



Spring 2016 Volume 66 Number 1

WESTUNES



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



[Photograph by Lorin May]

2016 International Senior Quartet Champion - High Priority



2016

**Far Western District
President**

**Gordon "Mongo"
Bergthold**

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Acronyms

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

FWD Sunshine Chairman

FWD Sunshine Chairman Les Cudworth

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High Priority

2016 International Seniors Quartet Champion



Emmett Bossing 1922 - 2016

EMMETT BOSSING

1970

RENO, NEVADA (January 30, 2016) – **High Priority** from the Far Western District, took top honors today at the International Seniors Quartet Finals held in Reno, Nevada during the 2016 BHS Midwinter Convention, and is your **2016 International Seniors Quartet Champion**. Singing Stormy Weather and Mean to Me, the quartet scored an average of 76.3.

Ray Estes, tenor, **Byron Bennett**, lead, **Mark House**, baritone, and **Dan Davenport**, bass are all members of the **Greater Phoenix Chapter** from Phoenix, Arizona. They won the Silver Medal at last year's contest in New Orleans. **Byron** won another Seniors Quartet gold medal with **Audacity** in 2009.

CHORUS DIRECTOR, LONG BEACH AND PASADENA CHAPTERS • FOUNDER OF "QWEP" - QUARTET WORKSHOP AND EDUCATION PROGRAM • AREA COUNSELOR • FAR WESTERN CONVENTION AND PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN; COMPILED THE FIRST CONVENTION PLANNING BROCHURE • DISTRICT LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE, 1960-1970; CHAIRMAN, 1963 • DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF MUSIC EDUCATION, 1980 • HARMONY ACCURACY JUDGE; CATEGORY SPECIALIST, 6 YEARS • DISTRICT CONTEST & JUDGING CHAIRMAN, 6 YEARS • INTERNATIONAL CONTEST & JUDGING CHAIRMAN, 1972-1975 • CO-CREATOR OF THE SOUND CATEGORY, 1972-1975 • CHAIRMAN OF JUDGES CATEGORY SPECIALIST, 1978-1982 • JUDGE EMERITUS * QUARTET AND CHORUS COACH, AND WOODSHEDDER PAR EXCELLENCE.

[From FWD Hall of Fame Display]

EMMET BOSSING

(by Nick Papageorge)

I first met Emmett when he was a Balance & Blend Judge giving an eval to a young college group I was singing lead with called "The Occidentals." It was spring 1973, and it was the first contest for all 4 of us. (we didn't even know there was a Society). A year later when the second configuration of that quartet competed and qualified for International, Emmett was instrumental in coaching us and helping us make the semi-finals in our first International contest in Indianapolis. Emmett was an outstanding coach. He became an important part of the beginnings of the Sound Category, and gave us great insight as to the nuances of Barbershop tuning and singing.

It didn't take too long for me to become great friends with Emmett. We both became a big part of the Whittier Chapter with Earl Moon. In addition, Earl and Emmett took me under their wings and taught me how to woodshed. They introduced me to the famous Jack Hines "woodshedding parties" where no arranged songs were sung. The lead singer had to know a melody, sit in Jack's big barber chair, and three others tried to keep up. But Emmett couldn't just keep up. He would take whatever part he was singing and force the other 3 parts to move to notes that were not anticipated! True woodshedding!

Most importantly, Emmett was a great human being. He was kind, sincere, and knew exactly what to say when you needed help. When the Occidentals were struggling though a weekend Top Gun school, Emmett could tell something was wrong with us. All of a sudden he stopped coaching us and said, "you all are working too hard to do everything you've been told. JUST SING!" We did, and the sound was glorious! He smiled and said, "now that's singing!" We went on to make it to the International Finals that year. Emmett knew exactly when to stop coaching and just be a friend! I will miss him greatly!

Barrie Best FWD President 1962-63



Society mourns passing of Barrie Best, past executive director

Our longest-serving BHS Executive Director, **Alan "Barrie" Best**, passed away February 11, 2016, at the age of 87.

From 1963 to 1977, Best oversaw operations of the expanding Society, through years that saw the creation and growth of education and administrative programs, Harmony College, music publishing, among many other achievements.

Per his obituary,

His musical talent reached international recognition in the Barbershop Society as well as his local choir and the Barrie Best Chorale. He was executive director for the Barbershop Harmony Society from 1963 to 1977. He served valiantly as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints until the day he died. His church service included serving as a Bishop for over seven years and as the Patriarch of the Vancouver North Stake. He was also a member of Rotary Club, Elks Club, Kenosha Country Club and the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America.

Barrie was the consummate example of chivalry, never let his wife Mary Anne open a door, and cared for her needs lovingly for 57 years. Barrie has already reached the first tee on his "eternal round" of golf...the game he loved so much. Barrie leaves behind an incredible legacy of love, compassion, charity, and humor. He was loved by many, and gave more than he ever received. He will be missed.

2016 Harmony College West



Left

Upper: Alan Gordon coaches Batteries Not Included

Middle: Gary Steinkamp coaches 10 O'Clock Shadow

Lower: David Melville teaches
Creating a Chapter Website

Right

Upper: Brett Littlefield coaches Behind the Barn

Middle: Craig Ewing teaches
Care & Feeding of the Small Chorus

Lower: Ryan Wisniewski teaches Sight Reading



Left

Upper: Larry Halvorson teaches
Vocal Technique to Leads & Tenors
Lower: Ron Black teaches How to Ring Chords

Right

Upper: Sam Papageorge teaches
Vocal Technique to Bari's & Basses



2015 FWD Champion Chorus The MOH

Santa Fe Springs Chapter

by Ron Larson

For the first time in its history, the Masters of Harmony performed two shows at different locations on the same day. The first stop was Shepherd's Grove Church in Garden Grove. When the Masters performed *When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder* and *O Holy Night*, the congregation responded with instant standing ovations reminiscent of the response the chorus earned at the 2014 Las Vegas International Convention. The performance was later broadcast on the church's *Hour of Power* television program, and will be repeated on February 7, 2016.

Several hours later, the chorus assembled at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach. This concert featured a joint performance with the award-winning Southern California Children's Chorus, led by **Lori Loftus**, one of the most talented directors ever to share a stage with the Masters. After the 30-plus junior high school students enthralled the audience with a beautiful set and sound quality way beyond their years, the Masters showed the audience why they deserved the accolades they so recently celebrated. The show finale featured the combined groups singing *Battle Hymn Of The Republic*, accompanied by Lori on the church's five-million-dollar organ. The spectacular rendition of this soul-stirring classic will resonate forever in the memories of all in attendance on either side of the platform!

Once again, the Masters presented Christmas shows at the Carpenter Center in Long Beach and the Fox Theater in Riverside. The show title was "Believe in Christmas," a theme designed to help audience members see Christmas as children see it or they themselves used to see it. Songs in this vein included *Toyland*, *Believe*, *Welcome Christmas*, *The Chipmunks Christmas Song*, *Mr. Grinch* as well as a selection of well-known Christmas season favorites. Adding audience-pleasing variety were beautiful solos by **Megan Lyne** and songs by guest quartets **American Pastime** (**Graham Pence, Tom Moore, Steve Pence, Joe D'Amore**), **Masterpiece** (**Rob Menaker, Patrick Haedtler, Brett Littlefield, Alan Gordon**), and **The Newfangled Four** (**Joey Buss, Jackson Niebrugge, Ryan Wisniewski, Jake Tickner**). Each quartet clearly demonstrated why they are multi-award winning foursomes!

The Fox Theater performance was remarkable for several reasons. Because of professional duties where he teaches, Director **Justin Miller** was unable to lead the chorus. In his place, **Dr. Chris Peterson** and Alan Gordon took turns, something Alan has done before but a new experience for Chris. Both men directed with the upbeat confidence expected of an MOH director. Secondly, the show took place not long after the tragic shootings in San Bernardino. Led by Chapter President **Ron Andreas**, the Masters reached out to the stricken community and offered free tickets to first responders and family members of those touched by the event. It was obvious that dozens accepted the offer. One first responder put it this way: "I am extremely grateful for this. Like many of my colleagues, I experienced the horrendous events on Wednesday and need a sense of normalcy. Maybe going to this event might help." When our brothers in **The Vocal Majority** heard of the MOH gesture, they decided to announce it to their own audiences, increasing the reach of compassion from the barbershop community.

One of the most important elements of Masters of Harmony success over the years has been the ability to use an excellent rehearsal site provided free of charge by the City of Santa Fe Springs. To repay the city for its generosity, the Masters do several things; first, the chorus sings a mini concert as part of the city's Tree Lighting Ceremony, and this was done on December 5. Secondly, MOH quartets form to sing on a float to warm up the crowd before a float carrying Santa and Mrs. Claus arrives and neighborhood children get to have their pictures

taken with them. This is an excellent opportunity to gain quartet experience before an easy-to-please audience. This year, under the tireless direction of Quartet Coordinator **Bill Niemand**, 32 men took part. Another program is the donation of cash and food items to help the needy in the City. And a new tradition for the last several years is for one of the fine chapter quartets to serenade the Santa Fe Springs City Council at their December meeting. These programs have been mutually beneficial to the City and the chorus for many years.

This year's Annual Awards and Installation of Officers Banquet at the Yorba Linda Country Club featured Far Western District luminary and Southwest Division Vice President **Brent Anderson** as installing officer. For their many years of tireless service to the chapter, **Jim & Pat Sickles** received a special Distinguished Service Award. Quartet of the Year honors went to **Flightline (Oscar Sotelo, Daniel Huitt, Cody Littlefield, Kyle Williamson)**. Alan Gordon was named 2015 Barbershopper of the Year.

2016 Youth Harmony Camp

September 16 – 18, 2016

Sly Park Educational Center
Pollock Pines, CA

Gabe Caretto will be our dean assisted by clinicians Ron Black, Jim Halvorson and Drew Wheaton. Our teaching quartets are Forefront and New Fangled Four. Quite a lineup I would say.

The website has been updated to reflect 2016 camp information farwesterndistrict.org/youth-harmony-camp. We are adding junior college age young men to our target group this year – we have always welcomed them but will add this age group to our marketing outreach.

The trifold will be completed March 1st and available for you to use in talking with music educators and students. I am available to talk with high school music classes – and have a young quartet to accompany me this year.

We are in the process of providing information on all Northern California Barbershop groups to graduating seniors who have attended Harmony Camp and to Music Educators to share with their senior students. I will be contacting each chorus to get a brief description of what information they would like us to provide on their chorus and contact information. You can always beat me to it and forward this information before I contact you by emailing me at rlund@innercite.com.

With your assistance we will have one more “best camp ever”.

Richard Lund
Camp Director

Leadership Articles



***District President
Gordon Berghold***

On January 19, I underwent surgery for major back repair. The surgery lasted eight hours and when I woke I found that many nerves in the leg area had been compromised during the surgery and I was unable to walk or move in a familiar manner prior to the operation. Not to bore you, but I had a discectomy, laminectomy lumbar 5 through thoracic 10, fusion along the way, titanium rods where needed, cages and screws to keep everything in place. Now, nearly one month later I'm recovering at my son's home in San Diego doing physical therapy daily and slowly regaining my strength. I'm walking over 600 feet with the walker and looking forward to eliminating the walker and walking and standing tall once more.

Although I missed the Reno international Midwinter Convention, I was replaced by our EVP Craig Hughes who has done a wonderful job standing in during my absence. My goal is to attend the Las Vegas Spring convention in March. However, should I not make it we have a wonderful board and management team who can carry-on in my place. The Far Western District Leadership team, consisting of the board and management group, is capable of handling the district business as a team and to date they've stepped up in my absence admirably.

I'm looking forward to returning to my duties as your FWD President as soon as possible. In the meantime, I'm as close as a telephone call or email message...just remember to communicate!!



***Executive Vice President
Craig Hughes***

Greetings from Reno!

After a week in Barbershop Heaven at the Midwinter Convention, I am

snowed in. It is a great time to reflect back and look forward to an exciting 2016 in the Far Western District.

I transitioned from the Vice President for the Southeast Division to your Executive Vice President on January 1. The Southeast has Nick Papageorge as DVP. I now focus on supporting the District President and coordinating the management team. I look forward to advancing Mongo's goals.

2016 started out fast and effectively with our combined Harmony College West/Leadership Academy in Las Vegas. We had approximately 130 students and 35 faculty members at the three-day event. Your Leadership Academy offered seven classes taught by the District Management Team. It provided quality time for the Chapter Teams to learn from, and collaborate with, the District Team. The District Board recognizes our duty to support the Chapters with these types of events. Please make every effort to attend. The return on your time and treasure is great.

The Society Midwinter Convention was thrilling. This event is always special and having it in the Far Western District was a treat with The Youth Harmony Festival, Senior Quartet Contest, Harmony Platoon, Youth Quartet Contest, Harmony University Classes, and so much more. The Far Western District excelled at all levels. Just a few examples:

- ***High Priority*** – Senior Quartet Champions
- ***Eclectones*** – Youth Quartet Top Honors
- ***Sounds of the Mouth*** – Youth Chorus Top Honors

Special thanks to the host ***Reno Chapter*** and the Convention Committee Chairman (***Ken Martin***) for an outstanding job. The organization and care they provided to the attendees was recognized as “the best.”

I was the Installing Officer at Chapter events in January. The three challenge questions I asked the Chapter Officers and Chapter Members pertain to the District level as well:

District Officers:

1. Do you promise to perform all the duties and responsibilities of the office to which you have been elected?
2. Do you promise to maintain open communication with the membership, accepting constructive criticism and suggestions with respect to the business and programs of the district?
3. Do you promise to be active in the district, to attend board meetings and to support the programs and projects developed by the board?

District Members:

1. Members, do you promise to actively participate in and support the district programs?
2. Do you promise to volunteer for, and actively serve in, appointed jobs, committees, etc., to the limit of your time availability?
3. Do you promise to provide constructive input to the board of directors and to support the officers in their efforts to conduct the business of the district?

The District Board and Management Team are here to serve and support the Chapters. Please keep the lines of communication open and use them often. We have resources to share and stand by to help in any way possible. One example is the support our Marketing and Public Relations Team (Jerry McElfresh, David Melville, and Ray Rhymer) provides by publishing and maintaining a timely source of information and entertainment via the internet.

- FWD website: Farwesterndistrict.org/
- FWD Facebook:
 - [Facebook.com/farwesterndistrict/](https://www.facebook.com/farwesterndistrict/)
- Westunes (Official eMagazine):
 - westunes.farwesterndistrict.org/
- Westags (Monthly Email update):
 - Delivered directly to your email inbox monthly

Contact information for the District Team can be found on the website. Just click our names on the “about” tab and we will get right back to you.

Thank you for everything you do for your Chapter and the District.

In Harmony,



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

It was an exciting winter for the Southwestern Division. Many of the chapters experienced satisfying and financially rewarding Holiday seasons with shows and many performances. My own chapter, **Rincon Beach (Pacific Sound Chorus)**, was fortunate to be connected to a large mall in Santa Barbara which contracted and paid us to sing three times, and also hired **The FourTune Seekers** quartet for three performances. It was a great way to gain exposure and we have a few men who witnessed the fun, who have indicated they'd like to come check us out... The malls start arranging for these performers, about six months out, so put together a promo packet, with a video of some of your performances, and start calling on malls in your area...

A number of our chapters sent representatives to the recent Harmony U and Leadership Academy in Las Vegas. I saw representatives of **San Fernando Valley, San Luis Obispo, Santa Monica, Long Beach, Rincon and Santa Fe Springs....and Bakersfield** sent seven guys!

Speaking of **Bakersfield**, I recently had the opportunity to be the Installing Officer for their new slate of officers...and I also had the pleasure of that duty for the **Masters of Harmony**. The ceremonies were quite different and yet quite similar. The MOH had over 100 people in attendance at a country club in Yorba Linda, many members in tuxedos, plated dinner, entertainment from **Masterpiece** and the **NewFangled Four**, numerous awards to deserving members, new officers standing in front of the membership, right hands raised and promising to do

the best job they can, and speeches from the new president, **Rob Menaker**, the outgoing president, **Ron Andreas**, and the chorus director, **Justin Miller**.

Bakersfield Chapter, you'll remember, was almost on life support last fall, and benefitted from a "revival" show donated by **Pacific Sound Chorus**, with help from FWD champ quartet, **American Pastime**, and Nor Cal quartet, **The Front Line**... That chapter filled a 200-seat auditorium and excitedly re-dedicated themselves to quality singing, having fun, more performances, doing things differently, education, and also found a new musical director, **Adam Calvillo** - and suddenly new members are joining, old members are coming back and they have found new life...which, I guess is the purpose of "revival!"

The **Bakersfield** Chapter installation banquet was at a BBQ place, very casual, order from the menu, entertainment provided by the members' gang singing, a very special Director Emeritus award to **Tank Waldrum**, new officers standing in front of the membership, right hands raised and promising to do the best job they can, a speech from new president, **Rich Owen** (also a member of MOH), and several tags and songs led by **Adam Calvillo**... And what was also similar, were the expressions of love from the members of the chapter, to their brothers. Both chapters visibly showed the affection they have for this shared experience and the opportunity to get to know each other in a deep, personal way. Both banquets had a tangible "good feeling" as it was recognized that we are all blessed, those of us who are joined together by this "hobby," and our lives are enriched by the joy of singing and the opportunity to entertain others. "It's great to be a Barbershopper."

I was fortunate to recently attend the Midwinter Convention held in Reno, NV, and my wife, family and I had a wonderful time. Midwinter Conventions are among my favorite...more casual, more time to visit, exhilarating with the Youth Festival... If you haven't attended a Midwinter Convention, change that... It's worth the trip, time and the money. Representing our division very well in the Senior Quartet competition, was **Blood, Sweat and Years**

(**Bob Cathaway, Les Weiser, Paul Engle and Bill Myers**). Also, the **Santa Maria Youth Chorus**, sponsored by the Santa Maria **Central Coast Chordsmen**, and organized by **Robert Maurer**, were awarded an Excellent rating as they did our division proud in the Plateau A division (ages 17 and under...).

I'm fortunate to have the Man of Note for **Brent Graham**, who started in the **Santa Barbara Chapter**, sang with me in **Santa Barbara Sound** for many years, went on to Barbershop fame all over the US, directing chapters in Oregon and Minnesota, singing on the international stage many times with several great quartets, and one of the best coaches and judges in the Society... He just turned 60 which makes me feel very old. Happy Birthday Brent, and welcome back to the FWD as he now lives in Phoenix.

Speaking of my old quartet, **Santa Barbara Sound**, most of you know **Bob Wilke**, Lead of that quartet and the founder of both the **Santa Barbara** and **Ventura** chapters. Bob is now 87 and was recently featured in a video news article which was filmed and produced by **Mike McGee**.

http://www.noozhawk.com/article/bob_wilke_santa_barbara_barbershop_music_scene_20160124

Mike also started his Barbershopping in Santa Barbara and was the founding director of **Rincon Beach Chapter** before leaving FWD to go to Sunshine District (Florida) where he's worked for Disney for the past 10 years or so. Mike's now sharing time back in Santa Barbara (still the Baritone of current third place medalist, **Main Street**) and we're also pleased to see him back in the FWD.

The **Masters of Harmony** are doing something innovative.... They have formed a mini-chorus of about 20 men who are capable of singing during the daytime and for taking some of the smaller performance opportunities that come their way. It is called **Masters of Harmony Lite**. As you can understand, a chorus of 80-120 men is, logistically, a little cumbersome and perhaps overwhelming for the local Woman's Club afternoon tea, but a great-singing

smaller group can be just the right solution... Many of the men are retired or self-employed so they have the flexibility of time in their schedules to take these gigs.

All our chapters report they need new members, even the **Masters of Harmony**, (who recently had 42 members show up for a guest night!), so here's an idea you might want to try. I remember when I first joined **Santa Barbara Chapter** in 1975, that many of the men were engineers. And recently we've had some younger members join my chapter who are UCSB grad students in engineering. It reminded me that men interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) are usually good at math, and people who are good at math often are attracted to music. So, instead of us looking for musicians, let's start looking for engineers and computer science people! How about if we search for associations of those people...at universities or professional associations within our communities, and offer to sing for them - for free! Put together a short, high-energy, (no ballads!) high-quality chorus performance, and expose those men to your chorus. Singing well, is still the best way to attract singers, so go find the people who are likely to enjoy and embrace singing and give them a show. Try that, and tell me if it works.

By the way, when talking to potential singers, be careful how you describe being a Barbershopper. Because we all have such busy lives, even guys who say they love to sing are worried about the time commitment and that's why a lot of them say "no" to a weekly commitment, not to mention the retreats, conventions and shows. Instead, try talking about how much FUN and JOY *you* have from Barbershopping. Tell them how much you *enjoy* the chance to sing every week and to perform for others and watch their smiles and take in the applause. Tell them how much fun and opportunity your family has because of your singing... Tell them about all the great friends, lifelong friends, you have met because of Barbershopping. Change your message, just a little, and see if that doesn't produce better results. If you can get them to come to a meeting you can possibly change their lives, but if they don't even come the first time, then when you ask again, it seems

like you're applying pressure. But FUN and JOY are commodities everyone desires. People will make the time for FUN and JOY. Try it!

Speaking of fun and joy, I hope to see all of you at the SW Division chorus and quartet contest in Las Vegas in March. Since we're combined with the SE Division and it is also the International Quartet Prelims, this will be a larger convention with more opportunities for creating and re-creating friendships, not to mention the fun that is always Las Vegas.

Finally, I want to say thank you to **Ken Day** who has been our Southwestern Division Bulletin Digester for many years. I got to know Ken, personally, singing with him in **Pacific Sound Chorus** and he's a quality guy, great singer and I appreciate his service to the FWD. His replacement is **Justin McQueen** who joined the Society with **Pacific Sound Chorus** in 2015 and is enthusiastic about Barbershop. Justin has big shoes to fill and I'm sure he'll do a great job.

I'm available as a resource for any of you and I am always anxious to be of help...



District Vice President 2 SE
Nick Papageorge

I am very honored and excited to be the new Southern California East Division Vice President. This Division is so diverse and so full of Barbershop singing history. But more importantly, it has been my home for most of my Barbershop life! In the next few months I plan to visit each of the division chapters to have some fun and sing. I want to learn about their identity; who they are as a chapter. Finally, I want to get an idea of what their membership expects out of their chorus, the Far Western District, and the Barbershop Harmony Society.

LAS VEGAS CHAPTER: SPRING CONTEST IN VEGAS IN MARCH

The *Las Vegas Chapter* will be hosting the 2016 International Quartet Preliminary Contest and SE/SW Division Quartet and Chorus Contest in Las Vegas,

March 18 -20, 2016. The Chapter is gearing up for this great event. Get your tickets now through the FWD Website. Don't miss this great event!

As I move on to this new position, I would like to close out my Music and Performance tenure by thanking all of the Harmony College West Faculty for taking time out of their busy schedules to teach and coach our attendees. Thanks to:

Ron Black, Craig Ewing, Royce Ferguson, Jim Halvorson, Larry Halvorson, Warren Hettinga, David Melville, Sam Papageorge, Gary Steinkamp, Ryan Wisniewski, and Russ Young, and MASTERPIECE: Patrick Headtler, Brett Littlefield, Alan Gordon and Rob Meneker.

I also want to give a very special thank-you to all 150 or so of the students in attendance for taking the time to add to your knowledge of our art form. I know that you all will take what you have learned and share it with your chapters. Please remember that if you learn just one new thing at a school like HCWest, it is worth every bit of time, effort and money that you put in. And you never know where you will learn that one thing; it could be at lunch with a member of another chapter, on a break from your class, or singing a tag with three other guys!

Lastly, I would like to thank Alan Gordon and Masterpiece for the kind words they expressed about my tenure as HCWest Dean and Music & Performance VP. I was not expecting that. But when the rest of the school stood up and expressed their appreciation, I was truly speechless. Thank you all for allowing me to serve you as the "M & P guy" for the last eight years.

Oh yea, one final thought: Don't miss the Spring Convention and Contests:

IN VEGAS, IN MARCH!



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

Regrettably I was unable to make the Reno Midwinter even though it was very close

by. Family took precedence for me as chauffeur for a spouse recovering from knee surgery.

Effectiveness of our Singing Valentine programs was impacted by the calendar this year. February 12 was the "go-to" workday before Valentine's Day for delivery to businesses. So many Chapters were doing two or even three days of deliveries (including Saturday). However with Presidents Day on the Monday following we had a three-day weekend. This may explain some drop off in Valentine deliveries at our more urban Chapters.

I hope to ring a few chords with many of you at the Las Vegas International Prelims. This event will have the distinct advantage of all activities within one venue area. And you can see what it will be like for the 2017 International, also in Las Vegas.

There is a new core group of serious singers in San Francisco planning to Charter. If possible they will take over an inactive charter from a now inactive Chapter. I plan to have visited them by the time this report has been posted.

Looking ahead to April 2 we have the combined NW and NE Division Convention. This early date was chosen because of a desire to expose high schools to Barbershop. As April 2 is the Saturday after Easter this year most schools would be on vacation. That would give us an opportunity to use a high school auditorium during its vacation.

We will be at the Castro Valley Center for the Arts, also their High School auditorium. This is a quite new venue with a modern sound system and very comfortable seats. It is however only marginally large enough, so early registration is recommended. There ARE just enough seats based on maximum registration for NCW/NCW the past five years.

I have been promoting attendance to Chapters that have not attended recently. Issues for these Chapters mostly involve having enough members on stage. That is a familiar issue for me as Music Director for the Cable Car Chorus.

Note that Castro Valley is within a two-hour drive for all but two Chapters. So there is an added incentive for attendance with no overnight stay. High Fives to the Reno Chapter, which has already filed their CJ-20. Pray for heavy snow (for water) to be complete by the end of March. My apologies to Eureka - I cannot make you guys be any closer :-)

Yours in Harmony,



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

It's that time of year again. Time for you to start thinking about HOD... huh!!? What?!! What the heck is HOD? Is that some sort of political thing that I really Don't want to know or care about!!?

In reality HOD is something that you truly Should know about; and Should care about. The HOD stands for House of Delegates, and is the governing/ruling body in the Far Western District. As a member of the Board of Directors of the FWD, I am only a "worker" and an "advisor" for the House of Delegates. The real power in the Far Western District lies in the HOD. The HOD is made up of all of the presidents (or a designated alternate) of chapters in the FWD in addition to past District Presidents and FWD Board members. The HOD is a large group of guys.

HOD meetings are held twice a year - at Prelims in the spring and at the District Convention in the fall. Unfortunately, attendance at the HOD meetings is historically 40% (or less). Guys, as the governing/ruling body of the Far Western District, we as members, permit 40% of our representation to make decisions for the District. As DVP for the North East Division, I challenge each of the North East Division Chapters to urge your president (or a designated representative) to attend both the Spring and Fall HOD meetings. As members of your respective chapters, urge your president to ensure that your chapter has a representative at all HOD meetings and provide feedback to your representative by reading the

HOD Brochure that is published (on the FWD website) four weeks ahead of the meeting. Become truly informed on the discussions/decisions that will be made in the upcoming HOD. It is a wonderful way to inform yourself and your chapter on what the heck is going on; and it's a wonderful way to participate in those decisions, in an informed and meaningful way.

One of the really exciting things that we have done in the FWD is to shift a small amount of this cumbersome decision-making ability away from the HOD and into the hands of our relatively new, and extremely capable events guy, Bryan Forbes. Bryan is actively planning our conventions out to a ten-year window and is in the process of changing the way we run conventions in a way that is way more streamlined and workable for all of us. He is doing a truly wonderful job and the ability for chapters to plan 10 years in advance is truly a welcome scenario.

Speaking of participation in District events, including educational events, we had a number of members attend the Mini-Leadership Academy held in Sacramento in December or the combined Leadership Academy/Harmony College West in Las Vegas in January. Although I was not able to attend the Las Vegas weekend I understand it was well worth the trip and time. The day-long Mini-Leadership Academy focused on three offices – President, Secretary and Treasurer and was well attended by Northern California members. The synergism of getting that many chapter leaders together from the District is phenomenally powerful. With the assistance of our instructors/facilitators attendees had a tremendous experience with networking and sharing and solving many of the challenges that we all deal with in our respective chapters. Our thanks and appreciation to our instructors Steve Kirch, Jim Sherman and Carl Miller for their time in assisting us. I urge you to attend a Leadership Academy every year – you will always come away with new ideas and Barbershop friends. You don't have to be an officer to participate. Your attendance is valuable and helps your chapter.

We are in the tentative thinking/planning stages of holding a second Mini-Leadership Academy in Northern California in the early summer with a focus

on membership, marketing and PR. As we move forward, we will keep you in the information loop. Please let me know if you have additional thoughts and ideas.

In closing, I want to comment on the response regarding the initiative our incoming president has asked us to pursue. The response from the North East Division chapters has been very positive and I applaud all of you for your involvement in reviewing your missions and goals for the coming year and the years ahead. With your input the FWD leadership will be better able to tailor our resources to the specific needs of each chapter. By identifying who you are as a chapter, you will be in a position to identify how the District can assist you in moving toward your goals.

Lastly, a thank you to those who have stepped up to assume leadership positions in your Chapter for the coming year. A focus on your WHY and encouragement of each of your members to focus on their WHY will move our chapters within the North East District to new highs.

I look forward to seeing you and sharing a tag at Prelims in Las Vegas, Division in Castro Valley, and District in Riverside.



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

It always seems that I open my article with the same statement, and this edition is no different!

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

Having just returned from the 2016 Midwinter Convention in Reno, I am bursting my vest with pride.

This Division had such a huge impact and overall presence this year. A hearty Congratulations to our new **International Senior Champions, High Priority** from Arizona! They really brought it this year and were rewarded indeed. It was so exciting to see them take the stage with their personalities and perform with the musicality that reached new heights.

Bravo Gents, it is an honor to call you all my friends and brothers! I look forward to seeing you in Nashville this summer to be rightly acknowledged as Champions.

Additionally, the **Chandler Mens Choir** along with the **Treblemakers** were stellar in their performances with the men scoring an Outstanding score and were edged out of first by a wonderful chorus from Hong Kong. **C'est La Vie**, the SAI Rising Star Champions from the Scottsdale Chorus represented AZ with charm and grace. Thanks Ladies.

A new youth chorus from Chandler, **Sounds of the Mouth**, grabbed a Superior rating in the youth contest and won the AA plateau. Great work guys and we look forward to hearing from you often at our AZ shows.

This year at Midwinter, a preliminary college quartet contest was held too, and you guessed it, an AZ Quartet emerged as qualifiers. Congratulations to **Eclectones!!** We look forward to seeing you compete in Nashville in the Youth Quartet Contest.

Many men from the AZ Division took the opportunity to sing in the All Chapter Chorus again this year. We were directed by Justin Miller and joined on the risers by the Westminster Chorus. What a thrill this was. I hope you all had an opportunity to watch the webcast for the contest and also the awesome Saturday night show.

I have sent an email to the AZ Div. Chapter Presidents looking for input regarding your Chapter and its goals. Please take a moment to review the request and provide your input as soon as you can so we can take your information to our March BOD meeting.

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**

If you weren't at the BHS Midwinter Convention in Reno, you missed one of those top-tier lifetime experiences.

For me, it was one of the best battery recharges ever. You'll see more about it in this issue, on LiveWire, on the FWD and BHS websites, and in the Harmonizer.

Hey, have you purchased your registrations for one of the three FWD Conventions this spring? You can do that here: <https://events.farwesterndistrict.org>. And to enter your quartet or chorus in the contest, go to <https://ebiz.barbershop.org>.

The International Quartet Preliminaries is combined with the Southwest and Southeast Division contests on March 18-19 in Las Vegas, NV. The venue and hotel for the contest is the Alexis Park Resort, 375 East Harmon Avenue, Las Vegas, NV, 89169, (702) 796-3300. **Deadline for Contest Entry was February 19.**

The combined Northeast and Northwest Division contests are on April 2. Venue is Castro Valley Center for the Arts, 19501 Redwood Rd, Castro Valley, CA, 94546. The hotel is Holiday Inn Express, 2419 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley, CA, 94546, (510) 889-9300. **Deadline for contest entry is March 5.**

The Arizona Division contest is April 16. The contest venue is the Skyline High School Auditorium, 845 S Crismon Rd, Mesa, AZ 85208. The hotel is the Country Inn & Suites, 6650 E Superstition Springs Blvd, Mesa, AZ 85206, (480) 641-8000. **Deadline for contest entry is March 19.**

Plan to attend your Division Convention, it's a great way to enjoy our hobby and rejuvenate! There are new events and classes being offered, check out the registration pages elsewhere in this issue. And please note, if you plan to compete, here are the four "must do's":

1. You must be a member of BHS

- 2. You must be a member of your FWD quartet or chorus**
- 3. Your quartet or chorus must be registered at the ebiz.barbershop.org site to compete***
- 4. You must register for the convention**

*The contest entry form (CJ-20) is filled in by you on the Society ebiz website. It is available for you to enter now. Again, go here:

<https://ebiz.barbershop.org>

Log in and go to Contest Entry. Compete! DO IT!



**District Vice President
Mu&Perf
Craig Ewing**

First let me thank the FWD for the opportunity to serve as your 2016 VP of Music & Performance. Thanks to Nick Papageorge for his many years in the position, for acting as the dean of Harmony College West 2016 and for his willingness to "show me the ropes".

HCW was a great event. Thanks to all the faculty, clinician/headliners MASTERPIECE, and to David Melville for coordinating the online registration. I hope to see YOU at our next learning opportunity.

BHS and the FWD have many programs to help your chapter's music team, membership team, and media team succeed. The smaller the chapter, the more important it is to cover these tasks and take advantage of the tools that have been created. Feel free to contact me at CEsing10r@gmail.com or at 714-356-8501 if you have questions about our Standing Ovation Program, chorus coaching reimbursement, as well as online and classroom training.

I encourage you to get out and perform for your community AND post on social media. Also, go see and support other groups. Be sure to wear your "colors" (logo shirts, jackets, etc.) when attending other chapters' shows, school concerts, and a cappella

programs so we are visible. Be encouraging and supportive of music and the arts in person and on social media!

Get out and perform – share our music. As Deke Sharon said at the Reno Midwinter “Aren’t you guys tired of being a best-kept secret!”

I hope to see many long-time friends, cheer the competing quartets and choruses, and meet those in the district that I don’t know yet at our upcoming Spring Convention and our division contests.



**Chapter Support & Leadership Training
Steve Salmon**

A Huge Thank You to everyone who attended the Leadership Academy in January. Nothing is better for solving a problem than preventing it in the first place. Each class was filled with lots of ideas and practical experience. No one should have come home empty minded. I also look forward to our spring convention in my home town Las Vegas. Hope all goes well there.

As CSLT and just in my nature, I love searching the internet for articles or Videos that I can watch or read to continue my leadership development. Here are some search topics to consider. Leadership Assessment, Effective Meetings, Difficult Conversations, Leading an Effective Team, Principles of Leadership, Managing & Leading, Setting & Achieving Goals, Conflict Resolution, Empowering Volunteers, Delegating Well, Face to Face Communication. That should be enough for a Year, or at least till the next Westunes.

I have found most leadership principles are common sense. Try these on for size and watch how your chapter (Barbershop Harmony Business) continues to progress.

- 1-Put people first – treat people well.
- 2-Do what you say – be dependable and punctual.
- 3-Build Trust – develop trust with character and integrity.
- 4-Put needs before wants – use prudence and restraint in the handling of chapter and personal finances.

5-Do it well – deliver high quality and exceptional customer service.

6-Don’t embark without a map – implement basic business planning from the start.

7-Sell, sell, sell – have a constant strategy for marketing and sales.

These principles will keep a business open, and will also keep your chapter open.

Source: Common Sense Leadership by Richard M. Astle, Executive Excellence December 8, 1994



**Chorus Director Development
Royce Ferguson**

No article submitted



**Events
Bryan Forbes**

All spring conventions and contest registrations are open! Please make your way onto the FWD website and click on News/Events and then on Upcoming Conventions to get yourself registered. See below for information on all of the Spring Conventions & Contests:

SE/SW Division Contests & International Quartet Preliminaries

Las Vegas, Nevada
March 17-20, 2016
Alexis Park Resort
Host Chapter: Las Vegas Chapter,
Silver Statesmen Chorus
Convention Chairman: Greg Dreyer

NE/NW Division Contests

Castro Valley, CA
April 2, 2016
Castro Valley Center for the Arts
Host Chapter: Walnut Creek Chapter,
Devil Mountain Chorus

Convention Chairman: Ken Hitch

Arizona Division Contest

Mesa, AZ

April 15-16, 2016

Skyline High School Performing Arts Center

Host Chapter: Tucson Sunshine Chapter,
Tucson Barbershop Experience

Convention Chairman: Dave Tompkins

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. Online registration has not opened yet for the Fall Convention & Contest. A software upgrade is needed for the website so we can move forward with our plans to provide online seat selection during the registration process. Our target date to get this work completed and launch online registrations is April 1, 2016. Stay tuned for more information on this new process, which will pertain to the 2016 Fall Convention and all future conventions where reserved seating is required.

We're working to improve current process and tools for hosting conventions and contests. Recently, the numerous spreadsheets housed on the FWD website for budgeting and tracking actual costs for a convention were taken down and replaced with a much improved spreadsheet. So those of you who may have enjoyed navigating through the nine spreadsheets in use for budgeting will be disappointed to learn that we have trimmed it down to just one spreadsheet. Everyone else can jump for joy. Next up on the list for improvement are the bid forms. Our plan is to convert them to an interactive Adobe form so you can fill them out online. I mention this because it is time to begin soliciting chapters for the 2017 contest cycle. If you're interested, please drop a note to the District Vice President for your Division so it can make its way to my desk. You can always drop me a note at bryan.forbes@primusconsultants.com. I look forward to hearing from you regarding your interest levels and process improvement ideas.

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

Most chapters in the Far Western District did not have a representative attending the **Leadership Academy Marketing class** in Las Vegas in January so information from that class is being made available to all chapter

Marketing/PR officers and others in the District who might be interested.

The **outline for the class**, "Demystifying Marketing," and a PowerPoint **slide show** on the topic have been posted on the FWD website where anyone can download and read them both. The outline is available in either PDF or Word format and the slide show is in PDF or PowerPoint format. You'll find them on the website under the Media tab. Click on Leadership Academy Presentations, where you'll find the Marketing category.

A slide presentation on **Marketing with Social Media** also is on the site. It's a good overview of the social media outlets available to you that webmaster David Melville presented during the class.

The members in the class asked a lot of good questions and provided good input for determining what the marketing and PR job involves. For those who didn't have the advantage of that give and take, I hope the posted outline and slide shows can assist you with helping to "make your chapter rich and famous!"

The District's communications platform is a three-legged stool with the monthly **Westags** providing brief articles on items of interest within the District and

linking to more detailed coverage in the FWD website when appropriate. The second leg, the FWD **website** is, or should be, the main source of information, registration for conventions and contests and other major occurrences. The quarterly **Westunes** is the third leg, with detailed coverage of recent important events and columns and reports from District leaders and various chapters that provide a permanent record.

We try to keep Westags items brief because the eNewsletter is “pushed” to all FWD members and some individuals outside that circle who have requested it. Those who find a particular item of interest can read it, go on to the website for more information and take whatever action they deem to be necessary.

We’re looking for news in Westags that will be of interest to all of our members such as Youth Camps, multi-chapter novice or comedy contests, upcoming conventions and other future events. For inclusion in the next edition, send your information with WESTAGS in the subject line to marketing@farwesterndistrict.org by the 25th of the month.



Membership **Bill Rosica**

After many years of watching programs on Recruiting and Retention roll out of Nashville and Kenosha, it seems to me that they were too complicated. I believe in making it as simple and easy as possible. My plan is simple: “Each One Bring One”. The result....We Won.

The plan is to challenge each man in the chapter to bring in one new member by the end of the year. Just One! This allows each Chapter to concentrate on recruitment at its simplest level and not worry about following the rules set up by past programs. If we burden our members with ongoing large programs, we tend to lose focus.

Maybe a contest to reward the member who brings in the first new member of the year, or the most new

members, or even the most guests brought in during the year. There are plenty of incentives that could be used.

Once the program begins, each Chapter would need to follow the “Retention” procedures I taught at Leadership Academy to make sure the new members don’t head out the back door. I can revisit that class at the Spring and Fall Conventions, if requested.

This program is a departure from the norm and I will change things up as the year progresses and will need assistance from the DVP’s.



Quartet Activities **Bill Kane**

Well, I have a column due for Westunes tomorrow, what the heck should I write about?

Hmmm, gotta talk about quartet stuff. . .what has been happening here lately in FWD quartet-wise? Oh yes, my buddies High Priority, all from Greater Phoenix, just won the title of International Senior Quartet Champions yesterday at Midwinter in Reno. I guess that is worth mentioning :>). It just goes to show how consistent practice and good coaching can get fantastic results.

You will all remember how this quartet finished #2 last year in New Orleans, after the qualifying score had them ranked #9 going in, right? Of course they really, really wanted to win when they had come that close. This year’s qualifying score had them at #3. I can attest to the fact that for the past few weeks hardly a day went by when they weren’t singing together. And boy did it pay off! Congratulations Ray, Byron, Mark, Dan!



(L to R) Tenor Ray Estes; Lead Byron Bennett; Bari Mark House; Bass Dan Davenport (all Greater Phoenix).

Remember the old line: “How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice, practice, practice!”

BUT, the guys in High Priority didn’t just start out quartet singing lately. Each one has years of quartet singing under his belt. And that’s what YOU can take away from their success story. . .GET STARTED SINGING IN A QUARTET.

How?

I have signed up to do Singing Valentines with my chapter. I hope you did, cause what better way to get started getting your feet wet in a quartet. If you missed this year, there is always next year.

Don’t want to wait a year? How about Harmony Platoon? It is too late to sign up for the March Platoon in Vegas now, but you can sign up very soon for the one at the Fall FWD Convention in Riverside. (You can come and see the Platoon contests in Vegas. Just look for us in Alexis Park Resort room Parthenon 5, right behind the main ballroom. Our finals contest will be at Noon on Friday, March 18.)

And speaking of Platoon Champs, here are our winners from Midwinter’s Reno Convention:



(L to R) Tenor Greg Ramsey (Colorado Springs/Pikes Peak); Bass Andrew Coward (Hong Kong); Lead Donnie Miller (Reno); Bari Raphael Pazo, Jr. (CA Delta).

Congratulations to them, and to all of the guys who sang in Platoon, some of whom did so in their very first quartet.

When will you try your first quartet experience?

Youth In Harmony [Open]



***District Historian
Joe Samora***

Time for Cake and Candles

New year, new leadership, and a renewed recognition that the Far Western District is 70 years old on October 22, 2016. A letter authorizing the formation of the Far Western District was signed by International President Frank Thorne. (Since I was a small lad in 1946, I am relying on *Fifty Years of Harmony* by District Historian Eliot “El” Wirt for my information).

“According to the Society magazine, *The Harmonizer*, the following chapters were in existence before the district was formed: Long Beach, Santa Monica, Phoenix Saguaro, Hollywood, San Francisco, San Gabriel, San Diego, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Reno, Guam Marines, Pacific Marines, Pasadena and Salt Lake City. There is also evidence that chapters existed in Seattle in 1940 and Honolulu in 1941. Originally the Far Western District included California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona and Nevada.”

“The first President was Russ Stanton of the San Gabriel Chapter. Howard Cooper was the first District Historian.” Today, we are fortunate to have Gordon “Mongo” Bergthold as our FWD President. His motto is “Service Above Self.” Communication is his theme this year. We can accept Mongo’s challenge and make the best even better



Division 1 SW Chapters

Ken Day, Editor

Aloha Chapter

By Jack Hashimoto

A successful Cabaret dinner show started off our quarter, as we entertained our faithful family and friends. On hand to join in the festivities were our sister choruses **Na Leo Lani** and the **Honolulu Blend Show Chorus** from the Sweet Adelines and their quartets. Kudos to **Glenn Crowder** and **Jordan Wong**, who co-chaired this event.

We said "Aloha" to **Mel Chow** our beloved member who left us for the big chorus in the sky by singing one of Mel's favorite songs "My Way" at his final services.

We held our 2nd annual A Capella Academy for high school young men in November, highlighted by **O.C. Times** as our guest quartet. Kudos go to **Lars Isaacson** chief organizer and music director **Mark Conching**.

Our annual Christmas Show, script written by our own **Scot Izuka**, was entitled "Santa Needs an Ukulele". The finale included our own members playing ukuleles and singing "Mele Kalikimaka", joined by audience members, who brought their own ukuleles.

BOTMs are **Lars Isaacson** - October, shepherd for A Capella Academy; **Mike Johnson** - November, our photo-historian making rehearsals, performances, our website come to life in full color; December - **Scot Izuka** for his script writing and directing of our Christmas Show.

And a special shout-out to **Ken Day**, Division 1 SW Editor for all his years of service. Thanks Ken for your hard work and guidance.

Long Beach Chapter

By Joe Nagle

A quartet consisting of members from the Long Beach Chapter and the Barbershop Singing Club in Seal Beach performed songs from "The Music Man" for

the Primetime Players, a senior's performing troupe. The quartet members were **Sid Nichol**, **Joe Nagle**, **Paul Sandorff** and **Jim Olson**. Seven performances were staged at six different senior centers throughout the Long Beach area.

Joe Nagle was elected Chapter President and **Paul Sandorff** was elected Secretary/Treasurer, thereby succeeding themselves. Also elected was Vice President **Marty Fuchs**.

2015 ended poorly for the **International City Chorus**, when our newly elected VP & Director **Marty Fuchs** and former member **Sid Nichol** joined the ranks of the ever-growing Heavenly Chorus.

2016 started off on a much better note - the chapter finally joined the 21st Century with the creation of a new website, a Facebook Page and a Twitter feed. The chapter is actively seeking new singers. If you know of anyone living in the Long Beach area, please direct them to lbchorus.org

Rincon Beach Chapter

By Brent Anderson

The chorus traveled to Mesa, AZ and competed in new Western outfits singing the *Eagle's Desperado* and *Little Patch of Heaven*, made popular by **Crossroads**. We placed a respectable 8th place in the very competitive FWD, "just behind" the Masters of Harmony.... Their quartet, **The FourTune Seekers** (**Kevin Cunningham**, **Garth Ratliff**, **Tobias Brown-Heft**, **Brent Anderson**) were named mic testers, sang four great crowd-pleasing numbers and were rewarded for their efforts by winning the coveted **Lloyd Steinkamp Standing Ovation** award...given to the audience favorite as voted on by the audience. **Judy Steinkamp**, widow of Lloyd, presented the award.

During the Holiday Season, the **Pacific Sound Chorus** had three paid performances at a prestigious downtown Santa Barbara Mall, another for an upscale retirement community, another for a Private Club and the annual performance on a local television fundraiser Telethon. They also sang a free concert for a

Camarillo Lutheran church who lets us rehearse in their community center for free in the summer. The "thank you" concert is open to the public, and this year had over 200 people in attendance. A local community charity was the beneficiary of a "love offering" that raised over \$1200.

The chapter held a banquet to install the 2016 slate of officers. **Jim Rodriguez** will head a team of stalwart chapter volunteers for the second year. Installing officer **Alan Gordon** of the Masters of Harmony who did an outstanding job delivering an inspiring message of continual improvement and the rewards of hard work.

San Luis Obispo Chapter

By Pete Bennett

The **Gold Coast Chorus** this year again shared the stage for our *Christmas Show* with our SAI sisters, the **Pacific Horizon Chorus**. The show was well received in our new, larger venue, and showcased the musical growth of our choruses and the talents of our director, **Logan Patrick-Miernicki**.

SLO Chapter officers **Pete Bennett**, **George Shepard**, and **Chuck Mills** returned to Leadership Academy and HCW in Henderson, NV along with director Logan (Chuck and George were also honored at our awards dinner with BOTY and Hall of Fame awards, respectively).

New member **Chuck Maly** jumped in with both feet and is our new chapter treasurer for 2016. New member **Phil Norton** is passionate about chapter visibility and youth outreach.

Santa Fe Springs Chapter

By Ron Larsen

Editor Note: See page 6 for article from our 2015 FWD Champion Chorus Masters of Harmony

Santa Maria Chapter

By Gene Kai

The **Central Coast Chordsmen** had seven chorus performances in the community plus their annual Christmas show to end the year.

We welcome **Chase Bradley**, **Kyle Oakes** and father **Michael Oakes** into membership. We continue to look for a permanent director and offer our thanks to our current Co-directors Gene and Bob. So if anyone reading this article has aspiration to direct a forward-thinking chorus give us a call.

The new board was installed by **Rudy Xavier** of the **Gold Coast Chorus** [San Luis Obispo]. The new board met and has several new ideas in the works to help increase membership and exposure in the community.

Santa Monica Chapter

By Marty Mitnik

The **Oceanaires** presented our Holiday Show again this year at the Palisades Lutheran Church. Our annual visit to the Cedars Sinai Hospital Neo-Natal department, arrangements made by **Katie Walker Boeck**, was warmly received by the new parents and nurses. We also walked through Down Town Culver City stopping to carol at some of the restaurants as well as the Culver Hotel and the Fire Department.

Our installation-of-Officers luncheon had our own **Doc Bill Boeck** as installing officer. **Bruce Schroffel**, as always, was the MC for the event and he also performed his magic skills as the unforgettable "**El Moldo – The Magnificent**". A special welcome to retired members who attended this festive occasion, **Allen Katz**, past director of **The Oceanaires**, **Dick Pruden** and **Gale Williams**. We were very happy to see **John Smurda**, **Bob Wilson**, and **Dave Zasloff** who have been out on "sick leave".

A special proclamation from the Mayor of Los Angeles, **Eric Garcetti**, was presented to **The Oceanaires** on this, the 40th year of its existence.

Directors awards were presented to **Rick Peiper**, the Rookie of the Year; **John White** for all his efforts for handling all the legal and tax forms as required;

Terry Delegeane for his work relating to the building of our “Boat”.

The President’s awards went to **Jerry Walker** for his never saying NO to any request and always volunteering when needed; to **Ben Lowe**, our esteemed director, for all his talents and teaching abilities which have brought **The Oceanaires** to the level it now enjoys.

The BOTY was presented to outgoing president **Jack Fry** for his very successful year as president.

“40-Year” pins were presented to **Doc Bill Boeck** and **Dick Pruden**, two of the founding members of **The Oceanaires**.

The new 2016 officers are: President **Ken Scholtz**; Secretary **Frank DaVanzo**; Treasurer **John White**; Immediate Past President **Jack Fry**; VP Development **Jerry Walker**; VP Marketing and Development **Pat Kellogg**; VP Communications **Chuck Bevitt**; Chorus Manager **Wally Mees**; VP Music and Performance **Jim Leedom**. Members at Large are **Terry Delegeane**, **Rob Gordon** and **Alan Hanson**.



Division 2 SE Chapters **Greg Price, Editor**

BREA CHAPTER **A Weekend to Remember**

On Saturday, January 23, members of the **Brea Gaslight Chorus** and the **Fullerton Orange Empire Chorus** combined their voices at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in La Habra, CA to pay their respects to long-time Barbershopper, **Wes Reed** at his Memorial Service. The service was held on what would have been his 83rd birthday. The combined chorus delivered heartfelt renditions of *I Believe* and *Irish Blessing* to the approximately 300 people in attendance. It was awesome to observe a group of men of all ages join together to honor one of its own with song. Wes' influence on both choruses runs deep and will undoubtedly carry on with those who were fortunate to know him.

The next day the **Brea Chapter** held their Installation and Awards Banquet. **DVP SE Nick Papageorge** conducted the installation ceremony for our 2016 officers. We also honored those individuals who embraced the Brea chapter and Gaslight chorus throughout 2015. We commend and congratulate:

Freshman BOTY:	Frank Martinez
Mr. & Mrs. Barbershop:	Richard & Mallory Otto
Attendance Award:	John Saylor (50 out of 50 rehearsals)
Above & Beyond Award:	Allyson Yee
Gaslight Spirit Award:	Nicholas Bratcher
Director’s Choice:	Stephen Henry
President’s Choice:	Tammy Ordaz
Hall of Fame:	Bryan Forbes
BOTY:	Jon Sutherland

Inland Empire Chapter

By Gaylord Spence

The **Inland Empire Chapter** is most proud of the contributions from its membership. We recently recognized the unselfish contributions made to the chapter by our Immediate-Past President **Don Sevesind** at our January 23rd Chapter Officers Installation Banquet. We welcomed new incoming President **Bill Shova**, and two new Board Members-at-Large **John Ernsberger** and **Don Marquez**. However, our most surprised members were our recipients of our BOTY **Tom Scali**; our 5-Year Service Award **Mike Smith** and our Quartet of the Year **Touch of Class [David Rivas, Joel Handen, Geoff Mordue, Lance Alloway]**. The entire chapter looks forward to an amazing year in 2016 for the Inland Sound!

El Cajon Chapter

By Roger Simpson

The Music Masters Chorus had a wonderful Christmas period singing those old songs of the season. Our elections added another year of outstanding members to our officers and Board: President **Paul Schmidt**, Sec/Treas **Roger Simpson**, Chorus Manager **Jack Evans**, Program VP **Jeff Freeman**, and Music VP **Jon Crick**. **Tom Anderson**

continues as our Director. Our installation banquet was held at Patty's restaurant in San Diego and we sang several of our chorus favorites. Former FWD President, International Board Member and co-founder of the El Cajon chapter **Dr. Bob House** was our installing officer and did a wonderful job.

Although our membership is small in number, our chapter is excited about this new year and is planning new shows for 2016. Membership is one of the main goals for 2016.

LAGUNA HILLS CHAPTER

Singing at the Mall

On Saturday, Dec 12, the *South Coast Harmonizers* of Laguna Hills, CA entertained shoppers with Christmas and Barbershop Songs for an hour at the Laguna Hills Mall from 11:00 am to noon. The chorus was joined onstage by the Sweet Adelines Quartet, *"The Jewel Tones."* What a great way to get Barbershop singing out in their community. Congratulations for reaching out to so many people at a great time of year!

Las Vegas Chapter

By Steve Salmon

Las Vegas, home of the 2016 HCW/LA, Spring Prelims, SE/SW Division Conventions, and Host of the 2017 International Barbershop Convention.

Congratulations to our new Board of Directors under the leadership of President **Greg Dreyer**.

(See our website for the rest of the gang www.silverstatesmen.com)

Congratulations to the following Chapter Members; **Rudy Jovero** Rookie of the Year, **Ben Rockoff** Directors Award, **John Lenox** President's Award and **Ivan Lambert** "BOTY"!

We completed 2015 with 86 men on the roster and additional applications awaiting the January Board Meeting. 2016 will be a year of continued growth both musically and in membership as we continue to share our message "It's the Music".

Orange (Quartet) Chapter

By Mark Sheldon

The Chapter was saddened by the passing of longtime member **James Holder**.

The **Lowerre** Family hosted a holiday party in December, and the chorus (and friends) went caroling in downtown Orange near the Plaza.

The Chapter welcomes new Society Member **James Olson**.

The Installation and Awards Dinner was held and award winners included "Rookie of the Year" **James Olson**, BOTY **Mark Sheldon**, President's Award to **Michael Werner**, Rupert Hall Award to **Paul Sandorff**, and a Special Barbershop Booster Award to **Art Iniguez**.

Our long distance champion member **Andrew Coward** attended on February 1 and reports progress in bringing barbershoppers together in Hong Kong.

San Diego Chapter

By Greg Price

We put on our 38th annual Christmas Show featuring three local choruses, San Diego's youth barbershop chorus, **The Pacific Suns**, and our own traditional **Sun Harbor Elf Chorus**, supported by several quartets including **Behind The Barn**, **Tuesday Night Alibi** and **Night and Day**. One week later, the Elf Chorus kicked off the *December Nights* celebration in Balboa Park, a weekend event which attracts over 300,000 attendees to America's Finest City. We followed up over the next few weeks with several performances at Christmas celebrations all over the county involving the chorus and our two chapter quartets, **Cloud 9** and **Quad Squad**.

We welcomed our newest member **Ed Bankes**, who is already contributing his talents to the bass section.

Our installation banquet, organized as always by the indefatigable **Paul Schmidt**, was presided over by brother chorus member and District EVP **Craig**

Hughes who was also awarded the fur-lined pitch pipe as our new BOTY. Others receiving awards and scholarships were: **Frank Artzer**, **David Garstang** and **Mike Mullert**.

South Orange County Chapter

By John McCallum

We're fresh off a full and fun Christmas Show that not only featured the zany **Velvet Frogs**, but was the stage debut of our new Chorus Director **Dawn Castiglione**. Dawn not only got her start in the world of barbershop when she heard a men's barbershop quartet off in the distance in the middle of the night (and went out to investigate!), she's also a long time Sweet Adeline star with the World Champion **Harborlites**. She's been coaching and choreographing choruses and quartets for many years, and brings a spark to our Tuesday rehearsals at Freedom Village in Lake Forest. Come join us at 6:15 if you're in town!

January began with a delightful installation/awards banquet where I received the non-existent 24k-gold gavel from my good friend and Immediate Past President **Marsh Goldman**. Also this month we were honored to sing as both chorus and quartet (**WYSIWYG**) at the memorial service of former Chapter President (and the best baritone I've ever sung with), **John Dillon**.



Division 3 NW Chapters

John Heather, Editor

Editors Note:

After some 5+ years as the division 3 digester I have found someone who would like to take over as digester.

*I would like to introduce **Charles Feltman** of the **Cable Car** Chorus who will take over with the next edition of *Westunes*, I hope that you will give him the same support that you have given me.*

*It has been fun being your digester and I wish **Charles** all the best for the future.*

Bay Area Chapter

Input Supplied by

Charles Feltman from **Rich Postal**

San Jose (VIH) Chapter is presenting an original musical written by two members around a dozen Barbershop arrangements of well-known Beatles songs, four performances at several venues, in late February and early March.

Visit us at www.vihchorus.org

Eureka

Input Supplied by

Charles Feltman from **Harvey Raider**

Eureka Chapter is having a local community recruitment drive for harmony parts, especially for Tenors and Baritones, and are concurrently in a Director search because their current leader is just turning 80.

Visit us at www.humboldtharmonaires.com

Fremont Hayward

Input Supplied by

Charles Feltman from
Shaun Collins & Demaster Survine IV

Fremont-Hayward Chapter had a December show for a Hayward hospital and then took a vacation until mid-January. They are now preparing for Valentine's Day with some members likely learning new parts due to a shortage of Baritones and Tenors.

Visit us at www.ndchorus.com

Marin County

By Newton Harband

The Marin **Golden Gate** Barbershop chapter enjoyed several Holiday sing-outs and recently installed officers for the coming year at a wonderful social event which included a delicious meal and great singing. Installing officer: **Charles Feltman**, district officer and director of San Francisco **Cable Car Chorus**.

Visit us at www.marinbarbershopchorus.org

Monterey Peninsula

By Sam Kier

Monterey Peninsula – Sixty years ago, on January 11, 1956, Society Headquarters in Detroit gave permission to 28 Monterey men to form the **Monterey Chapter** of SPEBSQSA. There is still a little glimmer left of more glorious times, as a dozen or so members continue to meet on Tuesday evenings at York Preparatory School.

In March, Chapter Secretary **Sam Kier** will celebrate 50 years of barbershopping with the **Cypresses** and on April 9, the chorus will sing at the City of Pacific Grove's "Good Old Days" celebration.

Visit us at www.cypresses.org

Palo Alto/Mountain View

David Weatherford

The **Peninsulaires** Chorus transformed the fellowship hall of First United Methodist Church in Sunnyvale into "Joe's Place" as we presented our annual Cabaret show recreating a speak-easy atmosphere. MC and owner of the joint **Joe Siecinski** welcomed guests and introduced the entertainers as they sang songs from the Prohibition era, including the chorus and chorus quartets, special guests The **Peninsula Harmony Chorus** Octet, and our featured quartet "**Spellbound**".

The annual Holiday Chorus welcomed several extra singers again as we performed for the CalTrans Holiday Train in Mountain View, the Palo Alto Farmer's Market, and the Mountain View Tree Lighting ceremony.

At a western-themed dinner on January 10, the new officers for the 2016 calendar year were sworn in by **Charles Feltman**, DVP of the Northwest Division.

Taking the oath of office were President **John Hinkle**; VP Chapter Development **Andy Maurer**; VP

Marketing **Jeff Harris**; VP Program **John Wanles**; VP Music **Terry Moore**; Treasurer **Dave Morley**; Secretary **Bill Faught**; and Board Members-at-Large **Nigel Endersby**, **John Jones**, and **Jim Sherman**. **Dave Kocharhook** is the Immediate Past President.

We again welcomed **Darin Drown** as he led an all-day chorus "advance" (never retreat!). **Darin** shared his tips for better vocal production and singing technique.

Input Supplied by

Charles Feltman from **Dave Kocharhook**

Visit us at www.barbershop-harmony.org

San Francisco

By Charles Feltman

San Francisco Chapter is reviewing its Vision Statement to make a better match between current practice and future plans while reviewing music choices in connection with this evaluation. This follows the October Show in which more than 25 songs were sung by the chorus and a bunch more by Chapter quartets.

Visit us at www.sfcablecarchorus.org

San Mateo

By Thomas Addison

We are recuperating from our Holiday sing-outs which included an 8-hour gig on the Col Train Holiday Train where we sang to literally thousands of people between San Francisco and San Jose. Thanks to the San Francisco **Cable Car Chorus** who joined us for this performance and helped fill out the ranks

We continue to welcome guests and new members who have found us via 'Meet Up', the average age of whom are about of our mean It is a neat website that is worth investigating if you are looking to add youth to your chapter.

New officers installed in January are:

President **Ed Sterbence**, VP Music and Performance **Jack Hale**, Secretary **Rich Alger**, VP Chapter Development **Jeff Cleary**, and Secretary **Pete Wanger**.

Visit us at www.goldenchordsmen.org

Santa Rosa
By Ray Crowder

We had a successful 50th anniversary show featuring **Surprise**, the Sweet Adelines Region 12 quartet champions. Lead **Melany Schmitt** is a former director of the **Redwood Chordsmen**, and she joined three previous directors **Bill Borah**, **Phil Debar**, and **Jan Lappin**, in leading the chorus in several show numbers. Our new director **Dan Halle** also did a great job.

Happy 50th anniversary to the chapter.

Our annual Installation Dinner and Awards Banquet featured a delicious dinner prepared by our member, **Clark Smith**, and we welcomed our Installing Officer, **Richard Lund**. The annual awards went to the following people:

Spirit of the Afterglow	Clark Smith
Espirit De Corps	Randy Lerner
Most Improved Singer	David Lee
Our Unsung Hero	Bob Matteuchi
Community Service	Ray Crowder
Outreach Award	Chase Ferrante
President's Award	Randy Lerner
Barbershopper Of The Year	Dick Whitten

Since moving back to Santa Rosa from Sparks, Nevada, **Dick Whitten** has been a spark plug for our chapter. He was the chairman of our 50th anniversary show, and has done a superb job as our Music VP. Congratulations, **Dick**.

Welcome to our most recent guests and potential new members **Tom Martin**, **Louis Deeley**, and **Ben Oseguera**. We want to wish a speedy recovery to our good friends **Dan Schell** and **Lynn Brittan**.

Input Supplied by
Charles Feltman from **Bob Lappin**

Santa Rosa Chapter has a new director, **Dan Halle**. He is new to barbershop and learning quickly. They had a very successful show in November with this new director. They sent **Dan** and four board members to the HCW and Leadership Academy in Las Vegas.

Visit us at www.chordsmen.groupanizer.com

SF Bay Cities Quartet
By Jordan Makower

(With apologies to Clement Clarke Moore)

It was nine days before Christmas, and Harry's Hofbrau
Was crowded with people, both herr and frou

The SFBC were snuggled, safe in their seats.
Waiting to sing, having finished their 'eats'

When all of a sudden there arose such clatters.
As tables next to us filled with men and food platters.

Remembering BHS and its "Code of Ethics",
I thought back on the one known as 'Rule Six'.

Away to those men I moved, quick on my feet,
And gave to each a 'secular' song sheet.

They joined us in singing, and e're we left their sight,
Called. "Happy Holidays to all: enjoy your families tonight!"

Join us at Harry's, on First and Third Wednesday,
For lunch and quartet singing, in San Jose.

SF Bay Cities Quartet Chapter honored a 65-year member and plan to honor **Robert Bird**, now a member for 77 years. Their meetings are now at lunchtime the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month at Harry's Hofbrau in San Jose.

Visit us at www.sfbayquartets.org

Walnut Creek
Input Supplied by
Charles Feltman from Ken Hitch

Walnut Creek Chapter managed the beer booth at the Walnut Festival in September and arguably a great pirate-themed October Show, followed by December caroling at a long-term care facility and the Walnut Creek Mall. At the end of January into the start of February a two-week "Learn To Sing" event was part of a regular Chapter Meeting with men from the community invited and members from other Chapters invited.

Visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/devilmountainchorus>



Division 4 NE Chapters
Roger Perkins, Editor

California Delta Chapter
By Jim DeChaine

The Voices of California held its sixth annual awards and recognition dinner at the Sacramento Crown Plaza and celebrated the traditional passing of the torch. New officers for 2016 are: President **Jim Maas**; Secretary **Corley Phillips**; Treasurer **Roger Santiago**; VP Music & Performance **Keith Slater**; VP Chapter Development **Blair Reynolds**; VP Marketing and Lead Section Leader **Rich Brunner**; Board Members-at-Large **Richard Kaiser** and **Larry Womac**; and IPP **Stan Trumbull**. The 2015 **BOTY** is **Blair Reynolds**; Director's Award went to **Richard Lund**; President's award to **Norm Smith**; Members Choice Award to **Richard Kaiser**; and Rookie of the Year went to **Raphael Pazo**. **Gabe Caretto** remains our Musical Director; **Ron Black** our Associate Musical Director and Bass Section Leader; **Von Wallin** the new Tenor Section Leader; and **Bruce Sellnow** remains as the Bari Section Leader. **Mike Stewart** of the Reno Chapter and Bass of **95 North** (also an inaugural member of VoCal) was the Installation Officer.

Our Holiday Show "Comfort and Joy" was held again at the beautiful Harris Center at Folsom Lake College, and had a "Grinch" theme that was a huge success. The "Who Ville" costumes worn by our members were from a rainbow of bright colors, and stunned the audience at the beginning of our first set. Included on the show were eight children from our Visual Performance Director **Amberlee Prosser's** dance studio; a brass ensemble "**Brassy!**"; members of the Franklin High School Chorus jazz singing group "**Vox Musica**"; and our own featured quartet, 2015 10th Place International finalist, "**Artistic License**." Visit us at www.Voicesofcalifornia.org.

Central California Chapter
By Miles Sutter

Best show...EVER! Best singing by GVC... EVER! These were actual comments by our patrons. Congratulations to **Bruce Sellnow**, our show producer, for putting this show together. Our thanks to the following for their contributions: GVC quartet **Four for the Road**, "nurse" **Florine Smith**, "ballet dancer" **Lexi**, and script writer and MC **Dan Warschauer**. The **Velvet Frogs** and **Artistic License** were the headliner quartets. The coup de grace for the evening was the combined voices of all performers singing *America the Beautiful*.

The GVC participated for the fourth year in the Better Together Benefit Choir Concert in Modesto at the LDS Church to benefit various food pantries in our community. The finale was the combined choirs, 200 voices strong. The event was free to all community residents, but all were invited to bring a bag of non-perishable, non-breakable groceries. This year more than 4,700 pounds of food for the needy were collected.

We had the pleasure of performing our Christmas package for the LDS Church, twice for Bethany Home in Ripon, and at the Casa de Modesto Retirement Center to make the season truly bright!

Davis-Vacaville Chapter
By Tom Powers

We had our 27th Annual Harmony in Our Lives Benefit Show in Davis. Twelve children's choruses from Davis elementary, junior high and senior high schools presented 15-minute performances over the course of a Sunday afternoon. Our chorus opened each of the two separate programs, and many in attendance had not even heard of barbershop music. Money raised from the show helps the Davis School Arts Foundation finance choral singing in the City's public schools.

We presented our annual Christmas show at three different venues in Davis, Woodland and Vacaville. We also sang in the rotunda of the California State Capitol in Sacramento.

We installed our slate of chapter officers for 2016: President **Steve Rollins**, Treasurer **Frank Blakeman**, Secretary **Wit Ashbroo**, VP Program **Roy Mattice**, VP Music **Richard Potts**, VP Recruiting and Retention **Alan Veliquette** and VP Public Relations **Dave Roy**.

Folsom Chapter

By Dennis Stohl

The **Folsom Harmony Express** Chorus provided the music for the annual Citrus Heights Veterans day Program. It was a cold day but the Barbershop Music warmed up the crowd.

The Chorus sang Christmas songs at the Orangevale annual Christmas Tree Lighting.

Chorus President **Les Lorenzen**, Secretary **Dennis Stohl** and Treasurer **Burt Weichenthal** attended the Leadership Academy in Sacramento.

Nevada Placer Chapter

By Roger Perkins

The **Sierranaders** annual show took place at the Calvary Chapel Church in Auburn. The theme was "Dream" and the show opened with *Meet Me Tonight In Dreamland*. There was no curtain so chapter members sleepily walked out on stage in their pajamas and bathrobes. Then chorus director **Roger Perkins**

walked to the front with a candle in hand and a night cap. Unexpectedly the pitch for the first song was blown incorrectly and the chorus made a bad start. The singing was stopped and we made a new start with the correct pitch. After that things went well. The good part was that most of the members of the audience thought we had done the incorrect pitch as a joke since we looked so sleepy. Quartets singing on the first half were the **Artful Codgers**, **BBLT**, and **Harmonic Convergence**. The second half of the show opened with the wonderful **Whatever 4** (SAI) entertaining the crowd and our headliners were **Masterpiece**, 2013 International Champions from L.A. They were able to use four hand-held microphones and did a masterful job as their name indicates. **Brett Littlefield** sang his bass solo on **Old Man River**, and the audience was enthralled.

The **Sierranaders** performed at the Victorian Christmas in Nevada City once again. We were assisted this year for the first time by members of the **Folsom Harmony Express**. We have been doing this annual performance for close to 30 years and it's always exciting.

Our installing officer was once again **Richard Lund** (NE DVP), accompanied by his wife, **Patsy**. Our president this year will be **Art Baird** who has only been a member for a couple of years, but is very enthusiastic with his new hobby. **Ron Zandona**, BOTY for 2014, presented the 2015 BOTY award to **Roger Perkins**, Chorus Director of the Sierranaders for 32 years. This was his fourth BOTY award with the chapter.

Reno Chapter

By Steve Shurtliff

One of my favorite things we do each year is our Christmas show, and this year was no exception. The **Silver Dollar Chorus** was joined by three of the best high school vocal groups in the area and they all did very well. We opened and closed the show, doing lighter holiday favorites in the first half and more traditional Christmas songs at the end. We were joined by all the high school groups to do "Silent

Night” to close the show. We had a packed house and a wonderful response for all who performed.

We have several new Board members, including new President **Jeff Healion**. He and several others attended the Leadership Training in Las Vegas, and came back with great intention and not only great ideas but ways to get them implemented as well.

We heartily welcome **Charlie Gray** to our chorus.

Sacramento Chapter

By Dave Young

We were privileged to perform the National Anthem for the Sacramento Kings basketball team in November. I’m sure it was our singing that gave the Kings the incentive they needed, because they won that night.

The chapter developed a smaller group of members [variable number of those available] called **The CAPS** to perform during weekdays and other occasions on behalf of the chapter. One event was a luncheon for some ladies from Mercy San Juan Hospital. Another was a Christmas program for the Sierra Regency Senior Center where two residents were former Barbershoppers - they sang from where they were sitting. Another was to caravan and perform Christmas Carols at three senior facilities.

The big event for the chapter in December is performing at the Polar Express in Old Town Sacramento. For those who may not be familiar with the Polar Express, Sacramento is authorized to run an event based on the Disney movie. Kids – little ones with parents and grandparents who are still kids at heart – show up at the old train station all dressed up in their jammies and slippers ready for a ride down the tracks. The ride to the North Pole is complete with Santa Claus, a ghostly hobo, hot chocolate, and cookies. **The CAPS**, all decked out in bright Christmasy attire, entertain the folks at the station while they are waiting for the train ride.

The **Capitolaires** performed again this year at the rotunda at the California State Capitol building.

DVP NE Richard Lund did the honors of installing the officers at our installation dinner, giving each and every one a challenge that was meaningful and specific for the position. 2016 chapter officers are President **Gary Halldorson**, IPP **Steve Allison**, VP Programs **Steve Kennedy**, VP Music & Performance **Norm Hile**, VP Marketing **Robert DuPlantier**, VP PR **Dan Swink**, VP Chapter Development **Steve Cudworth**, VP Youth in Harmony **Rick Cram**, Treasurer **Chuck Kaul**, Secretary **Dave Young**, Members-at-Large **Mike Selby**, **Doug Saathoff**, **Joe Samora**.

Stockton Chapter

By Ben Buckman

The **Portsmen** sang the National Anthem for the **Stockton Heat** Hockey game, and then our annual appearances at **Micke Grove Museum** “*Festival of Trees*,” where we shared the sounds of the season. The chorus also warmed up the Friends of the Fox at the Bob Hope Theater’s showing of White Christmas. We visited with the residents of two retirement homes and caroled at **Dameron Hospital**.

A quartet made up of four Portsmen performed several times for the Chapter, with visits to a couple of retirement communities, a birthday party at the **Stockton Philomathean Club**, and the *Tree Lighting* event for the **Calvary Community Church** in Manteca.

All in A-Chord sang for Veteran’s Day and at the Fox – Bob Hope Theater and **Fat City Four** sang several performances in the area.

The Installation of Officers was conducted by **Derick Sturke**. 2016 Officers are: President **Harry Williams**; Secretary **Bill McCarty**; Recording Secretary **Evie McCarty**; Treasurer **Al Wolter**; Assistant Treasurer **Al Farnum**; VP Music & Performance **Raphael Pazo**; VP Chapter Development **Ron Spohn**; PR & Marketing **Ben Buckman**; Board Members **Christian Hagan** and **Ray Morris**; and Associate Board Members **Carol**

Clark, Joan Ray and **Sandy Mosley**. Certificates of Recognition were awarded to **Joan Ray** (Top Ad Sales) and **Christian Hagan** (Rookie of the Year). **Harry Williams** received the President's *Soaring Eagle* Award. **Nancy Hennefer** was recognized as the *Associate of the Year* and **Ben Buckman** was named BOTY.

Visalia Chapter

By Bud Case

The **Mighty Oaks Chorus** sang carols in 12 senior facilities in Visalia and two in the Porterville area during our regular meeting nights. This is a tangible way to say thanks to some of our show supporters along with spreading Christmas cheer. These facilities both buy tickets to our shows and advertisements in our programs. We also were invited back to the Hanford Mainstreet Merchants Christmas event and Caroled to enthusiastic crowds as we strolled from store to store. **Lee Smith**, PR VP works hard to help us maintain a relationship with people and businesses that like our style of music.

2016 officers were installed and **Rod Robinson** was named the 2015 BOTY. Rod, Membership VP, has belonged to the MOC for more than three decades, served in several officer roles and sung in many quartets. He currently sings Bari in **Sound Projection Quartet**. We also installed two new enthusiastic faces to our Board as BMALs, **Bill Barreto** and **Charles Lovelace**. **Dee Baughman** resumes the presidency after **Fred Speckman's** two-year admirable stint, and he continues as Music VP as well as IPP. The following continue in their roles: MVP **Rod Robinson**, Sec **Bud Case**, Treas **Pat Harrison**, and BMALs **Norm Bryan**, **Gerald Mitchell**, **Paul Simon** and **Andy Waits**. **Adam Kitt** continues as Music Director.

Division 5 AZ Chapters Editor [OPEN]

Greater Phoenix Chapter

Members and former members of the chapter swept contests during the BHS International Midwinter

convention in Reno. **High Priority** from Phoenix won the **2016 International Seniors Quartet** contest, scoring an average of 76.3. **Ray Estes**, Tenor, **Byron Bennett**, Lead, **Mark House**, Baritone, and **Dan Davenport**, Bass are all members of the Phoenix Chapter. A youth chorus of Mesa Community College students including several chapter members and directed by **Mario Yniguez**, a former member, took top honors in its age category in the Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival. Rounding out first-place awards among Phoenix members was **Eclectones**, from MCC, who won the Youth Quartet Contest with an average of 72.3. Their lead, **R.J. Esquivias**, also sings lead in **Suit Up!**, runner-up in this past Fall's FWD Quartet Contest. Other members are **Mario Yniguez**, Baritone, **Brady Larson**, Bass, and **Gerrit Stilwell**, Tenor. R.J. and Brady are chapter members and Mario is a former member. Eclectones will represent the Far Western District at the Harmony Foundation International Collegiate Quartet contest in Nashville.

The **Spirit of Phoenix Chorus** and several of its quartets had three successful shows in recent months under the direction of our new director, **Danny Ryan**, including two at area churches and our annual Christmas show.

Chapter officers for 2016 sworn in at the installation banquet are President **Ryan Malikowski**; VP Music/Performance **Chaz Chesser**; VP Program **Don Koehnlein**; VP Membership **Dan Ryan, Sr.**; VP Marketing & PR **David Melville**; Secretary **Eric Jeide**; Treasurer **Don Miller**; Chorus Manager **Ray Estes**; and Members-at-Large **Derek Neumann**, **Jerry McElfresh** and **Dallas Crick**.

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

HEAR YE - HEAR YE - HEAR YE
ALL MEMBERS
NOW REGISTER ELECTRONICALLY
IN ADVANCE FOR
ALL FWD CONTESTS and CONVENTIONS

You can pay at the door, but there is a steep price increase - not suggested.

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:

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: Castro Valley, CA

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

Chapters Looking For Directors

Sun Cities Chapter, Sun Cities, AZ

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

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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