



Winter 2014 Volume 64 Number 4

WESTUNES



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

2014 FWD Champions



**Quartet:
American
Pastime**

Chorus: Westminster



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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 Activities



Fresno Convention photographs by:

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2014 FWD Quartet Finals - Rank 2-15



2014 FWD Quartet Finals - Rank 16-21



2014 FWD Sr Quartet Finals - Rank 1-8



2014 FWD Chorus Finals - Rank 2-13



2014 FWD Chorus Finals Rank 14-20



14 Santa Monica



15 Palo Alto - Mountain View



16 Central California



17 San Diego



18 Tucson



19 Pasadena



20 Placerville



Scorpions - Past FWD Quartet Champions

YOUTH HARMONY CAMP - 2014



Thank You for your continued support of the Far Western District Harmony Camp. Your dollars and your enthusiasm make this Camp Possible. However ...

Harmony Camp 2014 was Cancelled because of the King Fire. DARN! Yes, the cancellation of camp was very disappointing as we had 101 boys registered (a high for camp attendance) and 10 music directors (another high).

The fire started Sunday the week before camp was to start; and we were monitoring its progress almost hourly. It really looked like we were going to dodge a bullet with the weather and winds continuing to blow away from Sly Park until early Friday morning (the first day of camp). We woke up to smoke at our house which is some 15 miles southwest of the fire, and almost in line with Sly Park where the smoke was worse.

Joe Cerutti, one of our main clinicians was already here, staying at our house. Jim Halvorson, one of our other regular clinicians, was already in Reno, meeting up with Mike Stewart to drive over to Sly Park. KJ McAleesejergins, who attended high school and was introduced to Barbershop at Nevada Placer High School was already here, spending the day with the his music teacher and visiting classes in the Grass Valley area. The other three Lunch Break guys were in Los Angeles waiting for their flight up to Sacramento.

The decision was likely the hardest thing I have ever had to do, but at the same time it was clear that cancelling camp was the absolute right thing to do. Young voices breathing all that smoke for a weekend would not be a good thing!

But wait!! Five boys from Ponderosa HS with the blessing of their choir director said that we should have camp at their school in Shingle Springs (out of the smoke zone). In fact, the boys called it: "Project Save Barbershop".

So in the space of an hour, we contacted everyone one more time, inviting them to Ponderosa HS for "PSB". We couldn't get the Lunch Break guys who had already booked return flights, however KJ, Gabe Caretto, and Joe Cerutti joined us as our clinicians – and with Rich Brunner as a fourth, a pretty fair quartet was put together. Some 26 boys and 20 volunteers made their way to Ponderosa for a fantastic Saturday of singing the camp songs, learning some tags, eating pizza, and even putting on a show for friends and family. These 26 boys will surely have wonderful memories of 2014 Camp at Ponderosa High and the special meaning and experiences that we nurture and foster for the boys What a day!

We received many emails from the boys, parents, and music educators expressing major disappointment but acknowledging that cancellation of camp was the right thing to do.

Among those emails was this one from the Santa Maria: "Our boys were very disappointed. We all went out for breakfast and then they decided they wanted to go somewhere to sing the camp songs. Dona's husband is a pastor of a church in Santa Maria, so we all went over to her church and the boys sang for a couple of hours. The two Cabrillo boys joined them and by the time we left, they were all the best of friends. Just know the day was not a total waste". And another: "On behalf of the boys of Chico High, we just want to thank you so much for all of the work that goes into planning, organizing, communicating, purchasing supplies, getting your guys here as well as the guest quartets. Your hard work is to be commended. My boys were so excited to attend camp this year (9) of them. They were let down of course, but took the news graciously and I was proud of them. Again, thank you for all of your dedication and hard work, even though the event didn't occur. Sincerely, Sue Delgado and the guys of Chico High". And one more: "Camper and I (Mom) decided

to donate his registration fee. Please use this donation to fill any need Harmony Camp may need. Maybe even to help a young man attend camp”; and an email we received early on “Your website is impressive. Kudos to those who coordinate this event! I'm a music educator myself and appreciate the hard work and time it takes to coordinate and plan for such a large endeavor. Thank you in advance for taking the time to nurture the love of music in our young people”.

The “other” parts of camp that you need to know about are the finances, the dollars that you so willingly shared with us to help make all of this happen.

Sly Park returned our entire deposit which we will simply roll over to 2015! We did refund the boys' registration fees; and we did have major travel expenses for Lunch Break, Joe Cerutti and Jim Halvorson. But the bottom line turned out to be just about break even for the whole thing.

Then we got some really good financial news: the BHS/Harmony Foundation grant that we had applied for back in November of 2013 came through with \$3,600 of the \$4,000 that they had initially awarded us. So the bottom line for Harmony Camp 2014 is that we were not hurt financially. The Fire is a terrible thing to go through, and we would certainly have made the same decision at any time during the weekend if it had gone that far; but if cancellation was to happen, doing it before camp actually started was certainly the best time to do it.

So, Thank You one more time!! It is You who make Harmony Camp work; and you should be very Proud of your Camp and the boys who attend. We are indeed “Making the Music That Makes the Difference”.

Harmony Camp 2015 is scheduled for September 18 – 20. Gabe Caretto will be our dean and “After Hours”, a quartet from Illinois will join us. Watch for them in Pittsburgh!

It is also time to announce that we are launching a very special fund raising campaign to create an Endowment Fund for the FWD Harmony Camp. The

campaign will begin in December, 2014; and is the direct result of a meeting I had with our BHS CEO, Marty Monson, who challenged all of us in the FWD to create an endowment fund to replace the dollars currently provided by the Harmony Foundation to Camp. As a result, Harmony Camp dollars will be raised locally here in California and Nevada. You will be hearing more about this campaign later.

Richard Lund

American Pastime Card 2014 FWD Champions



FWD Sunshine Card



Leadership Articles



***District President
Allan Webb***

I just returned from the 2014 BHS Leadership Forum, where six representatives from each District (President, EVP, Secretary, Treasurer, and two "future leaders") participated in three days of collaboration with each other and with Society staff. Historically, Leadership Forum has been structured a bit like COTS, but for District level positions (both BOD and DMT Chairs), with content geared mostly towards operational topics. The last two years, we have shifted the focus more towards leadership development and working towards concrete projects which are in alignment with the goals identified by the 2011 Chapter Visitation Program survey results.

Part of the prep work for this past weekend involved reading *Good To Great And The Social Sectors* by Jim Collins, a well known writer of business leadership books. In this case, he explores the application of his *Good To Great* concepts as they apply to social organizations (non-profits like us, primarily). Although short (only 35 pages), and meant to be a companion/enhancement to his related business-oriented book, it is still an impressive standalone read. I will be pursuing acquiring 100 copies at a bulk discount to distribute to all of our Chapter Presidents (for sharing with their Chapter boards) and District leaders. I believe the concepts contained therein are fundamental to the health of our organization, particularly in regard to identifying and training future leaders.

There was a lot of information this weekend as to the Society's evolving direction in the area of membership models, financial restructuring, service program focus and branding (We Sing. We Serve.), and more. Once I've received updated documentation on these topics from the BHS (and they have them hosted online at the Society's website), I'll communicate links to that content. There is a lot going on behind the scenes that much of the membership is unaware of, partially

because many initiatives are new and still in a state of flux, but I think you'll find a lot of it very exciting.

For the moment, here is a presentation hosted at [prezi.com](http://prezi.com/s89ccflbkz-y/together-making-the-music-thats-making-a-difference/) which details what the various Districts have been doing over the past year as part of their alignment with the CVP priorities identified by our Chapters:

<http://prezi.com/s89ccflbkz-y/together-making-the-music-thats-making-a-difference/>

On a slightly different subject, if you have not read the HOD Brochure from our recent Fall Convention, I encourage you to do so. While it is directly sent out to Chapter leadership a month prior to the meeting so they have time to consider the proposals on which their Delegate will vote in the HOD, I know anecdotally that a lot of the general membership doesn't necessarily read it. We had several proposals before the HOD (which were approved), as well as several operational items which didn't require a HOD vote, and, in the interest of transparency, I wanted to call your attention to them in the event that you didn't read the HOD Brochure previously. It can be found here:

http://www.farwesterndistrict.org/media-various/documents-and-forms/doc_details/710-2014-fall-hod-brochure-final



***Executive Vice President
Gordon Bergthold***

Having just returned from the Society's Leadership Forum in Nashville, I'm filled with the enthusiasm that always follows such an event. I call it the "Stadium Mentality" because you leave with so many wonderful ideas to help your district and within a few days we're back to the old routine and not putting into action those things that were so important during the weekend forum.

In attendance from the Far Western District's leadership group were Allan Web, President; Gordon Bergthold, Executive Vice President; Max Bates, Treasurer; Bob Gray, Secretary; Brian Forbes, Events

Chair; and Craig Hughes, Division Vice President, SoCal East. We each had our separate meetings and breakout sessions pertaining to several elements of leadership but the most important result was when we rejoined in the mass group and discussed how we were all leaders simply working in different areas of importance for the benefit of the district and society.

The study guide was the book, *Good to Great and the Social Sectors*, by Jim Collins. After several hours of reading, the most important revelation that I received from the book was that, “the moment you think of yourself as great, your slide toward mediocrity will have already begun.” This is so true of each aspect of our hobby because it is just a volunteer organization bent on entertainment and keeping the whole world singing, but the egos often get in the way of reaching our potential goal.

One top executive who was the CEO of the Girl Scouts of America was asked how it felt to be on top of such a large organization. After rearranging the lunch table, creating a set of concentric circles radiating outward with plates, cups, and saucers connected by spoons, knives, and forks surrounding a glass in the middle of the table, she said, pointing to the glass, “even though I’m the Chief Executive Office, I’m not on top of anything.”

Why is this important? I feel it’s because we each contribute in our own way to the success or failure of the individual chapter in our organization and the chapters are the lifeblood of the district and the society. If we think of ourselves as more important than anyone else who is participating and contributing the ego takes over and synergy doesn’t have a chance to develop. What I’m driving at is this; we in the leadership positions in the FWD are dependent on the members and their chapters to grow into the top district in the society.

Yes, we are among the leaders in quartet and chorus champions and we are recognized as one of the strongest districts in the society from an administrative and organizational viewpoint. However, we have lost many members in the past years from age, health,

opportunities to do other things and apathy. It’s time to reassess our goals and mission and that’s exactly what’s happening in Nashville and in your district. Singing is what it’s all about, but we need singers to accomplish the original stated goal of “keeping the whole world singing”. By preserving and encouraging quartet singing in our chapters we’ll go a long way in perpetuating the dream of OC Cash.

There are many great opportunities for us in the barbershop harmony society and in the next few months you’ll be hearing about how we are going to be involved in the rehabilitation of the society that is the greatest a cappella singing organization in the world. We are all in this together and no one is on top of anything. We are a team and together we’ll thrive and survive.



***District Vice President 1 SW
Retiring Bob Lally and
Incoming Brent Anderson***

With this article I will be concluding my interim appointment as VP for the Southwest Division and at the same time introducing you to your new DVP.

During the past few months there has been a fair amount of activity in our division including a joint Southwest/Southeast Division contest with the Rincon Beach Chapter emerging as Division Champions and Santa Monica, San Fernando Valley and Pasadena advancing to the District competition in Fresno in October. All of our groups acquitted themselves well in this contest with Rincon Beach finishing a respectable eighth. And our own Masters of Harmony gave a truly outstanding performance as outgoing Chorus Champs with a heartfelt tribute to our departed brother Doug Maddox. It was a touching performance indeed by one of the finest male singing groups anywhere.

I encourage all of you to consider supporting your chapter in participating in our next Division contest next May 9. You may not think of your Chapter as one interested in competing, but it’s a wonderful way to not only perform for your peers (probably the friendliest audience you’ll ever encounter) but the

chance to appreciate the efforts of all the competitors, sing some tags and songs with old friends, meet some new friends, and just plain have a good time. I guarantee you won't regret it. By the way, if you really don't want to compete, come anyway... you get to do all the other stuff no matter what.

On a sadder note, we have identified several chapters in our division who are in danger of losing their Charters with the Barbershop Harmony Society due to lack of membership and general inactivity. The Whittier Chapter, a chapter with a rich history, has voluntarily ceased operation due to membership decline and financial difficulties. In a unique decision, members of the District Board have added themselves as dual members with Whittier and will continue to govern that chapter in order to keep that charter alive for a future new chapter. Other chapters in difficulty will be contacted in the near future to help them determine their next moves. In my recent article I urged those of you in healthy chapters who are near to those in need to reach out with support for them... just getting together socially would help.

One last bit of business. It's extremely important that all chapters keep up-to-date on their various required annual financial reports. Quite a number of our chapters are overdue in this area. Please have your treasurer contact our District Treasurer, Max Bates, to make sure you're up-to-date. Also, have your chapter secretary check to make sure that you are currently incorporated properly and registered with the state. You may think you are, but be reminded that this must be renewed periodically. You can receive help with this by contacting District Secretary, Bob Gray.

Although I'm leaving the Board, I will still be around to listen, talk and offer help where I can. I'm not going anywhere, and I'm in the book. Meanwhile, I'd like to introduce you to your new Vice President for our Division, Brent Anderson. I expect more of you know Brent than not, so you know he's full of enthusiasm, loves to sing tags and has a smile for everyone. Without further ado, here's Brent!

Introducing Brent Anderson

I am your new VP for our Southwest Division and I'm hoping I can be of help. I've been around for a while and know many of you personally. I joined the Santa Barbara chapter back in 1975, and although I still belong to Santa Barbara, I now sing with Rincon Beach. I've participated in most every aspect of our Society - chorus, quartets, woodshed contests, show chairman, chapter offices, tag singing and chapter picnics. I've been fortunate to be an emcee from time to time at contests and shows. I love being a barbershopper.

In our Division, we have some great chapters - successful, healthy chapters - and we also have some issues... Several of our chapters have fallen on hard times, membership has declined and of those who are still members, attendance is spotty. It appears that most of the fun has evidently disappeared and I'd like to try to help bring back that fun. I'll be in touch with all the chapters and although I still work and my time is not entirely my own, I'll try to come visit as many chapters as I can. I want to hear your problems and concerns so I can communicate that to the rest of the FWD leadership and together, we'll try to help solve the problems.

You chapter members and leaders must also do your part. First of all, go to your chapter meetings. We are an organization of singers and when we get together wonderful things happen. Everything we do is better when everyone participates... If you stay home, you're part of the problem. Your participation is a part of the solution.

Chapter leaders are invited to go to Las Vegas at the end of this month, January 23-25, to Harmony College West and Leadership Academy. I went last year and it's great fun. I need you chapter leaders and chorus members to commit to attending so together we can help bring back the fun. Leadership Academy is full of enthusiastic helpful people who want you and your chapter members to have fun singing and enjoying each other's company. Harmony College West is just a blast! It's very reasonably priced and easy to get

there, so put January 23-25 in your calendar and I'll see you in just a few days in Las Vegas.

I want you all to go to our Division Convention in Santa Monica on May 9. We're combined with Southeast Division so this will be a heck of a convention and a super contest. I'd like every chapter chorus to compete but as Bob said, competitor or not, just go to the convention and have fun.

Again - I love being a barbershopper. I met my wife (Sue) through barbershop and my daughter (Courtney) has grown up to be a barbershopper. Many of my very best friends are because of this wonderful hobby. I love this Society and the fact that we sing. It's a gift to be able to sing. It's an honor to be in a chorus and to sing for the public. I'm enthusiastic and honored to be your Southwest DVP.



District Vice President 2 SE
Craig Hughes

I had a very special *Barbershop* moment recently. For the first time in years I sat down in a barber's chair and had a "shave and a haircut". It isn't "two bits" anymore but it is a unique and old timey experience. Upon reflection it is much like performing in a Chorus or Quartet. I was excited prior to sitting down (*walking on stage*), the hot towel and lather relaxed me (*taking that deep breath*), then the "what have I gotten into" realization that a stranger had a very sharp knife at my throat (*the curtain opens*) and finally the satisfaction looking in the mirror (*basking in the audience applause*) that made it all worthwhile.

Barbershop quartet singing is "old timey" in a good way. It encompasses much that is special from a time before the digital revolution took everyone one step away from reality. It is also very current. Check out our youth choruses and quartets. It is a gift we can provide men and women through performance and joining in. Please share this unique experience with everyone.

And what an experience we have been having. . .

The *Far Western District Convention* in Fresno was a thrill. Thanks to all who made this one of our best conventions. Special thanks to the competitors who provided the "entertainment". The quality of singing in the Far Western District is the best in the world and our Southeast Division finished first in every chorus category:

- Westminster - 2014 District Champions
- San Diego - Plateau A
- Las Vegas - Plateau AA
- Westminster - Plateau AAA
- Fullerton - Most Improved

Please plan on competing at our next [Southeast – Southwest Division Contest](#) – May 9 in Santa Monica. The Plateau system and "most improved award" give everyone an achievable *goal*. The real *reward* comes from the audience and the experience. You will enjoy singing with and for the best.

Mark your calendars and sign up for a very special event in January. Harmony College West is combining with the Leadership Academy to provide training, singing, and lots of fun January 23 to 25, 2015 in Las Vegas. This will be a wonderful event for your entire Chapter. Please visit events.farwesterndistrict.org for details.

Please enjoy the Holiday Season and share the gift of music with friends, family, and strangers. Like our District Song says, lets continue "changing the world . . . one song at a time."

Thank you for your support of the Division. We are the best of the best.



District Vice President 3 NW
Chuck Leavitt

The FWD Fall Convention in Fresno was terrific! The FWD convention team, the Fresno chapter and chairman Jim Turnmire have my warmest compliments and thanks for all their hard work.

Congratulations to all our competitors. The Far Western District Quartet Champion is American Pastime. Our

Senior District Champ is High Priority. Velvet Frogs is the FWD representative to the International Senior Contest in New Orleans this January.

The 2014 FWD Chorus Champion is Westminster with the highest chorus score posted in BHS district competitions (94.5%) and they will represent the FWD at International next summer in Pittsburg, PA. As I write this, an International Board invitation (wildcard) has been extended to Voices in Harmony (82.7%) and Spirit of Phoenix (81.4%), but I don't know if they will accept.

We won't know who our FWD International quartet competitors are until after the FWD Spring Convention in Sacramento. I hope you are planning to participate in the combined NE/NW Division contests and Intl Quartet Prelims on March 10-22. The venue is the McClellan Conference Center and the headquarters is Lions Gate Hotel. Early registration is available on-line now at <http://events.farwesterndistrict.org/conventions>

Our division has several kinds of chapters and we take pride in having a big umbrella that allows them to have their own style and objectives. There are two things all chorus chapters have in common - they need a director and a vision of how they will meet their members' expectations.

We have been working hard to get new director candidates and accelerate director development. In NorCal we held our second director development school (OIF) since I became NW VP on Nov 8 in Pleasanton. There is also a director school as part of Harmony College West and Leadership Academy in Las Vegas in January 2015. Go to <http://events.farwesterndistrict.org/education/35-2015-hcwl> to get full details and sign up.

This is a good time of the year for every chapter to revisit their priorities and objectives and measure their success. Maybe you will find that it's time for an update. Here are some things I think all chapters should strive to do: make every meeting fun; be inclusive; sing well; encourage quarteting; help their community and compete. A well-crafted chapter

vision is something a chorus can rally around. Add a director that is on the same page and you are well on your way to success. Need help? Tap into all the resources on barbershop.org and encourage your chapter officers to participate in this year's leadership academy. They will work as a group and come away with the start of a great plan to share with the chapter.

This is my last Westunes article as Northwest Div 3 VP. Charles Feltman will be taking over on January 1. Charles has been a hard core barbershopper since I met him in the mid-80s (tick-tock). He is currently directing San Francisco and since he doesn't get a chance on his own chorus night, he frequently visits other choruses to get on the risers and sing. I bet he has visited your chapter sometime in the last few years.

I hope you all enjoy the holidays. I'll see you around the circuit.

Introducing Charles Feltman

Charles has been a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society for 37 years, 30 of which were as a member of the San Francisco Cable Car Chorus. He has also sung in chorus with the old Oakland/EastBay Chapter and as a dual member with Bay Area Metro and, for a short period, with Voices In Harmony.

His quartet experience includes "Jack London Squires" (in the old Oakland/East-Bay Chapter), "San Andreas Faults" "Five Opinions" and "Top of the Mark" (in the SF Chapter), Grounds Four Da Voice (mixed), and "Time Be Four" (while with Bay Area Metro and beyond).

Charles served as SF Chapter President in 1988 and has held several other Chapter offices before and afterwards. He was Assistant Director of the SF Cable Car Chorus for fifteen years before taking the top position late in 2008. He attended Director's College in 2006 and 2010, and is also an Arranger (of Public Domain music only). He agreed to take the upcoming VP position when his habit of random local chapter personal visitations became common knowledge.



**District Vice President 4 NE
Richard Lund**

I've got a friend in one of my choruses who has written a grant to get some financial assistance from the Harmony Foundation to do something in his community that he has always wanted to do. It's a simple idea and he is motivated to get it off the ground and make some "music" so to speak. Well he has found that the brand new "structure" of the Harmony Foundation (HF) coupled with the new BHS administrative rules have created an environment that he feels "comfortable in" and as a result was easily able to work through his idea and is optimistic that HF will fund his grant proposal.

Have you ever had an idea that you felt could help your community or a particular group of people? A church group, a hobby group, perhaps one of your grandkids' schools is in need of "something" that takes Money, and you simply forgot about it because of that "money" part; and you Knew that you couldn't get past that issue.

I really believe that many of us in the Far Western District of the Barbershop world are not truly aware of the massive sea change that has occurred within BHS and HF with these new rules concepts. It is Amazing!

Rather than a focus only on youth outreach, the focus is on all outreach activities and assisting us as barbershop members and chapters to undertake an idea or project that never seemed possible because of that issue of Money.

Let's talk about this a bit. Yes, it Is all about singing. You know that instinctively, because we are a singing organization and you love to sing! Simple!

The very simple idea / concept / paradigm is that "Singing has power!" Singing has power to make people Feel Something, Change people, and Change the world. Therefore, let's promote singing to make that happen! And what is it that holds people (you)

back? Money. So, if we lift that barrier, we can get past that issue and Make Things Happen.

The new structure is divided into three different approaches that give you three different ways to think about your idea:

Outreach Direct Grants (ODG) - Up to \$1,500 for external outreach projects with anyone, seniors or youth within your community or underserved populations.

That is pretty darn broad. You can do just about anything within that description.

Outreach Vision Grants (OVG) - Exceeding \$1,500 for bigger projects. Submit a budget for a project targeting similar groups as ODG. Harmony Camp falls in this category. I just completed the process for next year's camp.

Innovation Grants (IG) – There is no dollar range for this category. The concept here is looking for New Ideas to identify solutions to identified BHS priorities. Things like recruiting, retention, coaching, inter-chapter activity, performing, and even arranging or composing.

Go to the new website that is devoted exclusively to BHS Grants and learn more about it. And then, have at it, and write yourself some Money (smile). www.barbershop.org/grants

Lastly, I want to thank Voices of California for stepping up to the plate and agreeing to host Prelims 2015 in Sacramento. They have identified a new location, McClellan Conference Center, with attractive lodging prices and within walking distance between the Lions' Gate Hotel and the Conference Center, and are busily working on constructing a stage, and setting up the lighting and sound systems. I urge all of you to join us March 20-21, 2015.



**District Vice President 5 AZ
John Bloomquist**

The **Fred Koch Memorial BASH!** was a resounding success. This annual event

was held the weekend of **August 15-17** and featured a golf outing on Friday. The Parade Of Quartets on Friday evening was terrific and on Saturday, the Luck Of The Draw quartet drawing and contest was as entertaining as always. 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 in New Orleans in January. I want to congratulate AZ's own **High Priority** for qualifying for the Senior Quartet contest! Also included will be the highly successful Youth Chorus Festival. 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 participated in a benefit show on Oct 21 along with the Chandler High School Men's Chorus and the Chandler High School Treblemakers. This was an awesome event and the finale included over 240 voices. I have included a link of that song for your enjoyment!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKjuMTEo00U>
Finally, it is with regret that I announce that Frank Ortega has resigned as AZ Division 5 Westunes Editor. Frank has been steadfast in his reporting of the AZ Div. activities to the rest of the District and I want to say a big Thank You for your service. Now, we must fill those very large shoes and I am going to be sending out information to the AZ Chapters to hopefully enlist a replacement.

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!!!



Chapter Support & Leadership Training
Don Salz

***HARMONY COLLEGE WEST and
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (HCW/LA)***

January 23-25, 2015

Want a BETTER DIRECTOR/assistant director?

Send the ones you already have to HCW/LA where they will learn from our International Gold Medal directors.

Do you want BETTER QUARTET PERFORMANCES on your shows?

Get your chapter quartets world class coaching at HCW/LA.

TO HECK WITH RANDOM DRAWS! Want to sing with your favorite guys from Harmony Brigade or Platoon? Bring them to HCW/LA for the quartet track and sing those songs better than ever.

Want to improve retention of NEW MEMBERS?

Allow HCW/LA to propel you to a rewarding lifetime of barbershop experiences. Catapult.

Take care of your CHAPTER OFFICERS!

DON'T WANT TO ADMINISTRATE and just want to sing? Bring or send your chapter officers to HCW/LA so they don't have to rely on YOU. In the Saturday morning LA track, while they are learning to maintain the viability of your chapter, you will be singing in a chorus directed by our Gold Medal Directors. Don't feel too bad! Your chapter officers will be reminded why they work so hard by singing and learning the fun stuff for the balance of the Friday-Saturday sessions.

The more you know, the better you....

- LEAD
- SING
- ENTERTAIN
- INSPIRE
- DIRECT
- RUN MEETINGS, FILL OUT FORMS, BALANCE BUDGETS, COMPLY WITH IRS, etc.

Note: Due to the delightful expansion of Harmony Platoons across the society, and growing demands in my professional life, I have resigned as FWD CSLT effective after the HCW/LA in January 2015. I will do everything I can to support my successor.



**Chorus Director Development
Greg Lyne**

No article submitted



**District Representative Contest
& Judging
Ron Black**

Hope everyone enjoyed the Fresno District Convention! It was, as in past years, an ideal convention site, with the auditorium so close to the hotels.

We've been there many times. It is likely one of our best venues for barbershop shows or contests. As a long time director of the Fresno Gold Note Chorus (now called GNC A Cappella), I've worked with several of the theater backstage crew before. (Yes, some of them have been there for 30+ years, and were there when we were doing our annual show in that hall).

On Friday evening, Nick Papageorge presented a golden broom in memory of our dear departed stage guru Doug Maddox. It will be present at all future District Contests, and used to sweep the stage as we all fondly remember Doug doing his job for many years. Also presented by Russ Young was a stunning large bronze medallion in honor of Doug to hang on the MC lectern in future conventions.

Two FWD chapter's choruses will represent us in Pittsburg next July!

At the top of the list, our District Champion for 2014 and Past International Gold Medal chorus Westminster (with the top qualifying score of 94.5, a past Gold

Medal chorus, and who will surely be after another one!), are up against Ambassadors of Harmony from St. Charles, MO (with a qualifying score of 93.8, also a past Gold Medal Chorus). Also representing the FWD are Bay Area - Voices In Harmony (with a wild card score of 82.7).

(Both Greater Phoenix and California Delta have opted to attend Harmony University instead of the International Chorus Competition.)

Our new District Champion Quartet, American Pastime, jumped ahead of potential winners Flightline and Vocal Edition, and took home that huge champ quartet trophy. Our outgoing champs NewFangled Four did us proud in their swan song on Saturday evening.

Next year's conventions are as follows (including the deadlines for contest entry):

March 20-22 will combine the Northwest and Northeast Divisions with the International Quartet Preliminaries in Sacramento, CA. The venue is the McClellan Conference Center and Lionsgate Hotel. This contest is held in a converted and updated convention venue from a huge aircraft hanger converted after the McClellan Air Force Base was decommissioned. It is rather ideal for our contest location. **Deadline for contest entry is February 20.**

April 25 will be the Arizona Division in Phoenix. **Deadline for contest entry is March 23.**

May 9 will combine the Southwest and Southeast Division, the venue is in Santa Monica. **Deadline for contest entry is April 10.**

Below are the total contest statistics since 2010. Total Chorus participation in the Spring is still strong, as is the average score. Quartets also fare well. Oddly, the number of Spring Senior quartet participants is lower.

	Total Choruses	Total Ch Men	Avg Pts	Total Qt Men	Total Quartets	Avg Pts	Intl. Qualifiers (Fall Sr.)	Senior	Super Senior	College
SPRING TOTALS										
2014	33	896	65.1	228	57	66.7	7	10	2	2
2013	31	931	65.1	224	56	67.3	4	12	1	5
2012	35	985	63.9	256	64	64.1	6	19	4	4
2011	30	705	64.7	248	62	63.9	4	22	6	1
2010	29	897	66.6	240	60	66.0	4	14	4	2
FALL TOTALS										
2014	20	597	69.9	96	24	67.9	2	7	n/ap	n/ap
2013	24	804	67.8	84	21	64.8	1	7	n/ap	n/ap
2012	20	659	69.1	72	18	70.6	2	1	n/ap	n/ap
2011	19	632	68.3	80	20	67.1	2	6	n/ap	n/ap
2010	20	739	68.0	80	20	68.2	3	6	n/ap	n/ap

n/ap = not
applicable



Events Ted Sayle

No article submitted

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



Marketing & Public Relations Jerry McElfresh

We call this department Marketing and Public Relations but for the most part it deals with communication among ourselves within the District, with BHS and with the public.

Although they didn't even exist when the Marketing and PR job was created, a website, an online quarterly magazine, Facebook and Twitter and computers and mobile phones are now the tools of the trade as compared to the typewriters, telephones and printed magazine that we had "back in the day."

Of the people we communicate with, our own district chapters and members are the ones we reach out to the most and we have been working to make it as easy as possible for you to get the word. Over the past two years thanks to Westunes Editor **Ray Rhymer** and webmaster **David Melville**, the quarterly Westunes magazine has gone online, our website and social media outlets have been refined and expanded and we have the capability to immediately reach out to all of our members via e-mail.

As a result the website and Facebook page and e-mail have become our key news outlets while Westunes remains stronger as the archival source that reports on the important Far Western District happenings during the previous quarter.

And thanks to two other steps taken by David, you now can register on the website for events such as contests and conventions, Harmony College West and Leadership Academy, and the PDF version of Westunes is in an easier-to-read form under "e-Magazine Edition" on the Westunes Home page. It also is available under Printable and Mobile editions. There also are websites, Facebook pages, and Twitter accounts set up for each of the five FWD divisions and David is looking for members who are interested in taking over their maintenance.

I point this all out so that you know Marketing and PR is working to communicate with you faster, easier and better and to thank Ray and David for making it happen.

While saying year-end thanks, let me add them to **Paul Girard**, who has been keeping the YIH website up to date, and our Division editors who compile information sent to them by the chapters: **Ken Day**, Division 1; **Dale Vaughn**, Division 2; **John Heather**, Division 3; **Roger Perkins**, Division 4; and **Frank Ortega**, Division 5. Thanks also to the many chapter members who send information to those editors and all of the contributors to Westunes that help to make each edition worthwhile reading.



Membership Allan Webb

As of 10/31/14, the FWD has 2604 members (not accounting for dual Chapter memberships, so a slightly higher number than actual), down from 2769 on 10/31/2013. This represents a net loss of 165 members, or 6.0%. Society-wide, the net loss was 8.4%, so the FWD is doing slightly better than the Society as a whole. In calendar year 2013, we recruited a total of 154 new members, and are already at 159 for 2014, with a couple months to go (which would put us on track for 190 new members if we recruit at the same rate for the last two months of the year).

The following is from my membership report in the Fall HOD Brochure, but which bears repeating in Westunes since it is more widely read:

While we do recruit new members, we are not very good at retaining them: we lose more than half of new members in the first two years of membership. This level of recruiting and retention of new members is not enough to offset our membership losses from an aging baby boomer demographic. We need to do a better job of not only recruiting more members, but doing so in a way which doesn't constitute a 1-2 year revolving door. We should be recruiting the right guy, and giving him the right experience at the Chapter level, to turn him into a long term member rather than somebody who two years later says "oops, I guess this hobby isn't for me".

I like to think of things in terms of the opportunity, and we have a huge opportunity in front of us. A cappella music (of which barbershop is a sub-genre) hasn't been as popular as it is now since the doo wop era more than 50 years ago. While not all of the fans of contemporary a cappella will necessarily be converts to barbershop, there is a definite halo effect. We should be able to take advantage of the surge in popularity of contemporary a cappella and find those guys who would love to sing barbershop, but maybe just don't know it yet. Now is the time to ramp up your efforts at the Chapter level to engage with other singing organizations in your area and do joint events together so all those guys singing contemporary a cappella get exposed to barbershop.

Although the Operation Harold Hill recruitment program had a defined start and end date, recruiting efforts in general don't. You can still go out to the OHH web site and find all the ideas and resources available there which can help you with recruiting. I would encourage all Chapter Development/Membership VPs to do so:

<http://www.operationharoldhill.com/ideas.html>

Retention is the flip side of the recruiting coin: recruitment might get guys in the door, but it's what your Chapter does week-in and week-out over the next year or two which really determines our long-term retention rate. That's where the important stuff happens. Successful Chapters have a compelling musical and social environment which makes men

willing to spend their time singing barbershop rather than doing whatever they used to do during their Chapter meeting's time slot.

If we can successfully recruit a few more guys than we do now, but more importantly retain a higher percentage of them beyond the two-year horizon, we would be very close to making our membership loss zero. Perhaps even turning it into a gain. Wouldn't that be fantastic?



Music & Performance
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!

The Leadership Academy will offer classes for Chapter Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, Membership VPs, Music & Performance VPs, Marketing VPs, and Program VPs. **Attendance is not limited to office holders.** If you are interested please attend. The classes will be held during a four hour block that won't conflict with Harmony College West classes. We encourage all students' participation in both HCW and the LA.

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.

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!



Quartet Activities
Bill Kane

Do You Want To Sing In A Quartet?

There will be lots of opportunities to do that in 2015 here in FWD.

Many, many chapters have a Singing Valentines program. This is a perfect time to jump in and learn two simple songs and have the joy of performing in front of some very appreciative folks.

Northern and Southern California each have a Novice Quartet Contest in the Spring and AZ Division has one in August at the AZ Bash. Lots of guys take this chance to have their first quartet experience. The first quartet I recall seeing Brett Littlefield in was at a Novice Quartet Contest. (Not saying you will go on to win two gold medals, but you never know.)

Both the FWD spring convention in Sacramento and FWD fall convention in Mesa will have a Harmony Platoon next year. Check the Platoon website for registration information: www.HarmonyPlatoon.org. This is a program started in FWD in 2012 and hundreds of men have now participated, some singing in their very first quartet. It is especially an excellent chance to quartet if you don't live near others wanting to quartet, such as this comment from one participant:

"The Platoon was awesome! I live in an area where BBS singers are sparse, so having an opportunity to sing with the Platoon was a really marvelous experience."

Since many of the guys at Platoon are experienced quartet singers, the new quartet singer gets lots of support around him, sorta like Sing with the Champs. And for the guy with experience it is great fun too, as evidenced by this satisfied customer:

"The Platoon was fun and had plenty of good singing, with most quartets in the final round turning in surprisingly good jobs. I sang Bari in the first two rounds and finally worked up the courage and switched to Tenor for the final round, something I've been wanting to try. Great fun. I will be two states away from the next Platoon, but am considering participating anyway. Jeez, are these things addictive?"

Since guys in Platoon get learning tracks for all four parts, many guys go back home and find three other guys to teach their favorite Platoon song so they can keep on singing it. By now the Platoon program has brought nearly 40 great songs into the hands of our guys. Wow! Sorta a new Polecat program? Great way to start a new quartet?

I bet if you try the Platoon in 2015 you will like it just as much as these guys:

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

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

"I hope to do Platoon at every convention I come to - I hope it grows and spreads."

We are pleased that the FWD Platoon concept has now spread, with Platoons at both International conventions this year and one being held at Midwinter in New Orleans in January. EVG District held their second Platoon this fall and RMD and NSC Divisions will have their first Platoons next spring.

If you want any help doing some quartet singing in 2015, please contact me at:

BillKaneVip@msn.com

Winners in Fresno, FWD Fall Platoon Contest



Last Chance (L to R)

Lance Alloway, baritone, Riverside
Fred Walkover, bass, Bay Area
Kevin Cunningham, lead, Rincon Beach
Jim Hilgenberg, tenor, La Jolla



Youth In Harmony Jim Halvorson

No article submitted

Financial Development Allan Webb

The BHS has revamped their grant application process, adding several categories of grants and formalizing the reporting requirements and grant windows. The details of the Society's new process, as well as links to the necessary online forms, can be found here:

<http://barbershop.org/component/content/article/978.html>

At the District level, the HOD voted to accept the recommendation of the BOD to create a Far Western District Outreach Endowment Fund. This fund will start at \$30k, with the assets being managed by Harmony Foundation on our behalf. The combination of investment returns and donations to the fund (via the HF Donors Choice program, primarily) will increase the principal over time, and we will write grants from up to 5% of the fund per year. The District will implement a grant application process next year similar to the one used by BHS for distributions.

Please see the full description from the Fall HOD Brochure below:

We have had several interactions with the Society and Harmony Foundation surrounding how YIH event grants are processed by the Society. Most recently, the NorCal Harmony Camp has had to deal with a sizable decrease in funding (on the order of ~30%) year over year from the Society. This is primarily due to the Society being a victim of its own success with youth outreach: while HF donations are up significantly year over year, grant requests have outstripped the increase, leading to a net decrease in individual grant amounts even though the total amount of grant activity has substantially increased.

At the same time, the shift in fundraising priority towards HF, and away from local and District fundraising, has left the District YIH Fund in a state of decreasing assets, while the pressure from decreased Society funding has YIH events looking to the District YIH Fund to cover the gap.

Last fall, Society Board Rep John Miller suggested that the FWD BOD consider using some of our considerable cash (~\$120k, far more than most other Districts have in the bank) to shore up our Youth Outreach Fund as an endowment.

Society leadership has also expanded the scope of outreach efforts beyond the youth category to include other forms of outreach which can beneficially impact our membership recruitment and retention. In order for the Far Western District to align itself with Society outreach initiatives as well as create an increasingly self-sustaining outreach endowment fund, the FWD BOD is recommending a change to SOP Section 13.2, which is detailed below.

The Mid-Atlantic District has already gone down this road by creating a District endowment fund, which a few years ago had at least \$84k in it. Their District Financial Development Chair partnered with HF to manage their endowment (essentially, it would follow the same investment plan as HF funds do).

Direct donations to the fund, as well as HF Donor Choice money coming back to the District, are part of the revenue into the fund (interest from investments being the other part), with grant distributions per year limited to total donations during the year or 5% of the fund, whichever is lower.

Below is the current wording in the 2014 SOP regarding the currently constituted Youth Education Fund, which will need to be changed to remove specific reference to "Youth" in favor of more generic Outreach Fund language (although youth-oriented educational events will continue to be potential grant recipients from the outreach fund). This will bring our outreach focus in line with the Society's broader outreach effort and allow money to be used for education and outreach beyond the constraints of "youth":

"13.2 DISTRICT YOUTH EDUCATION FUND The Far Western District Youth Education Fund is established for the purpose of supporting youth outreach and educational activities in the Far Western District.

The funds are derived solely from voluntary contributions by members, chapters and friends of the district. The fund is maintained as a separate account by the treasurer of the district.

Monies from the fund are to be spent on projects as recommended by the District Youth Outreach Team and approved by the district board. These projects may include, but are not limited to: youth camps, scholarships, seminars for music educators, audio- visual

materials, manuals and educational materials, augmentation of district youth outreach budget items such as high school quartet scholarship awards and Collegiate Barbershop Quartet travel and other projects as may be appropriate.

Where these projects are offered to non-member personnel, such as youths attending FWD youth camps, an appropriate release form will be provided to and executed by the parent or guardian providing for appropriate release for medical and/or accident circumstances and will also contain a "hold harmless" clause against the sponsors, FWD and SPEBSQSA, Inc.

Applications for project funding should be made through the District Chairman of the YIH Committee. It is the informal desire of the Board to spend no more than 50% of the funds available in this fund in any given year."

Proposed new SOP 13.2 language:

"13.2 DISTRICT OUTREACH ENDOWMENT FUND The Far Western District Outreach Endowment Fund is established for the purpose of supporting outreach and educational activities in the Far Western District.

The Fund is derived from voluntary contributions by members, chapters and friends of the district, as well as by initial seed money from the Far Western District treasury. The Fund is maintained by Harmony Foundation on behalf of the Far Western District, with proceeds from the Fund's income used to fund outreach and educational activities.

Monies from the Fund are to be spent on projects as recommended by the District Board. These projects may include, but are not limited to: youth camps, scholarships, seminars for music educators, audio-visual materials, manuals and educational materials, augmentation of district outreach budget items such as high school quartet scholarship awards and Collegiate Barbershop Quartet travel, new chapter startup activities, adult outreach programs to potential members by existing chapters, and other projects as may be appropriate.

Where these projects are offered to minors, such as youths attending FWD youth camps, an appropriate release form will be provided to and executed by the parent or guardian providing for appropriate release for medical and/or accident circumstances and will also contain a "hold harmless" clause against the sponsors, FWD and SPEBSQSA, Inc.

Applications for project funding for outreach activities should be made through the appropriate committee chairmen: YIH Chair for youth activities, Membership Chair for new chapter startups, CDD Chair for Chorus Director Development, etc. For any requests which don't appear to fit under an existing committee chair, contact the Executive Vice President.

The annual budget of the Far Western District may include projected grant distributions from the fund, provided that such distributions do not exceed the expected income (donations/interest/capital gains), or 5% of the Fund, whichever is the lesser amount. To the extent that those numbers change during the budget year, expanded mid- or late-year grants may be accommodated if the financial state of the Fund allows for it.

The intention behind this funding/spending model is to allow for the Outreach Endowment Fund to always be in a state of growth, and eventually be large enough to fund substantial outreach programs entirely from the interest/capital gains of the Fund's investments."

For the purposes of establishing the initial balance of the fund, the phrase "initial seed money from the Far Western District treasury" above is defined as the amount necessary to bring the balance of the fund to \$30k as of Jan. 1, 2015, after rolling over the current Youth Outreach Fund balance (~\$4k) and adding in the 2014 donation total (estimated ~\$6k), which would require an estimated ~\$20k from our bank account to accomplish. The first year (2015) we would therefore begin with a total grant limit of 5% (\$1500, approximately what our District grant activity was in 2014), but could adjust upwards during the course of the year if the financial state of the fund grows enough. Given that we usually show about \$6k worth of donation income per year (which we hope to increase), the fund should grow relatively quickly over the next several years and allow us to budget for increasing amounts of grants for various outreach activities.



Division 1 SW Chapters Ken Day, Editor

Pasadena Chapter By John Minsker

After a terrific coaching session with **Martin Fredstrom**, we competed in Fresno at the District competition, with the goal of raising our presentation scores to the level of our singing and music scores. And we did!

Our newly elected marketing and membership VPs **David Murray** and **Gene Narducy** have some exciting programs in place for... well, marketing and membership.

We're putting together plans for a reunion for our 70th, yes 70th anniversary in 2016!

Rincon Beach Chapter By Ken Day

We added new member **Nathan Almirall** and he passed his auditions the Monday before the FWD Fall Convention and Contest. That makes eight new members this year.

The Pacific Sound Chorus put on four shows, two each on successive weekends, a first for us. We did two shows at the newly renovated Moorpark Theater and two more at the beautiful New Victoria Theater in Santa Barbara. Our headliners were the **Velvet Frogs** and a terrific magician named **Mark Collier**, along with a newly organized Sweet Adeline group named **Carpe Diem** [Santa Barbara shows only]. The script was developed by member **Garth Ratliff** on which a magic frog wanted to sing 4-part harmony.

Then it was concentration on Fall contest preparation.

Santa Barbara Chapter By Eric Feinrich

The Channel City Chorus concludes another year with our annual year-end transformation into the Channel City Holiday Chorus when we welcome non-members to join us just for the Christmas season. This allows members of the community who do not wish to make a full-time commitment to our group to participate for a short time in our community outreach.

We are refocusing our current efforts on improving the quality of our sound as well as our presentation skills with the expectation that these two improvements will be reflected in our performances and, in turn, make us more desirable for men who want to sing.

Santa Fe Springs Chapter By Ron Larson

Shortly after returning from the 2014 Las Vegas International Convention, the **Masters of Harmony** family was deeply saddened to learn that **Doug Maddox** had passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. Doug was the epitome of the maxim "A life well lived," an enormously gifted man who used his many talents and infectious smile to make life better for anyone who came in contact with him. At his standing-room-only service in September, some of the far-reaching appreciation for friendship and work Doug did so willingly to help others was obvious in the glowing tributes offered. The service featured live performances by **Masterpiece**, the **Harborlites Chorus**, and the **Masters of Harmony** plus a taped tribute from **The Vocal Majority**, with whom Doug had won a gold medal before he won eight with the Masters.

The first opportunity for the Masters of Harmony to perform as the Barbershop Harmony Society's 2014 Silver Medalist chorus was in Lake Arrowhead. It was also the first chorus performance without Doug's experienced hands guiding backstage preparations. However, the sylvan setting, perfect southern California summer weather, and a stage setting that put the audience practically at the feet of the first row came together as if Doug's spirit was overseeing it all. Lake Arrowhead resident and Masters stalwart **Arbe Kraft** did much of the legwork for this open-air concert. Most concerts held in this venue have been rock groups appealing to the under-40s set. However, this audience took to the Masters' repertoire, the wacky comedy of **The Velvet Frogs**, and the smooth sounds of **American Pastime** with enthusiasm, and rewarded each group's performance with thunderous applause and long, loud standing ovations.

President **Ron Andreas** continued two traditions he started as ways to honor those who have chosen to make the journey to musical excellence with the Masters of Harmony -- two badge ceremonies and an emeritus ceremony. The badge ceremonies honored new members **Grant Goldstein** and **John Loftus**. The emeritus ceremony recognized **Gene & Wanda Clements**. Gene has been active in barbershop circles since 1967. He was director or assistant director for five choruses and a successful Far Western District administrator. Since joining the Masters in 1987, Gene served in many administrative roles and helped his brothers as a vocal teacher and coach. Gene's wife Wanda was one of the original members of the MOH Sweethearts. Wanda served on many committees, worked the MOH CD tables at shows, and helped with the important task of applying stage makeup. Many thanks to Gene and Wanda, for their years of tireless work on behalf of MOH!

Ron asked his brothers to create a unique gift of community outreach when he asked them to honor the memory of Covina Police Office **Jordan Corder** who was killed in a tragic traffic

collision while in the line of duty. The Masters men recorded a 20-second message of condolence to Jordan's wife followed by singing "Dedication" as our heartfelt tribute to a fallen hero.

On the weekend of October 10-12, barbershoppers from all over the Far Western District gathered in Fresno for the 2014 Fall Convention and to honor the memory of Doug Maddox. On Friday evening at the convention, **Nick Papageorge** presented a Golden Broom in Doug's memory. It will be present at all future district contests, and will be used to sweep the stage as Doug did for many years. In addition, a plaque honoring Doug will be at the podium for all future FWD contests. The Masters of Harmony provided their own tribute to Doug with a moving rendition of "Dedication" and reprised their contest package from Las Vegas to the delight of those who missed a performance that will be talked about for years to come. As for the contest itself, special congratulations go to the men of **The Westminster Chorus** who dazzled the audience as they qualified for the 2015 International Contest in Pittsburgh; to our quartet performers from **American Pastime** (**Graham Pence, Tom Moore, Matt Swann, Joe D'Amore**) for winning the quartet competition; to **Flightline** (**Oscar Sotelo, Daniel Huitt, Cody Littlefield, Kyle Williamson**) for placing second, to **The Velvet Frogs** (**Les Dergan, David Livingston, CJ Sams, Bill Wilson**) who won the Seniors Quartet competition as well as the Lloyd Steinkamp "Standing O" Award.

From the "Celebration of Life" program honoring Doug: "When someone you love becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure." Rest in peace, our beloved brother in harmony.

San Luis Obispo Chapter

By Pete Bennett

We had record attendance for our annual show in June. We shared the stage this year with our SAI sisters, the **Central Coast Celebration Chorus**. We had great songs from the 30s and awesome costumes – we were "Puttin' on the Ritz!" The audience especially loved guest quartet **Ready, Willing and Mabel**.

Chapter quartet **Treble Makers** was featured on the "Sweets and Old Songs" show hosted by our neighbors in Santa Maria, the **Central Coast Chordsmen**.

We thank our retiring director, **Thomas Bourne**, for several years of musical inspiration, and welcome our new director, **Logan Patrick-Miernicki**, past co-director of the Brea Gaslight Chorus. Logan is a home-grown treasure, grandson of our chapter's founder, the late **Don Miernicki**.

Santa Monica Chapter

By Marty Mitnick

Under the chairmanship of **Pierre Debbaudt**, our 2014 Ice Cream Social was again held at the beautiful Palisades Lutheran Church where our president, **Wally Mees**, is pastor.

In addition to the Oceanaires presentations, seven quartets, all comprised of Oceanaires, kept the happy audience smiling: **Sound Stage** [**Tom Laskey, Alan Hanson, Jerry Walker, Bob Curran**]; **The Four Scoops** [**Vance Heron, Gerry Delagene, Bruce Schroffel, Ben Lowe**]; **The School Board** [**Vance Heron, Jack Fry, Bruce Schroffel, David Zasloff**]; **Generation Gap** [**Vance Heron, Bob Heron, Bruce Schroffel, Ben Lowe**]; **Heartfelt** [**Wally Mees, Jim Leedom, Don Tsuchiyama, David Zasloff**]; **Overland Avenue** [**John White, Frank Giffen, Jack Walton, Tim Deal**].

Our very special guest quartet was **Four Octaves** [**Bill Finlan, Les Dergan, Doug Ward, Patrick Lockwood**].

Thank you **Eileen Erickson**, wife of **David Erickson**, and the ladies of our wonderful **S.O.S.** (Supporting Our Singers) support group for your tremendous help in providing door prizes, manning the ticket-sales/will-call table and serving the ice cream to our very appreciative guests.

We honor our BOTMs - May: **Pierre Debbaudt**; June: **Jerry Walker**; July: **Jim Leedom** together with **Vance Heron** and August: **Don Tsuchiyama**.

Under the direction of **Vance Heron**, **The Oceanaires** were honored to sing our National Anthem prior to the soccer match between The Galaxy and the Vancouver White Caps.

We warmly welcome our newest members: **Matt Rolin, Mike Berkowitz** and **Scott Wilson**.

Under the leadership of our talented director **Ben Lowe**, **The Oceanaires** (30 men on the risers), were awarded their highest score ever at the 2014 Fall District competition held in Fresno.

Ventura Chapter

By Ron Lindsay

Our small chapter, despite the battle to gain and retain basses, pulled together sufficient participation to perform on stage and in our booth at the Ventura July 4 Street Fair and on stage at the Ventura County Fair in August. Another major gig in August was the ice cream/pie social at the Ojai Senior Mobile Home Park where President **Jan Tavares** tried to take himself out by slipping on the clubhouse shuffleboard court.

Director **Jim Browne** continues to improve our musicality as we prepare for holiday season performances at the Ventura Olivas Adobe and the Camarillo Ranch House open houses.



Division 2 SE Chapters Dale Vaughn, Editor

Brea Chapter

By Tony Hope

Visit us at: www.gaslightchorus.org

Fullerton Chapter

By Don Derler

The best Harmony For Lunch Bunch gathered to celebrate **Stan French's 98th Birthday** and Giovanni's Pizza was packed full with singers from the **Orange Empire Chorus** and all of our "Barbershop Groupies!" I've never seen so many people in Giovanni's (and I doubt if they have either)! People just kept coming and coming to celebrate the birthday of such a great barbershopper!

Fred Robirds baked one of his big (world-famous?) cakes, but it couldn't hold 98 candles! So Fred put about 12 candles on the cake, lit them and, after making a wish, Stan was able to blow them all out! Then Stan joined the obligatory quartet and was able to belt out some great harmony chords!

The OEC picnic at the Yorba Regional Park was a great way to enjoy one of those "lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer" with fellow barbershoppers, family and friends. One highlight of the picnic was the "random" quartet contest, a tradition at our annual picnic. Eight quartets were formed with many guys pairing up with others they had not sung in a quartet with before. We were given 15-20 minutes to choose and rehearse a song and also decide on a name for our quartet, such as "*The Uncalled Four*," "*The Fab Four*," "*Four Old Parts*," etc. **Mac McDougall** coordinated this fun event, and **Pete Saputo** and many others assisted.

Visit us at: www.oechoorus.org

Inland Empire Chapter

By Thomas Wallis

Inland Empire is now in the preliminary stages of merging with another chapter. After several joint meetings, the two merger committees are hard at work on the logistics involved. We are all excited about the prospects for a bright future for this new venture. The strengths of both chapters will fill in the weaknesses both had and we all look forward to the upcoming contest and convention cycles. If all goes well, we will have the merger completed by January 2015.

Visit us at: www.welovetosong.com

La Jolla Chapter

By Dale Vaughn

With our neighboring SE Division Chapter, **The Las Vegas Silver Statesmen**, hosting the International Convention and Contest this past July, it was rather easy for many PCH members to travel to the competition this year.

We had a fabulous coaching retreat on the weekend of September 12-13 with **Mark Hale**, arranger of our contest ballad *Always*. He is an amazing and talented International Quartet Champion Lead and four-time Gold medal Chorus Champion Director!

Our 23 guys led by Kim went to Fresno for the FWD fall contest and came in a solid 5th place again. Our quartet, **Behind the Barn**, whom we proudly share with the **Sun Harbor Chorus**, came in 12th in the Quartet competition. Many of our guys were active participants in the Harmony Platoon and our Tenor Section Leader **Jim Hilgenberg** sang in the winning quartet.

We welcomed our newest member **Tyler Mitchell**, Bari, into the chorus just in time to compete at District contest in Fresno.

The following men were elected to serve on the PCH Chapter Board for the 2015 term: Past President – **Lou Benedict**; President – **Jerry Kent**; VP Music & Performance – **John Rhodes**; VP Membership – **Brad Roberts**; VP Marketing – **Craig Monsell**; Treasurer – **Jim Schumacher**; Secretary – **Dale Vaughn**; Members at Large – **Tom Fazekas**, **Dave Foti**, **Pete Hensley**.

Director **Kim Vaughn** recently announced her retirement from both **Pacific Coast Harmony** and **The San Diego Chorus** of Sweet Adelines effective in the fall of 2015. This will allow Kim to take her teaching and coaching "on the road" for extended periods of time. Some who have already spoken for her time include Australia, New Zealand, England, Canada, Scotland, Sweden and of course the good ole USA!

And speaking of Director Kim... our special congratulations to her as she is awarded the **Sweet Adelines International Lifetime Achievement Award** in Baltimore during their International Convention in November 2014.

Visit us at: www.pacificcoastharmony.org

Las Vegas Chapter

By Larry Litchfield

FRESNO FWD CONTEST: **The Silver Statesmen Chorus** had 50 men on the risers and a best-ever score of 74.8 -- an all-time high -- ranked sixth, and were named the district's Plateau AA Chorus Champs. We acknowledge director **Jim Halvorson** for his major contributions.

2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS: President – **Albert Weiss**; EVP – **Greg Dreyer**; IPP – **Steve Salmon**; Treas – **Wes White**; Sec – **Ivan Lambert**; VP-Music & Performance – **Larry Halvorson**; VP-

Chapter Development – **Joe Payton**; VP-Communications – **Martin Judd**; and Members-at-Large **Isaac Salmon** and **Bill Lusk**.

NEW MEMBERS: **Abiel Cano, Joseph Silla, Larry Paterson, Stephen Scharren, Charles Cimino, Scott Fewell** (transfer), **Greg Knapp, James Nelson, Derek R. Sexton** and **Jeff Swart** (transfer).

HONOR FLIGHT SOUTHERN NEVADA: Two dozen Silver Statesmen gathered to sing honoring a large group of local WWII veterans preparing to fly to Washington, DC as part of the three-day annual Honor Flight program. Silver Statesman **Joe Payton's** father, **Richard Miller**, was among the local veteran honorees.

KATHLEEN FEENEY REMEMBERED: Many Silver Statesmen choristers gathered in song at the funeral of **Kathleen Feeney**, wife of our own **Peter Feeney**, a long-time Las Vegas barbershopper and Past FWD President.

SILVER NUGGET RECOGNITIONS: These chorus members received the chapter's coveted Silver Nugget medallion: **Albert Weiss, Dallas Halvorson, Gil Cuevas, Kyle Cooper, Joe Payton, Larry Litchfield, Keith Pratt, Phil Sonneman, Phillip Spinks, Greg Dreyer, Fred Green, Dick Morrison, J.D. Massa, Collin Salmon, Isaac Salmon, Roger Buehrer, Jerry Bye, Bill Lusk, John Hulbert, John Lenox** and **Dean Hunt**.

FULL STEAM AHEAD! Membership VP **Larry Halvorson** launched two new and innovative in-house Chapter programs. Information on how they work can be found on our Chapter website at www.silverstatesmen.com/ and click on the **Membership Program** tab.

Visit us at: www.silverstatesmen.com

Orange Quartet Chapter

By Mark Sheldon

Visit us at: www.harmonize.com/orange

Palomar Pacific Chapter

By Keith Bogost

A long-awaited Chapter visitation with the **Temecula Chapter** happened and we got the opportunity to meet and sing with our Barbershop Brothers from our sister city.

Jim Shepherd, former Director of Vocal Music at Mira Costa College, was our guest director in August. Former director **Lucy Cartano** helped us out while current director **Jeff Lehman** was out-of-town during October. A small ensemble of singers performed for the Oceana Senior Retirement Association.

The **Palomar Pacific Chapter**, in collaboration with the Carlsbad-based Museum of Making Music, will be presenting a

6-week Learn to Sing Clinic at the Museum's facilities in February and March of 2015. The Museum is affiliated with the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM). The Clinic, to be offered to men and women who live in North San Diego County communities, will be part of the Museum's 2015 Special Exhibition - *What Music Means to Me*. Dr. **Jim Shepard**, Professor Emeritus and former head of the vocal music department at Mira Costa College, will be the clinician. Our liaison/Program Leader is **Chuck Youde**.

Visit us at: www.musicmenchorus.org

Riverside Chapter

By Gaylord Spence

The **Riverside Chapter** is pleased to announce that our chapter and that of the **Inland Empire Harmony Carousel** will be merging very soon. Our first meeting of both chapters occurred on Tuesday, October 28, 2014 at the Grand Terrace Senior Center. Our intent is to keep the Tuesday meeting date when our merger is complete. We are very excited about the prospect of placing 40+ singers on the risers as it is our ultimate goal to improve our sound.

Visit us at: www.newgangchorus.org

San Diego Chapter

By Craig Hughes

The **San Diego Chapter** held their Annual Fall Show, *Together in Harmony 2014* in our home theater – The Del Prado – in Balboa Park. We shared the stage with **The Pacific Suns** [our Youth Honor Chorus] and **Four Fifteen** [Forbes, Gassman, Gassman, Gilb]. We had 500 folks singing tags by the end of the show and raised \$500 to help send **The Pacific Suns** to New Orleans in January.

We are the proud FWD Plateau A District Champions for 2014. Our experience with the judges and the audience was one of the best ever. The comments were encouraging and the compliments affirm our hard work. **Larry Good** and **James Watkins** made their debut appearance on the District Contest Stage and **Kerm Taylor** (54 year member) made more than we can count.

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

Visit us at: www.sunharbor.org

South Orange County Chapter

By Irv Engel

You can kind of divide our guys into two rough groups: The Alpha males [competition value] and the rest of us [social contact]. Alpha males want to compete against other choruses and to just get better and better at singing and blending our

voices. Because of the efforts of these dedicated men, our chorus has gotten very much better.

And then there are the rest of us who are also here for the social contact with other men and for the sheer fun it is to sing with the guys. If you don't continually keep both sides actively involved and interested, men will just stay home.

So I've introduced the concept of the "chapter" as opposed to the "chorus", and we have come to see them as two separate and distinct entities. The chapter encompasses the social and fraternal aspects of who we are. It fills up our need for getting into relationship with other men. It focuses more on the aspect of fun. It's the chapter where we make our sometimes life-long friendships. For some of us, the chapter is where the "fun" lives.

We've learned that it is important to take care of the health of both sides of our barbershop chorus. The way to make this happen is to make sure our board of directors signs on to the concept I've outlined above. The next thing is to make sure that we are effective by appointing the right men to each main part of our rehearsal. For example, we have a man in charge of the "program." Pick a gregarious guy who loves to see people having fun. Another man handles the "break."

But the thing that drives it all forward on a weekly basis is the guy we picked to be our timekeeper. This has to be a man that understands the importance of his function in making sure that it all goes as planned: the great rehearsals, the socializing and the fun tags and impromptu quartets. He also has to be a man that the other guys will actually listen to.

Visit us at: www.scsound.org

Temecula Chapter

By Bo Josephson

The Wine Valley Harmonizers celebrated their first year of singing under **Mr. Sang Park**, who also directs the choirs of Temecula's Great Oak High School. Sang's capable and enthusiastic direction has given us much-needed music leadership, greatly improved singing, and FUN! Growing in numbers and age-span, at rehearsals we're now singing with 13 to 18 guys ranging in ages from 15 to 87. Our youth members are having a blast and making us all feel younger!

Recently we invited the desk receptionist at our rehearsal location (a former choir student of Sang's, no less) into our meeting room and surprised her with a birthday serenade. We were surprised, in turn, to receive this sweet thank-you card from her: "I was not expecting much for my birthday, just work then a quiet evening with the family. It's a pleasure to listen to you gentlemen sing; thank you for the songs. All of you have made my 24th birthday one to remember." The experience reminded us

all, once again, that we should never underestimate the power of music to touch hearts and lift lives.

Our flagship quartet **Gotta Wear Shades** [**Eric Gedney, Mark Lewis, Nas Kahn, Tim Gedney**], sang the Star-Spangled Banner to open a local *Lake Elsinore Storm* minor-league baseball game. They received many compliments from the fans; it appears that in a time when vocal histrionics all too often diminish performances of our National Anthem, people LIKE to hear it sung clear and strong in the Barbershop style!

Visit us at: www.TemeculaChorus.org



Division 3 NW Chapters John Heather, Editor

Monterey Peninsula

By Sam Kier

After a year on life support, the Monterey Peninsula **Cypressaires** are beginning to show signs of renewal. The chapter held an election with the following results: President – **Alan Mello**, VP for Music and Performance – **Kevin Ludwig**, Secretary/Membership Chair- **Sam Kier**, and Treasurer – **Robb Hasse**. The chapter still lacks a chorus director so each of the 14 active members has been assigned a repertoire song to direct. The group has contracted for a series of holiday gigs at Del Monte Shopping Center in December so they have begun to dust off the Christmas music.

Visit us at www.cypressaires.org

Palo Alto/Mountain View

By David Weatherford

Twenty-seven members of The **Peninsulaires** participated in the Fall Convention and Contest in Fresno this year, with departing director **Steve Sammonds** directing the first number and incoming director **Sean Abel** directing the second. This was **Steve's** "swan song" -- his last official act after 25 years as chorus director. We wish him all the best wherever his talents take him next, and look forward to a long and fruitful season under Sean's capable direction.

It's that time of year again! Join us for the Holiday Chorus as we sing songs of Christmas and Hanukkah. Rehearsals are every Thursday night, 7:30 to 10:30pm, at the First United Methodist Church, 535 Old San Francisco Road, Sunnyvale.

Visit us at www.barbershop-harmony.org

San Francisco

By Charles Feltman

Summer and early autumn our attendance was somewhat reduced. Consequently we could not take any chorus performance opportunities. We did have several opportunities for quartet performances. Except for one gig all these chapter quartets were not previously registered. The chapter practice of random quartet singing for all repertoire allowed us to do this.

We sent a quartet to the *Rebuilding Together SF* Beer Bash fundraiser. Our retired "**Top of the Mark**" quartet reformed for a gig because the quartet was the only local one who knew "Once upon a Time" (required for a wedding). We sent a quartet to UN Plaza for a street fair. We finally found the booking agent who arranges street performances in SF and Oakland. We sang her a few of our songs and now may have chances to perform at future SF street fairs. We sent a quartet to sing at the Wedding Planners event in Berkeley, and another quartet to perform for the "Night Ministry" fundraiser. The church where we rehearse was the sponsor, and they were very thankful for our assistance.

Visit us at www.sfcablecarchorus.org

San Mateo

By Thomas Addison

The **Fault Line A Cappella Chorus** just finished a successful Halloween Cabaret where we hosted 110 guests for a four course chicken dinner, and a concert of 50s and 60s tunes performed by our 20-man chorus. We were fortunate to have as our guests the **Lick Wilberding Waves**, an 8-person a cappella group, who knocked us out with music from the likes of **Coldplay**, and other modern song writers. For the show, a 19-year-old guest from Israel learned all 12 songs and helped our base section which had fallen to only three members.

The chapter elections resulted in two new members joining the board of directors. Both **Peter Mills** and **Don Nichols** join President **Tom Addison**, VP Music **Ed Sterbenc**, Treasurer **Pete Wanger**, and Secretary **Dean Stocker** as new members at large. **Fred Moraga** remains the past president, and **David McCann** is again a member at large, a role he has filled for over 10 years.

Visit us at www.goldenchordsmen.org

Santa Rosa

By Ray Crowder

We continue to be an active quartet chapter here in Santa Rosa. Congratulations to one of our baritones, **James Morgan**, whose quartet, **Pipes**, took 8th place in the fall FWD contest. **Spellbound**, with our tenor **Neal Rogers**, was "mic" tester for the quartet finals. **Singularity** [**Dave Key**, **Shelly Albaum**, **Jeremy Donley**, **Elliott Smeds**] also competed.

Another Santa Rosa quartet **Rare Form** [**Andrew Cook**, **Eldon Guinn**, **Ray Crowder**, **Richard Parry-Jones**] performed at Santa Rosa, Analy, and Maria Carrillo high schools to promote

the Youth Harmony Camp. They also sang at the grand opening of the new Grocery Outlet. For the fourth time this year they were invited to serenade the residents of Vintage Apartments senior complex. **Just One More Song** [**Wayne Hovdesven**, **Lynn "Brit" Britain**, **Dan Schell**, **Mike Stewart**] sang at a local military ceremony, a 70th birthday party, and for the grand opening of Sonoma Marketplace in Petaluma.

Our newest chapter quartet is **Sound Logic** [**Keith Brandt**, **Val Pizzini**, **Clark Smith**, **KELLY Mcconnell**]. They had a successful debut performance at the Presbyterian Church of the Roses. Other chapter quartets **Chordhouse Squares** and **Miles Ahead** are staying busy.

We welcome our newest members, **Randy Lerner**, **Larry Callagher**, and **Eric Callagher**.

Visit us at www.chordsmen.groupanizer.com

SF Bay Cities Quartet

By Jordan Makower

Bill Beck started the month off with a celebration of his 85th birthday, whose family traveled from miles away to be with him. **Steve Gummarsall**, **Dave Laubscher**, **Sieg Yoder**, and **Dave Tutelman** formed a 'pick-up quartet' and sang a few BarberPole Cat Songs. We had a 'community sing' in which wives and significant others joined us in harmonizing.

Some of our meeting time was devoted to revising and preparing chapter documents for consideration by BHS, and papers were properly completed and submitted, a notice of coming elections was sent to all members.

During our meetings at Harry's Hofbrau in San Jose, we frequently get asked by the patrons to sing for the families gathered there for anniversaries and birthdays; it is always appreciated by the groups and the management.

Visit us at www.sfbayquartets.org

Walnut Creek

By Dwight Lang

The input for Devil Mountain Chorus will be brief as I am in Australia.

The **Devil Mountain Chorus** continues to grow and has a number of activities over the last quarter. **Chris Hebert** provided a tremendous special training session for the entire DMC. The DMC participated in the Walnut Creek Heritage Days Centennial Celebration, and put on its annual show, presenting a matinee and a cabaret show that were both well attended and very well received.

Visit us at www.devilmountainchorus.org



Division 4 NE Chapters
Roger Perkins, Editor

California Delta Chapter
By Larry Callagher

William Jessup University in Rocklin CA held a major fundraising event in Gala to honor its 75th anniversary. As entertainment for the event our own **High Point** quartet performed a 45-minute set with **Greg Schreve** who flew in specially from New Orleans where he now lives to participate in the event. He joined **David** and **Wayne Knight** and **Ollie Brillhante** for this major event.

The chorus competed in the FWD Chorus competition in Fresno finishing fourth. A "Swan Song" for our fishing set, it was a melancholy event in that 'I Will Go Fishing No More'. Congratulations to VoCal quartets **Pipes [Bruce Morgan, Jeff Aldridge, Noah Morrison, James Morgan]** for their 8th place finish, and **Top Cats [Eric Brickson, Tim Huntziger, Allen LeVezu, Bruce Sellnow]** who finished 10th. Also competing from VoCal was **Classic Edition [Jim Dechaine, Paul Goldsmith, Richard Thomas, Richard Kaiser]**. Congratulations to **American Pastime** and **Westminster**, our new quartet and chorus champions!

The Artful Codgers [Blair Reynolds, Dan Wilson, Steve Bernstein, Shel Givens] quartet was presented the FWD Super Senior Trophy for its first place finish.

Central California Chapter
By Miles Sutter

The 2nd annual all-day A Cappella Youth Festival Workshop took place and any male or female high school student was encouraged to register for free. The event was sponsored by the **Golden Valley Chorus**, the **Barbershop Harmony Society Foundation**, and the **River Lights Chorus (SAI)**. The performance was open to parents and the public. Both teaching quartets performed also. The teaching quartet for the male students was the **New Fangled Four**, the 2013 Gold Medal in Collegiate Competition and 2013 FWD champs. The teaching quartet for the female students was **Hearsay**, Region 12 Sweet Adeline's medalists. Each group of students sang two new songs and the male and female ensemble sang *Lida Rose* in 8-part harmony. The chorus directors for the day were **Adam Serpa**, the Ripon High School choral director, and **Shirley Kaut**, River Lights Chorus director. Special thanks to **PHIL LUSTRI** and **JUAN QUIJANO** for handling the all-day registration. **MARK JANTZEN** was responsible for the whole show.

The **GVC** sang at high school harmony camp and performed with **Artistic License**, and **River Lights Chorus**, under the direction of **Shirley Kaut**. A special treat was the appearance of

Mr. Harold Hill (**Howard Barber**), direct from River City, Iowa, with the **Music Man** songs. We had a special presentation, A Veteran's Day Salute with Honor Guard.

The **GVC** sang at the Elks R.V. Park with **Howard Barber** directing. **Herb Andrew** was the MC for the evening. **Four For the Road** also entertained.

Folsom Chapter
By Dennis Stohl

Our Chorus sang for the Eskaton Village retirement home in our western wear and sang cowboy songs. **Roger Perkins** performed rope spinning tricks and **Jerry Baldwin** accompanied the chorus on "Cool Water" with his guitar. The Chorus also sang at the Atria El Camino Gardens Retirement home, and the "Barbershop Cowboy Singers" once again wowed the crowd with our familiar old western songs.

Our "Wives Appreciation" dinner was a great success.

The **FHX** annual recital entitled *There's No Place Like Home* was held. Chorus Director **Kent Borrowdale** sang a solo on the second verse of *My Old Kentucky Home* while **Roger Perkins** directed the chorus. Roger also sang a solo on *Wagon Wheels* and did his rope spinning for *Don't Fence Me In*. Featured quartets were **B-BLT (Roger Santiago, Kent Borrowdale, Ken Potter, Stan Trumbull)**, and FWD Senior Quartet champs **The Artful Codgers (Shel Givens, Steve Bernstein, Dan Wilson, Blair Reynolds)**. Singing a solo on *Over the Rainbow* was **Jan Vecchio**, who has also played Marion, the Librarian with B-BLT.

Nevada Placer Chapter
By Roger Perkins

The **Sierranaders** performed at the Nevada County Fair for the 25th time. The **Nameless Four (Tom Klasey, Roger Perkins, Ken Potter, Hersh Roby)** sang two songs during the first set. An hour later we played the game of selecting a member of the audience to try to sing a song with us. We asked **Kent Borrowdale**, chorus director of the **Folsom Harmony Express**, to sing a couple of songs with us. After the first few measures the audience knew that we had picked a shill when he knew lead on both songs very well. The 20th annual Quartet Contest was held and the MC was **Roger Perkins** for the 15th time. In third place was the S.A. quartet, **Vibrance**. Coming in second was a new quartet from Grass Valley, **Consolation**, and winning the contest for the third time was **Gesundheit! (Denny Strub, Norm Roberts, Al Salazar, Ron Halvorson)** from Chico.

Visit us at: www.sierranaders.org

Reno Chapter
By Steve Shurtliff

We moved our spring show to the end of summer and made some large-scale changes. Instead of strictly Barbershop, we took a much larger venue (Bartley Ranch, an outdoor amphitheater which holds roughly 700 to 800 people), and put on a variety show with several entertainers. **Cami Thompson**, a prominent vocalist, headlined. She was joined by singer-songwriter **Colin Ross**, **Cindy Sabattini**, and a local bluegrass band **Westwind**. We also had two high school choirs, **Bela Voce** (a ladies chorus) and **High Desert Harmony**, the Reno Sweet Adeline chorus. The **Silver Dollar Chorus** performed several numbers, along with **Unanimous**, who won the Division quartet contest this year. The show, entitled *Reno Sings Under the Stars*, was a resounding success. Our Marketing Director **Pete Martens** (a recent BOTY) was show chairman. We raised several thousand dollars for local charities. Most prominent was the Jessica Ann Faber Foundation. Jessica was a talented young girl who was taught by our director **Bill Weiser** from the age of four until her untimely death at 18. Her mother wanted to find a way to raise money to help underprivileged yet talented youngsters have opportunities to receive quality coaching and develop their craft. She and Bill's desire to help was the impetus for this show, and it blossomed into a wonderful event.

New tenor **Ken Martin** competed at International with the Music City Chorus and now works in Nevada. He is featured quite prominently in the 2012 DVD. We heartily welcome **Ken** and experienced Barbershopper **Brent Boardman**.

Sacramento Chapter

By Joe Samora

The **Capitolaires** moved their Chapter meeting site in October to Christ Community Church, 5025 Manzanita Avenue, Carmichael. This location is centrally located for the membership and the rent is lower.

The latest good news is *The CAPs* which **Robert Duplantier**, Marketing VP, originated because we lacked quartets to sing for community events and private parties. *The CAPs* is a VLQ (Very Large Quartet) which includes 4 to 12 men who sing for paid or community performances. Seventeen men are active in *The CAPs*. Quartet training is provided by Director **Ray Rhymer** twice a month. Ray also conducts directors' classes for those with a passion for directing the chorus. President **Steve Allison** directs *The CAPs*. During the past two months *The CAPs* have sung for two memorial services, two birthday celebrations and two community events which included a Celebration of Life for Sacramento's beloved zoo director who passed away suddenly of a heart attack in September. *The CAPs* were hired to sing in the zoo before and after the program.

"Brews & Boos" is held annually in Citrus Heights and hosted by the Capitol Pops Concert Band. This is the third year the **Capitolaires** were invited to sing. It is a celebration of

Octoberfest and Halloween and attracts 300 people who enjoy German Food, singing and dancing. Costumes are optional.

Stockton Chapter

By Raphael Pazo, Jr.

The **Portsmen** completed their summer performances at Stockton's *Music in the Park* in Victory Park (singing during the featured band's break). These once monthly spots give us the opportunity to sing for a wide variety of music lovers. We sang at the Fox Theater before the showing of *Paint Your Wagon* with the Chorus in Western attire.

The Chapter's annual picnic was held at the Oak Grove Regional Park. It was in conflict with the **Youth Harmony Camp**, so was lightly attended.

The 60th Chapter Show *Remember When?* featured our sisters in harmony, the Stockton **Delta Harmony Xpress**, **Fresco!**, **Momen-to!**; our own quartets **Tune Struck** and **All in A-Chord**, and our special guests **The Front Line**.

The Chorus sang the National Anthem for the **Stockton Thunder's** opening home game down on the ice. The chorus must have done a good job of rousing the team, as they won decidedly 4-2.

Visalia Chapter

By Bud Case

The **MOC** joined forces with the Fresno **GNC** to perform on each other's shows. This was a fine example of chapters helping make better sound together. It was so much fun singing with a larger group we plan to do it again in our spring 2015 shows.

A Spaghetti Feed that along with the September Yard sale netted the MOC operating funds and provided performance opportunities - a whole lot of work but also a lot of fun too.

The exciting thing that has happened over the last six or so months is that four of the dozen+ guests that have come to check us out have decided to make barbershopping a part of their lives and joined! Welcome to the MOC **Jacob Barber**, **Denny Hoskins**, **Michael Ocampo** and **Randy Roulett**. A couple others have indicated that they too will join us as they are regular attendees now.



Division 5 AZ Chapters
Frank Ortega, Editor

Greater Phoenix Chapter

By Bob Szabo

The **Spirit of Phoenix** (SOP), ranked #22 entering this year's International Chorus

Contest in Las Vegas, finished in 16th place, even with a 30-point penalty for our “drum sticks.” If one were to add those points back in, we could have finished in 12th or 13th place. It was a fantastic shot, and kudos go to our Music Team, our coaches **Erin Howden** and **Brent Graham**, and our director **Gary Steinkamp**!

Regretfully, due to relocating to Chico, CA in June, our longtime member and chorus stalwart **Gordon (Mongo) Bergthold** enjoyed his last time on the international stage singing with the SOP. Mongo will always be that “special friend” that this hobby creates.

The SOP had additional summer coaching sessions with Brent Graham and another new coach **Theresa Weatherbee**. SOP members held their fall retreat and our competent Music Committee continued to generate new levels of singing in preparation for the Far Western District Contest. Several quartets also competed and represented the Greater Phoenix Chapter: **High Priority**, **Heatwave**, **Arizona Chord Company**, **Frequency**, **Carefree Highway**, **Vocal Edition**, and **Speakeasy**.

The chapter elected officers for the 2015 Board of Directors as follows: President - **Bob Upham**; Immediate Past President - **Terry Aramian**; Treasurer - **Roy Gross**; Secretary - **Bo Larson**; Music VP - **Mark Spriggs**; Membership - **Ryan Malikowski**; Program VP - **Don Koehnlein**; Marketing & PR VP **Bob Sampson**; and Members-at-Large **Bob Gray**, **Greg Dodge** and **Bob Szabo**.

As SOP membership continues to grow, we’re proud of several new members who sang with us in Las Vegas: **Elliot Liles**, “**Scotty**” **Scott**, **Eric Jeide**, **Ryan Malikowski**, **Ben Mertens**, **Matt Marino**, **Wes Stahler**, **Huntington Keith** and **Glenn Partridge**. Liles was named BOTM.

Mesa Chapter

By Rich Carey

A chapter’s new quartet was mentioned in the last *Westunes* article, but not identified individually. **Quadratic Audio** consists of **Duncan Scott**, **Greg Grace**, **Robert Pennell**, and **Thom Olmstead**. This foursome continues to improve with the help of their coach, **Russ Young**. Russ also directed the **Mesa Lamplighters** in August and September due to **Dick Naas**’ summer absence.

Bob Shaffer hosted the webcast for the 2014 Las Vegas International Contest and Convention in his home for the members. **The Lamplighters** were represented by a VLQ and two quartets that sang in The Parade of Quartets at the annual Fred Koch Memorial Bash. The quartets were: **Mostly Vintage** (**Jim Brown**, **Jim McClelland**, **Rich Carey**, **Roger Morrow**) and **Back Spin** (**Bob Shaffer**, **Jerry Fox**, **Andy Harry**, **Dale Weatherford**). Carey was in the winning quartet of the “Luck of the Draw” Quartet Contest.

We welcome two new members to the chorus—**Thomas Burns** and **Collin McKinney**, a dual member with the Greater Phoenix Chapter. We added two new groups to our cadre of chapter quartets: **The Other Guys** (**Rich Carey**, **Bernie Esberner**, **Charlie Nardin**, **Ray Kahler**) and **Looney Tunes** (**Ray Stasko**, **Rich Carey**, **Dick Naas**, **Dale Weatherford**). We now have six active quartets.

Prescott Chapter

By Sam Stimple

The **High Mountain Chordsmen** and the **Song of the Pines** Sweet Adelines chorus continue to host the monthly Harmony for Lunch Bunch at the Golden Corral restaurant on Highway 69 in Prescott. We meet every 4th Friday at 11:00 AM. HMC members recently gathered at the home of former barbershopper **Bob Fitzgerald** for an informal sing-along and refreshments. Even though seriously ill, no one was having more fun than Bob.

The chapter extends its thanks to the Yavapai County Community Foundation for a generous grant to help with our upcoming “Real Men Sing” youth workshop. We presented a check to **Lynn Grubb** at the Joy of Giving Philanthropic Awards Luncheon, and chapter quartet **Antique Parts** sang.

The chorus performed at the Healing Field Memorial honoring the lives lost in New York City, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, PA during 9/11. Over 3,000 American flags on an acre of ground at Prescott Valley Civic Center inspired the crowd and the performers.

Antique Parts performed during the summer months at various venues including worship services, radio/TV stations, high school music classes, community dinners, care centers, real estate open houses, birthday parties, and the Highland Center for Natural History.

SilverSounds (**Dale Kanagy**, **Dick Patton**, **Lynn Grubb**, and **Ed Wolfe**) has regrouped and is eager to sing.

Sedona Chapter

By Michael McCaffrey

“We need more lives touched by music to help us touch more lives with music, because lives touched by music are better lives.” (The Harmonizer, March/April 2014) Our activities over the past three months were in direct support of that quote.

Awareness for the **Harmony on the Rocks** chorus is being enhanced by regular articles written for the *Red Rock News*.

We have instituted a free, monthly mini-concert series where we extend an invitation to the general public to attend one of our rehearsals and get treated to six or seven tunes from our repertoire.

We contributed to the unveiling ceremony of “Cornerstones of Freedom” at Jameson Park, where a sculpture by James N. Muir was installed.

We welcomed three new members into the **Harmony on the Rocks** family: **Bryan Hubble**, **Ron Burkey**, and **Ed Perry**.

Sun Cities Chapter

By Stuart Leck

Long-time barbershopper **Joe Salz** donated a suitcase of super-salesman trophies to the **Sun Cities Chapter** to facilitate pick-up quartet awards . . . for fun! As a result, a Polecat Pick-up Quartet Program is in full swing. Each month is dedicated to relearning one of the Polecat songs as a lead-up to the last meeting of the month, when many quartets can volunteer to take a shot at taking home the traveling trophy that circulates from one home to another.

The Sun Cities **Pro Bono Boys** chalked up their sixth concert for the BeneVilla Memory Care Centers of Sun City. Audiences are made up of a dozen or so clients plus their caregivers and staff. The quartet features a 90-year-old bass and an 89-year-old baritone, and is rounded out by two 81-year-old whippersnappers.

There being no schools in Sun City, the chapter’s VLQ named themselves **The Sun City School Board** and sang *Back In The Saddle Again* at the Sundial Auditorium in Sun City.

Tucson Chapter

By Dave Tompkins

The Tucson Sunshine Chapter, in conjunction with the Desert Harmony Chapter of Sweet Adelines, hosted our 9th Annual Youth in Harmony Festival for 200 participants. Thanks to **Ron** and **Annie Hayes** who organized the volunteers from each chapter. This was a great opportunity to reach out to music educators and students in the Tucson area.

We welcomed **Spence Howell**, a transfer from Savannah, Georgia, and elected new officers for 2015. Elected by acclamation were President - **David Updegraff**, Immediate Past President - **Frank Hartline**, VP Music/Performance - **Lucas Snyder**, VP Chapter Development/Membership - **Tony Spar**, VP Marketing/PR - **Wes Krauss**, Secretary - **Dave Tompkins**, Treasurer - **Jim Rapp**, Members-at-Large - **Dick Mueser** and **John Devitt**.

Regretfully, our director, **Dayle Ann Cook**, needs more time for her personal life and submitted her resignation effective the end of November. A search for a new director is underway.

White Mountain Chapter

By Rich Hall

The White Mountain **High Country Chorus** (HCC) is enjoying the seasonal transition. Many of our members have moved from our high elevations to lower (and warmer) climates for the winter.

We suffered the loss of our VP-PR/Marketing **Dan Lewis** in August and were honored to participate in his memorial service.

HCC and several other musical and talented groups in the area participated in a fundraising concert for the local Meals On Wheels program. The local power company, **Navopache Electric Coop**, invited the chorus to sing at their annual meeting.

We did our annual road cleanup in October, followed by a rousing party at the home of our director emeritus, **Doc Dockendorf**.

Notices

2015 Conventions, Contests & LA/HCW

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, 2015 International and FWD Convention/Contest, and LA/HCW dates are:

Jan 4 - 10, 2015 International MidWinter Convention
New Orleans, LA

Jan 23 - 25, 2015 Leadership Academy and Harmony College West are combined this year
Henderson, NV [Suburb of Las Vegas]

Mar 19 - 21, 2015 FWD Spring Convention
Sacramento, CA
Contests include International Preliminary Quartet, NE & NW Division Quartet & Chorus including Senior and Super Senior Quartets

May 9, 2015 SE & SW Combined Division Contests
Santa Monica, CA

AZ Division Contest TBD

Jun 28 - July 5, 2015 International Convention
Pittsburgh, PA

Oct 15 - 18, 2015 FWD Fall Convention
Mesa, AZ
Contests include FWD Fall Final Quartet, FWD Fall
Final Chorus, FWD Fall Final Senior Quartet

Calendar

The FWD Website now contains the official FWD
calendar - go to <http://farwesterndistrict.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 Mountains Chapter, Show Low, AZ
Located in the beautiful White Mountains of
Arizona, the High Country Chorus is looking for a
front line Director. A great place to live, or retire,
and share your barbershop knowledge with us. If
interested contact our President, Jerry Schrunck at
(602) 617-6139 or jerry@jschrunck.com. Visit our
website at www.wmhcbc.com.

Tucson Sunshine Chapter, Tucson
The Tucson Sunshine Chapter of the Barbershop
Harmony Society is looking for an experienced,
year-round, frontline director. Applicants of either
gender are invited to apply. Being a barbershopper
is preferred, but not required.

Ability to work in a bottom-up environment as a
crucial member of the chapter's Music Leadership
Team is a must, as is the ability to plan ahead in
both the short and long terms.

Benefits include paid membership in the
Barbershop Harmony Society as a member or
associate member and opportunities for paid
education through the Society.

If you're interested, please contact [Jim Rapp](#),
Tucson Sunshine Chapter President

To Email Your District Officers & Chairmen

president@farwesterndistrict.org
pastpresident@farwesterndistrict.org
evp@farwesterndistrict.org
secretary@farwesterndistrict.org
treasurer@farwesterndistrict.org
vpdiv1@farwesterndistrict.org
vpdiv2@farwesterndistrict.org
vpdiv3@farwesterndistrict.org
vpdiv4@farwesterndistrict.org
vpdiv5@farwesterndistrict.org

candj@farwesterndistrict.org
cdd@farwesterndistrict.org
cslt@farwesterndistrict.org
events@farwesterndistrict.org
marketing@farwesterndistrict.org
membership@farwesterndistrict.org
musicanperf@farwesterndistrict.org
quartetactivities@farwesterndistrict.org
yih@farwesterndistrict.org

webmaster@farwesterndistrict.org
westuneseditor@farwesterndistrict.org

2015 Spring Convention Registration



FAR WESTERN DISTRICT 2015 SPRING CONVENTION



Contests and Show

International Quartet Preliminaries
NE and NW Division Choruses
NE and NW Division Quartets
District High School Quartets
Show of Champions

HOSTED BY THE

CALIFORNIA DELTA CHAPTER

Voices of California

MARCH 19-21, 2015

McClellan Conference Center • 5411 Luce Ave
North Highlands, California

Meetings and Events

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

REGISTRATION PRICES				SINGLE EVENT TICKETS	HOTEL INFORMATION
ALL CONTESTANTS MUST BUY AN ALL-EVENTS REGISTRATION FOR THE APPLICABLE AGE GROUP					
ALL-EVENTS REGISTRATIONS					
AGE GROUP	EARLY-BIRD Postmarked by Feb 19	REGULAR Feb 20-Mar 16	ON SITE		
Adult	\$50.00	\$65.00	\$70.00	\$25.00	Lions Gate Hotel and Conference Center 3410 Westover Street McClellan, CA 95652 (916) 643-6222 Rate: \$95+ per night, bkfst incl. Promo Code "Barbershopper" Must Reserve by February 19
Young Adult (under 26)	\$25.00	\$32.50	\$35.00	\$12.50	
Non-Member Child (under 13)	Free	Free	Free	Free	

You may order your All-Events Registrations online. Go to events.farwesterndistrict.org

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT 2015 SPRING CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM			Contestant	Non-Member	Tenor	Lead	Baritone	Bass	Young Adult	Non-Member Child	VIP Seating *	Amount Due
First Name	Last Name	"Badge" Name (BIG)										
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Please make your check payable to: Voices of California			Total Enclosed: 									
Address: _____			<p>* Members eligible for VIP Seating include District/Society Officers (past & present), Hall of Fame, Judges, Chapter Delegates (HCO), AFWDC/AIC Members and their guests.</p>									
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____												
Email: _____ Phone: _____												
Competing with: _____												

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

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

Blair Reynolds, 4305 Winding Woods Way, Fair Oaks, CA 95628-6408

Credit Card Orders: Please register online at events.farwesterndistrict.org

Questions? Call (916) 572-1686 or e-mail springconvention2015@farwesterndistrict.org