



It's the Music, We are the Music, You are the Music

Recently at work, we have been sending out crews with specific instructions on what to do only to find out the next day the work had been done wrong. "What happened," I asked? "I don't know" was the reply. "Well let's find out so it doesn't happen again," I replied. Later that day I again asked what happened. The response, "they didn't know either." They were the ones who did the work. How could they not know what happened? Do we need better supervision? Do we need to ask better questions? Does it really matter? Mistakes happen; should we just expect them and let it go? If we give it a day or two can we move on to the next current problem and the first problem will just go away?



Does any of this sound familiar? Does it or did it ever happen at your work?

I'm reminded of the new employee who was asked to take a new shipment of bikes and put them up front in the window for display. The next morning, to the boss's surprise, there were the bikes still in the boxes now prominently displayed in the front of the store. Upon questioning, the employee replied, "You didn't tell me to take them out of the boxes."

Often times, what we process in our minds versus what we share with those around us doesn't always line up. I want to share some thoughts with you today so we can all be in alignment. We want to be relevant. As a board and music team, we spend a lot of time and energy talking about and doing things that will help us be relevant. We compete with some big organizations in our community. Groups like the Desert Chorale, Las Vegas Master Singers, Southern Nevada Musical Arts Society, Choral Artists of Southern Nevada, and our own Celebrity City Chorus, among many others. All want to be recognized as a viable and respected musical organization in our community. Each week they rehearse to be their very best. Each week you are given opportunities to be your very best. I believe the board has given you the best director and music team possible. How lucky we are to have Jim, Albert and all those who serve with them. In order for us to be successful, we must all strive to be our very best all the time.

Our Motto this year is, "It's The Music." To take it a little farther, in our style of singing, WE are the music. Today I want to remind you; YOU are the music.

We are a synergy of all the individual voices in our chorus. Each week direction is given to help us make the transition from being a single voice to being part of a section. Then each section is directed how to contribute to the group. It does not matter what kind of a singer you are. Everyone must commit to improving the group. When we talk about breathing, we talk about how we can breathe together. When we talk about tone quality, it's so we can sound the same together. When we talk about pitch and rhythm accuracy, it's about doing the same thing at the same time together. You get the Idea. Everyone singing smooth, everyone showing emotion, everyone bringing positive and helpful energy to the rehearsal. This is how we all transition from individual singers to members of the Silver Statesmen. Doing what Silver Statesmen do, the way Silver Statesmen do it. What we are doing is bigger than any one of us. We owe it to ourselves, our society, and our community to give it our best together.

When you are invited to sing solo, Go for it. Sing your heart out. Make it all you. Maybe some of the things you've picked up along the way will prove helpful. When we sing together, your commitment is different. We are counting on you to be with us, doing what we do when we do it, the way we have been directed to do it. Still be your best you, but when combined with us, you are even better. Remember, "You are the music."

~ Steve Salmon
President, Las Vegas Chapter



The 2014 BHS International Convention in Las Vegas is only one year away! There is LOTS of work to be done in preparation. If you haven't been asked to be a part of the various planning committees, volunteer your time and talents! We Need YOU!! We plan to break all attendance records, so Get Ready!! See Martin Judd and lend a hand.

Our Mission Statement

Created by Larry Halvorson

The Silver Statesmen is a men's a cappella chorus hailing from Las Vegas, Nevada. We specialize in the American musical art form of Barbershop Harmony. Our mission is to share our passion for music with our community and enrich the lives of our audiences and members. By striving for growth in our musical endeavors and our community outreach we are constantly on a path of progress. What makes all this possible? It's the music.

The above statement is a sample mission statement for the chorus that is very broad based and can be interpreted in many different ways. The statement, while short, does point us in a direction. It states:

Who we are

Where we are from

What style of music we sing, and it leaves the door open to other genres as well.

Why we do this is covered in the line about our passion. This line is important because of the word "passion." That word implies that this is more than just a passing fancy and has life and longevity. It is a call to action for our members, letting them know they have to participate in more than just singing; and finally, it lets the reader know there is an opportunity for them to get something.

How we do this is outlined in the last sentence. This is carefully worded so a correlation is not drawn to a contest scenario, but rather to a holistic approach of Progress.

The last brings this whole process back to what it is all about and uses the slogan for the convention in 2014. It helps to keep that concept alive for years to come.

This entire statement is a basis of direction for all of our programs. Each new idea then fits into this overall concept and works as its own "checks and balances" to ensure we do not stray from our mission.

Chapter Theme (2013-2014): **"It's the Music"**

Slogan: **"You are the Music"**

Tag Line: **"Enriching Lives through our Passion for Music"**

ABOUT AGE AND ABILITY

At 7, Mozart had his first composition published.

At 20, Mickey Mantle hit 23 home runs his first year in the majors.

At 17, Joan of Arc led an army in defense of France.

At 14, country singer LeeAnn Rimes won her first two Grammys.

BY THE SAME TOKEN:

At 78, Grandma Moses started painting and was still participating in one-woman art shows well into her nineties.

At 71, Golda Meir became Israel's Prime Minister

At 81, Benjamin Franklin was a framer of the U.S. Constitution.

At 94, one of George Bernard Shaw's plays was produced.

**It's WHAT you do that counts -
not when you do it. SING ON!**

The Nugget is published quarterly and is the official publication of the Las Vegas Chapter of the Far Western District (FWD) and the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS). The Las Vegas Chapter is the home of the Silver Statesmen Barbershop Chorus. The chorus rehearses each Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Christ the King Catholic Community Church, 4925 S. Torrey Pines Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89118.

Gentlemen,

Well, what can I say? I am having the time of my life! If this is the "honeymoon" period, I hope it doesn't end any time soon.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the members of the Silver Statesmen. Whether you sang with me or for me before, or whether you had no idea who I was, I have felt so welcomed by all members and your words of encouragement are inspiring. I think I had forgotten how enjoyable the process is getting a group of guys together and focusing them on a common goal. You have made the process not only enjoyable but fulfilling at the same time.



As I drove home from the last rehearsal, I was struck by a thought. We talked in rehearsal about what makes a great chorus. We talked about musical elements and how having fun at our highest musical levels actually begets more fun. There is a payoff for working hard! As I reflected on this thought, I realized that a great chorus that makes music at a high level only does so because they have laid a foundation of excellence in all aspects of their chapter. Only after they have mastered being the best of all other aspects besides music do we get a membership that understands and responds to the call of musical excellence.

So I ask you, where do we fit? Where do you fit? Are you helping the chorus be the best it can be in all areas? Do we care enough and work hard enough to ensure that our music upholds the standards we have set for ourselves? Are we becoming the organization that is going to revolutionize barbershop in the Vegas Valley or are we waiting for something magical to happen first?

You hold the key, gentlemen! I have every faith in your abilities and I charge you with building the chapter that is the envy of our society and a prospering entity in our community and beyond.

Jim



2013 Board of Directors

Here is your Board of Directors for the Silver Statesmen. They remain hard at work for the good of the chapter. Preparing for shows this year, the BHS International Convention in Las Vegas for 2014, Youth Outreach efforts and other important goals keep this group "gainfully employed." Your willingness to volunteer, support, and encourage the Board is an important part of chapter membership.

Left to right (top row): **Wes White** - Treasurer, **Dave Pruszka** - Member at Large, **Steve Salmon** - President, **Larry Pechart** - VP Program, **Albert Weiss** - VP Music, (bottom row): **Martin Judd** - Immediate Past President, **Ivan Lambert** - Secretary, **Fred Green** - VP Marketing & PR, **Randy Preston** - VP Membership

Not available at photo time: **Larry Litchfield** - Immediate Past President, **Bill Lusk** - Member at Large, **Ross Marty** - Chorus Manager

TODAY’S “NEW AGE” MUSIC - BARBERSHOPPING

Years ago at one of our chorus rehearsals, I recall a seventy-something Chapter member announcing that he had a son that might be interested in joining. “How old is he?,” he was asked. “Fifty-one” was the reply. Quipped another up-in-age barbershopper gazing around the room: “He’s much too young.”

Oh, how times have dramatically changed. More and more young men are joining our ranks. Increasing numbers are becoming intrigued by a cappella four-part harmony at an early age. Some of them discover it in college, some in high school. For some it represents the preservation of a family interest as well as the art form.

Whatever the case, it begs the question: “When is young too young to be introduced to barbershop singing?” I’d say that even in the womb, “play that barbershop chord.” After all, think of all the moms that listen to CD’s of Mozart to encourage the love of music in their yet unborn. Who knows? Maybe barbershop interest can get a start that way, too.

Father’s Day was just celebrated in mid-June. As fathers, grandfathers and great grand-fathers, we encourage you to continually inspire those younger members on your family tree to participate in and appreciate the art form we love so very much.



Money In	Annual Budget	Money Out	Annual budget
Chapter dues and fees>C6L17	3,500.00	Meeting hall rent and utilities	1,000.00
Gross receipts - show	8,000.00	Chorus director's fees	5,500.00
Performance fees (not 310)	5,000.00	Contrib to Dist Chorus & Qtet fund	0.00
Charitable contributions received	500.00	Cost of schools, seminars, etc.	1,500.00
Grants received	0.00	Travel exp to shows & contests	600.00
Other revenue from memb>C6L17	2,000.00	Uniform expenses	500.00
Other revenues earned	1,000.00	Office expenses	800.00
Refunds	0.00	Publishing Bulletins & Directories	100.00
Uniform purchase - Member	2,000.00	Purchase of music & material	1,200.00
Savings	0.00	Program exp regular meetings	400.00
TOTAL RECIEPTS	22,000.00	Insurance	600.00
		Public Relations expense	1,000.00
		Travel exp - delegates to HOD	500.00
		Misc. show expense	100.00
		Auditorium rent - show	0.00
		Scenery and props - show	500.00
		Lighting - auditorium - show	0.00
		Printing program & tickets - show	300.00
		Transp Chorus & Qtets to show	0.00
		Fees & exp guest Chor/Qtet show	600.00
		Show publicity expense	300.00
		ASCAP fee - show	300.00
		City and State tax	0.00
		Charitable contributions	500.00
		Social activities	3,500.00
		Misc. expense	200.00
		Afterglow expense	0.00
		Refunds	0.00
		Uniform fund	2,000.00
		TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	22,000.00

As has been requested,
here is our annual budget
for 2013.

This report submitted:
by Wes White, Treasurer

The Silver Statesmen “Lineup” - as of 30 Jun 2013

TENORS

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

LEAD

Anderson, Roger
Coon, Rich
Cuevas, Gil
Goulding, Pat
Halvorson, Larry
Harold, Kurtis
Hettinga, Warren
Hurwitz, Mike
Ives, Rick
Jewell, Skyler
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
Massa, JD
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
Wisniewski, Ryan
Wines, Chuck

New Chapter Members

JD Massa transfer 4/11/2013
John Hulbert transfer 5/30/13
Warren Hettinga transfer 5/2/13

Skyler Jewel rejoined 4/11/13

Ernie Krausman new 3/7/2013
Paul Kreider new 3/2/2013



The Silver Statesmen
On stage at the FWD Spring Convention in Ontario, CA.

Watch the Director!

The inspiration for this article came after watching the Division convention performance video. We sang very well, but did you notice we were "out of sync" in certain places? This was due to us not paying close enough attention/watching the director.

I see two main reasons why this is important for our chorus. First is the matter of interpretation of the song. Each song must have some kind of interpretive "plan" to convey the message and entertainment of the song. In a quartet, this primarily comes from the lead singer. In a chorus, the role of the lead is given to the director. We cannot possibly convey the message of the song with each chorus singer adding his own interpretation. The message of the song must be consistent, and only one person can give us that consistency of message--the director.



Albert Weiss
VP, Music & Performance

The second reason for watching is physical space. In a quartet, the four parts stand side-by-side and "feel" the music together. They rely on their ears in addition to subtle body movement to stay synchronized. A chorus is spread out across the risers. On some stages, it can feel like the sound "disappears" as you sing. In reality your sound is moving forward, but this can make it harder to hear the other voices. Recall that sight across distance is perceived faster than sound (light does travel faster than sound), and if you are watching and are in sync with the director, it doesn't really matter whether you can hear the other parts or not. The parts come out synchronized to the audience, and our musicality and entertainment value increases.

I challenge everyone to commit to watching the director. Do as he asks by his gestures. It may not always be what he really wants; directors are human and occasionally "ask" for something in their gesture that is not interpreted as he intended (I know I have done this!). When the chorus follows the director, he can determine if what he is getting is what he is trying to convey. If it's not right, he will try another gesture (or train the chorus) to get the desired result.

It can take time to figure out all of the gestures in a director's tool bag. By watching him carefully (whoever is directing the chorus), you will learn these gestures. Every director has certain gestures; Jim's are especially easy to follow and we should make every effort to learn the meaning of his gestures. By learning them, we have an even greater opportunity to make glorious, euphonious, beauteous, and rhapsodious music together.

With all the hoopla connected with celebrations involving the Society's 75th year, it is fun to look back to see the beginnings of the Society, where we started and how far we've come. We are sure you'll find the more than 150 pages of a pdf commemorating the first 50 years more than a little interesting. It is packed with interesting tidbits along with a good many photographs. Check it out by cutting and pasting this into your browser: <http://www.barbershop.org/history/>

RHYMES WITH ORANGE/ by Hilary B. Price



QUARTET ACTIVITIES



2012 FWD Quartet Champions 95 North

Jim, Larry, Mike and Nick

Reaching for a goal can take so much time and effort. You operate under the impression that it will all be worth it. Our quest for the Far Western District took us three long years. The journey was and continues to be worth every minute. Now we are six months into our championship year and the time seems to fly by. Before you know it we will be has-beens.

For 95 North, the weekend in Meza AZ was the catalyst to a new adventure. After what felt like no time at all, we were headlong in competition at the spring prelims. We were very happy with our results and are looking forward to joining our FWD quartet brothers in Toronto for the international contest. It will be our honor to share the stage with Masterpiece, The Crush, Artistic License and Vocal Edition, who are making their first trip to international as a quartet.

We have a couple of shows lined up but still have plenty of room in our calendar for your chorus. Please feel free to look us up on our Facebook page or call Larry Halvorson at 702-690-1568.

Our tenor Jim has been able to spend more time arranging music for the quartet; and all the music on the entry form for Toronto save one are original arrangements done by him. We have recently had some great coaching with Warren Hettinga and feel like we are continuing to open new doors and progress at a steady pace. To say we are excited about our future would be an understatement.

Please join us in the fall as we get the honor of presenting the championship trophy to a new set of champs and make plans to see the AFWDC Late Show on Friday night. It promises to be awesome.



Older N'Dirt performed at "Girl Scouts Night" at a recent Area 51's baseball game. Left to right: **Larry Pechart, Roger Buehrer, Rich Coon, Dave Floyd**. Larry will be traveling to Pennsylvania to visit family over the summer months, so **Wes White** will be filling in for him.

MORE.....QUARTET ACTIVITIES



4 Ever Yours sang at the Town Square Street event on stage in the park amphitheater. Their “gig” encompassed three straight days of singing to the crowds. Good show, guys!! Left to right: **Ed Cotton, Keith Pratt, Martin Judd, and Randy Preston.**

It's as easy as A B C

*Contributed by **Greg Dreyer***

Consider how we make choices on a constant basis, sometimes without even thinking too much about it. It seems to happen instinctually. However, it may be time to consider a cognitive way of decision making.

We are all focused on the end result and sometimes just wait for life to give us what it will and then we revel in success or cry in despair with the situation. What if we break it down into a simple formula of ABC?

A = Attitude

B = Behavior

C = Consequence

If our **attitude** is positive, we will perform in a **behavior** that will give us a successful **consequence**.

If our **attitude** is negative, we may not even care about what happens or we may even set ourselves up to fail (**behavior**), thus, an unsuccessful **consequence**.

Although this simple ABC formula will apply to all decision-making, I offer this to the members of the Silver Statesmen as a formula for success in our quest for excellence.

If we want to succeed (a positive **attitude**), we will have to create a **behavior** that involves rehearsal, both on a weekly basis with the chorus and on our own. The end result (**consequence**) has us more prepared to be instrumental in the success of the chorus.

Our director has his hands tied if the chorus members do not know the basics of words and notes. We also cannot begin choreography or understand interpretation without the knowledge of notes and words. This is a basic concept that needs to be addressed within each member of the chorus. We start with **Attitude!** The rest will follow!

There is a responsibility for each of us to challenge our **attitude** that guides our **behavior** to find the positive **consequence** that we have all agreed upon.

Here's a **BIG THANK YOU** to **Joe Payton** for stepping up and volunteering to be our “**SUNSHINE GUY**” for the Chapter. Joe will be acknowledging birthdays as they occur with an e-card to your email address. He also wants to stay in contact with members who have drifted away from the chorus for one reason or the other. Many times a simple “Hi, How Ya Doing? We Miss You at Chorus Rehearsals” is enough to show that we really do care and want you back with us. If you know of anyone that might be in this category, let Joe know about it.

Does PR Appeal to You?

I am looking for a few guys to form a PR Team. If you enjoy taking pictures, finding or writing short articles of interest, collecting humorous, barbershop/music related cartoons, then you might find the PR Team a fun and rewarding job within the chapter.

Also, if you are so inclined, I can teach you all I know (so it won't take long...) about writing news releases, putting together our newsletter, and sharing important information with the chorus and our "fan club" of contacts with group emails. If you *really* want a challenge, we can get into website maintenance, as well. It doesn't take a lot of time, unless you WANT to spend time doing it.

I don't believe that anyone person with a chapter "job" should be a "one-man-show." We should all have back-ups in case we become sick, have an accident, or get abducted by aliens. I would like to know that I have done all I can to keep the chapter's PR going at 100% efficiency if terrorists are sent to "take me out"..... right?

I would encourage all chorus members to find an area that you are experienced in or have an interest in learning, and then volunteering to help the person responsible for that job. We strive to be a self-sustaining organization and fund-raising is only part of that goal. We also have to be able to continue with the operational tasks of the chapter. So, if only one person knows how to handle a particular job and he is suddenly unable to continue, the chapter will suffer if no one else has been trained to take over.

So, the bottom line is, if you are interested or just have questions, please call me or send an email. PR can be a team sport....And the more the merrier!!



Fred Green
VP, Marketing & PR

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!



Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Jun 30-Jul 7	International Convention (Toronto, Canada)
Aug 2	SHOW - Sun City Anthem 7pm
Aug 10	SHOW - Sun City Summerlin 7pm
Aug 11	SHOW - Winchester Cultural Center 2pm
Aug 9-11	Harmony College West (Cal State Hayward)
Sep 20-22	Youth Harmony Camp
Oct 5	SHOW - Desert Spring Methodist Church 2pm
Oct 10-13	FWD Fall Convention (Bakersfield)
Jan 28-Feb 2	BHS Midwinter Convention (Long Beach)
Jun 29-Jul 6	2014 International Convention (Las Vegas)

International Convention and Contests

As this edition of the Nugget is being published; several of our guys are headed up to Toronto to attend the International Convention. We look forward to hearing a report from them, especially since next year's convention will be here in Las Vegas!!

We wish them a safe trip, a great time while away, and a speedy return back to us.

Notes from IPP/2014 Convention Chair:

By **Martin A Judd**

At the time that this is being written, the Toronto Convention is about three weeks away. Once their convention is over, things will really start to move on our 2014 version. Our committee will be represented by seven of us in Toronto. Your general chairman (Me), our two vice-chairmen (**Greg Dreyer and Steve Salmon**), **Dave Pruszka, Roger Anderson, Philip Spinks** and my wife **Sue** will all be attending. We will be providing at least one person at the Las Vegas pre-registration table, whenever it is open, to help promote our convention. The rest of our time will be spent checking out everything that is happening at their convention. We are looking to see what we can or can't do; what works for them and what doesn't; what they are doing that we can use and what they are doing that won't work for us; what activities are actually put together and run by the local committee and which are run by BHS only using manning provided by the local committee. In our spare time we hope to sell a lot of our convention pins.



I would like to take a minute to thank the folks listed above that are going to Toronto to represent us. This has turned out to be a very expensive convention. Even with BHS comping a room and our registrations, and our convention committee paying for some of our travel and an extra room, they are still going to find themselves having to dig deep to cover such things as food, parking, local transportation, even the cost of a passport if theirs wasn't current. They understood all of this going in but still they volunteered to go. I would also extend my thanks to Ross Marty, who had made the preparations to go with us (he was actually my first volunteer) but something came up that was out of his control that needed his attention ASAP. He still got a long trip, just not to Toronto. Again, thanks Ross. I'm sure you would rather be with us than doing what you are doing.

Our next meeting with **Dusty Schleier**, BHS International Meetings & Conventions Manager, will be around the end of August. Those folks who need to attend will be notified with the details just as soon as I have them.

See you all when Sue and I get back the second week of August (we're going to Harmony-U on the way back from the convention).

REMEMBER: It's The Music!!!!



Join Our SPONSOR PROGRAM

Las Vegas Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society (D-75)
Serving and Singing in Las Vegas for over 50 Years

The Silver Statesmen Chorus is a 501 (C) (3) nonprofit organization.
Your contribution is tax deductible.

Your Donation will help support programs of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Youth Harmony / CCSD Vocal Music Programs
Community Outreach / Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Veteran Affairs
Operating Costs

Sponsor Levels and Benefits

\$5,000 +	<u>Platinum Level</u>
Show Tickets	Website Logo & Hyperlink
Sponsor Plaque	Program Ad – Full Page
Chorus Performance	
\$2,500 - \$4,999	<u>Gold Level</u>
Show Tickets	Website Logo & Hyperlink
Sponsor Plaque	Program Ad – Full Page
\$1,000 - \$2,499	<u>Silver Level</u>
Show Tickets	Website Logo & Hyperlink
Sponsor Plaque	Program Ad – ½ Page
\$500 – \$999	<u>Bronze Level</u>
Show Tickets	Website Mention
Program Ad – ¼ Page	
\$250 - \$499	<u>Friendship Level</u>
Show Tickets	Website Mention
Program Ad- Business Card	
\$100 - \$249	<u>Patron Level</u>
Show Tickets	Website Mention
Program Sponsor List	

Mission Statement

The Silver Statesmen is a men's a cappella chorus hailing from Las Vegas, Nevada. We specialize in the American musical art form of Barbershop Harmony. Our mission is to share our passion for music with our community and enrich the lives of our audiences and members. By striving for growth in our musical endeavors and our community outreach we are constantly on a path of progress. What makes all this possible?....It's the music.

Long-Term Vision

As an amateur nonprofit organization, the Las Vegas chorus will continue to provide music leadership and assistance to its members and the community. We pledge to offer a sophisticated, quality musical product while reinforcing our organization's commitment to encourage vocal music participation by the youth in our schools. We will strive to enhance our high level of musical perfection and to continue to attract and develop quality singers to achieve our goals.

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Educational Outreach

In keeping with our status as an IRS 501 (c) (3) educational nonprofit organization, we strongly believe the young are the future of the country, our state and community ... and the art form. Musical scholarships and growing youth membership shall be an integral part of our community philanthropy. In addition, our goal is to develop and maintain a barbershop-oriented youth chorus that will remain open to all.

Community Outreach

The Las Vegas Silver Statesmen chorus (and its forerunners, the Las Vegas Gamble-Aires and the City of Lights chorus) has been a stalwart partner in the Greater Las Vegas community for more than 50 years. The chorus and quartets have provided hundreds of performances at local functions and neighborhood venues. Media reviews and widespread audience acceptance are testimony to our continued commitment to the community.

Our Structure

The chapter operates as a state-sanctioned nonprofit 501 (c) (3). Chapter quartets, registered with Barbershop Harmony Society, provide unique and diversified talents and music to the community through performances staged with the chorus or independently. The chorus accepts honorariums, which are used to meet its operations functions and fulfill the community obligations. The quartets' modest performance fees are used to finance such expenses as uniforms, travel, and music costs.

The Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS)

The first organized meeting occurred in 1938 in Tulsa, OK. The parent organization – the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. (SPEBSQSA) has been changed to the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS). It is governed by an elected board of directors and is administered by a professional staff at Harmony Hall in Nashville, TN.

Affiliated barbershop organizations may be found worldwide including: Finland, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Ireland, South Africa, Sweden, The Netherlands and Great Britain.

Our Society Motto: "Keep the Whole World Singing."

Our "Value Proposition"

As the Silver Statesmen Chorus continues to grow in its second half-century of musical contributions to the Las Vegas Valley, it is an appropriate time to step forward and formally invite the community — its businesses, philanthropic organizations and individual supporters of the musical arts – to join hands with us to perpetuate this American, century-old musical art form with our youth.

At a time when the Clark County School District continues to face the impact of an economic recession that has now extended more than five years, the Silver Statesmen are proposing to initiate and finance the Las Vegas Barbershop youth chorus. The group consisting of children from the community's high schools, will perform local concerts and compete with like groups across the Western United States and then nationally.

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In return, sponsors will receive (per level of participation):

- Reduced-fee performances by the quartets at your organization
- Complimentary youth and Silver Statesmen performances
- A handsome sponsor's wall plaque
- Recognition in performance programs
- Publicity materials for use in contributors' newsletters
- Company logo and hyperlink on the Silver Statesmen website to extend your Internet community outreach
- Ongoing publicity through sponsor listing in the chorus e-newsletter "Nugget."
- Sponsor's feature article in the newsletter
- Community-wide recognition as a supporter of our American musical art form and the support of our youth activities
- Enhancement of your organization's "goodwill" image
- Recognition as an affiliate with a unique nonprofit organization committed to encourage your participation in a great lifelong interest.

How You Can Help

Go to: <http://www.silverstatesmenbarbershopchorus.com/join-our-sponsor-program.html> and become a Sponsor of the chorus.

Sponsorship Levels

\$5,000 and above	Platinum Level
\$2,500 - \$4,999	Gold Level
\$1,000 - \$2,499	Silver Level
\$500 - \$999	Bronze Level
\$250 - \$499	Friendship Level
\$100 - \$249	Patron Level

The Las Vegas
Silver Statesmen
Barbershop Chorus
And Quartets
Present



CELEBRATE HARMONY

A Salute to the
Barbershop Harmony Society's
75th Anniversary

Featuring the largest men's a cappella chorus in the State of Nevada.



With chapter quartets to include our own,
95 North, the Far Western District 2012
Champion



August 11, 2013 - 2:00 p.m.
Winchester Cultural Center
3130 McLeod Dr
Las Vegas, NV 89121
\$10.00 in advance
(at the door - \$12.00)



With FOUR shows lined up already this year, we are pulling out all the stops to "show off" our new chorus to the community. Celebrating our Society's 75th Anniversary this year is a great way to "strut our stuff." See the calendar on page 10 for the dates and locations of the shows. Our very own 95 North, the Far Western District 2012 Champion Quartet, will be joining us for the shows on August 10 and 11. We are looking forward to performing for you with the music we love to sing. So, c'mon out and Celebrate Harmony with the largest Barbershop chorus in the State of Nevada.

A Confusing Night

Contributed by Brian Sellnow

My first chapter was the Monterey CypressAires, under the direction of Sammy Gonzalez. Monterey is the home of the Monterey Institute of International Studies as well as the Defense Language Institute, and is a rather cosmopolitan town in spite of its size. When the chorus was invited to sing at an International Music Festival, we accepted. The guest of honor was a count from Austria, so the director decided that in addition to a couple of repertoire songs and some polecats, we would do a song in German. (Since few chorus members spoke German, we would be able to use the sheet music.) There were three separate balls going on in the three ballrooms, and we would be in ballroom two at seven pm. Unfortunately, when we showed up at the hotel, we found that the servers union had gone on strike. The chorus gallantly volunteered to help... the leads at the buffet table, the baritones bussing tables, and the basses tending bar. Of course, the basses helped themselves as much as they helped others, and were actually kind of woozy when we finally got on the risers. Then the electricians went on strike in sympathy with the servers. The Austrian count went to speak with the union members in addition to visiting each of the ballrooms, but to no avail. Since the electricians were mad at us for helping, they sabotaged the overhead fans, causing a windstorm which blew away most of the director's music. Thinking quickly, he pulled off his bolo tie and used it to lash the remaining sheets to the stand. Since he was missing so many pages, he yelled "Coda!". We skipped pages five through eight, and ended up at the bottom of the ninth with the basses loaded, the score tied, the count at three balls and two strikes and the fans going wild.

Get Excited & Get Involved

Recently I listened to a speaker talk about his children and how every time one of them would leave the house he would remind them to "Remember who you are and who your represent." What a wonderful thought. Think of what we could do as a chorus if each of us would take that attitude about Barbershop.

When it comes to Barbershop, who are you? I am a member of a quartet. I am a member of the Silver Statesmen. I am a board member of the Las Vegas Chapter. I am also a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society or SPEBSQSA to the "old timers" (Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America). Even when I come to rehearsal tired and sore I am excited to be there. I am excited to be part of a growing chorus and to be a part of a Society that represents something I really enjoy doing, and that's singing! If you are excited about being a part of this organization, let it show. One way to let it show is to get involved in the Silver Statesmen.

I will be the first to admit that I don't know everything. I need help. I want to establish a Membership Committee. So far, I've got one volunteer. I'd like to have 2 or 3 more. Get excited and get involved. I'm sure you've all heard that 80% of the work is done by 20% of the people. I've seen this many times over the years and the Silver Statesmen don't seem to be an exception. We need everyone's help to make this chorus a success, not just in the membership area, but in all areas. Help turn the old rule into a lie. Get excited about Barbershop and get involved.



Randy Preston
VP, Membership



Last Minute Notes:

The chorus board of directors normally meets on the 1st Saturday of each month. However, due to several members being in Toronto for the International Convention, the board meeting is rescheduled to Saturday, 13 July, 0930hrs.

Also, our first rehearsal in July falls on Independence Day. To encourage more “Family Time” for the holiday, we have canceled rehearsal for Thursday, 4 July. See you on the 11th.

Greg Dreyer has tickets for the show on 11 August at the Winchester Cultural Theater. They are \$10.00 each. Tickets at the door will be \$12.00. This will be the 3rd of our four Celebrate Harmony shows.



Larry Litchfield and **Dave Kennedy** are the
Great Getaway Geezer Guys!

Barbershop "Old Geezers"

Published on Saturday, 01 June 2013 00:00 | FWD Westunes |

BARBERSHOP FRIENDSHIP & CAMARADERIE...Geezer Style!

By Larry Litchfield, Immediate Past President
Las Vegas Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society's FWD
(In close collaboration with best pal and fellow Geezer, **Dave Kennedy**)

A few months after the exciting new Silver Statesmen Barbershop Chorus was born on New Year's Day 2013, incoming Las Vegas Chapter President Steve Salmon buttonholed me one night at rehearsal. He asked if I'd write an article about “*friendship and camaraderie*” as it impacts the barbershopping world – with special focus on our Chapter and new Silver Statesmen chorus.

He envisioned sharing the article with other chapters via the *Harmonizer* and/or the FWD's *Westunes*; and in our Chapter's sparkly new newsletter -- the **Nugget!**

Steve particularly wanted me to link his requested topic to ***The Great Geezer Getaway Guys***, a unique friendship that has tightly bonded two senior Las Vegas Chapter members for more than five years!

He likens the *Geezers* – as a prime example of two “elderly” barbershoppers forging a rock-solid comradeship – to many close friendships that have been created for the last 75 years in Society chapters dotting the landscape of America and beyond.

Camaraderie: A Core Barbershop Credo

Barbershoppers are familiar with our hobby's ingrained, much publicized philosophy that member prospects signing on with a chapter can build a lengthy friendship and foster warm and enduring camaraderie with the newly discovered pastime. Such a result of a Barbershop membership doesn't come automatically, however.

Continued on Next Page...

Friendships of varying intensities are an acknowledged barbershopping benefit or else most of these singing guests would last only a meeting or two and then possibly turn to a different avocation. Smiles, welcoming pats on the back, singing soaring barbershop seventh chords and enjoying friendly, encouraging conversations with veteran chorus members often result in a new member eagerly signing on.

And with continuous cordiality and sharing pre-existing common interests or experiences, the likelihood of two gentlemen barbershoppers forging a close and lasting friendship increases dramatically. To become close Chapter buddies, it's not necessary for both to sing the same voice part, either.

So, please allow Dave and me to share with you the unique story of the on-the-go, unique barbershopping Geezers.

To appreciate our strong bond of friendship, you need to understand how we met and a little about what we've done together in the last five years – besides singing barbershop in our chorus and, for a couple of years, in the same registered quartet. I've been told that close friendships usually are fueled by commonalities. In our case, it's been attributed to (1) our common hardships as in caring for our wives for long periods of time before their deaths; and (2) having mutual interests, like barbershop singing and enjoying the great outdoors.

The Geezers Met in 2007

It happened in late 2007 when I first attended the then-Gamble-Aires chorus rehearsal. It's traditional for newbie guests to be introduced, usually by the Membership VP, and for the guest to stand and tell the chorus members a little about himself. And that's just what I did. I announced that I'd sung all my life, having been a barbershopper many decades earlier in Southern California, working then as a newspaper reporter and, later, as a public relations professional in various business sectors. I also told the chorus I was a recent widower, that my wife of 45 years had lost her valiant fight with cancer on Sept. 2, 2007 and that we'd moved to Las Vegas in 1993 from the San Francisco Bay Area.

At the rehearsal's break, a short, stocky, elderly gentleman, sporting a nifty handlebar mustache and a warm smile, greeted me and said his name was **Dave Kennedy**, then in his eighth year of barbershopping with the G-As. He said we had some unique commonalities: he'd also been married 45 years, cared for his wife for many years and pointed out that she had died only two months after mine.

We shook hands and that was it for a while. We both recall that our friendship did not take off like a rocket. Commonalities kept emerging for several months, including both of us having one grown, happily married daughter and no grandkids. We later learned our daughters were nearly the same age. We're also on fixed-income budgets.

Dave's wife passed on Nov. 17, 2007. After holding positions in mining, banking and gaming, he retired after 30 years in retail merchandising. After his two beloved dogs died in early 2009, a year after his retirement, Dave started serious hiking, taking scenic photographs around the valley with emphasis on the beautifully rugged Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Many of his Red Rock pictures have been published in a designer book and appear on his Facebook page and in his Google photo albums.

In 2008, with the formation of a new registered quartet, our friendship gained momentum and Dave and I began nurturing it with photo hikes throughout Southern Nevada and just hanging out. We attended our first movie (*Avatar*) together and began seeing movies often, taking day photo excursions and enjoying suppers together at local establishments.

Geezer Getaway 1 Launched!

In the spring of 2010, we decided to take a motor camping trip throughout the Southwest and Rocky Mountains. Neither of us had done anything like that before. We carefully defined our route, borrowed some camping gear from a barbershopper friend and boldly casted off on July 26 in Dave's 2008 Honda Fit packed to the roof with our gear and grub. We maintained a blog and our barbershopping friends and family followed our trip with postings of awe and encouragement.

Eighteen days and eight states later, we returned to Las Vegas, exhausted, happy and filled with memories of our adventure that took us through eight states on our 3,750-mile adventure. We were surprised when a two-page article on our trip appeared in the AAA magazine *Traveler*. We also were interviewed at length by the Las Vegas PBS radio station.

In these publicity events we consistently mentioned barbershopping as the birthplace of our friendship...and we are pleased to promote our hobby widely through our Geezer antics.

GGG 2 Explored the Pacific Northwest

In 2012, we did it again with new camping gear donated by a major national recreational equipment outfitter. This time, we drove 3,900 miles in 19 days into the Pacific Northwest as far north as Oregon and Washington. In the summer of **2011, we took a four-day mini-getaway into Sedona and Oatman, AZ. This summer, we're planning GGG 3** into the wilds of Southern Utah.

Continued on Next Page.....

Between these major getaways, we've taken frequent day trips to areas throughout the Greater Southern Nevada region and have constructed a unique day-trip illustrated flyer and tri-fold brochure, compliments of the Geezers. These "handouts", describe a dozen, close-by, unique destinations that we strongly recommend. We'll be offering this "been there/done that" day-trip flyer to the planning committee of the upcoming International Barbershop Convention scheduled for Las Vegas in the summer of 2014.

In all, we estimate our major Getaway adventures (including our upcoming trip into Southern Utah and many day jaunts) have taken us more than 10,000 miles

We've also built a short, no-charge electronic picture show that Dave and I narrate together during presentations at Valley senior centers and residences, assisted living facilities, hospitals, rehab centers and before other audiences. We've taken many thousands of photos during our travels.

Life indeed is good for the barbershopping, adventurous Great Geezer Getaway Guys who strongly endorse the Society's stated mission: bringing men together in harmony and friendship to enrich lives through singing!

Note: For information on the Geezers' photo presentations, email us at greatgeezergetaway.net; or visit our website in progress at www.geezergetaways.org.



Dave Kennedy at the Geezer campsite in the Grand Canyon during Getaway 1. They promote and invite barbershoppers wherever they go!!

The 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