



Fall 2014 Volume 64 Number 3

WESTUNES



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

7 FWD Quartets Competed in Las Vegas *The Results*

- 6th The Crush 86.9**
- 13th Artistic License 83.9**
- 14th McPhly 82.5**
- 16th Newfangled Four 82.0**
- 20th 95 North 81.5**
- 25th Vocal Edition 79.9**
- 34th American Pastime 78.6**

4 FWD Choruses Competed in Las Vegas *The Results*

- 2nd Masters Of Harmony 95.1**
- 16th Spirit of Phoenix 83.7**
- 21st Voices In Harmony 82.9**
- 25th Voices of California 81.5**

The 7 FWD Quartets Below Competed at the 2014 BHS International Convention in Las Vegas



6th The Crush
14th McPhly
20th 95 North



34th American Pastime

13th Artistic License
16th The Newfangled Four
25th Vocal Edition

*Photographs by:
Lorin May / Barbershop Harmony Society*

The 4 FWD Choruses Below Competed at the 2014 BHS International Convention in Las Vegas



2nd Masters of Harmony
Santa Fe Springs, CA



16th Spirit of Phoenix
Greater Phoenix, AZ



21st Voices in Harmony
Bay Area, CA



25th Voices of California
California Delta

Photographs by:
Lorin May / Barbershop Harmony Society

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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 Activit |

Quartet and Chorus Order of Appearance for the FWD Fall Final Contest in Fresno

Quartets

- 1 Left Coasters
- 2 High Priority
- 3 Flightline
- 4 Heatwave
- 5 Classic Edition
- 6 Arizona Chord Company
- 7 4 Octaves
- 8 Frequency
- 9 Four on the Floor
- 10 American Pastime
- 11 Four Fifteen
- 12 Spellbound
- 13 Pipes
- 14 Velvet Frogs
- 15 Carefree Highway
- 16 Blood, Sweat, and Years
- 17 Silver Knights
- 18 Vocal Edition
- 19 McPhly
- 20 TopCats
- 21 Speakeasy
- 22 Brannigan
- 23 The Front Line
- 24 Behind The Barn
- 25 First Strike

Choruses

- 1 Palo Alto - Mountain View - Peninsulaires
- 2 Tucson - Tucson Barbershop Experience
- 3 Riverside - New Gang On The Corner
- 4 San Diego - Sun Harbor
- 5 San Fernando Valley - Valley Harmony Singers
- 6 Rincon Beach - Pacific Sound
- 7 Pasadena - Crown City Chorus
- 8 Placerville - Gold Rush Chorus
- 9 Central California - Golden Valley Chorus
- 10 La Jolla - Pacific Coast Harmony
- 11 Sacramento - Capitolaires
- 12 Reno - Silver Dollar Chorus
- 13 South Orange County - South County Sound
- 14 Fullerton - Orange Empire Chorus
- 15 Brea - Gaslight Chorus
- 16 Las Vegas - Silver Statesmen
- 17 Santa Monica - Oceanaires
- 18 Bay Area - Voices In Harmony
- 19 Westminster - Westminster Chorus
- 20 Greater Phoenix - Spirit Of Phoenix
- 21 California Delta - Voices Of California

Watch Webcast if you can't be in Fresno

This fall's FWD Convention and Contest in Fresno will be a Barbershopper's delight, with a number of top choruses aiming to win the 2014 FWD Chorus Championship and some high-quality quartets vying for the 2014 FWD Quartet Championship.

This chorus contest also serves the purpose of qualifying for the 2015 International Chorus Contest in Pittsburgh.

We hope that everyone who is able to attend will be there Oct. 9-11, but those who can't will be able to watch the contests by way of the FWD Webcast. It will include the Friday night Quartet semi-finals contest, the Saturday Chorus contest and Saturday night Quartet finals and Show of Champions.

Even if you are going to be at the contest you may want to subscribe to the Webcast so that you can see what you missed while backstage as a competitor or you may be an audience member who wants to view it all again. It's also is a great way for your friends, family and fans at home to watch you sing your best in Fresno.

The cost for the Webcast is \$30, which grants you access to all of the streams LIVE as they happen, as well as access to all sessions on-demand beginning the following Monday.

Don't miss the action. You can register now at www.fwdwebcast.com

2014 Youth Harmony Camp

HARMONY CAMP 2014

September 19th – 21st

Pollock Pines, CA

Harmony Camp is almost upon us! September 19-21, 2014 is the date, and we Need your help!

Last year we had 82 boys, and the Harmony Foundation Grant that we wrote this year projected 90 boys – we gave ourselves a challenge and a goal to meet in order to “grow” Camp.

What we didn’t expect was that the response of Harmony Foundation was to “increase” our projection to 100 boys as the level of the bar needed to receive all of the funds that we were granted by the Foundation. So we are granted \$4,000 from the Foundation this year, but we have to have 100 boys at Camp, otherwise our grant allocation of \$4,000 will be proportionately less based on the actual number of attendees.

I include this information because the “mission” that I am asking of You is to bring boys to Camp. Neither you nor they will ever regret whatever means you use to get those boys to Camp!

And I share this information with you somewhat reluctantly since I feel that we are doing a really good job educating boys in the barbershop culture already, and now I am “whining” a bit about the financial support that we are receiving from the Foundation.

The reality of this situation is twofold:

- 1) It is you and your chapter who really provide financial support for Harmony Camp. Over the past ten years or so of Camp you and your chapter have provided not the typical one third that you have heard from me for so long but more like half of all the funds raised and spent on Camp. The Foundation has “only” provided about a quarter of the funds over that period. So it is you and your chapter who are the true major supporters of Harmony Camp.
- 2) We plan on launching a Fund Raising Campaign starting in January to provide initial funds for an endowment Fund that will allow this FWD Youth Harmony Camp to continue long after I am gone. And so the funding from the Foundation will hopefully become essentially unnecessary and nonexistent.

It takes about \$16,000 to run Camp each year. So the numbers do work out. And I am sharing this level of

detail with all of you as a demonstration of my intent to be fully transparent with you financially as we crank up this Endowment Fund Raising Campaign.

And oh, By The Way, we have a Tremendous Camp coming up this September. Our headliner quartet will be none other than Lunch Break, probably in their absolute last “performance” together. It promises to be something Very Special.

Here’s what you can do: go over to your nearest school and introduce yourself to the principal and the music teacher. Take one of our Flyers and Trifold brochures to them and let them know what an amazing event Camp will be this year. And if you want me to come with you, give me a little notice, and I’ll be there!

The Trifold and Flyer can be found here:

Brochure: http://yih.farwesterndistrict.org/images/camp/HC2014_Harmony_Camp_QuadFold.pdf

Flyer: http://yih.farwesterndistrict.org/images/camp/HC2014_Harmony_Camp_Flyer.pdf

I can never thank each and every one of you enough for your ongoing support for Harmony Camp.

Richard Lund, Director
FWD Youth Harmony Camp

O I F

by Greg Lyne

Keep the date of Saturday, November 8 open as we anticipate hosting an Outstanding in Front [OiF] event designed for your musical leadership! The event will be held in Pleasanton, CA. We’ll begin at 9 a.m. and have a wonderful day of learning until 5 p.m. More details will follow!

Do know that an OiF (oh,no, another acronym!) Outstanding in Front is a program sponsored by our Society Chorus Development Committee and is designed to offer a diverse group of musical leaders the opportunity to advance their musical and

leadership skills. This class is designed for anyone who stands in front of their chorus and wishes to become even more proficient in their musical role with the chapter. The list of obvious people we seek are directors, assistant directors, those doing sectionals for your chorus, your musical leadership members, those who do vocal warm-ups and those who teach tags or other activities in front of your chorus membership.

Topics for the class include the following:

Expectations/Goal Setting
Conducting Techniques
Elements of the Warm-Up
Leadership Skills/Building a Functional Team
Vocal Coaching and Techniques
Some opportunities to refine your directing
Holding a Productive Section Rehearsal
...and more.....

Our clinician will be Larry Bean Dodge, a very successful music educator, devoted barbershop musical leader and incredibly personable gentleman. Larry will be coming in from the east coast to enlighten us!

Surely this is an event you'll wish to put on your calendar even now. More details available just shortly. Look forward to seeing you in Pleasanton in November. It's going to be a fabulous event. Don't miss it!

CONVENTION CHATTER!

By Larry Litchfield

[For the first time ever, the Las Vegas Chapter hosted the 2014 International BHS Convention June 29-July 6... all at one site: the MGM Grand on the world-famous Las Vegas Strip!](#)

CONVENTION CLOSURE!

On behalf of all the **Silver Statesmen Chorus** members, I'd like to publicly thank General Chairman **Martin Judd** for leading us thru the International

Convention maze. It was the first-time ever that this annual event had been held in Las Vegas. If ever there was a person perfectly suited to be our helmsman, it clearly was our Marty! (... who also joins me as the other Immediate past president of the now merged Las Vegas Chapter.)

From the first day we learned of Nashville's site selection, Marty's organizing skills quickly surfaced with focus on detail and execution skills by leaders, which enabled our army of nationwide volunteers to skillfully execute their many tasks. It was a single-site, team effort never before encountered by the Barbershop Harmony Society's now *54-year-old* Las Vegas Chapter.

Our current chorus -- the result of a rare merger in January, 2013 of the then *City of Lights* and *Gamble-Aires* barbershop choruses -- met the challenge with gusto and welcomed volunteers from across the country. Yep, we delivered the goods!

Here are three nuggets of "firsts" for this first-ever 'Vegas Barbershop Convention in the undisputed entertainment capital of the world:

The first time an expanded Daily Bulletin has been published online...and in color!

Also for the first time ever, the bulletin was shared with our 10 affiliate "partners" in the following countries: Great Britain, Australia, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland, Ireland, New Zealand, Spain, Norway and Southern Africa.

The Convention's final Saturday bulletin contained 18 pages of colored photos and text - an all-time record!

Volunteers: Key to Vegas' Successful First-Ever Convention (by **Roger Buehrer**)

One might have thought it was a scripted 'B' movie monster flick. "They're everywhere. They're everywhere"...followed by: "Just look for the people in the yellow shirts. They can help."

The 260-plus volunteers that helped our Chapter pull off one of the more successful International Conventions in recent years came from all walks of life with one key goal: To Help!

Leadership Articles

In addition to the Silver Statesmen members and spouses, the local Sweet Adelines chapter played a key role in helping keep things rolling smoothly. Volunteers came from the international barbershop community including a huge delegation from the Far Western District. In addition, there were members from local service clubs and the Volunteer Center that stepped up to the plate. The goal once again: To Help!

And help they did in volunteering for lengthy days -- and nights. Here are some examples:

The small but mighty **Riser Committee** started before the convention began and were there after the last conventioneer had "turned out the lights". The **Registration Desk** each day had to be ready to pick up and move the **Will Call** desk from one location to another. The **Information Booth** learned late that they had to supply people to help the local photographer in scheduling sittings. The **Auditorium Backstage** group served as marshals keeping quartets and choruses

moving in an orderly fashion, while the minions who worked the **Auditorium Front-of-House** checked tickets, corralled the motorized wheel chairs, kept the aisles open, and served as peacekeepers when a seat was double-booked or when a tall person prevented a patron from seeing properly.

There were dozens of others deserving of thanks. They included the *Daily Bulletin* and *PR* committees, *Judges Services*, *Youth Tag Room*, the *AIC Harmony Foundation* shows, *Singing-With-The-Champs*, *Chordatorium*, *Barber-Tots* (with their baby sitting services) and *Ladies' Hospitality*...and other areas of volunteer support. Throughout the MGM, the comment was always the same: **"Look for people in the yellow shirts. They can help!"**

Help they did! ... and our first-ever hosted Convention would not have been the success it was without them.



**District President
Allan Webb**

I hope everyone enjoyed the BHS International Convention in Las Vegas! If you weren't there, you missed a great one. At around 7,000 attendees, it was the largest International we've had in the past five years, but that kind of thing doesn't happen unless *you* choose to go. It was a great opportunity to connect with barbershop friends from around the world and sing tags into the wee hours (in a city that easily supports such things). Start making your plans now for the 2015 Midwinter in New Orleans and International in Pittsburgh.

As always, our FWD competitors did us proud, with the Masters of Harmony taking the silver (right behind the Vocal Majority in a very close contest), Flightline achieving 4th Place in the College Quartet Contest, and four of our quartet competitors ending up in the Top 20 (with The Crush in the Top 10).

The FWD Fall Convention is right around the corner in Fresno, CA from Oct. 9-12, 2014. Get your registrations in now for what will be a great event, with 25 quartets and 21 choruses competing, and lots of opportunities to sing with your friends from around the Far Western District. To paraphrase another organization's tagline, you can't have fun if you don't show up!

Only a few weeks after District, CDD Chair Greg Lyne has planned an Outstanding In Front director training event on Saturday, Nov. 8 in Pleasanton, CA. See his article for details.

Also, next January 23-26, 2015, we will be holding a joint Harmony College West and Leadership Academy at the Sunset Station Hotel in Henderson [SE Las Vegas], NV. The precise schedule and curriculum is still being worked out, but plan on arriving on Friday morning, as classes will start on Friday afternoon. Chapter officers attending the Leadership Academy

portion of the curriculum will also have the opportunity to participate in some of the HCW curriculum outside of their LA sessions. Save the dates! More details will be forthcoming soon.



***Executive Vice President
Gordon Berghold***

The International Convention in Las Vegas has come and gone. Now we're on to the fall events that tend to fill the calendars faster than we can make plans to attend. I've come to the conclusion that many of the chapters in our FWD operate from week to week without a destination in mind. That leads to lackluster meetings and poor attendance during the summer and early fall months. The chapters that operate with an agenda at each meeting are usually the chapters that are maintaining membership or even growing. There is not an abundance of these chapters in the Barbershop Harmony Society. However, most of them were represented in Las Vegas at the recent International Convention.

It is during these summer months, when members take vacations, that chapters go dark from rehearsals, especially if they just returned from competition and want to reward the chorus with some much needed down time. It is also during these times that chapters tend to do a self-analysis of their leadership, inventory and start planning for the incoming administration. One of the most discussed issues, currently brought to the district for discussion, is help finding a qualified musical director. Several chapters are suffering membership losses due to the absence of a qualified director. Although the district and society are addressing this issue with vigor, it takes time to uncover and lead potential directors to the chapters in need. The relationships with other a cappella organizations have provided some choruses with a director with various musical skills that can be converted to barbershop skills within a relatively short period of time.

If you have suggestions for the district leadership or chapters requesting help in this area of the musical operation, please let us know and we'll follow-up

immediately. Our Chorus Director Development chair is Dr. Greg Lyne assisted by Royce Ferguson and Russ Young. This is not a quick cure type of solution for choruses seeking musical help. But, in the long term, it can be the formula for success for those chapters with choruses desiring to improve their singing quality and ability to recruit new singers.

Let us know what we can do to help with your administrative or musical challenges. If you don't ask, we don't know what you need, and our talented group of men with all kinds of expertise will sit idle awaiting a call. This is a volunteer organization filled with qualified people with years of expertise, experience and medals. Just call and we'll be there.



***District Vice President 1 SW
Bob Lally***

This may very well be my last article as someone involved with District leadership as I will be completing my BOD substitution

soon, so I want to take a moment to remind you of a few things we may have touched on in the past. First, by "you" I mean anyone in a Chapter leadership position in the Southwest Division, any member of any Southwest Chapter or anyone else who might accidentally find himself reading this.

I want to reiterate a couple of thoughts and ideas about how to better enjoy our great hobby and even improve upon that enjoyment factor. Don't misunderstand... this will not be a list of magic bullets designed to end all your organizational and musical problems. Rather, I hope it will offer some food for thought on how to proceed. Also, there will probably not be any new ideas, but mostly information you've heard before. I'm just stating it again as a reminder of what possibilities there are for improvement in both your and your chapter's life.

I guess I have to begin by saying that any progress to be made will have to be initiated by you personally and others in your group. Your District leaders and others can ask you what you need to make your

situation better and provide advice and materials to help you cope. But it's up to you and your chapter brothers to formulate what it is you're lacking so that the appropriate methods and materials can be supplied. More importantly, if you have a problem, don't wait for someone to call you on the phone or drop you an email asking if you have problems. Be pro-active and initiate that contact yourself.

Meanwhile, look for ways to get more involved with some of the many activities designed to help you broaden your barbershop horizons. Send your newly elected board to Leadership Academy where they can learn ways to be more successful in serving your chapter. Have some repeaters? Send them anyway... they just might learn something new, and at the same time they can share their experience with the leaders of other chapters who are new to their positions.

Consider taking your whole chorus to Harmony University or our own Harmony College West for some intense coaching and education. It's a great experience where you not only improve your musical product but also increase the fraternalism of your chorus.

Make a point of attending your next Division or District Convention. Entering the competition not only gives your members focus and a goal, it encourages learning from others' example as well as promoting brotherhood with the entire barbershop community. Don't compete? Just go to enjoy the sounds of our unique a cappella style and meet some new friends... or some old friends for that matter. Sing a few tags and polecats while you're at it.

Finally, take some time to identify those who can help you attain your chapter's goals. Go to the District website and check out the pages listing Board and District Management Team members. Read the names and look at their pictures. Each of these men has indicated that he wants to help you and others get as much as you can out of our wonderful hobby. Give them a chance to help. Give them a call or drop them a line. What are you waiting for?

If you've read this far, thanks for your attention, and I hope I've given you some food for thought. Though I'll be leaving the Board, I'm not leaving town. If you want to chat about any of this, give me a call or drop me a note... I'm listed. Until then, Keep Harmonizing... it's good for you!



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

What do “[Shoo Fly Pie and Apple Pan Dowdy](#)” and Barbershop have in common? *I can't get enough of that wonderful stuff!*

It was a great summer in the Southeast Division!

The ***Las Vegas International Convention*** was hosted by our own **Silver Statesmen**. The **Las Vegas Chapter** did an outstanding job and facilitated the largest and one of the best conventions in recent memory. Thanks to **Martin Judd** and his excellent team! Our last three Division Quartet Champions (**McPhly**, **The Newfangled Four**, and **95 North**) finished in the Top 20 and are included in the [2014 International Quartet CD & DVD](#). Great job!

Membership in the Division is holding steady but needs a push as we move out of the lazy summer and into the fall with shows and competition. The kids are back in school and the dads are back to work, so let's give them the gift of “a lifetime fellowship of song and friendship, a rare and hard to find retreat from the constant external chatter of their daily lives”. This is a great time to encourage participation. Many Choruses are starting to reintroduce their Holiday repertoire. These familiar Carols are a gateway into the land of ringing chords and feel-good harmony.

Our “hobby” is an all-volunteer organization at the District, Division, and Chapter level with a very small staff at International. Almost everything that we enjoy is due to the effort of some Barbershop volunteer. A member or friend of the Society has invested his personal time to make it happen. While many of our directors receive a small salary, the work they do far exceeds their paid “arm waving” activities.

We all have talents that could enhance the Barbershop experience. If your time limits your activity to singing, do it the best you can and come prepared every week. If you can do more for your Chapter don't wait to be asked. Offer your help. It is needed. If you are already doing much for Barbershop, thank you. We should all take time to thank every member for what they provide.

I coached an Army Youth Football team in Germany and, when asked their position, some of the boys would say that they were "just linemen". I would make a point to tell them that a "lineman" is just as important as the quarterback. So . . . if you are just a "singer" that is very important. In fact that is the most important, but if you have time to give a little more to the Chapter, please don't hesitate.

Oh . . . and invite someone to your next rehearsal. They will thank you for it.

And **thank you** for your support of the Division. We are the best of the best.



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

The International Convention in Las Vegas was a blast as were all the contests. I congratulate the Las Vegas Chapter and Far Western District for a hosting job well done. I hope you caught the webcast if you didn't go, but you had to be there to see what stayed in Vegas!

The College Quartet Contest keeps getting better and better. FWD's Flightline (4) and Brannigan (13) were terrific. Brannigan got in as a wild card and didn't look back. I expect great things in the future from both quartets.

The chorus contest was a true blockbuster! It is really something when a superb chorus like Kentucky Vocal Union scores a 92+ and doesn't win any color medal. The Vocal Majority came back from a multi-year

layoff loaded for bear and could not be denied first place. FWD's Masters of Harmony did a spectacular set and came in second. But then MOH did the classiest thing; as a chorus, they left their own medal ceremony for awhile to personally congratulate VM who were celebrating their win on the floor below.

The three other FWD choruses did the district proud. The Spirit of Phoenix really stepped it up and came in 16th. They had a major music deduction on their uptune (drumming on the stools?) that cost them a much higher placement. I understand the deduction was expected but worth it to them because of the judging conversation that will follow. My chorus, Voices in Harmony, had a super time and left everything on the stage for 21st place. VoCal did a terrific Fishing/Rainbow medley with sets and props and came in 25th.

Masterpiece (FWD) closed out a solid year as Quartet Champion. As expected, The Musical Island Boys (NZABS) is the 2014 Quartet Gold Medal Champ. Forefront (CAR) came from back in the pack to a well-deserved silver. Main Street (SUN), A Mighty Wind (DIX) and Lemon Squeezy (SNOBS) round out the medals. The Crush (FWD) was sixth. Other FWD quartets in the top 20 were: Artistic License (13), McFly (14), The Newfangled Four (16) and 95 North (20). The entire week was very fun and a satisfying time.

I am very happy to see so many Northwest Division chapters making a mark in their communities and especially supporting the music programs in the local schools. Walnut Creek has significantly increased their involvement with both over this past year – no strings attached. I know it will pay dividends to all in the future. It is already providing a gratifying focus for the chapter.

Elsewhere in Westunes you will see an announcement for chapter music leadership training in Pleasanton on Saturday Nov 8. This "Outstanding in Front" program will boost your chapter musical leadership skills. More details are coming and all NW division chapter music teams should plan to attend.

I hope to see you in Fresno. Register now for the convention and book your hotel. Sign up for some of the many activities planned. I'm looking forward to a great FWD Fall Convention. In the meantime, keep singing!



***District Vice President 4 NE
Richard Lund***

Wow! Just came back from Harmony University (HU) held for the first time at Belmont University in Nashville, and am excited, enthusiastic and just plain full of exuberance, and wanting to share All of It with You!

However, I have found that it is Very Hard to communicate with you just how Good HU is for barbershoppers. But I'll try ... (smile).

First, I want to state unequivocally that there is NOTHING ELSE LIKE IT in the barbershop world. Other events even such as International are Great, but cannot hold a candle to a week-long immersion in barbershop culture, emotion, and educational detail that you cannot even imagine. Furthermore, I know of no other way that causes members to become more deeply committed to this wonderful hobby of ours, i.e., member retention!

There are several major divisions within HU that allow for barbershoppers of All ages and experience levels to partake that are simply unavailable anywhere else.

Harmony College – is for Joe Barbershopper (JB), of whom I am one. I have signed up for Harmony College just about every time I have gone. I also have found a niche within Harmony College that allows me to get my “fill” with something different every year, and that is Honors Chorus (HC). Honors Chorus brings a top level director in to direct a group of audition level guys for a solid week of preparation, to sing five or so songs on the Saturday show. For me it is exactly what I crave in my barbershop experience! This year we had Doug Harrington of Second Edition

fame, and also the guy behind Ringmasters, Lemon Squeezy, and Zero 8. What an amazing experience! Very hard to explain; you just Had to Be There!

Now clearly, I am strongly promoting Honors Chorus; but there are So Many other courses that are available, it is almost inconceivable that you won't find something that Really excites you while at HU!

Directors College – is for the higher level guys who stand out in front and wave their arms for all of the rest of us. Never done this, but as a JB, I am not precluded from participating in this “path”. Someday I will do this; but for now, I am having way too much fun and excitement with Honors Chorus!

Quartet College – is for quartets who want to improve, FAST! I have done this, and it is an intense week of coaching and singing with your quartet that has no comparable experience – period! Lots of singing. Lots of coaching with lots of different high-level guys. Nothing like it for your quartet!

NextGen – is for the young men who are often sons and grandsons of barbershoppers who want to have their own HU experience. They also form a chorus that sings on the Saturday show, and invariably knock the socks off all the other choruses, including the Honors Chorus (darn).

Young Women In Harmony – 2014 was the first year for YWIH, and was apparently quite a success! Sweet Ads have their own week-long educational event, and this just compliments that experience for young women.

Music Educators – is a week long experience for just music educators. Invariably, there are comments like: I learned more in one week at HU than I did in all of my schooling. In fact, many chapters actually sponsor music educators from their local area, and find that they now have a real supporter of barbershop.

That's a bit of a formal description of Harmony University in a very brief nutshell. I have been five or six times, and never fail to come home Full of Excitement!

PLEASE! Just put it down on your calendar for next year (last week of July) and Go! You won't regret it. And oh, by the way, there are Lots of scholarships available, especially for first-timers!

<http://farwesterndistrict.org/news-events/district-news/233-2014-arizona-summer-bash>



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

With the International Convention in the past, it is a great time to reflect on how fortunate we are as a District and Division! Hearty congratulations go to the **Masters of Harmony** for their awesome shot and 2nd place finish! The AZ Division was well represented with the **Spirit of Phoenix Chorus** coming in 16th (up 7 places from their qualifying position) and to **Vocal Edition** for their excellent shot! They improved their placement as well as score over last year's contest! Way to go guys!

Congratulations also to **The Crush, Artistic License, McPhly, The Newfangled Four, 95 North and American Pastime** for carrying the FWD banner very high. A terrific showing at the Big Show by **Voices in Harmony and VoCal** cannot go unnoticed! We are all very proud of everyone!

The AZ Division Convention and Contest held May 2-3 in Mesa, AZ qualified eight quartets (three Senior) and two choruses for the Fall contest in Fresno. Congratulations to all!

Before this comes to press, the **Fred Koch Memorial BASH!** will have come and gone and I am sure it was a resounding success. This annual event is scheduled for the weekend of **August 15-17** and will feature a golf outing on Friday. The Parade Of Quartets will be Friday evening and on Saturday, the Luck Of The Draw quartet drawing and contest. This is a great weekend of harmony and fellowship. The BASH raises money for the Division Youth In Harmony fund.

With the New Year comes the Midwinter convention, which will include a number of Senior Quartets (some from AZ, I predict) representing the FWD! Also included will be the highly successful Youth Chorus Festival. To support this event, the FWD has again pledged at the Sponsor level and we ask that each Chapter pledge to support that effort by passing the hat a few times to help defray the cost to the District. If you have not been to a Midwinter Convention before, you really need to check it out in New Orleans. The AZ Division expects to have at least one Youth Chorus represented, perhaps another. To help with the costs of sending 40+ young men to New Orleans, the Spirit of Phoenix along with the SAI Scottsdale Chorus will be having a benefit show on Oct 21st (more info to follow). Please consider attending and supporting the Chandler Men's Choir.

Membership is consistently on the front burner. Go out there and recruit a few singers! Set a goal of a couple of Man Of Note awards for the year! Do it because you love singing and really just want to share the joy with as many men as possible!

As I said before, it is GREAT to be part of this awesome Division!!!



CSLT Don Salz

You may have noticed that Harmony College West will not be held this summer. Our big news is that the **Learning Academy and Harmony College West** will be **combined** and held **January, 23-25, 2015 at Sunset Station Hotel and Casino in Henderson [SE Las Vegas], NV**. Holding Learning Academy for three weekends in November was quite time consuming for some instructors and leaders who needed to be there more than one weekend.

November is also a busy time for those preparing for the holidays. You can expect some top names in barbershop for HCW-LA classes. Note: Sunset Station allows for going from parking to registration, to rooms, to the classes, and even to one of the restaurants, without having to walk through the casino. Food is exceptionally inexpensive for a hotel.

2015 Chapter Officers: Having just one event ensures you will get the top instructor for your learning area. Covering costs of new chapter officers is a legitimate chapter expense. While not every chapter can afford all their expenses, all can help in some way. There will be some scholarships offered; stay tuned for those.

Directors: An emphasis this year at HCW will be honing the skills of our FWD directors and aspiring directors. **Instructors will be Gold Medalists.** This goes hand-in-hand with the objectives of LA, as our directors provide significant leadership to our chapters. Chapters, please, consider providing the assistance necessary for your director(s) to attend HCW. This could have a big impact on recruitment and retention of members.

Quartets: Get intensive work on your game with some of the best coaches in the barbershop world.

Choruses: Bring your whole chorus to get coaching from Gold Medalist instructors. Wow, what a retreat that would be!

Individuals: A variety of classes are taught by some of the best the society has to offer. Singing better is more fun. Broadening your musical knowledge is too. Learn to read and arrange music. Learn better singing techniques. Learn what the judges judge.

Carpooling and room sharing make for an economical way to have an incredible barbershop weekend. Cost estimates and registration info to come.

Change of subject:

— Fresno Harmony Platoon, FWD Fall Convention.
You can go to www.harmonyplatoon.org for

registration info for the next of these great events.
More quartetting = better chapters and choruses.



CDD Greg Lyne

OIF

Keep the date of Saturday, November 8 open as we anticipate hosting an Outstanding in Front [OIF] event designed for your musical leadership! The event will be held in Pleasanton, CA. We'll begin at 9 a.m. and have a wonderful day of learning until 5 p.m. More details will follow!

Do know that OIF (oh, no, another acronym!) Outstanding in Front is a program sponsored by our Society Chorus Development Committee and is designed to offer a diverse group of musical leaders the opportunity to advance their musical and leadership skills. This class is designed for anyone who stands in front of their chorus and wishes to become even more proficient in their musical role with the chapter. The list of obvious people we seek are directors, assistant directors, those doing sectionals for your chorus, your musical leadership members, those who do vocal warm-ups and those who teach tags or other activities in front of your chorus membership.

Topics for the class include the following:

Expectations/Goal Setting
Conducting Techniques
Elements of the Warm-Up
Leadership Skills/Building a Functional Team
Vocal Coaching and Techniques
Some opportunities to refine your directing
Holding a Productive Section Rehearsal
...and more.....

Our clinician will be Larry Bean Dodge, a very successful music educator, devoted barbershop musical leader and incredibly personable gentleman. Larry will be coming in from the east coast to enlighten us!

Surely this is an event you'll wish to put on your calendar even now. More details available just shortly. Look forward to seeing you in Pleasanton in November. It's going to be a fabulous event. Don't miss it!



DRCJ Ron Black

Please congratulate our new Candidate Judge in FWD!

PRS – Mike Cating

The Fall Convention in Fresno is just around the corner. Get the registration form elsewhere in this issue and just go. Hurry up, the deadline for early bird pricing is coming up soon. Go for the convention, the competition, the Platoon, the classes, the singing in the lobby, and watch the best in our District sing for us.

Here is the draw for the Fall Chorus and Quartet contests. Some quartets that qualified had to scratch, others from the wild card pool were thrilled to get the chance!

Quartets

- 1 Left Coasters
- 2 High Priority
- 3 Flightline
- 4 Heatwave
- 5 Classic Edition
- 6 Arizona Chord Company
- 7 4 Octaves
- 8 Frequency
- 9 Four on the Floor
- 10 American Pastime
- 11 Four Fifteen
- 12 Spellbound
- 13 Pipes
- 14 Velvet Frogs
- 15 Carefree Highway
- 16 Blood, Sweat, and Years
- 17 Silver Knights
- 18 Vocal Edition
- 19 McPhly
- 20 TopCats
- 21 Speakeasy
- 22 Brannigan
- 23 The Front Line
- 24 Behind The Barn
- 25 First Strike

Choruses

- 1 Palo Alto - Mountain View - Peninsulaires
- 2 Tucson - Tucson Barbershop Experience
- 3 Riverside - New Gang On The Corner
- 4 San Diego - Sun Harbor
- 5 San Fernando Valley - Valley Harmony Singers
- 6 Rincon Beach - Pacific Sound
- 7 Pasadena - Crown City Chorus
- 8 Placerville - Gold Rush Chorus
- 9 Central California - Golden Valley Chorus
- 10 La Jolla - Pacific Coast Harmony
- 11 Sacramento - Capitolaire
- 12 Reno - Silver Dollar Chorus
- 13 South Orange County - South County Sound
- 14 Fullerton - Orange Empire Chorus
- 15 Brea - Gaslight Chorus
- 16 Las Vegas - Silver Statesmen
- 17 Santa Monica - Oceanaires
- 18 Bay Area - Voices In Harmony
- 19 Westminster - Westminster Chorus
- 20 Greater Phoenix - Spirit Of Phoenix
- 21 California Delta - Voices Of California

See you there!



E Ted Sayle

No Article Submitted This Quarter

Division Event Planners are [use <https://ebiz.barbershop.org/ebusiness/> to find their contact information]:

Northeast = Sam Barger
 Northwest = Larry Weiss
 Southeast = Paul Sandorf
 Southwest = Jim Serhahely
 Arizona = Randy Bing



M&PR Jerry McElfresh

Chapters in the Far Western District are being asked to participate in an exciting new **Story Teller Project** that allows the Barbershop community to publish brief articles about “Gold Medal Moments” that every chapter has and that the rest of the world needs to know about.

Your chapter’s Marketing and PR officer, bulletin editor and webmaster have been asked to take on the job or find

someone such as the man who submits your quarterly news reports to Westunes to do this. He will likely find that he is not adding work but only is duplicating articles he already would write about the successes that chapters, quartets and members are having.

The project is being coordinated by PROBE (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors) whose President, John Elving, says, "Make our 'Joe Barbershopper' chapters famous by letting us publicize what they are doing. Stories, pictures, videos, almost any kind of media can be used."

Suggested articles might include one on a member's on-stage or off-stage achievement, tell about a quartet that has a great relationship with music educators or something strange/humorous/touching that happens at a sing-out. Anything worth telling Barbershoppers or the world at large is worth sharing.

PROBE story-filter teams will sort through our articles and pick the "**Top Ten**" stories, expand them a little, check out links to the full story, etc., and then the "Top Ten" list will be put on a special Web page. As a new list goes up on the Web page the previous list will be archived for use by chapters, bulletin editors and M&PR officers to aid their chapter or district, so there is reward for the work done. Take a look at the first **Top Ten List** at

<http://probeweb.org/TopTen/>.

Let's make ourselves famous! Send your items to FWD's coordinators, Joe Samora, tm39samora@comcast.net and David Updegraff, drupdegraff@gmail.com with copies to me at marketing@farwesterndistrict.org



Mem Serv Shelly Albaum

Shelly had to resign this position due to business demands. If you are interested in volunteering to take on this responsibility, contact EVP Gordon Bergthold.



Mu&P Nick Papageorge

**** **HARK, HARK,** ****

ALL FAR WESTERN DISTRICT CHAPTERS!

HARMONY COLLEGE WEST & LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

YOU READ IT RIGHT! This year's Harmony College West will be combining with the FWD Leadership Academy. It will be held on January 23-25, 2015 at the Sunset Station Hotel and Casino in beautiful Henderson, NV, a SE suburb of Las Vegas.

I encourage as many of your chapter members as possible to attend Harmony College West at the same time that your Chapter Officers attend their Leadership Academy. Imagine the knowledge and work that chapter members, their chapter officers, and their chapter quartets can collaborate on during a weekend retreat of learning and strategic planning/goal setting. Not to mention the Barbershop Experience, i.e., singing, ringing chords, and just plain FUN!

HCWest will again offer classes in barbershop basics such as arranging, vocal techniques, sight-reading, and more. But there will also be an emphasis on Chorus Director training at all levels. Dr. Greg Lyne and I are planning classes for our highest level directors as well as brand new directors (or those barbershoppers who may want to find out how to direct). We have many chapters in our District that need directors, so we are making a concerted effort to train exciting and vibrant new directors – even if they have never been a director! Please, **SEND YOUR DIRECTOR!**

Ask your chapter to give scholarships to chapter members, section leaders, or directors. Or talk to me about having your entire chapter attend; your chapter would attend classes half of the time and be coached the other half. Over the last four years we

have had many small choruses coached by the likes of Dr. Lyne, Justin Miller, Sam Papageorge, and Royce Ferguson.

As always, the school will offer classes in arranging, vocal techniques, sight-reading, and more. Also, don't forget the Pod Style Quartet Coaching that will be going on as well. Your quartet will benefit greatly from the outstanding array of coaches.

Specifics for the weekend are being finalized at this time (Guest Quartets, time schedules, costs, etc.,) and will be announced by a mass email to all FWD Members. All in all, Harmony College West and The Leadership Academy will be the place to be on the weekend of January 23 - 25, 2015 in Las Vegas. Don't miss this educational and fun-filled event!

Lastly, PLEASE SUPPORT the Far Western DISTRICT CONTEST in Fresno! Many of you will be competing and the rest of us will be having a blast listening and watching you!

Have a musically rewarding Fall!

American Pastime Card



QA Bill Kane

As I was thinking about what to tell you this month about quartet singing, I read an email from one of the 90+ guys who registered to sing in our Harmony Platoon at the Las Vegas International convention, who said:

“It was the most enjoyable part of the Las Vegas experience: better than listening to amazing quartets is quartetting yourself.”

How lucky we were to have both the Midwinter and summer convention right here in FWD where we could hear the very best quartet and chorus singing in the world. And how lucky we are to have such great

quartets and choruses right here in FWD that we can hear perform at such amazing levels.

But you are even more lucky if you find three other guys and sing some songs or tags.

In my 50+ years of membership in BHS I have had the thrill of singing in some mighty fine choruses, several of them International Medalists and International Champs. But the most wonderful memories are the many quartets I have had the pleasure of singing in.

You owe it to yourself to try quartet singing. Want to try but need suggestions on how?

Drop me an email and I'll offer some suggestions.



Roulette - Winners of the 2014 Vegas International Convention Platoon

(L to R) Lead Ed Herring (MD) MAD Carroll County; Bass Matt Picioccio (WA) EVG Bellevue, Western; Tenor Shel Given (CA) FWD Frank Thorne; Baritone David Queen (NV) FWD Reno
Winning Song: I'm Yours



YIH Jim Halvorson

No Article Submitted This Quarter

FWD Sunshine Chairman Les Cudworth

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Sunshine Chairman Card

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FWD News

Doug Maddox Barbershop Obit.



The Masters Of Harmony article included in this issue closed with the following:

“Shortly after the International Convention ended, we lost our brother **Doug Maddox** – MOH and Far Western District Hall of Famer; beloved husband of Jan and friend of everyone and everything barbershop throughout the Society; winner of

eight gold medals with MOH and one with The Vocal Majority. A memorial service is scheduled for September 14, 2014 (details to follow on the MOH website).”

Doug was elected the the FWD Hall of Fame in 2009. The highlights of his Barbershop journey as of 2009 that appear on the Hall of Fame display are presented below:

Doug Maddox 2009

- CHAPTERS: 1973 -1977 PASADENA, 1977-1981 ATLANTA, 1981-1984 DETROIT #1, 1984-1987 VOCAL MAJORITY - 1 GOLD MEDAL, 1988 - PRESENT SANTA FE SPRINGS
- MASTERS OF HARMONY [MOH] - 7 GOLD MEDALS
- CHORUS DIRECTOR - PASADENA, ATLANTA, DETROIT #1
- HARMONY UNIVERSITY FACULTY - SHOW PRODUCTION AND TECHNICAL THEATRE
- MOH PRODUCTION DIRECTOR
- FWD PRODUCTION DIRECTOR
- SOCIETY EVENTS COMMITTEE
- INT’L CONVENTION - PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
- INT’L MIDW CONVENTION - PRODUCTION DIRECTOR
- QUARTETS – THE AIRES APPARENT, PACIFIC ELECTRIC
- CHORD COMPANY, SOUTHERN CONNECTION [DIX]
- SINGS IN 16 MEMBER MIXED GROUP VOCA
- MOH PRESIDENT’S AWARD - 1990, 1991, 1992, 1999
- MOH DIRECTOR’S AWARD - 1992, 2001
- MOH BARBERSHOPPER OF THE YEAR - 1990
- MOH HALL OF FAME - 2004
- FWD CONVENTION DEDICATEE - 2005

We Barbershoppers are most fortunate to have had Doug in our midst.



**2013 FWD Quartet Champions
The Newfangled Four**

Joey, Jackson, Jake, Ryan

THE END OF ONE CHAPTER

Having just received the notice that this will be the last Westunes article submitted by The Newfangled Four, I can't help but wonder where all of the past year went. It sure has been an amazing year as Far Western District Champions, and the last few months have certainly been a nice closer!

Shows have been a bit scarce compared to earlier in the year for us, but the ones we've had lately have definitely been some of our better ones! In May, we were invited by the Verdugo Hills SAI chapter as featured performers on their annual A Capella Scholarship Festival. We got to sing for an auditorium of high school choral groups that competed for prize money to take back for their programs, and boy did they love the barbershop! Our biggest priority as a young quartet is spreading the barbershop gospel and making it accessible to those close to our age, and we definitely felt that we were successful in doing so! Back in June, we were fortunate enough to sing on both of the shows put on by the South County Sound, led by our good friend Martin Fredstrom. Both of these shows, as well as the one we had in May, were definitely good motivators to be singing our best in preparation for International, and each performance definitely got us that much more excited about what we could bring in Vegas. Luckily for us, it wasn't that far away!

Before we knew it, it was time for the International Contest! Besides our obligations towards competing that week, we had the opportunity on Tuesday night to sing away our year as International Collegiate Quartet Champions and present gold medals to our good friends in The Academy. Now we are officially has-beens! We were also fortunate to be awarded silver medals with the Masters of Harmony, for a performance I personally felt was the best we could've given. I am very proud of what was accomplished on the International stage, and I can't wait for what's in store for the Masters in the future! As for us, The Newfangled Four walked away becoming the 16th best quartet in the world, and we were recipients of the Dealer's Choice Award for being the highest scoring debut quartet of the week! We are very happy with how things turned out, and we are pleased to know that all of our hard work is paying off for us! What a great week!

So, what's the future like for The Newfangled Four? Well, we are slated to sing our swan song in Fresno, as well as competing with our brothers in the Westminster Chorus. We are already talking about what we'd like to do in preparation for Pittsburgh, and we have a couple of gigs lined up for us in the fall. All in all, I'm excited for what's in store for us in the years to come, and I hope that we continue to make the Far Western District proud in everything we do!

For those of you reading this, thank you being part of such an amazing District, and thank you for letting us be your Champions! We are all better people because of what we have experienced together, and expect to hear great things from us in the future!

See you in Fresno!

Ryan Wisniewski
Baritone - The Newfangled Four
2013 International Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Champions
2013 Far Western District Quartet Champions
2014 International Semi-Finalist Quartet



2013 FWD Chorus Champions Masters of Harmony

by Ron Larson

In the weeks before the International competition in Las Vegas, Chapter President Ron Andreas' visionary plan for success moved into high gear. With the **Masters of Harmony** singing third in the chorus contest, our music leaders set a 6 AM call time. To simulate the experience, MOH Hall of Famer **Marlin Fors** arranged for an early morning rehearsal at his work site and the result was a successful rehearsal with near-record attendance.

In late May, the Masters presented their annual spring show at the Downey Civic Theater with the theme "Livin' Large in Las Vegas 2014." Sharing the stage with the Masters were 2013 Barbershop Harmony Society International Quartet Champion **Masterpiece** and 2013 Sweet Adelines International Quartet Champion **LoveNotes**. The enthusiastic standing ovations at the matinee and evening performances showed how much audiences appreciated the variety, power and sheer beauty of music performed by three sets of world champions!

Next up was a weekend retreat in mile-high Idyllwild. The singing late Friday night was already at a high level of excellence. Saturday rehearsals featured extensive choreography and vocal drills. The freshman class of 2014 sang for the rest of the chorus and drew thunderous applause. There was time for thoughtful reflection and sharing of how MOH membership has changed and enriched lives. Then, just before a Saturday night talent show, chorus members ran the contest set so well that Director **Justin Miller** responded with a loud roar of approval!

In early June, about 30 current and former MOH members joined other area barbershoppers at the final rehearsal of the **Whittier Choralaires** before that chapter closed its doors permanently. The outpouring of love and support touched longtime Whittier members and their wives. Several pictures of that event are posted on the MOH Facebook page.

In the weeks leading up to Las Vegas, several men became members with the badge ceremony, a ritual that honors their commitment to the chorus in front of the chorus and their invited guests. Making the event even more special, the new member's badge is pinned on by someone instrumental in him becoming a member. We welcomed **Edgar Sandoval**, badged by Dr. **Chris Peterson**, who got him interested in barbershop music; **Mike Lawton**, badged by **Royce Ferguson**, a fellow member of the 1998 Gold Medal quartet **Revival**; **Egan Carroll**, badged by **Edgar Sandoval** in a ceremony witnessed by Egan's father in Louisiana via Facetime;

Larry Fletcher was badged by his wife, **Pamela**; **Oscar Sotelo** was badged by **Cody Littlefield**; and **Pat Claypool** badged **Daniel Huitt**.

Continuing another **Ron Andreas** innovation, **Larry Goodfried** was honored with a transition to Emeritus status. During his 21 years of active membership with the Masters of Harmony, Larry earned six gold medals, served as a board member for 10 years, promoted ticket sales for a number of years, and coordinated the quartets that sing on the Santa Fe Springs Christmas Float program. Thanks, Larry, for all you contributed to MOH success.

The 2014 International Convention was probably the most anticipated chorus contest in Barbershop Harmony Society history. It featured the first-ever confrontation between the Masters of Harmony, winners of eight gold medals and **The Vocal Majority**, winners of 11 chorus championships and our original role models and helpful mentors. Singing third, the Masters of Harmony gave one of their best performances ever and the audience responded with the quickest standing ovation a Masters chorus has ever experienced. The consensus among chorus members was that they had given their collective best. Then came hours of anxious waiting to watch the other choruses perform. In a performance that will echo through the ages as one of Barbershop's all-time bests, The Vocal Majority won the coveted gold medal with a stunning score of 96.8%. The MOH's score of 95.1% took silver, the second best percentage score the Masters have ever achieved in International competition. When the scoring was announced, Masters men set aside their disappointment, turned toward the VM section of the arena and applauded their win. After receiving their silver medals, the Masters and their families trooped en masse over to the VM's own medal ceremony to add our hearty applause for the VM's richly deserved gold medal.

The words of legendary UCLA basketball coach John Wooden offer guidance to the Masters of Harmony as they move on in pursuit of musical excellence: "[Success is peace of mind which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best you are capable of becoming.](#)" On July 4, 2014, the men of the Masters of Harmony laid claim to that state of mind!

In the final song of the 2014 International Convention, outgoing quartet champion Masterpiece performed "Somebody To Love," accompanied by the MOH chorus. The audience response proved that barbershop peers hold both groups in high esteem. Later that evening, the MOH joined the VM in their rehearsal room and the two groups took turns performing for the standing-room-only audience, and packed the risers with over 250 men for a stirring rendition of the American Armed Forces Medley. VM Director **Greg Clancy** noted how amazing it is that we try so hard to outperform each other then when it is over, we party together -- where else but in the world of barbershop harmony!

In quartet competition, special congratulations go to our competing foursomes: **The Crush**, **The Newfangled Four**, **American Pastime** and **Flightline**.

Shortly after the International Convention ended, we lost our brother **Doug Maddox** – MOH and Far Western District Hall of Famer; beloved husband of Jan and friend of everyone and everything barbershop throughout the Society; winner of eight gold medals with MOH and one with The Vocal Majority. A memorial service is scheduled for September 14, 2014 (details to follow on the MOH website).

Fresno Hotel Rate Sheet



**2014
Far Western District
Barbershop Harmony Society
Fall Convention
October 9-12, 2014**



Hotel Rate Sheet

| <i>Hotel</i> | <i>Address/Phone Number</i> | <i>Rate</i> | <i>Distance to Contest Site</i> |
|--|---|--|---------------------------------|
| <i>Fresno Hotel & Conference Center Headquarters Hotel</i> | <i>2233 Ventura Street Fresno, CA 93721 559-268-1000</i> | <i>\$109.00</i> | <i>Adjacent to HQ Hotel</i> |
| <i>Americas Best Value Inn - Downtown</i> | <i>2425 Merced Street Fresno, CA 93721 559-233-4896</i> | <i>\$59.00 King \$69.00 Double</i> | <i>0.6 miles</i> |
| <i>Holiday Inn - Downtown</i> | <i>1055 Van Ness Avenue Fresno, CA 93721 559-233-6650</i> | <i>\$97.00</i> | <i>0.4 miles</i> |
| <i>La Quinta Inn & Suites - Fresno</i> | <i>2926 Tulare Street Fresno, CA 93721 559-442-1110</i> | <i>\$62.00/\$72.00</i> | <i>0.7 miles</i> |
| <i>Super 8 Downtown</i> | <i>2127 Inyo Street Fresno, CA 93721 559-268-0621</i> | <i>\$85.00</i> | <i>0.1 miles</i> |

Toll Free: 800.788.0836
Main: 559.981.5500
Fax: 559.445.0122

Fresno/Clovis
Convention & Visitors Bureau

1550 E Shaw #101
Fresno, CA 93710
www.playfresno.org



Division 1 SW Chapters Ken Day, Editor

Aloha Chapter by Jack Hashimoto

We are back at our old spot at the Ala Wai Golf Course Club House in Waikiki beginning July 10, and expect to be there indefinitely.

Hank and Gloria Drayton hosted a Bucks Auction, which centers around the Aloha Bucks that are given out to each member and spouse that attend any of our performances, scheduled meetings and rehearsals. The bucks are used to bid for items, usually barbershop music related, to help advance the member's enjoyment of our craft. The chorus participated in the National Kidney Foundation fundraiser and was joined by local entertainers.

We were asked to perform at the World Harmony Jamboree at the BHS International Convention in Las Vegas, and we did so with our Hawaiian Package that was enjoyed by the crowd. Kudos to director **Bonnie McKibben** and her presentation team of **Mark Conching, Rob Hartley, Mike Darcey, Lars Christiansen, Jordan Wong** and **Phil Wee**. Others providing non-singing roles in the success of this mission include **Eli Joor, Dan Tom Jonathan Spangler, Ken Foreman, Glenn Crowder, Don Raymond, Bryce Irvine** and **Zig Palagyi**.

Larry Paterson decided to move to Las Vegas to be closer to his daughter and her family. The Las Vegas chapters gain is our loss.

BSOM for the period were: March - **Larry Paterson**, April - **Ken Forema**, May - **Jordan Wong**.

LONG BEACH By Joe Nagle

The International City Chorus assisted the **Barbershop Singing Club** of Leisure World in a performance for the Britannia Club. The combined chorus of 17, under the direction of **Marty Fuchs**, gave our finest performance yet for an audience of about 50. The performance package included a community sing and a demonstration barbershop harmony by a quartet [**Robert Bohlig, Joe Nagle, Jim Olson, Marty Fuchs**]. Our combined chorus performed during the 30 minute break of the Velvetones dance band playing in Clubhouse 4 at Leisure World.

Ken Kline, our beloved chapter President, left this world in July. When the chapter was on the verge of folding, Ken refused to let the oldest chapter in the district turn in its charter. He was instrumental in moving our meetings to Leisure World, securing our Director and he single-handedly manned the phone tree, calling each and every member and guest weekly to remind them of the meeting date and time. As a result of

his efforts, the Long Beach chapter is currently experiencing a renewal of sorts, with 20-24 singers attending our weekly rehearsals. At the time of his passing, Ken was in Las Vegas, having just attended his 55th consecutive International Convention (a fact of which he was very proud). He was also very proud of his son **Jim Kline**, who was recognized at this convention for his 50 years as a member of the BHS, making them one of the few, if not only, father/son 50 year member teams in the Society. The chapter owes Ken a debt of gratitude for having saved our charter.

Pasadena Chapter By John Minsker

We were the featured performers at a Memorial Day salute to veterans. We performed barbershop favorites and closed the show with a military medley arranged by our own **John Minsker**.

The June show featured **The Harmonyholics**, four 14-year-old girls who are competing in Massachusetts for the Sweet Adeline Rising Star competition, and FWD favorite **American Pastime**. The show, titled *Simply Barbershop*, also featured **Walk In The Park**, and **IMPACT**.

Our two-term Chapter President, **Bill Cauley**, submitted his resignation, and relocated to New Jersey. **Leonard Jensen** stepped up to fill the position. (Len is a newly anointed silver medalist (dual member with Santa Fe Springs). **Walter Tang** also earned his silver as a dual member.

Rincon Beach By Ken Day

The Rincon Chapter was blessed the past three months as our membership finally started to grow. A couple of graduate students [**Max Fisch** and **Michael Galtois**] from UCSB happened to see a quartet from our chorus doing *Singing Valentines* and this really piqued their interest. They started attending rehearsals immediately, both passed auditions and competed with the chorus in Riverside.

Max and Michael brought other interested young men [**Kevin Cunningham, Chris Freeze, and Tobias Brown-Heft**] who soon joined their classmates as members. **Jeffrey Hindman**, a coworker of director **Kelly Shepherd** and former member from Alabama, came to rehearsals and rejoined. Another recent member is **Joel Levitz**, who sang with the **Masters of Harmony** from 2002 to 2005.

Santa Barbara Chapter By Eric Fenrich

The Channel City Chorus held an ice cream social concert, its first ticketed concert in several years. In addition to the chorus, performances were given by chorus quartets **Walk 'n' Roll** and **Centerpiece** and visiting quartets **Fourgiven** and **Quartet du Jour**. We

received an enthusiastic response and have even had a few visitors and potential new members to our chorus as a result! **Centerpiece** gave a short pregame performance for the local Santa Barbara Foresters baseball team before singing the national anthem. Finally, congratulations to **Eric Fenrich** and **Brian Hanson** for getting their arrangement of *The Daughter of Rosie O'Grady* accepted into the Society catalog — their first published arrangement!

San Fernando Valley
By Bruce Poehlman

This year celebrates our 55th anniversary as a chapter. July 28th was our "Alumni Night", where many former **Valley Harmony Singers/Valleyaires** got together to sing and enjoy camaraderie, including several of our former directors.

Our Spring Show *This is America* featured guest quartets **Velvet Frogs**, **Four Octaves**, and the Sweet Adeline's quartet **Invitation**. Thanks to **Bob Karlin** for making it all come together!

We recognize our newest member **Danny Blom** - a great new addition to our lead section!

Santa Monica
By Marty Mitnick

Our Spring Concert was attended by over 500 music-loving guests. A special added attraction was the appearance of the **New Directions Veterans Choir** made up of military veterans.

The annual *Thank you to The Doctors* event at Cedars-Sinai Hospital Neonatal Department was again highlighted by the wonderful music of **Sound Stage [Jerry Walker, Bob Curran, Alan Hanson, Tom Laskey]**, one of the quartets from the **Oceanaires**. The event was chaired by **Katie Walker Boeck**, wife of member **Tim Boeck** and daughter of Past President **Jerry Walker**.

The **Oceanaires** sang on Memorial Day at Woodlawn Cemetery in Santa Monica, and performed a special program for the Knights Templar of Long Beach. Our secretary **Frank DaVanzo** and his very gracious wife, **Julie**, hosted a barbecue at their home.



Division 2 SE Chapters
Dale Vaughn, Editor

Brea Chapter
By Tony Hope

Visit us at:
www.gaslightchorus.org

Coachella Valley Chapter
By Stan Gile

Our Annual Spring Show featured **The Newfangled Four**, 2013 Far Western District Quartet Champions. They are four of the nicest young men you'll ever meet. Since then, they competed at International, finishing 16th, and winning the Award as the highest-ranking quartet without a previous Medal win of any kind.

The Chorus did a Flash-mob at the Westfield Mall, and many people took pictures and stopped by to thank us. We welcome new members **BOB FLANIGAN**, **RIO SCORE**, **DAVID SOMMERFELD** and **FRED ERICKSON**.

The **Faultline** quartet performed at the Palm Springs Air Museum, Rancho Mirage Senior Center, and Coachella Historical Society. The **Hummbugs** (that's not a typo) [**Corbett Brattin**, **Vic Guder**, **Fred Anderson**, **Dave Hawks**] performed at a number of venues at Mammoth this summer.

Visit us at: www.cvbarbershop.org

El Cajon Chapter
By Roger Simpson

Once again our Chorus has stumbled upon the secret to having a successful Chapter. Our rehearsals have become a real joy and our enthusiasm continues to grow. Three little letters produce a successful evening of fellowship, the hearing of more overtones that ring, and the resultant collection of smiles. Our all-around singing Barbershop has blossomed into a real treat. Those three little letters that are put together in a very small, but special way, which spell FUN! Director **Tom Anderson** and VP Mu&P **Ed Herron** worked together with the goal of better presentations. Tom led us with a more relaxed feeling and a resultant improvement in musicality. The key, he says, is LISTENING!

We performed at Fredericka Manor, Wesley Palms and the Veteran's Home in Chula Vista. We are mixing up our program song lists to give us a challenge and to provide more variety in our singouts. **Royce's Voices** joined our Chapter as associates and are bringing vibrant singing to us all in our joint sessions.

A weekly publication distributed through email has resulted in improved self-taught training. The publication also provides assignments for upcoming rehearsal priorities. This review method has enabled us to work individually on improvement. **Jeff Freeman** keeps the notes and sends the edited versions out weekly. **Bill Soukup** takes notes in Jeff's absence.

We welcome **Jon Crick** to our baritone section.

Visit us at: www.ecmusicmasters.com

Fullerton Chapter
By Don Derler

Our annual show theme was a boy's summer camp *Camp Catch-A-Tune* and stuff young lads do away from

home... lots of singing! We wore our yellow camp t-shirts all of the way for both shows and our hard working, supporting **Orange Blossoms** wore 'em advertising *Camp Catch-A-Tune*. **Pete Saputo** took charge of building most, and hauling and arranging ALL of our stage props and risers, as well as helping to direct the lighting and flow of the show. Kudos to the show script team of **Rick "Pretzel" DeLung, Kent Fossum, and Tommy Nichols**. Performances by **Ferdie Roades**, as camp nurse "Mary Lou Scratchet", **Kelley DeLung** as camp director, and **Sam Glorioso** as "Mad Henry" the vampire ghost completed the cast. Guest quartet **The Velvet Frogs** were well received.

On Memorial Day, we performed at the *Harbor Lawn/ Mt. Olive Cemetery* singing *America the Beautiful*, *Armed Forces Medley*, and *God Bless America*.

Fullerton went to the last Whittier meeting. Barbershop harmony icon **Earl Moon** was the inspiration and spark plug for their growth and success. Earl's widow, **Millie**, was in attendance to receive our grateful thanks for her years of support for the man and his musical gifts to us all. Besides being a consummate director and arranger, Earl arranged many of the society's now standard songs, which we all still enjoy singing today. Fullerton sang three songs, conducted by our three directors. Our participating quartets were **The Sugar Daddies, Preferred Mix, The Tri-Glycerides (+1)** and **The Last Minute Quartet**. Helping to "close the curtain" on the Whittier chapter were **The Velvet Frogs** and **American Pastime**.

We were again booked at the **Richard Nixon Presidential Library** as part of its free summer concert series. We received a "Standing O", which precipitated the audience joining us in singing *God Bless America*.

Visit us at: www.oechoorus.org

Inland Empire Chapter By Thomas Wallis

The **Inland Empire** chapter had a tremendous high at International. Two of our members, **Don Sevesind** and **Robert Shelton** sang with Silver Medalist **Masters of Harmony**. **Bob Patterson** received his 50-year pin. Several chapter members participated in Harmony Platoon. **Bob Patterson, Al Smith** and **Allen Mackey** did well. And yours truly had the honor of being a judge at the final Platoon session. Congrats to quartet champs, **Musical Island Boys** and chorus champs, **Vocal Majority**.

Visit us at: www.welovetosinging.com

La Jolla Chapter By Dale Vaughn

Our Annual Dinner Show was considered by many to be our BEST SHOW EVER! This favorite event was

performed to a sell-out crowd once again and included our guest quartet **American Pastime**, Youth Chorus **Pacific Suns**, Champion Youth Quartet **4 Men 4 Octaves**, and Chapter quartets **Behind the Barn, Buddies and Bones** and **Easily Distracted**. Special thanks go to all committees and volunteers who make this event such a great success each year!

Very special congratulations go to our Director, **Kim Vaughn**. Sweet Adelines International announced that Kim will be honored with the much-deserved President's Lifetime Achievement Award at the SAI International Convention and Contest in Baltimore, MD in October 2014.

The members of PCH practiced up for our very first flash-mob of sorts in San Diego's world-famous Balboa Park when our Assistant Director and Tenor Section Leader **Preston Kingsley** proposed to his lovely fiancé Linda. This little secret was cooked up by Preston while he was in Norway (Linda's home). We had one rehearsal the Tuesday night prior. The backup singers were the men of PCH and Preston's Fraternity Brothers from SDSU. He and Linda met while she was an exchange student here. A great surprise for Linda and fun afternoon for all – by the way, she said YES!

We welcome new member **Tom Fazekas** to the risers! We said "so long for now" to **Bobby Reynolds**, front row Bass, who is off to Clarke University in Dubuque, IA.

Visit us at: www.pacificcoastharmony.org

Las Vegas Chapter By Larry Litchfield

NEW REHEARSAL SITE: The growing **Silver Statesmen Chorus** relocated its weekly rehearsal site. We now are holding our 7 p.m. Thursday meetings at the Good Samaritan Lutheran Church on the southwest side of the Valley at 8425 W. Windmill Ave. -- a long block east of Durango (a major north-south corridor). It's where the LV Gamble-Aires rehearsed for several years. Check our website at www.silverstatesmen.com/ for a map.

NEW MEMBER: **Marc Kleckner**, lead. Welcome aboard, Marc!

EXCITING MEMBERSHIP 'PROGRAMS' LAUNCHED -- Membership VP **Larry Halvorson** accepted a leadership challenge and launched two new and innovative in-house Chapter programs (1) recognizing achievements of existing members and (2) highlighting the professional and musical experiences of first-time guests on their three required successive chorus visits before becoming a Silver Statesman. Larry's idea is worthy of consideration by all FWD Chapters! Information on how it works can be found on our Chapter website at www.silverstatesmen.com/. Click on Membership Program to incorporate some of his ideas into YOUR chapter!

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES: The **Silver Statesmen Chorus** represents the largest BHS chapter

and male a cappella singing group in Nevada. Check the chapter website for upcoming events.

CHAPTER QUARTET NEWS: **Broadcast** -- one of several chapter quartets, entertained the Green Valley/Henderson Kiwanis Club at their 25th anniversary celebration. The performance is part of a "Thank you" to the club, which made the BHS Convention one of their special volunteer projects. The quartet performed at University United Methodist Church for the fifth consecutive year.

Visit us at: www.silverstatesmen.com

Orange Quartet Chapter

By Mark Sheldon

We were honored to have **Flightline** drop by our chapter to perform prior to competing at the Collegiate Quartet Contest at the Las Vegas International Convention. Many other local quartets have also stopped in to share their talents at our meetings.

The **Orange Chapter** once again hosted the *Comedy Quartet Contest* in late July. A big "thank you" to the many barbershoppers from our chapter and others who participated both as volunteers and/or as contestant!

The Chapter was saddened by the passing of **Ken Kline**, a 53 year member of the Society.

Visit us at: www.harmonize.com/orange

Palomar Pacific Chapter

By Keith Bogost

The **Palomar Pacific Chapter's** new full-time director is **Jeff Lehman**, who has much music experience, although this is his first barbershop leadership role. Two new members are **Cory Hall**, (a student) and **Bill Colburn**, a mathematics professor.

Instead of an annual show at a super-large venue as in the past, the **Music Men** decided to have a Summer Series of Concerts, called a *Cornucopia of Harmony*. These shows will feature the chorus singing a variety of songs in different genres. Two shows were completed and one more is forthcoming. Chapter quartets, **Coast to Coast** [Jim Winningham, John Rhodes, Mike Cowan, Roger Hufferd], **Sound Design** [Jim Winningham, Joe Quince, Don Naegel, Bob Landes] and **A Song And A Smile** [Jerry Mills, Al Leuthe, Bill Scofield, Norm Pincock] performed as available. Show Chairmen are **Bill Olszanicky** (San Marcos), **Bill Scofield** (Oceanside) and **Bob Hornstein** (Carlsbad).

A program, *Friends of the Chorus*, was successful in fund-raising efforts. Supporters, advertisers, widows of past members and present members contribute to a general fund used by the Chapter to pay expenses. This is a yearly enterprise.

Visit us at: www.musicmenchorus.org

Riverside Chapter

By Gaylord Spence

The **Riverside Chapter** completed our Third Annual **New Gang On The Corner** Show at Sun Lakes Country Club in the City of Banning. With six members residing in that tight-knit community, and three of them singing in the Chorale of Sun Lakes, it seemed like a natural progression of events to ask for the Chorale's sponsorship of this event in the first place. By having this sponsorship we were afforded the privilege of holding our show in the community's Main Clubhouse Ballroom that seats in excess of 500 guests and includes an exceptional theater-quality stage. In acquiring this sponsorship, we circumvented one of the most costly show budget items - the cost of the venue. With ticket prices of a mere \$8.00 per person, this show was a near-sellout for the third year in a row, and contributes a large part of our yearly operating expenses. Many, many thanks to the Chorale of Sun Lakes!

Visit us at: www.newgangchorus.org

San Diego Chapter

By Craig Hughes

The San Diego Chapter is enjoying great fellowship and singing under the direction of **Kathleen Hansen**. A highlight was the taping of the local variety TV show "**En Vivo**". We performed for the entire 30-minute show. Kathleen and **Craig Hughes** (VP Marketing) got in some nice plugs for the Chorus and Barbershop during a hosted interview. The performance included two Chapter Quartets. One quartet had a 40-year International Quartet Medalist on Bari (**Dave Garstang**) and a 3-month member on Tenor (**James Watkins**).

Weekly quarteting is a focus this summer with a very active "**Polecat**" qualification program. Most members have completed the first half and should earn their **Barberpole Cat Pins** by the end of the summer.

San Diego is a mecca for visitors. Please visit if you are in town on a Tuesday.

Details at www.sunharbor.org

South Orange County Chapter

By Irv Engel

South County Sound completed two Spring shows which involved the local schools. In our first show at a local university, we brought in a high school chorus. Although not a barbershop chorus, it was a huge favorite with our audience. This was an opportunity to get the kids exposed to Barbershop. **South County Sound** got a standing ovation and was surrounded by enthusiastic fans as we came down from the risers. We were told that our improvement over the last show was beyond what they expected. Kudos to our guys, and our director **Martin Fredstrom**!

The second show was at a local high school. We brought onstage two junior barbershop quartets from the school's music department. Their families and friends loved them.

Our guest quartet at both shows was the **Newfangled Four** and they brought the audience to their feet a number of times with loud applause and cheering!

South County Sound submits articles about us to both print and electronic media in an effort to get Barbershop in front of as many people as possible. We intend to grow as an organization with guests coming to our rehearsals.

Visit us at: www.scsound.org



Division 3 NW Chapters John Heather, Editor

Marin County
By E. Bond Francisco

We're singing better, having fun, and becoming more of a performing chorus. We sang several times at San Rafael Pacifics ball games, entertained the crowds at the Marin

County fair, and we're looking forward to a couple of dynamite chorus gigs - paid! - singing for private parties and even a corporate event. That's a breakthrough for us!

We gloried in our status as most improved chorus and Plateau A Champions for 2013, but unfortunately lost those crowns in Lodi in May. It was a great experience, and we came away from it with excellent evaluation sessions and tips for a better tomorrow.

The day after the competition in Lodi, President **E. Bond Francisco** left town for two months - voluntarily, not tarred and feathered! - for a 12,000 mile road trip around the country, and sang with Bridgetown Sound in Portland, the Founders Chorus in Tulsa, and polished it off with a week at the MGM Grand for International. I love being a Barbershopper!

Visit us at www.marinbarbershopchorus.org

Palo Alto/Mountain View
By David Weatherford

The **Peninsulaires** bid a fond farewell to our long-time director **Steve Sammonds**. After 25 years as director of the chorus, **Steve** will direct his swan song at the District Fall Convention in Fresno. The entire chorus joins in saying "Thanks for the Memories," **Steve**! We wish you well in your future endeavors and we hope you won't be a stranger!

New director **Sean Abel** will lead the chorus for the first time in contest in Fresno. **Sean** began barbershopping in 1989 in St. Joseph, MO with the Pony Expressmen Chorus singing bass. Later, he was assistant director of

the Omaha, NE Heartland Harmonizers and then director of the Sioux City, IA Siouxlanders Chorus. Following a 7-year hiatus, he helped form the Jefferson City, MO chapter and the Show-Me Showboaters Chorus. After teaching band (and some choir) in the public schools in the Midwest, **Sean** moved to Weed, CA to teach band at the College of the Siskiyous, where he started a barbershop chorus. He is presently Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences at San Jose City College. **Sean** holds a Bachelor of Music Ed from Kansas U, a Master of Ed from Lindenwood U, and is a Doctoral Candidate in Music Ed at Boston U. Welcome aboard, **Sean**!

Fourteen men received training in vocal production at the latest Singer's Voice Clinic, taught by **Paul Eastman**. The free six-week course covered the basics of good vocal technique and singing. See details at <http://www.freevoicelessons.net> and sign up for the next session!

Visit us at www.barbershop-harmony.org

San Francisco
By Charles Feltman

Demaster Survine coached us and the chorus earned the "Most Improved Chorus" at the NW Division competition. The chorus sang *San Francisco* and *God Bless America* at the Presidio Memorial Day remembrance. We then had quartets singing and teaching Tags in the hallways at the San Francisco Folk Festival. A quartet performed at SOMArts for a "Rebuilding Together San Francisco" volunteer thank you event.

Hank and **John Gomez** recruited two other **Gomez** family members for the 7th Inning Stretch at a SF Giants game. They sang *Take Me Out To The Ball Game* but left out the verse (since it tangentially references the Brooklyn Dodgers).

One Sunday morning found a dozen of us singing *San Francisco* and *The Star Spangled Banner* at 5:25 AM, when we kicked off the San Francisco Marathon just before the starting gun.

Visit us at www.sfcablecarchorus.org

San Mateo
By Thomas Addison

The **San Mateo County Chapter** of the BHS is happy to announce that the chorus name will officially change from the **Golden Chordsmen** to the **Fault Line Chorus**. Our marketing team, led by **Jeff Cleary**, has been diligently working on a marketing plan that will involve social media, including Meetup and Facebook, which has produced several new younger members. The committee felt strongly that the picture of tuxedoed grey men fit the profile of our former name, the "olden chordsmen" and have attempted to reenergize the

chapter focusing on some new energy, a cappella singing and hopefully a more youthful chorus.

Our spring show featured a lot of music of the 50's and 60's and we are hard at work learning songs for next year.

Visit us at www.goldenchordsmen.org

Santa Rosa
By Ray Crowder

The **Redwood Chordsmen** qualified for the **Far Western District** Fall Contest after a strong showing in Lodi. We performed at the **Oakmont Berger Center**, and made our annual appearance at **Santa Rosa Memorial Park** on Memorial Day where we performed for over 1,000 people at the "Avenue of the Flags" ceremonies. The next event was our annual chapter picnic at Spring Lake Park. Our Spring show *There Used To Be A Ballpark Here* was a tribute to local minor league baseball and the beautiful Rohnert Park Stadium which was demolished in 2005 to make room for a shopping mall which was never built! **Bob Fletcher**, the former owner of the Rohnert Park Crushers of the Western League, was in the audience. The 2014 Sweet Adelines **Queens of Harmony**, **LoveNotes**, anchored our matinee and evening shows. Thanks to all of our directors, **Phil Debar**, **Neal Rogers**, **Jonathan Friedman**, **Wayne Hovdesven**, and **James Morgan**, this was one of the best shows in our nearly 50-year history. We performed at the Flag Day ceremonies at **Sonoma County Museum** on June 14 where everybody around the U.S.A. sang our National Anthem at 1:00 PM Pacific Daylight time making it one of the largest nationwide performances in the world.

Rare Form has a standing invitation to perform every other month at the Vintage Apartments senior complex in Santa Rosa. They also performed for 100 people at an anniversary party, and for a large neighborhood block party of 150 people who live in a six square block area of Santa Rosa's Bennett Valley. The Santa Rosa chapter now has five registered quartets: **Cordhouse Squares**, **Rare Form**, **Just One More Song**, **Singularity**, and **Miles Ahead**.

We welcome our newest members **Robert Matteuci** and former member **Bob Lappin**. Recent guests include **Alan Knuth**, **Pat Samhammer**, **Bill Kingsbury**, **Aaron Cragg**, **Michael Donley**, **Tom Ennis**, **Terry Warford**, **Joe Gardow**, **Doug Earl**, **Will James**, and **Brian Keefer**.

Visit us at www.chordsmen.groupanizer.com

SF Bay Cities Quartet
By Jordan Makower

S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.! We remember and epitomize what that stands for. We are a chapter of quartets who "encourage the cherished American heritage of four-part Barbershop Harmony and the Spirit of Good

Fellowship", and chartered on 2/23/98. Members of other quartets join us for lunch (Harmony For Lunch Bunch), the 1st Wednesday of the month, and for dinner the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at Harry's Hofbrau in San Jose. We sing for the customers. Our quartets have been invited to sing for community events, and even were offered to perform in a video presentation, but the main activity is good fellowship, and camaraderie! We welcome you to join us.

Visit us at www.sfbayquartets.org

Walnut Creek
By Dwight Lang

The **Devil Mountain Chorus** of Walnut Creek hosted a Summer BBQ for Barbershop Choruses in the NW Division Area.

My name is **Dwight Lang**, and I have been a member of the **Devil Mountain Chorus** for 12 months now, the first time I have ever sung with an a cappella chorus. It has been a very enjoyable and enriching experience, and extremely educational. The yearly **DMC** matinee and cabaret shows were a lot of fun, and well done, thanks to our great director **Kristen Taylor**. I had never sung with a quartet, but had a lot of fun performing in Singing Valentine quartets, and chairing the event for the **DMC**. I was asked to join a novice quartet, and we took 3rd place in our first competition (what a surprise!). The **DMC** outreach to high school choral programs has been a great exchange, and we have been asked to join two different high schools' public performances. Overall, it has been a great year. I've learned a tremendous amount and had a lot of fun becoming a Barbershop singer with the **Devil Mountain Chorus**.

Visit us at www.devilmountainchorus.org



Division 4 NE Chapters
Roger Perkins, Editor

California Delta Chapter
By Larry Callagher

Preparing to "go fishin" in our second appearance in the International Contest in Las Vegas, the chorus had an amazing weekend retreat with **Rik Johnson**, sound judge and member of the music team of the Ambassadors of Harmony.

Our annual show featured two guest quartets – both International Champs – **Crossroads** and **Love Notes**. We participated in the joint NE/NW division contest in Lodi where the chorus won the NE division chorus championship and where 26 chapter members sang in competing quartets. Among those were **Steve Bernstein**, **Daniel Wilson**, and **Blair Reynolds**, who along with Frank Thorne member **Shel Givens** form "**The Artful Codgers**" the new FWD Super Senior Quartet champions. Not included in those 26 guys is the quartet "**Artistic License**" [**Todd Kidder**, **Rich Brunner**, **Gabe**

Caretto, Jason Dyer] who qualified for International, where they finished 13th. This contest also marked the return to the contest stage after several years' absence of long time favorites "**Top Cats**" [**Bruce Sellnow, Tim Huntsinger, Eric Brickson, Alan LeVezu**]. The chorus was honored to appear in the first annual *SacSings* choral festival, which featured 20 choirs and choruses from the greater Sacramento area. We, along with the **Capitolaires, Sacramento Valley Sweet Adelines** and the **Sierra Gold Chorus** (under the direction of our very own Associate Director **Ron Black**) upheld the barbershop part of the choral spectrum. Hats off to **Dick Frantzreb** - the founder and driving force behind this spectacular event!

Central California Chapter

By Miles Sutter

The **GVC** put on a show to support the Youth Chorus of Ripon High School. **Mark Jantzen** and **Stratt Riggs** spent countless hours organizing and promoting this show. All proceeds were donated to the Youth Chorus of Ripon High School. The Ripon High School ladies, **The Key of She**, the Ripon High School guys and our special guest quartet **Top Cats** all performed. The finale, *God Bless America*, was a combined effort of both high school groups, GVC and Top Cats. **Herb Andrew** was our MC for the day and **Grady Williams** printed the tickets.

GVC was named the Most Improved Chorus in the Northeast Division and the Plateau A champs in the spring NE Division contest.

The first week of June was "special event night" when we went to Walnut Creek for the Diablo Vista Ice Cream Social, a Sweet Adeline's Chorus' annual event to raise funds for their Young Ladies Youth Harmony Camp. We experienced the performance from those young ladies from Concord High School, **LADIES FIRST!**, under the direction of **Chris Emigh**. We also got to hear the **Diablo Vista Chorus** that **Randy Meyer** directs. The other male chorus performing was the **Devil Mountain Chorus** from Walnut Creek. We heard quartets perform from Milpitas High School, under the direction of **Dan McQuigg**. We had the privilege of hearing the award-winning ladies' quartet **Canzonet**. The GVC had the pleasure of singing one song with the chorus from Walnut Creek, directed by GVC Associate Director, **Howard Barber**.

Davis-Vacaville Chapter

By Tom Powers

We worked on cleaning up our repertoire, not only for the benefit of our seasoned members, but for our newer ones who have not had a chance to learn some of the songs. We also had a drive to make sure everyone has his Pole Cat pin.

We still are chuckling over an incident at a recent performance at a retirement home in Davis. As a lead-in to a song, our announcer asked the audience if anyone

might be celebrating a birthday tonight. One crusty woman replied, "We don't celebrate birthdays here!" The audience and the chorus broke down in laughter.

Folsom Chapter

By Doug Vestal

The **Harmony Express Chorus** invited our family and friends to come hear our two-song Contest Package for the NE/NW Division Convention in Lodi. Chapter quartet **B-BLT** [**Kent Borrowdale, Ken Potter, Roger Santiago, Stan Trumbull**] sang and a special cameo appearance of the "Music Man Quartet" [**Kent Borrowdale, Ken Potter, Roger Santiago, Richard Lund**] sang two songs from the Music Man musical they played in earlier this year at Woodland High School.

The chorus sang patriotic songs at the Memorial Day ceremony at the Sylvan Cemetery in Citrus Heights. The chorus has been invited to sing at this event for many years. We then hurried over to the Atria El Camino Retirement Community to sing some of the same songs for the residents. **Stan Trumbull** was our MC. They liked us so well they invited us back when the Chorus and two quartets will sing a 60-minute program.

The Chorus invited all barbershoppers in the area to attend a Fifth Thursday Barbershop Olympics event hosted by the **Harmony Express**. **Les Lorenzen** and **Dennis Stohl** planned the event and everyone had a fun time "competing" in the games.

The Chorus sang at a memorial service for **John Seekins**, a long time Chapter Member. Our music was warmly appreciated by all in attendance.

Nevada Placer Chapter

By Roger Perkins

The **Sierranaders** had their 24th annual Bean Feed and Somewhat Serious Quartet Contest on June 3. Once again we had an excellent turnout from neighboring Northern California Barbershop chapters including the Sacramento Capitolaires, Davis-Vacaville, Folsom, Placerville, California Delta, Reno and the Stockton Chapter, who won the award for best participation. We began with a bean and weenie feed on the back deck of the DeWitt Senior Center where most of the 15 quartets were put together. We then moved inside for the contest. Our Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Northeast Division Vice President **Richard Lund**. Judges this year were **The Great Perkoss**, who won the contest in 2007. This is a family quartet made up of **Roger Perkins, Mark**, his son, and grandsons, **Tyler** and **Sean**. Each competing quartet performed one song. In third place was **Zero Gravity** [**Randy Finger, Corley Phillips, Richard Lund, Ken Potter**]. The second place award went to **We Sang With Les**, [**Les Cudworth, Al Wolfe, Ben Brinkman, Raphael Pazo, Jr.**] And sweeping first place was **Hmmm!** [**Renee Beers, Kent Borrowdale, Ken Potter, Chuck Kenney**]. For entertainment we heard two songs by the **Music Man** quartet [**Roger Santiago, Kent**

Borrowdale, Ken Potter, Richard Lund] with **Elizabeth Dyer** singing the Maid Marion role. Next was **The Great Perk** performing four of their songs. We hope this will not be the last Bean Feed/Contest as the DeWitt Senior Center will be bulldozed for a new Costco store and parking lot. The **Sierranaders** as well as the local Sweet Adeline chorus, the **Sierra Belles**, are madly searching for a new meeting hall.

Reno Chapter By Steve Shurtliff

Our newest quartet **The Lineup [Jeff Healion, Brian Wrightsman, Dave Queen, Ryan Jensen]** made its performing debut at NE Division Contest. They not only exceeded expectations – They won! Our chorus won our category and finished 3rd overall.

Having the International Convention come to Las Vegas was wonderful. It will probably never be any closer, and the majority of our chorus made the trek down. The quality of the talent and the amazing performances were literally breathtaking. It was truly inspiring to us all.

July in Reno means **Artown**, where the entire area goes art-crazy for the entire month. We always like to be part of it, and did our 3rd public performance.

Sacramento Chapter By Joe Samora

The **Capitolaires** participated with other chapters in Nevada/Placer Chapter's annual Bean Feed and Somewhat Serious Quartet Contest.

Ray Rhymer directed 20 men who sang in SacSings for two performances, Sacramento's first choral festival, held June 13-15, 2014. The event was in the Harris Center for Performing Arts in Folsom and included 20 choruses (1000 performers) singing a variety of music including Pop, Spirituals, Classical, Broadway, Sacred, Jazz, Barbershop, Novelty, Folk and Americana. **Clark Abrahamson** represented the Capitolaires on the Planning Committee. Several thousand people attended the three-day event.

Stockton Chapter By Al Wolter & Raphael Pazo, Jr.

The Chapter successfully hosted the Division 3 and 4 Spring Convention, which included a demonstration performance of the Chorus as we celebrated our sixtieth anniversary.

The **Portsmen** started the summer season off with an annual performance at the Stockton Asparagus Festival, followed by a "playoff game" anthem sing for the Stockton Thunder and then our first two 'Music in the Park' appearances in two years. We were able to return to our previous annual once-a-month summer visits to Victory Park (singing during the featured band's break) due to audience demand.

The Chapter's newest quartet **All in A-Chord** followed up their second place finish (fourth overall) at the NorCal Novice Mixed-voice Contest with several performances. They were part of the Placerville Cabaret, the 'First Annual Kevin Tonn Memorial Golf Tournament' in Galt, and a Fourth of July performance.

The Chapter held a Chapter meeting and a rehearsal at Chancellor Place Retirement Community of Lodi. Again, we were asked to return.



Division 5 AZ Chapters Frank Ortega, Editor

Greater Phoenix Chapter By Bob Szabo

Choreographer Extraordinaire **Erin Howden** helped the **Spirit of Phoenix** begin the march toward the Las Vegas International with a refocus of our choreo and singing.

Not only did she hone the moves, but her singing directives were essential to moving the chorus up the ladder.

Mike Moyer, Singing Valentines Coordinator, received the April Barbershopper of the Month Award.

At the Arizona Division Contest in May, nine quartets represented the chapter — **Vocal Edition, Audacity, Suit Up, Speakeasy, High Priority, Heatwave, Carefree Highway, Intonation** and **Arizona Chord Company**. Three young singers joined our chorus ranks -- **Matt Marino, Ryan Malikowski** and **Huntington Keith**.

Fifty-year Barbershopper **Gordon (Mongo) Bergthold** -- FWD board member, International quartet competitor, former pitcher for the Philadelphia Phillies and chorus sergeant-at-arms – moved to Chico, California.

In June, we welcomed more new members: **T.W. Scott, Glenn Partridge, Eric Jeide, Wes Stahler, Ben Mertens, and Ben Brown**.

Scott Wiegand, chorus choreographer and videographer, received the Barbershopper of the Month for June for his training and computer uploads that help new members learn their moves and music.

At our pre-contest retreat in June in Prescott, **Gary Steinkamp** and **Erin Howden** brought the chorus to levels of success never experienced before. All members were "on board" with their techniques and methodology.

The Spirit of Phoenix and **Kentucky Vocal Union** appeared on the Scottsdale Sweet Adelines show *Triple Crown of Barbershop*. International quartet competitors **Vocal Edition** and **C'est le Vie**, a Sweet Adelines Rising Star Quartet, rounded out the playbill.

Mesa Chapter Rich Carey

The **Lamplighter Chorus** happily welcomed six new members in January: **Greg Grace, Duncan Scott, Robert Pennell**,

Dennis Paulsen, John Yeo, and Andrew Roman. In February, a pickup quartet comprised of **Jim Brown, Dale Weatherford, Roy Murray, and Dick Naas** sang on Channel 12 promoting the chorus's Singing Valentines program to the public. Their performance on KDKB Radio was recorded for the Valentine's Day broadcast. Chorus quartets had 63 Singing Valentines orders fulfilled this year.

Our annual show featuring chapter quartets **Back Spin, TILT, Mostly Vintage, 2 Under Par,** and our newest quartet, **Quadratic Audio,** performed along with the chorus. Our guest artist, **Vocal Edition,** is the current Far Western District silver medalist quartet. Marketing VP **Roy Murray** put together a Lamplighters promo video now available to the public on our website, www.evbarbershop.com.

We welcomed four new members in May: **Allen Clift, Nicholas Trexler, Michael Trexler** and **Kenneth Brannon.** The chorus hosted the 2014 Arizona Division Convention & Contests at Skyline High School in Mesa and served as the mic testers for the chorus competition. The chorus, **2 Under Par** and **Mostly Vintage** performed at Sunland Springs Village in east Mesa for their Memorial Day celebration.

A \$500 donation from the District and chapter monies from our Youth In Harmony fund allowed the chorus to award three \$400 "Outstanding Musician Scholarships" to local high school seniors. At a meeting in June, YIH Chairman **Jerry Fox** gave one \$400 check each to **Mario Yniguez** (Chandler H.S.), **Amanda Chilton** (Perry H.S. in Gilbert), and **Camille Adler** (Mountain View H.S. in Mesa).

Prescott Chapter

Sam Stimple

The **High Mountain Chordsmen** presented an hour of barbershop harmony at the Prescott Lakes Golf & Country Club, arranged by **Lynn** and **Karen Grubb**, residents of the club community.

The Prescott Chapter was represented at the divisional contests at Skyline High School in Mesa by the chorus and two quartets, **Western Connection** and **Antique Parts.**

VP Music **Tom Keenan** and the music team introduced a new concept for selecting chorus music called "Listening Meetings." Interested chorus members gathered in a member's home to listen to and rate 35 barbershop arrangements. Five songs rose to the top and were selected to be part of our repertoire for 2015.

Antique Parts entertained 30 ladies and gentlemen of the Elks Opera House Guild at a garden party in an immaculately trimmed front yard of a beautiful Victorian home in Prescott. Guild members wore "1890 style" dresses and suits.

The Arizona Pioneers' Home hosted the HMC, under the direction of **Joan Poechocki**, at its annual Father's Day celebration in June.

Later in June, the chorus and **Antique Parts** performed for the Prescott Library Chamber Music Concert Series, our third year at this special event.

Sedona Chapter

By Michael McCaffrey

The Sedona Chapter's outreach program expanded to cover several more forums. We not only performed at the Verde Valley Fair, Mountain View Preparatory School, and Red Rock High School, but were also involved in two other singing encouragement activities.

Thanks to **Bob Standfast** for the following report: "Harmony Bunch for Lunch" had its inaugural meeting in Flagstaff on June 19th with eight people braving the newly paved Oak Creek Canyon switchbacks and two guys coming from Munds Park. We still hope to attract the retired or free-for-a-long-lunch singers from Flagstaff to expand this to a regular twice-a-month event. We got some great arrangements from the Heritage of Harmony Songbook to help us hone our reading and harmonizing skills.

The second activity involved our sponsor, Church of the Red Rocks. **Don Tautkus** put together four binders of quartet music suitable for church services. Don, **Tom Doeller** and a tenor and baritone from the choir sang the "Irish Blessing" as the Benediction for the 10:30 am service. We received lots of favorable comments and were asked to "do it again." This is just another example of how to extend our outreach and barbershop sound to the community.

The big news this quarter was the International Convention in Las Vegas. Two of our members were in attendance and one, **Lee Shoptaugh**, took advantage of the "Sing with the Champs" lottery and was chosen to sing with one of the Gold Medal quartets. He sang bass on "I'm Sittin' On Top Of The World" with **Storm Front.** Lee reported that, in spite of feeling nervous, members of the quartet met and made him feel comfortable. He even got to wear a gold-medal medallion so that during the photo op he would appear as a "gold member." What a great experience!

Tucson Chapter

By Dave Tompkins

The mission of the Tucson Sunshine Chapter is to spread the joy of a cappella harmony and musical performance, enriching the lives of our members while reaching out to young men and music educators throughout the community. Our vision is to be the leading men's a cappella singing organization in southern Arizona, committed to continuously improving our performance and fully supporting the Tucson community through our music.

With these newly adopted statements in mind, the chapter reached out to the community by again singing the national anthem at a University of Arizona baseball game and by providing church congregations with music in the summer absence of their choirs.

Continuous improvement efforts allowed the **Tucson Barbershop eXperience Chorus**, led by Director **Dayle Ann Cook**, to receive "Most Improved Chorus" honors at the Spring Arizona Division Contest.

George Gibson worked the registration table at the Las Vegas International Convention that several other members also attended.

White Mountain Chapter

By Rich Hall

The White Mountain **High Country Chorus** endured a very busy quarter preparing for our annual show in July. We were grateful to Director Emeritus **Doc Dockendorf** for stepping up as our director for a few months. The show titled *Songs of Love* was well received. A major reason for the warm reception was due to our guest quartet, **Masterpiece**, fresh from International in Las Vegas. They wowed both the audience and the rest of us who participated. We are grateful to the Show Low school district for the auditorium and to **Denny Shankland** for running our sound system. Local quartets **Crooks Trail**, **Pine Tones**, and **Broken Record** also performed and were well received.

We sent two of our younger members to Harmony University using part of the proceeds from the show so they could participate in the director's classes. Since we are getting desperate to find a replacement for Doc and both of these young men have some experience directing our chorus, we are eager for their future participation.

Notices

2014 Conventions and Contests

Go to the FWD website for event notifications and registration forms, which will be added as they become available to Webmaster David Melville
<http://farwesterndistrict.org>

For your planning purposes, 2014 International and FWD Convention/Contest dates are:

Jun 29 - July 6, 2014 International Convention, Las Vegas, NV

Oct 9 - 12, 2014 FWD Fall Convention, Fresno, CA
- contests include FWD Fall Final Quartet, FWD Fall Final Chorus, FWD Fall Final Senior Quartet
Host is Fresno Chapter

Calendar

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

Chapters Looking For Directors

Sun Cities Chapter, Sun Cities, AZ

Apply to David Moses, 12510 Rampart, Sun City West, AZ 85375, 623-537-9804, mosesintx@yahoo.com

White Mountain Chapter, Show Low, AZ

Contact Dan Lewis at (928) 919-0092