



Jim Halvorson
Director

From the Director's Corner

So I am sitting down the Tuesday after contest to write up this article for the *Nugget* still on an emotional high from the Division Convention weekend, even though my body is still recovering from three big chorus performances and two quartet rehearsals in four days. One of these days I'll have to teach myself to slow down.....nah.

Gentlemen, I am so proud of your accomplishments this weekend. The material accolades of winning our plateau and most improved (YES!) are wonderful indeed, but some of the other accomplishments that can't be measured are what really set this past weekend apart for me. For starters, we had the largest chorus in attendance at the convention this weekend. How's that for a little (can't say that any longer) chorus from Vegas? I felt like everywhere I looked I saw Silver Statesmen blue being worn with pride, and you all look very good in blue. Next was the camaraderie and esprit de corps that you all shared as we worked together to prepare and perform on stage. You were timely, focused and on task, which made the job for the music leadership very easy. You were also flexible and accommodating. Having to change your whole riser setup minutes before you go on stage could have sent the average chorus into a tizzy but you handled it marvelously and that says a lot about the character of the individuals on the risers. Lastly, and I believe most important, was the pride that exuded from each member and the willingness to engage with others from our division. I saw many members tagging and woodshedding with barbershoppers from all over our division, even until the wee hours on Sunday morning. Maybe we could come up with the award for the latest "selfie" posted to Facebook by a Silver Statesmen at the district contest in the fall (those of you not familiar with a selfie, ask the young'ns).

I received so many wonderful comments from district people and fellow chorus directors over the weekend. So many asked how we are doing it and what we might be putting in the water to spur on such a growth in membership and quality? All I could boil it down to was that you were all given an opportunity to choose excellence. No one has told you that you can't be great so you have taken the bull by the horns and chosen to be better. Each week we are learning faster and better than the week before. Many of you are working at home, before and after rehearsal and even in your own quartets to grasp, own, and apply the concepts that we are implementing to create the "Silver Statesmen Sound" and the result is performances like this past weekend.

The beauty of the choices you are making is that they aren't tied to any contest, convention, or show. They are tied to our mission and our vision. As long as we can keep that perspective and focus every week when we come to rehearsal, then every performance takes the same level of importance. Every song is sung like our best contest song and the joy you felt this past weekend is felt every Thursday evening when we get together. Barbershop excellence has got to be the best addiction that anyone can have. I can't remember the last time I had this much fun with a barbershop chorus and even as I write this, I am getting pumped up to hit the ground running in preparation for our next performance on our annual show in May.

Thank you all for allowing me to share, learn, and develop with all of you. This has been one of the best learning experiences of my musical career and I have never felt better saying, "It's GREAT to be a Silver Statesmen!"



The 2014 BHS International Convention in Las Vegas is less than 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

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!

From the Music VP

Our first performance of 2014 is now in the books. I hope all of you who sang with the Silver Statesmen (and others) in Riverside had as good a time as I did. I say "others," because I did have opportunities to sing for fun with guys from other chapters (it seems they always need a tenor). The best part of my time in Riverside was singing with the Silver Statesmen. I appreciate the fact that we treat this as "just another performance".

Do you remember the TV show "Whose Line Is It, Anyway?" a comedy improv "game show" where everything was made up and the points didn't matter? I believe the latter part of that slogan is true for us, as the points themselves really don't matter. What did matter was the amount of enthusiasm that the audience demonstrated for our performance and that the judges noticed what we are doing to improve as a chorus.

Thanks to the persistence and patience of our director, Jim, and the rest of our Music Team, we have made amazing strides in our singing ability, practicing techniques that produce a better sound and a better balance and blend across the chorus with little or no "hero" singing. It's great that we have become nearly "unconsciously competent" with some aspects of it, but we have much more to rehearse and learn to keep things free and easy in our voices.

Speaking of points, we should be pleased that the points the judges awarded fell between 72 and 77. That's a very small spread, and shows a certain consistency I have not seen in a long time. Even more gratifying than the points (and rightfully so), Dave Kennedy, my roommate and traveling companion for the weekend, pointed out that the judges seemed happier than we did about the performance we had just completed.



It was unfortunate that some of us did not participate in this performance. I'm sure that was for good reason. I sincerely hope that you will be able to join us at the District Convention this fall, when we have another golden opportunity to show even more improvement.

So, enough about that performance. We have some big events coming up to prepare for: our Spring Shows, the International Convention, our District Convention, and our Christmas Holiday Shows. We are well on our way with learning our spring show songs. The Music Team is already working on the Christmas show and the District Convention. I hope that you are as excited as the Music Team and I about these upcoming events. Please know that the Team is at your disposal and is very interested in hearing any ideas you may have to enhance our journey together.

Here's to more (and better) singing for the rest of the year and for the future!



Albert Weiss
VP, Music & Performance

Leave the baby alone with Dad for 10 minutes and he's turned into a Barbershopper!! What's wrong with this picture?? NOTHING!!!

The Silver Statesmen "Lineup" - as of 1 April 2014

TENORS

Buehrer, Roger
 Conner, Mike
 Halvorson, Dallas
 Mininger, John
 Pierce, Xavier
 Preston, Randy
 Salmon, Collin
 Spinks, Philip
 Weiss, Albert

LEAD

Andersen, Roger
 Coon, Rich
 Cuevas, Gil
 Gashi, Antwun
 Halvorson, James
 Halvorson, Larry
 Hettinga, Warren
 Hurwitz, Mike
 Ives, Rick
 Jones, Rick
 Klaus, Bill
 Lambert, Ivan
 Larson, Dave
 Lenox, John
 Litchfield, Larry
 Murphy, Dick
 Onufrieff, Victor
 Payton, Joe
 Peck, John
 Poon, Hon
 Pratt, Keith
 Pruszka, Dave
 Pucci, Roc
 Salmon, Steve
 Salz, Don
 Sonneman, Phil
 Thomas, Jerry

DIRECTOR

Jim Halvorson

BASS

Alvarez, Jerry
 Amblad, Bob
 Beatty, Matthew
 Bye, Jerry
 Cooper, Kyle
 Craig, Herb
 Dreyer, Greg
 Feeney, Peter
 Goldberg, Fred
 Green, Fred
 Hill, Billy
 Hulbert, John
 Johnson, Dennis
 Johnson, James
 Judd, Martin
 Kennedy, Dave
 Lusk, Bill
 Marty, Ross
 Massa, JD
 McDonnell, Walter
 Mondri, Nino
 Morrison, Dick
 Pechart, Larry
 Sullivan, Sully
 White, Wes
 Wines, Chuck
 Wyson, Joe

BARITONE

Ackers, Stan
 Adler, Bud
 Cotton, Ed
 Floyd, Dave
 Hunt, Dean
 Krausman, Ernie
 Kreider, Paul
 McNabb, Brandon
 Pascucci, Joe
 Raybeck, Jerry
 Salmon, Isaac
 Sellnow, Brian
 Straub, Walter
 Waugh, John

Newest Chapter Members

Kyle Cooper
 Victor Onufrieff
 Joe Pascucci
 James Halvorson



Final Rehearsal Pre-Division Contest

We had a blowout rehearsal in preparation for the trip to Riverside, CA, for the annual SE/SW Division Competition. With lots of great "riser work" on the contest set, choreography, and unit sound, we also recognized two by awarding them the coveted Silver Nugget Award of Excellence. **Larry Litchfield** and **Xavier Pierce**.

Visiting from the Sweet Adelines chapter, *Tonality*, came to sing to us and give encouragement on our trip to the contest stage.



Our
 under the
 competition.
 harmony



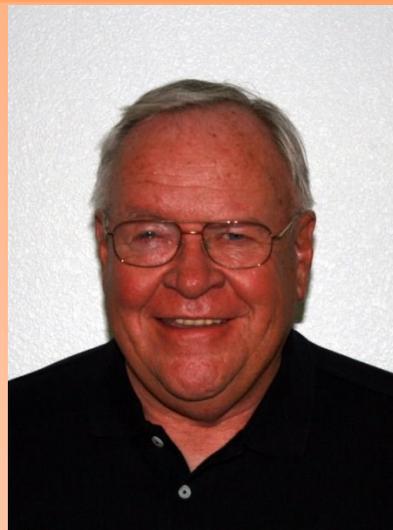
young quartet, *A-Capocalypse*,
 lamplight to prepare for their
 All in all, it was a great night of
 and camaraderie.



got some coaching
 very first quartet
 barbershop

NEWEST HALL OF FAME MEMBER

A BIG CONGRATULATIONS goes to **Peter Feeney** for having been elected to the Far Western District's Hall of Fame. The announcement was made during the Division Convention in Riverside, CA. Peter started barbershop in California with the Conejo Valley chapter in 1993. He moved to Las Vegas in 1994 and transferred his membership to the Gamble-Aires. He joined the City of Lights when it formed in 1998. Peter became a FWD board member in 2002 and District President in 2004 and 05. In 2006 he was elected to the Society board where he served for three years. In 2009 he was elected to the Foundation board and became its Chairman in 2012.



Newest Chapter Quartet Hits the Contest Stage

Our newest (and youngest) quartet, **A-Capocalypse**, made their debut performance on the contest stage of the SW/SE Division Convention on March 22. They've been getting coached by some of the best....their fathers! **Isaac Salmon** (Bari) and **Collin Salmon** (Lead) are sons of chapter president, **Steve Salmon**. **Dallas Halvorson** (Tenor) is the son of **Larry Halvorson**, lead for the FWD 2012 Quartet Champs, **95 North**. And **Brandon McNabb** (bass) is the grandson of **Mike Conner**, Silver Statesmen tenor. The talent obviously runs deep in these multi-generational barbershop families and we are proud of how far these young men have come.



Since they are starting at this point in their lives, I think we may be seeing them around for a long time to come. The smooth blend of their "newly minted" vocal cords will stand them in good stead for years to come.

Brandon (bass) is the oldest at 18 years old, followed closely by Isaac (bari) at 16. Collin (lead) is 14, and Dallas (tenor) is 12. It's really neat to see these guys perform with such confidence and talent right from the start.

First timer's thoughts from **Brandon McNabb**,

"Competing in a quartet my very first time was a breathtaking experience that nobody can take away from me and my three other brothers in harmony.

Going on stage and seeing people applaud in satisfaction for the individual and combined work you have done is something that every barbershopper should experience at least once. Being on the stage four times that weekend (quartet & chorus) kept me enormously busy and I loved every second of it."



COME JOIN US

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

WHERE: Christ the King 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!



Steve Salmon
Chapter President

Are You focused on the right thing?

~ submitted by Steve Salmon

Congratulations on a great Convention, and another WIN! I am so excited to share with you the honor of being the most improved chorus in the SE Division, and Plateau champions. When I consider our “Path to Progress,” I say we are heading in the right direction.

In my remarks today, I ask that you think about flying on an airplane. What airline did you choose? Every airline is expected to get you to your destination.

They are all in the same business of transporting you from one location to another. When you chose your airline, did you have certain expectations? In your mind, did you choose a Premium airline with First Class service, or did you choose a budget provider with scaled back amenities? Airlines are meticulously branded, and for the most part you know what to expect when you book your flight.

Food service is the same thing. We all have expectations when dining at fast food vs steak house and everything in between. I expect one experience at McDonalds, something different from Olive Garden, and even more from Ruth Chris Steak House. As we continue to improve and progress, we must all be on the same path (flying the same airline, eating at the same restaurant).

As we set expectations that will guide our experience as a barbershopper here in Las Vegas, I want you to consider a triangle. At the base is Expectation, in the middle is Differentiate, and at the top is Excite. Jet Blue, Allegiant Air, Southwest, Delta, or a chartered private jet. We decide who we will be. We decide our focus, and what we focus on is what we become. It is up to us to choose if we will focus on just our expectations, move to what differentiates us, pay the price to go to the top, or focus on what excites us.

I was sure excited this past weekend in California. There are plenty of times in rehearsal that I am excited. I want you to know that I am focused on the top of the triangle. In all that I do I want to excite. The Board and Music Team have set the bar high; we are doing what we can to sustain this level of commitment. Please join us for this exciting time; do all that you can to be on board with us. I believe anything less, and you will not be happy.

Progress = Happiness

Are You a Barbershopper?

Collin Salmon was recently on tour with the Las Vegas Academy choirs. He sent his dad, **Steve Salmon**, a couple of text messages, “We were just at Cal State Fullerton where we had a workshop with the choir director. He had our choir ‘move to the music and feel it in our bodies.’ It was fun.

I went up to him after the workshop because what he was saying and doing was VERY familiar. I asked him if he was a barbershopper. He said, Yes, and that he has two Gold Medals with the Masters of Harmony. It was awesome!”

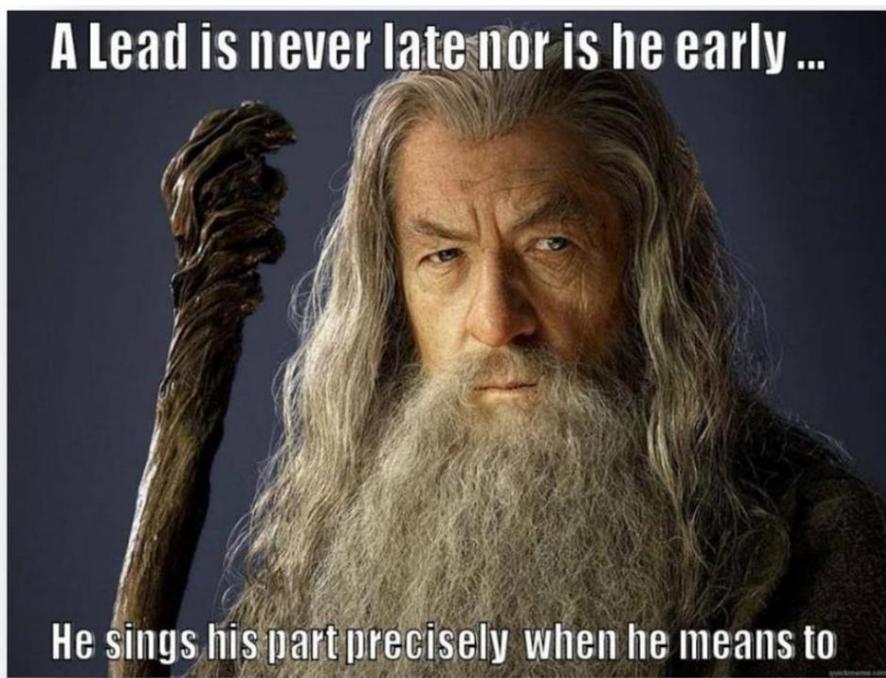


Larry Halvorson
VP, Membership

I am so excited to have the opportunity to serve as your membership vice president in 2014. I am going to concentrate on recruitment, retention and reactivation for the balance of the year. I have stated that my goal is to have 60 active singers on the risers by the end of the year, and with your help we can do it.

I am working the details of a guest night and will share the date and program with you as soon as the board and music team are onboard. Please remember that every night is a guest night. We have brothers that sing barbershop all over the world, and will welcome them here to Las Vegas this July. The only other chapter that is close by is located in St. George, Utah, and I am going to reach out to them and see about doing a chapter visitation on a Thursday night to strengthen the bond between our chapters.

As things develop I will fill you in.



From Buehrer's Drawers

Sharing Our Barbershop Passion

In this town, where there is so much competition in the entertainment business, it may seem like we're the short guys against a team of giants in the Final Four. The giants always seem to have so much more money and the personnel team to "market" their product -- something that us short guys are skeptical to take on.

Recently I found an outlet for our craft that's really pretty easy to tap -- senior citizen centers. First, the audience knows our music style. Second, they know our songs. And third, the senior centers have activity luncheons at least once a week, and they always seem to lack entertainment. It's the perfect opportunity for a quartet or a VLQ (very large quartet) -- the Music Team can help us with that. Since most of these activities are during the day, it becomes the perfect venue for those of us who aren't working. As retirees, our grey hair and bald head would fit right in with the crowd. During the holiday times, these lunches turn into Holiday Parties and Dinners.

As a case in point, one local center has a Bingo activity in the mornings once a month. The 90 plus people then stay for lunch. The lunch is sponsored by the local Soroptimist club. Normally, there is no entertainment during the lunch hour. The key is asking the center for the activity sponsors' name and contact information. Once you've established that contact, you may even be able to negotiate an honorarium. That could include money and/or a free lunch. We will "Work For Food."

You may be asking: "Just how many opportunities are there in the Valley?" You may be surprised, but last count, there were nearly 40 centers throughout the area. Some are run by local government agencies. Others are managed by churches or by nonprofit agencies. Suffice it to say, there are enough to keep us all singing for a year and never repeat.

Roger Buehrer, Tenor
Broadcast Barbershop Quartet

"Believe it or not, the opportunities for us to share our passion are boundless."

First Contest Stage Experience

- submitted by Joe Payton



What a time! The First Time! At the risk of sounding corny, I have to tell all of you what it meant to me. As Larry Halvorson said in the parking lot on Saturday morning, I lost my quartet contest virginity Friday night. IT WAS AWESOME! I've been thinking about doing this since 1970! There are some things I would like to share with everyone.

First: If you have ever considered competing with a quartet, get off the dime and do it. Can it be scary? yeah. Is it hard work? yeah. Is it worth it? You will NEVER know if you don't do it.

Second: If you want to reach for something, reach high. As a quartet, we had a clear twofold goal. We wanted to do better than our quartet, 4 Ever Yours, had ever done. Check. Done. We wanted to make the District stage. No check there. Any regrets? No. I think that the most useful thing I learned, and please understand me, I only speak for me. It's that nothing happens without some form of outside help. Our outside help disguised itself at times. One form came in the shape of a director. Thank you, **Jim Halvorson**, for the things you are teaching us as members of our chorus. Another form was a leader like **Larry Halvorson**, taking the time to help us with craft lessons and motivation.

The first shape shifted to a coaching form. Thanks again Jim. Then comes along another helping shape. **John Hulbert** took some of his valuable time to share his expertise with us. Are you getting the picture? We love to sit in an audience and listen to the sounds that we love. Great chords, fun songs, tearjerkers! What is very difficult to understand or maybe just easy to overlook, is what is going on out there. It's kind of like watching a duck in a pond. Looks peaceful, but under the surface there is a lot of pedaling going on.

Keeping with the duck metaphor, humor me, is the constant effort required to go forward. I did not know how I would feel as a member of a quartet on the contest stage. All of the work leading up to that made the actual event seem effortless. Backstage I realized that, hey, I am not nervous at all. This is going to be fun. When I walked out on that stage with my barbershop buddies, I was ready. I felt like I was on top of the world. I felt confident and relaxed. Weird huh?

Point being that I was not worried about anything. If I had tripped and fallen, I would have made it seem planned. I knew that if I just did my part, I would not let my guys down. That brings another thought to mind. No barbershopper ever truly goes solo. When you have a solo part within your song, you are still one-fourth of the effort. I also found out something else. Barbershop audiences are more of a part of being on that stage than you might think. Sure we want to entertain, we want the bright lights and the applause. I have sung on other stages, in other venues. Church, high school, sporting events, etc. With a rare exception here or there, I don't think there is another audience anywhere that not only wants to hear you or to be entertained, but is pulling for you. That was a surprise to me, and it pumped me up enough to realize that I better be in control of what I am doing and not let the adrenaline take over.

There is a certain anonymity that comes in the chorus. When we are doing what we are supposed to be doing, not ONE voice (where have we heard that?) is supposed to stand out. In a quartet, well we know how that works, don't we? Speaking again, only for me, the response from my chorus mates was very much appreciated. I love you all for it. The response from people I have never known was very humbling. Nobody outside of our chapter and friends and family is under any obligation to pat you on the back. But the number of people that did was incredible.

What a great hobby we have! Each of us, in our own way, has something to offer to others. Some are very common, you know what I mean? Supporting each other in our efforts to do well, doing our part within our sections, doing the things we should be doing on the other nights of the week when we are not at our weekly meeting. Those are all very easy to come up with and I think we can all agree on that. There are also many small quiet things that some might do. I am not going to preach to you about what I might think those things could be. That is not the point here.

What I am trying to say is Thank You! For your contribution to our wonderful pastime and more importantly, to me. Going forward, I will do my part to do all of those things that need to be done to improve the product that I put on stage — as a member of the Silver Statesmen and as a member and the Lead of 4 Ever Yours. To do less than that would be a disservice to those that I sing with. I don't have to be the best. I just have to do the best that I can do. Then I have to have the confidence and the trust of those that I sing with. And I also have to trust them and be confident that they are doing the same with me.

You Know You're in Trouble When.....

You're singing alone, and you're not the soloist.

Everyone else remembered the key change except you.

You've bumped into the person next to you on the first move.

You've got four more beats to sustain and you're already out of breath.

You have to stand next to someone who knows the music because you don't.

You have to ask, "What's the first word?" in every song.

You started singing and realized you have the wrong song.

You've missed the last two rehearsals and the tag has been changed.

You haven't cleaned your uniform yet and the next performance is tomorrow.

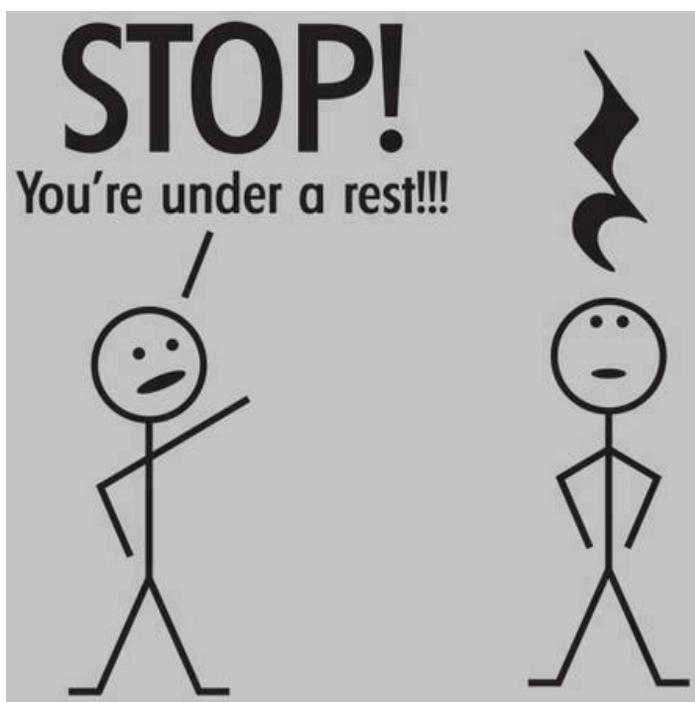
You have to call the day of the performance to find out what time you're singing.

Don't put yourself in the positions above.

BE ALERT!

BE FOCUSED!

Prepare for shows, performances, contests, AND rehearsals!





The 2014 BHS International Convention in Las Vegas will be here quickly! 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.



Why I Go To Contest

- submitted by Martin Judd

I have always liked to compete regardless of the arena. Whether it was sports, work, singing or anything else, I've always liked to compare myself with others doing the same thing (my wife says it's a guy thing). It's not that I've ever been that good at anything in particular, but I enjoy the process of trying to make myself better. And so it is with barbershop. I've been singing barbershop in a choral setting for around ten years. I have only had the pleasure of participating in a quartet for the past couple of years.

Last year our quartet decided to go to the divisional contest just to see how we stacked up against other quartets. The answer, it turned out, was not very well. We scored a 52 and were placed last. Not much to put on the old resume but, we were certainly left with lots of room for improvement. We felt that our performance was so bad, we actually considered walking away. Instead, we sat down and talked it out. We all agreed to put in the work necessary to try and improve our performance for the 2014 divisional contest. We made changes, got some welcome coaching from some of our friends, and practiced two to three times a week. The past weekend we competed, for the second time, at the 2014 divisional contest. What a turn-around. We were more comfortable, we sang in tune and we had a great time!

Our ultimate goal has been to qualify to sing on the district stage as a senior quartet. This may or may not be a reachable goal; only time will tell. But, this year we also added a couple of other goals: do better than last year and, everyone's favorite, "don't suck." These goals we were able to accomplish. We scored 56 (a good increase from last year's 52), and we placed 20th out of 25 participating SE/SW division quartets in the contest. Our numbers weren't great when compared to other quartets. But when we compared them to our performance last year, it showed a significant improvement.

Was it worth it? Absolutely! We proved that we could better ourselves with some hard work and good coaching. So, if the quartet agrees to do the necessary work for another year and our friends continue to assist us with their great coaching, it looks like you'll be seeing a lot more of us over the next year as we prepare for the 2015 division contest.

As I sit here writing this, I still have a smile on my face. This past weekend was a pretty good one for me. A lot of hard work was rewarded by both the quartet and the chorus showing a significant improvement over last year. As an added bonus, the chorus placed first in the AA class (fourth overall) and received the Most Improved Chorus award for the SE Division. So, if all this is so much fun, why didn't I start this barbershop thing 40 years ago? My wife, Sue, answered this question without hesitation. "You didn't have time to sing, because when you weren't working you were too busy being involved with modeling trains, historical reenacting, collecting stamps, ham radio, stock car racing, sports officiating, etc., etc., etc." She certainly hit that nail on the head!

Singing Advice from Frank Sinatra via Dean Martin's Daughter, Deana

~ contributed by JD Massa, Silver Statesmen bass and BHS Lifetime Member

I recently had the opportunity to have an email exchange with Review Journal columnist, Doug Elfman, regarding his article below. Once in a while, an RJ columnist directs comments straight at barbershoppers.

This is an excerpt of that article and provides a few words of advice from none other than Frank Sinatra. (See the entire article at: <http://www.reviewjournal.com/columns-blogs/doug-elfman/deana-martin-dad-was-amazing-guy>)

In an RJ column, last summer, Doug Elfman quotes the daughter of Dean Martin, speaking about him and Frank Sinatra of the Rat Pack. Deana Martin recalls Frank Sinatra's answer to the question, "How do you sing?"

"Sinatra looked her in the eye and delivered the unsexy truth.

" 'It's all about the air,' he told her. 'I take a big breath, and I push from the diaphragm, and I can tell before a note comes out if I'm going to be on pitch or not.' "

The big secret is out: breathe. Hasn't somebody mentioned this at rehearsal lately?

Deana also noted two things about her father. She describes his voice by saying "you can actually hear the smile."

Sound familiar?

And Deana next said her father told her how to make a great vocal: "Once you know the lyrics and you know the song, you kind of feel where the song should be. Then sing from the heart."

Not the same words we have heard, but the meaning is the same: put emotion in your performance.



Deana Martin



Frank Sinatra & Dean Martin

2014 Board of Directors

Our Chapter Leaders work diligently to guide us through our second year as the Silver Statesmen and as the host chapter for the 2014 Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention and Competition. This is the first time in its 76 year history that the Society's annual International Convention has come to Las Vegas. It's a daunting task for any chapter, but even more so with this landmark convention coming hot on the heels of our merger of two chapters into one. All current indications show that the attendance at this year's convention will be among the highest in recent history.

	Steve Salmon President Las Vegas Chapter		Fred Green Vice President Marketing and PR		Bill Lusk Member at Large
	Ivan Lambert Secretary		Larry Halvorson Vice President Membership		Dave Pruszka Member at Large
	Wes White Treasurer		Brian Sellnow Vice President Program		Larry Litchfield Immediate Past President -Gamble-Aires
	Albert Weiss Vice President Music		Randy Preston Chorus Manager		Martin Judd Immediate Past President -City of Lights





2014 BHS International Convention and Contests

July 1-6

Notes from the Chairman

Are we ready? As I'm writing this I am sitting in a hotel room in Riverside, California trying to relax before the quartet contest. **Fred Green** wanted me to write something about the convention for the newsletter. The only thing that keeps popping up in my mind is the question: Are We Ready? We are less than four months away from the convention but, Are We Ready? Questions have been asked and answered and people are stepping up to help out but, Are We Ready? The committees are coming up with some great ideas to help make our convention a success but, Are We Ready?



The obvious answer would seem to be NO, we are not ready. Don't let that bother you because we will never be completely ready. Things are changing daily and as a result, our goals are constantly changing. What I can tell you is that we are doing a great job, and when the convention finally gets here, we will be as ready as we can possibly be. And, when things change during the convention, we'll rise to the occasion make it work.

The biggest concern that the executive committee currently has is getting enough volunteers to make the convention run smoothly. Depending on the length of shifts that some committees will use, we could be looking for 300-400 volunteers. This number includes the 30 or so people heading up the convention committees. There are few rewards for working the convention, but one that many people look forward to is the 'volunteer' shirt. We are almost to the point of having to order these shirts, but we don't have any idea of how many or what sizes we need to order. Too many people who are planning on working at the convention still haven't signed up on the volunteer page located at: www.bhsvegas.2014.com. This is a problem because the database that this site is building is where we are supposed to be getting everyone's shirt size. If you are one of these people, please take a few minutes and sign up as a volunteer (this includes everyone on the convention committees). Without this information, we may wind up having to order a bunch of Large and VERY Large shirts and leaving people needing smaller sizes to make do with the 'tents' that we'll have to issue them. Don't spend the week wearing a small tent or trying to force your 4-X body into a 1-X shirt. It only takes a couple of minutes to sign up, and then we can order your shirt in a size that you request.

Roger Buehrer is now handling the organizing of our volunteers. This is a very difficult job. Please don't make it any harder for him than it has to be. He needs information to make this work — information that is found in the volunteer database and information that needs to be provided to him by the sub-committee chairmen. If you don't have access to a computer, please contact him personally and he'll help you provide him with the necessary information.

I know that I always seem to be harping about the volunteer sign up page and the lack of convention pin sales, etc. BUT, you need to know that in spite of this stuff, you are all doing a GREAT job. It may not look like it to you in your particular area, but when I look at the overall picture, this whole endeavor is coming along nicely. Go ahead and pat yourself on the back, but please remember that you can't let up now, not even a little bit. The heavy lifting is just now getting ready to start, and we are going to need everyone in there giving us their all. There is work for everyone regardless of your abilities or disabilities. We need EVERYONE! If you don't currently have a job, please sign up on the volunteer page and pick the job (or jobs) that interest you. If you just want to help and are not particular about what the job is, say so. If you don't have access to a computer but want to help, see or call **Roger Buehrer**. I guarantee he will find you a job that needs doing.

Singing Valentines - 2014

This year was fulfilling in a lot of ways. We had FIVE quartets available to deliver Singing Valentines. Our thanks to Good Times, Broadcast, Rumbleseat Daze, 4 Ever Yours and Sun City Sound for volunteering their time to bring a lot of joy and happiness to people across the Las Vegas Valley.

Although the money we made was good for our budget, the most important aspect of this annual event is the smiles, laughter, and tears of joy that our barbershop style of singing brings into the lives of others. Ask any quartet member what they enjoy about Singing Valentines and they won't say it's about all the dollars we made for the chapter. No, it's purely the happiness and the memories they provide to the recipients of the quartet's visit on this special holiday.

(from **Roger Buehrer**) "Broadcast had a great day delivering Valentines. One delivery was ordered by a guy in the Navy. He was on a ship off the coast of South America. His wife was thankful to the point of tears. Another valentine was requested by a student in Alaska. We surprised his girlfriend at work to her delight and the enthusiastic applause of her co-workers."



Rumbleseat Daze Quartet delivering a Singing Valentine

Our farthest "long-distance" request came from a man in the Philippines who is a government contractor and was far away from his family. These stories and many more like them are what make our annual Singing Valentines event a resounding success and provide for satisfied, repeat customers year after year.

OTHER QUARTET ACTIVITIES

Fred Goldberg and the Sun City Sound quartet performed at a birthday party for this lady's mother who turned 90 years old. The following "testimonial" from the daughter is wonderful praise for what we love to do for people:

Dear Fred,

I'm just now getting back to normal after Mom's party. I want to thank you again for the Sun City Sound's participation at her party. Your group has been the talk of the party! I so appreciate the professionalism and good energy that SCS brought to the party. The song choices were incredible and the singing was magnificent! You even had JOKES! What a nice group of diverse men you put together. Sun City Sound is an inspiration for every age group. Kenzie and I plan on stopping by one Thursday at the church to catch more of the wonderful barbershop sounds.

Please send my extended thanks and best regards to all the guys.

Blessings,

Lava

When we get to share our love of barbershop singing with large audiences or small groups, we are doing exactly what our hobby and passion for this uniquely American style of music would have us do. It's all about the music and the camaraderie with other like-minded men of good repute. If you love to sing and are looking for a way to express that desire, visit one of our rehearsals and see why this is the greatest hobby to be found anywhere. Check us out on our website at: www.SilverStatesmen.com. The chorus rehearses every Thursday evening at 7:00 pm, at the Christ the King Community Church, 4925 S. Torrey Pines Drive 89119 (SW corner of Torrey Pines and Tropicana).

How to be a Great Bass Some Bass Singing Tips from Champ Bill Meyers

~ submitted by Bill Myers, bass of Revival, 1998 International Champions

The bass singer delivers the essence and character of the barbershop sound. I just love to sing along with recordings featuring good, quality bass singers and from there develop my own style of singing bass. It's fun and you learn a lot from the experts. You learn how to sing intervals with ease and accuracy, how to balance chords, and how to sing with quality all up and down the scale. Why wouldn't any bass singer want to sing along every day with the best we have? It's difficult to pin down just three of my favorite barbershop bass singers, but here's a start. These three are also genuinely nice guys and fun Barbershoppers to be around. What a wonderful combination!

Jim Henry - Here's a guy who puts more of his personality in the music he creates than any other barbershop bass I know. I respect his commitment to a quality sound all up and down the scale. Jim gives enough of his ego away to complement his quartet with just enough sound to blend and match to perfection. Yet his dominant bass color is always evident when The Gas House Gang (1993 champion) sings. I sing bass with him by tape every day.

Don Barnick - Really not a bass singer, by his own admission, but probably the very best at making the vocal apparatus work for the job; he was a gold medal tenor with Grandma's Boys in 1979. However, using all of his resonators, Don was able to command the rich, quality, up-front ping in the bass sound all up and down the scale with the 1992 international champion Keepsake. You will not find a finer example of one using what the good Lord gave him to work in his favor. I sing bass with him by tape every day.

Rick Staab - One of the all-time greats. Here's a guy who was born with a golden bass voice. He'll be the first to tell you, "It was a gift from above." I think he sang a bad note once in 1977. Not sure which note it was, but at least one. Always, always, with quality and richness, always resonant, always accurate. Just the kind of bass singer most leads pray for. His voice was made to order for the legendary 1978 champion Bluegrass Student Union. Ah, I remember them well! I sing bass with him by tape every day.

Bill's ten tips for better bass singing:

- Sing every note with a quality sound
- Sing with full face vowels
- Sing every day
- Vertical "Ahh" on the inside of every vowel
- Every five seconds, energize
- Get a coach
- Step into the picture the lyric creates
- Sing on top of the air
- Resonant, warm spin in the sound
- Always be working on a new song

Bill Myers has taught "How To Be A Great Bass" at Harmony College.

Additional Resources:

Here's a new, voice-specific discussion list for those most important Barbershop harmony singers, the 'foundation' folks, the Bass singers:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BBSBasses>

This list is for information, techniques, assistance, and pointers that Basses can use to improve their performance and increase their fun quotient in Barbershop.

Why Should I Volunteer? ~ Ivan Lambert

I have asked this question many times. Do you realize this is the first time in the history of the Society, that the BHS International Convention will be held in our city? I get goose bumps just thinking about it. What a great opportunity to help make this event the best ever.

Oh yes, to answer my question, why should I volunteer? Would you enjoy singing with a Champion Quartet? What a great way to improve your singing experience. You may even have the opportunity to attend a rehearsal/warm-up for another chorus.

Oh yes, back to my question, why should I volunteer? When you invest your time to help someone else, it fills you with pride. Did you know that your Board of Directors and the Music Team volunteer their time to help you enjoy your singing experience? Our sound and enhanced singing quality has improved tremendously compared to a year ago.

Oh yes, back to my question... Did you know that helping those in need is a great honor and can be a life changer – for everyone involved. Volunteers have passion. They care about others. Volunteers share their skills and passion where they are most needed.

You may only want to spend 3-4 hours volunteering. Meaning that while you may only do something small, the actions you have taken will likely inspire those around you. Our good deeds can set the stage for others to perform similar acts of kindness. Think about the type of role model you want to be to those around you, because they may be taking notice of your actions, even if you aren't aware of it.

Everyone has something to offer; at the very minimum, just your companionship is something quite valuable. There may be others who are in need of your friendship. Just having someone to listen to and talk to may provide comfort and peace to someone who is working through an issue that we have no knowledge of.

Let us look at what some of the experts say about volunteering. Volunteering doesn't have to be a big, long-term commitment, says Boston-based psychologist Kate Roberts, Ph.D., "You could just volunteer for one day serving food to homeless people, and see how that goes," she says. "People can pick and choose what is a good match for them -- and what works best with their schedule."

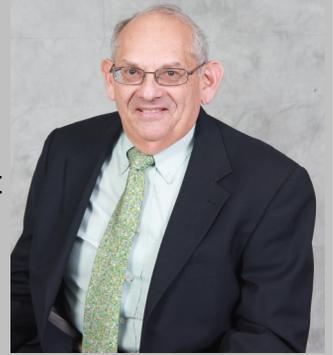
You'd love to give back, you really would. The problem is, you're just too busy. Or you're not sure where to volunteer. And do you really have anything special to offer?

Sound familiar? Sadie Leder Elder, Ph.D., an assistant professor of psychology at High Point University in North Carolina, who has studied the psychology of giving back, says excuses like these are a dime a dozen.

"This reminds me of every conversation I have with someone who is 'waiting to find the time to work out,'" she says. "What I say to them is that we have time for what we see as a priority. If your boss or family added something to your plate, you would make room for it. It's a matter of prioritizing your tasks to make room for helping others."

According to Elder, "If we take the time to share our blessings, the benefits will likely return to us [in a number of ways](#) -- including increased life satisfaction, better health, and even a [longer life](#)."

These are some of the reasons why I volunteer. All of our chorus members need to put their best foot forward. Now is the time to volunteer to work during the International Convention in July. There are plenty of positions to fill, and you will gain so much more by being there than just "putting in your time." I look forward to seeing you at the MGM.



Ivan Lambert
Chapter Secretary

Silver Statesmen Calendar

(Board Meeting-1st Saturday at 9:30 / Music Team Meeting 1st Tuesday at 7:00)

NOTE: A date with No Rehearsal means not under the direction of Jim Halvorson. It may be a Dark Night, Social Night, Party Night, Summer Boot Camp, etc. These nights will be under the direction of the Program VP or Music VP and their teams.

2014

JANUARY

- 2 **First Rehearsal**
- 10 Installation Banquet (Italian American Club)
- 28–02 BHS Midwinter Long Beach

FEBRUARY

- 14 Singing Valentines

MARCH

- 21-23 Spring Convention + SW/SE Division Conventions (Riverside CA)

APRIL

- 10 2nd Annual QT Contest / B-Day Party
- 24 (Nevada Big Give Day)

MAY

- 31 Annual Show Summerlin Library - 7pm

JUNE

- 1 Annual Show Flamingo Library - 2pm
- 7 Father's Day Pancake Breakfast

JULY

- 1-6 BHS International – LAS VEGAS
- 3-31 **Chapter Activities**

AUGUST

- 23 Ice Cream Social

SEPTEMBER

- 3 First Reading of Proposed Officers
- 25 Chapter Officer Elections
- 27 Combined Activity with Sweet Adeline's

OCTOBER

- 10-12 District Convention (Fresno, CA)
- 16 **Chapter Activity**
- 23 Kick off November Giving Campaign

NOVEMBER

- TBD Installation & Awards Banquet
- 27 No Rehearsal (Thanksgiving)

DECEMBER

- 6 Annual Christmas Show Flamingo Library - 3pm AND 7pm
- 18 No Rehearsal
- 25 No Rehearsal

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. — The Editor