before** with Ron Black, certified Music Judge [cont'd]

Room C **Beginning Directors Workshop** with David Tautkus, FWD Chorus Director Development Chairman

3pm

Room A **Group Singing** with Jason Dyer, Director of The Great Harmonic Fraternity youth chorus

Room B TBA

Room C **Woodshed Quartet Contest** with the audience as judges

The **Woodshed Quartet Contest** is still being planned, so watch for the final details in eNews in September. For now plan on putting a quartet together, then visit the table outside Classroom C to sign up and to select a melody. Then go off to create your harmonies, add some tiddlies, and maybe even a tag. Come back to the classroom at 3pm for the contest. The winners can proudly wear their medals all weekend.

So what are you waiting for? Register for the convention before the prices go up and get ready for the really great time you know is coming.



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What a great International convention! As expected, the Far Western District made an excellent showing, and did so in a field of very high level competition. Congratulations to all.

I'm sitting here looking back at the results of our division contests. And I'm wondering why, with 19 chapters in the South West division and 20 chapters in the South East division, we had only three SW chapters and six SE chapters competing. The North West division had four competitors out of 15, North East had 7 out of 17, and Arizona had 5 out of 13. If this is the beginning of a trend, then besides the economy, which has already been having its effect on individual attendance, we now have something else causing chapters to not compete and not even attend!

This tells me that something is missing (or needs to be changed) at the chapter level. I would like to know what any of you think these are, so maybe those changes or additions can be made, or at least considered.

The general membership has not had a chance yet to see the changes or planned changes being made as a result of the thorough questionnaire sent and compiled by Keith Eckhardt and others. I think many of you will be pleased when these changes happen. (Be sure to look at the schedule of events for the Fall convention)! But the questionnaire was oriented more toward the individual. If there are reasons that chapters are not participating at the division level, we certainly want to know those reasons as well. So, **please email me or call me** with any and all of your comments, complaints or suggestions concerning this. **I want to know why your chapter chose not to participate in your division contest.** (Many of the non-participants this year are perennial district qualifiers). I have already received some input that the average greater distance to travel to a combined two-division contest is a factor, so we will try to limit that. But if we do that, the attendance must improve or we will be losing money again – that would be your part of the compromise. Let's see if we can fix some things that may need fixing, and get more chapters participating and having fun doing so!

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



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As the newly appointed Marketing and PR Chairman, I want everyone to know that my electronic window is always open.

We all know that one of our biggest concerns is membership and membership retention.

The Youth Harmony movement is alive and well, and a lot of our declining numbers have leveled off...thank goodness. Now's the time to focus on what all of you can do to insure that our Grand Old Society is around for another 70+ years. Are you devoted to sharing with other men (young and old), the feelings that came over you when you heard your first barbershop chord? Your first barbershop song, and your first ripping tag?

Do you remember the thrill of rubbing elbows with your barbershop heroes? That ultimate quartet who inspired you to get in your own quartet, those hilarious routines from that entertaining quartet that everyone wanted to emulate, that unbelievable chorus performance...that to do this day drives you wild with the memory of that experience? Do names like Steinkamp, LaBar, Stevens, Perry, Waesche, and King bring a tear to your eyes? These men were Pied-Pipers for our society. They taught many of us what it meant to be a barbershopper and why it is so important to attend your divisional contest, the district finals in the fall, a mid-winter, harmony college, and the grand-daddy of them all, the International convention and contest...the temple of our "hobby." Are you a Pied-Piper for the society? Who's stepping up to carry on their legacy?

While logo's may be changed, and opinions will always differ on who sang better, performed better, who was funnier, and who simply "blew it" on the contest stage, there's one thing we all agree on...we love chords! There's nothing more uplifting and spiritual than busting a chord with three others guys. All of our history has centered around one thing, the love of chords. The style has been debated over and over. But at the end of the day, we all share one common bond. Standing toe to toe and singing chords. There are moments that come to mind from the 39 years that I've been singing barbershop harmony that put a lump in my throat. It all comes from the underlying fraternal element that our organization has to offer all men, young and old. A place

where you can go, whether it's once a week at your chapter meeting, or by attending every event that's listed on the district calendar...it's all good...and it all offers everyone a chance to come together and put your cares aside for a while....ring a chord, it will change your life.

As your new Marketing and PR Chairman, I encourage all of you to always be on the pro-active side of promoting what we have to offer. Whether your chapter is small or large, competition minded or just a haven for a good time, a few tags and a cold brew, there's something for everyone....and all of us, yes, all of us are the promotions team. Society-wide we can make a difference when it comes to membership by being an Ambassador to our heritage, our musical style, and yes...chords!!!!!! What we do is not for everyone, but what we do and its continued existence depends on all of us doing that little extra when it comes to introducing our music and our organization to others. Who knows, that guy you invite to a meeting just might be the new member of your "ultimate" quartet.

If you need ideas on how to market your specific product, your chapter, your quartet, your chorus...drop me line and let's put our heads together to help you increase your level of enjoyment within the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Let's Bust One!



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Howdy –

The numbers: As of the end of June 2009, the FWD Member count was 2904 (excluding multiple memberships). That's a drop of some 60 members since the beginning of the year – 10 per month.

Gloomy? A bit – but consider that we've recruited no less than 123 new members in that same period, which tracks

as 246 for the year, compared to 214 for 2008. What's bringing us down, as usual, is the rate of non-renewals/late renewals and, sadly, deaths – roughly double the number of newbies we bring in.

But – we're making strides in the right direction – that's for sure!

Just wondering – if we stopped worrying so much about methods, tactics, and programs to recruit new members, and we all paid more attention to just having the best time we can have at chapter meetings, and doing all we can to make sure our guests and fellow chapter members do likewise, would membership growth maybe take care of itself?

Behind the numbers - The top 5 chapters (net gains):

- Redding – plus 53.33%! (8 members)
- Santa Cruz – plus 26.92% (7 members)
- North Valley – plus 16.13% (5 members)
- Brea (tie for 4th) - plus 11.11% (3 members)
- Santa Clarita (tie for 4th) – 11.11% (2 members)
- Placerville – plus 10.53% (4 members)

In all, we had 23 chapters with gains, 47 with losses, and 15 with no change. Congratulations to those gaining (or not losing) members!

Lest you forget – some reminders:

The FWD Convention in Sacramento, October 8-11. Will you be there? I'm sure looking forward to seeing you and sharing your membership thoughts (and maybe a tag or two?). If you haven't yet registered, what in the world's holding you up?

1. NorCal Leadership Academy in Stockton November 14. Something exciting has been added!
2. Watch for news of a CACM (Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meetings) session in conjunction with this event. It's new – it's effective – and it's fun!

See 'ya around...



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Got a College Contact?

Hats off to **Westminster** for letting the world know what we already knew—and for winning the “Chorus of the

World” title at the Llangollen International Choral Festival competition in Wales in July. What a spectacular effort! I trust their trip and experience will be covered in detail elsewhere in this issue. We can all bask with pride in their achievement.

As I sat there in Anaheim watching college quartet after college quartet perform at a level commensurate with the “big time” competition—and three of our past college champion quartets making the Saturday night finals—I couldn't help but think back to the early years of this contest, when every other song was “Coney Island Baby” and the chords didn't always ring. It's clear, the pendulum has swung. The young guys are leading the charge, and the future of our art form is in good hands. Congratulations to The Vagrants on becoming the first all-FWD collegiate champion quartet!

The problem is, while the quality is great, we should have four times as many college guys entering the competition—especially in FWD.

We know a cappella is hot on college campuses. If you passed by the Primarily Acappella booth in the Anaheim convention marketplace, you saw hundreds of vocal group CDs on sale. We know from web sites and other sources there are dozens of choirs and vocal groups on college campuses—I understand as many as 15 groups at UC Berkeley alone with males in them. Many of them are jazz and theatrical groups that are not part of college music departments. Thousands of young men are graduating every year, who are not music majors, but who have enjoyed some aspect of singing as students. Where are they going to sing the rest of their lives?

We need to let these collegians know we exist. We need to let them know barbershop is “hot.” The District board established a budget to help support visits to college campuses by our best college quartets. Our college quartets are all eager to share their love of barbershop with college students—even ready to take days off from school or jobs to do so. The problem is, making contact with the college vocal groups who would be most appropriate to visit, and setting up dates.

So, do you have a contact with a college a cappella group in your area? Or are you willing to make some calls and find out who they are? The Westminster guys and I will be happy to help, and to facilitate a presentation.

IT IS OK TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FWD YOUTH EDUCATION FUND

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~ Kim Hulbert, Three-time Queen of Harmony - Sweet Adeline's International

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2008 FWD Quartet Champions Masterpiece

Hello from Masterpiece!

It's been a while since we've shared an update with you all and since this is the last article we get as your District Champs, we'd like to let you know what's been going on with the quartet.

Way back in April, we performed on the Grand Junction, CO show. The weather was particularly bad in Denver, where we had to connect planes. Well, two of us arrived in Denver, but ... two of us didn't! After many phone calls and a lot of time speaking with the airline company, we all arrived in Grand Junction with an hour to spare and the show went off without a hitch!

We also had an opportunity to get into the recording studio for the very first time to record a song for the new Masters of Harmony recording, Portrait. It was a blast and we have plans to start a recording of our own very soon!

We enjoyed singing on the FWD Go For the Gold Show in late June. It was our honor to share the stage with the other fantastic quartets that would be representing our District at the International contest.

We were thrilled beyond words at the reception we received in Anaheim and our sixth place finish in the quartet competition. As you may or may not know, it's been a few years since we've been up on

the "big stage", and it was great to be there again. We are currently accepting show bids and would love to come and perform on one of your shows here in the FWD.

As our championship year comes to a close, it's truly an honor and our pleasure to represent our fine district as well as our home choruses, The Masters of Harmony and The Voices in Harmony.

We'd like to thank you for all your support throughout the year and a special thanks to our families, who allow us to share our hobby with you all.

Looking forward to seeing and singing for you soon.

For Masterpiece,

Rob, Mark, Alan, Brett



Photograph by Lorin May, BHS



Photograph by Lorin May, BHS

2 pictures from International Quartet Final Contest.





Seen in Anaheim during 2009 International Convention





OC Times 2008 International Quartet Champions

To the members of the greatest district in in the Barbershop Harmony Society: The Far Western District -

This year has been full of many wonderful moments for OC Times. We were blessed to win the International Quartet Championship last year in Nashville, as well as the International Chorus Championship with the Masters of Harmony. Since then, we've had a whirlwind of change. New music, new shows, new cities, new jobs, new baby. Heck, we even got some new shoes!

But when we think about the past year and all that has happened over the course of it, we can't help but think of all the wonderful people that made it possible.

Thank you to:

- Mark Hale, Aaron Dale, the Masters of Harmony, and the Westminster Chorus, who all have a special place in our hearts for pushing us to new heights, and for their innovation, encouragement, and friendship.
- The Easton (PA), Orange (CA), Irvine (CA), Placerville (CA) and Reno (NV) choruses - our home chapters - for giving us such a wonderful foundation that we've been able to build upon over the past few years.
- Our parents, wives, children and girlfriends for their constant love and understanding while we

are away, patience when we are learning music in the car, and tolerance when we spend countless hours polishing the quartet trophy.

- Our Father in Heaven for His saving Grace and for the gift of music that we are so blessed to share with each other and with thousands around the world.
- You all - our fans and friends. You are the people who fill the seats, slow clap before we sing, teach us a tag after a show, add us to your facebook favorites, send e-mails of encouragement, and share a laugh at an afterglow. Without you, none of this would be possible.

Please keep our lead, Sean, in your prayers as he will undergo surgery to repair damage to his vocal chords. He is in excellent care and his doctors expect a full recovery, but it will require Sean to remain silent for a couple weeks. (No small task!) We look forward to having Sean back to 100% in the near future and thank you all for your kind words of encouragement and prayers for a full recovery.

Finally, many of you have asked and we are happy to say that we are in the studio recording our next CD - we're working hard but are busy with shows and other commitments. We hope to have something new for your CD players by next Spring or early Summer. Keep posted at www.octimesquartet.com for updates, sneak peaks and video from the studio sessions.

This, our final letter in Westunes as your Champions, is surely not the last of OC Times. We look forward to many more years representing the BHS and the FWD wherever and whenever we can. We hope to see you at the FWD District Convention in Sacramento and at a few shows along the way.

Thank you for all that you have done and for being the best friends four guys could ask for.

With love & in harmony,

Shawn, Sean, Pat and Cory

With a name befitting his years Orvel Hanel, a member of Voices in Harmony, celebrated his 100th birthday in front of 200 residents of The Terraces in Los Gatos, CA by singing with his barbershop quartet The Century Notes, which entertained with such songs as "And Her Bathing Suit Never Got Wet." With a combined age of 334 years and collectively 191 years of Society membership this must surely be the oldest quartet in both years and experience active in the BHS. And yes, they are active, rehearsing once a week and performing in front of audiences on a regular basis. It was interesting to note that after their formal presentation at the party Orv proceeded to woodshed with two other foursomes for nearly an hour after the party was over. Society President Roger Lewis had it right when he chose as his motto "Singing is Life".



Steve Gammersall
70 Joined 1972

Mark Hildebrand
81 Joined 1954

Orv Hanel
100 Joined 1960

Marv Bertelson
83 Joined 1958

**REMEMBER THE FWD
YOUTH EDUCATION FUND**

THE FAR WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS WANTS EVERYONE TO COME TO

SACRAMENT

OCTOBER 9-10-11, 2009

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND THE FAR WESTERN DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION & CONTEST THIS FALL?

WELL, HOW ABOUT THIS FOR STARTERS . . .

THERE'S SINGING, WOODSHEDDING, CONGRATULATE THE WESTMINSTER CHORUS ON WINNING THE CHOIR OF WORLD TITLE IN WALES (UK), YOU CAN CONGRATULATE THE FWD/ALMUNI MEMBERS OF THE DAPPERS DANDS OF DISNEYLAND FOR RECEIVING THE SOCIETY'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, MAKE YOUR SELECTIONS FOR WHO'LL WIN THE "YOUTH IN HARMONY" QUARTET AWARD AND THE "STANDING "O" AWARD" (BOTH NAMED IN HONOR OF LLOYD B. STEINKAMP), WHO'LL WIN THE FWD QUARTET CHAMPIONSHIP, WHO'S GOING TO WIN THE FWD CHORUS CHAMPIONSHIP, WHO'LL BE OUR SENIOR QUARTET REPRESENTATIVE AT THE 2010 MID-WINTER CONVENTION IN FLORIDA, COME CELEBRATE THE AFWDC's 30TH ANNIVERSARY BY ATTENDING THE "LATE SHOW" ON FRIDAY NIGHT, BE THERE AS SPECIAL FEATURE STARTS THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR, RAISE A GLASS AND SING THE "SMILE" TAG IN HONOR OF THE NEW TRADITION'S 25TH SILVER ANNIVERSARY OF WINNING THE FWD QUARTET CHAMPIONSHIP, CONGRATULATE THIS YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL QUARTET AND CHORUS COMPETITORS, GRAB THREE OTHER GUYS AND SING, FORM A QUARTET FOR NEXT YEAR'S DIVISIONAL CONTEST, BUST SOME RIGHTEOUS TAGS 'TIL DAWN !!!



SPECIAL FEATURE 1989 FWD CHAMPS



THE NEW TRADITION 1984 FWD CHAMPS



www.spebsqsafwd.org



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		HOTEL INFORMATION
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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		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
*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)

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

*Reno
Silver Dollar
Chorus*

Meetings and Events

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

REGISTRATION PRICES

NOTE: ALL CONTESTANTS MUST BUY AN ALL EVENTS REGISTRATION.

ALL EVENTS EARLY BIRD <i>Postmarked by February 17</i>	ALL EVENTS LATE/ONSITE <i>Postmarked after February 17</i>
ALL EVENTS: Adult \$40.00 Student(under 23) \$20.00	ALL EVENTS: Adult \$50.00 Student(under 23) \$25.00 Single Event registrations available onsite

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL

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Contact the hotel directly and use Code: S 10 SING

ROOM RATES for Single/Double:
 March 14 through 18 - \$49
 March 19 and 20 - \$89

2010 FAR WESTERN DISTRICT SPRING CONTEST AND CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s)

Address

City State Zip

Phone Res. ()

Phone Bus. ()

E-mail address

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

Chorus Name: _____

Quartet Name: _____

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

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)

2010 NORTHWEST DIVISION CONVENTION

A Far Western District Quartet and Chorus Qualification Event

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April 10, 2010

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Cheer for new and old friends

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Immediate Past President



Bill Cale

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209-473-2326
WKCALE@aol.com

My sympathy goes out to all of you who may have missed any or all of the three absolutely outstanding conventions that occurred in the Fwd so far in 2009. The BHS mid-winter in January in Pasadena, the combined FWD and RMD pre-lims in Las Vegas in March, and the annual International convention in June/July in Anaheim were sensational events. The Harmony Foundation show in Anaheim was unbelievable. The Masters, the Ambassadors and Dallas combined in a finale of more than 400 men on risers on the floor in front of the stage because the arena management felt the temporary stage could not hold them. Yours truly had to suffer through sitting in the center seat of row seven and absorb all that sound.

Not to worry, fellow Barbershoppers, as there is still the best district convention in the BHS to be held in Sacramento Oct 8-11. Don't miss it. For those of you who may have missed the news, Westminster went to Wales and competed in an international choral competition that has been held for 60 years. 78 groups from 37 countries competed and Westminster was named "Chorus of the World." They had only 35 men on stage. Come to Sacramento and see the expanded "Chorus of the World" compete.

That brings me to the really good news. All you small choruses have real hope. In addition to Westminster winning with 35 on stage in Wales, look at the chorus results in Anaheim. Of the 29 choruses that were in the flow in Anaheim, 13 had 41 or fewer men on stage, three were in the top ten, and seven performed at the "A" level. The smallest chorus had but 20 men on stage and they scored a 73.7%. We CAN all sing well if we'll just decide to do it. It's not hard work, it's smart work. And the better your group, the more fun it is to belong.

Let's have some real fun.

C A C M

Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meetings

is finally coming to the Far Western District! This is the one-day-only event your chapter simply can't miss. For many BHS chapters, CACM has been the catalyst toward chapter vitality, pride, and growth.

Workshop director Chuck Greene is a society-recognized visionary, a skilled director, an extreme quartet man, and an excellent facilitator.

You'll discover how to transform your chapter by learning innovative and exciting ways to:

- Greatly improve your musical product
- Compellingly attract - and retain - members
- Turn your chapter meetings into fun fests
- Transform your leaders into a powerhouse team
- Make your members clamor to be involved

This unique opportunity will be held in conjunction with the NorCal Leadership Academy to be held in Stockton on November 14th. It is open to all chapters in the district.

Required attendees are your Chorus Director, Music and Performance VP, and music team. You'll also want to sign up your President, Membership VP, Marketing VP, and Program VP, as well as other "movers and shakers" in your chapter.

Watch for further news of this one-of-a-kind essential happening in eNews, Westunes, personalized emails, and on the FWD Website.

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

2009 INTERNATIONAL CONTEST SELECTED SCORES

Competitor	%
Quartet Contest	
1 Crossroads	93.7
2 Old School	91.3
3 Storm Front	89.5
4 Ringmastes	Tie 89.1
4 State Line Grocery	Tie 89.1
6 Masterpiece	88.9
16 The Edge	82.5
18 The Crush	81.9
30 Stardust	79.2
38 Audacity	77.8
40 Hi-Fidelity	77.4
Chorus Contest	
1 St Charles, MO	97.5
Ambassadors of Harmony - Highest score ever	
2 Dallas Metro, TX	96.3
Vocal Majority - 2nd highest score ever	
3 Hilltop, MN	92.1
Great Northern Union	
4 Denver Mile High, CO	91.5
Sound of The Rockies	
5 Toronto, ON	90.2
The Northern Lights	
8 Bay Area, CA	89.0
Voices in Harmony	
16 Greater Phoenix, AZ	83.5
Spirit of Phoenix	
College Quartet Contest	
1 The Vagrants	82.4
2 Swedish Match	82.3
3 On Demand	81.3
4 Prestige	81.1
5 4-Way Stop	78.4
18 Epic	70.8
19 The University Vocal Band Expr	70.6
22 Let It Ride!	69.8

FWD Representatives

AHSOW GETS HELP FROM TWO GOLD AND A SILVER MEDALIST

Jim Bagby, Rural Route Four, Jonathan Clunies, Joker's Wild and Don Dobson, of The Four Rascals, all members of AHSOW, certify Andrew Hutson, President of the New Zealand Barbershop Society in all four parts. AHSOW certified fourteen new members into the Ancient Harmonies Society of Woodshedders at the recent International Barbershop Harmony Society Convention and Contest in Anaheim.

Left to right:



Photograph by Earle Holt

FWD Bill Johnson, Don Dobson, Jim Bagby, FWD Robert Lenoil, Jonathan Clunies, NZBS John Grill, FWD Kent Shepard - Education Manager Western USA and in charge of the AHSOW room, and Andrew Hutson new AHSOW member.

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The bottom 2 pictures show OC Times singing Happy Birthday to Elizabeth Randolph, an Assistant Director of the Placerville Chapter, at the Harmony University Saturday night “BIG SHOW” in front of faculty, students and guests. It was a total surprise! Needless to say she loved it - who wouldn’t love having the International Champion Quartet singing Happy Birthday to you? This is just one of the wonderful things that take place when people attend HU. Will this happen every year? Probably not. But it will be unforgettable for her.

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

14006 Westdale Drive
 Bakersfield CA 93314
 Phone: 661-589-4983
 E: brosic@sbcbglobal.net

**New Division 1 SW Editor****Ken Day**

1019 S La Grange Ave
 Newbury Park CA 91320-5313
 Phone: 805-498-4218
 kday98296@roadrunner.com

Well the big International Convention in Anaheim is over and did we see some great singing? For the first time since the 70's the Vocal Majority did not come home with the Gold. They didn't lose, St Charles Won! Any other year the scores VM posted would have won the contest. Not this year. The St Charles presentation scores alone from the five judges were 100, 100, 100, 98, and 98. That's only two points from a perfect score in the Presentation category. I understand that there was another "100" in one of the two remaining categories as well.

With International now in the books, we need to concentrate on Sacramento. If you are one of the guys in the Southwest Division who has not attended a convention in a while, you're missing most of the Barbershop experience. Sure, chapter meetings and rehearsals are fun and we learn a lot, but conventions are the place where we get to sing tags and see our fellow barbershoppers we don't see too often. The last convention we had was in Las Vegas and attendance was less than expected. It may have been because of the distance and that is understandable. But if you plan for that one or two trips per year, maybe with a friend, the distance is not a big deal.

I for one would like to see 100% attendance at the House of Delegates from the Southwest Division. In Las Vegas, I had a lot of table signs left over after everyone had checked in. The Delegate is normally the President of your chapter. If he can't make it, why not ask your chapter to help you out in attending the HOD in Sacramento. Where else can you see the Current Choir of the World Champion. Westminster went to Wales and competed against the best of the world. When the dust had settled Westminster found themselves on top. What this showed me was that it doesn't matter what size your chorus is. If you are singing well and having a great time, people will notice.

With each new member to our Division, I receive a note from Secretary Dick Girvin. I then welcome the new member with an e-mail and Dick sends him an invitation to attend the next Convention on the District. Since I began my term, I have been quite surprised at the number of new men joining our ranks. I know if I were the new kid on the block, I might want someone to show me the ropes of our conventions and contests. Why not ask the new guy if he is planning on going to Sacramento and be his buddy by attending with him if he is. Split the cost of a hotel room and the ride up there. That would bring a few more folks to our state's capital and few more dollars into our treasury. If he is not, it is up to all of us older members to encourage our newer guys to participate in these twice-a-year get-togethers.

I hope to see all of you in Sacramento and sing a tag and/or enjoy an adult beverage with you.

ALOHA CHAPTER**JACK HASHIMOTO**

On May 2nd we presented our audiences with this year's Spring Show entitled "*The Best of Broadway- a Cappella*" with guest quartet **The Perfect Gentlemen**. Also on the bill were **Shari Lynn**, a talented and well known local singer, and the **Honolulu Boy Choir**, directed by **Kale Chang**, a staple in this state since 1974. Kudos to the following: **Bill Joor**, Show Chairman; **Mark Conching**, Musical Director; **Grace Bell**, Set Design and Stage Director/Manager; and to a host of others including **Philip Wee**, **Tim Hopkins**, **Zig Palagyi**, **Rick Klemm**, **Scot Izuka**, **Steve Hokanson**, **Larry Paterson**, **De Decrow**, **Ken Foreman**, **Ken Nelson**, **Rich Cordiero**, **Dan Tom**, **Leavitt Thomas**, and our **Ladies of Aloha**.

On May 17th, the chorus performed at the first annual choral showcase of the 2009 Book and Music Festival.

We lost our beloved **James 'Stacky' Stackhouse** on June 21st at the age of 80, a member of the Aloha Chapter for 40 years. Jim represented the best of barbershopping. No one was a better host and he welcomed all with open arms and an open heart... He loved his family and really lit up when speaking of his grandchildren. I will forever measure myself against the Jim Stackhouse yardstick. Stacky was planning on being with us in Anaheim, and he was, in spirit.

The Sounds of Aloha Chorus had the honor of being the mic testers in Anaheim, our first appearance on the International stage. Countless hours of rehearsal culminated in our **Frankenstein Monster** set. We took 45 members, who were joined by another 14 of our alumni, now living on the mainland. The alumni included **Ted Sayle**, **Brent Anderson**, **Iven Jensen**, **Jim Wigdel**, **John Kuborn**, **John Lennox**, **Mark Pettit**, **Scott Fewell**, **Scott Nessler**, **Steve Elliot**, **Tim Ozmun**, **Bill Curtis**, and **Ross Brown**. **Mark Conching** was in charge of our now famous Mai Tai Party, where numerous quartets came to sing.

Anaheim was also the last gig for our director **Mark Conching**.

After leading us for the better part of 12 years, he turned the reins over to **Rob Hartley**. A barbershopper for 24 years, Mark will be remembered for his leadership, his sense of humor and timing, his knowledge and application of barbershop principles, his optimism and never-say-die attitude, and that endearing quality of always considering himself as part of the chorus rather than a different or higher level.

We welcome **Alika Hussey (L)**, **Alex Lugo (Bs)**, **Woody Woolcock (Bs)** and **Peter Matsumoto (L)**. Alika and Alex are teenagers, spreading Barbershop to the next generation.

RINCON BEACH

KEN DAY

New director **Bobbette Gantz** hit the ground running and with input from the Music Committee several new songs were selected. Bobbette and assistant director **Jim Browne** attended Directors College at Harmony University.

We co-hosted the So-Cal East/West Divisional Contest with the **San Fernando Valleryaires**. It was an eye opening experience and we learned a lot too. Even with regular communication from **Chuck Leavitt** and **Russ Young**, we found out when a chorus has a special needs like a fourth step on the risers, someone needs to notify the hosts.

The Music Committee and our directors decided to hire a fine vocal coach named Diann Alexander to hold a series of 5 Seminars and 5 Workshops. The Seminars are two hours in length each, where all of the members attend a lecture that includes volunteers coming up to be used in demonstrations. This is followed by a six hour workshop where Diann can work more one on one with the members. Each workshop session is 1 ½ hours with no more than 6 chorus members and chorus members are encouraged to watch as many other sessions as they possibly can to see what other members need to work on. Our singing sounds better already.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

BRUCE POEHLMAN

The Valleryaires are very excited to announce that we have a new director: Master Director **Laura Pallas!** Laura has a Masters Degree in Fine Arts – Music, and is an accomplished musician, performer, and regional and international competitor who specializes in vocal production and technique. In addition to directing the award-winning Sweet Adeline Santa Monica chorus, she is a member of the Sweet Adeline International Faculty and coaches quartets and choruses around the country. Laura has also been on the International stage as lead of Naturally, Region 11 2005 Champions.

The Valleryaires Chorus is 50 years old this year! Therefore, this year's Ice Cream Social's theme is 50th Birthday Party! This will be held on Saturday, September 12th. This event features quartets from around the area – so if you have a quartet that would like to perform, or wish to reserve tickets, call 1-818-994-SING. This is a casual and fun event- don't miss it.

SAN LUIS OBISPO CHAPTER

PETE BENNETT

The SLO Chapter is adapting well to our new home at Unity of San Luis Obispo. Come visit us on any Monday evening from 6:30 to 9:00 pm anytime you're on the central coast.

Quite a few of us made the trip to Anaheim where Big **John Staley** and **Dane Howalt** sang with the Champs.

Many of us attended an 80th birthday party for **Rick Snodey** after surprising **Ray Johnson's** wife Helen by bringing the chorus to sing at a celebration of their 50th anniversary.

The Gold Coast Chorus continues to search for a full-time front-line director. Please contact us if you know someone who's qualified and interested.

SANTA FE SPRINGS

On May 30, the Masters of Harmony presented their annual spring show, *"Together Wherever We Go,"* at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center in Long Beach. Joining the Masters on stage were 2008 Quartet Gold Medallists **OC Times** and the 2009 Far Western District Quartet Champion **Masterpiece**. Two weeks later, the Masters tuned up for their performances at the Anaheim Convention with a physically demanding all-day retreat at John Glenn High School.

In 1999, the Masters accepted the very difficult challenge of hosting the International Convention in Anaheim while also competing in and winning the chorus competition. This time the Masters family could focus on hosting duties and "just enjoy" an eagerly anticipated, highly competitive convention, in between three performances as retiring champions. On Thursday morning of convention week, the Masters continued a tradition they started by presenting a Masters Class to a large audience of convention attendees who wanted to learn what the Masters do to achieve continued success. On Friday, the swan song set featured an original song written by Northbrook director Jay Giallombardo entitled "The Dream Is Carried On." The song describes how the achievement of lofty goals can inspire others to pursue their own dreams of success and be helped on their journey by those who have "been there" before them. On Saturday, three choruses that have "been there" many times, having won 20 of the Chorus Gold Medals our society has awarded since chorus competition began in 1954, combined to produce what has been called the greatest barbershop show of all time. The Ambassadors of Harmony, fresh from their stunning upset of The Vocal Majority, joined the Vocal Majority and the Masters of Harmony as part of an afternoon vocal extravaganza of gold medal winners that included the Sweet Adelines International Chorus Champion Harborlites and gold medallist quartets Vocal Spectrum, Max Q and OC Times. Each chorus was introduced and generously lauded by a director from one of the other two choruses. It was obvious how much cooperation and mutual respect exist among these three fiercely competitive choruses, and how much each owes at least part of its success to the successes of the other two. Then, the 420 men of the three choruses combined to sing three songs with such harmonic power and beauty that some of those in the front rows may have felt they were being lifted by sound waves off the main floor into the numbered seats!

Three quartets from the Masters finished in the top 20 (**Masterpiece** placed 6th; **The Edge** took 16th; and **The Crush** finished in 18th place) and **The Vagrants** became the first Collegiate Quartet Champion from the Far Western District.

Special kudos go to **Bill Rosica** and his team of hard-working volunteers, some repeating their roles from the 1999

Convention, for making the Anaheim Convention one of the best planned and best managed in recent memory.

Just a few days after the completion of the Anaheim Convention, our brothers in the **Westminster Chorus** traveled to Wales to take part in an international competition that drew 4,000 choral participants and over 50,000 attendees. Directed by **Justin Miller**, who also serves as MOH choreography coach and front row performer, Westminster's 36 men won the prestigious "*Choir of the World*" Pavarotti Trophy. These talented young men made us all proud as they took barbershop music to new, highly appreciative audiences with stunning success.

During the convention, the Masters released their 7th CD. It is entitled "Portrait" after the CD finale, "Portrait of My Love Medley." This CD, as well as any of the other six Masters' recordings, can be ordered at www.mastersofharmony.org.

Since the last Westunes report, **Jake Bailey, Charles Carothers, Nathan Crawford, Mario Rosales and Chasen Tengwall** have become members of the **Masters of Harmony**.

SOUTH BAY

JOE NAGLE

Tom Schleier has stepped up and done a superb job in assuming the duties of Program Vice President, following the untimely passing of **Mike Martin**. The Coastliners really embraced technology in promoting our annual show in June of this year by establishing a FaceBook Group, posting part of the opening video on YouTube and FaceBook, & selling tickets online on our newly revamped website www.coastliners.org. That coupled with the outstanding job done by Public Relations Vice President **Jack Newman** resulted in a 10% increase in overall attendance over last year. (It didn't hurt to have International Quartet Champion O.C. Times as the featured act, either!)

A warm welcome to our two newest Leads: **Marshal Mies** and **Daniel Tillinghast**. We also welcome the return of former Coastliner **Bob "Nick" Nicholson**, a baritone who recently moved back to the Torrance area. Recent visitors to our chapter meetings include **Pete Zapella** and **George Clark**, and two other former members, **Gil Knips** and **Dave Clark**. Also "visiting" was long time Coastliner **Verne Bagby**, who moved to Northern California, but maintains his membership with South Bay.

Coastliners seen enjoying the convention were: **Jim Kline, Peter Neushul, John Sherburn, Dan Jordan, Steve Bunker, Denny Lawrence, Tom Schleier, Bob Griffiths, Jim Campbell, Mike Luparello, Verne Bagby** and **Ray Eden**. **Joe Nagle** represented the chapter as a volunteer at the convention.

The Catalina Chord Club, which meets the last Sunday of each month at the Catalina Coffee Company in Redondo Beach, continues to be a terrific way to bring together the local barbershop and a capella communities. The monthly event is hosted by our own mixed quartet **Ready, Willing and Mabel (Caroline McLean, Kate Walker, Peter Neushul and Jim Campbell)**.

25 members performed at the Mary & Joseph Retreat Center's annual "*Summer Concert in the Garden*". **Peter Neushul** directed, **Joe Nagle** emceed, and quartets performing at the event were **C-Nile Sound** (L **Denny Lawrence**, T **Bruce Beyne**, bari **Karl Jacobs** & Bs **Rick Llewelyn**) and **Docs on the Rocks** (with substitute L **Dan Ullfig**, T **Bruce Beyne**, bari **Don Duperon**, & Bs **John Saffery**).

Long time Coastliner and baritone section leader **Keith Klein** moved his family to Texas.

VENTURA

JAN TAVARES

We lost a great guy in **Chuck Killen** just when it seemed he might be back. Fortunately we were able to get his 50 year pin to him before he passed away. On very short notice, FWD President **Bob Lally** and Harmony Society Harmony Foundation VP **Ev Nau** helped us speed up the process. Fullerton's Orange Empire Chorus director **Craig Ewing** gathered together a quartet to sing to him at the hospital. **Pete Saputo, Eli Peralta**, and **Fred Robirds** were the other members and Fred stated to this writer ... "*We're really glad that we were able to do it before he passed. We are not a Regular quartet, so we just call ourselves The Sunshine Committee for that day.*" Chuck's family said both occasions were a very happy time for him. We participated in his Celebration of Life as requested. His passion was Barbershop and singing in quartets. Chuck was also a past member of the **Fullerton, the San Fernando Valley and the Santa Clarita Chapter**.

One day later the chorus sang at the Olivas Adobe Historical Site as part of their open house. Former long lost bass **Gary Rice** reappeared as a substitute. He also sang as a substitute bass in our favorite senior quartet **Take 4** with L **Bill Butala**, bari **Tom Lease**, and T **Jim Sumstine**. **The 4 Jays** our newest chapter quartet also got to sing since coming together for the first time as a Singing Valentines quartet: Bs **Joe Smith**, L **Jim Wilson**, bari **Jay Shapiro**, and T **Jan Tavares**.

On July 21st we had a joint chapter function with the visiting **Santa Barbara Chapter**. Besides a marathon tag quartet at the end, we had performances from the 2 chapter choruses plus quartets from both. Ventura's **The 4 Jays** and **Take 4** with their regular bass **Wayne Breese** back sang. Santa Barbara's quartet **Center Piece** with T **Craig Pierce**, L **Bob Wilke** (the chapter's founder) and director, bari **Phil Cook** who is also assistant director and chapter president Bs **Michael Frazier**.

We welcome a very experienced singer as a new member to our chorus, still a Barbershop novice, L **Tom Hickey**. As the **Channel Islands Clippers** chorus continues its revival, we are so pleased to have old members returning, new members joining, 2 active quartets and a 3rd forming in our Little Big Chapter! The C.I.C. chapter believes that you don't fully experience all the joy of Barbershop Singing until you are in a working quartet.



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But, these are precious days for those in their chapter. Every chapter has a 'core group of guys' and they all know who they are. They are the ones who get stuff done. They have that group of course, but in the summer time there is a different group, *The Hard Core Corps*, those who live through the summer here, with a week off here and there, and who attend their weekly rehearsals. Last year the most they had, at any given week was 11. This year they are averaging 10 or 11. Their smallest group this year was five, but they had four parts and a Director.

They are excited to have as members four high school boys, who call their quartet **Desert Melodies** and are a part of their summer core corps.

BREA

DAVE GUNTHER

The Gaslight Chorus is proud of their excellent placement in the newly renamed *Southeast Division Chorus Contest* and are now preparing for their appearance in the FWD contest in Sacramento. But along the way, they have enjoyed some wonderful side performances.

On June 27 they held their first annual Gaslight BBQ, at the home of chapter treasurer **Bryan Forbes**. This was a great opportunity to get together with their chapter members and their families to enjoy good food and lots of singing. Thanks to chapter secretary **John Gaston**, they had a complete sound system set up including monitor speakers for the quartets to use while entertaining themselves and the rest of them.

As new members of the Brea Chamber of Commerce, they have been pursuing performing opportunities that might bring in new members and other performances. As a result of this mixing with their community, they were asked to sing at a Chamber mixer appearance provided them with contacts for several other possible opportunities that they are still exploring.

On July 19 they made a second annual appearance at the Emanuel Lutheran Church in La Habra. Their 90 minute show included the chorus, an excellent new chapter quartet that has yet to come up with a name, their quartet friends, **Preferred Blend** from the Fullerton Chapter, an octet called **Eight is Enough** composed of **Preferred Blend** and members of the Gaslight Chorus, and the award-winning **California Crossroads** quartet. Lauren and Lindsay Forbes, daughters of Bryan Forbes, provided an excellent violin and piano interlude while the church took up a free-will offering, a percentage of which went to Lutheran World Hunger.

Their summer ended with making a return appearance on the Fullerton Chapter-sponsored Harmony Under the Stars Youth Benefit show at Pearson Park in Anaheim. What a privilege it was to have the Westminster Chorus!

COACHELLA VALLEY

TERRY MANN

These are precious days, here in the Low Desert. Hot, hotter and hottest is the way they grade their weather.

EL CAJON

MIKE DORMAN

*(Digester's note: It is with extreme sorrow we sadly report the passing of Editor **Mike Dorman**, culminating his long battle with stomach cancer. A mass in his behalf will be held at Our Lady of Grace church August 14, in El Cajon.)*

FULLERTON

DICK COTE

On 17 July, the *Fullerton Harmony for Lunch Bunch* had a milestone meeting. They had a record crowd to celebrate **Stan French's** 93rd birthday. Stan, as many know, is the founder of HFLB for the Fullerton Chapter and has supported many efforts throughout the Far Western District in fostering the Lunch Bunch concept, working closely whenever possible with **Bob Morrison**, the FWD HFLB Chair.

There were over 60 people in attendance, including Stan's wife, **Anita**, a long time Barbershopper and singer with the Sweet Adelines. Stan's family was there in great numbers with his children, their spouses, and grandchildren. Master chef **Fred Robirds** prepared a delicious cake for the whole gang, and decorations, including a splendid banner, were provided by **Dick Cote** and **Don Derler**, and musical treats were sung by several quartets as well as the group.

HEMET

BRUCE SMITH

(Front Page news (with pix): Editor Bruce Receives 3rd Place in the International Electronic Bulletin Contest! Congrats Bruce!

President **Dave Kelley** appointed **Harry Kaylor** as Chairman of the Music Committee, which includes **Bob Doty**, **Jack Morisseau**, **Larry Hulland** and **Clay Panliqui**. They are tasked to develop the Spring Show. **Larry Hull** is the show chairman.

Bob Doty is the new director, replacing **Jack Morresseau** who directed after the demise of **Howard Mesecher**.

INLAND EMPIRE

DAVE COVEY

The Inland Empire Chapter did a sing-out for "Ability Counts," a local organization dealing with assistance for physically challenged people. Good PR. One of the men who heard them that day has since visited their rehearsal and is enthusiastic about our hobby.

July 14 marked their annual *"Steak & Beans"* event (an opportunity to forget about cholesterol and calories for one night, and to enjoy good food and Barbershop singing).

Chapter Quartet **Four Harmony, Press Four** sang at a strawberry festival at a retirement home in Redlands and also sang the *National Anthem* at the Epicenter before a Cucamonga Quakes baseball game

LA JOLLA

PETER HENSLEY

La Jolla proved in the division contest, that they are the best small chorus in the FWD. Regular director **Kim Hulbert** was already committed to adjudicating in a Sweet Adeline contest out of town, however she was well represented by Assistant Director, **Jason James**.

The annual Cabaret Show started with the fantastic food from chef, **Frank Borik**, followed by the doo-wop antics of **Added Attraction**, while the audience ate. Then the chorus entertained the audience, ending with their new western number, *Boot Scootin' Boogie*, where the ladies in the audience seemed to go crazy with the cowboy hats and the boot stompin' choreography.

This was followed by **California Crossroads**, ending with their guitar rendition of "Harmony," where the audience is invited to join in. Finally **The Perfect Gentlemen** came onstage with their chest full of costumes and unusual musical instruments. In the last couple of weeks, the famed choreographer, **Cindy Hansen**, flew out from Colorado to introduce and teach new choreography for three chapter songs.

California Crossroads (Larry Thorpe and Pete Hensley from the local chapter, **Buddy Yarnell** from **Brea** chapter, and **Les Weiser** from the **Masters of Harmony**) have been busy: a) headlining and "saving" the **Whittier** show, when the planned headliner couldn't make it at the last minute, b) performing at the San Diego County Fair a cappella contest, c) representing the Int'l Society by singing at Disneyland, during Int'l week in Anaheim, and d) headlining a **Brea** Chapter show.

LAS VEGAS GAMBLE-AIRES LARRY LITCHFIELD
50th ANNIVERSARY. Plans are underway for a gala 2010 birthday/Golden Jubilee bash honoring the legacy of Nevada's oldest barbershop chorus...**THAT'S US!** On the drawing board are special gigs, city/county/state recognitions and other events heralding memories, chapter milestones and hoped-for reunions with present/past G-A choristers. The welcome mat's out for any G-A "alums" to join in the fun.

BARBERS FOR BARBERSHOPPERS! See pages 3 & 5. It's a new member recruiting idea featuring a framed color certificate presented to barbers/shop owners around the Valley. It's a visibility/recruiting brainstorm still in adolescence.

NEW MEMBER: Larry "Peck" Pechart has become a **Gamble-Aire** and we've all warmed to his friendly personality, willingness to help and his solid bass tones. He's already on the nominating committee and recently brought his charming wife to rehearsal to check out the chorus; apparently we passed muster 'cause Peck's still singin' strong.

CHURCH GIGS: With many church choirs on summer vacations, the G-As drafted a letter to church music administrators offering our harmonious talents as a choral fill-in. The chorus and its three quartets offered a repertoire of barbershop-arranged religious music at the University Methodist Church. It lasted five hours and included two worship services – each followed by a fellowship hour during which two quartets performed.

NEW REHEARSAL SITE: Speaking of churches, the chorus moved its weekly rehearsal site across town to a new Lutheran Church in the somewhat remote southwest. Almost across the street from the church sits one of the Valley's largest HOA communities with some 2,500 homes...soon to be 5,000! Our **Four Suits** quartet was an honored participant in a July Fourth HOA parade. Later the nattily-dressed foursome serenaded residents in a short clubhouse gig, armed with ample flyers.

LAS VEGAS METRO

JOHN C. THOMPSON

The City Of Lights Chorus performed their summer show *"Let Freedom Sing"* at three different venues in the Las Vegas Valley in June. It was a patriotic show. The first show was performed at the Starbright Theatre in Sun City Summerlin, to a sold-out venue. It was followed up with performances at the Freedom Hall Theater in Sun City Anthem, Henderson, NV, and then a matinee at the Winchester Cultural Center in Las Vegas.

The Chapter formed a VLQ to perform some of the show tunes, to entertain about 300-400 residents of Sun City Summerlin at their Residents Forum show called *"Salute to Veterans"*.

ORANGE QUARTET CHAPTER

MARK SHELDON

On Monday, June 29, the Orange Chapter hosted *"Quartet Chapter Night"* at the Hilton Anaheim, and for one night we were the Main Event at the International Convention! Over 100 people from all around the barbershop world (including VIPs such as **Jim DeBusman**, who sang and coached) participated in an evening-long demonstration of the quartet chapter format. Sixteen named quartets (including mixed quartet Kaleidoscope from Japan) and nineteen random quartets combined for 39 song performances. **Mike Werner** emceed, **Dave Lowerre** & family managed the quartet assignment board, **Paul Sandorff** and **Rich Spencer** greeted, and many others pitched in. Thank you also to Convention Manager **Dusty Schleier** and the Hilton staff for their help, and to the Society for generously providing the room.

Two student teams from Chapman University recorded Orange chapter meetings for class projects, and graciously made their videos available to the chapter. Mix-n-match quartets from the **Wavemakers** and **Bleu Lite Special** sang for patriotic events at the Garden Grove Elks Lodge (June 13) and the Santa Ana Library (June 27). New chapter members are **Jim Gruver** and **Jim Lowerre**.

PALOMAR PACIFIC

JOE PASCUCCHI

The Music Men Chorus under the direction of **John Hulbert** has grown to 45 members. The Chorus and the two chapter quartets, **A Song And A Smile** and **Sound Design**, were very active singing in the community over the past year.

Harris Kehrmann, one of their new basses was selected as BOTM for July. The annual *Pal-Pac Chapter Novice Quartet Contest* is scheduled for Tuesday, Sep. 29, 2009.

Bill Scofield conducted a program called "*Get to Know Your Barbershop Neighbor*". A pre-printed guide sheet was given to members, who then paired up, interviewing each other. Small prizes were given for the most interesting items.

The Rainbow Connection, Magic Mountain's favorite Barbershop Quartet, celebrated their friendship and music with a reunion after 38 years at the Palomar Pacific Chapters annual barbershop show, and had a great time at the afterglow remembering 10 of their songs with choreography! **Jim Crowley**, the original tenor, came down from Carson City, Nevada to join **Gary Cartano**, the baritone of note, and **John Hulbert** the bass, along with **Spence Graves**, lead, for an exciting evening of singing and frivolity topped off with closing the afterglow by singing with the champs, **Hi-Fidelity**. Spence stated, "For those of you who might remember the Rainbow, I'm sure it brought a tear to your eye (in fact I thought sure I saw **Marie Ewing** with a pained look) to see four old dudes try it one more time."

RIVERSIDE

BILL SHOVA

John Brockman, (The bari of The Crush) is now the FLD for the *New Gang on the Corner* and is working with the chorus on their current repertoire. **Wayne Bell** recently joined the chapter. Both the chapter chorus and chapter quartet **BLING** have qualified to compete at the FWD Fall Contests.

SAN CLEMENTE

DON THOMAS

The Beach Cities Harmonizers recently welcomed new member **Joe Reinke**, a U.S. Marine stationed at Camp Pendleton who started singing barbershop in his home state of Wisconsin. They are proud to have in the chapter an active member of the USMC.

The group has been quite active in their local community with performances at the Mission in San Juan Capistrano and at Villa Paloma and Seasons ; both senior living centers also in San Juan Capistrano. A dozen of their members had a great night participating in the Orange Quartet chapter function at the Anaheim Hilton during the Int'l convention week.



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Seven quartets and five choruses participated at the combined division convention in Fresno. With the state of the economy and the longer than usual distance for a division convention, I appreciate everyone who came out. Congratulations to Don't Tell Mom, the 2009 division quartet champion.

If you missed the international convention in Anaheim, then you missed one of the most exciting conventions in recent memory.

The chorus contest in particular was electric, and the performances by the top choruses left me awed and breathless. Our division was once again represented by the Voices in Harmony, who did a great job in what may go down in history as the most competitive field of choruses ever assembled.

With summer quickly winding down, our attention quickly turns to the fall and beyond. I encourage every member of the Northwest Division to make the trip to Sacramento for the district convention in October. It seems in recent years that many members feel that there is no reason to attend the convention unless they are competing. If you are one of them, you are missing out on one of our hobbies great activities and the chance to meet and sing with men from outside your chapter who share your passion for barbershop singing. Lobby singing, hospitality rooms, Friday workshops, the AHSOW room, meal times, and any other time four or more men gather to ring a chord are what provide the excitement and energy of a convention. With the convention so close to home this year, come check it out and find out all the fun you've been missing.

Supporting youth music education is a growing activity throughout the BHS. I know that Santa Cruz has been very active but would love to have chapters reaching out all over the division. If your chapter is already doing so, please let me know. If not and you want some guidance or assistance, call me.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that we have the date and location set for the 2010 division convention. Mark your calendars and plan to be in San Mateo on April 10 at the Bayside Performing Arts Center. Palo Alto-Mountain View is the host chapter, but I am hoping that another chapter will consider shadowing PAMV in order to potentially host the 2011 convention. In recent years our division conventions have been hosted by only two chapters (Bay Area and PAMV). If your chapter is interested in hosting the 2011 convention, please contact me and John Jones so we can assist with planning and training.



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EUREKA

MAC GARDNER

Years of historical tradition came with the first two performances of the **Humboldt Harmonaires** following our big spring show. First came Memorial Day Observance at the Ocean View Cemetery in Eureka. We have many veterans of World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam in the Harmonaires, so this has been one of our favorite performances every year. Our red, white and blue uniforms also made a hit as we sang the "*Star-Spangled Banner*" and "*God Bless America*." Some of us also assisted the American Legion and the Korean War vets in placing flags on the graves of comrades.

A few days later we sang at a less solemn occasion--the opening game of our beloved Humboldt Crabs Baseball Team. The Crabs are *"America's Oldest Continuously-Operated Summer Collegiate Baseball Team."* 65 years old, some who made it all the way to the major leagues.

We kept our Crabs baseball caps off until we had sung the national anthem. Then, with special introductions from the press box, we donned the caps and smiled through our special arrangement of *"Take Me Out to the Ballgame."*

Plenty of summer fun followed, starting with our annual *"Wives-and-Family Social"*. The chorus sang well enough and loudly enough that passersby stopped in for a little listening and singing along. Even some of our grandchildren joined in. More fun and food ended our summer with the famous **"Stale Hot Dog Roast"**--hosted by **Don** and **Nancy Setterlund**.

FREMONT/HAYWARD

RAY SPINOSA

The New Dimension Chorus performed for the second time at the Villa Fairmont Mental Health Rehabilitation Center, entertaining the recovering patients there. The chorus returned to the Wittenberg Manor Retirement home in Hayward to entertain an appreciative group of seniors. Also, the chorus competed at the NorCal West Convention in Fresno and qualified for the Far West District Convention contest and claimed the Most Improved Chorus Trophy. That same month, the chorus performed at the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. **Kevin Smith** provided sound equipment and expertise for the various performing groups, including our chorus, who entertained as participants walked to raise money for the Cancer Society. The final event of the spring was a performance at the Masonic Retirement Home.

MARIN COUNTY

PAUL GOLDSMITH

The Marin Chapter is sounding better than ever under the dedicated musical leadership of Director **Phil DeBar**. Phil has been capably assisted by Associate Director **Paul Wren**. The most committed visitors are returning to enjoy the camaraderie and new songs added in preparation for our November annual show, *"Those Were the Days!"*

Several members of the Chapter, including the Director and Associate Director headed south to Anaheim to enjoy the International Convention. In their absence, the Chapter was ably directed by **Glenn Langdon** during their annual 4th of July show at the Marin County Fair in San Rafael, CA. The capacity crowd gave Glenn and the chorus a standing ovation.

The quartet **Upscale** has commissioned a terrific new arrangement which it will debut soon. The quartet **Opus IV** was recently coached by **Dr. Greg Lyne**, and showed noticeable improvement as a result.

PALO ALTO/MOUNTAIN VIEW

DEAN JAMES

The Peninsulaires had a great time creating the pirate costumes for our pirate show this spring. We hardy mates were ably led

by our ship's Captain **Steve Sammonds** until we were besieged by the dastardly Captain Hook (also Steve) and his evil blighters (**SPAM**). However, we were miraculously saved by Peter Pan (Ryan Sammonds, Steve's son).

We were, once again invited to sing the national anthem at the San Jose Giants game, and *"God Bless America"* at the 7th inning stretch.

SAN FRANCISCO

DON KINGTON

The Cable Car Chorus performed at the Memorial Day ceremony at the historic Presidio Military Cemetery. This was the second year the Chorus sang at this patriotic annual event. The singers provided the large crowd with *"The National Anthem"* and *"God Bless America."*

SAN MATEO

THOMAS ADDISON

Steve Sammons was our Far Western District Standing Ovation critic for our successful Spring Show where about 600 happy attendees helped us keep barbershop harmony alive. He was ably assisted by **Chuck Hunter Jr** who provided many helpful comments. The summer music program is underway with skills building led by Director **Judaline Ryan**, and master barber-shopper **Owen Doyle**. We are trying to incorporate our full 8 points of fun into most chapter meetings. New members have joined and are fully participating in all of the chapter activities.

SANTA CRUZ

ED WARNER

Cynthia Case, a graduating senior at Soquel High School, received the **Gold Standard Barbershop Chorus's Ken Brosius** Memorial Scholarship of \$750 at the Soquel HS Honors and Awards Night. Cynthia was chosen for her outstanding work in the music department. She plans to attend University of the Pacific to pursue a career in music. A second scholarship of \$250 went to **Christian Pursell**, a graduating senior at Monte Vista Christian School in Watsonville. He will attend Cabrillo College to study music.

The scholarships are named for the late **Ken Brosius**, founder of the chorus. Raffles at the chorus's annual Barbershop Cabaret and Sing for Your Life shows fund the scholarships. Since establishment of the scholarships in 2007, four awards have been made totaling \$2,000.

SANTA ROSA

RAY CROWDER

The Redwood Chordsmen performed at the annual *"Avenue Of The Flags"* ceremonies on Memorial Day at Santa Rosa Memorial Park in front of 1,000 attendees.

The annual spring show *"Barbershop, Banjos, and Birdies"* was a big hit. The Chordsmen did a parody on golf, and there was a great performance by local favorites, **The Southtown Strummers**, a fantastic banjo band from the Sonoma County area.

Director **Phil Debar** had the chorus singing very well at the summer Farmer's Market in Cotati.

Two chapter quartets, **Just One More Song** and **Redwood Rhapsody**, performed for birthday celebrations, private parties, and at local wineries during the summer. Bass **Dan Exelby** did double duty with both quartets while Mike Stewart was gone.

Ray and Joyce Crowder hosted the chapter's "summer social" with nearly 40 members and wives. It was great to see **Don and Shirley Williams** from Bend, Oregon. Don is a former member of the Redwood Chordsmen.

Newest members **Patrick Lawrence** and **Eric Titus**, both 18 year old baritones, are seniors at Maria Carrillo High.

"Kudos" to our new member **Richard Parry-Jones** for his photographic prowess. He has been instrumental in producing some great chorus, and quartet shots.

SF BAY CITIES QUARTET **CASEY PARKER**
Orv Hanel, Keeping America Singing for a century!

President Steve opened our meeting with a report on the birthday partly held for veteran member **Orv Hanel**, who celebrated his 100th birthday. A guest quartet from the Terraces Residence sang for the event, followed by the **Clef Dwellers**, with Orv singing baritone. Those who know Orv will tell you his baritone voice is as strong and accurate as it was a mere fifty years ago. **Casey Parker** gave a report on the International Convention held recently in Anaheim. Casey inducted new members into **Ancient Harmonious Society Of Woodshedders (AHSOW)**, a subsidiary of the Barbershop Harmony Society. AHSOW boasts 1200 members that have qualified by singing two or more improvised harmony parts satisfactorily. Woodshedmeister **Dennis Baker** brought us another rose tune, *My Ramblin' Rose* (1922).

WALNUT CREEK **DICK JOHNSTON**
Dolores Mendenhall, a veteran a Capella chorus organizer, director and adviser, has replaced **Jim Stenson** as music director of the Devil Mountain Chorus. Jim resigned as director, but he continues to sing with the chorus. He directed the chorus for over 18 years, more than half the time since the chorus was formed. Our director search concluded very successfully.

Dolores has been the director and mentor of seven Sweet Adelines choruses, earning two "Sweet Adeline of the Year" awards. She directed a men's barbershop chorus in Livermore. As a quartet member, she has sung all parts, from tenor to bass. She organized and led both the **Harmonizers**, a mixed group, and the **Grace Notes**, an all-female chorus, at nearby Rossmoor.



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CARSON CITY **RALPH QUOSIG**
The Chorus of the Comstock opened the annual "Pops in the Park" Spring concert at the Nevada Governor's Mansion. We performed a dozen songs that had the audience clappin' their hands and keepin' time with their feet. The Carson City Symphony Orchestra and members of the Community Concert Choir were especially appreciative of our quality performance.

The chapter received two grants from the Nevada Arts Council: a Chapter Development Grant and an Arts Education Grant, each over \$1,000. We also received a grant from the City of Carson City to send three music educators to Harmony University this summer. With troubled financial times this is quite an accomplishment, due largely to the efforts of Past-Prez **Rook Wetzel** and Director **Jim Crowley**.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA **MILES SUTTER**
The Golden Valley Chorus had the distinction of sharing the stage with 31 musical and talented acts as part of the Merced Theatre Restoration Benefit Project. It gave us the opportunity to share our wonderful hobby and music with the always supportive and appreciative people of Merced, and also contribute to the success of this very worthwhile project. Soon, the theater will once again host live music concerts, live performances, movies of all kinds, and many different community events.

The MC for the fun evening "guest night" was **Derick Sturke**. He introduced all of our guests and then chapter president **Howard Barber**, who was in charge of the entertainment portion of our program. Musical director **Dain Goad** demonstrated breathing exercises and various chorus position steps. JPB music books were then distributed and all sang a half dozen Barber Polecat songs. Then came teaching of tags by **Howard Barber**. Our first performing quartet was **Four Tune Hunters**, consisting of **Howard Barber, Greg Kramp, Mike Viss** and **Terrell Chambers**. The quartet proceeded to teach "Down By the Old Mill Stream" with each member of the quartet teaching his part to the guests and members. **Good Time Harmony**, consisting of **Bob Clark, Dain Goad, David Ramsey-Warner** and **Dale Williams**, then performed. Next was "Name That Tune In Two Measures" as Bob Chapman played the piano. 15 different song beginnings were played and all had to name the song. The chorus then proceeded to perform the contest package for the benefit of our guests. **David Ramsey-Warner** delivered the pizza via Round Table and Dr. Bob provided the sheet cake (with some help from his wife Sonya)..

FOLSOM **STAN TRUMBULL**
The Folsom Harmony Express had our best spring starting with our preparation for the Northeast Division Spring Contest

in Fresno. We selected two new songs and decided to present a more serious than comic contest package. Our parody packages in the last few years have been very entertaining but did not score too well. We succeeded in winning in the Most Improved Chorus award and our best ever score.

A large gathering of friends and family came to support us in a dress rehearsal for the Northeast Division contest. To our delight **Sierra Bells**, a wonderful ladies' Octet from the **Sierra Gold Chapter** of the Sweet Adelines, came in support of their coach, our director, **Kent Borrowdale**

The Harmony Express Chorus performance at the Sylvan Cemetery Memorial Day Services was the highlight of the ceremony honoring our fallen military heroes. The patriotic package draws ever-increasing crowds and received many of kudos.

Our second ever registered Quartet, **TBDL** was proud of their contest performance at the Northeast Division contest in Fresno. **T Ozzie Palos**, **L Kent Borrowdale**, bari **Ken Potter**, and Bs **Stan Trumbull** competed in the Senior classification.

FRESNO

DAVID REITZEL

The Gold Note Chorus welcomes two new members": **L Chris Livermore** and **L Ron Whisenant**.

The GNC had the pleasure of hosting the NE/NW division contest, under the leadership of **Jim Turnmire**. Soon after was the GNC's Memorial Day singout at Fresno Memorial Gardens, graced by a color guard; 1,400 American flags; and bagpipes, dignitaries, and honorees galore.

Adam Kitt accepted the GNC directorship. A music major in college specializing in vocal music, he has been involved in numerous choral groups such as the San Diego Comic Opera and the Grossmont College Master Chorale. He started Barbershop as a member of the GNC in 1998, moving to Orange County in 2001 where he sang with the **Irvine Chapter**. He joined the newly formed Brea chapter, becoming Assistant Director under the direction of MUS Judge **Phil Ordaz**. In 2008, Adam and wife Megan and their two children returned to Fresno. Their third child arrived shortly before Adam made his contest debut as GNC's interim director.

NEVADA PLACER

ROGER PERKINS

The Sierranaders again sponsored the annual Lake Francis campout May 29 to June 1. **Roger** and **Phyllis Fox** were wagon masters [again]. The potluck on Saturday evening was delicious as usual. It was followed by the annual quartet performance at the amphitheater across from the lake. **Elmer Fairbanks** was MC and kept things moving along. 12 quartets performed.

The annual John Gurule Memorial Somewhat Serious Quartet Contest and Bean Feed was held the first Tuesday in June at 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center in Auburn. The food portion of the program was handled by **Bill Beck**, **Roger Perkins**, **Tim**

Martin, **Tom Klasey** and **Ken Potter**. The quartet contest followed the food. The chore of making a list of the quartet entries and tallying the scores was handled by **Roger & Phyllis Fox**. The mic testing quartet was **The Great Perk** (he humbly said) who won the contest in 2007. The quartet consists of **Roger Perkins**, his son **Mark**, and two grandsons **Tyler** and **Sean**. A total of 23 quartets signed up and performed one song each. The highly paid judges were **Tahoe Blue** who came from Reno. As NE Division champs, they put on a great performance for us while scores were being tallied. MC was the ever-clever **Clark Abrahamson**. When the smoke cleared the third place quartet was **Breaking Glass** (**Tim Martin**, **Nick Nero**, **Dan Wilson**, **Roger Perkins**). In second place was a quartet of young people from Placerville, **Amazingly Graceful** (**Elizabeth Randolph**, **Joey Saffren**, **Brandon Dyer**, **Jason Dyer**), and the #1 quartet, also from Placerville, **The Jolly Bunch** (**Elizabeth Randolph**, **Matt Provencal**, **Jason Dyer**, **Ted Pickell**). The Placerville Youth In Harmony program really works!

With Singing Valentines finally tallied up we find that the **4T9r4** (**Steve Mathews**, **Verne Bagby**, **Dave Bishop**, **Tony Prowense**) brought in more money than any other quartet. They braved the snow in Grass Valley with 4-wheel drive vehicles to do Singing Valentines on Friday.

PLACERVILLE

BILL PECK

The El Dorado Youth Chorus, which competed in Pasadena during the International MidWinter Convention, is continuing under the direction of **Jason Dyer**. They decided to become members of the chapter and several have been singing with us in preparation for our show.

The Gold Rush Chorus sponsored **EPIC** in their appearance in the Collegiate College Quartet Contest at the convention in Anaheim. The chapter raised \$1,700 which covered all of their expenses. **Keith Eckhardt** stepped up and took on double duties after one of the members of the committee dropped out. The ladies handled selling show and raffle tickets. **EPIC** performed well and took 18th place out of 26 entries.

Richard Lund is now a dual member with the **Voices In Harmony** and competed with them in the chorus contest in Anaheim. In the contest of contest, the **VIH** ranked 8th place out of 29 competitors.

SACRAMENTO

JOE SAMORA

The Capitolaires have added five new members since January 2009. Our Founder's Day Open House was held on June 9th with about a dozen guests in attendance. The chapter is celebrating 63 years of barbershop harmony.

The Capitolaires competed in the NE/NW Division Chorus Contest and won the Northeast Division Championship. They will compete and host the FWD Convention in Sacramento, October 8-11. **Bill Borah** and **Gib Hertler** are the co-chairs.

The Capitolaires chorus and **Pot Luck** sang for the Sacramento Jazz Festival Memorial Service on May 25 with the 101 Army Dixieland Band. There were over 1200 people attending. The quartet **Quartessence** entertained with several other singers for the “*Singing For Life*” Blood Drive held in Sun City, Roseville.

The Capitolaires presented “*Rock and Roll Memories*” Show twice on June 6 at Hiram Johnson High School. The chorus and six quartets performed. Kudos to show chairman **Steve Greene**.

BOTY is our Director **Bill Borah**. He is recognized for being a faithful music educator and for his diligent efforts in improving the overall sound of the chorus.

STOCKTON

MARC JANTZEN

The Stockton Portsmen sang at four Stockton Ports Baseball Games. We sing to the fans as they arrive at the game and when the game begins perform the National Anthem. We sing once again during the 7th Inning Stretch. We’ve had a good turn out by chorus members. The Ports are a franchise of the Oakland A’s and draw an audience of around 3,500 to 4,000 per game.

The chorus sang three times at a weekly concert series sponsored by the local Musicians Union. The concerts are held at Victory Park and draw a crowd of around 1,500 each week.

We have welcomed several new members to our Chorus over the past few months. New voices are always welcome.

Seven Forget Me Notes, a group that sings out of our Chorus, go to Sacramento to join the HFLB. The Forget Me Notes sang at several retirement facilities over the past couple of months. The Forget Me Notes is a group of 10 men that meet three times a week for coffee and practice.

Fourmost, a quartet with the Ports, sang at the local Speedway recently with 4,500 people in attendance. They had an opportunity of singing in Rio Vista at the Point Restaurant on two different occasions for the brunch crowd. The Widower’s Club was also a venue for a recent appearance.

VISALIA

BUD CASE

A hearty **Mighty Oak Chorus** “Atta Boy!” (and Gal) goes out to the following members and several gracious wives that helped raise about \$1,300 last Friday, Saturday and Sunday (June 5-7) in the Yard Sale held at Ted Petersdorf’s Visalia house: **Dee Baughman, Bob and Rita Browne, Bud Case, Rich Crain, Pat Harrison, Collin Johnson, Jerry Mitchell, Ted and Aileen Petersdorf, Paul Simon, and Gary and Sherrie Smith**. Thanks also goes out to all those who donated items. There was a good variety to attract buyers. When it was over Ted contacted the Gleaners and they took the rest and even cleaned Ted’s garage for him.



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Ted took a well deserved vacation, so no article.



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CASA GRANDE CHAPTER

LOREN ENGLUND

The **Desert Sounds Chorus** cancelled rehearsals for a couple of summer months. Our membership includes numerous “snow-birds” going home and many fellows taking summer vacations. We will return to our regular schedule on Monday, September 7.

A couple of quartets were active in the community, most notably **Four Ever Young**, comprised of **Jim McClelland, Jake Pierce, Sam Warfel** and **Loren Englund**. They helped celebrate member **Weymouth Fogelberg**’s 90th birthday in July at a special gathering of family and friends.

GREATER PHOENIX CHAPTER JERRY MCELFRISH

The Spirit of Phoenix chorus and three chapter quartets competed in the Arizona Divisional Contest and qualified to advance to the Far Western District Fall Contest: **Audacity**, first place in the Divisional; **Equinox**, second; and **Oasis**, third.

InHarmonix, a college quartet from Northern Arizona University, was fourth and also qualified for District. Three of the four members joined up in time to compete with us at the Anaheim International. We welcomed **Ryan Davidson**, tenor; **Andrew Surrena**, baritone; and **Miguel Saucedo**, lead.

We spent much time on chorus preparation for our appearance in Anaheim, our fourth International contest in five years. These included a retreat weekend in Prescott and a pre-contest rehearsal/show for friends and family. We also made time for a Sunday afternoon performance with **PHX, Oasis** and **Equinox**.

Three members of the Spirit of Phoenix were involved in District leadership changes, including **Gordon “Mongo” Bergthold**, who resigned as the Arizona DVP and was replaced by **Ted Sayle**. Gordon left that post to become District’s Chairman of Chapter Support and Leadership Training. Director **Russ Young** is nominated for FWD Executive Vice President under incoming FWD President **Bernard Priceman**. Russ will continue to handle the Contest and Judging Chairman’s job while apprenticing for the EVP position. **Ron Black**, a former Phoenician, will replace Russ as C&J Chairman.

PARADISE VALLEY CHAPTER

LEN LEVINE

The **Cactus Chordsmen** are stepping up our efforts to gain membership by creating a voice over radio PSA for immediate use. In addition the chorus is preparing a new tri fold brochure to be handed out at local businesses such as barbershops, dentist and doctors offices, music stores etc. The chorus is looking forward to the return of our winter visitors so we can resume an active performance plan.

PRESCOTT CHAPTER

SAM STIMPLE

The chapter honored three former members who passed away during the second quarter: **John Baker, Jim Carroll, and Del Chesley**. However, we sincerely welcome two new members: **L Dick Patton** (from the Pomona Chapter) and **Bs Bob Henderson**.

Former chorus director **Josh Kervin** recently completed the requirements for a Master's degree in Educational Administration.

Several of our members were warmly welcomed by the Arizona Central Quartet Chapter in mid-June. Prescott's own **Mountain Sound** quartet sang many songs from its repertoire.

The chorus has entertained residents of the Arizona Pioneers' Home over the Father's Day weekend. It is always a pleasure to sing for them because our songs bring back special memories.

TUCSON SUNSHINE CHAPTER

JACK STATLER

Tucson Barbershop eXperience(TBX) was invited by Tucson Medical Center/Pima County on Aging to perform for their annual Centenarian Celebration Luncheon. An appreciative audience of fifty Centenarians smiled, toe-tapped, and even mouthed some of the words of the upbeat tunes.

TBX members were treated to a surprise visit by **Serendipity**, a high school girls quartet. Formed as an outgrowth of last year's SoAZ Youth In Harmony Festival and nurtured by an after-school program in barbershop singing, this talented quartet will be competing in the Rising Star Quartet Contest at the upcoming Sweet Adelines International Convention in Nashville. Serendipity delighted the audience with their performance, then passed the hat for funds to help offset their travel expenses.

An ensemble limited to 16 **TBX** members sang the National Anthem at the **Tucson Toros** baseball game, thoroughly delighting the fans. The VLQ was instructed to limit their singing to short songs between innings. However, a fluke, controversial triple play during the game caused the refs to halt the game for 30 minutes while they deliberated (the teams actually left the field). Management pressed the singers into service to entertain the restless fans until play resumed.

WHITE MOUNTAINS CHAPTER DOC DOCKENDORF

The **High Country Chorus (HCC)** appeared on the Blue Ridge High School talent show. The chorus, as part of our community service initiative, picked up trash on a mile of a local street. A lively chapter party at Doc's house, where brats and burgers are served and songs are sung.

The HCC hosted the **Duke City Sound Chorus** from Albuquerque their quartet **The Summit**, who headlined our annual show, "*Sentimental Journey*." **Lisa Jayne**, a Northland Pioneer College student, wrote the original musical script. Local actors, **Ginny Handorf** and **Samantha Berry**, former barbershopper **Steve Taylor** and chapter members **Ron Monette** and **Steve Pansulla** were the cast of this highly entertaining show, attended by over 1,200 fans for the two performances. The joint chorus of 59 performed three songs, closing with "*You Raise Me Up*," which brought the audience to their feet on both shows.

The HCC presented our annual Harmony Award to **Mindy Flake**, a very successful choral teacher from Snowflake High School. Her madrigal choir won the national championship two years ago, and her students were awarded 47 of 100 positions available in this years regional honors choir. We presented a Lifetime Achievement Award posthumously to **Bev Gries**, a successful local dance teacher, who passed away in January. Bev danced on our 2007 show, "*Thanks for the Memories*," and trained and provided her students to appear on last year's production of Disney's Favorite Songs.

Our meeting place moved to the campus of our partner, Northland Pioneer College on August 4.

YUMA CHAPTER

ROB BAILEY

The Yuma Territorial Prisonaires were honored to perform the National Anthem at the city's annual July 4th flag-raising ceremony. This event has been sponsored by the Caballeros de Yuma for the past 23 years, but this year, for the first time, the event was held at the new Veteran's Memorial Park in downtown Yuma. Site of the former Union Pacific Railroad passenger depot, the park features tributes to all branches of military service, and hundreds of black granite personal plaques honoring the service of local men and women line walls surrounding the flagpole and amphitheater. This year's event was MC'ed by retired Colonel **Rob Filbey**, former commander of Yuma Proving Ground, and the guest of honor was retired Lieutenant Colonel **Rob Rutledge**, formerly of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. Boy Scout Troop 8092 posted and raised the flag, followed by a 21-gun salute by Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 835. The guest speaker was Colonel **Mark Werth**, Commander of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. **Don Foltz** of the Yuma County Chamber of Commerce introduced this year's Army and Marine Corps NCOs and Soldiers of the Year. **The Territorial Prisonaires** sang "*God Bless America*" with LOTS of audience participation.

The Yuma Chapter will be dark for the remainder of summer and will resume weekly chapter meetings and rehearsals on Tuesday, September 15, at the usual location, GraceWay Fellowship Church, 7800 E. 24th St., Yuma (across from Arizona Western College) at 7pm. For additional information, contact **Rob Bailey** rbbaily@aol.com or call (928) 502-2652.



8 Voices in Harmony, Bay Area, CA
Under the direction of Dr. Greg Lyne



16 Spirit of Phoenix, Greater Phoenix, AZ
Under the direction of Russ Young

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT
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CONVENTIONS, SHOWS, EVENTS

2009

September

- 12 Carson City Show
- 12 San Fernando Valley Show

October

8-11 FWD Fall Convention Sacramento

- 17 Stockton Show
- 23,24 Eureka Show
- 23 Nevada-Placer Auburn Show
- 24 Nevada-Placer Grass Valley Show
- 24 San Mateo Show

November

- 1 San Fernando Valley Show
- 3-7 SAI Int'l Conv, Nashville, TN
- 7,8 Santa Cruz Shows
 - 7 *Ariz Leadership Academy [COTS]*
Location TBD
- 7 Placerville Show
- 7 Walnut Creek Shows
- 14 *NC Leadership Academy*
Stockton
- 21 *SC Leadership Academy*
Pico Riviera
- 21 Palo Alto-Mountain View Shows
- 28 Santa Fe Springs Shows

December

- 4,5 Fullerton Shows
- 5 Pasadena Show
- 6 Freemont-Hayward Show
- 12 Bay Area Show
- 12 Canada Del Oro Show
- 12 Las Vegas Show

2010

January

- 26-31 MidWinter Conv Tampa, FL

February

- 20 Santa Fe Springs Show

March

- 6 Tucson Show
- 18-21 FWD Spring Convention
Reno**

April

- 10 NW Divisional San Mateo
Palo Alto - Mt View Host
- 10 Fullerton Shows
- 17 AZ Divisional - Open for Bid

May

- 1 Freemont - Hayward Show
- 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*