



Silver Statesmen Do Very Well in District Competition

The Silver Statesmen Chorus competed in the Far Western District chorus competition on October 21, 2017 in Bakersfield, California under the direction of Jim Halvorson. The chorus sang two songs in competition: “I Told Them All About You/You Dear” and “From the First Hello to the Last Goodbye”. The Chorus scored 71% for their performance and placed eighth overall in a field of 18 competitors.

The competition took place during the Far Western District Convention in Bakersfield. The overall winner of the chorus competition was the Westminster Chorus who will represent the District at the International Convention in Orlando, Florida next July. The winning chorus scored 92.9%.

In the quartet contest the Las Vegas Chapter was represented by Friday Matinee (James Nelson, Steve Salmon, Harold Kurtis and Philip Spinks) who placed 14th with a score of 71.3%. The quartet champion was Suit Up! with a score of 80.2% followed closely by Capitol Ring with a score of 76.8% in third place. Larry Halvorson and his son Dallas perform in Capitol Ring. Larry and Dallas formerly sang with the Silver Statesmen before moving to the Sacramento area.

From Boys To Men. Uniting In Harmony — Barbershop Style.

By George Stamos, Baritone

(“Real Men Sing” took place on Saturday November 4, 2017 at Desert Oasis High School in Las Vegas.-Ed.)

I entered the campus auditorium at Desert Oasis High School for this year’s Real Men Sing event not knowing quite what to expect, this being the first time I have attended. As I walked in a little after 8 a.m. that Saturday morning the assembled multitude of hyperactive teenage boys were already into rehearsing the uptempo “Jambo!” number. I dusted off my very limited knowledge of Swahili (I spent a month in Kenya many years ago and about all I can remember is “Jambo”), and jumped right in.

I was surrounded by a sea of jiggling, wiggling, jumpy, jittery, excited, and very loud boys who earnestly tried to follow the direction of the incredibly patient choir directors on stage (including our own unflappable Jim Halvorson) as we ran through the four numbers we would be performing later that afternoon. I will henceforth and forever feel the highest esteem for teachers, who all must possess the patience of Job, or at least know where to find a really good bottle of Scotch (purely for medicinal purposes, of course).

If NASA is looking for a virtually unlimited power source for their upcoming Mars mission, I think I've found it. Who needs solid fuel rocket boosters when you can harness all this youthful testosterone, I ask you? I'm surprised that the seismic instruments at UNLV's Geology Dept. didn't record the cacophonous, high-decibel mass eruptions of volcanic vocalizations these precious young lads exuded. Oh well, I was due for a new set of hearing aids anyway.

This unbridled "Wall of Sound" reached its crescendo when a group of brave young singers went on stage to audition for the solo part in "Hey There, Delilah." As each group of kids went up on stage, the auditorium shook with frenzied yells and whoops of encouragement. We all agreed that it took guts for those who volunteered to go up and sing in front of their peers. Bravo!

Lunchtime afforded an opportunity to interact with these enthusiastic and talented young men. I had the pleasure of lunching with a group of Desert Oasis students. They peppered me with lots of questions about barbershop, and I hope I instilled in them a desire to learn more about singing in the barbershop style. I also shared with them my love of singing and encouraged them to pursue their own lifelong musical ambitions.

It was really a special experience gathering around and teaching some tags with these kids during the lunch break. It was great to see the expressions of excitement and sheer joy on the faces of those who participated when they rang those chords just right. Suddenly the "generation gap" between youngsters and "adults" disappeared. We were all just barbershoppers singing tags and ringing chords. In that moment, singing barbershop became hip, with kids taking out their smartphones, recording tags, and posting to social media. How cool is that?

The highlight of the day was our afternoon joint performance with the massed chorus. But first came logistics. Or, how do you get nearly 300 adrenaline-pumped boys on the risers, then up to their bleacher seats in an orderly fashion, then back down from the bleachers to the risers without serious injury? "No backpacks!" "Stow those water bottles!" "Okay, basses, go that way. Tenors, go that way!" "Stop talking!" "Yes, you can go to the bathroom!" "Did I tell you to move yet?" "Baritones, follow the basses." "No, not that way, go this way." Like I said, the patience of Job. Umm, where's that bottle of Scotch, again?

Then it came our turn to find our way up to the bleachers. Now, let me just state for the record that I am not the most graceful, surefooted beast on the planet. I've always had a problem

getting out of my own way, as evidenced by my losing a shoe as I stumbled up the bleachers, awkwardly climbing over other singers to get to my seat. Fortunately, a couple of friendly members of the Las Vegas Men's Chorus caught me before I had a chance to injure myself. Thanks, fellas!

Finally, it was time for the show to go on. First up were the Las Vegas Men's Chorus. This group of about 15 singers did a great job, demonstrating their excellent vocal technique with a joyful enthusiasm to match. Then it was time for the Silver Statesmen to mount the risers. We sang "Hi, Neighbor" and our two contest songs with verve and gusto. But the highlight came as we sang our final number, "God Bless America." Set against a backdrop of these troubled times, I could tell that this song really meant something to the audience as they rose to their feet in applause even before the number ended.

I admit I started to get a bit emotional as I saw the audience's heartfelt reaction to this wonderful song about our great country. It made me proud not only to be an American, but to be a Silver Statesman as well. The performance proved once again what all of us already know: That music can be a powerful way to bring us all together in harmony, regardless of our beliefs or political views.

Afterwards, I was approached by a member of the Las Vegas Men's Chorus. He enthusiastically grasped my hand and congratulated me on our performance. "I wish we could have the same precise diction as you guys." Looks like all that hard work on our contest uptune really did pay off after all.

Real Men Sing was truly an unforgettable event and I enjoyed every minute of it. I also enjoyed being exposed to different directorial styles, especially that of guest director Dr. Joe Svendsen from UNLV. It was quite a learning experience.

Ultimately, I hope that we gave these young singers a real taste of what it's like to sing barbershop. But, more importantly, I hope they learned from us that singing can be a part of a lifelong musical journey which never gets old.



The Nugget

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The **Silver**
Statesmen

SilverStatesmen.com

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The 2018 Silver Statesmen Board of Directors

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Greg Dreyer will serve on the board
as Immediate Past President.



Veterans' Day Performance at Temple Sinai

by Ivan Lambert

The chorus, performed the National Anthem, America the Beautiful and God Bless America for the enthusiastic congregation. Nearly 200 people attended the November 17, Friday night service

When did the observance of Veterans' Day start?

The United States Congress adopted a resolution on June 4, 1926, requesting that President Calvin Coolidge issue annual proclamations calling for the observance of November 11 with appropriate ceremonies. A Congressional Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U.S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday: "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as Armistice Day"

In 1945, World War II veteran Raymond Weeks from Birmingham, Alabama, had the idea to expand Armistice Day to celebrate all veterans, not just those who died in World War I. Weeks led a delegation to Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, who supported the idea of National Veterans Day. Weeks led the first national celebration in 1947 in Alabama and annually until his death in 1985. President Reagan honored Weeks at the White House with the Presidential Citizenship Medal in 1982 as the driving force for the national holiday. Elizabeth Dole, who prepared the briefing for President Reagan, determined Weeks as the "Father of Veterans Day."

U.S. Representative Ed Rees from Emporia, Kansas, presented a bill establishing the holiday through Congress. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, also from Kansas, signed the bill into law on May 26, 1954. It had been eight and a half years since Weeks held his first Armistice Day celebration for all veterans.

Congress amended the bill on June 1, 1954, replacing "Armistice" with "Veterans," and it has been known as Veterans Day since.

We received numerous complements from many congregants, clergy and the Board of Directors.

Refreshment were served following the service

We have been invited back to perform at the 2018 Veterans Day Observance



Philip Spinks, Steve Salmon, Ben Rockoff and Brian Sellnow performed at the Las Vegas Bull Ring (Las Vegas Motor Speedway) in early October 2017.

From President Greg Dreyer,

Let me start by stating some of our 2017 accomplishments.

1. Our “youthful” membership has grown consistently and we have lowered our average age of members in the chorus.
2. We have continued to establish our “brand”, that of the Silver Statesmen, throughout the Far Western District and at home here in Nevada and more particularly, here in Las Vegas.
3. We have an established website and an ongoing presence throughout Social Media.
4. We have stability in our financial structure produced through continuing our Singing Valentines Program and the Pancake Breakfast and by hosting the Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention.
5. We have been instrumental in engaging community outreach with another male chorus in Las Vegas which also led to the participation in the “Real Men Sing” Event which put over 300 men and boys, ages 12 to 86, on the risers. We also were involved with the 51’s Baseball Program by singing the National Anthem. We also had engagements with the Boulder City Art Coalition, Temple Sinai, Galleria Malls and Ethel M’s.
6. We successfully experienced a joint coaching effort with the Color Country Chorus from St. George Utah and were able to produce a joint show for their community.
7. and we even procured a new Class “A” dress shirts for our new look

Greg Dreyer



We now renew our goals for our future:

1. Establishing and maintaining 100 members in the Silver Statesmen Chorus.
2. Enhancing our musicianship and raising our default level of competence, in other words, reaching and stretching our potential.
3. Continuing with financial stability.
4. Continuing to have fun.
5. Becoming a participant on stage at an international convention.

I am proud to have served and to be humbled by the support of my fellow barbershoppers.

We have a great board of directors for 2018 who will be taking on the responsibility for the administration of the chorus. We also 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.

2018 should be a great year for the Silver Statesmen as we continue to reach our potential and then push past it to reach new heights.

Let’s continue to enjoy the ride!!!

Broadcast Sings Up a Storm

With the advent of [Thanksgiving](#) and [Christmas](#), Broadcast has been busy entertaining a number of organizations. For Veterans Day the foursome sang for a Veterans Day assembly at Veteran Tribute High School. Justice Court Judge Melissa Saragosa was the keynote speaker with several outstanding presentations by the students. The school is the only school of its kind in the state of Nevada focusing on preparing students for careers in public service.

On Veterans Day we entertained the residents of Atria Sutton to a variety of barbershop songs including the National Anthem, God Bless America and God Bless the USA. More than 20 veteran were in attendance including a 94-year-old woman who served in the U.S Marine Corp in World War II.

Currently the quartet is preparing for the [Christmas](#) holidays and have agreed to do Singing Valentines for the Silver Statesmen. To date the quartet has done more than 30 presentations throughout the Las Vegas Valley this year.

Hitting the Target

By Brian Sellnow

If you've ever thrown darts, or practiced archery, or done target shooting with a firearm, you're aware of the techniques used in hitting the center of the target. Concentration and focus, breath control, timing – all that plays a role. When you first start trying to hit the target, you usually have stuff scattered all over the place. You may have one or two shots that hit the center of the target. Then, of course, you try to recreate whatever you did so you can hit that bullseye again. Feet in the same place, standing the same way, whatever made that attempt work. The problem is, you don't know what you did that actually worked. You might as well rub a rabbit's foot or something, because what worked was luck. And unfortunately, we can't recreate good luck.



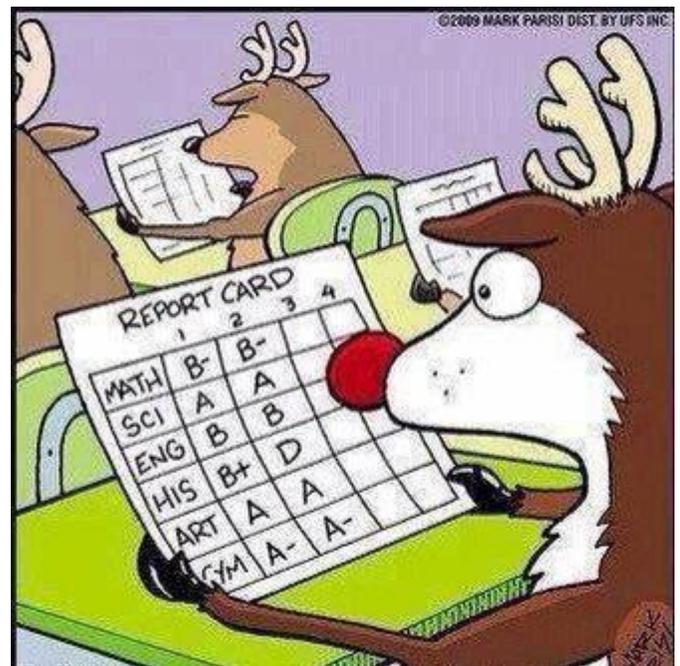
When we're teaching someone to hit a target, what we want to see is a "grouping", a group of shots that all hit in the same place. Instructors would much rather see a grouping that is off-target than a scattering with some of the shots in the center. If you consistently hit left and low, then all we have to fix is one thing, and then you'll be in the center consistently. If your shots are all over the target, then there's no telling what to fix. The only things left to fix are the very basics.

We face a similar phenomenon in ensemble singing. If we don't sing with a uniform style, then we might sometimes get lucky and produce something that sounds really good. More often, we get muddled lyrics, synchronization errors and chords that almost come together. Each of us as individuals may sing well, but we get the reaction of "I could see what you

were trying to accomplish" meaning that we didn't really accomplish it. The director is reduced to schooling us on basic singing techniques, instead of fine-tuning the performance.

When we sing with a uniform vocal model, it becomes easier to accomplish our goals. Now the director can say "basses, do this" and suddenly we hear sounds we didn't hear before. He can take that "grouping" and move it slightly in a different direction, and as if by magic we begin hitting the bullseye every time. The challenge is to make that vocal model our default mode. Many of us have been singing for decades, and changing the way we sing can be a struggle. Making that vocal model our new habit will take practice, focus, dedication and time. But hitting that bullseye, getting it right the first time and every time, and then making it even better from there, will be worth the effort. The feeling of being part of the resonance and harmony when the chords lock and ring and the overtones are echoing around the room is exhilarating. If you think "well, it's good enough for barbershop", you're cheating yourself out of a great experience.

How do we achieve that vocal model and make it our default? Focus, concentration and practice. Before we get on the risers, take some time to think about what we're going to do. Remember what we've been taught, concentrate on singing within that vocal model, and remind yourself to keep working towards it. Like a dart player who gets distracted by a pretty girl at the bar, it's all too easy to relax and slip back into the singing habits we've had for so long. Be a marksman – focus on that bullseye.



"Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer...you'll go down in history!"

Rest in Peace

The Las Vegas Chapter lost a good friend and long-time barbershopper this past quarter. John Mininger passed away leaving behind his loving family and his many barbershop friends. John sang in many talented quartets including the Jax of Harmony in Iowa (1972 Central States Champs), Sound Expression and Stardust for many year in Las Vegas and recent FWD Senior Quartet Champions (2010), the Silver Knights.



Jim Halvorson, Larry Halvorson, Buzz Bossard and John Mininger singing in "Stardust".

GOLLAGE
WITH THE
JAX OF HARMONY

The logo features the word "GOLLAGE" in large, bold, black letters at the top. Below it, in smaller text, is "WITH THE". Underneath that is a stylized graphic of three faces in profile, each wearing a crown, with a red musical note to the left. Below the graphic is the word "JAX" in large, red, stylized letters, followed by "OF HARMONY" in red capital letters.

Jerry Pike, Mike Rehberg, Roger Spahr, and John Mininger
The 1972 Central States District Quartet Champions

Chapter Quartets

95 North



95 North consists of **Jim Halvorson-T**, **Larry Halvorson-L**, **Mike Stewart-B** (from Reno, NV), and **Nick Pizzo-Bt** (from Sherman Oaks, CA). They are the Far Western District Quartet Champion for 2012. They competed in the BHS International Competition, placing in the top 20 for both 2013 and 2014. Way to go guys! We're proud of ya!!

Good Times!



Good Times! can make any audience laugh with their comedy songs and funny routines. They are Mike Conner-T, Dave Pruszka-L, Greg Dreyer-B, and Wally Smulson-Bt. See them in action at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVt9fVutrXY>

Broadcast



Broadcast has been entertaining audiences throughout the Southwestern United States for more than 10 years with the mixture of good-ole fashioned barbershop and a splash of humor thrown in besides. This foursome will provide the perfect entertainment for any occasion. With nearly 140 years combined barbershop experience, the foursome is comprised of John Waugh-Bt, Rick Ives-L, Dave Kennedy-B, and Roger Buehrer-T

Time Wise



With many years of quartet singing under their collective belts, Time Wise is a quartet that entertains and amazes their audiences with tight harmonies and toe-tapping familiar songs. This recently formed quartet includes Warren Hettinga-Bt, Jeff Swart-L, Gordon Lankeau-T, and Chuck

Sun City Sound



Sun City Sound delivers great barbershop quartet singing anywhere in the southern end of the Las Vegas Valley. The group is made up of **Mike Connors-T, Mike Hurwitz-L, Fred Goldberg-B, and Stan Ackers-Bt.**

Above the Lawn



Our "Super Senior Quartet" (average age is 75) has recently formed and are already in the lineup for competition with other quartets in our district. You can't go wrong with this four-some of talented and experienced singers. The quartet is made up of Buddy Seeberg-T, Jeff Swart-L, Dave Kennedy-B, and Chuck Wines-Bt



Friday Matinee



This quartet has formed to add yet another group of talented voices to entertain our audiences in any venue for any occasion. You will enjoy the melodious blend of barbershop chords from James Nelson-T, Steve Salmon-L, Philip Spinks-B, and Kurtis Harrold-Bt

P.T. & the Cruisers



These guys are a great new addition to our chapter. With "fresh blood" and entertaining arrangements, they are ready to bring the best of a cappella barbershop to any show, venue, or event. They are: Kenny Rios-T, Kurtis Harrold-L, Greg Dreyer-B, and Brian Sellnow-Bt.

Split Decision



This is our youngest quartet of singers. They just returned from a trip (March 2017) to California where they placed 2nd in the Youth Quartet competition. Congrats guys, and we look forward to lots of great barbershop from you! The quartet is comprised of: CJ Miller-T, Antwun Puckett-B, Adam Matthews-L, Drake Pyatt-Bt.

Community Performances

The Silver Statesmen Chorus met for two community performances in December. The first was Galleria Mall in Henderson and the second at Ethel M's

The **Si**iver
Statesmen
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