

REAL MEN SING!

On a Saturday in early November, the Silver Statesmen joined with the Las Vegas Men's Chorus, and the UNLV Varsity Men's Glee Club for a CCSD Vocal Clinic for over 300 middle school and high school boys. This clinic is planned to continue as an annual event which will allow us to introduce young men to barbershop and other opportunities to continue singing as they grow older. At the conclusion of the day, all three choruses, plus all the boys joined together to entertain the audience, filling the Desert Oasis High School gymnasium bleachers. There was a count of 407 people on the risers, making it the largest combined all-male chorus in the State of Nevada.



2016 Spring Convention Bid

Our chapter has submitted a bid to host the 2016 Spring Convention (International Quartet Prelims) as well as the SOCAL East and SOCAL West Divisional Convention to be held at the Alexis Park Resort March 17-20, 2016.

This would be another great opportunity to show off our hosting abilities to about 800-1000 fellow barbershoppers in our district.

With this convention, we will need the help of each of our members, as we did with the International Convention last Summer. **Greg Dreyer** will be the General Chairman and **Dave Pruszka** will be the Assistant General Chairman. They will be calling upon several of you to head up the various committees. If you have a desire to be on a specific committee, please let them know.

The Far Western District has a reputation for providing high quality quartets to the International Convention. The Spring Convention is how they get there. It provides a chance to see and hear some of the finest quartets in the country. In addition to the "Prelims", we will be having Divisional Competition for both the East and West Divisions of Southern California. This is going to be quite an event. Make sure you put the dates on your calendar. We will need everybody to help out.

Musically Speaking

by Larry Halvorson,
Vice President for Music



So, here we are at the end of a great year and starting our journey to the next level. The past few months have proven that we can do more than we ever thought possible. 2016 will be a year of growth for the chorus and each member as a musician.

We are going to learn a great deal of music and work for nearly 12 months toward our big shows in December. Along the way, we will have at least two other shows and two contests to participate in. The first contest will be upon us quickly as we host the FWD Spring Convention here in Las Vegas in March.

Over the summer, we are going to offer a youth program to keep young men in the valley singing and introduce them to our style of music. During the next holiday season, we are going to offer a community choir for the season and include it on the show.

We are looking now for new uniforms for the chorus and plan to have them in place for the October contest. We will let you know more about this as soon as possible. We have some adventurous plans for the chorus and the reward will be spectacular. To make these things happen, please make the choice to learn your music fast and be at as many rehearsals as possible. Our success is in your hands.

2016 Board of Directors

Our Chapter Leaders work diligently to make the Silver Statesmen and “barbershop” well-known within our community. Our outreach programs in the school district, senior centers, and other community organizations go far to exhibit our desire to give back in the best way we know how..... *It's the Music!*

2016 Board of Directors

The following are our chapter board of directors for 2016:

President	Greg Dreyer
Executive Vice Pres	Kenny Rios
Treasurer	Wes White
Secretary	Ivan Lambert
Music VP	Larry Halvorson
Chapter Dev. VP	Philip Spinks
Marketing & PR VP	Steve Salmon
Member at Large	John Lenox
Member at Large	Dallas Halvorson
Member at Large	Jeff Swart
Immediate Past Pres	Albert Weiss

Within these board positions, several committees and teams will be formed. The EVP will be responsible for the Finance Committee, Ladies Aux., and Special Projects, as needed.

The Music VP will head up the Music Team, comprised of the Chorus Manager, Program Manager, Director, Show Chairman, and Music Librarian.

The Marketing & PR VP will direct the Communications Team, consisting of Marketing, Public Relations, Bulletin Editor, Webmaster, Social Media, and Photographer.

With our growing chapter, these positions will serve our needs to reach the goals we have set.

Ringin' in the New Year

Happy New Year, Silver Statesmen! As one year ends and we look forward to the promise of a new year, resolutions to be made and broken, remember that January means it's time for a little camaraderie at the installation of a new Board of Directors. Our annual Installation and Awards Banquet will be held **Friday evening, January 15th, at Three Square Food Bank, 4190 N. Pecos.**

The event will begin with a cash bar at 5:30 P.M., dinner to follow. Members are free of charge; the cost for guests and non-members is \$25 for the dinner. If you haven't signed up, time's a-wasting. Please pay Treasurer-for-Life Wes White at your earliest possible convenience.

Good food, good times, see you there!

Performance vs Sing-out...

Which is it?

Why does it matter?

Seen in a recent edition of The Voice of Rushmore chapter newsletter.

Many of us grew up in the Barbershop world where we always had "Sing-Outs." Now we see choruses having "Performances." Is there a difference?

If you were to be singing in a community choral group, say like Dakota Choral Union (DCU), you would only hear about performances and concerts (where you perform). So, where did the term "Sing-Out" come in? What is it about Barbershop that made the difference?

Back in the early days of Barbershop, it was common to not schedule regular performances, but to "sing out" in the community as a way of sharing the joy of the music with those who were singing the same songs.

Advance to today and Barbershop choruses are scheduling paid performances and shows. When people pay to see a group sing, they pay to see them perform, not just sing. There is a difference. Performing involves a much more polished presentation.

A Sing-Out comes across to singers and audience alike as something that hasn't been worked on and perfected. It comes across as more of a spontaneous group sing than a polished performance. Look at it this way—would you pay any amount of money to go see a group like Home Free, Tonic-Sol-Fa, Norman Luboff Choir, Chanticleer, The Kings Singers, or the Vienna Boys Choir if what they did came across as unpolished and seemingly unrehearsed? That really is the difference—preparation.

Every aspect of their performance is well rehearsed and comes across as polished and ready for the public. Gone are the days of the "Sing-Out." With television, our audiences are much more discerning in what they pay their money for. They expect polished and professional "Performances" for their entertainment. They at least get that by sitting at home and watching TV. They demand at least that much for their time and money.

The Silver Statesmen "Lineup"

DIRECTOR

Jim Halvorson

TENORS (10)

Buehrer, Roger
Conner, Mike
Halvorson, Dallas
Mininger, John
Nelson, James
Preston, Randy
Rios, Kenny
Spinks, Philip
Truman, Carl
Weiss, Albert

LEAD (23)

Andersen, Roger
Field, Dick
Halvorson, James
Halvorson, Larry
Hettinga, Warren
Hurwitz, Mike
Ives, Rick
Lambert, Ivan
Larson, Dave
Lenox, John
Litchfield, Larry
Little, Gary
Melcher, Carl
Onufrieff, Victor
Payton, Joe
Pratt, Keith
Pruszka, Dave
Pucci, Roc
Rovere, Rob
Salmon, Steve
Salz, Don
Sonneman, Phil
Swart, Jeff

BARITONE (16)

Ackers, Stan
Adler, Bud
Avila, Peter
Cotton, Ed
Guder, Vic
Harrold, Kurtis
Hunt, Dean
Krausman, Ernie
Pascucci, Joe
Raybeck, Jerry
Salmon, Collin
Sellnow, Brian
Sexton, Derek
Smulson, Wally
Straub, Walter
Wisniewski, Ryan

BASS (32)

Amblad, Bob
Bossard, Buzz
Bye, Jerry
Cano, Abiel
Cimino, Charlie
Craig, Herb
Dreyer, Greg
Feeney, Peter
Goldberg, Fred
Green, Fred
Hulbert, John
Johnson, Dennis
Jovero, Rudy
Judd, Martin
Kennedy, Dave
Krause, Larry
Lankenau, Gordon
Lusk, Bill
Massa, JD
McNabb, Brandon
Mondi, Nino
Morrison, Dick
Paterson, Larry
Pechart, Larry
Puckett, Antwun
Rockoff, Ben
Scharren, Steve
Schave, Aaron
Silla, Joseph
White, Wes
Wines, Chuck
Wyson, Joe



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: Good Samaritan Lutheran Church, 8425 W. Windmill Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89113.

WHEN: Thursday evenings from 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

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

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!

President's Corner

By Albert Weiss



Albert Weiss
Chapter President

As this year draws to a close, I find it hard to believe that very soon I will hold the one Board office no one elects: that of immediate past president.

We have had a good 2015. We had several things we did together for the first time: a fireworks booth where we had opportunity to interact with the community and get to know each other better. We had two very meaningful events with the other men's singing organizations of this valley. The interaction and camaraderie experienced at these events, especially at the youth festival this fall, touched a lot of lives in a positive way. Those lives we touch may become future members, be part of our next show audience, and may also be enriched in ways we may never know about.

We also had a good year of musical growth. "The Old Songs" does not sound the same at the beginning rehearsal as it did a year ago. I am noticing that we are also doing a better job of self-preparation as we learn and polish new music. Jim and the rest of our talented Music Team have given us very useful tools and pointers that have helped us immensely. We are truly blessed to have Jim and other chapter members who are so willing to help us be better.

I am truly thankful for all of you that made such positive contributions to our chapter growth. We have several ways of measuring this growth. We can see it in the addition of new members. We see it in performing better than we have the time before. We can also see it in our relationships with our fellow chapter members. It is wonderful to see everyone come together to make music and merriment each time we get together.

I will close by thanking your leadership—our Board, Music Team, and other groups and committees that have met in 2015 to make our barbershop experience that much greater. I look forward to celebrating with you our journey in 2015 and our future in 2016 at our Installation & Awards Banquet January 15. I encourage each member to find more ways to be involved and engaged with our chapter this next year. We have made the journey great thus far; I can hardly wait to see where we will be in the future.



2015 Turns Into 2016

by Greg Dreyer
Outgoing Executive Vice President &
Incoming President

2015 was a fruitful year for the **Silver Statesmen** in regard to securing grants from the Barbershop Harmony Society Harmony Foundation and the Nevada Arts Council. Both contributors helped the chorus fund the "Men, Men and Men" concert in April. This large community event was the first time the Las Vegas Men's Chorus, the UNLV Mens Glee Club and the Silver Statesmen performed on the same stage, providing over 300 attendees the opportunity to see what male singing organizations look and sound like. The three different Musical Directors led their choruses in myriad styles that really entertained the Green Valley Presbyterian Church audience.

For 2016, plans are in the works for an encore performance. This time, however, there will be the additional attraction of a youth chorus. This chorus will be an offshoot of the "Real Men Sing" concert held on November 7th where the three adult choruses were outnumbered 3-1 with middle school and high school males singing their hearts out at Desert Oasis High School. We are planning to solicit grants for both events in 2016 to help us keep music alive in Las Vegas.

As far as Fund-Raising, we generated about \$3,500.00 from the Pancake Breakfast and the Fireworks booth. Both are planned events for 2016. The Pancake breakfast won't be on Father's Day, however, in an attempt to get more participation. The Fireworks Booth sales will still be during the week before the Fourth of July Festivities, so it will still be HOT. We will work on scheduling shorter shifts to try to stay cool. In addition to these two events, we will be working with the temple to co-host a BINGO night, complete with us providing the entertainment. We expect full cooperation and enthusiasm from the chorus as we garner funds from sources other than singing. Of course, there will be opportunities for selling tickets for our musical concerts as well.

On January 1st, I officially take on the responsibility of the President for the **Silver Statesmen**. This is an honor!

I served as President for both the **Gamble-Aires** and the **City of Lights** Choruses, thus making me the first person to serve as President for all three of the Las Vegas Barbershop Choruses. I am proud to serve and humbled by the support of my fellow barbershoppers. The Silver Statesmen is a young chorus, but is very strong. We have a rich history!

We have a great board of directors taking on the responsibilities for the administration of the chorus and we have one of the best Musical Directors in the country. Our sound is much improved and our enthusiasm is contagious. We have ambitious plans for our future and a strategy to make us successful. In addition to our concerts and shows, we have opportunities for community outreach that extend throughout the valley. We are hosting the Far Western District Spring Convention and Divisional Competitions in March. 2016 should be a banner year for the **Silver Statesmen** as we continue to reach our potential and then push past it to reach new heights. Let's enjoy the ride!!



Notes from Marketing & PR:

By Martin A Judd



Martin Judd
VP, Marketing & PR

As of this writing, 2015 is just days from being over. I spent the last year overseeing a group of dedicated members who did their best to keep the Silver Statesmen visible to the Las Vegas area and I feel that we were successful. This past year we concentrated on using social media to promote the Chorus. James, along with some of our 'younger' members, did well with this. Some of our 'not so young' members also contributed to our social media barrage such as Wes White, Steve Salmon and Fred Green. 'Flip' did a great job getting our quarterly newsletter together. Fred Green, who wanted to retire this year from Marketing & PR, worked just as hard as ever. To everyone who tried to help me this past year, I thank you. I received 'advice' from a number of you and most of it was pretty good. Again my thanks to all the members as well as our support groups (our ladies are second to no one) for doing all they could to promote our organization.

Steve Salmon has been preparing to take over this position for next year. He has a number of ideas that he'd like to try and I ask that all of you give him the support that he will need. In the past three years the Chorus has been developing a great product and a great mind set. Now we need to find ways to promote this product to our local audience and to our peers around the world.

On a more personal note, this marks the end of eleven years with the BHS. During those eleven years I spent the last ten as a member of the Chapter Board of Directors (in both the City of Lights and the Silver Statesmen). I won't be on the board in 2016. As we have grown under the Silver Statesmen banner, we have also added more members who are willing to serve in board positions. Like last year, I made myself available for certain board positions should the nominating committee not be able to fill them, but in the end all positions were filled and I get to take some time off from the administrative side of running the chapter. I'd like to thank everyone who supported me over the years. I hope I didn't disappoint too many with how I did things while serving on the Board. Maybe sometime down the road I'll find my way back onto the board but until then I'll use my new found 'spare' time to work even harder on my music.

I hope to start spending more of my time with quartet singing. My preference is to help resurrect my current quartet (4-Ever Yours) into a more active and competitive unit. Should that not work out, then I guess I'll be looking for a quartet that has need of a good bass that is willing to do the work.

Lastly, Sue and I hope that everyone had a GREAT and Merry Christmas, and we also wish you a VERY Happy New Year in 2016!

Do You Enjoy This Hobby?

Every once in a while, we ask ourselves why we enjoy our hobby so much. If you think about it, it doesn't sound that appealing. We show up once a week in the late evening, many of us after a hard day's work, when we could be sitting at home eating a leisurely dinner and relaxing or spending time with our family. Some of us move chairs and risers, we stand for an hour at a time, sometimes more, we work hard, concentrate on following and listening to the director, and are expected to put in a few hours a week on our own. If you do well enough, you can get promoted, which means twice as much work. Rarely do people come to our rehearsals just to watch us perform. And instead of getting paid for our work, we have to pay dues for the privilege of membership. If you put that in the "help wanted" section, you might not get a lot of applicants. But of course we love our hobby, and the friendships we build only add to the enjoyment of our chapter meetings. When we ring a chord as a quartet, or sing a song on the risers, there's a sense of accomplishment that keeps us coming back for more.



Brian Sellnow - Baritone

I've been reading a book about motivation, and found a couple of interesting things. What makes people enjoy their job, or whatever else they do? It turns out that just monetary rewards don't do much. You have to pay the rent and buy groceries, but once the bills are taken care of, more money doesn't really motivate people to achieve more. That sense of accomplishment that I mentioned is a big factor – when we hear noticeable improvement by the end of the night, or when the director does his little happy dance because he really liked how we sound, that makes us feel good. But there are two other things that I hadn't considered, that end up being important motivators: autonomy and mastery.

Autonomy means being in control of your own performance. Everyone has gone through a stage where they were being taught how to do something, either in school or on the job. It's not fun when someone has to tell you what to do. Even less pleasant is the micro-manager boss, or the one that has to measure everything you do because his life is ruled by metrics. When we work at our own pace and set our own goals, whatever we do becomes more enjoyable. How does this apply to us as chorus members? To start with, we've all heard the talk about "personal responsibility" at least once. Yes, the music team will set goals for the chorus, but each of us can set individual goals as well – increasing your singing range or breath control, thinking of new ways to generate publicity for our chorus, learning new singing styles from different acapella groups, or any number of things. The important thing is to set goals and work to achieve them.

The second area that contributes to enjoyment of whatever you're doing is mastery. Thinking back on my Air Force days, I realize that the times I really enjoyed myself was when I knew exactly what was going on and had everything under control. Everything went right, and it seemed almost effortless. That came with years of training and experience, effort I honestly have not put into my "hobby". I'll be the first to admit that when someone can look at four notes and say "Bass on root, lead's on the third, bari is singing the fifth and tenor has the seventh" I'll just nod and agree (although I can usually figure it out with enough time). Few of us have the music education that our director has, but all of us can learn more than we already know. So I got some books on barbershop arranging and acapella singing and read through them. I'm still not that knowledgeable, but I know more than I did, and I'll keep at it. Our director is a great source of musical knowledge, and I'm sure we have barely begun to learn all the amazing things he has to teach us. But what if we already knew that a note needed to be sung a little softer, or louder, or higher, or brighter? He wouldn't have to stop and tell us – we could go on to learn even more and make our performance even better. Imagine how great that would be. So: be 100% on the notes and words. Listen to the director when he teaches something (and ask later on if you didn't quite get it). Find a book about music theory and chords, or arranging, or look at classical or jazz arrangements and figure out why the arranger did what he did. Your singing will improve, you'll find it easier to learn the music, and you'll enjoy rehearsing a lot more. By the way, learning anything has a beneficial effect on your brain and mental health in general. Never stop learning.

In summary – you are the one who determines how much fun you have. Master your craft, set goals for yourself, achieve more and get an even greater sense of accomplishment. I've found that with just about everything else, what I get out of barbershop relates to what I put into it. Once I realized that learning the notes and words was only the first step, I found a whole new way to enjoy this amazing hobby of ours.

QUARTET ACTIVITIES

Roger Buehrer - tenor
Bob Amblad - bass
Rick Ives - lead
John Waugh - baritone



Broadcast had a busy month in December and 2016 is shaping up to be even busier. We closed the year by singing for the monthly awards ceremony at Bracken Elementary, followed by a Christmas performance at the PEO, a professional women's organization. We also had the pleasure of singing for our brothers at the last Silver Statesmen's meeting of the year.

Early in December we launched our Website (www.BroadcastBarbershop.com) and our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/BroadcastQuartet.com). Our new business cards carry the theme as portrayed in our Facebook and Website.

In January we will be singing for the Retired Air Force Officer's Wives Club at Nellis Air Force Base and Las Ventanis Independent Living Center.

For the year, the quartet gave more than 25 performances, singing to more than 1,000 people.



As the Silver Statesmen become more visible within the community, we have been asked to perform in more venues than ever before. We were able to provide a pickup quartet to sing the National Anthem at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway before the start of a NASCAR event. The guys did great and we will be asked to return in the near future for an encore performance!!

The quartet was made up of:
James Nelson (tenor),
Steve Salmon (lead),
Philip Spinks (bass), and
Brian Sellnow (baritone).
Thanks, guys! Super showing!!



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. at the Good Samaritan Lutheran Church, 8425 W. Windmill Ln, Las Vegas, NV 89113.

MORE.....QUARTET ACTIVITIES

“Good Times”

The “**Good Times**” quartet (Mike Conner, tenor; Dave Pruszka, lead; Dean Hunt, baritone; and Greg Dreyer, bass) has been busy this holiday season. In addition to performing with the chorus at Ethel M’s, they did “double duty” on December 11th. They sang at Centennial Hills Hospital’s holiday party, and then went to Rainbow Gardens where Health South was having its holiday party.

At Rainbow Gardens, “**Good Times**” had fellow Silver Statesmen **Ivan Lambert** join them. The occasion also marked Ivan’s recent retirement after 18 years with Health South. Saying good-bye to his “work family” with a song in his heart!

Then on December 17th, they sang at Seven Hills Hospital’s holiday party and got to rub elbows with a local celebrity, 2015 Ms. Senior USA Kat Ray. How’s that for holiday cheer?

Congratulations on a busy month!



Good Times! Full of Christmas Cheer



Good Times! Singing at the Ethel M Chocolate Factory - Cactus Garden



Good Times! With Ms Senior Nevada



Remembering Dave Floyd

Long-time **Gamble-aire and Silver Statesman** Dave Floyd passed away on November 21st. He was 75. Dave collapsed while visiting a friend on Monday, November 16th. He was transported to St. Rose de Lima Hospital, a few blocks away, but the doctors were unable to resuscitate him.

Dave was a baritone and a “quartet guy”. Since coming back to barbershop, he was in two quartets, The Four Suits (with JD, Stu Wilcox, and Larry Litchfield) and Older ‘N Dirt (with Roger Buehrer, Rich Coon and Dave Kennedy). With Older ‘N Dirt, Dave sang for notables (at Congresswoman Shelley Berkley’s 60th birthday), competed (winning a gold medal in a pick-up quartet competition with Dave Kennedy at the 2010 Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association Spring Convention), and celebrated holidays (doing Singing Valentines, and Christmas parties).

But there was more to Dave. He became interested in ham radio from the time he was 13 and stumbled on some radio parts and an old National Radio Institute (NRI) correspondence course his father had enrolled in prior to World War II. He got his first ticket in 1955 and was continuously licensed for sixty years.

Dave’s affinity for ham radio was manifested in his business, Boulder City’s **Radio World**, billed as “**The Best Little Radio Shop, by a Damn Site**”. He operated the shop for 28 years, amid stacks of used radio equipment and more than a few boat anchors. Amateur radio enthusiasts from around the world made the pilgrimage to the tiny, cluttered radio emporium to chat with its mild-mannered owner, twiddle the knobs of radios from decades past, and to occasionally purchase a rare electronic artifact or get a radio repaired. All visitors to **Radio World** received a plastic bad full of cookies made by his wife Hoa (pronounced “y”).

Known around the planet as “**Radio World Dave**”, Dave Floyd was an icon of amateur radio in Southern Nevada, but will be remembered as a barbershopper with a truly engaging smile.



Silver Statesmen Calendar

(Board Meeting - 2nd Saturday at Four 7's / Music Team Meeting 1st Tuesday at 7:00pm)

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.

2016

JANUARY

- 7 **First Rehearsal** of the year
- 8-10 FWD Leadership & Harmony College West at Sunset Station
- 15 Installation Banquet (3 Square)
- 16 First Board Meeting of the year. Same location as last year. Subsequent meeting will be on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

FEBRUARY

- 12-14 Singing Valentines

MARCH

- 17-20 FWD Spring Convention at Alexis Park Resort, 375 E. Harmon Ave. We are hosting. Greg Dreyer is the Convention Chairman. Estimated 800-1000 attendees expected. Volunteers are needed for the behind-the-scenes work to make this a successful convention. Agenda includes:
 - International Quartet Prelims for the 2016 Int'l Convention
 - SW and SE Division Contests
 - High School Quartet Contest
 - Seniors Quartet Contest
 - Harmony Platoon
 - House of Delegates & Board of Directors meetings

NOTE: The remainder of the year's events will be announced and updated on the website as plans are finalized.

Membership
begins with Me

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