

The **Silver Nugget** *E-Newsletter*

Editor: Fred Green ● poolvacman@gmail.com ● The Las Vegas Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society ● Vol 1, #1 - Jan-Mar 2013



TheSilverStatesmen
SilverStatesmen.com



OUR NEW DIRECTOR

It is a great pleasure to announce that **Jim Halvorson** has been selected as the new director for the Silver Statesmen chorus.

Jim's experience and ability to connect with every member of the chorus was very much in evidence during the audition process. We also want to thank BJ Hill and Bob Hartley for giving us two more great evenings of barbershop singing while providing the selection committee and the chorus a wonderful opportunity to see three fine directors at work.

By way of background, Jim currently holds a B.A. in Vocal Music Education from St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, with graduate coursework in Music Ed. from UNLV. He taught elementary general music for 11 years (one year in MN, and 10 years in Las Vegas). Jim currently serves as the director of the choral program at Cheyenne High School, where he oversees four choirs enrolling about 150 students.

Jim has been a barbershopper for most of his life. He joined the BHS on May 30, 1983, with the Minneapolis Commodores at the tender age of 10. He sang and competed with the Commodores from 1983 to 1986. In 1986, Jim became a charter member of the Great Northern Union chorus and sang with them from 1986-1998. He moved to Las Vegas in 1998 and became a charter member (and musical director) of the City of Lights chorus from 1998 until 2003. In 2005, he took over as the musical director of the Celebrity City chorus of Sweet Adelines International. He served as the director from 2005-2011.

Jim currently sings in the quartet, 95 North, which is the 2012 Far Western District champions. He is also currently serving as the Chairman of Youth in Harmony for the Far Western District.

Congratulations on your selection, Jim. We are proud to welcome you aboard and look forward to many years of fun and barbershop harmony!

Hellooooo Silver Statesmen!

It is such an honor and a privilege to be announced as your new director. I have enjoyed getting back into the chorus environment since the beginning of the year. Now serving as your director makes the return to chorus activity that much sweeter.

I am sincere when I say, "I have the best seat in the house" and it is a real treat for me to get to work with you each week.

As we forge together this union of our two former chapters, I hope that we all choose to bring the best of your chapter into the evening to make sure that we are all getting fed the sounds that have kept us coming back week after week.

It is my sincere hope that we continue to focus on the "fun" in our evening by bringing our personal best to each rehearsal and looking for at least one take-away each night that you can use to propel you in the next week.

The music team is working hard to keep the evening fast paced and active. Make sure you keep up with the fun. I look forward to our continued growth together.

Thanks for the opportunity.

Jim Halvorson



Jim Halvorson
Director





Tenors.... That note is UP HERE.....



Ready....Set.....Sing.....

I have an Idea...

What do you do for a living? What exactly do you do every day? When you break it down, wouldn't you agree we try to change things? Most of us live our lives every day looking for change. How does change come about?

Change comes about through Ideas. Past ideas have brought about great change. The Industrial age brought us cheaper labor and faster machines. Then came the TV idea. Mass marketing of average ideas pushing out to the world. Now we have the Internet and people are being led to new ideas. The new path to change is Leadership. People are looking for leaders, people they can trust and follow. People who share common interests and ideas. The Baby Boomers are retiring and want to belong to something. What **we** do is very specific. It is simple, and a lot of fun. We are men who love to sing and harmonize in the Barbershop style. We strive to be entertaining, we care for each other and our community. When you associate with us you share in a rich history and tradition of nostalgic, patriotic, wholesome entertainment. We are the largest all male singing organization in the world. We are the largest all male singing organization in Las Vegas. If you are a man in Las Vegas who loves to sing and harmonize either you are a Silver Statesmen, or you haven't heard of us yet.

I believe we have entertained ourselves long enough. I believe in today's world we need to tell our story and connect with our community; as we do this we will be recognized as leaders in our community and we will be able to bring about change. In our community there are many schools without music programs, and the programs they do have are underfunded. Community and church choirs need audiences and affordable venues. Our community is over stressed, over worked, and underappreciated. Like never before, we have the opportunity to reach out to our community, connect with them, and be leaders and examples of the importance of music and singing. As we support like-minded organizations, we will only strengthen our own. Over the last few months we have elected a board, combined two chapters, built a road map, formed a music team, hired a director, and started putting together our musical entertainment. It was my desire that we combine our two chapters so that we could not only be a better chapter for our members, our district, and our society, but also so we could be a strength and a leader for our community, bringing together like-minded people and organizations.

In the past few months I have seen many opportunities to lead. Barbershoppers, music educators, community choirs, church choirs, music centers—we are all struggling on our own. Leadership and ideas will bring the change that is needed. Only when we connect and support each other will there be strength and change. Las Vegas is a great community. Barber-shop Harmony is part of what makes Las Vegas great.

— Steve



Steve Salmon
Chapter President

Las Vegas Chapter **AND THE *SILVER STATESMEN* CHORUS**

By Larry Litchfield

Excerpted from the Spring, 2013 FWD Westunes

The newly expanded Las Vegas Chapter is bustin' at the seams with enthusiasm and members! And the singing on the risers is pretty nifty too!

We're now the largest men's barbershop chorus in Nevada with the Jan. 1, 2013 official merger of the *Las Vegas* and *Las Vegas Metro* Chapters and the combining of our two choruses under the new ***Silver Statesmen*** banner!

Our star-studded legacy is validated by two venerable parent choruses – Las Vegas' 52-year-old *Gamble-Aires* and Metro's 14-year-old *City of Lights*. Both choruses are fondly remembered by past and present local barbershoppers and thousands of Las Vegas valley fans who, for decades, loyally supported both Chapters and member quartets.

The debut rehearsal of the new Silver Statesmen on Jan. 3, at our new site (*see below*) attracted 74 gentlemen seeking fun and quality barbershopping. None of us knew what to expect!

The sounds on "opening night" and at the following three rehearsals surprised skeptics and awed believers with music that raised goose bumps and confirmed expectations. Attendees (members, past members and guests) were not disappointed!

Chapter President **Steve Salmon** welcomed enthusiastic first-night members. Music & Performance VP/Acting Director, **Albert Weiss**, worked the chorus in preparation for our upcoming Spring Show (date and location to be determined). He introduced *Celebrate Harmony*, Joe Liles' upbeat centerpiece tune for the Society's suggested 75th Anniversary show package, which the Silver Statesmen will be performing.

A near-overflow afterglow at a nearby Irish pub was incredible as soaring spirits sparked swirling overtones and nurtured new camaraderies.

The Silver Statesmen Chorus meets at 7 p.m. on Thursday nights at the Christ the King Catholic Community Church (4925 S. Torrey Pines Dr. at the south-west corner of Tropicana.) Drop by when you're in the neighborhood and check us out!



2013 Board of Directors

The initial Board of Directors for the Silver Statesmen have their work cut out for them. With the merger of two chapters, many issues have to be addressed. From performance attire to repertoire, from logos and website management to hiring a new director and preparing for the BHS International Convention in Las Vegas for 2014, this will be a challenging year of new ideas, discussion, debate, problem solving, and decisions. These are the men who will lead the chapter over the coming months and set the pace for the future.

Left to right: **Steve Salmon** - President, **Larry Litchfield** - Immediate Past President, **Ivan Lambert** - Secretary, **Wes White** - Treasurer, **Albert Weiss** - VP Music, **Dennis Johnson** - VP Membership, **Fred Green** - VP Marketing & PR, **Larry Pechart** - VP Program, **Bill Lusk** - Member at Large, **Randy Preston** - Member at Large, **Ross Marty** - Chorus Manager

(Editor's Note: Dennis Johnson had to relinquish his post for health reasons and work demands. Randy Preston has agreed to assume the position of Membership VP. A new Member at Large will be selected to replace Randy in that position.)



← I-r: Philip Spinks,
Warren Hettinga,
Chuck Wines and
John Mininger

Treasury Notes

The past few months have been a busy time for your Treasurer. Many things had to be addressed due to the merger of our two chapters.

First, the Treasurers of both chapters had to collect any outstanding money owed to their chapter and pay any outstanding bills. An audit of both chapters' books was made and submitted to BHS in Nashville. Income tax for both chapters was filed and a copy sent to BHS.

A list of officers of the new chapter, along with the yearly corporate filing fee, was sent to the Secretary of State.

The Las Vegas Metro Corporation was dissolved and a fee paid to the Secretary of State. The charter for the Las Vegas Metro Chapter was surrendered to BHS.

It was agreed upon that, due to logistics, we would use Bank of America for the chapter banking. After several trips to the bank, it was discovered that we couldn't simply change the name of the City of Lights account, but would have to open a new account due to different tax ID numbers. It was then necessary to produce the original charter and other papers from the Gamble-Aires and give them to the bank. The Secretary, Ivan Lambert, and I spent several hours at the bank going over the paperwork before we finally got the account opened. It was then necessary to transfer enough money from the City of Lights account to fund the new account. Then, we discovered that we could not accept checks made out to our new "Silver Statesmen" name without filing for a DBA or fictitious name with the County. In the meantime, Dave Kennedy closed the Gamble-Aires account with Chase Bank and had a cashiers check made out to Silver Statesmen Chorus. The bank would not accept the check for deposit until they had proof that a fictitious name had been filed with the County. We then paid a fee and applied for a fictitious name. The Secretary and I then had to go back to the bank and fill out more paperwork and signature cards to add Silver Statesmen to our account name. With this work completed, it was then possible to deposit the Gamble-Aires check and transfer the rest of the money from City of Lights and close that account.

After combining our treasuries, we ended up with about \$6,000 to start the new year with our new chapter. This sounds like a fair amount of money, but after we had our Installation Banquet, we were left with about \$5,000. We have some major expenditures coming up with an annual insurance bill, purchase of new music, and other things to set up the new chapter too numerous to mention.

In the days to come, it will be up to ALL of us to find ways to generate revenue to run our chapter. Our Singing Valentine program netted us about \$1,600, but a couple of music orders will eat that up in no time. I look forward to a very fruitful and profitable year along with the joy of singing in a GREAT new chorus.

We only need a few more members to be a 100 man chorus!! WE CAN DO IT!!



Wes White
Treasurer

**Ya Gotta Start'em
Young...**
Dallas Halvorson →



The Silver Statesmen “Lineup”

TENORS

Buehrer, Roger
Conner, Mike
Cristobal, Patrick
Halvorson, Dallas
Halvorson, Jim (Director)
Marty, Thomas
Mininger, John
Preston, Randy
Salmon, Collin
Spinks, Phillip
Weiss, Albert

LEAD

Anderson, Roger
Coon, Rich
Cuevas, Gil
Goulding, Pat
Halvorson, Larry
Harold, Kurtis
Hurwitz, Mike
Ives, Rick
Jones, Rick
Klaus, Bill
Kreider, Paul
Lambert, Ivan
Larson, Dave
Lenox, John
Litchfield, Larry
Mercer, Alex
Murphy, Dick
Payton, Joe
Pechart, Larry
Poon, Hon
Pratt, Keith
Pruska, Dave
Pucci, Roc
Puckett, Antwun
Roberson, Dale
Salmon, Steve
Sonneman, Phil
Thomas, Jerry

BASS

Adler, Bud
Alvarez, Jerry
Amblad, Bob
Beatty, Matthew
Butler, Larry
Craig, Herb
Dreyer, Greg
Feeney, Peter
Goldberg, Fred
Green, Fred
Hanna, Justin
Hill, Billy
Johnson, Dennis
Johnson, James
Judd, Martin
Kennedy, Dave
Lusk, Bill
McDonnell, Walter
Mondi, Nino
Morrison, Dick
Sullivan, Sully
White, Wes
Wyson, Joe

BARITONE

Ackers, Stan
Cotton, Ed
Floyd, Dave
Goldie, Tom
Hunt, Dean
Krausman, Ernie
Marty, Ross
McNabb, Brandon
Raybeck, Jerry
Salmon, Isaac
Sellnow, Brian
Straub, Walter
Vaugh, John
Wines, Chuck

A GREAT BEGINNING

The inaugural meeting of the Silver Statesmen was on January 3, 2013. There were over 70 men in attendance. We met in a new location and everyone there enjoyed a great experience. Many members of the previous two chapters who hadn't been involved for a while came to see what all the fuss was about. Everyone was curious to hear what we would sound like with more than double the number of men on the risers. It was an incredible experience to see old friends, meet fellow barber-shoppers for the first time, sing some great songs and bask in the light of “rhapsodious harmony” for a few hours. Everyone that was there that night and in the weeks thereafter, has come to see that we have an opportunity to build something really special, a group of barber-shop-loving gentlemen who can find common ground in a wide variety of areas. The future is bright!



CAN YOU READ THIS?



Help!
I'm in $\$$! I ran over
Something $\#$ and now my
tire is b . I need a ♪ for
the phone. Do I need
to :|| any of that?

Toward Performance Improvement

Congratulations! We made it through January with new music and great chapter activities. We made it through February with three evenings spent in auditioning three outstanding Director candidates. We introduced our new Director in March. Now, with Jim Halvorson in place as our new Director, we can settle in and refine our chapter meeting nights to be full of great singing and learning techniques, opportunities to sing, and quartet with fellow chapter members, learn a few tags, and most of all, HAVE FUN!



Albert Weiss
VP, Music & Performance

Along with having fun, we should make it our personal goal to improve every time we sing. The dictionary defines "improve" (used with an object) as "to bring into a more desirable or excellent condition", or "to make good use of." These are great definitions for us. I urge you to set improvement goals for yourself every week, even if they are as simple as "singing all of the correct words and notes to the verse of...", or "fixing the vowel sound...", or "listen to and apply what... is saying as he teaches/demonstrates ..."

Doesn't everyone who takes up a particular hobby, be it golf, bowling, or stamp collecting, enjoy it more the better and more knowledgeable they get at it? As Silver Statesmen, we need to approach our barbershop hobby with that spirit of getting better. You have heard your leadership say to a man that we are not expecting to compete with the top choruses in our District, but that is not a reason for not making any effort to improve at all. Improvement is the most important factor we should strive for as we work together to gain greater recognition in the Las Vegas community in the next couple of years.

I believe we have an extremely talented Music Leadership Team at your disposal. If you are having trouble setting goals for yourself, please see Director Jim or your Section Leader for help. We are here to help you.

You have the tools and the resources available. There should be no excuse. Every improvement goal you meet will only strengthen the chorus as a whole. Who knows what we can accomplish together. Have fun on the journey!

You never know who you'll end up with when we have fun singing polecats and rotate the quartet parts by tagging out.



Some of the best quartets are found by "accident."

Our Quartets Can Live Up Any Group!

The Silver Statesmen chorus is blessed with having a good number of quartets within our ranks. We are proud to call them our own and do all we can to promote and send them out into the community to “spread the word” about barbershop, to entertain and keep barber-shop alive in the hearts and minds of all who see them.



95 North consists of Jim Halvorson-T, Larry Halvorson-L, Mike Stewart-B (from Reno, NV), and Nick Pizzo-Bt (from Sherman Oaks, CA). They are the Far Western District Quartet Champions for 2012 and have qualified for 2013 International competition. Way to go guys! We're proud of ya!!



4 Ever Yours is Ed Cotton-Bt, Keith Pratt-L, Martin Judd-B, and Randy Preston-T. These guys were indispensable to us for this year's Singing Valentines program. Hard-working and reliable, they are ready to sing anywhere and anytime. Thanks, guys!!

Having quartets within a chorus is like icing on a cake....It's just not the same without it! Here are more of our quartets who make barbershop harmony sound like it's supposed to...



Older-N-Dirt is made up of Rich Coon-L, Roger Buehrer-T, Larry Pechart-B, Dave Floyd-Bt. These guys are fun-lovin' and enjoy singing together in front of any audience.



Good Times! Can make any audience laugh with their comedy songs and funny routines. They are Mike Conner-T, Dave Pruszka-L, Greg Dreyer-B, and Dean Hunt-Bt.



Broadcast has the talent and experience to keep'em smiling and clapping. John Waugh-Bt, Dave Kennedy-B, Rick Ives-L, and Albert Weiss-T.



Rumble Seat Daze never fails to entertain their audiences. The quartet is made up of John Lenox-T, Roger Anderson-L, Bud Adler-Bt, and Dick Morrison-B.



Double Down consists of Thomas Marty-T, Joe Payton-L, Ross Marty-B, and Stu Wilcox-Bt. They are ready to entertain any audience and look forward to every chance to sing together.



Sun City Sound proudly covers the southern end of the Valley with Mike Conners-T, Mike Hurwitz-L, Fred Goldberg-B, and Stan Ackers-Bt.

With all this talent in the chorus waiting to be unleashed, it's just a matter of time before we have even MORE quartets to share with our audiences!! Are you going to be our next "winning quartet"? Put four guys together in a room and see what you sound like!!



Fall Convention Hotel registrations are only online

The Bakersfield Convention and Visitors Bureau is handling all of our hotel reservations this year. We MUST use their online hotel reservation system which will be up and running very soon. Anyone trying to call the hotels directly will be directed to the website.

No hotel reservations can be made directly with the hotels. Any chapters wanting a hospitality suite can contact Bob Cathaway at rwathaway@bak.rr.com on a first-come first-served basis.

There is a Hot Rod convention in Bakersfield the same weekend, so rooms outside our block of rooms will be scarce. Those of you who are "Internet Enabled," please help any chapter members who are not able to get rooms reserved. Details on room reservations will be available before the Spring Convention in Lodi.

Calendar	
Date	Event
Apr 10-Apr 14	BQPA/Pioneers Festival 2013 , Tempe, AZ Embassy Suites
Apr 19- Apr 20	Arizona Division Convention , Phoenix, AZ Moon Valley High School Host: Tucson
May 11	Southwest/Southeast Division Convention , Ontario, CA Colony High School Host: Riverside
Jun 30- Jul 7	International Convention , Toronto, Ontario
Aug 10	75th Anniversary of BHS Show , Las Vegas, NV Starbright Theater in Summerlin
Aug 16- Aug 18	Harmony College West , Hayward, CA Cal State Hayward
Aug 23- Aug 25	High Sierra Harmony Brigade , Reno, CA
Oct 10- Oct 13	FWD Fall Convention , Bakersfield, CA Convention Center, Marriott Hotel(HQ) Host: Visalia
Jan 28- Feb 2	BHS Mid-Winter Convention , Long Beach, CA Terrace Theater

International Convention and Contests



Driving to Toronto for the convention? Here's a great website to locate parking. toronto.bestparking.com/ Select Daily> By Neighborhood, then click the Harbourfront or Entertainment or Financial District and enter your dates. (Our hotel is in the Financial District, near the intersection of Queen and York Streets). The search engine will locate ALL the parking garages and lots and give you the total cost for your stay for each facility.

Don't forget to start the passport application process soon. All the information and forms you will need are available at travel.state.gov/passport. You will need a passport photo to submit with your application. Stores with photo departments (CVS, Walgreens, Costco, etc.) should be able to accommodate you for a modest fee.



PR is a GOOD Thing!

We started off the year with a Bang! A new chorus with a new name, a new rehearsal location, a new director, and the list goes on.... I have accepted the challenge to keep everyone informed and updated on what's happening now and what's coming down the road. We have increased our contact list 500% and more people know who we are and what we do than ever before.

It is my goal to increase awareness of our chorus and our hobby throughout the year. This will result in larger audiences enjoying our shows and more opportunities to perform....exactly what we like to do!



Fred Green
VP, Marketing & PR

Public Relations is not just a one-man show. It takes everyone to always keep our hobby in the forefront of every conversation that we can slip it into. Invite as many men as possible to our rehearsals; tell everyone you know about our upcoming shows and events. That's how we can all be a great help to our chapter and receive the benefits of name recognition all over the city of Las Vegas.

COME JOIN US

If you have recently moved to Las Vegas, or are just visiting, we want you to feel welcome at any of our meetings.

WHERE: Christ the King Catholic Community Church, 4925 S. Torrey Pines Dr, Las Vegas, NV (the SW corner of Torrey Pines & West Tropicana Blvd)

WHEN: Thursday evenings from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.

WHY: Because if you are between 10 - 110 years old, like to sing, and can carry a tune in a bucket, we'd love to have you come and enjoy the evening with us.

Visitors are always welcome!

From Our Program VP

I've been given the responsibility to "Make the meeting fun and exciting for all the members, so they will want to come back every week." Well, I'm working on that and need your help. First I will be asking sections to, once a week, help in the setup and take down of the risers. That means, in that week you will need to come early and stay later. Should be only 15 minutes on both sides of the meeting if you haven't already participated in this activity. Second, communicate what you do like and don't like about the meetings to myself or a board member and not to your buddy. We will make changes the best we can. I am still on a learning curve with this position. These comments should be done with a written note handed to a board member or by email. That way we don't have to try to remember the conversation when our gray matter is already overburdened with the night's activity.

Please be as positive as possible even if it is a negative comment. Third, if you have been in an activity or observed an activity that looked like men were enjoying themselves, share it with me and I'll try to incorporate it into a meeting. After all, we all enjoy singing; let's enjoy it together!



Larry Pechart
Program VP

Remember YOUR First Time??

Hello Silver Statesmen.

In case you didn't know, Gunny has had to step down as Membership Vice President. He has left some big shoes for me to fill.

I want each of you to think back to how you got into Barbershop. My first introduction to Barbershop music was in high school, when our music department produced "The Music Man." I wasn't part of the quartet but I really enjoyed the music. Fast forward 30 years when Herb Craig heard me singing at church and invited me to a guest night. My wife and I showed up, I got on the risers and later did some tag quarteting. I had the time of my life. When it was all over, my wife and I talked about my joining. I'm lucky, my wife was behind me all the way and is still my biggest fan. And Herb went from someone I knew at church, to a good friend of mine. We were brought closer together through Barbershop.

Remember how you started, and the friends you've made. Now, think about how you can get someone to feel that same thrill of singing that hooked you on Barbershop. I will try to provide tools and ideas for bringing potential members to a practice, but ultimately each of you is our ambassador of harmony. The Silver Statesmen need you to get a guest through the front door.

See you on the risers.



**Randy Preston
VP, Membership**

Keeping the Chapter Gears Well-Oiled

As your chapter secretary, I take my responsibilities seriously and am already using software to organize the minutes of board meetings to provide an accurate and informative synopsis of the discussions. These transcribed minutes create a history for our members and the future Boards.

Part of my duties is to notify the Society of the new members that join our chapter.

I am also responsible for ordering supplies for the chapter, including the music and learning tracks that the Music Team selects for the chorus to learn. I can sum up the job easily by saying the I'm like the "clearing house" for the chapter in that all communications from and to the Society pass through my hands.

So, with the help, coordination, and support of the other board members, this year will be a lot of learning the ins and outs of the job of secretary.....and, just as importantly, it will be a lot of fun, too!



**Ivan Lambert
Secretary**



...So many jobs.....So little time...

The chorus manager holds a very essential position within the chorus. His general responsibilities cover nearly every physical aspect of the chorus. The chorus manager works with every other position to make sure they have what they need to perform their job. Also, anything the music team needs for instruction is there when it is needed. Performances come off without a hitch because the chorus manager has communicated clearly and planned everything well in advance. And the chorus is well dressed because he has put together, designed, ordered, and fit the apparel needed for the chorus to look sharp; this also means the possibility of applying makeup occasionally for contests and performances.

Our Chorus Manager this year is Ross Marty (with the help of his wife, Ann, two sons, Thomas and Justin, both 18, and two daughters, Alicia, 22, and Amanda, 20). So far this year, Ross has secured our meeting location, and with the help of his family, provides us with refreshments at the break. Ross is in the process of putting together our uniforms, both Class A and Class B and with the help of others we are well on the way to booking show dates for the remainder of the year, not to mention preparing for our attendance at the upcoming division competition in Ontario, California.

Ross's unique, hands-on, problem-solving experiences growing up on the family farm in Minnesota took root at an early age. At the age of 17 he volunteered for the Air Force. After basic training, he served at two other installations before being assigned to Nellis AFB to a unit that handled a variety of jobs requiring finesse, planning and special organizational skills.

Folks are advised, with a wink, not to "mess" with Ross. He's one of the happiest, smiley-ist folks around, but he's also one of the most highly trained survivalists to be reckoned with, besides the training he received in the military, Ross also has a Second Degree Black Belt in Taekwondo, and many other degrees in other martial arts to include Krav Maga and Jiu-Jitsu and Ross is also an instructor as well. Ross helped train Ann and all three of his children to be First Degree Black Belts as well. "Growing up with four sisters also taught me some survival tricks," he quipped.

Severe and permanent service-related spinal injuries have forced him to use a wheelchair with considerable dexterity. "I hold no grudges against anyone," he explained. "I try to keep a stiff upper lip about my injuries and it's something I just need to live with."

When asked if he still was a "formidable force" to be reckoned with, he smiled and quietly answered "absolutely." Ross left active duty in 1993. Ross, 44, a man of deep Christian faith, has been married to his wife, Ann, for 25 years;

He's been a musician since childhood. His musical talents were nurtured at a young age with piano lessons and he later played the ivories while he and his sisters sang. "I also learned to play the guitar, trumpet, drums and French horn," he said. "But I like singing best of all...particularly barbershop with its beautiful chords and overtones – and I sing every day." He was in a high school barbershop quartet and was a Gamble-Aire before going overseas in 1990.

Recently, he and Ann have launched a new company in Las Vegas – Align Orthopedic Services (AOS) – a certified orthotics firm offering Ross and his unique skills as an instructor for clients, most of who are disabled as well. Ross makes sure that everyone knows, "My door is always open, and if you have any ideas for improvement of the chorus or would like to help, please



Ross Marty
Chorus Manager

Retirement Facts

Question: How many days in a week?

Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?

Answer: Three hours after he/she falls asleep on the couch.

Question: How many retirees to change a light bulb?

Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.

Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.

Question: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?

Answer: The term comes with a 10% percent discount.

Question: Among retirees what is considered formal attire?

Answer: Tied shoes.

Question: Why do retirees count pennies?

Answer: They are the only ones who have the time.

Question: What is the common term for someone who continues to work and refuses to retire?

Answer: NUTS!

Question: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?

Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.

Question: What do retirees call a long lunch?

Answer: Normal

In Memory of

Richard Frank Cox

December 5, 1938 - March 17, 2013

To all of his fellow barbershoppers, he was and will always be **Dickie Cox**. If there was ever a person who wanted to heal all the wrongs in the world, it was Dickie. He was an idealist who sought to bring harmony to those around him. Even though he was enthusiastic and generous, it was sometimes difficult for him to boast about his accomplishments. Dickie had strong personal convictions, making it hard for him to relinquish those ideals he held dearest to himself. Despite his outer strengths and beliefs, he sometimes struggled in his efforts to see the world as completely positive. Dickie's life motto was always to hope for the best and work hard towards that end, but be prepared for some of life's disappointments. This philosophy was a continual driving force in his life, but it did not extinguish the bright light that defined the dreamer in him, something that was always there and that he readily shared with everyone around him.



Dickie was born and raised in Ohio. He was a compassionate person, a quality that he would carry with him throughout his life. Dickie was a caring, diplomatic man and was tolerant of the feelings of those around him. As a young man, he sang in the school choir and ran on the track and field team. He graduated from High School in 1957.

A great father and influence on his family, Dickie was married to his wife, Jackie, for nearly 30 years before she passed away in November of 2006.

Our friend, Dickie Cox, was a Navy veteran. He served his country from 1958—1962 and two more years in the reserves until 1964. After completing basic training at the naval base in San Diego, California, he traveled around the world to places like Guam, Pearl Harbor, and Japan, and he crossed the equator several times.

His primary occupation was a Printer. He was employed for 25 years with Circus Circus Hotel and Casino and 8 years with Boy Scouts of America. Dickie enjoyed bowling and was a league bowler for many years. He enjoyed the open road and was an avid motorcycle enthusiast. He was a lifelong singer not only in his high school choir but as an adult as well. As most of us know, Dickie spent many years singing with the Las Vegas Gamble-Aires barbershop chorus as well as several barbershop quartets. He also performed for several years with the Las Vegas City of Lights chorus.

For those of us who sang with Dickie, it was quickly apparent that he had a great ear and it was always a challenge to get him not to cringe when he heard a note out of tune. Dickie was always full of stories and loved to share his times in the Navy and recall past barbershop events and the fun times we had together.

Dickie passed away on March 17, 2013 at Centennial Hills Hospital in Las Vegas, NV from heart and respiratory distress. He is survived by his son Rick, daughter-in-law Tristy, grandson Jorie, granddaughter Kira, his sister Carol and his niece Susan. He has been laid to rest in Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery.



In later years, Dickie sang bass, but started out as a tenor. In the photo above, taken in 1986, Dickie Cox, Dick Hartley, Wes White, and Dean Hunt, are Four The Hard Way. In the color photo, taken about 1990, Dean has been replaced by Fred Autenrieth as the baritone.

The Silver Nugget is *your* newsletter and vehicle for sharing information, stories, and news about the chapter, chorus, quartets, and the people in them. To make it interesting and a fun read, I would encourage all of you to provide articles for publication, photos of quartets in action, our members, chorus on the risers..... Anything that you find interesting and would like to see in the newsletter to share with others. NOTE: Alex Mercer-Lead, owns HotShotz Photography and has volunteered to act as our official chapter photographer. Thanks, Alex. Your skills are greatly appreciated! — Editor