

The Man In The Mirror

When you get all you want and you struggle for wealth,
and the world makes you king for a day,
then go to the mirror and look at yourself
and see what that man has to say.

For it isn't your mother, your father or wife
whose judgment upon you must pass,
but the man, whose verdict counts most in your life
is the one staring back from the glass.
He's the fellow to please,
never mind all the rest.

For he's with you right to the end,
and you've passed your most difficult test
if the man in the glass is your friend.
You may be like Jack Horner and "chisel" a plum,
And think you're a wonderful guy,
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum
If you can't look him straight in the eye.

You can fool the whole world,
down the highway of years,
and take pats on the back as you pass.
But your final reward will be heartache and tears
if you've cheated the man in the glass.

Silver Statesmen, thank you for all you are doing to prepare yourself for the upcoming shows and convention.

I look forward to sharing the stage with each one of you. Nothing is slowing down so be true to your commitments.

We need your full involvement to keep this Chapter moving forward and progressing.

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

~ Steve Salmon



Steve Salmon
Chapter President



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.

**Our next show is Saturday, October 5th.
Get your tickets NOW.....**



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 quartets Broadcast, Rumbleseat Daze, A Capocalypse, Good Times, and featuring Tonality, from the Sweet Adelines, Celebrity City Chorus.



October 5, 2013 - 2:00 p.m.

Desert Spring United

Methodist Church

120 N. Pavilion Center Dr

Las Vegas, NV 89144

Tickets \$12 (in advance)

\$15 (at the door)

Kids age 10 & under are FREE

**Tickets available in the Church Office
or by contacting Fred Green
(poolvacman@gmail.com or
702-525-9484)**



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

The Chapter Secretary

By Ivan Lambert

Additional responsibilities of your chapter secretary.... Do you know which board member is responsible for notifying the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) of new members?

The Secretary of course!

I have the responsibility of reviewing and signing every application. I have also been charged with sharing new member information with our Treasurer, VP of Marketing, and the Sunshine person.

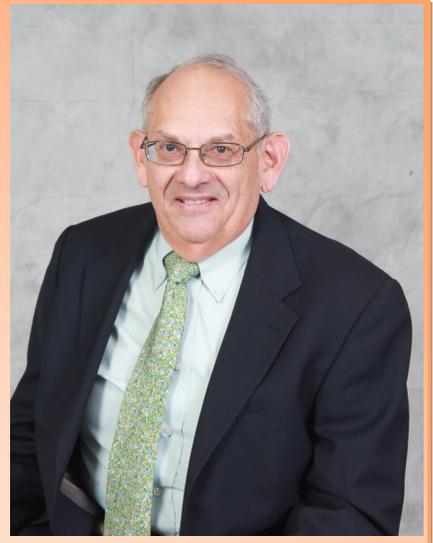
The Secretary is also responsible for updating the Silver Statesmen membership list posted on the BHS website.

The BHS membership renewals are mailed to the Secretary. These renewals are shared with the VP of Membership.

What other jobs does the Secretary perform? As you can imagine, ordering sheet music and learning CD's is vital to our continued learning process. Remember, "It's the Music."

The BHS has a library of many thousands of songs. Music is ordered by arranger, composer and title. Some songs have the same title, but the arranger is different. I make sure the Music Committee has given me all the information needed before the music is ordered. One of our Christmas songs, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, arranged by Greg Volk, was not available in the Society's library. I ordered the music from RC Music. Brian Beck and his wife own this company.

What else does the Secretary do? Stay tuned for more information.



Ivan Lambert
Secretary

What are we all about?



amaraderie



armony



ppportunity



esponsibility



nity



atisfaction

The Silver Statesmen "Lineup" - as of 30 Sep 2013

TENORS

Buehrer, Roger
Conner, Mike
Cristobal, Patrick
Halvorson, Dallas
Halvorson, Jim (Director)
Marty, Thomas
Mininger, John
Pierce, Xavier
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
Lambert, Ivan
Larson, Dave
Lenox, John
Litchfield, Larry
Murphy, Dick
Payton, Joe
Pechart, Larry
Peck, John
Poon, Hon
Pratt, Keith
Pruszkka, Dave
Pucci, Roc
Puckett, Antwun
Roberson, Dale
Salmon, Steve
Salz, Don
Sonneman, Phil
Talada, Butch
Thomas, Jerry

BASS

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

BARITONE

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

Newest Chapter Members and Men of Note Credit

Xavier Pierce - Tenor (Dallas Halvorson)
John Peck - Lead (Roger Anderson)
Ron Chick - Bass (returning)
Don Salz-Lead (transfer)



The Silver Statesmen
Performing their debut show, Celebrate Harmony, at the
Starbright Theater, 10 Aug 2013

Living & Loving Barbershop....Daily

It's not that I have nothing to say in this edition of the newsletter..... It's just that I hate to repeat myself and I find myself saying the same things over and over...

Find a way to work "barbershop" into every conversation that you have.

Don't be afraid to share your love for this hobby and your passion for our style of music with everyone you know.

Make sure you always have a few "invitation cards" with you to hand out. It takes a lot of pressure off when you can give information they can take with them to those guys you invite to a rehearsal.

When it comes time for another show and you are asked to sell tickets, don't roll your eyes and assume someone else will do it. Our chapter needs the help of each one of you and selling even one ticket is better than none. You might even find that it's easier than you thought!

Have you considered the open positions of Daily Bulletin Editor or of taking care of Daily Bulletin & Scoresheet Distribution? If so, talk to me or Steve Salmon. Much of the work involved is pre-planned and not difficult. All we need is YOU..... Give it some thought and let me know.

As you know, I am also the webmaster for the chapter. I would like to create a "Silver Statesmen Supporters Page" and place links to the business websites of those who enjoy what we do. If you own your own business and have a website, please send me your website address, a logo if you have one, and contact information.

Keep singing, Guys!!

~ Fred Green



Fred Green
VP, Marketing & PR

THE OLD SONGS - submitted by Brian Sellnow

Every time we start a chapter meeting, we have a great opportunity that few of us may recognize, and mostly we let it just get away. When you come to the meeting each week, are you happy about singing? Are you ready to sing, and sing well? Do you love the sound of chords locking and ringing and being a part of a chorus that makes that wonderful sound? Well then, how about taking advantage of the very first song we sing each night: The Old Songs! We open each chapter meeting with a great song, full of traditional chords and lyrics that express exactly how we feel about our hobby. Unfortunately, many of us may have fallen into the habit of "Yep, gotta sing that song again, here it goes", and then we stand there and let the words come out while we wonder what the warmup exercises will be or try to remember what songs we're doing later.

Old habits can be hard to break – even if you are thinking about this next time we begin, you'll probably find yourself humming after the pitch pipe blows, slumping comfortably, mind wandering and a deadpan expression on your face. New habits can take time to develop, but the rewards will be noticeable. Instead of just "singing that old song again", how about "performing" just as if we were on stage, trying to impress a panel of judges? That means being ready to sing – vocal warm up on your way to practice, and before the meeting starts. Be mentally ready to sing – focus on the music, not on any distractions. Smile – after all, singing barbershop is what we love to do. Use a good singing posture, standing up straight, weight slightly forward. Eyes on the director. When the pitch pipe blows, listen to the pitch, and then silently "sing it" just in your head. Breathe properly, don't "tank up" or gasp for air. Concentrate on good vowels and matching the section sound, just like we do when we sing our other songs. Try thinking to yourself, "This time I am going to sing 'The Old Songs' better than I've ever sung it before".

Again, habits are hard to change. We might do a great job this week, then forget about it next week. We'll probably need to be reminded at the start of our meetings for a while. But the benefits – making all those things second nature, rather than having to think about them (or worse, making the director waste singing time by reminding us constantly) – will make us better singers, and allow us to enjoy our hobby even more. And "The Old Songs" might actually sound pretty darned good.

QUARTET ACTIVITIES

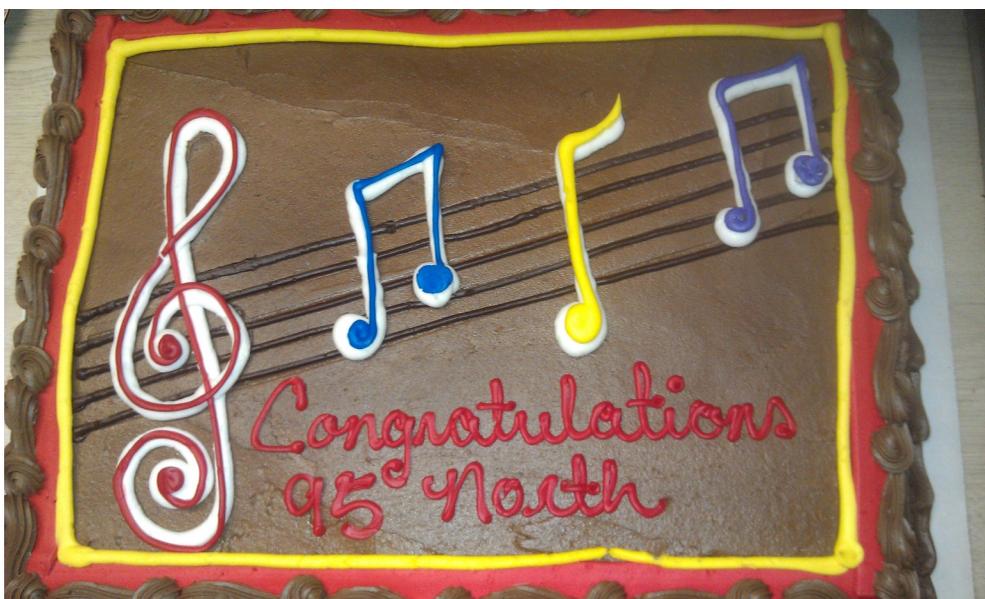


Our very own, **95 North** quartet, after being crowned the Far Western District Quartet Champion for 2012, went to the International competition in Toronto, Canada, in July and came back as one of the Top Twenty quartets in the *world!!*

Saying we are proud of these guys just isn't enough. Most of us can only imagine the time, effort and dedication it takes to get to this level of singing excellence. Their sacrifices are not just on them, but families take a back seat many times to support all that is needed to get to where they are.

We should all tip out hats to Jim, Larry, Mike, & Nick and thank them for sharing their talents with us. Upon the quartet's return from Toronto, the chapter had one of *my* favorites, chocolate cake, to help celebrate their accomplishment in competition.

(They even offered to pop popcorn with those jackets! What a great group of guys!!)



A Brief Guide To Musical Terminology (humor) - submitted by Brian Sellnow

Welcome to the barbershop community! Many of you may already be familiar with the terminology used in our hobby, but in a different environment. Some of you may be new to performing music or singing in a group. Whatever your background, you may find the following list of terms to be helpful.

Barbershop Quartet – a small vocal ensemble consisting of a Bass, a Lead who sings the melody, and two other harmony parts.

Barbershop Chorus – a large ensemble of singers, usually grouped by voice part, with the basses in the middle and everyone else off to the sides.

Bass – The foundation upon which all barbershop music rests. The Bass sets the rhythm of the song, keeps the quartet in tune, and sings all the manly low notes that lesser singers cannot achieve.

Lead – Guy who has enough musical talent to read notes and stay on pitch but not enough testosterone to sing bass. Will often try to hog the spotlight, sing the loudest and insist that the bass follow his rhythm. Yeah right.

Tenor – Guy on the other side of the lead who sings chirpy little notes way up high. Can be ignored.

Baritone – These guys are strange. They can sing almost as low as basses, but they hit all kinds of weird notes all over the scale. When you challenge them on it, they come up with all kinds of excuses about thirds and sevenths and inverted diminished something-or-other.

Director – Guy up front who waves his arms at us while we're trying to sing. Often asks the basses to sing solo during rehearsal, and spends a lot of time talking to the bass section (probably complaining about the other three parts). When he says something, just nod like you understand and he's happy.

Gang Singing – just like normal singing, except without the director waving at you.

Sheet Music – Paper with lines and squiggles and dots all over it. The lower the dots, the lower you sing. Also has the words to the song, which the guy next to you will hopefully memorize. NOTE: All barbershop music is arranged by leads and baritones, so sheet music is part of their plot to constrain the glorious sound of the bass singer. Are you going to let them control you?

"Off The Spots" – A term meaning you don't have to pretend to follow the sheet music any more.

Ballad – A slow and emotional song which showcases the musical talents of the bass, who must often sing louder than the other three parts combined in order to balance the sound.

Uptune – A faster song, in which the bass supplies the rhythm and often has a solo. Or should.

Chord – What happens when the other three parts manage to sing in harmony with the bass.

Root – The note that is blown on the pitch pipe at the start of the song. Should always be the bass note, unless the arranger is trying to sabotage the basses by monkeying with the chord structure.

Bell Chord – A bass solo, with the other three parts then joining one at a time, hopefully on the right note.

Treble clef – The upper half of the music, with the lead and tenor parts.

Bass clef – The lower half of the music. Notice that it is not called "baritone clef".

Overtone – Imaginary notes that directors and leads claim to hear when the chorus or quartet is in tune with the bass. Just smile and nod and pretend you hear them too.

Sharp – Singing too high. Rarely a problem.

Flat – Singing too low, as if that were possible. Directors and leads, jealous of the manly sound of the bass, will often accuse them of being "flat".

Accidental – When the note is flat or sharp on purpose. If you can understand why this is called "accidental" you should probably be a baritone.

Tag – The last few measures of the song, usually a repeat of the last line. Often characterized by the tenor or lead screaming out some ridiculously high note, followed by the bass and other two parts singing actual music.

The debut performance of the Silver Statesmen on August 10 was reviewed by one of the local journalists, Nathan Tannenbaum. Below are excerpts of his article printed in the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

Harmonious merger of barbershop groups leads to entertaining show

More MUSIC ON HORIZON

The Silver Statesmen Barbershop Chorus has more on its "to-do" list than spreading the word about "barbershopping." The Statesmen will play host to more than 10,000 of their brethren as the 75th annual gathering of the international umbrella organization will take place in Las Vegas next summer. The original name, The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Singing in America, has been thankfully changed to the Barbershop Harmony Society.

In addition, the group encourages anyone of the male gender who can carry a tune to show up to weekly rehearsals at Christ The King Catholic Community, 4925 S. Torrey Pines Drive. Details are on their website: www.silverstatesmen.com.

Close to 10 percent of the Statesmen's 80-plus members are high school age or younger. The new director of the combined group may have something to do with that. Jim Halvorson's day job is choral director at Cheyenne High School.

Chapter President Steve Salmon wrote in the group's newsletter, "Our community is overstressed, overworked, and ... we have the opportunity to reach out to our community, connect with them, and be leaders and examples of the importance of music and singing."

A cappella singing has been enjoying a renaissance of sorts, thanks to groups such as Boyz II Men and Take 6 adding the phenomenon known as beatboxing in which performers simulate percussion and bass. But there's still plenty of "old school" out there, and a new local group is out to make sure you know it.

"New" may be somewhat misleading, though, as the Silver Statesmen Barbershop Chorus was actually created earlier this year by the merger of two long-standing groups: The GambleAires (formed in 1961) and The City of Lights Chorus (started in 1998).

Whatever you call them, you have to include "enthusiastic" somewhere in the description because these guys love what they do. And they intend to keep barbershop music alive well into the 21st century.

This past Saturday's performance at the Starbright Theatre in Sun City Summerlin included some 50 of the Statesmen showing off their love of the genre to an appreciative audience that filled most of the venue's 300 seats.

The show started with an impressive curtain opening revealing all of the guys stacked in three rows singing what will be their signature song at next year's convention, "Celebrate Harmony," a full-bodied display of what barbershopping is all about: four-part harmony.

Narrator Philip Spinks took us back to the genre's beginnings as the first of several quartets (Rumbleseat Daze) stepped up to the old-fashioned barber chair on the right side of the stage. One member plopped into the chair wearing a haircut apron and half a face full of shaving cream as the group crooned an early barbershop fave, "Heart Of My Heart."

That was followed by a fun display of interactive quartets. Starting with "Wait Till The Sun Shines Nellie," four gentlemen stayed at the front and center microphone, but each was replaced one at a time as a fellow singer came forward to tap another on the shoulder (like a more genial tag-team wrestling move?) as one song seamlessly led to another ("Shine On Me" and "Honey/Little Eyes"). Albert Weiss (the group's vice-president of music) received some well-deserved laughs as he playfully pretended not to want to leave the stage, scooting to a different position instead of heading back to the ensemble upon being tapped.

Other quartets got their stage time, too. Broadcast brought smiles and nods of familiarity with "Momma Sang Bass." Good Times did "On A Wonderful Day Like Today" and "Lazy River."

The director of the local female barbershop group, Cathie Sturm, from the Sweet Adelines "Celebrity City Chorus," appeared for a sparkling solo backed by all the guys on "Lida Rose/Dream Of Now."

An audience participation number was made challenging (but fun) when Steve Salmon (the group's president) told the crowd to drop all the pronouns from "Let Me Call You Sweetheart."

With each song running only about two minutes it appeared the entire show might be over in half an hour until the featured guest group stepped up near the end to dazzle with eye-poppingly bright mylar sport coats that even they joked about ("We feel like we're wearing Jiffy Pop").

The group 95 North is the reigning champ of barbershopping's Far Western District and showed their prowess with strong performances of, among others, "Memories Are Made Of This" and "The Summer Wind."

The whole gang wrapped up after 95 North's 20-minute set with reverence: "There Is Love Wherever There Is Song" and a joyful "Celebrate Harmony" reprise.

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!





2014 BHS International Convention and Contests

July 1-6

Notes from the Chairman

In just nine short months we will be hosting the 2014 BHS International Convention right here in Las Vegas! The committees that provide support early on in the process are already working hard at it. Committees whose support won't be needed until we are a little closer to the event are chomping at the bit to get going. Are you on a committee? Have you been asked to be on a committee? Have you asked a committee chairman if you can be on his/her committee? If you answered no to these questions, you need to do something about it. You still have time to request a spot on a committee that you really want to work on. As we get closer, if we are still lacking chapter volunteers, we will appoint you where we need you rather than where you might want to be. So, start asking around, see what committee positions are available (read that as who needs help) and get involved with the committees that you are most interested in. Yes, there was an 's' on the end of the word committee. If you have the time and are willing, you can work on more than one committee.

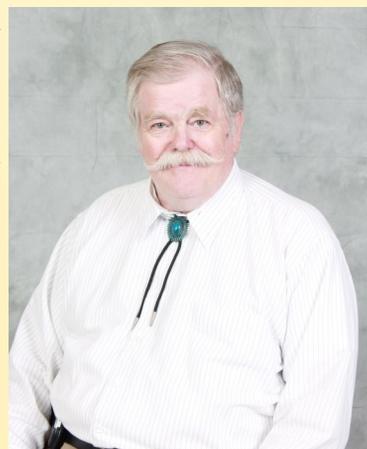
Now that we have chapter members selecting their committees, we need to start thinking about volunteers from outside of the chapter. We will have a place on our website where volunteers can go and volunteer by providing us with their necessary information. This information will go into a database where our Volunteer Committee can go to find people to place where we need them. We hope to get numerous volunteers from within the BHS community. But, volunteers don't have to be a member of the society to help us. Wives, girlfriends (I don't recommend both), your children, neighbors, friends at work, friends from out of town, school organizations, scout organizations, church organizations, community organizations etc. Just about anyone is welcome to help us. We figure that we are going to need around 400 volunteers to cover our needs. That's a lot of people so start talking to folks that you know and plant that seed in the back their mind. Our volunteer site should be up sometime in October or early November. Once it is, get these people to sign up. Let them know how much we need their help and how much we would appreciate their becoming involved with our convention.

Chapter members have asked if they have to register for the convention since they are working it. The answer is no, you don't HAVE to register, BUT the 'correct' answer is YES you should. With a few exceptions, most of you will not be working the entire convention. As a result, you might want to take in a contest or two or maybe a couple of the shows. It would be nice to have a seat to sit in during these events. And, you guessed it, the seats are provided for you when you register. If we come anywhere near our projected attendance numbers, we could sell out. That means if you have no registration, you have no seat. Don't take the chance. Also, and more importantly, we get a cut of every registration. So if you don't register, you are taking money that the chapter needs to operate with out of our treasury.

Many of you may not want to commute daily to the convention. We all know traffic can be a hassle around here and you'll never get your same parking space twice during the week. Our convention can also provide you with the chance to take your significant other (yes, that means your wife if you have one) to a very nice hotel in Las Vegas for a week. I'm sure that she'd appreciate it. If you haven't been to the MGM lately, they have a GREAT swimming pool area next to the convention hall. If you find yourself thinking about getting a room at the MGM, don't wait. Reserve it now and avoid the rush. Just log onto the BHS website and go to the Las Vegas Convention web page. There you will find the link to the MGM to make your reservations. The basic King or Queen room is 129 + tax and they also have a limited number of Spa Suites and One Bedroom Suites at somewhat higher rates. If you are interested in a Suite, definitely register early as they are limited in availability.

Yes, the 2014 BHS International Convention is going to be a LOT of work but we CAN do it. Get involved, make it fun and when you are not working, take in as much of the convention as you are able. Just remember, the next time the convention comes to the greater southwest United States; all of us will have the opportunity to go as attendees and get taken care of by someone else. So let's put on the greatest convention that we can and show everyone just how we hope to be treated when we attend their events in the future.

~ Martin A Judd, Convention Chairman



District Contest Order of Singing

On October 11 & 12, the Far Western District will hold its annual Chorus/Quartet Competition in Bakersfield, CA. The winning chorus and quartet will represent the district at next year's International Convention in Las Vegas.

The list below shows the order in which each competing chorus and quartet will sing:

CHORUS Contest

1. La Jolla
2. Santa Rosa
3. South Bay
4. Palo Alto
5. Riverside
6. Tucson
7. Davis-Vacaville
8. South Orange County
9. Pasadena
10. Sacramento
11. Santa Barbara
12. Central California
13. Rincon Beach
14. Reno
15. Fullerton
16. Santa Monica
17. Marin
18. Fresno
19. Las Vegas
20. San Diego
21. California Delta
22. Santa Fe Springs
23. Bay Area
24. Brea
25. Greater Phoenix

QUARTET Contest

1. Voices of Excellence
2. Heatwave
3. Speakeasy
4. 4 Octaves
5. CONSTELLATION
6. Vocal Edition
7. Joint Venture
8. Preferred Blend
9. Silver Knights
10. Don't Tell Mom
11. The Newfangled Four
12. These Guys
13. First Strike
14. The Front Line
15. The Outliers
16. Velvet Frogs
17. Behind the Barn
18. Unanimous
19. Classic Edition
20. Four Fifteen
21. American Pastime
22. Sound Encounter
23. Frequency
24. Pipes
25. Silver & Gold

Our Baritone Section Leader, **Dean Hunt**, was recently featured in the LV Water District's Employee Newsletter. Here are some excerpts of the details:

Title: Facilities Maintenance Mechanic

Like Most About Job: Something new everyday

Perfect Meal: New York steak, baked potato and green beans or corn

Favorite Job: Heavy equipment operator at Desert Inn Golf Course

Hobbies: Barbershop quartet and remote control airplanes

Something Others May Not Know: I've made 30 skydiving jumps

Originally From: Bunkerville, Nevada

Time in Las Vegas: 48 years

Congrats, Dean. You deserve all the recognition you receive. (Skydiving??? Really???)



Dean is on the far right with Good Times! quartet

HOLIDAY SHOWS ARE JUST AHEAD

We are pleased to announce that we will be joining with our sisters in harmony for three shows in December. The combined choruses of the Silver Statesmen and the Celebrity City Chorus will put over 120 voices together on stage, singing songs of the season.

Get your tickets early and come celebrate the holidays "Barbershop Style."

The Las Vegas
Silver
Statesmen
Barbershop Chorus



And the



Proudly present

A Holiday Extravaganza

With 120 voices singing in harmony

Tuesday, December 10th,

7:00 pm

Clark County Library Performing Arts
Center

1771 Inner Circle Dr

Las Vegas, NV 89134

Thursday, December 12th,

7:00 pm

Clark County Library Performing Arts
Center

1401 E. Flamingo Rd

Las Vegas, NV 89119

Saturday, December 14th,

2:00 pm

Winchester Cultural Center

3130 McLeod Dr

Las Vegas, NV 89121



Tickets:

\$12.00 In Advance

\$15.00 At the Door

Children under 6 are FREE

Cash/Checks/Credit Cards Accepted

For Tickets call:

702-480-9183 or 702-612-7631

One More Chance to See the Silver Statesmen This Year

Our last performance of 2013 will find us caroling through the Cactus Garden at Ethel M Chocolate Factory, 1 Sunset Way, Henderson, NV, on Thursday, December 19th. The chorus will begin singing around 7:00pm and will wander through the walkways, stopping at various points to sing a few songs to the crowds who come every year to see the Christmas lights and displays in the garden.

Our two Geezer Getaway Guys, Larry Litchfield and Dave Kennedy, are becoming more well-known. They have recently gone live with their own website (www.geezergetaways.org) and have dedicated a whole page to barbershopping and what it has done for them. The following article published in the Westunes magazine was authored by Larry with help from Dave. Go get'em, guys!



(This article is reprinted here with permission.)

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 Getaway 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.

(The merger united the former Las Vegas Gamble-Aires and City of Lights barbershop choruses, to create the Silver Statesmen, now the largest barbershop chorus in Nevada.)

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

He 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.

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 2008

It happened in late 2008 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.

(continued on the next page)

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.

Great 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 chum 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 media contacts we consistently mention barbershopping as the birthplace of our friendship...and we are pleased to promote this fantastic hobby through our Getaway Geezer antics.

GGG 2 Took Us Into 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.

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 will 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 about our electronic visual community presentations, email us at geezergetaway@cox.net; or visit our website at www.geezergetaways.org. to use our contact form.

We look forward to hearing from you.

**The Geezer Getaway
Guys - Dave Kennedy and
Larry Litchfield**



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.

2013

OCTOBER

- 5 Annual Show DSUMC 2:00pm
- 10-13 FWD Fall Convention (Bakersfield)
- 24 Kick off November Giving Campaign
- 31 No Rehearsal (Halloween)

NOVEMBER

- 2 Installation & Awards Banquet
- 28 No Rehearsal (Thanksgiving Holidays)

DECEMBER

- 10 Christmas Show Summerlin Library 7:pm
- 12 Christmas Show Flamingo Library 7:pm
- 14 Christmas Show Winchester Com. Ctr 2:pm
- 19th Caroling at Ethel M Chocolate Cactus Garden
- 26 No Rehearsal (Christmas Holidays)

Several 2014 Calendar events are proposed and will be confirmed at a later time.

2014

JANUARY

- 2 No Rehearsal (New Years Holidays)
- 28-02 BHS Midwinter Long Beach

FEBRUARY

- 14-15 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 7:pm

JUNE

- Annual Show Flamingo Library 2:pm
- 7 Father's Day Pancake Breakfast
- 28 Pre International Concert with New Zealand

JULY

- 1-6 BHS International – LAS VEGAS
- 3 No Rehearsal
- 10 No Rehearsal
- 17 No Rehearsal
- 24 No Rehearsal
- 31 No Rehearsal

AUGUST

- 23 Ice Cream Social

SEPTEMBER

- 25 Chapter Officer Elections
- 27 Combined Activity with Sweet Adeline's

OCTOBER

- 10-12 District Convention (??)
- 16 No Rehearsal
- 23 Kick off November Giving Campaign

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

- 13 Annual Christmas Show (Ham Hall / Horn Theater)
- 18 No Rehearsal
- 25 No Rehearsal

Pics from our chorus debut shows on Aug 10 & 12, 2013



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