



Winter 2012 Volume 62 Number 4

WESTUNES



WESTUNES, established in 1961, is the official publication of the
Far Western District Association of Chapters in the Barbershop Harmony Society

From the Editor [Ray Rhymer]

Welcome to the new e-Westunes, which is a result of the FWD Board of Directors making the decision to cease printing Westunes and go electronic only. The main reasons were:

- 1- The world is going electronic, whether we like it or not. Being the home of Silicon Valley, it was felt that the FWD should develop electronic delivery of Westunes for this new world.
- 2- Using electronic only delivery helps the FWD budget in tight economic times by the elimination of significant printing and mailing costs.

There are some advantages to going electronic only, namely:

- An electronic version is not page limited, which means
 - All graphics are color, provided the source is color
 - More articles can be included
 - More pictures can be included [even slideshows]
 - Chapter Digests are full length, not severely edited
 - The calendar is much more extensive
- Save considerable cost to the FWD

It is BHS & FWD policy not to reveal personal contact information to the public without permission. THEREFORE, if you want to contact FWD officers or chairmen, please go to the BHS website - members only - and log in to find the contact information of interest. You are free to contact me at:

WestunesEditor@surewest.net

Home phone: 916-791-2134

That said, almost 40% of our FWD members are 70+. It is recognized and acknowledged that not all are "computer literate" - also many prefer reading printed pages rather than looking at a computer screen and clicking around for extended periods of time. That is what this PDF is about. While not identical to the website version, e.g., there are over 100 pictures in the "gallery" which would mean printing an unreasonable number of pages, all of the printed information with many pictures is contained herein. This can be read on-line on your screen, or downloaded to be read or printed. It is read serially - pages are not side-by-side. Check the number of pages before printing to make sure you want to print that many.

For those who are "computer literate", it is requested you offer your help to your friends who are in need. Perhaps they need help downloading, perhaps they will want it printed, or perhaps they don't even have a computer. Isn't that what Barbershop friends are for?

(Notices are placed at end [print only if you want to] - see page 2, Table of Contents)

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Calendar

The FWD Website now contains the official FWD calendar - go to <http://barbershopfwd.org>

Acronyms

BOTM	Barbershopper of the Month
BOTY	Barbershopper of the Year
DP	District President
DRCJ	District Representative Contest & Judging
DVP	District Vice President
CSLT	Chapter Support & Leadership Training
CDD	Chorus Director Development
C&J	Contest & Judging
E	Events
EVP	Executive Vice President
M&PR	Marketing & Public Relations
Mem Ser	Member Services
Mu&P	Music & Performance
QA	Quartet Activities
YIH	Youth In Harmony
OSS	Official Scoring Summary

Sunshine Chairman Card

FWD Sunshine Chairman
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Featured Articles

2012 Fall Top Five Quartets by Rank

[Names are listed in sequence of Tenor, Lead, Bari, Bass]



1 95 North

James Halvoson, Larry Halvorson, Nick Pizzo, Michael Stewart



2 Tenacious Q

Joey Buss, Christain Espinoza, Patrick Haedtler, Patrick Claypool



3 American Pastime

Graham Pence, Tom Moore, Scott Kidder, Joseph D'Amore



4 Vocal Edition

Eric Bjornsen, Timothy McMullan, Daniel Ryan, Dan Davenport



5 Audacity

John Fynmore, Byron Bennett, Fraser Brown, Greg Dodge

2012 Fall Top Five Choruses by Rank



1 Westminster - The Westminster Chorus
under the direction of **Justin Miller**



2 Greater Phoenix - Spirit of Phoenix
under the direction of **Gary Steinkamp**



3 Bay Area - Voices in Harmony
under the direction of **Chris Hebert**



4 California Delta - American River Chorus
under the direction of **Gabriel Caretto**



5 La Jolla - Pacific Coast Harmony
under the direction of **Kimberly Vaughn**



2012 FWD Quartet Champions
95 North

by Jim Halvorson

IT'S ABOUT TIME!

Well, at least that's what it felt like! Although **95 North** competed in only our third district-level competition this fall in Mesa, Arizona, it was a special weekend for this foursome, which now resides in three separate cities in the mighty Far Western District (FWD). It was also a long time coming for the Halvorson brothers, whoever they are! ;-)

95 North is so excited to be your 2012 FWD district champion quartet! There is such a great tradition of excellence in the FWD that even being considered in the same breath as all the great district (and a few International) champ quartets is pretty awe-inspiring. We know that the coming year is going to propel us along a new path and it's thanks, in part, to the dedication, belief, and support of all the members of this district for all these years.

Even though you have seen all of us on the stage over the years, it only seems fitting that we take the time to properly introduce ourselves to those who may not know **95 North** all that well. To start off, we have our baritone, **Nick Pizzo**. Although he is our youngest member, he is far from a newbie to barbershop. Starting in 2004, he sang in a quartet at the Las Vegas Academy of International Studies called **Let it Ride**. They competed at the high school quartet contest and even made one trip to the International collegiate quartet contest. He also sang in the college quartet contest with **Sin City Four**

with David Meye, bass of the 2009 College Quartet champs, **The Vagrants**. In addition, Nick also sings baritone in the award-winning **Westminster Chorus**. He currently resides in southern California and works at an accounting firm (and it's not Dewey, Cheatem, and Howe).

Next up is our incredible bass singer, **Mike Stewart**. Most FWD members will recognize Mike from his days as the bass of past FWD quartet champs **Late Show** and **Q**. Mike has been a long time barbershopper and has been a prominent voice on the contest stage for many years. He spent many years as an active member of the **Reno Silver Dollar Chorus** and is also a member of the **American River Chorus**. When Mike isn't flying back and forth to rehearsal, he makes the most of his time with his lovely wife, Amanda, and his two adorable daughters, Allison and Melanie. Mike works as a policy analyst for the the Nevada Legislature; so next spring we may have to rehearse in Carson City during the legislative session. I don't think the legislators will mind!

It is hard to believe that the Halvorson brothers are actually two people. They are rarely referred to separately, so it is easy to forget there is more than one of them! There's no better time than this article to set the record straight and help you find out a little bit more about them.

Jim Halvorson, the younger brother, has been almost a lifelong barbershopper. Joining the society at age 10, he began attending rehearsals at the age of 5 with his Dad and big brother. After spending ten years singing in choruses in the Land 'O Lakes District, big brother convinced him to try his hand at quartetting. Twenty-one years later, they are still going at it and Jim is back in his chosen spot singing tenor. When Jim isn't busy working on the next arrangement for **95 North**, he spends his time watching his wonderful twins, Larry and Laura, grow up and enjoying occasional quiet time with his wonderful wife, Lyn. In addition to serving as the Youth in Harmony chairman for the FWD, Jim also is the director of choirs at Cheyenne High School in North Las Vegas.

Lastly, we get to the elder statesman of the quartet, our lead, **Larry Halvorson**. Biologically 48, he continually challenges the three of us to be the most youthful member of the quartet. Larry has been a career barbershopper, logging in his 35th year as a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Larry has sung in more bad quartets than anyone would want to know about, and during the last 14 years, he has been a part of a few pretty good quartets in the mighty FWD. Larry is known for his personable nature and keen leadership abilities and he uses those skills daily as the Casino Guest Service and Product Manager at the LVH (the Las Vegas Hotel and Casino). He also enjoys watching his sons, James and Dallas, and daughter, Melanie, grow up into fine young adults. Larry and his wife, Becky, just celebrated their silver wedding anniversary this year and this FWD championship is a great reward for a "barbershop brat" couple who both grew up with Dads in barbershop.

For those who don't know, **95 North** formed in the winter of 2010 when Mike, Larry, and Jim decided that the FWD needed a quartet with three chubby Norwegians from Minnesota. Mike remembered singing tags with a young Las Vegas college student named Nick Pizzo, who Larry and Jim knew from coaching his high school quartets. After the first meeting, we knew we had something special. The Nevada Highway 95 is the main road that connects Las Vegas and Reno, our two hometowns. We felt it better to head north (rather than south) and so the name **95 North** was born.

As your current champs, we hope to continue the long-standing tradition of musical excellence of quartets in the FWD. We look forward to singing on shows and representing the district at every opportunity (please contact us via our Facebook page!). Most of all, we look forward to meeting even more of you in this amazing district, singing a tag or polecat with you, and giving back to a district that has helped shaped what we have become today.



2012 FWD Chorus Champions Westminster

by Shawn York

The road travelled over the past year has been filled with new milestones and unexpected adventures. We would like to take this time to let you know what we have been up to, and to announce some of our upcoming plans.

During the Spring of 2012, we travelled to Europe to sing for the BING! (Barbershoppers in Germany) convention. While in Europe, we took the opportunity to sing for barbershop chapters in the UK, Netherlands, and Germany, managing 6 performances in 7 days. Not unlike barbershoppers in the United States, the friends we met across Europe showed us first class hospitality, providing homestays following almost every performance. Among the great venues we had the opportunity to sing in, a few of the very memorable were actually spontaneous stops into historic cathedrals in Germany. The acoustics that we experienced in these locations provided some of the greatest musical moments of the trip. Thankfully, these moments were captured on video, and later shared virally to the world through our channel at [Youtube.com/WestminsterChorus](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvXqzqzqzqzqzqzqzqzqzqz). We invite you to experience these moments by visiting our channel.

In 2012, we also celebrated our 10th anniversary as a chorus! To commemorate this milestone, we pulled out all the stops, and put on a show for the ages. We invited back all past members, and had our past directors direct some of the songs that they led during their time with the chorus. The show also featured The Crush, Masterpiece, OC Times, Musical Island Boys, and Ringmasters. For the finale, we performed Jay Giallambardo's "Tribute to World Peace" medley, featuring a Westminster Chorus of nearly 100

members. It was another benchmark moment for the chorus that we will never forget.

As you may have heard, following our International Chorus Contest win in 2009, our director (Justin Miller) left California to pursue a career as a High School music teacher in Connecticut. In the years that followed, Justin remained our director, flying in once a month, while a team of assistant directors would run our weekly Tuesday night rehearsals. This was a very challenging season in the life of our chorus, but we are elated to announce that as of September 2012, Justin has moved back to California, where he is now directing both Westminster, and The Masters of Harmony, as well as working in the music department at Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana. We would like to take a moment to acknowledge some of the assistants that led the chorus through the past three years: David Rakita, Jason Remely, Patrick Claypool, Shawn York, and John Brockman.

Because turnover can be such a common and unique situation for young barbershoppers, (many of which move on frequently, to prepare for college, careers, and family). The chorus has spent the past year, focused on recruiting heavily for both our trip to Europe and for the contest cycle. Because of this, nearly half of the chorus we brought to the FWD contest was comprised of new members. Although the task of training up so many new members to sing at a championship level can sound daunting, it's actually a very common predicament for young choruses, and something that Westminster has grown to embrace. We are blessed to have leaders around us (Our director Justin Miller, and coach Royce Ferguson being two of them) that continually influence the "right" habits, to ensure continued success, regardless of the predictable 'ebbs and flows' in membership. That said, we look forward to reaching out to local universities, and eventually adding another 10-15 brand new barbershoppers to our ranks between now July.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce our plans to begin our second studio recording. Once again, this project will be completed in the world famous Capital Records studio, sharing the same space as

did Frank Sinatra, The Beatles, The Beach Boys, and many more. We also look forward to representing the great Far Western District at the 2013 International Chorus Contest, in Toronto, Canada. This convention will commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the birth of SPEBSQSA, and we hope you will make the journey with us, and celebrate this incredible achievement for our beloved society.

HARMONY CAMP 2012

Richard Lund, Director - Youth Harmony Camp

Harmony Camp 2012 is in the books now, and will be remembered at least in my mind as the “Best Ever”. The 88 boys who came to Camp came to sing and learn, Big Time. They were serious, fun loving and incredibly talented young men who made the rafters ring and the hearts of all the barbershopper volunteers and music guys go “Wow!”

OC Times and Artistic License did their part in making the weekend truly special as well by, well, just being themselves!

And the clinicians Gabe Caretto, Connie Keil, Jim Halvorson, and Darin Drown did their part in truly spectacular fashion by helping the boys accomplish their goal of learning, singing well, and knocking the ball out of the park on the Sunday show.

What a weekend!! What a committed group of Volunteers!! This is not only a special weekend for the boys it is a special weekend for the barbershop volunteers. Dare I say the lives of the boys And the volunteers are changed through their participation. We provided 11 full / partial scholarships this year and four music educators joined us for the weekend.

However, it is time to bring the matter back to some of the real heroes of the weekend, the people who truly make it all work, the financial supporters and the guys who get the boys to go to Camp! There were eleven chapters who supported Camp this year and they are listed below. I want to say right off, however, that these are chapters that are able to make a contribution. If your chapter is on its way to financial health you can still support camp by “passing the hat”; but please don’t compromise your chapter’s finances just to make a contribution.

Reno Silver Dollar Chorus
Placerville Gold Rush Chorus
Golden Valley Chorus
Folsom Harmony Express
Davis-Vacaville West Valley Chorus
Fresno Gold Note Chorus
Nevada-Placer Sierranaders
Santa Rosa Redwood Chordsmen
Visalia Mighty Oak Chorus
San Francisco Cable Car Chorus
Walnut Creek Devil Mountain Chorus

High Sierra Harmony Brigade
First Strike Quartet

Craig Vincent	Keith Slater
Derick Sturke	Joanne Newman
Beth Hollenbeck	

The importance of the support provided by these people and these organizations cannot possibly be conveyed adequately!

THANK YOU a Hundred times over! It is YOU who make Harmony Camp even happen. It is YOU who are the real heroes in this ongoing, life changing project that we call Harmony Camp!

The other Very Important aspect of making Camp successful is getting boys to Camp. The following chapters made Camp happen by bringing a number of boys.

Santa Rosa
Chico
Stockton
GVC
Santa Maria
Visalia

We totally rely on these chapters and individual guys from chapters who have figured out how to interact with schools and choral directors in their areas to spread the word and get boys to Camp!

We all know what a valuable experience it is for these boys to go to Camp; but we sometimes don’t really put all of these things together in our thinking and realize how dependent the success of Camp is on **Financial Support and Getting Boys to Camp.**

These two things alone make or break the success of Camp! Without these two things, there simply won't be any of those magical life changing experiences for those boys.

THANK YOU ALL for all of your help and support in making this wonderful Camp happen!

Richard Lund

Late Breaking News: Just confirmed that Storm Front will be our headliner quartet for 2013!! Harmony Camp 2013 is September 20 – 22.

Shout out! B-Sides



The B-Sides (Ito r Lane Thomas, tenor; Derrek Wayne, lead; Jake Tickner, bass; and Nick Pizzo filling in for David Rakita, baritone) was our headline guest quartet at the 10th annual Sing for Your Life on Nov. 4, in Santa Cruz CA. They sang at two performances, matinee and evening, for a combined audience of about 1,000*, including 300+ student singers and their ten music teachers (five high schools on each show). (*We haven't tallied ticket sales yet.)

From their first notes B-Sides established great rapport with the audience.. Continued squeals of delight in response to their rich sound and high-energy showmanship made it seem that they had brought a huge fan club with them. Not. Just that magic of instantly turning on an audience. During patter lead Derrek Wayne said that a music teacher had changed his life, and later mentioned that all

four had started singing barbershop while in high school. These were the messages we wanted our young singers and their teachers to hear. Bottom line: B-SIDES DID A GREAT JOB FOR US.

I want to heartily endorse B-Sides as guests for chapter shows and as role models for youth outreach shows, festivals and camps.

In harmony
Lawrence Stern
Gold Standard Chorus publicity
831 476 6246



**District President
Russ Young**

Our recent Fall Convention is behind us now, but will not soon be forgotten. All of the planning and attention to detail that was part of the lives of the convention committee for the past several months came to fruition in the form of a great weekend for everyone. In spite of the minor remodeling inconveniences at the hotel, the event was run smoothly in the form of a great competition, beautiful venue, lots of extra activities and singing through the wee hours...just like a barbershop convention should be! Many thanks go out to Bob Sampson, Convention Chairman, and his team for making the weekend a huge success. Of course, congratulations to our new District Champion Westminster Chorus and 95 North on taking top honors in the quartet competition. The level of competition in our own District continues to set the bar for the entire Society.

Your District Board had an eventful weekend. Among other things, it was decided to move forward with constructing our new website to be in full operation by the beginning of 2013. David Melville has also come on board as our Co-Webmaster to help develop and maintain our site. David has had a great deal of experience in the world of technology and has already made great strides with developing the new site. Between he and Keith Eckhardt, we are assured to have a website second to none. Keep an eye open for the big announcement.

The Board also recommended the House of Delegates that the District become sponsors for the Youth Festival held annually at the Mid-Winter Convention. With overwhelming support, the HOD approved our goal of making a \$10k contribution to meet the minimum requirement at the sponsor level. I've already sent a message to chapter leaders and quartets to ask for their donations. If just 50 of our chapters in the District make a \$200 pledge, we will reach our goal. Consider passing the hat each week through the end of the year so your chapter will be

represented as a contributor. Of course, any amount is welcome.

I'm also delighted to announce a couple of changes in next year's District Management Team. Please help me welcome Jerry McElfresh as the incoming Chairman of Marketing and Public Relations, and Dr. Greg Lyne as the Chairman of Chorus Director Development. Both of these men bring exceptional expertise and talents in their respective areas. Jerry will step in for Greg Titus, whose work brought him to Albuquerque, NM. Greg takes over for John Minsker, who will now be the FWD Historian. Thanks to both Greg T. and John for their outstanding service to the District.

Finally, I'm asking each member to make a pledge to bring in at least one new singer in 2013. It's not as difficult as it seems. Our biggest fault is that we simply don't ask. Take a look in your workplace, church, where you volunteer, your neighborhood, school, grocery store, or any number of other places you frequent, and consider inviting someone to a chapter meeting. Just as it is in sales, you won't get the customer to buy unless you ask. Operation Harold Hill continues to help chapters but we can't rely solely on one program. It takes full commitment from everyone to keep our Society the largest singing organization in the world. Wouldn't it be exciting to have every chorus in the FWD double in size next year? Impossible? I don't think so.

As 2012 quickly comes to a close, I'd like to thank everyone who contributes to making our District the place to be for barbershop. I am humbled to be surrounded with such great contributors. The talents, skills, knowledge, leadership abilities and willingness of so many to serve are remarkable. We are truly blessed to have the best!

Remember....Together we can change the world,
One Song At A Time!

In Harmony,
Russ Young FWD President



**Executive Vice President
Allan Webb**

My last few WESTunes articles have touched on the subject of "engagement", both at the chapter level and beyond.

This one is going to look at some interesting numbers which expose some relationships between engagement and membership growth.

First, an explanation of the data involved here. I've taken the FWD chapter membership numbers from Sep. 30, 2011 and Sep. 30, 2012 to compare year-over-year membership growth/decline, as well as participation at any conventions over the last 3 years. If a chapter participated in a convention in the last 3 years, how many men were on stage, what percentage of the chapter membership does that equate to, and what was the average score of the competing chorus.

From an analysis of those numbers, some interesting correlations come to the fore:

1. The average membership of FWD chapters who participate in Division or District competitions is 50. If I take out the top 5 scoring groups (W, MOH, SOP, VIH, ARC), the average membership is 42. In contrast, the average membership of FWD chapters who **don't** participate in competitions is 21. In other words, chapters that don't compete have **half** the members of chapters that do. There is clearly a correlation between chapter size and participation at Division or District conventions. While correlation doesn't necessarily imply causation, this is a very telling statistic. This could mean one of two things (or a combination of both): chapters who participate are bigger simply by virtue of participating (having a goal drives the engagement), or chapters who are more engaged overall (in conventions, in pursuing better singing, in recruiting and retaining members, etc) get bigger. I believe it's a little bit of both.

2. The chapters who went to competition in the last 3 years and scored a 65 or higher were collectively responsible for a net gain of 48 members between Sep. 30, 2011 and Sep. 30, 2012. Of that net gain of 48 members, 39 of them came from only five chapters, who all scored between 65 and 69.9: Brea, Reno, Santa Rosa, South Orange County, and Rincon Beach.
3. The chapters who scored between 50 and 64.9 showed a net loss of 31 members.
4. The chapters who scored below 50 or who haven't competed in the last 3 years showed a net loss of 65 members.

Later in this issue, you'll see the Northwest Division report from Chuck Leavitt, which includes information from Santa Rosa on how they have achieved such musical and membership success. I'd like to excerpt a small part of that here:

"Singing Well. Singing is fun, but singing well is more fun. We want to sing as well as we can, and we want to improve our ability so we can sing even better. *We will keep improving our singing until it interferes with our other goals of having fun, being inclusive, supporting our community, etc. (Chuck's emphasis)*

Competition. We never miss a chance to compete, but the reason we compete is to have fun, challenge ourselves, and learn from the judges' evaluations. We are committed to becoming a Plateau AAA chorus that consistently sings at least in the mid-70's, but we may never win our District or qualify to compete at International, and that's just fine with us."

It seems to me that the 65-70 scoring range is the sweet spot on the barbershop Laffer curve where you are singing well enough to attract and keep members, while not working so hard that it fails the "fun" test. Whether or not you participate in conventions is of lesser concern, but it gives you an easy way to see where you are from a musical performance perspective, and what you can focus on musically to get into the 60s (if you're not there already). Getting to that threshold then becomes the beginning of a virtuous cycle of attracting and retaining members who will make you even better.

Something for all our chapters to think about.



***District Vice President 1 SW
Bill Rosica***

Business duties prevented making a submittal this quarter.



***District Vice President 2 SE
Craig Hughes***

We celebrated a cornucopia of Barbershop this fall in the Southeast Division. Chapter Shows. The District Convention. Staff visits from Nashville.

It is a great time to be a Barbershopper. Spread the word!

Mike O'Neill, the Society Music Educator and man in charge of Chorus Director Development, visited Division Chapters on September 10th & 11th before flying over to Hawaii to work with the Aloha Chorus. He coached several Choruses and Quartets and met with Chapter Leadership to discuss a range of topics. Mike is a great example of the talent and dedication we have in Nashville. They definitely recognize that our Society is Chapter driven and are there to help.

Our friends in Arizona did an outstanding job hosting the District Contest. The SE Division led the way with 8 of the 20 competing choruses and 4 of the top 10. Our **Westminster Chorus** won with an astounding score of 94.3. From the House of Delegates meeting Friday through the Contests and late night tagging on Saturday this was one to remember. Thank you all!

Speaking of contests, mark your calendar for the 2013 SE/SW Division Contest on May 10th and 11th. We are returning to Colony High School in Ontario with our **Riverside Chapter** hosting the event.

One exciting outcome for the House of Delegates was the approved merger of our two **Las Vegas Chapters**. Two vibrant and successful chapters will be one in 2013. The synergies will certainly make the Barbershop experience in Las Vegas even better.

Membership in the SE Division increased by 6 men this past quarter. The two leaders were **Westminster** w/15, and **Brea** w/10. I had the opportunity to chat with them at District and found that a common reason for their growth was a clear Chapter goal that motivated their members.

Westminster has a clear goal to continue to be the best in the World. Their growth coincides with the contest cycle. Their pride and joy makes inviting new guests a natural for the membership.

Brea spent the last year working on chapter basics and rebranding their chorus. They did the hard work and are now reaping the harvest. Their pride in the **Gaslight Chorus** directly relates to their external message and recruitment. They set a goal to add members and are exceeding that goal. Their front row of young singers adds a special quality to their performance.

Two different chapters with a mutual commitment to quality, pride, and fun. They are both promoting an outstanding product to an underserved market - men who love excellent singing and fraternity. We can all learn from their continued success. Set attractive goals and drive to their completion. If you aren't already, consider enrolling your chapter in Operation Harold Hill. It is a great source of inspiration and ideas to build on your own chapter goals.



***District Vice President 3 NW
Chuck Leavitt***

There are many kinds of chapters in our society and we take pride in having a big umbrella that allows them to have their own style and objectives. But there are two things all chorus chapters have in common - they need a director and a vision of how they will meet their members' expectations. In this issue, **President Russ Young** wrote about the FWD's stepped up efforts to identify new director candidates and accelerate director development. As for the chorus vision

thing, this is a good time of the year for every chapter to revisit their priorities and objectives and measure their success. Maybe you will find that it's time to update them.

Santa Rosa has made an astounding resurgence this year. They are singing very well and they lead the FWD in membership growth. They have done it with a revitalized music team and a shared vision of what they want to be.

Shelly Albaum, one of Santa Rosa's spark plugs, has allowed me to tell you how they balance the many competing priorities. Here is their vision statement – it is worth studying:

Fun. Every chorus meeting should be fun. If we aren't having fun, we won't bring energy and imagination to our singing.

Quarteting. The more we sing in a quartet, the better we sing in the chorus. We encourage and make time for quartet singing.

Inclusiveness. We want to spread our love of singing as far as it can go. We don't audition people out of the chorus or off the risers; we work on craft every week to help everyone sing better.

Fellowship. The closer our friendships, the easier it is to sing better and to support each other in our singing. We go out of our way to become better friends.

Community. We draw strength from our community, both singers and financial support. It is extremely important for us to reciprocate that support with a high-profile, high-quality community presence, so our friends, neighbors, and local media know about us and are glad that they do.

Accomplishment. Every week we like to feel a sense of accomplishment. Maybe we have mastered a chorus song, earned a polecat star, woodshedded a part, solved a vocal production problem, expanded our repertoire, learned a tag, or tried something new, like a tag quartet or singing a different part.

Singing Well. Singing is fun, but singing well is more fun. We want to sing as well as we can, and we want to improve our ability so we can sing even better. *We will keep improving our singing until it interferes with our other goals of having fun, being inclusive, supporting our community; etc. (Chuck's emphasis)*

Competition. We never miss a chance to compete, but the reason we compete is to have fun, challenge ourselves, and learn from the judges' evaluations. We are committed to becoming a Plateau AAA chorus that consistently sings at least in the mid-70's, but we may never win our District or qualify to compete at International, and that's just fine with us.

Good Administration. We practice having efficient, effective committee and board meetings so we can make smart and responsible group decisions.

Now that's a well-crafted and comprehensive vision that a chorus can rally around. Add a director that is on the same page and you are well on your way to success. For other membership suggestions, sign into the members only section of <http://www.barbershop.org/> and then click on Operation Harold Hill. If your chapter is not participating yet, sign up for OHH today.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season!



District Vice President 4 NE Richard Lund

What a District Competition we had in Mesa. Kudos to the Greater Phoenix Chapter. In addition to my enjoyment in visiting chapters and getting to know members, participation in division and district activities and competitions are highlights of my personal Barbershop experience.

This brings me to a challenge for all NE Division Choruses – 100% participation in the NE and NW / Prelims in Lodi, California in March 2013. I define participation in several ways - Chorus participation, platoon participation, attendance to cheer our friends who are competing. This is a great way to renew old friendships, establish new friendships, and learn more about what is happening in the BHS.

The other side of the coin is also important as well. We have Prelims coming up in March of 2013 in Lodi, and I'm starting a campaign to encourage all of you here in the NE Division to come and Participate in the festivities and the competition! Both Allan Webb and I have been doing some research that shows very clearly that participation in competition correlates (though not necessarily a cause) with chapter growth! Get those juices flowing again, get that competitive side of you revved up again and bring your chapter to Lodi to compete! And if you really believe that you would be better off not competing, just participate for an evaluation. There is no better way to get a "reading" on where you are in your singing. This is the only way to get a truly unbiased measure of your chapter's singing ability.

Speaking of Division and District activities I'll be teaching the Membership class in Pico Rivera for Leadership Academy Nov 17, and I'd love to talk about these concepts more than just once (smile). So perhaps

during my visits with chapters here in the NE Division, we can work in some kind of mini-seminars with your board, or even the entire chorus. In addition, if your chapter has a new officer who could benefit from a mentor (like new secretary or treasurer), please have them contact me and I will do my best to put them in contact with an experienced person eager to assist. On the flip side of the coin, if you are able to serve as a mentor please let me know.

It's not just about visiting chapters and getting to know you, it's more about how we in the District can help you.

The concept of getting yourself on the road to "singing better" is also a clear path to having more fun! Sing Better and They Will Come is one phrase I love; and Sing Better and Have More Fun is another. I Truly Believe in both of them.



***District Vice President 5 AZ
John Bloomquist***

The ARIZONA DIVISION was thrilled to host the FWD District Convention and Contest right here in Mesa AZ!!! What a great contest it was and we are all very excited for our new Champions 95 North and The Westminster Chorus! Fine Champions all.

I would like to offer a special thanks to Convention Chair Bob Sampson and his crew for their fine work and dedication to the District. I continue get wonderful comments regarding the Hospitality, attention to every detail (right down to the hotel lobby construction to make it feel like Bakersfield), and one of the most beautiful and singer friendly contest venues we have had in years! Way to go Bob!!

Next time we have the convention here, the light rail will run all the way through downtown Mesa so the conventioners will be able to ride all the way from the airport.

The AZ DIV Fred Koch Memorial BASH was again a huge success with many quartets and VLQs competing. This annual event helps raise funds for Youth In Harmony.

Speaking of YIH, K.J. McAleesejergins from the Harmony Foundation was in town for the Convention and challenged the Dist/Div to a goal of 40 new President's Council members for the Harmony Foundation. He came to the Spirit Of Phoenix rehearsal needing 12 more to meet the goal and that night 12 men stepped up to the challenge! I am so proud of the effort and commitment. Additionally, many Ambassadors of Song signed up. WOW!

This has been a pretty good year for the AZ Div, hosting the Mid Winter in Tucson as well as the FWD Fall Convention, and we are looking forward to doing it all again.....SOON. Inquiries are already being made regarding a Mid Winter in Phoenix some time, as well as another District Convention.

Have a Blessed Holiday Season.



CSLT Gordon Bergthold

I think it's time to stop talking about the Chapter Service Representatives and to begin concentrating on the chapter's needs in the Far Western District. We just concluded an outstanding Fall Convention in Mesa, Arizona where, once again, the quartets and choruses of our district illustrated why the Far Western District is the best district in the society.

The effort demonstrated by our quartets and choruses to qualify for the district contest is only a small part of the chapter's activities over a year's time-frame. There are annual shows, monthly performances, in-house activities that really eat up the calendar for our district chapters. Although we spend hours polishing our two-song set for contests, we also have Christmas music to learn, show tunes to perfect and many other musical events that require coordination between the administrative and musical leadership teams.

Our district provides educational opportunities for chapter leadership in the Leadership Academies, Harmony College West, outside coaching at minimal or no cost to the chapters and many other benefits

including coaching at the contests by qualified judges and others while being adjudicated.

We are so fortunate in the Far Western District to have qualified people, with expertise in all aspects of the chapter operations and leadership, available on a volunteer basis. All you need do is ask! There, I've managed to include a blurb about the CSR (or CPR as President Russ calls it) program that is available to each and every chapter, regardless of the location. The following guide will help in leading your chapter.

Make sure team members have the information they need and want. Take special care to do this on subjects of direct interest to them in getting their jobs done. People feel respected when they're kept "in the loop," and that feeling will likely have a positive effect on your relationship with them. We in the FWD have the ability to provide the type of information required to make every member of your chapter a leader....and every chapter needs 100% participation to insure that no one is left out of the leadership role. When everyone contributes synergy is reached and the chapter operates at a level above 100%.

What a concept, and the successful chapters understand and practice this method of operation....why not try it in the future, you might find yourself enjoying attending chapter meetings with a renewed vigor.



CDD Greg Lyne

Assumes duties in 2013



DRCJ Ron Black

Hope everyone enjoyed the Mesa District Convention! The MAC (Mesa Arts Center) was a great performance venue, and the 3 block walk wasn't too bad after all. Our hotel had major construction going on, but their staff

was prepared and we were treated well. We were also treated to a spectacular thunderstorm or two!

Two chapter's choruses will represent the FWD in Toronto (at the BHS 75th anniversary convention) next July.

Westminster handily earned the District Representative slot, and California Delta American River Chorus is going to International for their first time (made a wild card slot)! Wild card slots for Greater Phoenix, Bay Area, and La Jolla were available, but they declined the invitation.

Our District Champion Quartet, 95 North, was on top of their game, and the audience agreed, with standing O's for both sets. Tenacious Q earned 2nd with their usual frivolity, and familiar faces in a new quartet, American Pastime, were 3rd.

Next year's conventions are as follows:

March 22-24 will combine the Northwest and Northeast Divisions with the International Quartet Preliminaries in Lodi, CA. (Where is Lodi? 40 minutes south of Sacramento!)

April 20 will be the Arizona Division in Phoenix.

May 11 will combine the Southwest and Southeast Division at the same venue as last year, in Ontario.

It is interesting to note that participation has increased in the Spring Contests. More choruses and members participated in the Spring of 2012 than ever before, and this is a year that the Masters of Harmony are out of competition. Total Quartet participation is up slightly, and for Seniors, down slightly. For the Fall District contest in Mesa – 22 quartets and 21 choruses qualified.

	Total Ch	Total Ch Men	Total Avg Pts	Total Qt Men	Intl. Qts	Avg Pts	Qualifiers	Senior Qts	Super Sr. Qts
SPRING TOTALS									
2012	35	985	63.9	252	63	64.1	4 qt, 2ch	19	4
2011	30	705	64.7	248	62	63.9	4 qt. 3ch	22	6
2010	29	897	66.6	240	60	66.0	4 qt. 2ch	14	4

We still have 16.5% of all Certified Judges here in the FWD

5 Contest Administrators + 2 Candidates
10 Music Judges + 1 Candidate
4 Presentation Judges + 2 Candidates
9 Singing Judges



E John Jones

Mesa was marvelous! The weather was outstanding, the Ikeda Theater was perfect and the Marriott provided a plethora of spaces for afterglows, evaluations, warmup rooms and lots of nooks and crannies for four guys in a corner. Hosted by the Phoenix Chapter and managed by Bob Sampson, Jack Mauney and a top-notch team from registration to Barbershop Shop, to contest flow, to an exciting afterglow, if I may quote our Society Representative, John Miller, "...the attendance, participation and enthusiasm really felt like a throwback to conventions of years past." Thanks to the California Delta Chapter, a Saturday afternoon buffet provided needed nourishment to bridge the chorus contest and the quartet finals. Congratulations to our new District chorus champs, Westminster and to our new District Quartet champs, 95 North. All that and a successful Platoon gathering.

You will have a chance to dive into the Platoon experience again at the Spring Convention in Lodi, Ca where plans are in place to continue this new quarteting platform. The Hutchins Street Square Performing Arts Center provides a beautiful theater in which our District Registered Quartets will be seeking a place in the 2013 contest lineup in Toronto next summer. With ample additional rooms and spaces throughout the Center, our Northeast and Northwest Division choruses will be delighted to find they have had the opportunity to perform at their best before a great audience, followed by a working coaching session provided by some of our best barbershop minds. Look for registration forms and additional information both here in Westunes and on our District Website.

Next fall we return to the center of California and the Robabank Convention Center with its multiple space accommodations and link to the Marriott headquarters hotel. The Visalia Chapter is hosting us with support from both the Fresno and Bakersfield Chapters. Watch for details on our District Website.....

Mar 21/24, 2013 – FWD Spring Convention with the combined Northeast and Northwest Divisional Contests, Lodi, Ca

April 20, 2013 – Arizona Division Convention, Phoenix/Mesa, Az

May 11, 2013 – Combined Southwest and Southeast Divisional Convention, Ontario, Ca

Oct 10/13, 2013 – FWD Fall Convention, Bakersfield, Ca

Oct 9/12, 2014 – FWD Fall Convention, Fresno, Ca

Here are your Division Event Planners.

Northeast – Sam Barger nevadasam1@sbcglobal.net

Northwest – Larry Wiess ltweiss@comcast.net

Southeast – Paul Sandorf patosand@yahoo.com

Southwest – Jim Serdahely sirdaly@aol.com

Arizona – Ivan Jensen ivanbbs@thejensens.com



M&PR Jerry McElfresh

Assumes duties in 2013



Mem Serv Jack Peters

Summer is now over, so let's calculate our contact/growth successes looking back and look forward toward the end of 2012.

In our Far Western District at the 4/5 mark of 2012, you have brought 209 new members into our sport

and more than any other district in the Society, I'm very happy to report. Way to go!

Personally speaking, one on one ---

- (1) How did you do, talking with new people about singing?
- (2) How many business cards/telephone #'s did you get to call back and talk to, about the joys of harmonizing with a bunch of amateurs?
- (3) How many did you invite/get to a meeting?
- (4) How many new members are you responsible for, for bringing into our brotherhood over the past 3 months?

I trust a bunch.

Go get em' chapters!

The following top two *growth* chapters, per Division, have caught the *fire*!

Allow us to recognize them for their accomplishments over the past 9 months:

<u>NW Division</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>growth over ¾ of this year</u>
	Santa Rosa	37%
	Marin	16%
<u>SE Division</u>		
	Westminster	31%
	Brea	27%
<u>SW Division</u>		
	Conejo Valley	22%
	Pasadena	12%
<u>AZ Division</u>		
	Canada Del Oro	17%
	Mesa	16%
<u>NE Division</u>		
	Fresno	11%
	Placerville	8%

If your chapter wishes some ideas or help in growing, have your leadership contact one of these "go get em' chapters", or myself.

A go get em' dude.

Steve Diamond, with 67 Men of Notes to his credit thus far, makes it his daily mission to talk with someone new about the joys of harmony singing. He's obviously not bashful and finds it very fulfilling to hit a Home Depot, Post Office or where ever there are men, to talk to. Over the past 5 weeks, as an example, he has brought in a new visitor each week at his chapters meetings with one now a new member and another ready to jump in. Talk about fulfilling!

I understand one of his little tricks is; when he makes his follow up call to the contact, he arranges for them to pick him up to go to the meeting. "That way the newbie doesn't feel obligated to stay beyond what they wish to", he said. If they should leave early, Steve has a brotherhood to take him to afterglow and home. Once in a tag and/or they feel the warmth of the group however, most stay for more.

Do you read music??

The Society prides itself that our membership doesn't have to read music to have fun singing. That also opens more doors to talk with *all* men, not just men who sing. However--- if our members all read a little rhythm and knew how to identify notes on a key board at least, learning and understanding a piece of music would go so much faster. This also opens up a huge library of more difficult and interesting music to your chapter. The more you get new interesting music, the more forward motion you'll have and the chapter progresses. If you also think this would help, you should talk with your Music VP about someone in your chapter holding a couple of ½ hour classes on reading music. Nothing complicated, just the basics on our type of music.

Always, keep in mind --- Your district team of experienced administrators, instructors, judges, and singers, stand at the ready to work with you and your chapter in whatever facet of chorus life you wish help in.

Last Quarter of 2012

Let's, *each of us*, talk with at least 3 new faces *per week*, through this last couple of months of 2012. You will make their lives more meaningful for it! Don't you wish you started BBS ing earlier? This holiday season, give them the gift of harmonizing without one more days delay. Steve Diamond says; "determination is the secret. Be determined each and every day to bring a new voice into our hobby!"

Happy Holidays to you and yours.



Mu&P Nick Papageorge

Teaching duties prevent a submittal.



QA Bill Kane

Fall Convention in AZ Included "New" Quartet Harmony Platoon

Over 60 guys from 30+ chapters gathered a day before the official start of the FWD fall convention to quartet. They had been provided high quality learning tracks two months prior to convention for four songs that they would sing in randomly assigned quartets in two contests.

How did they like it? Here were their comments:

"A great weekend! I can't imagine attending another District Convention without participating in Platoon. It was truly the highlight of the weekend."

"This was a great event and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I am planning on going to the spring convention in Lodi primarily for the platoon."

Besides the opportunity to quartet, the entire group sang as a chorus for the Friday night convention audience following the official quartet contest. This was especially fun for men who don't normally sing in a chorus as large as the Platoon chorus:

"It was great fun getting to sing as a chorus at the convention and the audience really enjoyed it."

"I loved it! I was pleasantly surprised by the level of preparedness of the singers. And I think we really did ourselves proud on stage as a chorus. I hope to do Platoon at every convention I come to - I hope it grows and spreads."



Finals champs for the fall district Platoon (L to R): Tenor Shelly Albaum, Santa Rosa; Lead Jim Schumacher, La Jolla; Bass John White, Santa Monica; Bari Mark Whelan, La Jolla.



Finals judges were Gregg Bernhard (Hi-Fidelity), Jim Ilten (Gentlemen Songsters), Jim Turnmire (Harmony Spectrum) and Bill Tieberg (San Francisco Storm Door & Whale Oil Company). Judges for earlier contests included Kelly Shepard (Metropolis), Robert Lenoil (Q), Greg Dodge (Command Performance) and Byron Bennett and John Fynmore (Audacity).



After hearing quartets rehearsing in every corner of the headquarters hotel lobby as they check in, a packed audience of convention attendees enjoyed hearing the Platoon Finals contest.



Platoon drew guys from over 30 FWD chapters, plus former District guys now living in Evergreen and Rocky Mountain Districts, as this quartet from chapters in four different states illustrates (L to R): Tenor Ray Kahler, Phoenix; Lead Don Salz, Bellvue WA; Bass Jim Gallagher, Salt Lake City UT; Bari Paul Goldsmith, California Delta.



0239 - Over half of the Platoon guys were not in competing choruses, but were attending the convention because of Platoon, as was true for half of this quartet (L to R): Tenor Jim Dechaine, California Delta; Lead Harry Kaylor, Hemet; Bass Allen Smith, Inland Empire; Bari Mike Smith, Riverside/Apple Valley.

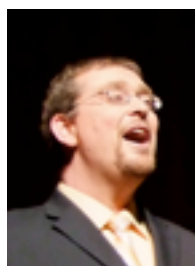
The Platoon event at the fall convention was the third FWD convention in 2012 with a Platoon, and all of the Division and District conventions in 2013 will have one. Since the deadline to sign up for Platoon is two months prior to the convention date (to allow for the song learning time), if you are interested please drop me an email letting me know right away, so you don't miss out. Deadline for spring convention Platoon is December 31.

Mar 21-24 – FWD Spring/NE-NW Division Convention (Lodi)

Apr 19-20 – AZ Division Convention (TBD)

May 10-11 – SW-SE Division Convention (Ontario)

By the way, Platoon is expanding to Evergreen District in 2013, and there is talk about starting one in Rocky Mountain District. We are proud that once again FWD has started a new tradition.



YIH Jim Halvorson

Greetings fellow FWD'ers!

Hopefully you had a fun and productive fall and are preparing for a prosperous and bountiful holiday season full of harmony and fellowship. We just completed another fabulous fall convention in Mesa, AZ where we got to watch the icon of the youth movement, The Westminster Chorus, give us another example of the power and necessity of promoting youth into our hobby.

This fall we also had a great showing at the FWD Youth Harmony Camp at Sly Park education center in Pollock Pines, CA. Thanks to the hard work of Richard Lund, we brought in one of our largest and most talented groups in many years, with close to 90 high school and college age boys performing four

challenging arrangements in just two days time! It was truly impressive to watch these young men soak up the hobby. I know so many of them went back to their schools with renewed vigor for singing and ringin' barbershop chords. I know that I certainly did.

Just a few weeks ago, our President, Russ Young, sent out a challenge to our chapters to help fund our youth initiatives for the youth chorus festival. We have seen outstanding turnout and are well on our way to meeting our goals. This will be a great way to show our support for youth and celebrate the leadership our district has become known for.

My plea to you is that we shouldn't need our President to make this request. Chapter funding for youth activities should be a monthly goal. We have the Harmony Foundation and our very own Youth Education Fund that were developed just for these purposes. Please take the time in the coming months to plan how your chapter can make an investment in our future and help sustain this hobby for decades to come.

In my last article, I mentioned how important the chapter is in supporting our youth. The youth chorus of your dreams might not happen right away. Your chapter needs to be the place to be so that these youth will know and be interested in our hobby. Do you get into the schools? Do you help with the local choir programs? Do the schools know about your performances? How else are you involved in the community to promote our style and include youth. It is a guarantee that if your chorus is not involved and visible in the community, the youth will not come. Heck, nobody might come except for friends and established barbershoppers. Invest the time and it will pay off.

Last issue I also mentioned father/son choruses. Since we are close to the holidays, a father/son or community chorus is still possible. You don't need a lot of repertoire, just one or two easy songs that singers from all ages can be involved in. If you get a high school group on your show, why not invite the boys to come sing along? Keep thinking about ways that you can become visible and viable in your

community. Make your chapter a place where not only youth want to be, but the community wants to support you and your youth program.

So to wrap up: develop a plan to get yourself on track with giving to either the Youth Education Fund (or Harmony Foundation) as a chorus, involve yourself in the community and become a positive role model, continue to search for new ways to reach out to multiple generations so your chorus becomes a positive reflection of your community.

Have a great holiday season!

95 North Card



Tune Struck Card





Division 1 SW Chapters Ken Day, Editor

Aloha

by Jack Hashimoto

We had our annual Quartet Contest on August 9 featuring choice tags and Pole Cats by our quartets. Thanks to **Christine Wee** and **Ralph Brandt** for being our judges, **Ed Reid** being the MC, and **Bill Joor** for chairing the event. Winners were: First Place "Tempo of Doom" (**Jordan Wong, Vehia Goo, Jack Hashimoto** and **Ken Foreman**) Second Place "The Young and the Restless" (**Ian and Liam deClive-Lowe, Rob Hartley** and **Bryce Irvine**) Third Place "Four Flushers" (**Bill and Mike Joor, Jack Hashimoto** and **Ken Foreman**) And a good time was had by all.

On August 18 **Tim Waurick** and **Eric Dalbey** of Vocal Spectrum, were our guest coaches at a special Saturday rehearsal(Eric and Tim also coached at the Thursday rehearsal of that week). This was followed by an evening picnic at the Pearl Harbor Marina, just adjacent to the Arizona Memorial Visitor Center. We gathered to thank Eric and Tim for their work with us.

Mike O'Neill, bass of "Lunch Break" and Music Specialist for BHS came to us Sept 12 -13. He lead a dinner meeting discussion for the chapter leadership corps touching on various topics of interest to us. The next night he coached the chorus and re-emphasized the importance of Groupanizer use in the chapter as a communications tool. Thank you BHS, FWD and Mike for your presence out here in the middle of the Pacific.

Interspersed during the quarter were gigs at Pohai Nani Retirement Community, Arcadia Retirement Residence and Kahala Nui Retirement Center. The retirees loved our brand of music and entertainment.

The BSOM for the quarter were: July - **Zig Palagyi**, August - **Rich Cordeiro**, and Sept. - **Mike Joor**

Conejo Valley Chapter

By Neil Pennywitt

The chapter is still receiving accolades from our just completed annual fall show. We played to a full house of over 250 patrons who enjoyed the Fabulous Fifties themed show, in a new location for us – the Temple Adat Elohim Fellowship Hall in Thousand Oaks.

We had 25 men on the risers for the show and 12 of them sang in performing quartets. In addition to our two registered quartets, **Harmony Connection** and **Sound Check**, we had two "pick-up" quartets perform, each anchored by a seasoned quartet singer. It was a great way to get new barbershoppers in front of a live audience in a quartet, and they all did a great job. A highlight was a quartet that included the temple Rabi and Cantor who did a rousing rendition of My Wild Yiddish Rose.

Our college quartet, **The Harmony Hurlers**, is performing on October 25 and 26th at a Moorpark College choir fundraising festival. And we are sponsoring a new Barbershop Club at Newbury Park High School, with regular meetings and over a dozen regular members.

The consensus in the chorus is that we're adding members because we are really having fun in rehearsals and in

performances by focusing on entertaining the audience. Good barbershop singing is important, but we really try to make our performances more like a variety show, with a theme and a mix of show tunes, comedy, and ballads.

For more information about Harmony Oaks, and to see all that we are doing, visit the chapter website @ www.CVHOV.com.

Pasadena

by Bill Cauley

A big congratulations to Greater Phoenix - Spirit of Phoenix and Event Chairman: **Bob Sampson**; the Pasadena Chapter enjoyed the events of the convention and being able to participate in a well organized competition. As shown by the tight range of scores, the FWD has some outstanding choruses and quartets, and we were pleased to be in there as a viable entry. Valuable insights were received from the judges, which will be enthusiastically used in preparation for the next contest.

We brought many first-timers to the convention including the youngest front-line singer in BHS. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It showed them that they were a part of great organization, and a well-managed district. For those who tried to join every event, they found there was little time for sleep.

We are also happy to report that our slate of current chapter officers for 2013 were re-elected by unanimous affirmation, and will continue to move forward in finding ways to make our chapter better than ever. Our chapter meetings have become more enjoyable, our non-show singing at community venues continue to increase, and we have made strides in bringing in new members; recognizing that attrition requires this effort to be never-ending.

As we prepare for our Christmas Show on December 15th, at the Duarte Performing Arts Center which involve potential members to join in our special five week guest singer Pasadena Holiday Chorus rehearsals, we know that holiday season is but a prelude to another outstanding year. Again, we invite all to attend our rehearsals and performances, to see first hand why the Pasadena Chapter highlighted by our Crown City Chorus is growing and thriving. We hope to see most of you again at the divisional convention in the spring!

Rincon Beach

by Ken Day

We sang at the Santa Paula Art Museum that was in appreciation of the supporters and docents for the museum on July 29th. It was well attended and was an eye opener for most of us that had never been there before. It was in an old building that had been lovingly restored. They even had rolls of cardboard that could be rooled out under our risers.

We attended the Fall Contest and Convention in Mesa, the weekend of October 11-14. We finished 10th out of 21 choruses and we all benefitted from some great comments from the judge. It was a great contest and we really enjoyed watching the other contestants and renewing old friendships.

On October 20th we hosted a dinner show at the Poinsettia Pavilion in Ventura. Guests were fed a Bar-B-Que dinner and enjoyed the singing of the chorus, as well as the quartet Priority Male, a mixed group called Fusion, as well as featured soloists **Paige Sentianin** and **Stacy Krause**. Both ladies were accompanied by **Justin Ramos**. Paige is the daughter of Past President **Bernie Sentianin** and Stacy is the daughter of **Bruce**

Hunter. They were both big hits because they not only sang well but Stacy sang Broadway type show tunes and Paige sang and Opera Aria and a selection from Phantom of the Opera.

A great times was had by all that attended with good food, great fellowship, and a lot of wonderful music. MC **Brent Anderson** did his usual fine job keeping the audience involved.

San Luis Obispo Chapter
by Pete Bennett

Chapter quartet **Outta Bounds** attended the International Convention in Portland together, and were called upon to sing at the Chordatorium, a first in a long time for a SLO quartet. Three of the four members also sang with the champs.

Chapter quartets have been busy in August and September as well; **Outta Bounds** and **Generation Q** sang on the SAI **Central Coast Celebration Chorus** annual show "**Alice in Barbershopland.**"

Our newest quartet, **SLO Notes**, was called upon to sing at a funeral service for longtime barbershop fan **Katie Barry** of Placerville. 94-year-old Katie and her late husband Jim were often serenaded by Placerville quartets and attended many local-area barbershop shows, so her daughter felt it only fitting that the devotional music at her final resting in Arroyo Grande be performed by barbershoppers. SLO Notes quartet was proud to stand in for our Gold Rush Chorus brothers at the service.

On August 25th the **Gold Coast Chorus**, in conjunction with SAI **Pacific Horizon Chorus**, performed at Atascadero Lake Park's Summer Concert Series, followed by our annual combined family potluck picnic by the lake. Fans were entertained, singers were fed, and a great time was had by all.

Up next: the chorus is preparing for its first joint Holiday Concert with the Celebration Chorus, followed by a dinner to install new president **Ray Johnson** and his board of directors.

Santa Barbara
by Eric Fenrich

Big changes for the Channel City Chorus since our last update! Our director, **Philip Cook**, stepped down from the podium and back into the chorus and, on September 10, we moved our rehearsals to Monday evenings and welcomed our new director, **Bob McGee**!

Patrick Echemann officially joined our ranks and we have had an influx of visitors recently. As we do each year at this time, we have transformed into the Holiday Harmony Chorus, which includes non-members who join us just to sing during the Christmas season.

Unfortunately, we did lose long-time member **Craig Pierce** to Boston. We are happy that he found a new chorus back east, but remind him that when it gets cold, he can always come back to Santa Barbara!

Our annual awards banquet will be taking place in late January. Updates can be found on our website.

SANTA CLARITA
by GERRY STAACK

The Men of Harmony Chorus is rolling under the study guidance of Director **David Kilpatrick**. In particular, our singers are acquiring new levels of confidence in their ability under his supportive leadership.

Judy Turkheimer, our talented choreographer, **Dave Norman**, our gifted MC and our Music Committee have enhanced the entertainment quality of our shows with exciting movement, variety and comedy. For 2013 we are expecting a rousing new year of performances and membership growth. **Paul Seltzer** is our new Secretary, and VP Membership is filled by **Gerry Staack**.

Santa Fe Springs Chapter
by Ron Larson

Early in 2012, **Mark Hale** stunned the **Masters of Harmony** family with his decision to retire as director. Realizing that Mark's brilliant, innovative skills would still be available for five more months, MOH singers took a collective deep breath and proceeded to develop what turned out to be a highly acclaimed swan song set for the Portland International Convention. While that set was Mark's last hurrah as our director, it will not likely be his last as a developer of musical excellence somewhere else in the larger Barbershop Harmony family. Best wishes always, Mark!

When the chorus reassembled after Portland, a meticulous nationwide search by the Director Search Committee resulted in eagerly but somewhat nervously anticipated director auditions. Some on the risers on those audition nights undoubtedly wondered, "Where do we go from here? How do we replace a barbershop legend, the man who led us to four gold medals, our 10th Hall of Fame member?" Well, a legendary director such as Mark cannot be replaced, but hopefully succeeded by someone who confidently accepts the mantle of leadership, embraces the legacy of his predecessors, and brings his own vision, skills and passion to what some would consider a daunting challenge — to build on the solid foundation established by **Dr. Greg Lyne**, enhanced by **Jeff Oxley**, and taken to even greater heights by Mark Hale. The chapter's Music Committee and membership believe they have found such a man in **Justin Miller**, the new music director of the Masters of Harmony!

Actually, Justin is no stranger to the Masters of Harmony. He joined the MOH in 2002, at the age of 18. He subsequently won three gold medals singing baritone (2002, 2005 and 2008). Eighteen months after he became a member, he was asked to succeed MOH Hall of Famer **Wayne Mendes** as choreography coach. While some wondered if Justin was up to this seemingly daunting task, he developed into a superb choreographer in his own right, one who worked smoothly and effectively to polish International competition routines developed by choreography genius **Erin Howden**. In 2008, Justin became the music director of **The Westminster Chorus** with whom he had won a gold medal as a singer in 2007. In 2009, he directed Westminster to the title of "Choir of the World" in a prestigious international music competition in Wales. The following year, he became the youngest director in Society history to win a chorus championship when he directed Westminster to its second international chorus championship with a score of 97.7%, the highest ever achieved by a competing chorus. Justin put on that mantle of leadership on August 22, 2012, and he is already making his own distinctive mark on MOH rehearsals and sound production. Welcome home, Justin!

Masters of Harmony presence at the 2012 Far Western District Fall Convention in Mesa, Arizona, was unmistakable. For

starters, the dedicatee for the entire convention was **Mark Freedkin**, whose tireless contributions on behalf of youth programs have done so much to promote a love of barbershop music to young men throughout our District and beyond. Masters men sang in four of the top ten quartets. Second place went to **Tenacious Q (Joey Buss, Christian Espinoza, Patrick Haedtler, Patrick Claypool)** and third was taken by **American Pastime (Graham Pence, Tom Moore, Scott Kidder, Joe D'Amore)**. Justin Miller directed The Westminster Chorus to first place in the chorus competition. Their score of 94.3% is one of the highest ever achieved at this level of competition. MOH members were on stage in almost half of the 20 competing choruses while both active and emeritus members directed six of them. **Alan Gordon** served as Singing judge, **Doug Maddox** did his usual superb backstage work as production director, and **Bernard Priceman** was MC for the chorus contest. The Greater Phoenix Chapter did an excellent job staging this well-attended event.

On October 17, the members of the 2013 Board of Directors were announced. They are as follows: **Ron Andreas**, President; **Maurice Freleaux**, Secretary; **Jussi Ratsula**, Treasurer; **Ray Johnson**, VP Chapter Development; **Bill Power**, VP-Marketing; **Joe D'Amore**, VP-Music & Performance; **Tom Christman**, VP-Operations; **Gary Stone**, VP-Public Relations; and Board Members-at-Large **Amnon Avidor**, **Jim Ernsberger**, **Brad Kelso**, **Rich Owen**, and **Phil Wolf**.

It is with great sadness that the Masters note the passing of a beloved member, **Gale Sherrodd**.

Since the last edition of Westunes, baritones **Daniel Huitt** and **Ryan Wisniewski** were welcomed into membership.

SANTA MONICA by Marty Mitnick

The Oceanares performed for the summer BBQ held for members of the **Carolwood Pacific Historical Society** at the **Walt Disney Barn** in Griffith Park.

The Annual Ice Cream Social was very well attended at the Palisades Lutheran Church where our very own **Walter Mees** is pastor. Our very special guest quartet was **The Velvet Frogs**.

Our annual Family and Friends Night was a wonderful success with many happy listeners in the audience. They were well treated to goodies and coffee provided by **Katie Walker Boeck** and her team of **Oceanaire's SOS** members. **SOS (Support Our Singers)** is the name of our ladies auxillary.

The Oceanares, with 34 members on the risers, had a fantastic weekend in Mesa, Arizona competing at the Fall Convention. Happily, we received the highest score we have ever attained.

John White placed first and **Jack Walton** placed third in the Platoon quartets singing competition.

The steadily improving quality of our chorus' singing is due to the outstanding knowledge and teaching ability of our director, **Todd Kolberg**. Sadly, we bid a very fond farewell to Todd as he nears completion of attaining his Doctor of Education Degree from The University of Southern California.

It is very fortunate for **The Oceanares** that we already have **Ben Lowe**, who has been our assistant director, and who has now taken over the position of director.

We welcome our newest member, **Greg Christofaro**, who has joined our lead section.

It is with great sadness that we advise of the passing of **Joscelyn "Jo" Keagy**, wife of 40 years of our member, **Dick Keagy**.

WHITTIER by Paul Feinzimer

On October 9, 2012 we held our election for our 2013 officers. We elected **Paul Feinzimer** as President, **Bill Nassen** as Secretary, **John LeFever** as Treasurer, **Ron**

Leutbecher as Vice President of Membership, **Bill Thompson** as Vice President of Music, **Henry Nassen** as Vice President of Operations, **Paul Feinzimer** as Vice

President of Programs, **Norm Bernier** and **Paul Feinzimer** as Immediate Past Co-Presidents, **Ed Schoemann** as Board Member at Large, and **Paul Feinzimer** as Delegate to the FWD House of Delegates. **Steve Peacock**, our volunteer director, has graciously agreed to once again be our installing Officer. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Steve for teaching and directing us throughout 2012. Thank you, Steve, for that and thanks to all of the members who were willing to serve as officers and our Board Member at Large for 2013.

The **Whittier Choralaires** plans three performances in December. We will sing Christmas songs for the City of La Mirada Holiday Event at Splash! La Mirada

Regional Aquatics Center on the evening of December 3, from 5 to 8 PM. Our Christmas Show will be Sunday, December 9, from 2-4 PM at Calvary Baptist Church, Whittier. Finally, we will sing for the East Whittier Women's Improvement Club on Wednesday, December 12. We may also do our traditional singing of Christmas songs for patients, visitors and staff at the Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital of Whittier.

As always, the **Whittier Choralaires** has an open door to **interested community singers who would like to visit us with an outlook to becoming potential members**. We practice every Tuesday evening from 7:30 to about 9 PM at Calvary Baptist Church, Whittier.



Division 2 SE Chapters Dale Vaughn, Editor

Apple Valley Chapter By Alan Morier

The **Hi Country Harmonaires** suffered the loss of one of our adjunct members when beloved **Beth Murphy** passed away in September. Beth was a long time member of the Sweet Adelines who joined us in our practices and performances, is survived by husband **Keith**, a baritone member of the Harmonaires, as well as daughter **Gayle** who is a tenor with our group and grandson **William**, who is following in grandpa's footsteps also in the baritone section. Her warmth and positive attitude will be missed and remembered...Summer heat has seen our group perform outdoors at an "Off Road Vehicle" show where we gave the "desert denizens" some

wonderful harmony to go along with their enjoyment of the motor sport.

Performing at the local library saw older folks along with some wide eyed youngsters who seemed amazed at the wonderful songs they heard from our group. Our version of Coney Island Baby brought cheers from those who came to watch us, with a special surprise from Director **Mike Smith**...as he let the audience hear his outstanding voice as part of the performance.

What has become an annual event for us has been singing for local convalescent hospitals whose members enjoy our program that brings back memories to so many. Recently we have been performing for older residents at the convalescents as well as in the community, several of whom have recently become centenarians...and how they enjoy the shows!!

Our "premiere quartet," the **Mojave Range Rovers** have enjoyed performing throughout the summer, with members **Frank Bescos, Merlyn Kimbell, Gary White** and **Doug Waas** presenting a western-themed program...

Visit us at: www.hicountryharmonaires.com

Brea Chapter
By Mark Stokes

The **Gaslight Chorus** continues its' phenomenal growth. So far this year we've added 15 new members.

We sang at the district contest, in Mesa, putting 36 on stage and finishing 6th overall. We appeared at California Adventures on Saturday, Oct. 27th. Our annual Christmas show will be Dec. 7-8 at the Curtis Theatre in Brea.

Visit us at: www.gaslightchorus.org

Coachella Valley Chapter
By Terry Mann

Our **Sand Blaster Chorus** average age is down by several years, and our summer attendance was up again this year, due to our new full time residents, as previously reported here. We are ahead of our usual schedule with our new music for our next annual (March) show and, Great News: our sound is also improving from our Division competition last March! We have planned more than the usual number of performances, this next 6 month '(snowbird) season' and will report on them as they happen. We will be busy, busy busy!

This is my 'swan song', edition for Westunes. I have enjoyed being the chronicler of our progress for the past 10 years; and, I am proud to have recently achieved the FWD district Bachelor of Harmony award. I bid you all farewell and head for retirement in the Evergreen District where I will be found singing just 'One More Song'... Terry.

Visit us at: www.cvbarbershop.org

El Cajon Chapter
By Bill Soukup

The residents of Casa de Manana enthusiastically welcomed us back for another performance in August, and those at Fredericka Manor did the same in September. Our "**Harmonically Correct**" quartet – that's both their name and a good description of what they do – sang for the annual Kaiser Permanente Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in September, after having participated in both of the chorus' performances.

Tenor **Gary Matthews** represented us at the Far Western District Fall Convention in Mesa, attending the House of Delegates, and found the Convention stimulating and very enjoyable. He is urging all of us to attend upcoming conventions and conferences.

Visit us at: www.ecmusicmasters.com

Fullerton Chapter
By Dick Cote

This year our **Orange Empire Chorus**, for the third consecutive year, was invited to Costa Mesa's Harbor View Memorial Park to participate in their outstanding Memorial Day service. It was a day of pride, passion, and patriotism, so we were quite pleased to open the ceremonies by singing "The Star Spangled Banner," then three more of our heartfelt, patriotic songs later in the

program. The Costa Mesa Fire Department posted the colors, and members of four branches of the military set the large flag at half mast as we began to honor our fallen heroes. This was followed by a parade of surviving heroes and medal winners from Pearl Harbor to date, as they placed commemorative wreaths on the tomb of the unknown soldier. Then came the two airplane fly over, the Army's 21 gun salute, and the release of some 30 white pigeons of peace.

On a warm, sunny, Sunday afternoon, the quiet reverence of the Nixon Library was replaced for a short time by the exuberant strains of barbershop harmony, as the Fun Fellas from Fullerton (a.k.a.. O.E.C) returned for our annual performance. In an hour long, fast moving non-stop performance we gave 'em our entire eclectic repertoire . . . marches, love songs, Disneyland, Ireland, and even some modern (60s) Doo-Wop. And we showed off some of our quartets. **Preferred Mix** welcomed the crowd with "Hi Neighbor," **Jubilee** reported on "Rain," **Tuesday Night Quartet** explained "Ain't Misbehavin'" and **TriGlycerides + 1** described the chorus (new theme song?) with "Old Bones." Our soloists **Dave Lowerre** ("Shh-Boom"), **Jimmie Eacret** ("Diddly Squat") and **Art Clayton** ("Old Bones") were all in fine voice, and well received. And beside all of the singing, we had entertainment! Our glib director **Craig** kept the crowd giggling all of the way with his jokes and humorous comments, leaving us wondering, "Where does he get all that stuff?"

So we had another party ... (really?) on Friday, July 20. It was a special H.F.L.B. gathering, honoring, and toasting one of our special chapter icons, "Father" **Stan French**. Now "Father" French is not a Catholic priest, but actually is known as the Father of the Famed Fullerton Friendly Friday Funfest, A.K.A. Harmony for Lunch Bunch. Our outSTANding man Stan was also instrumental in the founding of our chapter, served as president several times, recruited more than 36 new members, and by spreading joy and laughter, set the tone for our NUMBER FUN O.E.C. There were about 40 of us there to raise our glasses of beer (and root beer) in a toast to Stan for his latest, greatest achievement, that of celebrating his 96th birthday! And he can still carry his lead part in a quartet, as he well demonstrated by singing his favorite tune, "Shine on Me" . . . which, of course, we all did!

Not to be outdone, another grand pioneer in the Fullerton Chapter, **Marv Ewing**, celebrated his 80th birthday with us at Harmony for Lunch Bunch. He keeps trying to catch up with

his old Hughesite buddies, **Stan French**, **Dick Cote**, and **Art Clayton**, but he's still a few years behind.

Marv has long been a mover and shaker with the chapter, and until his recent bout with some health problems, he has remained very active. And he still has the ability to knock out the old songs with the best of us. Even more impressively, he can do many of the songs in all four parts. Quite an accomplishment. It surely is great to be able to share our hobby with so many good singers, and even better, with so many good friends.

As I review this, the penultimate issue of the **Clippin's** for which I'll be the editor, I glance over the names of the many contributors. I am struck by the loyalty, perceptiveness, astonishingly good writing ability, and responsiveness to the needs of the chapter and the Clippin's. The inputs have been great, as always, and the words of encouragement from so many loyal readers and contributors have really touched both **Kay** and me.

Now is the time for me to review these many years of guiding the publication. At the very outset, I was new to both the Fullerton Chapter and to the Society, and I knew virtually nothing of putting a publication together. But with the encouragement of Kay and some old friends, I took the job with gusto. It was a tough act to follow because my predecessors, **Bob and Diane Hein**, had done such a good job of improving the breed. My first few issues were especially hard because I decided, early on, to do the whole thing with a computer instead of the then traditional cut and paste. So it was that, with Kay's blessings, I made some fairly significant investments in computer gear. Then came the problem of learning how to use it. I'll save you the agony, but there were many days when the work day ended at 2:00 A.M., just to make the schedule.

More importantly, perhaps, was the goal, the vision that I had for the bulletin. It had to reflect the character of the Fullerton Chapter, that is, it had to be upbeat, full of fun and information. And I set out to be what I frequently referred to as "The Cheer Leader." There were some missteps at the outset, but I learned that the task of the editor was more than just correcting spelling and sentence structure, and I always made sure that negativity was held to a minimum, if at all. More than once I rejected articles which crossed over the line, and got some heat for that. But it was worth it. The Clippin's is looked upon with envy in the Society, and my wall full of trophies attests to that.

I'm sure that you all know by now that our successor as Publisher/Editor is my good friend, **Don Derler**. He has to be a brave guy to step into this role while he's still in the work force, running his own business, and keeping up with all the other duties he has undertaken for the chapter. But Don is an outstandingly talented and creative guy. He's an artist, a designer, very literate, and has what seems to be unbounded energy. I have no doubt that he will take the reins of the Clippin's and take it to a new level of excellence. And that is my fervent wish.

There isn't enough room here to express my thanks and gratitude to all of you who have helped make the Clippin's such a winner, so I'll reserve that until the final issue. So, until then, keep working on your articles for that issue.

Visit us at: www.oechoorus.org

Inland Empire Chapter

By Don Sevesind

The chorus continues to break ground. In August we did a "Flash Mob" style sing out at several locations in our area, one of which was at the Bass Pro Shop. The manager was so impressed that he hired us to perform at a special 911 ceremony and we will have gain at least one new member!

The chorus had the pleasure of competing in Mesa, AZ. Many of us took advantage of the **Harmony Platoon** and I believe that we had the most members of any chorus there. Several members went on to the finals and this included two of our newest members **David Rivas** – L and **Allen Smith** – B. It was thrilling to sing on stage with the entire harmony platoon members at such a marvelous venue. The entire weekend was great from start to finish.

Visit us at: www.welovetosong.com

La Jolla Chapter

By Dale Vaughn

The quarter started with a great performance and barbeque at two of our member's church fund- raiser in August. A beautiful day filled with singing, good food and fellowship... it just doesn't get much better than this!

On Tuesday, September 11 we traveled to the **South Orange County** Chapter for a joint-chapter visit by **Mike O'Neill** from Society Headquarters in Nashville. Great instruction, education and fun singing were enjoyed by all present.

Our Chapter retreat in preparation for the FWD contest was held the weekend of September 14 & 15 and we welcomed **Ron Black** as our coach once again.

Everyone is safely home after the long trip to Mesa, AZ for the Far Western District contest where we put 25 men on stage and finished 5th place. It was a fine venue and superbly hosted by the **Spirit of Phoenix Chorus**. Special congratulations to our very own **Jim Schumacher** and **Mark Whelan** who won First Place honors in the Platoon Quartet Contest (Mark singing Baritone after 10 years singing Lead). Way to guys!

On October 15, five hearty souls worked the Monday Night Football Game at Qualcomm Stadium where the Chargers met the Denver Broncos in battle. Happily, **PCH** fared better than the Chargers at game's end and the chapter came away realizing a nice reward for our efforts!

We are thrilled to welcome two new members on our risers - **Craig Monsell**, Bass and **Kyle Lueken**, Tenor.

October 29 marked the official 10th Anniversary of **Pacific Coast Harmony**.

Visit us at: www.pacificcoastharmony.org

Las Vegas Chapters

By Larry Litchfield

We really, really did it!

The 52-year-old **Las Vegas Chapter** soon will be home for the largest men's barbershop chorus in Nevada when its merger with the **Las Vegas Metro Chapter** becomes effective Jan. 1, 2013.

The union -- blessed by the FWD's Board of Directors at its October meeting in Mesa, AZ -- creates a combined chorus of

more than 70 BHS members in good standing who now sing EITHER under the Las Vegas banner as the **Gamble-Aires** or the **Metro** marquee as the **City of Lights**.

The merger, under Las Vegas' SPEBSQSA charter, was launched as an idea in April and steadily gained momentum as both Chapters' leaders met, negotiated, held "town hall" membership meetings and key votes in accordance with strict Society guidelines. Current Boards of both chapters met twice to resolve issues and to vote on a final slate of new-Chapter officers for 2013.

On Thursday, Sept. 27, the two chapter memberships met at Las Vegas' rehearsal to elect the new Board's leadership as nominated by the members of both Chapters. As it turned out -- and in a demonstration of unity -- except for one key position, each job slot had only one nominee.

The six-month merger effort was choreographed by the two current Chapter presidents, Metro's **Martin Judd** and yours truly; with the close support of our respective, dedicated Boards of Directors.

Three major tasks now head a lengthy list of pending projects: (1) creation of a new chorus name, which soon will be selected in a vote of all chorus members; (2) development of an organizational logo; and (3) a new website.

A special 'keepsake' edition of Las Vegas' e-newsletter, The Showbill, is being published for widespread distribution and will appear on the Las Vegas Chapter's current website at www.gambleaires.com.

In it, **Russ Young**, FWD President, commented: "Given the groundwork that has been laid in preparation for this monumental event, your combined leaders have done a tremendous job to ensure a smooth transition and long-lasting union of two fine musical organizations. I look forward to an exciting and invigorating new chorus emerging from Las Vegas."

Society president **Alan Lamson** offered: "My personal congratulations....to each of you on the successful completion of the merger. Mergers such as this don't happen easily and not usually when we are talking about two healthy chapters of 40 or more members each. ...the continued service of the new chapter to the greater Las Vegas community will command work and perseverance, challenge each of you, and be a wonderfully fulfilling experience. What an exciting time for you. This is your chance to change the face of barbershop in Las Vegas for years to come."

The incoming 2013 Board of Directors for the emerging Las Vegas Chapter (and their current affiliations) are: **Steve Salmon**, President (Metro); **Larry Litchfield**, IPP (LV); **Ivan Lambert**, Secretary (Metro); **Wes White**, Treasurer (Metro/LV dual); **Albert Weiss**, VP-Music & Performance (LV); **Dennis Johnson**, VP-Membership (Metro/LV dual); **Fred Green**, VP PR/Marketing (Metro); **Larry Pechart**, Program VP (LV); **Ross Marty**, Chorus Manager (LV);

Bill Lusk, Member-at-Large (LV); **Randy Preston**, Member-at-Large (Metro/LV dual); Directors of the new, expanded chorus will be **Steve Salmon** (Metro) and **Albert Weiss** (LV). **Gilbert Cuevas** (Metro) will be Associate Director. A search for a new director is underway.

Visit us at: www.cityoflightschorus.com or www.gambleaires.com

Orange Quartet Chapter

By Mark Sheldon

In August the Summer Sing was hosted by the **Lowerre** family at their home, with potluck and much impromptu quartetting.

New Westminster quartet **Four the Win** dropped by one meeting to perform some of their repertoire. A few meetings later, MOH quartet **American Pastime** made a guest appearance, to preview their songs for the FWD Fall Contest. All quartets are likewise welcome and encouraged to visit and share their music!

Gerald Fleischmann organized a barbershop group dubbed the **Playaphonics** which performed to receptive audiences at the Burning Man Festival in Northwest Nevada.

Orange Quartet **Just 4 Fun** performed at the starting ceremony for Alzheimers Walking for the Cure events at Angel Stadium and Knott's.

David Switzer earned his BarberPole Cat pin, performing all twelve songs in a single evening!

Officers for 2013 are: President **Michael Werner**, Program VP and IPP **David Lowerre**, Music VP **Ken Tillmanns**, Membership VP **Paul Sandorff**, Secretary **Rich Spencer**, Treasurer **Bob Calderwood**, PR VP **Mark Sheldon**, YIH VP **Don Levering**, Board Members at Large **Don Thomas** and **Stan Tinkle**.

Visit us at: www.harmonize.com/orange

Palomar Pacific Chapter

By Keith Bogost & Patrick Fairchild

Greetings to all readers from **The Music Men**, the **Pal-Pac** chapter here in North San Diego!

We are the new contributors, **Keith Bogost & Patrick Fairchild**. There has been no news in Westunes from Pal-Pac for some time now, but that doesn't mean we haven't been busy!

We have a new director, **Lucy Cartano**, a Sweet Adelines competitor who took over when **John Hulbert** moved to Las Vegas last Fall.

August saw our annual chapter picnic, and we learned who the REALLY good cooks are (too numerous to mention!). But, **Mike Cowan** can out-barbeque them all!

Check out our web page! Search "The Music Men, Palomar Pacific Chapter Barbershop Singers" etc. and follow the prompts. Thanks to our web guru, **Richard Kellam**.

Sept. 25th the chapter hosted its ninth annual Novice Quartet Contest (AKA the **Al Leuthe** show) which was won by "**Men in Harmony**" (**Hector Sanchez**, **John Rhodes** - who was so determined to win he was in 4 separate quartets - **Joe Pascucci**, **Bob Landes**). Looking forward to #10, Big Al.

We still meet on Tuesday nights at 7pm in the San Marcos Senior Center and we STILL have a contact phone (760) 839-6518. Drop in and pay a visit.

Visit us at: www.musicmenchorus.org

Riverside
Gaylord Spence

The Riverside Chapter has been basking in the wonderful instructional capabilities of our very talented director, John Brockman for the past three years and have just been learned that he is soon to become a father. This event, although wonderful and rewarding for the Brockman's, now mean that we will again be searching for a new director. John, being the dedicated husband that he is, is resigning his directorship position knowing full well that parenthood is a two-person commitment and he wants to be the best he can be. Although we are saddened to lose John as our leader we wish he and his wife, Crystal, all of the best in their life and expanding family. We have all been very blessed to have him as our musical mentor and will always consider him a friend for life.

San Diego Chapter
By Ducrot Pepys

It's been a fun filled fall for the **Sun Harbor Chorus**.

We have enjoyed a number of local performances and basked in the audience appreciation. There is nothing better than the positive response to our hard work at rehearsal.

We celebrated "**Together in Harmony**", a special public performance on September 15th, in the historic Casa Del Prado Theater in Balboa Park featuring our special guest quartets – **The Velvet Frogs**, **Tuesday Night Alibi**, and the ladies of **Cadence**. The hall was filled with friends, family, and new fans. This was real traditional Barbershop and many welcomed back the art form.

Kathleen Hansen, our fabulous director, just completed a series of "Learn to Sing" lessons for guests and new members with great response. Two of the students have continued to rehearse with the Chorus and one just passed his audition and plans to sing on our 35th Annual Christmas Show.

Please visit if you are in town.

Visit us at: www.sunharbor.org

South Orange County Chapter
By Charlie Heizman

The intense training and practice of the past year paid off at the FWD District Convention in Mesa as **South County Sound** was awarded ninth place in the chorus competition. Formed 1 ½ years ago and with most members never having been in competition before, the experience was exhilarating and left us with the motivation to continue to develop our performance capabilities as far as possible. Being part of this great convention with so many outstanding choruses and quartets was an experience that made all the hard work worthwhile.

In August we participated in the **Fullerton** chapter's annual benefit show for Youth in Harmony. Along with the other participants, including **The Velvet Frogs** and **Tenacious Q**, the evening was a great success.

We are happy to welcome five new members to our chapter: **Richard Buice**, **Cory Martin**, **Stan Levin**, **David Blodgett** and **Edde Mabrey**.

Visit us at: www.scsound.org



Division 3 NW Chapters
John Heather, Editor

EUREKA
Mac Gardner

August ends the summer, but the **Humboldt Harmonaires** always end with an "**Ice Cream Spree**." That sounds like fun, and it is. Our families crowd in to take over a famous ice cream emporium in Old Town Eureka. The chapter picks up the tab, everybody sings, and quartets perform their latest hits. Walkers-by always stick their heads in to see what all the music is. Many sing along with us. Everybody smiles, including the waitresses.

We started fall festivities with our famous (or infamous) "**Stale Hot Dog Roast**." The title has a crazy story in itself, but this traditional September event always ends with fellowship, fine food and joyous singing. **Harvey Raider** and wife **Ann** opened their new home south of Arcata for all the fun---wives and kids included. (Note: **Harmonaire** wives have to be the finest cooks in the region!)

Our legendary Beer-and-Peanuts Show (actually two shows) sparked October. In addition to our own singing, we served as waiters delivering peanuts, popcorn, beer and soda pop. (A crowd favorite, of course, was "**Beer Barrel Polka**" and our own dancers.) Our fans got to sing along on traditional tunes, and also applaud our quartet talent—**Four Chords of Redwood**, **Mirth First** and a new team—**Second Sound**. The ladies of **Sunset Harmony Chorus** were again crowd pleasers, especially when they teamed up with us on "**Lida Rose**." **Sage**, a new ladies quartet, was also introduced for its first public performance.

After producing the show for several years at the Arcata Community Center, we drew more fans by moving to the world-famous Eureka Inn. Our second B-and-P Show was at the Riverview Lodge in Fortuna a few miles south of Eureka. Bingo! We had full, appreciative crowds in both spots.

Straight ahead are the Veterans Day program and Christmas appearances. Love it!

Fremont Hayward
By Ray Spinosa

Continuing a tradition of many years, the **New Dimension** chorus once again attended the Fremont Festival of the Arts. Members who manned the chorus booth spent their time singing, teaching tags and promoting the chorus's Learn to Sing program. This program began in August and continued for six weeks. Many thanks are due to the instructors who participated and also to the guests who attended. It was an interesting and instructive time for both guests and members.

Recently, a get-together was held at the home of **Bob Horwitz**. The festivities included fellowship, barbecue and of course harmony.

The chorus is now turning its attention to learning songs for the upcoming holiday season.

Monterey Peninsula
By Sam Kier

The **Cypresses** staged their annual show on October 20 at the World Theater on the campus of California State University, Monterey Bay. Their guests, international medalists Sweet Adelines quartet **LoveNotes** stunned the audience with their talent and their beauty. Reactions to all aspects of the show were very positive.

Four military veterans from the chorus, **Otto Neely, Samuel Shearer, Earl Ravid** and **Sam Kier** plan to deliver singing salutes to Monterey area veterans during Veterans Day weekend. The quartet, who call themselves **As You Were**, will visit vets at home and in the hospital, sing each recipient's service song and the **Irish Blessing**, and give them a Happy Veterans' Day greeting card. Proceeds from the campaign will be donated to the Wounded Warrior Project. The singing salute program was suggested to them by FWD Web Master **Keith Eckhardt**.

Palo Alto/Mountain View

By David Weatherford

The **Peninsulaires** put 20 men on stage at the FWD District Contest this year. Though many members could not participate due to personal conflicts or the distance involved, those who did go enjoyed the trip and the experience tremendously.

On August 18th, the **Peninsulaires** entertained several hundred members of Kiwanis International during lunch at the convention of their California/Nevada/Hawaii District, held at the Santa Clara Convention Center.

On September 16th, the chorus sang for the S.N.A.I.L. (Sunnyvale Neighbors of Arbor Including La Linda) neighborhood association picnic, held in the back yard of our very own **Jim Turner**.

The Holiday Chorus is off to a good start, with several men who took advantage of the Singer's Clinic returning to celebrate the holidays in song. This year, the chorus will be performing at Filoli Mansion and Gardens, the City of Mountain View tree-lighting, the Palo-Alto Farmer's Market, and several other locations around the Bay Area.

The entire chapter wishes to publicly acknowledge the generosity and dedication of **Bessie Heather**, who for over 10 years has provided cookies or other treats for almost every Tuesday night rehearsal. Thanks, **Bessie!** You're one in a million!

San Francisco

By Don Kington

Serendipity, the quartet in which **CableCar Chorus** veteran **Fred Merrick** signs lead, last June 2 sang to fans entering the Giants' baseball park and between innings during the game. Portions of the quartet's performance was broadcast on Fox. On September 15 the lads sang for three hours at a wine tasting and picnic at Bella winery in Healdsburg. At this writing the quartet is scheduled to sing on the Marin chapter annual show

Time Be Four has a lunch time gig planned at a Senior community in Fremont on Election Day.

We are keeping this non-political as the quartet has two Republicans and two Democrats.

San Mateo

By Thomas Addison

We have successfully completed another Halloween Cabaret replete with costumed guests, and chorus, a four course dinner and a wonderful show. **Pete Wanger** staged a successful show called "**Retro Radio**" harking back to the days of radio jingles, and live morning drive time entertainment. **Paul Buchanan** and **Mark Wilson** provided some instrumental entertainment singing songs from the Everly Brothers duo and other groups from the 50's and 60's. Also performing were the quartet **Sound Judgment** and the Half Moon Bay quintet called the **Sea Notes**.

Fred Moraga is finishing his successful two year term as president. He will be replaced by **Tom Addison**. **Ed Sterbenc** will become VP music and performance and **Pete Wanger** and **Paul Buchanan** will stay on as Treasurer and Secretary.

We move into our second year with director **Cort Bender** who travelled to Las Vegas to spend the weekend learning coaching techniques from the legendary **Cindy Hansen-Ellis** and **Joe Ceruti**.

Santa Rosa

By Ray Crowder

The **Redwood Chordsmen** are proud of their 8th place finish at the FWD convention in Mesa, as well as their hard earned Plateau A championship. Kudos to our directors, **Phil Debar**, and **Jan Lappin**, and our choreography team headed by the dynamic **Dave Key**. This was a great effort by everybody involved, and it shows why we're growing as a chapter.

Speaking of growth, Santa Rosa's roster now totals 62 members. Thanks to our energetic Membership team, **Shelly Albaum, Richard Parry-Jones, And Ray Crowder**, we've seen a burst of enthusiasm in our chapter which we haven't seen in years. We're averaging 43-45 men on the risers every week, a 75% increase in attendance from the middle of 2011. Operation Harold Hill really works. Welcome to our newest members, **Pearce Merritt, Terry Weisbrich, Everett Neil, Richard Naegle, James Morgan, and Bill Cox**. Guests have included former members **Patrick Lawrence, And Keith Brandt**.

Our annual Oakmont performance was a big hit, and the audience was treated to excellent performances by our chapter quartets, **Just One More Song, Chordshouse Squares, and On Demand**. We're looking forward to our appearance with the **Song Of Sonoma** Sweet Adelines chapter on their October 20th show. The joint Harmony Camp with both chapters held earlier this year at Presbyterian Church Of The Roses was a great success, and plans are unfolding for a future event.

Thanks to Youth Outreach Chairman, **Bob Lappin**, for helping our chapter sponsor 16 young men from Maria Carrillo high school who attended the Youth Harmony Camp in September. Santa Rosa continues to be very active in the Youth Outreach program, and we'll be performing at the annual Barclay Concert High School Classic at the new Green Music Center next year on the campus of Sonoma State University. Also performing will be choral groups from five local area high schools.

The Installation Dinner, and Awards Banquet will be held on December 16, at the Union Hotel in Occidental. Our new 2013 board members are as follows:

President	Allen Jones
Imm. Past President	Dan Exelby
Secretary	Richard Parry-Jones
Treasurer	Wayne Hovdesven
Music VP	Neal Rogers
Membership VP	Shelly Albaum
Program VP	Shelly Albaum
Youth In Harmony	Bob Lappin
Development VP	Mike Cohoon
BMAL	Dave Key, Mark Sundahl, and Ray Crowder

SF Bay Cities Quartet
By Jordan Makower

In late August, **David Tuttelman**, a member of the San Francisco Bay Cities Quartets, was contacted by the wife of a friend, to tell him that her husband had become a resident at the Westgate Villa Assisted Living Facility, in San Jose. She told him that her husband needed "some cheering up", and asked if the SFBCQ could 'serenade' him, and the other residents, one weekday. A call went out to our members, as well as **The Peninsulaires**, a neighboring BHS group. In the end, **Ric King** and **Bruce Bunting** (from PAMV) joined **Dan Heckerman**, **Paul Goldstein**, **David Tuttelman**, **Paul Freudenthal**, **Dave Laubscher**, **Steve Gummarsall**, and **Jordan Makower** to make a performing Very Large Quartet. When we got there the lobby was filled with residents, and the little reception room was overflowing. After a 40-minute performance, we left with the acclaim of those people still ringing in our ears. Although our smaller numbers of our group make regular visits to other facilities, this was the warmest reception we had ever received. If you'd like to visit us, we meet regularly on the second and fourth Wednesdays at Harry's Hofbrau 5:30 – 7, for dinner, in San Jose.

On the first day of the World Series we could hear cheering and a lot of excitement coming from the large room adjacent to us at Harry's Hofbrau. In spite of that, our guys got together for another PoleCat songfest! **Bill Beck** broke out a 1986 copy of Just Plain Barbershop, and taught us a few songs, including one that was sung for the first time when SPEBSQSA was organized, in 1938! **Dale Crandall** drives a bus that furnished transportation for many of the seniors watching the games next door, and managed to sing a few songs perfectly with us, without using any book.

Walnut Creek
By Neal Cavanaugh

The members of the **Devil Mountain Chorus** have been busy. Our director, **Kristen Taylor**, has been bringing new songs and sharpening our techniques for the past many months. In addition to effective rehearsals, the chorus showed off its skills by performing at the Rossmoor retirement community several times. The chorus members also got up early to sing at several local churches on Sunday mornings. On Sept. 15th, Walnut Creek began its Walnut Festival celebration with a twilight parade. The Devil Mountain Chorus made an unusual appearance by singing from the flatbed of a truck as it moved along the parade route. The truck was decorated and driven by **Ron Leiker**, and the sound system was set up and managed by **Bob Dunn**. The parade watchers were very appreciative, and the chorus won first place in its category for its participation in the parade. We continued to participate in the Walnut Festival

the following weekend by sponsoring a beer booth at the fair/carnival. The booth was designed and has been set up for years by **Ron Leiker** and **Don Nelson**, and this year it was set up with the help of **Bob Dunn**, **Steve Huskins** and **Art Roberts**. Most of the guys in the chorus volunteered time to staff the booth and sell beer. The booth is a major fund raiser for the chorus. On Saturday, Sept 29th, **Randy Meyer**, long-time barbershopper, chorus director, contest administrator and talented coach, spent a morning coaching our chorus. Randy's spot-on ear and insightful comments helped the guys move toward producing a more pleasing, ringing and resonant sound. Finally, the chorus has been working hard to prepare for its Nov. 3rd annual show.



Division 4 NE Chapters
Roger Perkins, Editor

California Delta Chapter
By Rich Brunner

It's been a busy few months on board the ARC. We had a hand full of really high quality new singers join our ranks after our annual show and are thrilled to have them along. The chorus ventured to Mesa for a few fun days in the desert at District. We were thrilled with the results and are excited to have earned a wild card berth to compete at International in Toronto! Kudos to all the guys who worked so hard in getting ready for the contest, and to their wives and families for letting them come out to play/work every week. It was great to see so many ARC guys on stage in quartets, especially at the top of the scoresheets, where we had ARC members in the New Quartet Champs (95 North), Novice Champs (SBPC), Senior Champs (DOUBLETAKE), Super Senior Champs (Late Harvest), and even the outgoing District Champs (Artistic License).

We're in the midst now of our 3rd Annual Singing Clinic, where we provide free voice lessons to any guy in the community that's interested. Looks like we have some real singers in the bunch. We're also hard at work on songs for our upcoming holiday show at the beautiful Three Stages Theater in Folsom on December 2nd. We're sharing the stage with several other groups from the community, including a local high school jazz choir that's ranked number one in the world by Billboard magazine. Lots of variety and a whole lot of fun. It should be a real barn burner!

Central California Chapter
By Miles Sutter

"Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah, What A Wonderful Day!" Plenty of sunshine for everyone to enjoy after a rain shower earlier in the week prior to our annual picnic, and enjoy we did! Many thanks to **Bob & Sonya** for opening their beautiful backyard for this important occasion. The occasion was two-fold; our annual picnic get-together along with asking for donations for our high school students so we can send them to Youth Harmony Camp. We are in the process of sending twelve students at this time, and the money we raised will help us afford to do so. And just exactly what were we doing this Saturday afternoon? Well, how about eating, singing, eating, quartetting, eating, socializing, eating ... You get the idea.

Kudos to **Brad Reed**, the musical director at Merced High School, for bringing three of his students and quartetting, "Take Me Out To The Ball Game", together with **Howard Barber**.

We had the pleasure of hearing from seven quartets, thanks to our Jamboree Man-In-Charge, **Dick Compton**. GVC spared no expense when it came to prizes. The winning quartet, according to our lovely judges, received (hold onto your hat), a whole watermelon! The two runner-ups received a half watermelon! What a deal!

Playhouse Merced recently held their production of **The Music Man**, and the quartet performing in that production graced our stage this afternoon, singing "Sincere". Quartet singers were **Brad Reed, Terrell Chambers, Greg Kramp & Howard Barber**. Another selection was "Lida Rose". GVC's own quartet, **Four On The Floor**, singing "Feel'n Fine". The **Fat City 4** quartet from Stockton sang four songs. Great job, guys. Thanks for comin'. Thanks to **Stratt** for handling the BBQ chores, and **Eric** for the name tags. Our MC for the afternoon was **Herb Andrew**.

GVC did two performances on October 9th, and October 23rd. Seven songs, together with our "**Four On The Floor**" quartet, seemed to please our captive audience, consisting of the elderly and handicapped patients of Covenant Village. Being able to hold our weekly rehearsals at Covenant Village's Berg Hall allows us the opportunity to perform in front of an 'audience' every week since the occupants are invited to sit and listen as we rehearse. Singing in front of an audience, no matter how many or few, always encourages us to do our best, which benefits all of us individually. Thanks to **Howard Barber** for taking over the director's job while Bruce was on assignment. The MC for the evening once again was **Herb Andrew**, who did an outstanding job.

A Merced club of Lazy Daze RV owners, 17 members strong, was the recipient of a singout on October 16th. Our own **Howard Barber**, who happens to be a member, arranged for us to perform. The 15 chous singers were directed by **Bruce Sellnow**. We again sang the seven song package to the obvious delight of our audience, together with **Four On The Floor**. The Armed Forces Medley gave them the opportunity to stand when their particular branch of service was honored and they were greeted with applause. **Herb** did another great job as MC. Refreshments were served thanks to **Howard & Betty Barber** consisting of ice cream, topped with home grown sliced peaches, blue berries and cookies.

Davis-Vacaville Chapter

By Tom Powers

We are in the middle of a very active fall season. The chorus has had performances at two retirement homes in addition to a third program provided by four club quartets. The 24th annual Davis "Harmony in Our Lives" School Benefit Show in November will give us a chance to sing before a lot of young parents and their school-aged children. We rarely get to sing for such an audience.

This year we are performing two holiday shows in partnership with churches in Vacaville and Woodland. The proceeds will go to local charities. The churches provide the venues and staging help while we put on the shows. We are inviting men from the general public, and through announcements in many other church bulletins, to sing three songs with us. We are offering three practice sessions and tips on how to improve

their singing skills. Our hope is that we can attract new members to our chapter as well as stimulate interest in our future shows.

We are losing a chapter leader (and a great baritone) in January. **Mark Shreve** has received an awesome promotion by BP Oil Company to manage a large oil refinery in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Mark reports that, unfortunately, the nearest barbershop chapter is 80 miles away!

Folsom Chapter

By Dennis Stohl

Five new prospective members attended "Guest Night" August 30. The evening included chorus numbers, tags, and impromptu quartet singing. Each of the guests participated in the impromptu quartet singing. The event motivated chorus members to bring more of their friends to sing with the chorus in the future.

The **FHX** annual Wives Appreciation dinner was held on September 27 at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Roseville. The program included several numbers by the entire chorus and quartets. A special recognition was presented to **Joanne "Jojo" Aita**. Director **Kent Borrowdale** presented her with a bouquet of roses and a plaque. Jojo attends a majority of our rehearsals with husband **Mike** and brings delicious baked goodies for the chorus members.

Fresno Chapter

By David Reitzel

GNC a Cappella (aka **Gold Note Chorus**) welcomes new member **Pete Samhammer**, a bass, recently of Fresno's Bach Youth Choir.

Chapter members served and sang at Voices United's bash, "Wine Women and Song", directed by **Dede Nibler**.

The GNC joined Visalia's **Mighty Oaks Chorus** and their new director, **Adam Kitt**, as they hosted a Youth Harmony shindig on October 27.

A special note of thanks to the eight Mighty Oak-ers who sang with GNC at Mesa. Their participation in the many dual rehearsals and their making the long trip east with us are greatly appreciated.

Nevada Placer Chapter

By Roger Perkins

A VLQ performed for the second time at the Sierra Ridge Memory Care home in Auburn. The residents loved hearing the "old songs". Once again the old timer in the wheelchair came up front and sang "Heart of my Heart" with the chorus. No problem with memory for that song.

Twelve members of the **Sierranaders** drove to Placerville on joint meeting night, Aug. 14, and had an enjoyable time gang singing, performing and our two quartets, **Now & Then** and the **4T9r4** each sang one song for the crowd. A good time was had by all.

A VLQ consisting of 15 chapter members performed several of our Western songs at a Loomis Chamber Mixer on Oct. 18 at 6:00 p.m. Since it was held at Foothill Feed some of us wore our cowboy boots and hats and there is a possibility that we may be able to perform at the annual Cowboy Poetry event

which takes place in the Loomis Fruit Shed. It began 18 years ago and is a sell-out every year. The Chamber of Commerce members loved our performance and a few of them asked about tickets for our Cabaret Show.

This year our Cabaret Shows took place on Oct. 26 in Grass Valley and Oct. 27 in Auburn. It was called "Martian Attack". We learned that the Martians are upset over our Curiosity Rover being on their planet and they made an appearance on our show. However it turns out they have Barbershop quartets on their planet also and were able to sing for our customers who loved the idea. On Friday the quartets were **Now & Then, 4T9r4**, the **Tilecutters**, **Pacific Standard Time** and **TBDL** (made up of two chapter members and two Folsom Chapter members. On Saturday we had **Now & Then, 4T9r4**, **TBDL** and **The Great Perk**, who performed one song.

Reno Chapter By Steve Shurtliff

Back we are from our trip to Mesa for the District Convention! We were happy to win AA and place 7th overall. We had a great venue to perform in and a lot of good people to perform with. Seeing Westminster perform and hearing some great quartets at the Afterglow made for a great weekend. I have to say, though, that my favorite performance was seeing **Artistic License** do that final number accompanied by bagpipes. That was special.

Reno is known for many events in the summer, including the Balloon Races and the Air Races. Both found us in attendance doing our National Anthem (and sometimes more) to very appreciative crowds.

We heartily welcome new member **Carl Nesbitt** to our chorus.

Sacramento Chapter By Joe Samora

Our Program V.P., **Don Gubbins**, got the four neighboring chapters together on August 14 for a fun evening. The **Placerville Gold Rush Chorus** hosted the first gathering in several years with members attending from the **Sacramento Capitolaire**s, **Folsom Harmony Express** and **Nevada Placer Sierranaders**. To start things off he had each voice part line up and the front quartet began a song. He then had them move to the end of the row to start a new quartet. Then quartets from each chapter (**Three Bari's & A Bass, Group Therapy, 4T9r4, Above C Level, TBDL**) performed one or two songs. **Keith Eckhardt** provided some of his fresh ground coffee with cookies and brownies. After the break **Jeff Nelson** taught all singers the chorus of "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling", which Placerville is learning for next St. Patrick's Day. This was followed by a performance by each chorus. **Kent Borrowdale** directed Folsom with 18 men, followed by Nevada Placer's 14 men under the direction of **Roger Perkins**, chapter chorus director for 29 years. Next was **Placerville** with 18 singers directed by **Jeff Nelson**, and then **Sacramento** with 13 men under the direction of their newly appointed director **Randy Finger**. The Festivities ended a little early so **Kent Borrowdale & Roger Perkins** each taught a tag. Westunes Editor, **Ray Rhymer**, was there to take photos. Afterwards several men attended their afterglow.

Ron Black has returned to direct the **Capitolaire**s and **Randy Finger** is the Associate Director.

A Harmony Open House was held on October 9 with about a dozen guests in attendance. The program included learning a new song, tags and some Polecat songs. Each guest received a packet of information about the chapter and Barbershop Harmony Society.

The Capitolaire's sang during the **Capitol Pops Concert Band's "Boos and Brews" Party** held on October 19 in the Citrus Heights Community Center. It was a combination Halloween and Octoberfest event held in a Beer Garden was open to the public raise revenue for music student scholarships. **Ron Black** directed

Chapter quartets and the Capitolaire's were invited to sing again this year at the **State Railroad Museum** during their annual "Polar Express" event.

Stockton Chapter By Al Wolte

The Annual Picnic was held September 18 where 24 folks had a great time and raised total of \$1,102.00 for the Chapter's **Youth in Harmony Fund**, sending several young men to Harmony Camp.

The Chapter's 58th Annual show was an artistic success. The show, "It's Wonderful to Sing... for Life", featured the **Portsmen Chorus, 4XLT** (with **Ida Walkover**), **Fat City Four**, **Tune Struck**, the **Chavez High School Singing Titan's Honor Choir** in the afternoon and, the **Top Raw Men** from **McNair High School** (4 attendees of this year's Harmony Camp) in the evening performance. The headline quartet was **Brainstorm** (S.A.).

The Chapter lost three of its stalwart members recently. **Bob McDonald**, **Tom Dosh** and **Jim Keating** (formerly 'Capt. Delta' on Sacramento TV station KQVR several years ago) All were transferred to the Chorus Eternal. They were remembered in the show program.

For the second year in a row, **Tune Struck** sang for the **Kaiser-Permanente** employee wellness event and performed the National Anthem for the **Stockton Thunder's** home opener.

Visalia Chapter By Bud Case

The **Mighty Oak Chorus** has been very busy the last three months starting in August with our annual Spaghetti Feed (chef **Fred Speckman** & crew) that raised over \$1,000 and Aug. 30 —Sept. 2 yard sale that raised another \$1,000+ led by **Ted Petersdorf** our master "yard-sale" guru. We also sent five young men to Youth Harmony Camp in Pollock Pines along with one of the dads and **Pat Harrison** as helpers. Then came October, **Dee Baughman**, **Phil Edwards**, **Pat Harrison**, **Ken McNutt**, **Rod Robinson**, **Paul Simon** and **Fred Speckman** joined GNC in dual membership so as to compete in Mesa at the FWD convention. The culmination of frenzy of activity came Oct. 27th as we held our second Youth Harmony Festival on the College of the Sequoia's campus. **Heavenly**, a Sweet Adeline quartet from the Sacramento area (tenor, **Lisa Shortridge**, lead, **Elizabeth Dyer**, baritone, **Dani Shortridge** and bass, **Rikki Pratt**) inspired the 25 young HS ladies as they prepared two songs for the evening show and **The Crush** (tenor, **Matthew Gray**, subbing lead, **Jason Remley**, baritone, **John Brockman** and bass, **Paul Tabone**) ignited the fourteen HS men as they learned their two songs. All of this musical

magic was directed by **Adam Kitt**, Director of both Visalia MOC and the Fresno GNC A Cappella Choruses and topped off with the eight part harmony of “And So to Sleep Again” performed jointly with the two quartets and several MOC men. **Lee Smith** was instrumental in raising funds towards the festival as well as handily providing PR in the local media.

Silver & Gold, Some Assembly Required and three of the HS quartet, **Testosterone** that drove all the way down from the Sacramento area to participate performed on the show in the COS Theater as well. The 39 youth represented six high schools and three of their directors were in attendance.



Division 5 AZ Chapters Frank Ortega, Editor

Greater Phoenix Chapter by Jerry McElfresh

The **Spirit of Phoenix** chorus kicked off its 2012-2013 performance season with a show held jointly with the Sedona **Harmony on the Rocks** chorus entitled “Harmony Explosion.” The program at the Sedona Performing Arts Center, which was a benefit for the Sedona International Film Festival, featured quartets **Audacity** and **Game On**.

The chorus geared up for District competition with coaching sessions with noted arranger and director **Brent Graham**, as well as **Patrick Claypool** and **Mark Hale**, both International quartet and chorus champs.

A second-place finish in the Far Western District Chorus Contest, the Most Improved Chorus plaque and three quartets in the quartet finals all added up to a great convention weekend for the Spirit of Phoenix chorus. Our finalist quartets, **Vocal Edition**, **Audacity** and **Whoop ‘Em Up**, ended up fourth, fifth and eighth, respectively.

The Fall Convention in Mesa, hosted by the Greater Phoenix Chapter, drew nearly 1,500 attendees and many favorable comments. Chairman **Bob Sampson**, Assistant Chairman **Jack Mauney**, Registration Chairman **Randy Bingel**, and many more volunteer hosts, registrars and others working behind the scenes, all made this a successful convention and a model for future host chapters. The Harmony Marketplace, operated by the Kindred Spirits and other volunteers, was also a hit.

Elected to the Board of Directors for 2013 were President **Bob Upham**, Immediate Past President **Terry Aramian**, Secretary **Bob Gray**, Treasurer **Roy Gross**, Music VP **Mark Spriggs**, Marketing VP **Jerry McElfresh**, Membership VP **Justin Klemballa**, Program VP **Gary Ciba**, and Members-at-Large **Bo Larson**, **Bob Robinson** and **Mel Reekes**.

Barbershoppers of the Month were **Roy Gross**, who also won the award earlier this year for his work as treasurer, and **Justin Klemballa**. Roy was honored this time for keeping detailed member and guest attendance reports. Justin, one of our newer members, earned the honor for his efforts in making our guests and new members feel at home through tag and quartet singing.

The chapter was pleased to add six new members last quarter — **Steven Juniel**, **RJ Esquivias**, **Adrian Hurtado**, **Jim Hasslinger**, **Ryan Howell** and **Brooks Sutton**. Steven, RJ,

Adrian and Brooks are all high school students or recent graduates.

Our director, **Gary Steinkamp**, won his third District quartet championship when his newest quartet, **Momentum**, took first place in the Evergreen District Quartet Contest. **Momentum** also placed 13th in the 2012 International Quartet Contest in Portland.

SOP members made a “big splash at the Bash,” winning the VLQ and novice contests and providing most of the quartets for the Parade of Quartets. **Sheryl** and **Collin McKinney** ably chaired the annual Fred Koch Memorial Summer Bash in Tempe.

The chorus now has an Emergency Response Team (ERT) to deal with safety and medical issues that may arise among chorus members and those attending our events. Members of the team, led by **Mark Ewing**, are trained and equipped to handle emergency situations. Although it was not needed this time, the ERT was on standby during the District Convention.

Prescott Chapter by Sam Stimple

Over the summer President **Ed Massa** hosted a calendar planning retreat whereby he appointed a Nominating Committee to select a slate of chapter officers for 2013. The majority of this year’s board has opted to return for another exciting round. Those elected will be announced in the next issue of Westunes.

Ed Kenney earned his Barberpole Cat certificate and pin in record time — three sessions! He and fellow “polecat” **Clay Miller** attended Harmony College West at Redlands University. Needless to say, they had a ball and came home with many new barbershop tools and ideas for the chorus and quartets. The chapter’s Barberpole Cat qualification program has been put on hold until January in order to prepare for fall and holiday activities. **Antique Parts** and **Silver Sounds** quartets are to be thanked for providing the “other three parts” to members who were earning their pins and certificates.

The High Mountain Chordsmen chorus and quartets performed at several interesting venues during the warm summer months — an 80th birthday party for a lovely lady named Mary, the Prescott Public Library’s Chamber Concert Series, the Moose Lodge, High Gate Senior Living Center, and the new Prescott Opry. The Opry, a home version of Nashville’s Grand Ole Opry, presents a three-hour western extravaganza of local instrumental and vocal acts held in the beautifully restored Elks Opera House, a few walking steps from the Yavapai County Courthouse. Dressed in black outfits and red scarves, the chorus was a real hit.

The chorus and quartets “sing-cerely” welcomed our new women’s auxiliary, **HMC Belles**, formed to be of assistance to the chapter in show preparation, costuming, and contest cheering. The Belles held an initial meeting during the summer and have already been of tremendous help. They are still coming up with new ideas.

Sedona Chapter by Lee Shoptaugh

In early August, about 60 members of the **Spirit of Phoenix** chorus joined forces with the Sedona **Harmony on the Rocks** chorus, under the direction of **Gary Steinkamp** and **John**

McDougald, respectively, to perform a joint concert in Sedona called “Harmony Explosion.” The program featured quartets performances by **Audacity**, **Game On** and **A La Mode** (SAI). During intermission, past chapter president **Don Tautkus** was recognized for his 50-year membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society. Don, who founded the Sedona Chapter in 2001, currently serves on the board of directors as chairman for singouts.

During September, the chorus performed at a fundraiser for the Sedona Methodist Church and a “World Peace Day” event at the Sedona Studio Live Theater.

Our baritone section has been bolstered by the addition of three new members, **Kit Hinsley**, **Jim Fisher**, and **Matt Tucker**. Two of them joined as a result of our recruiting efforts during the “Operation Harold Hill” membership drive.

Sun Cities Chapter by Campbell Titchener

The return of the snowbirds and pleasant weather signaled the start of a busy fall for the Sun Cities **Desert Aires**. The chorus presented its “Main Street: A Stroll Down Memory Lane” show for six different audiences, in addition to a repeat performance for the Military Officers Association of America at Luke Air Force Base.

A reconstructed **Time Was** quartet sang at a Peoria Liberty High School football game. Members are **Dave Moses** of the Desert Aires at baritone; **Terry Grimme**, tenor, of the Desert Aires and the Phoenix Quartet Chapter; and **Lonnie Culp**, also of the quartet chapter, singing lead. Helping out at bass was **Bill Shaw**, president of the Desert Aires.

The chorus found time to compete in the Far Western District chorus contest in Mesa. No, we didn’t win, but we showed, again, that a Plateau A chorus was willing to step on stage with the big boys.

Tucson Sunshine Chapter by Jack Statler

Chapter quartet **Matinee Idles** attended Harmony College West at Redlands University. As one of six quartets in attendance, they had three excellent coaches working with them twice over a two-day period, and they had the opportunity to perform two songs on the Saturday night show. The quartet members were pleased with the coaching, comparing it favorably to their experience at Harmony University.

Arizona Division VP **John Bloomquist** installed newly elected TSC board members in a moving ceremony performed in the spacious backyard of our new director, **Dayle Ann Cook**. Chapter members gathered there to pay appropriate homage and enjoy a potluck buffet, refreshments, fellowship, and some enthusiastic singing.

The TSC Board for 2012-13 comprises **Frank Hartline**, President; **Dave Tompkins**, Secretary; **Jim Sellers**, Treasurer; **Tony Spar**, VP Membership; **Jim Hart**, VP Music & Performance; **Larry Castriotta**, VP Program; **David Updegraff**, VP Marketing; **Ron Hayes**, Youth in Harmony; **Wes Krause**, Immediate Past President; and Board Members-at-Large **Lucas**

Snyder, **David Updegraff**, **Doug Rhoads**, **Ed Hecht**, **David Jager**, **Mike Elbert** (also Chorus Manager).

Over 150 registered singers representing eight southern Arizona high schools attended the 7th Annual Southern Arizona Youth In Harmony Festival, under the leadership of Ron Hayes. Clinicians were **Anna-Lisa Glad**, **Steve DeCrow**, **Connie Keil**, Dayle Ann Cook, and **Karen Meade**. Local quartets **Joint Venture**, **Havin’ A Blast**, and **Footnotes** shared teaching duties.

TBX Ensemble performed at several local venues including singing the National Anthem at the Tucson Padres baseball game, acting as the choir on a program at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, and appearing on KGUN-TV’s popular “Morning Blend” Show.

Our annual chapter picnic, held at a local community center and hosted by the Green Valley **Valleyaires**, featured traditional grilled brats-dogs-burgers and delicious potluck sides plus refreshments — and plenty of singing.

White Mountain Chapter by John Welker

The **High Country Chorus** gave a concert in August at the White Mountain Woman’s Club for about 300 people. In September, HCC joined in a road cleanup consisting of about 20 chorus members and wives. Also in September, we participated in a joint concert with the **White Mountain Chorale** and the **Blue Ridge Junior High School Choir**. A rousing performance by a barbershop quartet from **Broken Records High School** elicited a standing ovation. Chapter quartet **Four Wheel Drive** sang for a birthday bash at the Solterra Retirement Home.

Notices [at end, printing optional]

SoCal Novice in Orange

PUT YOUR QUARTET IN THE SPOTLIGHT at the 2013 SoCal NOVICE QUARTET CONTEST

The Westminster Chapter started the Novice Quartet Contest to promote the formation and development of new quartets. The Orange Quartet Chapter was chartered, under the sponsorship of the Westminster Chapter, for exactly the same purpose. The Orange Chapter is proud to carry on this tradition, now in its 51st year.

The Southern California Novice Quartet Contest will take place at 7:00pm on Saturday, January 26, 2013 at a new location: Orange High School, 525 N. Shaffer Street in Orange. The event provides an opportunity for new quartets and those with limited experience to present their talents and learn about the process of competition in a friendly and supportive setting. More experienced quartets should consider using the event as part of their preparation for the Spring division contests.

Each competing quartet will be scored according to standard Society methods and will receive an evaluation so that the quartet members receive feedback on their strong points and those areas where they need improvement. For the purpose of determining winners, a handicapping system based on past experience in competition will be used.

All barbershoppers are encouraged to participate. Quartets do not need to be Society-registered, but all four singers must be Society members. There is a \$25 entry fee per quartet. Entries must be submitted no later than January 1, 2013. Make your plans now so that the holidays don't catch you napping! Audience tickets are \$15 for adults; half-price for children 11 years and under. Competitors do not need to purchase audience tickets for themselves.

Entry and ticket order forms, as well as rules and other information can be obtained on the web at **orange.harmonize.com**, by calling **714-442-8500** or by sending email to orangequartets@gmail.com.

Put Your Quartet in the Spotlight!

The 51st Annual • Southern California • 2013

Novice Quartet Contest

Hosted by



Saturday, January 26, 2013 • 7:00pm

Orange High School - 525 N. Shaffer St., Orange

Quartet Entry Fee \$25

Audience tickets \$15. Kids half fare!

Go to orange.harmonize.com for further information for competing quartets and for ticket purchases

2013 Spring District Convention Harmony Platoon



Experience the joy and excitement of
quartet singing & friendly
competition

March 21 6:30PM – March 22, 4PM
(24-hours before FWD Spring Convention starts)
Hutchins Street Square Conference
Center

125 South Hutchins St., Lodi, CA

- You'll enjoy a quality quartet experience that is challenging, exciting, and fun in a 24-hour event using **four terrific songs that most barbershoppers can sing.**
- You can sign-up as an individual or bring your whole quartet!
- We'll have lots of informal quartetting and **THREE** luck-of-the-draw quartet contests, meaning you will compete with up to 9 other different singers. Also allows for competing in one, two or all three competitions, as your schedule allows.
- You will get sheet music and **all 5 tracks of the learning CD** for each of four songs chosen from the Music Premiere Series (T-L-Br-Bs-full mix), so you can take these home and teach them to your own quartet.
- You get a color-coded Harmony Platoon lanyard that identifies you as a Platoon member so you can sing the songs throughout the convention weekend.

To participate, mail in this registration form.

Registration deadline is Dec 31st. Music and learning tracks will be sent out beginning Jan 2, 2013.

Schedule starts Thursday afternoon with informal quartetting and first chorus practice. Initial quartet assignments and first contest is Thursday evening with remix Friday morning and Friday afternoon. Winners of first two protected with **Immunity Idol Necklaces** and finals winner is mic-tester for Friday night!!

Questions? Contact hosts Shelly Albaum albaum@gmail.com or Don Salz don@AQuartet.net.



REGISTRATION

- \$20 for individuals, **SPECIAL** \$60 for a quartet with one mailing address and receiving one CD. Send check payable to:
Bill Kane, 4238 N 84th Place, Scottsdale AZ 85251

- NAME _____ PART _____

Address for tracks/sheet music: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____ Chapter _____