



Winter 2016 Volume 66 Number 4

WESTUNES



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

2016 FWD Quartet Champion Don't Tell Mom



2016 FWD Chorus Champion Masters Of Harmony



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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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FWD Fall Final Quartets, Ranked 2 - 9



2 Suit Up! 77.2



3 North of the Border 76.3



4 Hot Spot 74.9



5 The Velvet Frogs 74.8



6 Brannigan 74.1



7 Dynamix 73.4



8 19th Avenue 72.5



9 N1 West Coast Ringers 70.4

FWD Fall Final Quartets, Ranked 10 - 17



10 Some Friends of Mine 65.8



11 Four Fifteen 69.2



12 N2 Miles Ahead 68.8



13 Batteries Not Included 68.3



14 Go Fish! 68.2



15 Heatwave 67.3



16 The Front Line 67.1



17 N3 Game On 66.8

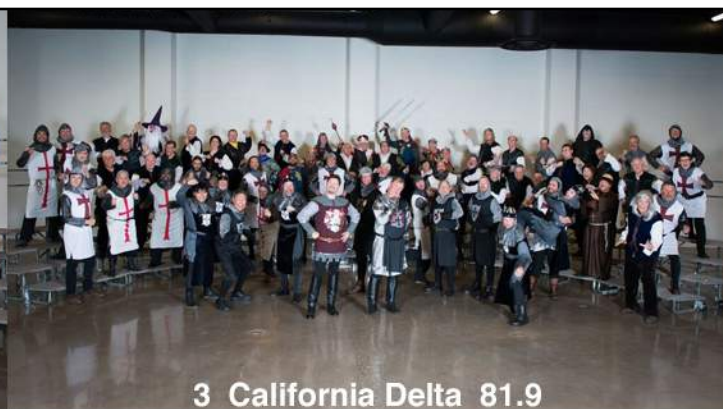
FWD Fall Final Quartets, Ranked 18 - 25



FWD Fall Final Choruses, Ranked 2 - 9



2 Barbary Coast, CA 83.4



3 California Delta 81.9



4 La Jolla, CA 81.1



5 Salt River Valley, AZ 80.0



6 Greater Phoenix, AZ 79.5



7 Rincon Beach, CA 74.3



8 Bay Area, CA 74.1



9 Aloha, HI 73.8

FWD Fall Final Choruses, Ranked 10 - 17



10 Las Vegas, NV 69.6



11 Santa Monica, CA 68.3



12 Inland Empire, CA 66.9



13 St George, UT 66.6



14 Palo Alto Mountain View, CA 66.5



15 Fullerton, CA 65.9



16 Central California 63.7



17 San Diego, CA 63.2

FWD Fall Final Quartets, Ranked Sr5 & 6



FWD Fall Final Choruses, Ranked 18 & DNC



Ringmasters Headline 2 Shows

[Editor note: Fresno and Rincon Beach worked together to bring Ringmasters from Sweden to headline their shows; Fresno to benefit the Central Valley Honor Flight, and Rincon Beach to think "outside the box". Read their experiences to cheer your heart and expand your horizons.]

Champions of Harmony 2016 by Dave Douglass, Fresno chapter

Never before had I put together a barbershop show, or any other event this size! So my obvious choice was to think outside the box! It was risky, with six groups all crammed into a show featuring **Ringmasters!** Would it run too long and tire the folks out? And our pre-show sales were slower than anticipated. Would tonight's walk-in ticket sales make our promised net-proceeds donation high enough to avoid embarrassment?

Intermission was over. To open Act 2, I was lined up with the chorus (combined **Fresno** and **Visalia** chapters) along the side aisles. The knot in my stomach still wasn't sure if we'd pull this off! Well, I could see the house seemed mostly full – YES! But big sections up front were empty – NO! They had loved the first half – YES! But that huge clock in the back... Two hours was coming fast – NO! Right now, our rendition of the Armed Forces Medley was going great – YES!

Central Valley Honor Flight sends local heroes on one more tour of honor, with priority given to WWII Veterans, to Washington DC, where these awesome men and women will feel the gratitude of a nation as they experience the WWII and other memorials first hand. What a privilege honor and a give a little joy to our **Greatest Generation!**
(**Phillip Starr**, WWII, Army Air Corps ball turret gunner; with son **Terry Starr**, Vietnam, Navy & Desert Shield, CA ANG)



After the song, I sat in one of those empty (NO!) sections to see the audience as well as the rest of the show. Local celebrity radio voice, our emcee **Jody Jo Mize** was great with the crowd – YES! I could see their faces by stage-light, and by the way, that stage was really well done – YES! And I knew the show was about to kick into high gear!



The concept was “a cappella smorgasbord”, and **Don Eskender** did a great job assembling all the parts! Our joint chorus, quartets (**The Front Line**, **Some Friends of Mine**, and **Don't Tell Mom!**), and the women's chorus **Voices United** were real treats for what turned out to be a mostly barbershop crowd! Never a dull moment! Next up was the contemporary vocal band **Business Casual A Cappella**. They had just won the 2015 San Francisco Harmony Sweepstakes, even beating **Artistic License!** They were that good!

How would this crowd respond? Suddenly it felt more risky! But as I watched, every face was captivated by great singing and amazing talent! **Business Casual** was a hit – YES! Their standing-O was well-deserved! And then, it was time for our headline – YES!

Ringmasters! Bringing this globe-trotting Swedish quartet to Fresno was a joint effort with **Pacific Sound** of Rincon Beach. Thank you, **Brent Anderson**, for the great idea!

But by now, it was sooo late... Just one mention of SNOBS elicited whoops and hollers, and when **Ringmasters** took the stage, nobody was tired! Their very first song had us on our feet!



Emanuel was particularly magical with the audience, starting with that day's 98° heat... *but it's, it's really cool (pauses) to be here.* (Audience hoots and laughs) *So, that was Tonight, Tonight from West Side Story. Did you recognize the—* (Audience roars "Oh yeah! Woo! Yeah!") *Oh! Yeah! Oh, wow! I LOVE your energy!*

... Ha-ha! I was like, laughing a little bit during that song, because your energy was, like, (grabs chest)... Yeah! I felt it! Thank you! (Applause and woohoos!)

... I'd just like to just tell you how much we appreciate being here. It's just a, so, such a wide variety of performances here tonight! Not just musically, but re- uh, representatives, rep- uh rep-resent-a-tive... -wise, too! (Cheers and laughter!) And I think that's wonderful! I think we should embrace the diversity that we have. It becomes a much more interesting taste, if there's a lot of spice! (Wild applause!)



One barbershop "lifer" said this was the best barbershop show she'd ever seen
— YES!

What an honor it was to hand **Al Perry of Central Valley Honor Flight**,
our check for **\$2,000** — YES!

"Here's a Crazy Idea..."

Brent Anderson, Rincon Beach Chapter Show Chairman...

"Let's bring **Ringmasters** from Sweden to headline our summer show in Santa Barbara..." said someone on our show committee.

"They are probably too expensive, and the airfare from Sweden must be outrageous." "They will have just been in the US in Nashville in July...would they be able to come back in September?" said others on the show committee.

"Well, let me contact them and see what's possible..." said I. A few emails, some Skype sessions, a couple Facebook Messenger touches, some personal details handled at breakfast in Nashville, many What's App messages...and it happened. We were able to get them a Sept. 10th show in Fresno (which was great!), and a couple appearances at So Cal schools with music budgets, and because of their flexibility and desire to entertain, we made it happen. The Sept. 17th show in Santa Barbara was a tremendous success.

I've been a barbershopper now for 41 years, and back in 1975 when I started, it was much easier to sell out a show. You could bring in a top quartet, hire the local HS auditorium which held 1000, and sell out two nights pretty easily. But as we all know, it's not easy anymore to get people out to see live music. There is so much great entertainment available, whether it's Netflix, Cable TV, the Internet or just lethargy in general, people just don't get out to see live music so much anymore...

In the 16 years we have been in existence, **Rincon Beach (Pacific Sound Chorus)** has developed a reputation for very entertaining shows. For the past few years we've been close to selling out two shows in a 300 seat Santa Barbara theater, which as we just observed, is a far cry from the typical audiences of the 70's and 80's, but which is pretty good for a small rural chapter nowadays. But **Ringmasters**...all the way from Sweden? We needed to make a big deal of this...not only as an opportunity to expose more people to the quality entertainment of a **Rincon Beach** show, but also to sell more tickets to be able to afford the added expense of bringing the 2012 International Quartet Champs all the way from Stockholm, Sweden.

And we can't count on just seniors and family to be our audience. Half the workforce nowadays are Millennials, age 18-35. There's a resurgence of a cappella among the younger crowd but they don't get their information the same as seniors do.

To get a different result, we couldn't do the same old things. To attract an audience of varied ages, in addition to **Ringmasters**, all of whom are under age 30, we booked **C'est La Vie**, a Sweet Adeline quartet from Arizona who had won the International Rising Star (college age quartets) competition in 2015. To share the billing with us, we booked our local, top-quality Sweet Adeline chapter, **Carpe Diem**, who have been building quite a following of their own, (and who recently won the *gold medal* in the Harmony Classic (small chorus) Division of SAI at the International convention in Las Vegas in October).

We booked a larger, very professional theater with a goal of 500 seats per show. We extensively marketed via social media. We created an Event on Facebook and all our guys, and their spouses, repeatedly put out notices to their friends and asked *their* friends to share with *their* friends. Most every major local print media had not just a listing, but a full story with photos about **Ringmasters** coming to town. Our posters advertizing the shows were not distributed only to community bulletin boards and senior centers, but instead our guys (and gals) pounded the streets and went to larger businesses and asked those businesses to post the flyers in their employee break rooms, where all their employees would frequent once or twice a day and actually have the time to read the posters. We put little tear-off tabs on the flyers so interested folk could tear a tab and respond later. Members still sold tickets one-on-one, and our posters and tabs still had a phone number, but we sold our tickets primarily through Brown Paper Tickets so customers could buy them on the internet and print the tickets on demand.



In an effort to encourage more singing in our surrounding communities we included in the printed program, a listing of all the community choruses, chamber choirs, Barbershop and SAI choruses, church choirs, children's choruses...any place where people could sing...and encouraged people to put singing into their lives. We invited those singing organizations to come to the show, and published for free, listings of local voice teachers. We showed a **Deke Sharon** video of *Why Doesn't Everyone Sing*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAmCEFPvz8&list=PLcwXdNVvSNbiF5QYdD0eHJfG4HtQF2Cus&index=4>

and during the intermission we did community singing.

Did it work..?. I'd like to report that it was a tremendous success on all fronts but that's not totally true. We did not sell out the house but we have many successes to report. We sold about 400 tickets for each show, and although a terrific artistic success, only a marginal financial success. That last 100 tickets per show would have made a huge financial difference. However, we collected every email from every ticket sold on BPT and for the first time, we sold more via internet than by phone and members.

We passed out and collected audience comment cards and from the responses we could tell that many were first-timers to our show. The comments were all wonderful and supportive. We collected many more new emails and we'll add those people to our Pacific Sound email list for future contact.

In exchange for an ad in the beautiful, full-color show program, we received donated pizza, salad and drinks for the entire cast and stage crew between the shows. We had a wonderful afterglow at that donor's new pizza parlor and they stayed open for us until 2 AM so not only did our guest stars have the opportunity to again perform but then all our chapter members and the many out-of-town barbershoppers who attended had the time to sing with the champs and take photos. Both **Ringmasters** and **C'est la Vie** were very welcoming to all requests to hug, sing and take photos... Nothing but good things to say about them as guest performers...



And the shows were fantastic. **Pacific Sound Chorus** opened the show in our casual costumes, chapter quartet **Priority Male** sang two great songs, followed by **Carpe Diem** doing their Las Vegas show set along with their star quartet, **Cachet**. **Pacific Sound** returned in western garb singing more contemporary music from such varied artists as The Eagles, Disney, and Queen. The title of the show was *Seaside Rendezvous*, and that **Freddy Mercury** song was performed with much aplomb...and even some kazoos! Every attendee at the show received a souvenir **Pacific Sound** kazoo and were invited to play along at selected moments in the show.

The second half was **C'est la Vie**, and **Ringmasters**, both of which were wonderful, followed by the full cast on stage to perform *Seaside Rendezvous* again. Speaking personally, in 41 years, I don't think I've ever seen a better quartet performance than *Ringmasters* on the Saturday night show. Standing ovations after every song and applause that lasted so long, they had to come out for an encore...



So what did we learn? Our many successes bode well for the future. These ideas are not revolutionary, but more evolutionary. We are committed to encouraging more people to sing. We'll continue to market to younger crowds and yet still serve our established, more senior audiences. We will continue to learn more about new ways of marketing, not only our shows, but also our chapter. The Millennials are out there and they want to sing and we need to evolve to be more attractive to them.

We had a guest night recently and welcomed 11 potential singers to the risers. Hopefully, several of them will stay for the fun and enjoyment that is singing our kind of harmony. There is so much that is *good* about what we do and we need to encourage more people to get their music live, from shows such as *Seaside Rendezvous*, and choruses such as yours... I hope this article gives you some ideas about how to improve your efforts.

2016 Harmony Camp



Harmony Camp Supporter,

THANK YOU! YOU make this fabulous experience of Harmony Camp happen. That is a strong statement, but it is So true. The idea that your support in dollars and beyond dollars matters!

Dollars, verbal support and support by volunteering make it all happen. Dollars allow the Sly Park venue to open to us and to bring those fabulous quartets and clinicians to us. Verbal support within your chapter actually causes much of the dollars and the volunteering to happen. And finally volunteering to join us as part of the work crew that allows the clinicians and quartets to do their magic is crucial. Put it all together and you get a magic weekend that transforms young men into lifelong barbershoppers!

It's all pretty simple; but you and your chapter are the keys to the success of Harmony Camp.

80 young men made the trek to Pollock Pines to learn four songs, sing tags, have fun, meet new friends, and renew friendships with old friends. The current, reigning International Champions, Forefront, along with International Collegiate and FWD champions, Newfangled Four were there to greet those 80 young men, sing with them and share barbershop fun with them. Four top clinicians, Gabe Caretto, Ron Black, Jim Halvorson, and Drew Wheaton were there to greet those 80 young men and teach them four songs, vocal technique, and sing with them as well.

It was truly a magical weekend of song, fun and barbershop camaraderie.

One magic moment that will never be forgotten can be found on Utube when Chris McCuddy jumped at the opportunity to sing with Forefront on Friday night's general session, and chose the beautiful, but very difficult, "Lost" from their latest album. Chris nailed the baritone part and got a thumbs up from Brian O'Dell as they sang.

Another magic moment was relayed to me by Ben Miller, president of the Bay Area chapter. Ben got into a conversation with one young man who was having trouble with college and a lack of enthusiasm about his classes and was able to offer some advice that the young man found to be absolutely inspiring.

Ben wrote, "His response moved me when he said 'I think this conversation was why I was meant to be here,' and when he said it, I knew he was speaking for me as well."

Finally, there was a comment in one of the evaluation forms that the boys filled out on Sunday morning during breakfast that said: “Thank you for everything that you have done to make this weekend the best weekend ever. We hope that this camping tradition would continue forever. In return, we promise to keep the barbershop society and the music alive, well and better.”

Those are the kinds of little things that impact and change lives during those short 44 hours of Camp. Over the course of the fourteen years that you have been supporting Harmony Camp, just imagine how many of those “little events” have happened, all because of you.

Thank you for your generosity in making this magical weekend possible for so many young men.

Richard Lund, Camp Director

***Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund
for FWD Harmony Camps***

REPEAT ANNOUNCEMENT: DOUBLE MATCH CHALLENGE

A major donor has stepped up to “double” match contributions of \$300 or less through November, 2016. Sometimes we have a cause we believe in but feel that our small contribution will not make much of a difference. Today, you have the opportunity to change that and really make a difference with your donation. Your contribution of \$50 will be matched with \$100 so that you are “causing” \$150 to be donated to the Fund! Our major donor’s cap is \$25,000.



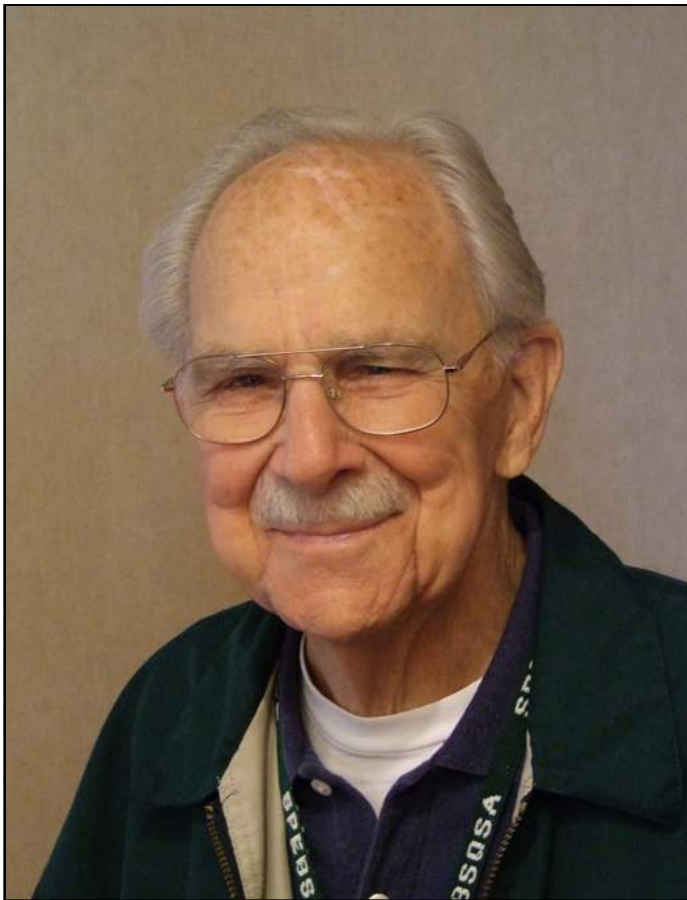
The purpose of the Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund is to provide, in perpetuity, supplemental financial support for weekend long Harmony Camps within the Far Western District of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Endowment Fund donations may be sent to: Sacramento Region Community Foundation; 955 University Ave, Suite A; Sacramento, CA 95825; reference Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund in the bottom line of the check. You will receive acknowledgement of your donation from the Sacramento Region Community Foundation.

Contact Richard Lund at 530-621-1904 or rwlund92@gmail.com if you have additional questions.

Hall of Fame Member Lynn Brittan Passes

3/17/24 - 9/3/16



LYNN BRITTAN
1979

PLACER COUNTY CHAPTER PRESIDENT, 1962 •
AREA COUNSELOR •
BALANCE & BLEND JUDGE • FAR WESTERN
DISTRICT
VICE PRESIDENT, 1966-1969 •
FAR WESTERN DISTRICT PRESIDENT, 1970-1971 •
INTERNATIONAL BOARD MEMBER, 1972-1975 •
COTS FACULTY, 1966-1977 •
FAR WESTERN DISTRICT QUARTET WORKSHOP
COACH, CONVENTION CHAIRMAN, MEMBERSHIP
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, LONG RANGE PLANNING
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, LAWS & REGULATIONS
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN •
INTERNATIONAL JUDGE EMERITUS.

[FROM THE HOF DISPLAY]

Lynn Brittan, FWD Hall of Fame member, passed away September 3, 2016. Fellow Hall of Fame member Chuck Hunter, Sr wrote the following on October 6, 2016

"Last night a wonderful celebration of life was held in honor of Britt, with over 100 in attendance. Four members of the HOF were present as well as Bill Rosica, who chose to come up from Bakersfield rather than rehearse with MOH. We were entertained by several quartets and the Redwood Chordsmen as well as stories and tributes from a number of barbershop friends. Britt's beloved wife Meg showed the same dignity and class we always saw from him, and she regaled and touched us with stories and anecdotes about their life together. It was a wonderful time, and the family was particularly touched to know how much we loved and respected him."



The FWD Hall of Fame members attending were L to R: Sam Barger 1998, Richard Lund 2014, Ron Black 2010, Chuck Hunter, Sr 1999

Leadership Articles



***District President
Gordon Bergthold***

We've completed the FWD Fall Convention in Riverside and from all reports it was a very successful event chaired by John Gaston of the Brea Chapter. There were a few hiccups along the way but generally speaking everyone had a great time and the venue and organization were exemplary. I would like to thank the Brea Chapter for their hard work during the convention and to let you know how much we all appreciate the individual contributions to the success of the event.

I once again was in the hospital following a second back surgery, one on January 19 and the second on September 26. I can't adequately express my appreciation to EVP Craig Hughes and our Board and Management Team for handling the board meeting and House of Delegates meetings during the convention. While I was doing what I could do from the hospital rehab facility it was the FWD leadership team that carried out the business of the district in a fine fashion. To those of you who have contacted me, thank you and know that I'm working hard to get back to the presidential post to which I have been elected.

We offer a lot of education and skill building in the FWD through our leadership academies and Harmony College West but it takes participation on the chapters' part to make these events successful and meaningful to the members. Our District Vice Presidents in charge of the five divisions are always available to help when asked and I encourage you to contact them and engage them in your requests whether administrative or musical issues. We are listening and we need to hear your requests to be of service, so please let us know how we can help.

Use the FWD website and take advantage of the tools available to you as a member. We, the leaders of the FWD, are all listed and our emails are there for the using. Please take the opportunity to utilize

what has been developed for your use as a member of the district. We're listening and want to be helpful when requested.

I'll see you in Sacramento in March of 2017.



***Executive Vice President
Craig Hughes***

Happy winter holidays
Far Western District

2016 has been an outstanding celebration of Barbershop Harmony. We have gathered together at weekly rehearsals, Chapter performances, Division and District Conventions, International Conventions, and special events like Platoons and Brigades. We meet and sing with friends (old and new) in a fellowship found nowhere else. We have something very special.

Our **Fall Convention in Riverside** was a 70th anniversary celebration for the Far Western District. A big thank-you to our host – the **Brea Chapter!** We had choruses and quartets from every state in the District to include a spirited delegation from Hawaii. The singing and fellowship were truly inspired. We are the best District in the Barbershop Harmony Society. As members of the Far West we owe much to those that have gone before us. You can read about the 47 men in our [Hall of Fame](#) on the Web. We all have our own personal "Hall of Fame" that includes the men that make our Barbershop experience extraordinary. Please take time to thank those that are still with us and consider what you can do to improve the experience for others. We are part of a winning team and hold the future in our hands.

One way to improve the collective experience is to participate any way you can. The FWD Board and Management Team work hard to provide "opportunities". These events are outstanding and the budgeted cost anticipates strong attendance. We base this on past experience. When we have a low-attendance event like our Spring Convention in Las Vegas we have to adjust our expectations. When we have strong attendance like this Fall in Riverside we

are rewarded by a stellar event. Please plan to attend as many events as you can so we can continue to balance the budget with the fun. It is truly “the more the merrier”.

One disappointment for many was the cancellation of the **Southern California Leadership and Harmony Academy** on November 5 due to low attendance. We take the education facet of our District mission seriously and will continue to work to provide the best for our Chapters. We hope you will attend a future event. If you need help before your next education opportunity please contact the appropriate [District Leader](#), visit the BHS [collection of articles and videos](#) that are part of the new Healthy Chapter Initiative, and look through our collection of [presentations and documents from prior FWD Leadership Academies](#). While these will give you some help, they do not replace the face to face discussion and sharing that takes place at an Academy.

Speaking of participation, here’s another idea. Go to the **Division Chapter** pages in this quarter’s **Westunes** and see what your Chapter is reporting and what the other Chapters in your area are doing. If you can’t find a listing for your Chapter then ask your Chapter President if you could write one. It is a once-a-quarter job and is one step on the path to a more Healthy Chapter. We want to know the special things you are doing.

Here are some opportunities to participate that are on the FWD online [calendar](#).

- Nov 19 and Feb 4: [NorCal Leadership Academy I](#)
- January 14: [Arizona Leadership Academy](#)
- January 17-22: [BHS Midwinter Convention – San Antonio](#)
- February 4: [NorCal Leadership Academy II](#)
- March 9-12: [FWD Spring Convention & NE/NW Division Contest](#)
- April 21-22: [AZ Division Contest](#)
- May 12-13: [SE/SW Division Contest](#)
- July 2-8: [BHS International Convention – Las Vegas](#)

- July 23-30: [Harmony University - Nashville](#)
- October 19-22: [Fall FWD District Conventions](#)

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



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

The entire Far Western District is such a great region of the world in which to experience our Barbershop Harmony pastime. We are all blessed to have this activity in our lives, and here in the Southwestern Division of the FWD, blessed to associate with, and get to really know, so many wonderful and talented people. Thanks to all of you for the many blessings you are in my life.

Several choruses from the SW Division competed recently in Riverside and I want to congratulate the overall winner - the **Masters of Harmony**, under the direction of **Justin Miller** who will be our FWD representative to the International Chorus Competition to be held next July in Las Vegas. The MOH are 8-time International Chorus Champions and with a score of 92.9, are again one of the favorites to attain gold in 2017.

Also from the SW Division competing in Riverside were **Rincon Beach Chapter** (7th) under **Kelly Shepard**, **Aloha Chapter** (9th) under **Mark Conching**, and **Santa Monica Chapter** (11th) under direction from **Laura Pallas** and **Ben Lowe**.

It was disappointing that **South Bay, Bakersfield** and **Pasadena** Chapters, who all qualified, were not able to generate enough singers to be available to sing that October weekend in Riverside. I think we, as a District, perhaps need to re-think *why* we come to contest. There are a few, very exciting choruses that are competition-driven choruses, and the reality of it is that the eventual winner will probably be one of those five or six very wonderful choruses. However, just because your chorus is probably not going to win, is not a reason to sit home.

The goal is participation in an activity that is fun, and each participant gets to mingle and associate with literally hundreds of others they don't get a chance to see every week. Most every Barbershopper is a high-quality person and the type of guy you like to hang out with...and they usually have great families, too. So the purpose of these events is "convention" and then there happens to be a contest. If you don't want to compete with serious songs, then put together a fun entertaining package and even if not "contestable" then just enter for evaluation only and the chance to get feedback from the judges on how to get even better...

And I also realize there's an expense factor. Hotels, food and even registrations are more expensive than in the old days. But in my opinion, money spent on *experiences*, is money well spent. The kitchen remodel can wait another year...

Next May, I hope to have most of the choruses in my Division participating in the "competition." More people equals more fun, and I'm all about that.

It is always so exciting when **Aloha Chapter** decides to compete. Because of the distance and cost, they are exempt from the divisional qualifying contests, and any time they decide to come to the mainland for the FWD finals, they are welcomed. Quality Barbershop harmony is practiced very well in the Hawaiian Islands and this trip the **Sounds of Aloha Chorus** and their Hawaiian music package were not only rewarded with a 9th place finish, but also received the Plateau A Chorus Championship.

Santa Monica Oceanaires Chorus was awarded the Plateau AA Chorus Championship. That chapter is very vibrant, growing in membership and expressing excitement at every meeting and contest.

Bill Rosica of both **Bakersfield** and **Santa Fe Springs (MOH)** chapters was named as the **Convention Honoree**. Bill is a long time contributor to the efforts of the FWD and his recognition is well-deserved.

Bill is the FWD Membership Chairman, and he is tasked with helping our District to grow in membership. This is one of my areas of interest, too. I was communicating with one of my chapters and I said this...

We have to try new things... The ways that worked when we first broke into this game, don't work so well any more. We all want to attract younger people... The Millennial generation is age 18-36 and they represent over 50% of today's workforce. What attracts younger people? How is it done? Observe shows and events that are geared to young people. Observe how they are marketed to, the language, how tickets get sold, what the ads look like... What do the performers wear? Probably not matching tuxedos. Look at some younger quartets at the International Convention. Perhaps their color scheme is common but the outfits are often different...some with vests, some coats, some ties, some no ties, shirts in, shirts out... Watch how young people dress and consider what you wear at a performance. Would that attract young people? Perhaps you guys as performers should dress differently?

There's a new excitement among younger people for a cappella singing. They are out there...and they would have a thrill singing tags. How do we get to them?

Ask your youngest members, or children of your members, for some feedback and ideas. Maybe they'll appreciate the opportunity to contribute and will "buy in" a little stronger than now?

I shared this because maybe the content will help you to re-think how you recruit and can help **Bill Rosica** with his slogan, **Each one Bring one: WE WON!**

Mike McGee, baritone of **Main Street Quartet**, current 3rd Place International, has moved back to **Santa Barbara** and is exploring reviving that chapter. Stay tuned and wish him luck.

Plans are in the works to merge the **Ventura Clippers Chorus** with the **Conejo Harmony Oaks Chorus**, and this will be under the direction of **Jim Browne**. The combined choruses have been singing together for a few months now, and everyone is having a good time, so we hope to see more of them in shows, contests and at conventions sharing smiles, tags and good fellowship.

Rincon Beach Chapter had a wonderful show in September, featuring **Ringmasters**, the 2012 International Quartet Champs and they were brought here from their home in Stockholm, Sweden. Read elsewhere about that show, and watch for announcements of their next show in Sept. 2017.

I had the good fortune to attend a **Santa Maria Central City Chordsmen** Ice Cream Social show in August, and in addition to hearing a nice variety of good harmony under the direction of **Bob McGee** who returned after a one year hiatus, I also got to sample some great ice cream flavors (*I know, just what I didn't need...*).

Our SW Division did well in the FWD quartet contest, too. The quartet champions are mostly home-grown. **Don't Tell Mom!** won the gold medal with several-time FWD quartet champ **Rob Menaker**, helping **Patrick Haedtler** win a gold medal with his dad, **David Haedtler** and brother, **Jordan Haedtler**.

The Velvet Frogs, (**Craig Ewing**, **David Livingston**, **CJ Sams** and **Bill Wilson**) finished 5th and were named the senior quartet to represent the FWD at the Midwinter Seniors Quartet Contest in San Antonio this January. **19th Avenue**, (**Bryce Irvine**, **Rob Hartley**, **Mark Conching**, and **Tom Hutton**), from **Aloha** chapter also did a great job, finishing 8th.

Rounding out the top 10, **West Coast Ringers**, mostly from **MOH**, won the FWD Novice Quartet championship with **Egan Carroll**, **Jeremy Loper**, **Charles Carothers** and **Adam Marangkis**.

I enjoyed **Funny Bones** quartet from **Aloha** with my old buddy, **Bill Joor**, singing with his son, **Mike Joor**, **Adam LeFebvre** and **Glenn Crowder**... They didn't finish very high but they entertained and that's a winner in my book.

Lastly, a note that **Millye Moon** passed away in November, shortly after her 90th birthday. Millye is the widow of **Earl Moon**, one of our Barbershop Heroes. I had the good fortune to meet Earl and Millye when I was in college at UCSB in the late 60s. I was singing with a classical group at UCSB that sang Schubert art songs, traveled Europe, yada, yada.... Melanye, their daughter and a classmate of mine, introduced me to Earl and she said he was a "big deal" in the world of Barbershop harmony. I yawned, and said, "*I sing REAL music...*" Five or six years later when I discovered Barbershop and attended my first divisional contest, there was a judge there by the name of Earl Moon. Only then did I realize that was THE Earl Moon, and I re-introduced myself. Ever the true gentleman, he was gracious and we soon became fast friends... I am fortunate to know the Moon family. RIP Millye.

The FWD began its 70th year in October. **Pasadena Chapter** is also having a 70th Anniversary celebration. The next International Convention and competition will be in **Las Vegas** in July. Nice to have it so close and in our District. The venue is a perfect theater, built especially for vocal music, but it only holds 7000 and we expect more registrations than that. Soon as it's open, I suggest you register and I will look forward to seeing you in March in Sacramento, in May somewhere in So CA and July in Las Vegas.

If there's anything I can do to help you or your chapter, please ask. My cell phone is 805-452-1393.

I know, I know, it seems the year's barely started, but it's already time for chapters to be thinking about a slate of officers to run the chapter for 2017. The election of new officers is to be in October and in SW/SE Divisions we're going to have our Leadership

Academy (combined with Harmony College West) in Anaheim on November 5. Look elsewhere in this Westunes for more details, and your chapter leaders will be getting more info from the Division VPs, but every chapter should be sending their officers to get up-to-date training. Even if they've already done this job in the past, there are new success guidelines and fresh excitement to be delivered.

In our SW Division the **Ventura Channel Island Clippers** and **Conejo Valley Oaks** chapters have been rehearsing together and contemplating the idea of merging, probably under the direction of **Jim Browne**. Also **Mike McGee** is moving back to CA from FL and will be attempting to start a new chorus in Santa Barbara. He's a very energetic and talented director and we FWD leaders are very excited at this prospect.

I hope to see every one of you at the 70th Annual FWD Fall Convention and Contest in Riverside. **Rincon Beach, South Bay, Santa Monica, and Bakersfield** will be representing our Division in the chorus contest. October will be a beautiful time to be in Riverside, the theater is fantastic, and the convention hotels are nice and reasonably priced. Come see your friends and have a good time. We're so fortunate to have singing as our hobby.

If there are any issues you'd like to discuss or anything I can do to help you or your chapter, please don't hesitate to get in touch. My cell phone is 805-452-1393.



District Vice President 2 SE
Nick Papageorge

I am compelled to begin my article this quarter by recognizing and thanking the **Brea Chapter** (one of SoCal East's great Chapters) for hosting one of the finest District Contest/Conventions ever! Their imaginative thinking, diligent work, and new technologies made for a smooth, fun and exciting weekend. Some of those "new" technologies included online audience seating and payment, competitor contest videos available for play on phones/computers immediately after the placements

were announced, and less expensive, competitor-owned photos. A big thanks goes out to all chapter members, as well as their wives/significant others, who all "worked the convention." Your efforts in all aspects of the convention and contest were very appreciated by all attendees!

And, of course, the Brea Chapter's choice of the **Riverside Fox Theatre** provided everyone with a beautiful backdrop to our musical hobby. Quartets, Choruses and audience members were provided a very musical venue that enhanced contestant performances and audience enjoyment!

So, **THANK YOU** and **CONGRATULATIONS** go to **John Gaston**, Convention Chairman and **Bryan Forbes**, FWD Events Coordinator for giving all of us the best convention yet! Oh yes, and a big thank-you goes to my friend **Russ Young**, who accompanies me on the Contest Management Team, and **Ron Black**, our hard-working District Contest and Judging Chairman, for making the inner-workings of the contest come across the footlights as a large, seamless performance!

Congratulations to the Southeast Division Chapters that represented us in the chorus contest! **La Jolla, Las Vegas, Inland Empire, St. George, Fullerton, and San Diego** all sang their hearts out! When the dust settled, La Jolla placed 4th and was the FWD's Most Improved Chorus winners! Great job guys. And great job to all of our representatives!

Unfortunately, our Southeast/Southwest Leadership Academy had to be cancelled this year. But as a byproduct, I am taking the next few months to visit a Board Meeting of each individual Southeast Chapter in order to present a "mini" Leadership Academy. Although it won't replace the chapter-to-chapter interactions that are at the heart of the District Leadership Academy, it *will* be a time for learning and discussing the next year for each individual Chapter. I am looking forward to this new endeavor, and expect that each Chapter Board will benefit from an individual approach.

I must say, however, that I was very disappointed that so many chapters decided not to attend. It is very important to the life of the chapter that its officers understand what they need to do, and how to do it! And even if you've been Treasurer for 25 years, or Music and Performance VP for 10 years, there is always someone at the Academy who does something that you don't. And more often than not, that thing you didn't know about usually helps you get something done faster or better. In short, if a chapter officer learns just one thing at a FWD Leadership Academy, or if a chapter member learns just one thing at Harmony College West, he is not the only one that reaps the rewards! His chapter and fellow chapter members will benefit far beyond what can be imagined.

With that said, I will be working with the Chapter Presidents to arrange a date for me to visit one of their Board Meetings in order to go over the workings and job descriptions of each chapter officer. I look forward to that! I am committed to help each Chapter Officer know his position and how he can help the Chapter thrive.

Lastly, if you were lucky enough to be one of the 190 people that attended the **AFWDC Late Show**, you were part of one fantastic show! Nine past FWD Champions sang to a very vocal crowd! The past champions representing our division were **Flightline (2015)**, **American Pastime 2014**), **New Fangled Four (2013)**, **Masterpiece (2008)** and **Nightlife (1991)**! That's right! Nightlife! **John Sasine** came all the way from Utah. He was going to pick up our great friend **Jeff Baker** in Texas - Jeff certainly wanted to sing and be with us. But to our disappointment, he was not able to leave his home. Nightlife did sing, however. **Cody Littlefield** sang baritone and did Jeff proud! As they say, "like father, like son!" (Brett not Jeff) The other Champions that sang were: **Great Western Timbre Co (1986)**, **Late Show (2006)**, **95 North (2012)**, **Artistic License (2011)**.

Now it's time to get ready for all of those Holiday Shows and performances that are just around the

corner. Make sure that you work hard to make your product outstanding for your communities. And remember to have some fun singing!



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

No submittal.



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

So, what is it about Barbershop that is So Good that we keep coming back week after week? We are all attracted to Barbershop – but why? What is the near universal attraction?

I believe in my heart that there are two primary features of Barbershop that are Unique and Wonderful.

- 1) Barbershop harmony is relatively easy to sing and to experience the "ring"; but incredibly difficult to do really well. Remember: it was Deke Sharon who coined the phrase: "Barbershop is the black belt of a capella singing." So it's easy and fun to experience; and yet very difficult to do really well.
- 2) We help each other. Our best coaches from within Masters of Harmony will go coach Vocal Majority to help them win the gold and vice versa.

This helping one another, our competitors, is "unique" in our entire human society. I am at a loss to think of any other competitive genre wherein top active competitors actively "go over" and help/coach an equal level competitor.

In most other competitive arenas, the competition includes the opposite kind of activity, namely actively tearing down a competitor. This is a unique feature of Barbershop that has long range effects that are remarkable and mind bending!

District was a real high for some competitors, a low for others. When folks have this kind of “down” experience from low scores at contest there is often a visceral reaction that the system is too harsh and should be changed. So a question that often comes up after many contests is, should we change everything and go to some kind of multi-tiered contest that decreases the overwhelming importance of “the score” and places greater emphasis on participation, fun and having more and different contests that allow others to share in the celebration of success.

It’s a good question. We have struggled with that question for a long time. We instituted the plateau system some years ago, thank you Steve Sammonds for that. We have talked ad infinitum about doing more. It’s a tough question.

At the same time we revel in complete awe at the perfection, sound, and success of Westminster, Ambassadors of Harmony, Vocal Majority, and lately Central Standard. It is amazing to watch and listen to the cleanliness of Westminster and Central Standard as they embody the very idea of what perfection ought to look and sound like. I for one revel in their perfection but even more in the fact that we as Barbershoppers support and nourish the successes of others. Their success provides a road map for others and their support and encouragement of others on the journey is what I believe we in the BHS and FWD are about.

The most impressive effect of this kind of “mutual helping” is in the scores themselves. If you look at the scores of the tenth place chorus down through the years, you will find that those tenth place scores are gradually getting better and better. What that means is that all of us are getting better and better.

Wow! That is an amazing conclusion. Not only are the top choruses and quartets getting better, but ALL the choruses/quartets, and therefore ALL of us as singers are getting better as well!

Hey, this Barbershop thing is a pretty cool “hobby” after all!!



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

Now that the District Contest cycle has finished, it’s time to recognize the remarkable jobs that the men of the Arizona Division have done.

Congratulations to the AZ Div representatives for your outstanding performances. Very memorable indeed. The Div quartets were masterful in placing two in the top five. Congrats to Suit Up! And Hot Spot, 2nd and 4th respectively. In the Chorus contest, A Cappella Syndicate and the renamed Phoenicians faced heavy competition placing 5th and 6th respectively. Great Job Everyone!!

The **AZ Fred Koch Memorial BASH** was held Aug 19-20. What a great time was had by all in addition to some fine singing. This event is the kickoff to Fall and as an AZ Division event, it was fun to see many new and old faces and make some new friends.

Thanks to Sheryl McKinney and her staff for continuing to make this an annual success and enjoy the brotherhood of Barbershop! The proceeds from this event go to help in the funding of the Division Youth in Harmony.

The season for Chapter elections of officers is fast approaching. Now is the time to get your nominating committee in place. We will be having our Leadership Academy on Jan 14 in Mesa, more info to follow.

Please have all of your officers attend this important learning event, as there is always something new to learn. We note that the SCE/SCW academy has been cancelled. This is an open invitation to any of our brothers who wish to participate in the fantastic learning experience, so come on over!! Register Early on our Division website.

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***

Congrats to the Brea Chapter for putting on a **great** convention, ably chaired by John Gaston and FWD Events Director Bryan Forbes. The restored Fox Theater was a superb venue for the contest sessions, with 27 quartets and 19 choruses participating.

Our new District Champion Quartet, **Don't Tell Mom**, was certainly an audience choice as well, since we've been following this combo of dad, two sons, and friend for many, many years. They were followed by 2nd place **Suit Up!** and 3rd place **North Of The Border**. **Spellbound** won the District Senior Quartet award, and **Velvet Frogs** will represent the FWD at the International Senior Quartet Contest in January. The Super Senior Champ from the Spring contests is **Antique Parts**, and the Novice Champ is **West Coast Ringers**. Winner of the audience selected Lloyd Steinkamp Most Entertaining Award was **Velvet Frogs**.

Our District Champion Chorus and representative to the 2017 International Chorus Contest in Las Vegas in July is again Santa Fe Springs **Masters Of Harmony**, with an average score of 92.9, with which they are seeded as a 2nd place tie with **Central Standard**. Joining them as wildcard invitations to the 2017 International are three other choruses, newly formed Barbary Coast **Fog City Singers**, California Delta **Voices Of California**, and La Jolla **Pacific Coast Harmony**.

Next Spring the conventions are (watch Westunes and the FWD website for information):

International Quartet Prelims plus NW/NE Quartet and Chorus Divisions is March 10-11 in Sacramento, CA. The venue is the McClellan Conference Center. **Deadline for contest entry is February 10.**

The Arizona Quartet and Chorus Division is April 22, again in Mesa AZ. **Deadline for contest entry is March 25.**

The SW/SE Quartet and Chorus Divisions is May 13, location in Southern California TBD. **Deadline for contest entry is April 15.**



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

The end of the year is at hand. As I write this on Halloween, I'm sure most of you will be treating your audience to some wonderful holiday music in the Barbershop style. I'd love to hear your success stories, including any "tricks" (weird performance situations).

Be sure to flood social media with photos and videos of your chorus, quartet, or other performing units (ask kids and grandkids for help if you don't have any tweeters other than the Tenor section).

I was sad that the SoCal music school and administrative training had to be cancelled due to a lack of early sign-ups. Hopefully the NorCal and AZ events will be well-attended. I will be having a music education day in SoCal (separate from Leadership Academy), with classes for the newer Barbershopper and others for more advanced studies. Quartet coaching will also be offered, but quartets from any division are welcome. We have a wealth of faculty, and can handle all – if we get registrations in advance.

Practicing what I preach, I put on my chorus logo shirt and attended several local high school fall concerts. What a treat to hear all kinds of choral music sung by these talented kids! Due to the efforts of passionate Barbershoppers, helping in any capacity the educator needs, Barbershop was featured on all the shows. I hope you will see and be seen at your local school's winter concerts, supporting the choral music programs – our efforts are making a difference !

As always, feel free to contact me at CEsing10r@gmail.com or at 714-356-8501 if you have questions about the FWD and BHS programs. I'm waiting to assist you. So I know people are reading the articles, send me a quick email (you can just say "Reading *WESTUNES*"). Get out and perform – share our music.



Chapter Support & Leadership Training
Steve Salmon

No article submitted



Chorus Director Development
Royce Ferguson

No article submitted



Events
Bryan Forbes

No article submitted

Division Event Planners are

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

Northeast - open

Northwest - open

Southeast - Paul Sandorf

Southwest - open

Arizona - Randy Bingle



Marketing & Public Relations
Jerry McElfresh

So you've just been chosen as your chapter's marketing & PR vice president or chairman for 2017. **Now what do you do?**

For starters I hope you'll register for an upcoming Leadership Academy class in Marketing & PR and that you'll familiarize yourself with online tools that are available to help you market chapter shows and merchandise and promote membership. See **where and when** the LA classes are being taught elsewhere in Westunes or on the District website for registration and details.

The outline for the class, "Demystifying Marketing," and a PowerPoint slide show on that topic have been posted on the FWD website. You'll find them under the Media tab. Click on Leadership Academy Presentations, where you'll find the Marketing category.

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

An important part of your chapter Marketing/PR VP or Chairman's job is to write and send press releases about the good things the chapter is doing. An outline for a press release and more detailed examples for a chorus or quartet winning a contest award and one for hosting a Division or District contest have been posted on the District website for use by our chapters.

More information on this and other tips to help you market and publicize your chapter, chorus and quartets are on the District website, farwesterndistrict.org

I've been writing this column and serving as FWD's Marketing Chairman for four years and it has been an honor to do so. In that time, with a lot of help, we've seen conversion of **Westunes** to a digital publication in three different formats, major improvements in the District **Website**, starting the monthly **Westags** publication for current and upcoming information, providing online registration and **seat selection** for contests and posting "**how to**" marketing and PR information, including sample press releases, on the website.

I'm stepping down at the end of this year but the Marketing chores will be in good hands with **David Melville** taking over. He has been the District's webmaster for several years and I think all would agree that he has done a fine job. He'll be adding other Marketing duties so he'll be a busy guy, but will prove up to the task,

Thanks also are due to **Ray Rhymer**, who has ably edited the district Westunes publication for some 15 years, and to **Joe Samora**, who assumed the position of **District Historian** last year to help preserve our proud 70-year history. I also have been fortunate to have support and guidance from Executive Vice Presidents **Allan Webb**, **Gordon Bergthold** and **Craig Hughes** during their terms.

I've enjoyed working with many chapter marketing chairmen and VPs and teaching a number of Leadership Marketing classes over the years. With the abilities of David, Ray and Joe I think you'll find that the District's marketing and PR program is in good hands.



Membership **Bill Rosica**

Well for the first time that I can remember in my 35 years in the Society, we had to cancel our Leadership Academy in Southern California due to lack of attendees. I just purchased 500 "Each One - Bring One - We Won" buttons and have no one to present them to.

In order to preserve what we all enjoy so much, we need to recruit and retain members, but how can we do this without the proper training. As I have been stating since last year when my class in Las Vegas came up with the "Each One..." motto, recruitment and retention are key to "Keeping the Whole World Singing". It does take work and it does take persistence, but in the end, we all win.

I have been elected to serve as your Northwest Division Vice President, so I will be trying to move

our number to the plus side in that Division as well as the entire District, but I need your help. If your Chapter is well and in no need of help, please let me know what you are doing, so I can pass it along. If your Chapter is in need of help, don't wait. Let me know so we can put some resources to work to get you back on the right track.

To reiterate, I have a program that involves everyone in your chapter. Each man will be charged with one task for the coming year: Bring in one new member. That's it, bring in one new guy. If you succeeded in doing that, your chapter would double in size. If you only had a mild success and only half the guys brought in new members, your 20-man chapter would now be a 30-man chapter. Who wouldn't want that? This program requires little to no reporting and is as simple as it gets. If your chapter wants to have some sort of incentive for the program, why not give the guy with the most new members a free registration to the next District Convention.

I am standing by to assist any and all chapters who want to give this new program a try. What do you have to lose? I see the numbers for each chapter each month and it seems to me that I should receive an email from every chapter in the FWD who wants to grow.

Special thanks to Bruce Sellnow and the men in my Membership class last year for coming up with this great idea.



Quartet Activities **Bill Kane**

Words, words, words...how can I put into words the joy that Barbershop quartet singing has brought to my life? As you may have guessed, this is a passion of mine...and one I'd love to share with you.

When *Don't Tell Mom's* David Haedtler and his two sons won the FWD quartet championship in Riverside, I was reminded of how lucky I was to

have a father (and a grandfather) who sang Barbershop harmony. My grandfather's quartet was while he was in college back in 1906. I had my first quartet in college back in the late 1950s, and have had dozens of quartets since. But not everyone can be "born into Barbershop".

Maybe you have yet to experience that first quartet?

Well, this coming spring at one of the FWD conventions you can enjoy a full day of quartet singing. It is called Harmony Platoon. This pre-convention event started here in FWD back in 2012 and has spread throughout BHS since. Half a dozen other Districts have picked it up and it has been at all International conventions since Long Beach Midwinter in 2014.

Here's how it works. You register sometime between now and next January and receive high-quality learning tracks for four songs. You come to the convention site one day before the full convention starts, having learned the songs COLD. You are randomly matched with three others and compete with one of the songs in a fun competition. Then you get re-grouped with three other guys and do it again. Then finally, one more draw of quartets and one final contest. There are usually a dozen or more quartets in each contest.

Interested? Contact me for more details. Registration forms will be posted soon on the FWD website...we are selecting the four songs right now as I write.

Here are the guys whose quartets won those Platoon contests in Riverside. Just ask any one of them how much fun it was.

Youth In Harmony **Ryan Collins**

No article submitted



District Historian
Joe Samora

"Where Singing Happens"

Every day we participate, we are making history. The past is history and today we have the opportunity to achieve or not. Participation leads to achievement.

You may not be aware but your actions can motivate others to take chances and ask a guest to come sing with them. What a legacy, to plant the seeds for change, by trying something new and different your chapter benefits.

You learn by doing. Take the opportunity, when it arises, to open new doors. I joined BHS eleven years ago after being asked to be a guest several times. My first impression of a chapter meeting was very positive. Several men



greeted me at the door and encouraged me to sing with them. I even received my first Polecat book. My sponsor was nearby to help, if I needed him. (*Al James was my sponsor, pictured above. Several years ago we sang during Al's memorial service*).

The second year I became an officer. I wanted to share the knowledge I had received. Each of us has the opportunity to participate in Barbershop by singing but also there are many men who are serving in leadership capacities to make sure the chapter grows and is fiscally sound. Like the district, my own chapter is 70 years old this year. Thanks to Joe Trousdale and the men who accepted the challenge in 1946 to start a new chapter. My chapter is "Where Singing Happens!"



Division 1 SW Chapters

Justin McQueen, Editor

Bakersfield Chapter

By Rich Owen

The Bakersfield Chapter produced its first show in 15 years on May 15 at the Little Harvey Auditorium at Bakersfield High School. Entitled *Phoenix Rising*, reflecting the renewed energy and focus of the chorus, it featured **New Fangled Four** as our headliner quartet. They kept the audience in stitches with their unique humor and had them enthralled with their tight harmonies. **The Golden Empire Chorus** had 17 members on stage, and some members were also able to attend an informal dinner with **New Fangled Four** after the show. The show itself was a success, both in ticket sales (90% of available seats were sold or given away as promotional items) and in net profit to the chapter.

Chapter membership continues to be a struggle. After a successful divisional contest and spring show, the chapter ran into the summer doldrums of vacations and conflicting plans resulting in difficult attendance through most of the summer. Members seem to be returning now that fall is here. We successfully recruited two new members to the BHS and one returning after a time away. Our roster now stands at 24 members with approximately 15 attending regularly to chapter meetings.

The chapter continues to look for sing-out opportunities. The Chapter was honored to be able to perform at Memorial Day celebrations at two different locations this year, and the chapter is actively looking for Christmas caroling opportunities during the coming holiday season.

Conejo Valley Harmony Oaks Chapter

by Juan Bowen

Our big news is that we are merging with **Ventura** to create a larger and more vibrant chorus to serve our area. We discovered that our strengths complement each other and we are truly delighted with the improvement in sound that our director **Jim Browne**

has been able to achieve with the larger group. We expect to complete the mechanics of the merger within the next few months and our new chorus will be named the **Channel Islands Harmony Chorus**. Many of us have experienced a new and renewed joy and energy singing together.

We have two personal milestones to mark, first, the very happy engagement of **Kathy Robinson**, a very dedicated supporter of the chapter and widow of member **Al Schettini**, to another longtime member, **Richard Abbott**. And second, the 96th birthday of 47-year member **Toby Groves**.

Rincon Beach Chapter

by Justin McQueen

The Rincon Beach Pacific Sound Chorus held our Seaside Rendezvous show of champions extravaganza at the **Marjorie Luke Theatre** in Santa Barbara with a tremendous lineup and two packed shows. Headlined by the **Ringmasters** and bolstered by standout performances by **Cachet** and **Cest La Vie**. The response was overwhelming by all who attended from old and new fans alike! It was an epic performance all around and a group effort by all involved from advertising and ticket sales. Special shout out to **Brent Anderson** and **Bobby Georges** as co-show chairmen.

No rest after that as we prepared for District Contest in Riverside. The chorus scored higher than we ever had under the direction of **Kelly Shepard** with choreo by **Steve Katz**. Two Pacific Sound members took the final round and the Quartet championship of Harmony Platoon, **Mike Murphy** on baritone and myself on lead.

A guest night followed where many old friends and some new ones attended. It is always a special thing to share this experience with old friends whom have been away awhile, and new ones that we hope are inspired to stick around and keep coming back.

November saw the start of our busy holiday season with many performances in Ventura, Camarillo, and Santa Barbara.

San Fernando Valley Chapter

By Mark Wolf

The Valley Harmony Singers had their Fall/Holiday Show called *Everything Old Is New Again and An Old Fashion Christmas*.

We've gained five new singers into the fold recently and our sound is quite improved.

Ron Black visited us in August and taught us *How to Ring Chords Like Never Before*. If you've never been instructed by this amazing teacher, you must make a point of it. You will not be disappointed!

Our Ice Cream Social this summer was well-attended by fine singers in choruses and quartets and we even had a solo by the famous **Laura Pallas**!

Welcome! [www.valleyharmonysingers.com]
www.valleyharmonysingers.com

Santa Maria Chapter

The Chordsmen are brushing up Christmas music to present in the coming season at several venues.

The Chapter sent eight local high school boys and two music educators to the Youth camp and the boys all learned much and had a great time.

Gene Kai, a former director of the chapter, suffered a slight stroke and is recovering well. His singing voice is not affected.

Santa Monica Chapter

By Pat Kellogg

The Santa Monica Oceanaires honored two recently deceased members, **Bernard Samstag** and **Carl Rogers**, with appearances by some of our members at memorial services in quartets and octets.

We welcome seven new members: tenor, **Andrew Lehto**; leads **David Livingston**, **James McElwain**, and **Jim Schloss**; baritone **Will Hamblet**; and basses **Ken Eliezer**, and **Tim Singer**.

The Oceanaires chorus presented our 40th Ice Cream Social at the Palisades Lutheran Church.

We enjoyed the FWD Contest and Convention in Riverside. We were awarded our third consecutive FWD Plateau AA title. Our new senior member **David Livingston** is the lead in the **Velvet Frogs**, the quartet selected to represent the FWD at the International Seniors Quartet Contest in January. One of our new younger members, **Adam Marangakis**, is the baritone in **West Coast Ringers**, the 2016 Novice Quartet Champion. Our Chorus Manager, **Wally Mees**, was part of a Harmony Platoon Quartet named as the Thursday Night Champs.

We have also benefited from some wonderful changes in our Directors. **Laura Pallas** Singer, Master Director and former director of the Santa Monica Chorus of Sweet Adelines, accepted a permanent position as our Co-Director. In August 2016, our other Co-Director, **Ben Lowe**, was named the winner of the Marilyn Horne Song Competition at her Master Class in Santa Barbara. He is dividing his time between the Oceanaires and his career as a budding opera singer.



Division 2 SE Chapters

Greg Price, Editor

Inland Empire Chapter

By Gaylord Spence

The Inland Empire Chapter is very excited about the involvement of our new VP of Marketing & Public Relations, **Dave Strough**. Dave is a fairly new member to Barbershopping but not new to music. He was the choir director at his church for several years and the excitement and exuberance that he brings to his new position is quite remarkable. Generating sing-outs and special performances seems to be his forte as we

have never been busier. Add to this the interest and excitement that our new VP of Music, **Bill Kliewer**, brings to the chorus, it's a shame that we don't have two rehearsals a week! Bill is a seasoned Barbershopper who has directed in the past, but only wants to support our young and talented director, **Carl Buntin**. The membership is excited also so look for 2017 to be a major growth year for the chapter!

La Jolla Chapter

By Craig Monsell

Pacific Coast Harmony is having a great year of singing under the leadership of our new musical director **Royce Ferguson**! We had a top-notch annual show this summer: *Always - Pacific Coast Harmony sings Timeless Songs of Love and Romance* — two shows with a very fun ice cream social at intermission. In Fall competition, we earned "Most Improved" and qualified as a wild card for the International Competition in Las Vegas next year.

We are excited to see what the future will bring as we reach out to more singers in the San Diego area.

San Diego Chapter

By Greg Price

The **Far Western District** and the **Sun Harbor Chorus** are both septuagenarians! It was great to see so many alumni at the August reunion and many joined us for the reunion chorus which was featured at our September show at the Prado Theater in Balboa Park.

Shortly thereafter, we competed at the district contest in Riverside and improved on our Division score. Kudos is due to the **Brea** chapter for hosting a great Fall Convention — thanks guys! We've started on Christmas music for the 39th annual Christmas show where enjoying the performance of the *Elf Chorus* has become a tradition for folks who attended as children and are now bringing their own grandchildren.



Division 3 NW Chapters

Charles Feltman, Editor

No submittal.



Division 4 NE Chapters

Roger Perkins, Editor

California Delta Chapter

By Jim DeChaine

The **Delta Chapter (VoCal)** placed 3rd at the 2016 Far Western District Convention this year in Riverside, with our best score in the brief 6+ year history of our organization, 81.9, with 65 men on stage.

We had 16 members from VoCal competing among the 27 participating quartets at district, with **Dynamix (Doyle Pope, Robert Lenoil, Bruce Morgan, James Morgan)** placing 7th. Besides **Robert and Bruce**, other VoCal members who sang in quartets included: **Larry Gassman, John Gassman, Phil DeBar, Corley Phillips, Blair Reynolds, Daniel Wilson, Larry Womack, Dave Wallace, Steve Leipelt, Richard Lund, Bruce Sellnow, Von Wallin, Craig Vincent and John Eilers**. At the Riverside Convention VoCal member **Raphael Pazo, Jr.** had the privilege of occupying the "best seat in the house" as a guest visiting "judge", sitting in the pit with the real judges.

New Chapter Officers for 2017 are **Jim Maass**, returning President; **Darrell Chappell**, Secretary; **Roger Santiago**, returning Treasurer; **Larry Halvorson**, VP Music/Performance; **Larry Womack**, VP Chapter Development (Membership); **Rich Brunner**, returning VP Marketing; and Board Members-at-Large, **Richard Kaiser** and **Derick Sturke**.

VoCal welcomes eight new members this quarter: **Jason Block, Phil DeBar, Evan Mountford, Wayne Raymond, Elijah Rich, Chuck Roots, Ben Thuesen** and **Joe Thuesen**.

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

Central California Chapter

by Miles Sutter

The **GVC** sang for the wonderful people of Covenant Village. **Florine Smith** was our MC, and Howard Barber was the commentator for a quartet consisting of **Dave Wallace, Chuck Roots, Mike Viss, Bruce Sellnow**. The evening ended with the presentation of **Buz Smith's** 50-year membership card.

The **GVC** had the privilege and honor of singing our National Anthem at the final game of the year for the Modesto Nuts baseball team. We faced the flag out in center field, and under the direction of **Howard Barber**, we raised our voices and sang with conviction! The speakers at the stadium had a resounding effect on our singing, and you could hear it all over the stadium. Many congratulatory comments were received as we left the field. As we left the stadium we were approached by a man in the parking lot. He said he heard the beautiful rendition coming from the field, stopped what he was doing, removed his hat and placed it over his heart!

The **GVC** singers, under the direction of **Bruce Sellnow**, sang for the residents of Samaritan Village. **Chuck Roots** was the MC. **Common Bond [Greg Kramp, George Cooper, Roy Anderson, Howard Barber]** sang three songs, much to the delight of the people in attendance.

Davis-Vacaville Chapter

By Roy Mattice

Two months after he celebrated being a Barbershopper for 50 years, on May 20, 2016 **Ed Graff**, well-known Barbershopper in the Far Western District entered into rest. At the time of his passing, the **Davis-Vacaville Chapter**, one of Ed's many chapters, was preparing a first-ever Tag Contest for its members. Ed, of course, was more than willing to

participate in more than one quartet for the competition. Upon hearing of Ed's passing, contest organizer, **Roy Mattice**, immediately decided to immortalize Ed's name by attaching it to the contest and thus the **Ed Graff Memorial Tag Contest** was born. Seven quartets sang a variety of tags, each competing with two tags. The judges were Ed's widow **Marion Graff** and other attending wives from the chapter. Top competing winners were awarded bronze, silver and gold medals.

The two tags were: 3rd place quartet **Uncalled Four** sang *Lone Prairie & Mam'selle*. 2nd place quartet **Tag You're It** sang *Sleepy Time Down South & My Old Kentucky Home*. 1st place quartet **Mixed Voices** sang *The Unreachable Star & Smile*. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the only mixed quartet **Play it Fourward** who sang *The Unreachable Star & Darkness on the Delta*. As an encore, the winning quartet taught the "M.I.C.K.E.Y M.O.U.S.E" tag to those in attendance. Everybody involved wanted it to be continued on an annual basis. So, each year the Davis-Vacaville Chapter will hold an **Annual Ed Graff Memorial Tag Contest** open to everybody from other Chapters to honor Ed.

Folsom Chapter

by Dennis Stohl

We announce two new members: Lead **David Newell** who read about us in an ad in local newspaper; **Mike Aita** was a member and has now returned.

We sang for the folks at the Atria Senior Living Center in August. The Annual Wives Appreciation Dinner highlighted September's activities.

The **Folsom Harmony Express** held their fall recital on October 28 at their meeting place, the Church of the Redeemer. The new **Spirits West Chorus** performed three songs on the show and attended the afterglow. Quartets that performed on the show were **The Atria Quartet (Roger Perkins, Kent Borrowdale, Ken Potter, Doug Vestal)**, and the **H.I.C.K.S. (Dave Wallace, Steve Leipelt, Bruce Sellnow, Richard Lund)**.

Nevada Placer Chapter

by Roger Perkins

The **Sierranaders** chorus sang at the Nevada County Fair in Grass Valley. This has been a regular event for almost 30 years. The chorus did two half-hour performances with a brief interlude by chapter quartet “**What’s Next**” (**Tom Klasey, Roger Perkins, Ken Potter, Les Cudworth**). Our MC this year was **Trent Bass**. This was followed by the annual quartet contest that has been taking place for 22 years.

A quartet, **The High C Aires (Roger Perkins, Kent Borrowdale, Ken Potter & Doug Vestal)** members from the **Nevada Placer Chapter, VoCal** and the **Folsom Harmony Express** sang at Squaw Valley on the evening of Sept. 2 for the **World Senior Golf Federation** during their dinner on the last day of the tournament. There were more than 80 members and wives from ten different countries who loved the performance. The quartet went from table to table performing a long list of songs.

Reno Chapter

by Steve Shurtliff

Due to personal and family reasons, **Bill Weiser**, who was our director for over 20 years (and very good at it), resigned from the Chorus. We certainly wish him the best and hope he will be able to join us again somewhere down the road.

Meanwhile, we are on the search for a new director. Reno-Sparks is a lovely area. My wife and I moved here 12 years ago, and love it. Maybe someone out there who can direct might be looking to relocate...? We have had some very good people pick up the slack – and I would like to credit **Bill Stephens, Dave Gaunt** and **Ryan Huff** for utilizing their talents to help us through.

Our third “Reno Sings under the Stars” show went on as planned, and came off even better than expected. Joined by **Cami Thompson, Cindi Sabatini** and the **McQueen High School Choir** the show went

beautifully. Bill Stephens directed us and did a fine job. Plans are already underway for the fourth.

We acknowledge **West Coast Sound** for acquitting themselves well in the FWD Fall Final Quartet Contest.

We heartily welcome long-time Barbershoppers **Roger Lee** and **Mike Moisio** to our Chorus!

Visalia Chapter

By Bud Case

It is with great pleasure that this summer we welcomed our new director, **Kevin Odell**. He teaches choral music in a Visalia charter school and comes to us with several years of quartetting experience as well as chorus participation. He became available to us just as **Adam Kitt**, our director for almost five years, wanted to redirect his time closer to home as his young family grows and needs his support. The transition has been smooth as we prepare for Caroling this year.

We put on our annual Spaghetti Dinner, one of our successful fundraisers [again].

About 10 from our chapter sang in Fresno with the **GNC** in a benefit for Honor Flights that featured several local quartets and the headliners, **Ringmasters**. Our men felt privileged to participate in efforts made towards such a worthy cause as well as hear **Ringmasters** in person.



Division 5 AZ Chapters

Bob Shaffer, Editor

Central Arizona (Quartet)

Chapter

by Bill Kane

Central Arizona Quartet Chapter

began meeting again in the fall after a summer layoff with focus on new Platoon songs to be sung at the FWD fall convention in Riverside. Over 50 men

from throughout the district registered for that event, including a contingent from Arizona. Our chapter draws Barbershoppers from throughout the state (including Phoenix, Mesa, Flagstaff, Prescott, Tucson and Scottsdale). Next event for the guys will be preparation for the spring 2017 AZ Division Platoon. For details on our "irregular" meeting schedule, contact President Bill Kane at BillKaneVip@msn.com or call [480-518-6474](tel:480-518-6474).

Greater Phoenix Chapter

by David Melville

The BIG news from the Greater Phoenix Chapter is that the **PHOENICIANS** are back! We also will be celebrating our chapter's 75th anniversary in 2018

and have some big events planned, so we felt it was the perfect time to return to our roots and revive the name in honor of that great chorus and to set our path for the future.

So it is now official: we are once again The Phoenixians! We are thrilled about it, and we hope that you will be too.



The chorus had an excellent retreat up in **Prescott** during the third weekend of September, and we capped it off by doing a joint chapter show on September 24, featuring the chorus and quartets along with the **Prescott Chapter High Mountain Chordsmen** and two of their quartets.

During the FWD Fall District Contest one of the Phoenix quartets, **Suit Up! (Justin Klemballa, E.J. Esquivias, Rodney Armstrong, Danny Ryan)**, won the Silver medal. Another Phoenix quartet, **Hot Spot (Ray Estes, Trevor Way, Shreyas Amin, Tim McMullan)**, was fourth in the contest. **Batteries Not Included (Eric Jeidi, Matt Allen, Matt Marino, Chaz Chesser)** scored well in the quartet semi-finals.

Matt Allen and **Chaz Chesser** also sang in the Rocky Mountain District Contest where they took

third place. **Joseph Hopkin**, also a Phoenix member, sang tenor with the quartet, **Second Wind**.

Mesa Chapter

by Collin McKinney

The **Fred Koch Memorial Summer Bash** is the Barbershopping highlight of the summer months in Arizona. This summer, we gathered at a new location (Holiday Inn of Mesa) and celebrated a weekend of singing, quartet shows, a tag-teaching class, singing, luck-of-the-draw and VLQ contests, and more singing (see the pattern?). Mesa quartets **Quadratic Audio** and **Backspin** appeared on the Friday night Parade of Quartets along with 10 other BHS and SAI quartets, and new quartet **Four Track (Greg Grace, Adam Kaufman, Ken Brannon, Roy Murray)** won the Novice Quartet contest on Saturday. Members **Bob Shaffer** (Fri.) and **Collin McKinney** (Sat.) handled the MC work, and Collin's wife **Sheryl** handled ALL the organizing of the event. Almost \$400 was raised for the Fred Koch Memorial Scholarship Fund, which benefits Youth in Harmony activities in Arizona.

The Harmonizers love their quartetting, and we're proud of the many quartets we have in our midst. **Backspin [Andy Harry, Dale Weatherford, Bob Shaffer, Jerry Fox]** celebrated their 6th anniversary as a quartet in July. Backspin performed for groups in Florence, Mesa, Tempe, Glendale, and Peoria during the summer.

We welcome new members **Bill Wilkinson** and **John Schoenwolf**, and dual-member **Bill Kane**.

Elected to serve the chapter and chorus for 2017 are President **John Johnson**, Secretary **John Soper**, Treasurer **Bernie Esberner**, Music VP **Greg Grace**, Membership VP **Thom Olmstead**, Marketing VP **Roy Murray**, Chorus Manager **Randy Bingel**, BMAL **Vic Bowen**, BMAL **Adam Kaufman**, and IPP **Bill Johnson**.

Prescott Chapter

by Sam Stimple

Prescott – a great chorus in a great town! During the busy summer months, the **High Mountain Chordsmen** never let up; they continue to bring musical enjoyment to audiences in the many fine communities of Yavapai County. The chapter welcomes three new members this quarter: **Denny Mishler, Terry Boren, and Steve Osborn.**

Chorus venues include Prescott Noon Lions Club, our monthly Harmony for Lunch Bunch (4th Friday – Golden Corral Buffet), Prescott Public Library, and guest performance with the Phoenicians chorus. Our jet-setters are **Ed Roush, Tommy Keenan, and Ed Kenney**, who attended a week of fun and Barbershop craft at Harmony University in Nashville.

Our two registered quartets, **Mountain Sound** and **Antique Parts**, leave Barbershop chords and smiles at such places as: Willow Hills Baptist patriotic program, United Methodist Church potluck, the Joy of Giving luncheon, a birthday party in Cottonwood, Alta Vista Senior Living Center, Prescott Valley Adult Care Center, radio and television spots, and our annual summer picnic for members and families right next door to the new dog park! We try to sing songs the dogs don't know...

Salt River Valley Chapter

by Eric Bjornsen

The **A Cappella Syndicate** enjoyed a campout weekend of song and camaraderie in the cool pines of Northern Arizona. A singing hayride was followed-up with a mini-performance for the campground.

The **Syndicate** enjoyed a weekend workshop with Championship Director **Mark Hale**, who emphasized vocal production and alignment.

Whoop 'Em Up Quartet wowed its audience at the Marshall Art Gallery, in Scottsdale. The soirée featured some historical discussion and plenty of

song from two American-original art forms, Ragtime and Barbershop.

Syndicate musical leadership (Directors **Brent Graham** and **Gary Steinkamp**) continues to make contributions to the Society and the a cappella world. Both continue to coach quartets/choruses in Arizona and beyond. Both served as judges at the Arizona Division Bash. Brent continued to provide custom Barbershop arrangements and re-certified as a BHS Music Judge. Gary was again on staff at Harmony University, and helped design and teach the new *Performance* Category, serving on its review board.

Sedona Chapter

by Michael McCaffrey

"I don't sing because I'm happy; I'm happy because I sing." William James

The focus of the **Harmony on the Rocks** Barbershop chorus was polishing our repertoire for our annual show *Barbershop in Song & Story*, a wonderful assortment of personal stories and great numbers done in the Barbershop style. We featured **The Eclectones**, the 7th place finishers in the 2016 World Youth Barbershop Quartet Contest. Please stop by The Church of the Red Rocks, 54 Bowstring Dr., to see how our singing can increase your happy quotient.

HOTR board elections for 2017 saw some position changes which are: Chapter President **Bob Butterworth**, Treasurer **Wally Reule**, Chapter District Delegate **Bob Standfast**, and VP of Music & Performance **Ron Burkey**.

The chorus was saddened by the death of our good friend and baritone, **Jack Edwards**. Jack was a 34-year Senior Legacy Member and served the Sedona Chapter for the last eight years as both our treasurer and district delegate.

Tucson Chapter by Dave Tompkins

Community outreach is an objective of all chapters. The **Tucson Sunshine Chapter** provides church choral support while the Arizona snowbirds are out of town. The Youth in Harmony Festival is our highlight of the quarter. At the 11th annual festival, 150 female and male high school students representing five schools joined for a day of learning barbershop harmony techniques. **Dan Ryan** (BHS) and **Anna Marie Glad** (SAI) were the clinicians. We sang the national anthem at a Tucson Roadrunners hockey game..

White Mountains Chapter by Doc Dockendorf

Our successful show featured the 2016 International Senior Quartet Champions, **High Priority**. We performed for the **Meals on Wheels** Fundraiser show and the **Fall Festival Talent Show**. Our focus now is on our fifth Annual Benefit **Christmas in the Pines** show, scheduled for December 5, 2016. The show will feature, along with the High Country Chorus, the Snowflake High School Honor Choir, the Show Low High School Show-Biz Choir, the Blue Ridge High School Harmonies, and the Blue Ridge Junior High School Choir, as well as dancers from the local Dance Academy. Last year we were able to raise \$2000 to split evenly between the four choirs. Over the past four years we have raised nearly \$6000 for the local school choirs, and expect to raise at least the \$2000 we donated last year. Additionally, the Chapter presented each high school a \$500 scholarship to one of their top musicians in the Spring. We plan to do this as well in 2017, and annually thereafter.

We have recently been blessed with two guests that are moving to the White Mountains. Both are Bari's, and long-time Barbershoppers. **Tom Wallis** is from the Inland Sound Chorus of California, and **Jim Iverson** is from the Boise, Idaho Chapter.

New registered quartet, the **Ponderosa Pines** [**James Burden, Don Murrow, Mick Mitchke, Ron LaMar**], already performed the National Anthem for two organizations, and this week performed for the Lexington School for the Autistic, introducing 30 students, their teachers, and many parents to the Barbershop style.

Our 2017 BOD as elected is: President **Millard Bolt**, IPP **Jerry Schrunck**, Membership **Ron LaMar**, Music VP **Jim Bohart**, Marketing & PR **Duane Krause**, Secretary/Treasurer **Don Murrow**, and Board Members-at-Large **Ron Montez, Ron Longenbaugh**, and **James Burden**.

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, **2017** dates are:

- January 14 [Arizona Leadership Academy](#)
Location: St. Mark's Episcopal Church
322 N Horne Ave, Mesa, AZ
- January 17-22 [BHS Midwinter Convention – San Antonio](#)
- March 9-12 [FWD Spring Convention & NE/NW Division Contest](#)
Location: McClellan Conference Center
McClellan Park, Sacramento, CA
Same locations as 2014
- April 21-22 [AZ Division Contest](#)
- May 12-13 [SE/SW Division Contest](#)
- July 2-8 [BHS International Convention – Las Vegas](#)
- July 23-30 [Harmony University - Nashville](#)
- October 19-22 [Fall FWD District Conventions](#)
Location: Bakersfield, CA

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