



Winter 2015 Volume 65 Number 4

WESTUNES



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



2015 FWD Quartet Champion Flightline



2015 FWD Chorus Champion The Masters of Harmony

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Notice: If you wish to submit an article for publication,
the deadlines are: Feb 1, May1, Aug 1, Nov 1

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

FWD Sunshine Chairman

FWD Sunshine Chairman Les Cudworth

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FWD Quartet and Chorus Results from Mesa, AZ cont'd



2 Suit Up!

3 Harmony Lane



4 Whoop 'Em Up

5 High Priority



6 Branigan

7 Dynamix

8 Conchordance



9 The Front Line

10 Behind The Barn

11 Blood, Sweat, and Tears



12 ForTune Seekers

13 Four Fifteen

14 Batteries Not Included



Note: SR means Senior Quartet Contest



2 Bay Area



3 Greater Phoenix



4 California Delta



5 La Jolla



6 Las Vegas



7 Brea



8 Rincon Beach



9 Inland Empire



10 Santa Monica



11 Fullerton



12 Tucson



13 Palo Alto - Mountain View



14 Fresno



15 San Diego



16 Temecula

HARMONY COLLEGE WEST & LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



January 8 - 10, 2016
FEATURING:



Instruction for:

President - Secretary - Treasurer - Membership - Marketing
Music & Performance - Directing - Arranging
Coaching: Individual - Quartet - Chorus
Vocal Techniques & Ringing Chords

*Sunset Station Hotel & Casino
Henderson (Las Vegas), Nevada*

Registration (Room & Meals not included):

Early Bird - \$50 (to 10/25/15)
Standard - \$65 (10/26/15 to 12/6/15)
Last Minute - \$80 (12/7/15 to 1/8/16)

Buffet (with free players card):

Breakfast - \$6.49
Lunch - \$7.99
Dinner - \$9.99

(Other Dining Options Available)

Hotel: \$92 per night plus resort fees & tax - FWD special thru 12/7/2015
(Two Queen beds or a King bed - same price)

Online Registration - events.farwesterndistrict.org

Bring the whole Chorus for a Chapter Changing Event!



The Dream is Carried on....to Nashville!

By Ron Larson
Santa Fe Springs Chapter

Thirty years ago, a small group of barbershop singers decided to pursue their vision of musical excellence by forming a new chapter, one where they could push the envelope of excellence as far as it would go. Thanks to invaluable help from **Lloyd Steinkamp** and then Far Western District President **Sam Barger**, the group, chartered as the Foothill Cities Chapter in October 1985, chose **Masters of Harmony** as the chorus name that best reflected their mission statement, “Dedicated to Musical Excellence.”

What those men launched was an organization that went beyond the wildest dreams of anyone except their own. Thirty years later, the chapter, renamed the Santa Fe Springs Chapter in 1999, attributes its success to rigorous and consistent pursuit of the mission. Masters of Harmony Hall of Famer **Bill Roth** compiled the following points as evidence:

- Ten international chorus medals, including eight consecutive gold medals, a silver and a bronze
- Twenty members who are international quartet champions and innumerable Far Western District quartet champs
- Nine members who are collegiate quartet champions
- Three quartets that became international champions while also competing with the MOH
- Host of numerous Barbershop Harmony Society conventions
- Five members who direct other choruses
- Several past Far Western District presidents
- Nine current certified Society judges, including three contest administrators
- Pioneer of the highly successful Young Men In Harmony program
- Presenter of the first-ever Master Class by a returning championship chorus at an international convention

These are achievements of an organization that not only accomplishes much but also gives back much to the Society that nurtures it.

There was no better way to celebrate these life-changing years than by throwing a big party! The chapter held its “30th Anniversary Homecoming Gala” in September at Lakewood’s The Centre at Sycamore Plaza. Fifty inactive and former members to renew old friendships, and new members were privileged to meet those who helped build the Masters of Harmony legacy. Besides a wonderful dinner, then chorus performed and over 300 guests enjoyed selections from legendary Masters quartets **The Crush, Masterpiece, OC Times** and **Nightlife**. A video of “Memorable MOH-ments” brought back precious memories of people and performances. In the finale, everyone who could remember commingled on the risers to sing our first opener, *Let A Smile Be Your Umbrella*, and the number that is still the highest-scoring song in Masters’ history, *Love Me, And The World Is Mine*. Three members who played major roles in creating and sustaining the ongoing Masters legacy were inducted into the Masters of Harmony Hall of Fame – **Paul Laemmle, Rob Menaker** and **Brett Littlefield**.

If a song truly reflects the ongoing pursuit of excellence set in motion by the founding members, it is **Jay Giallombardo's** *The Dream Is Carried On* (Reach for your dreams, strive from your heart...) Sometimes excellence is achieved only to be surpassed by an even greater performance by a noteworthy competitor, this time by the legendary **Vocal Majority** at the 2014 International Chorus Contest in Las Vegas.

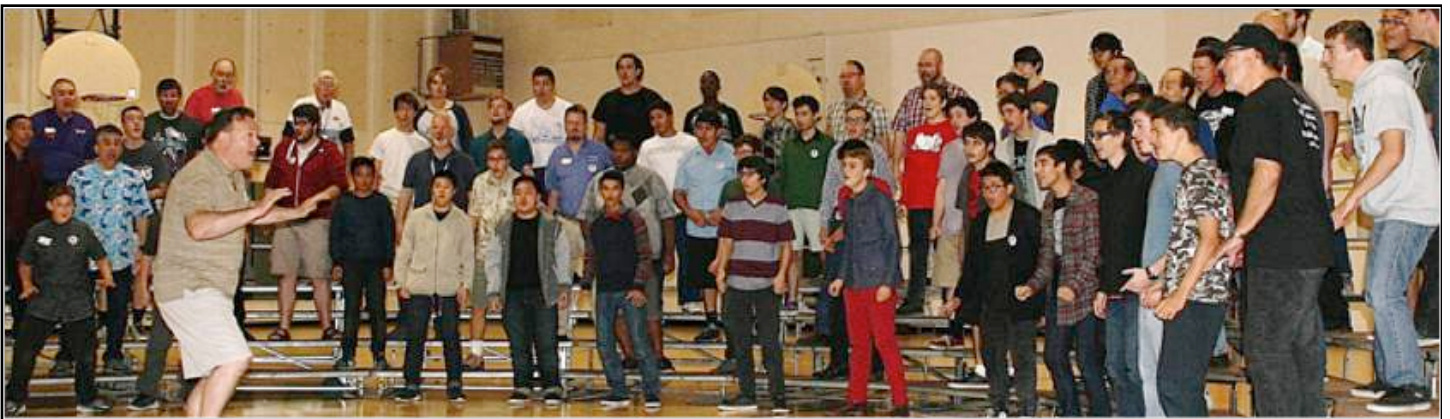
The Masters of Harmony won the Far Western District Chorus Contest in Mesa, Arizona, in October with a score of 92.1 percent. Kudos also go to the 2015 FWD Quartet Champion **Flightline** (**Oscar Sotelo, Daniel Huitt, Cody Littlefield, Kyle Williamson**) and 2015 FWD Seniors Quartet Champion **Blood, Sweat, and Years** (**Bob Cathaway, Les Weiser**). Chapter President **Ron Andreas** noted that the Masters have produced 28 FWD quartet champions. Now it's on to Nashville in 2016.

The following officers were elected to lead the chapter in 2016: President–**Rob Menaker**; Secretary–**Maurice Freleaux**; Treasurer–**Ed Churchill**; VP Chapter Development–**Jackson Niebrugge**; VP Marketing–**John Loftus**; VP Music & Performance–**Patrick Haedtler**; VP Operations–**Tom Christman**; VP Public Relations–**Michael Van Schoonhoven**; Board Members-at-Large–**Charles Carothers, Leonard Jensen, Jason Remley, Ed Schackman, Walter Tang** and **Dave Tautkus**.

With sadness, the Masters notes the passing of former member **Chris Wilson**, winner of two chorus gold medals with us.

Since the last issue of *Westunes*, the chapter welcomed **Ben Boughton, Cole Dawson, Bart Halberstadt** and **Adam Marangakis** into membership.

2015 FWD Harmony Camp Report



Harmony Camp - 2015

Your support of Harmony Camp is “priceless”. What your financial support provides for these young men is beyond anything that can be described in words. The huge smile that appears on a young man’s face at 11:45 in the evening right at the end of tag singing is an amazing sight to behold as he has just heard a chord ringing in his ears for the fifteenth time that evening. You know that he is “hooked on barbershop” at that point, and you have a deeply satisfied feeling in your soul.

But it happened because of YOUR Support. THANK YOU!

The young man doesn’t know you or why you chose to do this for him. Nor does he have a clue that you are the reason for his “joy”. He only knows that he has heard the “angels sing”, as in ringing chords, and he wants more of it.

Harmony Camp 2015 was an amazing experience. Our numbers were down, 59 boys from 23 high schools plus 8 college men; but these boys sang their hearts out and even caused our Dean, Gabe Caretto, to call this group the “best ever”; something that he has never done in all his years on our faculty. It was a “best ever” group of boys. They were extremely well behaved, and totally interested in singing and learning to sing chords in the barbershop style. It was a Camp to remember.



After Hours

Especially after last year’s cancellation, and this year’s worrisome Butte fire down near San Andreas and Murphy’s, this year’s Camp was an extremely welcome event. We had After Hours as our headliner quartet; and they performed beautifully for the boys and with the boys. Brannigan was our second quartet and they worked with the boys tirelessly. I can’t wait to see Brannigan perform in Mesa. They will do Well, based on what I heard at Camp.

Our clinicians were superb!! Gabe teaching and directing Lucky Charm had the boys worrying about some pretty sophisticated chord sequences; Jim Halvorson teaching and directing Hallelujah, the Michael Cohen song from Shrek II; Ron Black did a spectacular job with The Lion Sleeps Tonight using Mike Cating as his choreographer to provide a phenomenal experience for the boys; and finally Don Rose teaching and directing When I Lift Up My Head.



Branigan



The song selection by the clinicians was particularly good this year, and the boys took to the songs and sang them Very well . All in all, the preparation by the boys, and the quality of singing was well above average, and to the point that by the Saturday evening general session the clinicians were teaching some real artistry for the songs rather than working on words and notes.

The Lion “Sleeps” Tonight

One Very important item to include is a Great Big Thank You to all of the Staff, the Clinicians, the Music guys, and the Volunteers. Without these guys, Harmony Camp simply could not happen. They provide the teaching, the structure and all of the support for “making it happen”. Thank You, Guys!!

Along those lines, one of the new classes that was introduced by Jim Halvorson was Woodshedding! What an amazing success. The boys Loved it! And the harmony concepts that are inherent with woodshedding were successfully woven into the afternoon session. Congratulations Jim!

In a very real sense this is the kind of experience that your dollars provide. Learning and singing the songs from four outstanding clinicians, the classes, making new friends, and the tag singing that these boys experience over these three short days of Harmony Camp stay with them for years. We have many boys who have now graduated from college and are singing with chapters everywhere from New England to California. And it was your support that was key in making all of this happen.

Ok, on to 2016; we already have many of our plans for next year. The dates are September 16-18, 2016 with quartets Forefront and Newfangled Four! This is a real “push” for a High level “draw” for boys, and it will require a continued significant level of support

Thank you all.

Richard Lund, Director
FWD Youth Harmony Camp

Please consider the Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund in your will and estate plan.



Rehearsal Time with Donny Rose, BHS



Happiness is ...



Quartet Coaching with Gabe Caretto, VoCal



High School Teachers Discover Barbershop

Camp photographs by Dan Warschauer, danwarsch@hotmail.com

Leadership Articles



***District President
Allan Webb***

As the old joke says, "Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana."

I have come to the end of my last term as FWD President, something which has seemed to happen incredibly quickly. In the last two years, we've done much to put various technical, procedural, and operational solutions in place which will carry us forward. The revamped District website, online convention registration system, communication tools, etc, which David Melville has been so ably implementing, will continue to be central to our operations. Ray Rhymer is still the champion and chief cat herder for the online version of the Westunes as well. I'd like to thank both of these men for their continued service to the Far Western District.

We've also implemented the Far Western District Outreach Endowment Fund, managed by Harmony Foundation, in order to formalize a District-level endowment fund and implement grant writing capability to supplement the HF grant process. Over the next five years, I expect that fund to grow to the point where the investment income and ongoing donations to the fund (through both direct donations as well as the HF Donor Choice program), will allow us to write in excess of \$5000 in Outreach grants. If you are an HF donor, please consider directing some or all of the Donor Choice 30% to the Far Western District Outreach Endowment Fund.

Most recently, the HOD voted to accept the BOD's recommendation for the Events Chairman and his Events Team owns the long-term convention contracting process, so that we can take advantage of both, better pricing and a wider array of appropriate performance venues over a multi-year horizon. Bryan Forbes has already started communicating to Chapters on that topic, and you can expect more info as we start pushing that horizon out over the coming months.

Much of my strategic focus over the last two years has revolved around putting these and other programs and procedures in place, in order to provide foundations upon which we can better serve our Chapters and help them grow. At the end of the day, though, it is at the Chapter level where the rubber meets the road. You, your other Chapter members, and your Chapter BOD are ultimately in control of your own destiny. You determine what your Chapter's musical and fraternal priorities are, and how you implement them.

While the District has budget and expertise available to help (through various coaching reimbursement programs, Harmony College West/Leadership Academy, Director scholarships, etc), the impact of all of that pales in comparison to the Chapter's weekly execution of its Chapter meeting. You are in control of creating a musical and fraternal experience which is compelling enough to attract and retain members (or not). Hold yourself, your Chapter BOD, and your other members to a higher standard, and we can turn around our decades-long membership decline.

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as Far Western District President the last two years, and I have every confidence in Mongo's ability as the incoming President (and Craig's ability as incoming EVP). I expect you'll be hearing a lot from both of them, (probably even more than you've heard from me). I'm looking forward to continuing to serve as IPP over the next two years, and helping both of them continue to move the Far Western District forward.

Regards, Allan



***Executive Vice President
Gordon Bergthold***

As I mentioned in my last report to the House of Delegates, my tenure as Executive Vice President will end on December 31; this comes about because of my election as President of the FWD in Mesa, AZ on

October 16. If you missed the HOD meeting, which 60% of the chapters did, we discussed some very important issues that are of importance to the 75 chapters in our district. When only 40% of our chapters attend the House of Delegates meeting I assume that 60% of the chapters were not in attendance at the District Convention. I realize that travel is expensive these days and that not everyone can make the conventions, but you're really missing out on an opportunity to witness some of the best choruses and quartets in the society as well as visiting with friends with whom you've been associated for years.

Consider sending at least one of your members to the conventions so that you can be represented at the HOD meeting and other events that are of interest. You could have a special donation or fundraiser to send your representative to the convention and, for that reward, the representative would be required to report back to the chapter on the events of the convention. This is only one way to assure that your chapter is represented and that you have a means of personal communication following a District function. There are other ways that you can consider to achieve the same results. Participation is mandatory if you are to be up-to-date on District and Society affairs.

As for what you missed at the HOD meeting, I'm not going to discuss that here, but I do hope that you'll read the minutes of the meeting so that you're up-to-date on what's going on in your District. You can find the minutes in the FWD homepage under Media, HOD Brochures and Minutes.

As for my goals as president; first and foremost I want to emphasize COMMUNICATION as I have during my past tenure as EVP. It is my belief that we can resolve many of our District and Society issues with better communication amongst all involved. Most challenges we face with our Chapter and District leadership are resolved through communication with the participants in the matter of concern. Another of my goals is to make our leadership transparent and available to all members of the FWD. Based on the Chapter surveys of several years ago, one of the most prevalent complaints

was that the District and Society leaders seldom visited or communicated with the Chapters of the 17 Districts. Now I know for a fact that our District Vice Presidents (DVPs) are in contact with the Chapters in the five FWD Divisions, but not all of the contacts or communication reaches all members of the Chapter. The Chapter leadership is more important than the District leadership when it comes to communicating important messages that affect the individual member. Our District leadership will make every effort to share important news with the Chapters through the various media available, and through the DVPs for the five Divisions. Please take the time to get to know your Division leaders and let them know that you're depending on them for guidance and information pertaining to the Society and District happenings.

I can assure you that we are listening and will do everything possible to respond to questions pertaining to the Chapters of our district. Start with your DVP for your Division and let him carry your concerns to the Board. Or, contact any of the board members or District management team members and we will respond. Listening is the most fundamental component of interpersonal communication skills. We are listening!!!



***District Vice President 1 SW
Brent Anderson***

First of all, this Holiday season, let me wish you the happiest of experiences... I hope you and your chorus are singing often and singing well, and you take pleasure in the fun of entertaining, accepting the applause and reveling in the delight that we give and receive from singing beautiful songs, lyrics and harmonies.

Since our last Westunes I've had the opportunity to speak with many of my division chapters and I have some pluses and some minuses upon which to report. Not to dwell on the negative but among the minuses, it appears that **Santa Barbara Chapter** has decided to take a hiatus and is no longer meeting on a regular basis. My gratitude to the dozen or so stalwarts who

have attempted to keep the Chapter viable despite flagging membership and lack of a musical director.

The Far Western District leadership and I have a commitment to establish a healthy Barbershop Harmony Chapter in the community of Santa Barbara, and I hope in the future you will want to be a part of the new Chapter.

For a Chapter to remain viable it takes more than one or two committed individuals. That's the same problem we have in **Bakersfield**. During this last quarter we have attempted to revive the existing chapter and it is still undecided if this will work. In September, there was a wonderful "revival" show performed by **Rincon Beach Chapter** who sent their **Pacific Sound Chorus**, under the direction of **Kelly Shepard**, to stage a repeat of their recently successful shows. The chorus did a wonderfully entertaining job, bolstered with **American Pastime** quartet, and **The Front Line** quartet who also volunteered their time and talents to help a brother Chapter. The existing Bakersfield members distributed "\$25 tickets for free," in the community, trying to attract new people to the fact that there's a Barbershop Harmony Chorus in Bakersfield. Indeed, when the audience was polled from the stage, it appeared that half the audience of 200+ were at their first Barbershop show. Alas, only 3-4 new guests came to the next few weeks of meetings, and as mentioned earlier, we don't know if they will stick. There is a new enthusiasm in the Chapter and a new leadership. They are looking for a new musical director. If you think you might be interested please contact me, or contact **Royce Ferguson**, FWD Director of Choral Leadership. Stay tuned...

In the plus column, it seems almost every Chapter is working on Holiday music and some are using the "short term commitment" of November and December to open up their ranks to new singers. My own Chapter, **Rincon Beach**, has had the good fortune to contract with a local promoter and will be singing at one of our local shopping malls at least three times this season and paid quite handsomely for the work. A couple of senior residences have also hired us to entertain their residents and this is an activity that, if cultured properly, can be repeated every year.

You are receiving this Westunes around December 1, and there is still time for you to field a schedule of performances for senior living centers. Call them today and tell them you have a chorus ready to put on a 30- 40-minute show and go provide some fun, memories and laughter in those seniors' lives. Try to get performances on your normal meeting night so as to maximize your members' time commitment. You can certainly charge a fee... Most senior housing complexes have the budget to pay \$500 or more for a performance. Win-win for sure...

Congratulations to the incredible **Masters of Harmony**, under the brilliant direction of **Justin Miller**. As 2015 FWD Chorus Champions they will be representing us at the International Convention in Nashville next July.

Flightline, members of the MOH and Westminster, are our FWD 2015 Quartet Champions. Congratulations to **Oscar Sotelo, Daniel Huitt, Cody Littlefield** and **Kyle Williamson** and to all our Southwest Division quartets and choruses who performed well in the recent contest.

The **FourTune Seekers (Kevin Cunningham, Garth Ratliff, Tobias Brown-Heft, Brent Anderson)** were the recipients of the Lloyd Steinkamp "Standing O" award given to the most entertaining quartet of the contest, as voted on by the audience.

The 2015 FWD Senior Quartet Champion is **Blood, Sweat, and Years (Paul Engle, Les Weiser, Bob Cathaway, Bill Myers)**.

I think the most important message I can convey today, is for you Chapter officers who have accepted positions of 2016 responsibility to really commit to the fulfillment of the promise of the jobs you have accepted. Often I find that Chapter officer positions are filled by anyone who is willing to accept the title rather than someone who is committed to do the job and advance the purpose of the Chapter. Even if that is true in your chapter, this can be changed and here is the opportunity.

All of you officers should make your plans to attend the upcoming Leadership Academy in Las Vegas, January 8-10. You will attend the classes that will educate and provide the skills and tools you need to best do the job for which you have volunteered. The FWD has found a venue that is easily and affordably accessible from all major cities, and arranged for a reasonable room cost, as well as a modest registration fee. This is a legitimate Chapter expense and so those Chapters who will offer to subsidize a substantial portion of the cost for each attendee, will be rewarded with an enthusiastic, educated, and committed leadership.

At the Leadership Academy each officer will have a chance to more deeply understand the job for which he has committed and on Sunday morning, all the Chapter leadership will gather together to put together and formulate goals for the coming year. Don't leave early on Sunday as this is possibly the most valuable portion of the entire Leadership Academy. Goals are powerful. The mere statement of the goals, the writing down of the goals, the communication of the goals to the Chapter membership, sets in motion a plan to successfully complete the goals. Details of the classes and a link to registration are contained within this Westunes.

I will see you in Las Vegas and I am committed to help you in any way that I can. My favorite phrase is, "Nothing works, if you won't..."



**District Vice President 2 SE
Craig Hughes**

Summer and Fall were very "event-full" in Southeast Division and lots of good stuff is coming our way in 2016.

Our **2015 District Convention** in Mesa was a fun and rewarding event. Thank you to **Greater Phoenix** (Host Chapter), **Bob Sampson** (Event Chairman), **Ron Black** (VP Contest & Judging), and **Russ Young & Nick Papageorge** (Backstage Magicians). Here are some Division Highlights:

- Seven of the sixteen competing choruses were from the Southeast Division. La Jolla's **Pacific Coast Harmony**, Las Vegas' **Silver Statesmen**, Brea's **Gaslight Chorus**, and Inland Empire's **Inland Sound** finished in the top ten. Inland Empire is the Plateau A District Champion.
- The Southeast had five Quartets compete. Las Vegas's **Harmony Lane**, (Southeast Division Quartet Champion) placed third in a tight race. **Harmony Lane** is a family affair with **Dallas Halvorson** on Tenor, his dad **Larry** on Lead, Uncle **Jim** on Bari and longtime friend **Buzz Bossard** on Bass. Dallas' post on "Dear Hearts" was a contest highlight.
- Six of our seventeen chapters were represented at the **House of Delegates Meeting**. The **House of Delegates** is the governing body of the District and your Chapter's opportunity to shape and approve the ongoing activities of the Far Western District. You should have a delegate at the next HOD meeting – Friday, March 18 – at our [FWD Spring Convention in Las Vegas](#).

Mark your calendars for an exciting first Quarter of 2016.

- January 8-9: [2016 Harmony College West and Leadership Academy](#) in Las Vegas. No one does it better than the **Far Western District**. This will be a super event for everyone.
- January 26-31: [BHS Midwinter Convention](#) in Reno. Always one of the best Barbershop Events of the Year. Consider joining the [Harmony Platoon](#) on the 27th & 28th for an awesome quartet experience.
- March 17-20: [FWD Spring Convention in Las Vegas](#). This combines the **Southeast/Southwest Division** and the International Prelims Contests with the Spring House of Delegates Meeting and other fun events.

This is my last report as Vice President of the Southeast Division. I am moving over to the

Executive Vice President position the first of the year. I want to thank a couple of men who served the Division behind the scenes.

- **Paul Sandorff** – Division Events Chairman. Paul does a great job helping with the details that make a Barbershop Event successful.
- **Dale Vaughn** – Division *Westunes* Editor. Dale is going on the road to visit relatives in the Australia/New Zealand area while Kim coaches Barbershoppers. Dale is passing the pen off to **Greg Price** from the San Diego Chapter. Please get your Chapter Notes in to Greg on time.

The Southeast is gaining a FWD Hall of Fame Vice President. **Nick Papageorge** is picking up the reins January 1. He will serve the best Division in the best District in Barbershop with the same energy and skill he has applied as Music & Performance Chair.

I highly recommend volunteering at the District level. I used to know a few Barbershoppers at District events. Now, after four years of service, I have many more friends and acquaintances. My Barbershop family expanded exponentially just by dedicating a few hours a month to serve the District. Step up to help your Chapter, Division, or District and you will receive so much more.

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

In Harmony,



***District Vice President 3 NW
Charles Feltman***

The SF Cable Car Chorus has meeting place issues driving a venue change; new venues all need a Monday meeting date. One SFCCC Tenor works backstage at the SF Opera so he will be happy not to miss any more meetings due to future Wednesday Opera performances. The SFCCC matinee Show on October 3 was fairly well-attended and a Chapter energizer.

The choice of a matinee-only Show was based on the demography of recent prior audiences and its currently limited size.

San Mateo Chapter (now renamed "Faultline") also had their Shows on October 3 with both matinee and evening performances. They decided not to object to the Cable Car Chorus matinee as we agreed there would likely be little or no matinee audience overlap. In planning for the SFCCC coming on Santa Train, they loaned guest books and learning media to SF member attendees.

The Bay Cities Quartet Chapter still meets on the First Wednesday of each month for lunch at around 11:30 AM. However I recommend arriving soon after 11 AM to get near the head of the food line. Plan to hear an unfamiliar song that has been around for a while and join in a pickup quartet.

Voices In Harmony (San Jose) had their second annual Cabaret Dinner Show on September 12. This looks like a new tradition (smile). They carried the energy from their trip to International and had more of their membership able to participate.

The Santa Cruz Chapter had their second Show this year on November 7. This group integrates ladies who wish to sing our style. They are attempting to put together a male subgroup for competition. As part of this effort they suggested Cypressaires could become dual members.

Following the death of its organizer, the Cypressaires Harmony For Lunch in Salinas is now suspended. The Monterey Chapter still goes to the Monterey Tuesday Farmers Market at least monthly. They also helped celebrate the 70th wedding anniversary of one of their members. They continue to meet without a Music Director.

Santa Rosa is doing well with its new Music Director Daniel Halle, a choral teacher without prior Barbershop experience but well received for his skills. The Redwood Chordsmen had two Shows on November 21.



District Vice President 4 NE
Richard Lund

OUTREACH – a word we see in many of our documents, used in our speaking, contained in our thinking, and above all in our efforts as a society to be relevant.

What is the definition of outreach? In researching I found the following: *To surpass, to go beyond; to be more or greater than; a systematic attempt to provide services beyond conventional limits;*

We spend a lot of effort on youth outreach and on member recruitment. We have Harmony Camps, Harmony Festivals, guest nights, sing with us on the holiday show and on and on.

I would like to expand the BHS definition of OUTREACH in the larger context of reaching out to our current members. This expanded BHS definition of OUTREACH is called member retention.

As a challenge, what would result if each chapter took a few minutes to itemize their efforts at member retention – or for that matter if each of us as individuals put some thought into what each of us, as an individual, is doing to encourage member retention in our Chapter. Write down what you are doing because, as we know, committing these thoughts to paper make them real. Consider a member in your chorus who has been absent for a couple of weeks. Give him a call (or email) – you have missed him and are just checking to see if everything is okay. Trust me this is a powerful activity. It does not have to be “your job”. Just do it because you are interested in your riser buddy. New member recruitment is critical to our survival as a society and to each of our individual Chapters however, member retention is equally critical to our survival as a Society and as a Chapter.

Our new District President has stated that “Communication” is going to be the “watchword” for his term in office. I concur, one hundred percent. I believe that communication starts with reaching out to

our current members, hearing their concerns and suggestions and responding. We all come up with ideas and concepts that are both crazy and wonderful. One idea or comment that may not work may lead to other ideas that will make a difference. To bring this thought full circle, reaching out to our current members and eliciting their thoughts and suggestions/ideas will, in the long run, make our organization stronger and result in better member retention.

In fact “Listen and Hear” is going to be the watchword for my 2016 Northeast DVP year. I need you to reach out to me with your thoughts, ideas and suggestions and I commit to you to that I will listen and hear. Together we will make 2016 the year NE Division committed to *internal outreach and member retention*.

In conclusion, a couple of what I consider important activities. As you may know the FWD is home to the High Sierra Harmony Brigade. Each year the HSHB visits high schools in the Reno area as part of their outreach program (and I thank them for promoting Harmony Camp on these visits). In 2015 approximately 60% of the 100 attendees at HSHB came a day early to visit seven schools in the Reno area. One of the schools whose Music Educator has an outstanding choral program had not been supportive of Barbershop. We were able to visit her school this year with 2013 FWD champion Newfangled Four singing for her and her students. The effect was instantaneous and overwhelming. Both she and her students were totally blown away, and have become enthusiastic Barbershop supporters. The Music Educator and her male students now join the Silver Dollar Chorus on the risers twice a month for the first portion of chorus rehearsal.

I am aware of two and possibly three youth choruses being organized to compete at Midwinter in Reno in January 2016. Please join me in supporting these young men at Midwinter January 26 – 31, 2016. You won’t be disappointed.

Lastly, in response to requests from Northern California Chapters, a mini leadership academy will take place December 12 in Sacramento. We will have

specific classes for Chapter presidents, secretaries and treasurers but encourage all members to join us.



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

What a GREAT TIME to be part of this awesome Division.

The FWD Fall Convention held here in Mesa AZ was once again a huge hit! Congratulations to the Master Of Harmony and Flightline for their awesome Championships! Also, special Congrats go to our Senior Champs, Blood Sweat and Years and Novice Champs, Batteries Not Included! In addition, High Priority qualified as Senior representative for the Mid Winter in Reno. I hope many of you took advantage of the light rail from the airport to downtown Mesa. All this said, it must be said that Convention Chairman Bob Sampson and his crew did a fantastic job coordinating all aspects of the event. A well oiled machine was what I heard it referred as. Can't disagree! Great Job, Bob.

The annual Fred Koch Memorial BASH was held the weekend of Aug 14-16. This event continues to be an awesome weekend of barbershop fellowship. Starting with a parade of quartets on Friday followed by a luck of the draw quartet gathering Saturday capped off with a VLQ contest Saturday night. What a fun weekend as always and a special thanks to Colin and Sheryl McKinney for their organizational expertise.

Fall also is time for Chapter elections. Congratulations to all of the new Board members and thank you all for your service to your Chapter, the AZ Division, the Far Western District as well as the Barbershop Society. These are at time thankless jobs, so from me to you... thank you for everything.

With the Holidays crashing down on us as usual, there are many Chapters preparing for Christmas Shows and supporting these efforts is a great way to ring in the season! Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to spread the joy.

As always, membership is consistently on the front burner. How many **Man Of Note** awards will YOU get for the year? Do it because you love singing and really just want to share the joy with as many men as possible! Simply ask, "where do you do your singing"? You will be surprised.

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



***District Vice President C&J
Ron Black***

We returned to Mesa, AZ this fall (our previous convention there was in 2012). The hosting by Greater

Phoenix was under the always very capable leadership of **Bob Sampson** and **Jack Mauney**, which guaranteed a successful convention. And whew, this year the Marriott was not going through construction revamp!

Our District Champion Chorus for 2015, Santa Fe Springs **Masters of Harmony**, will represent us in Nashville next July. With a qualifying average score of 92.1, they are seeded 3rd behind Metro Kansas City **Central Standard** with 92.2, and St. Charles **Ambassadors of Harmony** with 94.4.

No other FWD chapter scored high enough to earn a wild card invitation. There were many higher scoring wild cards across the country this Fall.

Our new District Champion Quartet, **Flightline**, outscored potential winners **Suit Up!** and **Harmony Lane**, and rolled away with the huge champ quartet trophy. Our outgoing champs **American Pastime** sang away that trophy on the Saturday Evening Show. Our new Senior Champion Quartet is **Blood, Sweat, and Years** (also 2015 Super Senior champ), and our representative to Senior International at Reno in January is **High Priority**.

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

March 18-19 will combine the Southwest and Southeast Divisions with the International Quartet Preliminaries. The venue is the Alexis Park Resort in Las Vegas, NV. **Deadline for contest entry is February 19.**

April 2 will combine the Northwest and Northeast Divisions, location is still TBD. **Deadline for contest entry is March 5.**

April 15-16 will be the Arizona Division in Mesa, AZ. **Deadline for contest entry is March 19.**

Below are the total contest statistics since 2010. Total Contest participation in the Spring is still strong, and the average score is going up.

	Total Choruses	Total Ch Men	Avg Pts	Total Qt Men	Total Quartets	Avg Pts	Intl. Qualifiers (Fall Sr.)	Senior	Super Senior	College
SPRING TOTALS										
2015	32	866	67.3	212	53	67.2	7	12	3	3
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										
2015	16	548	72.2	92	23	68.7	3	6	n/ap	n/ap
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

See you in Las Vegas on January 8-9 for the Harmony College West and Leadership Academy!

Ron



District Vice President Mu&Perf
Nick Papageorge

**Harmony College West &
Leadership Academy**

MASTERPIECE TO BE GUEST QUARTET!

Registrations now open!



Again this year, Harmony College West will be combining with the FWD Leadership Academy. It will be held at the Sunset Station Hotel and Casino in Henderson, Nevada, January 8 - 10, 2016.

Each year I encourage as many of your Chapter members as I can to attend Harmony College West. It will be held at the same time and place 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 offer classes in Barbershop basics such as arranging, vocal techniques, sight-reading, and more. There will also be an emphasis on Chorus Director training at all levels. Royce Ferguson and I

are planning exciting, new opportunities for all of our 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. Please, SEND YOUR DIRECTOR!

Lastly, I am happy to welcome Craig Ewing as your new Music & Performance VP! I am also happy and proud that I will be the new Southeast Division VP.



**Chapter Support &
Leadership Training**
Steve Salmon

No article submitted



Chorus Director Development
Royce Ferguson

Hello, FWD!

Directors – Have you remembered to register for Harmony College West?

In particular, our Directing track promises to be our best yet. HCW is by far the best opportunity to grow together as singers and musical leaders, plus it's in our own backyard! Don't miss out on this fantastic event, mark January 8–10 on your calendar for HCW in Henderson, NV and be sure to register today!

The Society also provides wonderful online tools for Chorus Director Development that you may explore at your own pace. Be sure to take a look.

<http://www.barbershop.org/education/director-education>

Download: *Directing a Barbershop Chorus – Methods, Techniques, and Philosophies*, and explore the chorus-directing video links. Informative and fun!

Dr. Greg Lyne and I are eager to assist you on your chorus-directing journey and invite you to take full advantage of our many wonderful training programs, which in addition to our HCW weekend include:

Chorus Director Workshop Intensive (CDWI), Next Level, Outstanding in Front (OIF), and Director Certification courses at HCW.

In a previous Westunes article, I mentioned five leadership tips that I found to be extremely useful in my effectiveness as a chorus director. These tips were:

- 1) **Stay Centered, with a Lifted Countenance while you direct.** (*Calm, central focus*)
- 2) **Utilize Team-Building Language.** (*Shared responsibility for musical excellence*)
- 3) **Break Things Down.** (*Simplify and build upon small successes*)
- 4) **Build Upon What is Right.** (*Catch singers being good with earned and specific rewards*)
- 5) **Achieve Ahhh!(s), aHa!(s), and Haha!(s) every rehearsal.** (*Beauty, discovery, and fun*)

Have you tried these approaches during your chorus rehearsal? If so, I'd love to hear from you. What areas seemed to be most effective for you and your chorus? What might you add?

In preparing this list, I was reminded of how important it is to continually **simplify and focus** Director/Chorus communication.

Often, when I travel to coach a chorus or quartet, I have to constantly resist the urge to *prove* to a group that their time and money was well spent by delivering a well-intentioned, "kitchen sink of knowledge" brain-dump upon the group. Ugh. Honestly, who really wants all of that clutter anyway? More often than not, our singers require focus toward a simple and relaxed breathing zone, a clear and free mind, and minimal techniques so they can then be open to ever greater artistic choices. Without exception, the best sessions I have ever been a part of have been the times where I simply met the group right where they were, in the present moment, and

together, with concise and consistent tools for improvement, we made amazing strides forward.

All of us are best at thinking of one concise concept at a time. Also, how many of your singers came to chorus rehearsal to listen to you talk? They want to sing, they want to sing a lot, and they want to sing well. Bring that kind of focused excellence to your chorus rehearsals.

Avoid living in past successes/failures as a group.

One leadership mistake I see over and over in our choruses is allowing a group to live in the past. Often this point of view is accompanied with phrases such as, "We've always done it that way", "Don't worry, we always turn things around when it's showtime", "We tried to improve our intonation in the past, but nothing ever seemed to work", "We can't seem to retain much from week to week", and on and on...

Relentlessly point individuals toward the vision of what's ahead, and why they should care.

Communicate the vision of where you are headed with a focus upon the possibilities.

A chorus is simply a collection of individuals. It is the individuals in your chorus that you *must* reach, inspire, and enroll. Allowing singers to be anonymous is the enemy of any ensemble.

Solution minded. Share optimism in the present and stay aligned with the vision of the future. We'll discuss more of these ideas in the coming weeks ahead.



Events
Bryan Forbes

With the conclusion of the FWD Fall Convention this past October in Mesa, AZ we now turn our attention to the 2016 Convention and Contest cycle. The excitement begins with the Spring Convention and International Prelims on March 17-20, 2016 at the Alexis Park Resort in Las Vegas, NV. Information for this convention can be found on the FWD website by clicking on Upcoming

Conventions under the “News/Events” tab. This location has the added benefit of having lodging and contests under the same roof! Online registration will begin in the very near future after upgrades are completed on the FWD website. Please keep an eye out for a follow-up message and check the website regularly so you can register early.

The NE/NW combined Division contest will be held on April 2, 2016. This is a departure from the typical timing of this event, which usually occurs in May when the International Prelims are hosted by the SE/SW Division. An announcement will follow regarding the location of this event.

The Arizona Division contest will be held on April 15-16, 2016 in Mesa, AZ at Skyline High School. The headquarters hotel will be the Holiday Inn. Complete information regarding Arizona’s Division Contest will be available on the FWD website shortly after upgrades have been completed.

The 2016 Fall Convention and Contest will be held in Riverside, CA at the beautiful Fox Performing Arts Center on October 13-16, 2016. The headquarters hotel will be the Marriott Riverside at the Convention Center. I’m excited to announce that the Sounds of Aloha Chorus will be joining us for the 2016 Convention. If you’re new to Barbershop or haven’t seen a performance by the Hawaii Chapter please be sure to attend so you can say hello to your fellow island Barbershoppers as they don’t make the mainland very often.

During the Fall Convention the House of Delegates approved a procedural change relevant to securing venues and hotels for District Conventions. The responsibility to secure Fall Convention sites has been transferred from the host chapter to the FWD Events Chair. This change allows the FWD to be more proactive with long-term planning as it relates to the contracting process for theaters and hotels. See the table below for the locations of District Conventions over the next three years:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Venue</u>
2016	Riverside, CA	Fox Performing Arts Center
2017	Bakersfield, CA	Rabobank Convention Center
2018	Fresno, CA	William Saroyan Theater

Host chapters will manage the convention process consistent with current practices but with the added advantage of having venues and hotels already under contract. Stay tuned for more information on this change in process.

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 Bingle



Marketing & Public Relations **Jerry McElfresh**

The **importance of communication** among the District and its Chapters and members continues to be a priority for the FWD Marketing & PR Committee and we have taken another step toward the goal of improving communication.

It involves the monthly **Westags** news bulletin with the most recent one e-mailed to District members and friends on Nov. 4. Westags is intended to keep our members up-to-date on important and interesting events in the Far Western District.

Westags is the third communication vehicle produced by the M&PR Committee. They include the **FWD Website**, managed by David Melville, with current information such as contest results and convention registration forms; **Westags** with its monthly report of recent and upcoming news and events that I’m responsible for, with David’s help; and the quarterly **Westunes** e-magazine with more detailed reports and

photos that provide a permanent record for the District, compiled and edited by Ray Rhymer, a veteran at the job. Facebook, Twitter and other social media outlets also help to get the word out.

You obviously know about **Westunes** because you're reading this column. If you haven't looked lately at the **Website** give it a try, it contains a wealth of information. And if you didn't receive November's **Westags** e-mail, contact us at marketing@farwesterndistrict.org or webmaster@farwesterndistrict.org and we'll send it to you.

The Marketing/PR Committee is pleased to add two key members to its ranks in recent weeks. **Joe Samora** of the Sacramento Chapter has agreed to take the position of **District Historian** to help preserve our proud history and **Jack Peters** of South Orange County Chapter is coordinating the District's **Story Teller** project with interesting stories told by our members. For more on Joe and Jack and their responsibilities refer to the November Westags.

We're only a little more than a month away from the 2016 **Harmony College West/Leadership Academy** in Las Vegas/Henderson on Jan. 8-10 and I hope that as many Chapter Marketing & PR officers as possible will be there to talk about what we all can do to do a better job of selling show tickets and merchandise and promoting shows and membership. See the FWD Website for registration and details.

Membership [OPEN]



Quartet Activities **Bill Kane**

The Harmony Platoon program seems to keep me very busy these days, even though I am getting very good help handling them from both Don Salz of Las Vegas and Sean Clark of Brea. While I ran the one at FWD Fall Convention in Mesa, Don ran both the one at International in Pittsburgh and is doing the one at Midwinter in Reno. Sean will take on next the Fall FWD convention Platoon in Riverside, while we will probably all pitch in for Spring FWD in Vegas.

Whew! We have done over two dozen Platoons now since we started them in FWD back in 2012.

Here are our champs from the **FWD Mesa Platoon**. They were the best of over 15 quartets in each of three contests.



3 Great Voices

(L to R)

Tenor – Joel Levitz (Pacific Sound, Rincon Beach, CA)

Lead – Justin McQueen (Pacific Sound, Rincon Beach, CA)

Bass – Allen Smith (Inland Sound, Grand Terrace, CA)

Bari – Don Salz (Silver Statesmen, Las Vegas, NV)

Winning Song: *All Dressed Up With A Broken Heart*

This Fall was the third Platoon at **Evergreen District**, and here's their current champ.



The Jackals

(L to R)

Bari – Carlos Aguayo (Bridgetown Sound, Portland, Oregon)

Bass – Dane Chevassus (Seachordsman, Seattle, Washington)

Lead – Rick Vollmer (Seachordsman, Seattle, Washington)

Tenor – Neal Ketcher (Flathead Valley Aires, Kalispell, Montana)

Winning song: *Let's Do It, Let's Fall In Love*

Last Spring saw the first Platoon in the **Carolinas**, and here were their winners.



Survivors

(L to R)

Bari – Jim Wilson (The Southern Gentlemen, New Bern, NC)

Tenor – Richard Millard (Cape Fear Chordsmen, Wilmington, NC)

Bass – Ken Thomas (Cape Fear Chordsmen, Wilmington, NC)

Lead – Lon Elliotte (New River Harmony, Jacksonville, FL)

Winning song: *Breaking Up Is Hard To Do*

Look forward soon to a link for the FWD Spring Platoon registration flyer on the home page of our website: HarmonyPlatoon.org. You'll probably find it on the FWD website as well. Hope you will consider quartet singing in 2016 with the Platoon guys.



Youth In Harmony Jim Halvorson

No article submitted



Division 1 SW Chapters Ken Day, Editor

Aloha Chapter By Jack Hashimoto

The **Aloha** Chorus had an Ice Cream Social in August with the chorus and quartets entertaining, and our sister Sweet Adeline choruses **Na Leo Lani** and the **Honolulu Blend** Show Chorus (and quartets) also pitched in with great songs.

Tim Waurick joined us to coach, and Tim indicated that he will become a member of our chorus. We were invited to sing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Punchbowl crater for the 10th Annual Joint Memorial Service honoring the Nisei (second generation Japanese Americans) of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service and 1399 Engineering Battalion. The 442 was featured in the 1951 movie "Go for Broke". **Mr. Masaharu Saito**, the uncle of our member **Dan Tom**, was a member of the 100th Battalion and fought in Italy, and was there at the ceremonies with his two daughters. We had a Cabaret Dinner Show with a spaghetti dinner, and our guests enjoyed songs by our chorus and quartets and the Sweet Ads quartet **Mango**. Kudos to **Jordan Wong** and all members who participated, especially director **Mark Conching** who produced the great spaghetti dinner.

BOTM: **Kawika Mitchell** - July, **Glenn Crowder** - August, **Jordan Wong** - September.

Rincon Beach Chapter By Ken Day

The **Rincon Beach Chapter** had two shows, (a matinee and a night show), in Santa Barbara with headliners **Ready, Willing, and Mabel**, **The Rockin' Moroccan band**, and **Carpe Diem**, a new and extremely talented chorus of Sweet Adelines. The following weekend, the chorus moved to Ventura and sang a larger repertoire with chapter quartets and **The Newfangled Four**.

The chorus traveled north to Bakersfield to try to inspire a revival of Barbershop singing for a chorus that was dwindling. **Bill Rosica** and **Bob Cathaway** were instrumental in administering this concert, which was admission free. Both Rincon and Bakersfield choruses sang, and 2014 FWD Champion Quartet **American Pastime** brought their talents to share. Afterwards, all of the show participants were treated to refreshments courtesy of the Bakersfield chapter.

At the Far Western District Contest and Convention in Mesa, two Rincon Beach members finished first in the platoon quartet contest. **Joel Levitz** and **Justin McQueen**, who had only been singing with the chorus for three months, sang with **Don Salz** and **Allen Smith**.

Although the chorus finished eighth in the contest, thanks to **Steve Katz** of the **Masters of Harmony** for helping us achieve the highest stage presence scores ever.

Santa Fe Springs Chapter By Ron Larsen

Editor Note: See page 8 for article from our 2015 FWD Champion Chorus Masters of Harmony

Santa Maria Chapter By Gene Kai

The **Central Coast Chordsmen** recently completed their *Sweets and Old Songs* show. Additional participants were **Orcutt Academy High School** ensemble, a male and two female quartets, the Chordsmen's **Harmony Cats** and **FourGiven** quartets and the **Decadent 10** Chordsmen ensemble.

The chapters YIH program is currently training a group of boys from the local area high schools to participate in the Midwinter youth chorus competition at Reno. They are under the direction of the Righetti High School chorus director **Matt Ringer** with several Chordsmen assisting. We are also working with two Orcutt Academy boy's quartets to compete in March.

The chapter welcomed father and son **Michael** and **Kyle Oakes**, and **Mike Beebe** into membership in September. Two former chapter members are in the process of rejoining the chapter.

Santa Monica Chapter By MARTY MITNICK

After weeks of preparation and hard work, it was so exciting to achieve the **AA Chorus** award in the Chorus Contest in Mesa. This was the first time the **Oceanaires** built a boat as our stage set. The outstanding, very clever design work and completion of the vessel was spear-headed by our director **Ben Lowe**, **Tim Beck** and **Jeff Leahy** with a large crew of helpers.

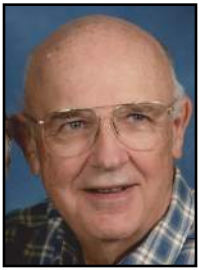
Rob Gordon and his extremely capable wife **Laura** managed our Annual Ice Cream Social. **Laura** was recognized for her work by being named **Sweetheart of the Month**. Our special guest quartet was "Invitation" from **The Santa Monica Women's Chorus**, who received a wonderful reception.

The **Oceanaires** quartet, "Big, Tall and Neither" [**Don Tsuchiyama**, **Tim Boeck**, **Chuck Bevitt**, **Doug Ward**] was invited to perform at the Ice Cream Social presented by **The Valley Harmony Society**.

Dick Keagy was the June BOTM for his continued efforts working with the Los Angeles Galaxy Soccer Team, which has us sing our National Anthem at major league soccer games. **John White** and **Bob Herron** were BOTMs for July for their successful efforts keeping us current with the IRS and the Barbershop Harmony Society. **Don Tsuchiyama** was BOTM for August for his untiring videoing of all of our rehearsals and posting them on our member's website. This is a terrific teaching tool for our members who can study at their own pace as often as they wish.

We very much regret that **Don** and his family have moved to Medford Oregon. He has already joined a chorus there. All good wishes **Don**, you will be missed.

We warmly welcome **Tim Singer** as our newest member.



Division 2 SE Chapters Greg Price, Editor

Inland Empire Chapter By Gaylord Spence

The **Inland Sound Chorus** is most proud of our performance at the recent District Convention in Mesa, AZ. This was our first district contest since the merger with the Riverside Chapter in March and it's gratifying to win our plateau. Now we pursue constant improvement.

We wish to welcome **Dave Strough**, a brand new member of the Society and a very enthusiastic lead.

El Cajon Chapter By Jeff Freeman

The **Music Masters** chorus experienced a significant loss of members over the last year and a half due to the advanced age of our members. The chapter is actively recruiting new members from age 18 to 80+.

During the summer, the chorus sang at a retirement facility for **Ed Herron**, one of our longtime (20+ year) members. We also performed at Fredericka Manor in Chula Vista and Wesley Palms in Pacific Beach.

Roger Simpson, chapter Secretary/Treasurer, was promoted to Associate Director.

La Jolla Chapter By Dale Vaughn

We flew in presentation guru **Shawn Mondragon** from Albuquerque for a weekend to work the chorus in preparation for District contest.

We welcomed dual member (PalPac) **Roger Hufferd** onto the risers.

Another great FWD Convention and Contest was held in Mesa, AZ on October 15-17 and the PCH gang finished a respectable 5th place. Our guys in **Behind the Barn** made us mighty proud with their 10th place finish in the quartet contest!

Pacific Coast Harmony, the **Sun Harbor Chorus** and the **San Diego Chorus** hosted a Youth in Harmony Day on October 24 at Lewis Middle School in San Diego. Girls and Boys from area high schools and middle schools attended the day-long clinic given by **Royce Ferguson** and **Kathleen Hansen** with special guest quartets FWD Champions **Flightline** and Sweet Adelines Rising Star Champions **C'est La Vie**. The day culminated with an evening show including the youth, along with our guest quartets and local quartets **North of the Border** and **Night and Day**.

On October 25, the men of PCH joined other a cappella groups including the San Diego Chorus, **New Fangled Four**, **Royce's Voices** and **Pacific Suns** to perform at the Songs across America fundraiser for the YMCA Armed Services in Carlsbad.

The Director's baton passed as PCH bid a fond and loving farewell to our founding Director **Kim Vaughn** after 13 wonderful years, and welcomed aboard **Royce Ferguson** to lead us into a bright and

exciting future. Many will remember Royce as Tenor of our 1998 International Quartet Champions **Revival** and Director of the 2007 International Champion **Westminster Chorus**.

Happy times are ahead for **Kim** and **Dale Vaughn** as they are off on new adventures traveling the globe with Kim coaching, teaching and working her magic within the Barbershop world. We wish them the very best in their 'retirement' and know we will see them again once they arrive back home in San Diego.

Las Vegas Chapter By Martin A. Judd

NEW MEMBERS:

We'd like to welcome **Kenny Rios** – Tenor, back into the fold after a several-year absence. Also, **Gordon Lankenau** – Bass, has returned after working back east for a few years. **Victor L Guder** – Bari and **Wally Smulson** – Bari have joined us as dual-members; Finally, **Aaron Schave** – Bass; **Richard "Dick" Field** – Lead and **Gary Little** have also joined our ranks and are contributing to our great sound.

We had an excellent weekend in Mesa at the Convention. Thanks go out to our Music Team headed up by **Larry Halvorson** for getting one of our largest turnouts for a contest – we just missed 60 on the risers.

We had a number of members participate in the Harmony Platoon: **James Nelson** – Tenor; **Keith Pratt** – Tenor/Lead; **Collin Salmon** – Lead; **Victor Guder** – Bari; **Martin Judd** – Bass; **Philip Spinks** – Bass and **Don Saltz** – Lead/Bari were the names I got off the roster. Most, I believe will do this again given the opportunity.

Two of our quartets participated in the quartet contest. **Harmony Lane**, made up of **Jim Halvorson**, **Larry Halvorson**, **Dallas Halvorson** & **Buzz Bossard** finished 3rd overall. We were represented in the Senior Quartet contest by **Jackpot**. **Joe Payton**, **Randy Preston**, **John Hulburt** & **Joe Pascucci** finished 4th in the Senior Division.

Mesa was followed up by a family night where we discussed our weekend in Mesa and then had our **First Annual Silver Statesmen Auction**. This was an idea brought to us by **John Lenox** and **Larry Patterson** who stole it from the **Hawaii chapter** where they were both members. **Larry** spent nine months passing out 'Silver Statesmen Bucks' to the members for being active in the chapter. The more you did, the more you got. The chapter purchased a number of items and members donated many more to be auctioned off. Our President, **Albert Weiss**, brought in a friend of his, **Brian Comeno**, who is an auctioneer, to handle the event.

Two days after the auction **Keith Pratt** and his lovely wife **Ashley** hosted their annual Oktoberfest party. It was a nice mix of Barbershoppers and friends of **Keith**. We had over twenty members attend and help provide some of the evening's entertainment.

If you are in the Vegas area and need a Barbershop fix, we meet on Thursday nights at 7pm. You can go to www.silverstatesmen.com for more information.

Orange (Quartet) Chapter By Mark Sheldon

The Chapter is saddened by the passing of longtime member **Ed Mowbray**. We are also sad to learn of the passing of **Marty Fuchs** of the Long Beach chapter who was a friend and frequent visitor at our meetings.

The **Lowerre** family graciously hosted the End Of Summer Sing. Several Orange members also participated in the Fullerton Annual Picnic.

The Chapter Officers and Board of Directors for 2016 have been elected and are: **David Switzer** (Pres.), **Michael Werner** (IPP and Program VP), **Stan Tinkle** (Sec.), **Paul Sandorff** (Treas.), **Rich Martinez** (Music & Performance VP), **Don Thomas** (Membership / Chapter Development VP), **Mark Sheldon** (PR and Marketing VP), and Members-at-Large **Gerald Fleischmann**, **Art Iniguez**, **Don Levering** (Youth in Harmony), and **Rich Spencer**.

The Chapter helped facilitate member purchase and learning of Barberpole Cat I and II program materials, to encourage our members to be ready with this updated core repertoire. As always, fellow Barbershoppers who would like to practice this or other repertoire in a supportive quarteting environment are encouraged to visit our Monday meetings.

After a hiatus, the Orange Chapter is reviving its post-meeting afterglows nominally on a monthly basis (specific dates to be announced). The first of these was on October 19 and well attended. Contact the chapter (contact info on our webpage) if you would like to be added to the mailing list for these and other chapter events.

Visit us at: www.orange.harmonize.com

San Diego Chapter

By Craig Hughes

Sun Harbor was busy performing as a Chorus and in Quartets for lots of sing-outs - big and small - public and private – with a full schedule as we move into the holiday season. We were a featured performer at the *2nd Annual “Lemon Aid”* UR Charities’ event to make a difference by enhancing the lives of those with physical, emotional and developmental special needs.

At the Far Western District Contest in Mesa, we achieved our goal by improving in all aspects of our performance. Our Director, **Kathleen Hansen**, earned the Sweet Adeline Master Director level by directing the ladies of **The San Diego Chorus** to a top-ten international finish a week earlier. We are so lucky to learn from her every week.

Behind the Barn, featuring our members **Dave Garstang** and **Neal Palmer**, placed in the top ten in the District Quartet Contest.

The **Sun Harbor Chorus** shared sponsorship with **The San Diego Chorus** and **Pacific Coast Harmony** for a *Youth Harmony Showcase*. **Kathleen** worked with the young ladies and **Royce Ferguson** worked with the young men. **Neal Palmer** and **Greg Price** spent their Saturday supporting the event. Also assisting were **Mike Mullert** and **Larry Good**. Please visit the Youth Harmony San Diego website for more information about this important ongoing program.

Every Tuesday is “guest night” and we welcome many old and new friends. The fun is too good not to share. If you know someone in the San Diego area that would like to sing with a great bunch of guys and learn from an awesome director – **Kathleen Hansen** – please point them our way.

www.sunharbor.org (619) 356-0742 sunharborchorus@cox.net

South Orange County Chapter

By Richard Jensen

South County Sound's new director is **Dawn Castiglione**. She grew up in Vermont and Connecticut. She sang throughout all of her school years in choirs, madrigals, church groups, and musical theater. Dawn also competed at the international level in dance. She obtained her Bachelor’s degree at Cal State Fullerton, found Barbershop harmony, and never returned to the East Coast! She sang with the Harborlites Chorus of Sweet Adelines International from 1991-2011, competed on the international stage with chorus and quartet, and served on the board of directors and in leadership roles both musically and visually. She has enjoyed coaching choruses and quartets throughout the United States since 1995, has served on faculty at Harmony College West, and has owned her own business, Joyful Healing Geriatric Massage Therapy, since 2011. We are so grateful to have Dawn as our new director.

’T’WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS” ----BUT WAIT! What about the second day *after* Thanksgiving? The **South County Sound** chorus presented their annual Christmas/Holiday show, which featured the hilarious **Velvet Frogs** quartet, by popular demand.



Division 3 NW Chapters

John Heather, Editor

Marin County

By Newt Harband

The **Marin Golden Gate** Barbershop Chorus enjoyed the summer entertaining the fans at the San Rafael Pacifics baseball games and singing at the Marin County Fair.

A chapter ensemble entertained at the Smith Ranch Assisted Living Facility.

One of our guys attended the FWD contest in Mesa and has this story to tell: While waiting for their rental car at the airport, an impromptu quartet serenaded an employee of the rental car agency with **“Let Me Call You Sweetheart”**. The crowd of about 60 waiting for their cars applauded loudly. Result: a generous upgrade. Once again “Barbershop works in wondrous ways”.

Visit us at www.marinbarbershopchorus.org

Monterey Peninsula

By Sam Kier

The **Monterey Cypressaires** are still keeping the light on at York Preparatory School on Tuesday evenings.

Visit us at www.goldenchordsmen.org

Auckland, New Zealand Barbershopper Tony Roberts recently visited. **Tony** drove his antique racer at nearby Laguna Seca Racetrack and dropped by to sing in the Bass section.

Santa Rosa
By Ray Crowder

The chorus presented its final strolling performance for the season at the farmer's market in downtown. The **Cypressaires** continue to search for a director.

Visit us at www.cypressaires.org

Palo Alto/Mountain View
By David Weatherford

At the Far Western District Fall Convention in Mesa, **The Peninsulaires chorus** put 24 men on the stage and improved upon last year's score. Under the capable direction of **Sean Abel** and with assistance from several excellent coaches, we improved in all three categories.

Speaking of coaches, presentation coach **Steve Katz** shared his expertise with the chorus at a Thursday evening rehearsal in August, and **Darin Drown** returned for another all-day "advance" (never retreat!) in September. We'll have another session with **Darin** in January.

Visit us at www.barbershop-harmony.org

San Francisco
By Charles Feltman

The **San Francisco Chapter (Cable Car Chorus)** had a show "Many Kinds Of Love". Our "Old Bones" **Don Kington** got a well-deserved standing ovation for his chorus-backed solo. Our program in part included that "old" chestnut plus six more from chapter quartets. The balance of the show had a total of 27 (no 27 is not a typo) chorus songs. This was a stretch for a couple of newer singers but they were real troupers. Now we need a way to "mini-package" what we did and market it locally.

Visit us at www.sfcablecarchorus.org

San Mateo
By Thomas Addison

As Time Goes By was presented by our chorus to about 300 happy audience members who enjoyed a harmony trip around the calendar. We were joined during the performance by **Burlingame Glee**, a quartet of middle schoolers who brought the house down with their song and dance versions of covers of **Taylor Swift** and other pop stars, which added a nice balance to the chorus's old favorites. **Jeff Cleary** also provided some solo work doing songs of **Sinatra** and **Bobby Darin**. With successful ticket sales we remain solvent for another year of four-part harmony.

New officers to be installed in January include **Ed Sterbence**, President; **Jack Hale**, Vice President of Music and Performance; **Rich Alger**, Secretary; **Jeff Cleary**, Vice President of Chapter Development, and **Pete Wanger**, Secretary.

We welcome our new Director, **Daniel Halle**, who joined us at the end of summer. A native of New Jersey, **Dan** lived in Washington state and Pennsylvania before moving to Santa Rosa. He has a BA in Music Composition/Conducting, and a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. He graduated Valedictorian with an MFA in Music Production and Sound Design for Visual Media from Academy of Art University in San Francisco. In October **Dan** and wife **Kate** welcomed a baby girl, their first child, into the family. Welcome to Santa Rosa, **Dan**.

The **Redwood Chordsmen** celebrated their 50th anniversary with a special show on November 21st, and four of their former directors conducted the chorus in some of the songs from their past repertoire. **Phil Debar**, **Jan Lappin**, **Bill Borah**, and **Melany Schmitt**, were featured along with our new leader **Dan Halle**.

We were saddened by the passing of our good friend and former member, **Bill Jackson**, who came to us many years ago from the **Eureka** chapter.

Visit us at www.chordsmen.groupanizer.com

SF Bay Cities Quartet
By Jordan Makower

Perhaps it's just our name, but our small chapter gets many requests for private sing-outs. This month we had more than we could accommodate, so we contacted ten leaders of other quarters in our area, including those in **The Peninsulaires**, **Voices In Harmony**, and **The Bay Area Show Case**. Would *your* chapter have done the same? We all must help each other out, for the sake of the individuals requesting our services and for the cohesiveness/camaraderie of our international organization. We apply that rule to prospective members as well. If we see that a person doesn't fit in with our chapter's goals, we direct them to try other chapters that might be a better match. We also welcome guests and guest quartets to join us at lunchtime in Harry's Hofbrau, San Jose, the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month. Show our guests what you have to offer and join us in song.

4 Gents in Accord (**Steve Gummersall**, **Dave Laubscher**, **Marv Bertelson**, **Mike Irvin**), and **Never Too Old Four** (**Bruce Bunting**, **Chuck Mollett**, **Bill Gates**, **Ric King**), visited us on the 1st Wednesday of the month, when we host **The Harmony For Lunch Bunch**. Our members joined with some of the guys for impromptu quartet singing. We celebrated **Paul Freudenthal's 9th year**, and **Dave Laubscher's 39th year** as Barbershoppers. We also sang a few songs from the new *BarberPole Cat* Book, but stylistically altered the arrangements a bit. Join us at Harry's Hofbrau in San Jose on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month, for lunch (you pay for your own food).

Visit us at www.sfbayquartets.org

Walnut Creek
Dwight Lang

The **Devil Mountain Chorus** of Walnut Creek (DMC) hosted the second annual A Cappella Summer BBQ, at Moraga Commons Park, in Moraga. Early in the morning there was a slight rain that dampened the attendance, but by late morning we had a nice dry BBQ, fun singing and a rousing volleyball game.

Our Annual show “**Harmony on the High Cs**”, was a rousing success with the **Devil Mountain Chorus** pirates having a rollicking good time. There was a guest appearance by the **Berean Christian High School Chorus**, along with tunes by the three **DMC** quartets, **Resuscitation**, **Upside Sounds**, and the **Delta Dons**.

During August through October, quartets from the **DMC** had five different performances at various venues. The **DMC** had a Halloween performance in pirate costume for our local church's children's Halloween celebration.

Visit us at www.devilmountainchorus.org



Division 4 NE Chapters
Roger Perkins, Editor

California Delta Chapter
By Jim DeChaine

The **Delta Chapter** retained for the sixth consecutive year its position as the highest ranking chorus in the Northeast Division at the Mesa, Arizona District Convention in October.

Ron Black, our **Delta Chapter** Associate Director received the Southwestern District Presidents Award for having served 30 years as a Barbershop Harmony Society Certified Judge. Ron's **FINAL** judging session was for the Southwestern District.

New Chapter Officers for 2016 are **Jim Maass**, President; **Corley Phillips**, Secretary; **Roger Santiago**, Treasurer; **Keith Slater**, V. P. Music/Performance; **Blair Reynolds**, V. P. Membership; **Rich Brunner**, V.P. Marketing; and Board Members-at-Large – **Richard Kaiser** and **Larry Womack**.

After over two years of dedicated and faithful service, **Jim Maass** passed the torch as editor of the VoCal Chapter weekly newsletter “**The Voice**” on to **Al Salazar**, who picked up the responsibility in admirable fashion. Jim has more responsibility now as the incoming president of the chapter.

VoCal welcomes into the fold four new members this quarter: **Tim Jackson**, Baritone from Citrus Heights; a chiropractor, family man with wife **Susan** and 4 out of 5 living children, all married and who generated 13 grandchildren. He brings a great variety of singing experiences to the chorus.

Chris McCuddy, Baritone from Folsom. Chris is a student and is a dual member with the Placerville Chapter. He has a variety of musical instrument experience and theatrical performance in his short background.

Anthony Pazo (son of sponsor **Raphael**, highlighted in the Fall edition of **Westunes**), a Bass, who lives in Lodi and is a Science/Engineering student at San Joaquin College. He also has some theatrical experience in his background.

Scott West, Lead who lives with his wife **Edith** in Diamond Springs. He is a dual member with the Placerville chapter. Scott is a tax services enrolled agent. He has also played a variety of musical instruments and has sung in church choirs, including a few years as a director.

Corley Phillips developed a schedule of quartet sessions where each week members meet before rehearsals to learn the new songs from the BHS Barberpole Cat Songbook Vol. II series.

Our annual Family Picnic was very much enjoyed by members and their spouses. Repeat hosts were **Jim & Lorna Ingram**.

Central California Chapter
By Miles Sutter

The **GVC** again had the pleasure of performing for the residents of Samaritan Village. Fifteen voices, under the direction of **Bruce Sellnow**, sounded great! The activities room was filled with approximately 80-90 residents about 20 feet away. Seeing all the smiling faces made our performing just that much more intimate and enjoyable! We sang ten songs, and our quartet, **4 On The Floor** (**Howard Barber**, **Terrell Chambers**, **Mike Viss**, **Greg Kramp**), sang two. **Howard** led an audience sing-along! Our MC for our performance was **Florine Smith**.

Once again, the **GVC** had the pleasure of showcasing the “All Day A Cappella Work Shop” at the Ripon, CA High School. We had a wonderful representation of high school students, 40 young women and 30 young men, under the tutelage of **Dede Neibler** and **Gabe Caretto**, who so graciously gave of their time to instruct these young students in singing Barbershop harmony. **Dynamix** was the male teaching quartet, and **Caprice** was the female teaching quartet. We thank **Mark Jantzen** for his tireless effort in organizing this program. The **GVC** has already been blessed with some of this fine, young talent. Thanks go out to the **GVC** members handling the day's registration; **Jonathon Hintz**, **Phil Lustri**, **Sherman Verver** and **Juan Quijano**. The day's activities ended with the performances of both the women's chorus and the men's chorus, singing the songs taught them by their instructors.

The **GVC** again performed for the “Lazy Daze” Elks RV Park. **Bruce Sellnow** directed the 19-member chorus in seven songs. **Howard Barber** led the very appreciative gathering in a ‘sing-along’, and Bruce had them perform a ‘memory’ exercise, much to the amusement and laughter of everyone. **FOUR for the ROAD** [**Greg Kramp**, **Mike Viss**, **Terrell Chambers**, **Howard Barber**] also performed. Kudos to **Pete Sust** for his “Mother” demonstration. Very amusing....and well done! An ice cream social followed the event served by all the chorus members.

Davis-Vacaville Chapter
By Tom Powers

We were invited by the **Sacramento River Cats** baseball team to sing the National Anthem before a nearly sold-out Saturday-evening crowd. We decided to wear our summer uniforms which

was a good idea given the high temperature that evening. The audience gave a cheer as our Bass section lustily sang the “land of the free” echo near the end of the song. We received many compliments and were asked to come back next summer.

Our slate of officers elected for 2016 are **Steve Rollins** (President), **Frank Blakeman** (Treasurer), **Wit Ashbrook** (Secretary), **Roy Mattice** (VP Program), **Richard Potts** (VP Music), **Alan Veliquette** (VP Recruiting and Retention) and **Dave Roy** (VP Public Relations).

Folsom Chapter

By Dennis Stohl

The **FHX** performed at the Carmichael Eskaton to a crowd of over 100 people and they loved the music. Chorus Director **Kent Borrowdale** wrote a show called “The Building of America” with songs that covered the founding of America starting with “This Is My Country” and ending with “Do You Know the Way To San Jose?” and “God Bless America”. Kent sang the solo on “Please Mr. Columbus” backed up by the chorus. **Jan Vecchio** was featured on several of the songs with her beautiful soprano voice. **Stan Trumbull** is normally our MC, however he was not available, so **Larry Womack** filled in and did a great job. Since Stan was not there to sing with his quartet, **BBLT**, **Roger Perkins** filled in on Bass as he has done before. Roger also sang a solo on the song “Sixteen Tons” backed by the chorus. The song is a crowd favorite.

The FHX annual recital took place at the Redeemer of the Covenant Church where the FHX meets weekly. Stan was there to MC the performance and sing with **BBLT (Roger Santiago, Kent Borrowdale, Ken Potter, Stan Trumbull)**. The “Building of America” show was repeated once again with **Jan Vecchio**. The show featured a second quartet **Fat City Four (Von Wallin, Josh Landin, John Eilers, Craig Vincent)** from the **Stockton Chapter**.

The chorus held a Wives Appreciation Dinner to honor their wives. After consuming the delicious fare, we serenaded our ladies with several songs.

Nevada Placer Chapter

By Roger Perkins

The **Sierranaders** Chorus, directed by **Roger Perkins**, performed at the Nevada County Fair in August. We have done this for well over 25 years and always look forward to singing at the beautiful fairgrounds. The chorus sang two sets on the main stage and after our second set, they had a quartet contest with Roger as the Master of Ceremonies. They had five quartets competing this year. In third place was chapter quartet **Harmonic Convergence**, in second place **Gesundheit** from Chico, and the winners were four young men not affiliated with the Society, **Consolation**. Some of their songs were not Barbershop, but they performed them all very well. Any four-part harmony is acceptable as long as no instruments are used. Four Freshmen anyone?

Reno Chapter

By Steve Shurtliff

Our second **Reno Sings Under the Stars** show went very well for all involved. We already have the venue booked for next year.

Reno hosted the High Sierra Harmony Brigade near the end of August. School was in session by then, and on the Friday of brigade weekend several of us Brigadiers went out to local high schools to promote Barbershop music. There is a vocal teacher at McQueen HS, named Mrs. Burt, who is known to be one of the best vocal teachers in the state. However, for the past four years, she has declined our offers to come in and sing. She was not a fan of Barbershop, and didn’t think a bunch of old guys in straw hats singing “Sweet Adeline” would be of much interest to her students. This year, however, she finally relented, and about 40 or so of us Brigadiers went into her classroom. We did have a secret weapon - 2013 FWD Champion Quartet **The New Fangled Four** who were our judges and performing quartet for the weekend. The result was even better than we had hoped. She and her students were blown out! They were on a short day, so we sang for three of her classes, and her impression of our music completely changed. Two weeks later she called us and asked if she could bring all of her male students to one of our rehearsals! The students probably outnumbered us. We all had a great time, and they are going to sing several songs with us on our Christmas show in December. Not only that, several students are coming to rehearsals on their own and not waiting for the entire class.

Sacramento Chapter

By Joe Samora

The **Navy Viet Nam Veterans** and their guests were entertained by a dozen **Capitolaires** led by **Robert DuPlantier** during their reunion in the Embassy Suites in Old Sacramento. Fifty people enjoyed hearing the Old Songs and some from our repertoire. The audience joined the ensemble to sing the patriotic songs including “Anchors Aweigh.”

The Capitolaires held a surprise 80th birthday party “**Toast & Roast**” for co-director **Ray Rhymer** during the September 15 chapter meeting. Two dozen guests from neighboring chapters attended the event including chorus directors and members from Auburn, Folsom, Placerville and the Greater Sacramento Area. The group sang, reminisced, and then enjoyed birthday cake and soft drinks. Ray had directed the Capitolaires in the 1980s and directed the Placerville chapter for 15 years. Ray is a member of the Far Western District Hall of Fame, editor of Westunes and was a contest judge for over 25 years.

Several Capitolaires assisted with Youth in Harmony Camp held in Sly Park in September. Sixty-five boys came prepared to learn and perform four songs. YIH Chair **Rick Cram** awarded Capitolaires scholarships to cover their registration fees for five boys from Antelope High School. The Capitolaires Board also approved a \$350 donation to cover administrative costs. Co-Director **Dan Warschauer** participated and took photographs during the camp. Thanks to Camp Director **Richard Lund** for another successful camp experience.

Quartet **Les is More [Mark Bain, Les Cudworth, Larry Womac, Steve Kennedy]** performed during the Elk Grove Historical Society’s Annual Fall Craft Show in September. They performed a number of Polecat songs and some Barbershop favorites to an appreciative audience.

The Capitolaire held their Harmony Open House in Christ Community Church in Carmichael in October to recruit new singers. Three dozen men attended the event including six guests who continue to sing with us. Thanks to Membership Vice President **Steve Cudworth** and his volunteers.

The **Capitol Pops Concert Band** and the **Capitolaire** provided the entertainment for the annual *Brews & Boos* held in the Citrus Height Community Center. This is the fourth year the Capitolaire have participated. Eighteen men sang led by **Robert DuPlantier**. Guests were invited to dress in German attire or Halloween costumes to celebrate Oktoberfest and Halloween. Beer and German food were available for purchase, and several hundred people enjoyed the festivities. The Capitolaire had an information booth managed by their Marketing Team.

A dozen Capitolaire sang during the annual Celtic Cross Church Shepherd's Luncheon in October. Led by Co-Director **Dan Warschauer**, the men sang several Polecat songs and songs from their repertoire. Church members **Keith Aiken**, **Gary Halldorson**, and **Joe Samora** sing with the Capitolaire.

Stockton Chapter

By Al Wolter

The **Portsmen** Annual Picnic was held in August. Chapter members and guests socialized, competed in a pick-up quartet contest, and contributed \$500.00 to our **Youth in Harmony** fund for support of the **Harmony Camp** in Sly Park. Several local students attended the Camp this year.

The Chorus had the pleasure of singing the *National Anthem* and *Take Me Out to the Ball Game* for the last home season game of the Stockton Ports at Banner Island Field. The Ports went on to win the game with a walk-off single.

The Chorus, with the help of **All in A-Chord** on Friday and the **Delta Dons** on Saturday, sang at the **Lodi Grape Festival**. This is the third year in a row that Barbershop has been heard there. That following Sunday found the Portsmen at the **Bob Hope Theater**, Stockton, as the Friends of the Fox asked us to warm up the lobby before their showing of "*Rebel Without A Cause*."

The following Chapter Officers were elected at the Annual Chapter Meeting September 15: **Harry Williams** as President, **Raphael Pazo** as VP of Music & Performance, **Ron Spohn** as VP of Chapter Development, **Ben Buckman** as VP of PR/Marketing, **Al Wolter** as Treasurer, **Al Farnum** as Assistant Treasurer, **Bill McCarty** as Secretary, and **Ray Morris & Christian Hagan** as Board Members-at-Large, and **Bill Litz** as the IPP. The Chapter continues to utilize our Associates in leadership roles, and with the new changes in the Society Board rules, several hold elected membership as Associate Board Members-at-Large: **Sandy Mosley**, **Joan Ray** and **Carol Clark**. Additionally, **Evie McCarty** is our Recording Secretary (Associate).

The Chapter held its 61st Annual show "*A Song Pops Out*" at Bear Creek High School, a new venue for us. The **Portsmen Chorus**, **All in A-Chord**, members of the **Cesar Chavez Jazz Choir**, **Three and a Half Men** and **Midnight Jazz** from **Milpitas High School** were featured. SAI Region 12 Silver Medalists **Fresco** and our friends and Northwest favorites

TopCats! rounded out the entertainers. Chaired by Associate **Nancy Hennefer**, the show was an artistic success and a learning experience for both the Chapter and the School.

Visalia Chapter

By Bud Case

The **MOC** combined again with the **GNC** in our 2015 shows, the MOC in April and then in Fresno in May. This was a great boost to both our choruses as **Adam Kitt** directs both so that we all sound better together. We have already picked new music for 2016 and it promises to be a fun show with the 50s music theme.

We held our Spaghetti Feed in August as one of our key fundraisers and it was well attended as well as a lot of fun singing. We actually picked up four promising guests that had never heard Barbershop harmony! Then the following weekend the chorus performed a "Concert in the Park" in Porterville. Again half a dozen GNC fellas helped out on the two-hour show.

The other major fundraiser was our Yard Sale in September. It's amazing how much we earn with other people's junk!

Several MOC members enjoy dual membership with the Fresno GNC and competed at the Mesa Convention/Competition. Fortunately none of them got caught in the mud slides on the Interstate 5 or Highway 58, for which we are grateful.

Division 5 AZ Chapters

Editor [OPEN]

WHITE MOUNTAINS ARIZONA CHAPTER

Due to poor attendance during the winter of 2015, the White Mountains Arizona Chapter nearly disbanded. We took a 3-month hiatus, and reassembled in May. At that time we notified all of our singers that we were considering disbanding. Our President, **Jerry Schrunk**, sent out a questionnaire with the purpose of polling the members on the plan to disband. The questionnaire resulted in an overwhelmingly positive response to keep the Chapter going. With the vote, members committed to taking on the responsibility of running the Chapter, and with a few exceptions, they have done that. In July we performed for the Show Low Senior Center, Meals on Wheels, Christmas In July program and, of course, sang Christmas Carols. In August, the chorus appeared at a Hanger Dance, which was a salute to our Veterans, where we sang the Armed Forces Medley. We were very well received. Later we appeared on the Meals on Wheels fundraiser show. Our annual show patrons let us know that they missed us.

We did not have an annual show in 2015, but are planning to hold one again in 2016. We also are working on our fourth annual Christmas show, which is a fundraiser for our local school choirs. The choirs receive 100% of the donations made at the door. Last year we gave each participating choir \$500. In this age of declining school budgets for the arts, this money was well received.

So for other Chapters that may be struggling, the threat of disbanding, like the sight of the gallows, may be a way to wake up the guys, and bring them together to reinvigorate your Chapter. It certainly worked for us.

Chapters Looking For Directors

Editor note: Surely there is one AZ Division member who is willing to serve as the AZ Division Editor. The duties: collect electronic submittals from AZ Division chapters, assemble them in one document, then email that document to the Westunes Editor. Send that email 4 times a year: Feb 1, May 1, Aug 1, Nov 1. AZ chapters need an AZ Division Editor to get their chapter information published.

Notices

Calendar

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

Conventions, Contests, LA/HCW

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

For your planning purposes, major 2016 dates are:

January 8 - 10, 2016 LA/HCW

Location: Henderson, NV

January 26 - 31, 2016 Int'l MidWinter Convention

Location: Reno, NV

March 17-19, 2016 FWD Spring Convention

Int'l Prelim Quartet and SE & SW Division Contest

Location: Las Vegas, NV

April 2, 2016 NE/NW Division Contests

Location: TBD

April 15, 2016 AZ Division Contest

Location: Mesa, AZ

July 3 - 10, 2016 International Convention

Location: Nashville, TN

October 13 - 16 FWD Fall Convention

Location: Riverside, CA

Sun Cities Chapter, Sun Cities, AZ

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

Monterey Cypressaires, Monterey, CA

Go to www.cypressaires.org to express interest.

To Email Your District Officers & Chairmen

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pastpresident@farwesterndistrict.org

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