

Division Champs! The Las Vegas Silver Statesmen

The Las Vegas Silver Statesmen, under the direction of Jim Halvorson, earned the Far Western District Southeast Division Championship (Plateau AA) in Irvine, California on March 17, 2018. In addition, the chorus was named the Most Improved Chorus. The Plateau AAA Champ is Pacific Coast Harmony from La Jolla, Ca. and the Plateau A Champ is Temecula Wine Valley Harmonizers from Temecula, Ca.

The Silver Statesmen scored an overall 69.8% from the panel of nine judges. Their first song, I Don't Know Why (I Just Do) scored 69.6% and their second, I Told Them All About You/Dear You scored 70%. The contest took place during the Far Western District Convention and International Quartet Preliminaries.

The Silver Statesmen Install New Board of Directors



The Silver Statesmen 2018 Board of Directors at the Installation Dinner on January 6, 2018 at Los Prados Country Club (l.-r.) Greg Dreyer, Marin Judd, Antwun Puckett, Drake Pyatt, Tim Moulson, Kenny Rios, Ivan Lambert, Gordon Lankenau, Wally Smulson, Fred Green, Wes White. Guest Installing Officer Linda Kelly can be seen behind Martin Judd.

Barbershopper of the Year (2017)
Jim Halvorson



Director's Award
Gordon Lankenau



President's Award
Albert Weiss



Rookie of the Year
George Stamos





Cross City Harmonizers (l. -r.) Drake Pyatt-Baritone, Antwun Puckett-Bass, Cameron Gregory-Lead, CJ Miller-Tenor

Cross City Harmonizers Crowned High School Quartet Champions

At the Far Western District's Contest in Irvine, CA on March 17, 2018 the quartet competed against high school quartets from the District winning rave reviews from the audience and performing on the Show of Champions Saturday night.

An April 1, 2018 article from the Troubadour editor Earl Meseth, Will-Cook Illinois Chapter of SPEBSQSA.

Conversation Reveals Future Direction of BHS

Last year's publication of Everyone In Harmony: A Bold Vision For A Bright Future in the July/August (2017) issue of the Harmonizer stimulated some head-scratching, reactions of "huh?", and "What's that mean?" from some barbershoppers, at least in my immediate circles. This "Strategic Vision" sets forth a plan, after "intense" research, to share the legacy with which we have been entrusted.

"... (T)his gift of the alchemy and joy of singing together, is too wonderful for us to keep to ourselves." "We need to share it with young and old, with people of every color and every strata, with city people and country people and everyone in between, because the world needs what we have. We live in times of strife and anger and conflict and exclusion. Barbershop is the antidote to all of that, and can do even more. Imagine its power as a balm for wounded warriors, as an intervention for at-risk youth, as an end-of-life transition, as a strategy for reducing recidivism."

Whew! That's pretty bold: "... (B)arbershop is the antidote to..." everything? Well, it's things like that that gets our curiosity going so the Troubadour decided to take the bull by the horns, so to speak, and talk to the folks who put this

"Vision" together. Figuring that the VIPs at Harmony Hall would be the logical place to start, we called* and asked for some clarity on what the "Vision" implies and it's possibilities. Below are the results of those conversations:

Troubadour: Thanks for taking the time to answer some of our questions about the "Vision". I know you're busy.

BHS: My pleasure. Here at Harmony Hall we're always open to queries from the membership. You're our bosses you know. You pay our salaries.

Troubadour: OK. The Board/Society make some fairly bold statements in the "Vision", how long do you think it'll take before all those dreams are realized?

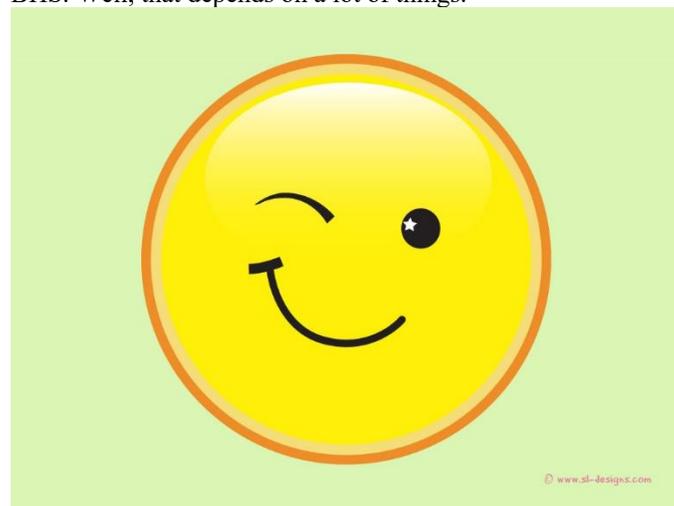
BHS: Well, some have already been accomplished like programs for youth outreach and publishing more contemporary music; others may take a much longer time.

Troubadour: How much longer?

BHS: Well, that's hard to say.

Troubadour: Why?

BHS: Well, that depends on a lot of things.



Troubadour: Such as...?

BHS: Well, for example, as said in the statement, "(W)e will expand our sights to become an organization that supports all forms of barbershop singing. We will support at least three entities, including our current men's barbershop organization, a women's barbershop organization, and a mixed barbershop organization."

Troubadour: Sounds like some of my dues will go to support Sweet Adelines.

BHS: Not exactly, but we would be open to support some form of women's group affiliated with our Society. The most logical would be an affiliation with Harmony, Inc., which shares our judging structure now. I can envision joint contests or conventions. Wooing (sorry) Sweet Adelines in that fashion may not be in the cards for a long time.

Troubadour: A mixed barbershop organization?

BHS: Yes, male and female voices singing together.

Troubadour: Isn't that just called a choir, like in church?

BHS: Well, sure. But they'd sing barbershop.

Troubadour: Let me ask about the action points described in the "Vision"... All seem to begin with "We'll" or "We will..." and then go on to state something like: "We will promote..." or "We will provide..." or "We will unearth..."; these are pretty

ambitious statements. Aren't they simply "pie-in-the-sky" ramblings?

BHS: Pie-in-the-sky? Maybe. But we'd rather be like Chicago architect Daniel Burnham who said, "Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood.... Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will never die, but long after we're gone will be a living thing, asserting itself with ever-growing insistency." So, we want to "stir your blood" but it may take a long time.

Troubadour: A little further in the document you state: "First and foremost, we must unequivocally turn away from any cultural vestiges of exclusion. We must become radically inclusive and diverse, across cultural, ethnic, racial, gender, sexual orientation, social, economic and generational lines." What is "radically inclusive?" Does that mean the Society will support instrumentalized quartets/choruses, beat box artists, rap, hip hop, zither and banjo quartets, trombone/trumpet quartets, etc.?

BHS: Well, that's going a bit farther than what we meant. "Radical," here, means a special effort to bring barbershop to more diverse groups.

Troubadour: How are you going to do that when your target groups seem to have long ago moved on and abandoned barbershop music for more modern stuff?

BHS: Well, we've righted some of the wrongs of the past, like recognizing barbershop as having been invented by African-Americans (see Lynn Abbott and Jim Henry's work) and honoring the Fairfield Four and the Grand Central Redcaps to their rightful place in our history.

Troubadour: Seems like that's the easy part though. What about inner city chapters and quartets?

BHS: Gotta work on that.

Troubadour: I think you'd agree that the chapter is the lifeblood of the Society. What does the Vision say about strengthening them?

BHS: Oh, there are plans there, too, like creating different possibilities for differing chapters; elimination of the cookie cutter mentality. We envision "...freestanding barbershop and tag clubs; local communities operating under a franchise or licensee model; regionally-clustered communities; multi-ensemble chapters/communities; intentionally-seeded/sponsored new communities of artists in high density areas; and more."

Troubadour: But, how are you going to help the traditional chapter?

BHS: We're working on that, too.

Troubadour: I hate to belabor the point but it seems like International has been willing to minimize their focus on the local chapter.

BHS: Oh, how's that?

Troubadour: All you need to do is look at the articles in the Harmonizer.... It'd be real nice to read about what's happening chapter-wise across the US.

BHS: Well, maybe we need to work on that, too.

Articles appearing in the Troubadour have been written by the Bulletin Editor. Opinions are not necessarily those of The Will-Cook Chapter or the Barbershop Harmony Society. This is especially true for this current issue which is fraught with satire

and all kinds of made-up stuff. Permits for copyrighted material have been sought when possible. Troubadour: Looks like you've got a lot to work on for the next few years.

BHS: (Laughter) You've sure got that right.

Troubadour: Any advice for us guys who kind of like the vision of O.C. Cash and Rupert Hall, aren't champion level singers and just enjoy the fellows we meet and sing with every week? Any "vision" for us?

BHS: Seems like the International Board has spoken and you ought to just smile and get on board. It's a brand new barbershop day!

Troubadour: Well, OK. Thanks for taking our call.

BHS: You're welcome. Call anytime. (Call ended)

(Thinking) Well, as long as they KIB (Keep It Barbershop), I suppose.

***Lest anyone assume that this conversation was with Executive Director Marty Monson or anyone at Harmony Hall, let me dissuade you from that assumption. Remember what the publication date is on the masthead (April 1, 2018)**

The Nugget

Volume 6, Number 1

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The Silver Statesmen

SilverStatesmen.com

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Calendar

April 28: Performance at Nellis AFB

May 12: Annual Show at Doc Rando (UNLV)

June 24: Pancake Breakfast, Temple Sinai

July 3: Sing the National Anthem at the 51's Baseball game.

October 12-14: FWD Fall Convention - Fresno, CA

December 16: Christmas Show(s) Clark County Library (Sunday)

March 30, 2019 Spring Show - Winchester Community Center

May 11, 2019 South East Division Convention/Competition

Sept 7, 2019 Fall show - Starbright Theater at Sun City Summerlin

October 2019 FWD Fall Convention - Sacramento, CA



A Busy Valentine's Day

Once again the Silver Statesmen had a very busy Valentine's Day. The day was highlighted by appearances on television and visits to homes and offices to deliver songs and flowers.



Broadcast



Good Times

The first quarter has been eventful for the Good Times! Quartet.

In February, the quartet appeared on Channel 5 to promote Singing Valentines. Kenny Rios filled in on Tenor while Mike Connor had to work. The rest of the day was filled with 5 performances including a gig at the "My Mother's House" Restaurant in Summerlin. In March, the quartet sang at the "Friends and Family Night" for the Lucky Ladies Showtime Chorus with substitute Baritone Chuck Wines. Also in March, Good Times! competed for the very first time at the Divisional Competition and were crowned Champions of the Novice Quartet Competition and the Divisional Senior Quartet Competition. Also the quartet was invited to sing at the Wedding Reception for the son of Chapter member Peter Feeny. This gig required the use of a substitute Baritone. Jim Halvorson filled in nicely. Thanks Kenny, Chuck and Jim!!

Plans are underway to sing with the Chapter at the Nellis AFB Show April 28, the Chapter Show at UNLV on May 12 and the Christmas Show at the Clark County Library on December 16.
—Greg Dreyer

Valentine's Day Experience

You could have knocked me over with a feather!

I had just started a new job, so you can imagine that I was a bit stressed out about wanting to make a good impression during my first few days at work.

On Valentine's Day, around 2 p.m., I was sitting at my desk when I heard a voice saying "Is there a George Stamos here?"

"Oh great," I thought. "I've only been here three days and already something is amiss."

I got up from my desk and much to my utter shock and amazement, there was "Good Times" serenading me!

My disbelief quickly turned into delight as everyone in the office joined in on the fun. In fact, the fellas invited me to sing an encore of "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." It turns out my remarkable wife had pre-arranged this very special Valentine's Day memory with my company's HR Dept. Everyone in my office was utterly delighted.

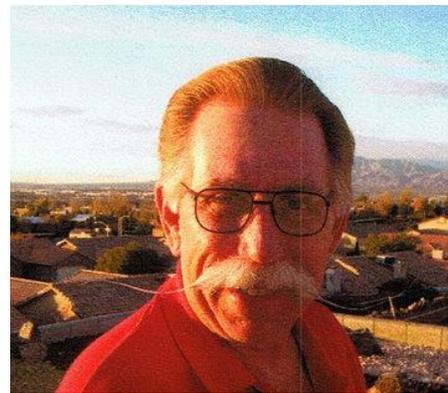
I was also presented with a red rose and a special Valentine's Day card. I have to say it was an amazing experience being on the "receiving end" of one of our wonderful Singing Valentines. It's a special moment that I will never forget.

And it's just another reason why "It's Great to be a Silver Statesman!"

George Stamos
Baritone

Celebrity City Chorus (SAI)

New Celebrity City director, [Ed Cotton](#) is a retired medical doctor who, at one time, was a flight surgeon at Nellis AFB; his Air Force service allowed him to travel extensively. He has a varied background in BBS music, and graduated Cum Laude from UNLV with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music in 2012.



Ed Cotton

Baritone, The Silver Statesmen Barbershop Chorus and new director of the Celebrity City Chorus. Congratulations and Good Luck!

Installation Dinner – January 6, 2018

Los Prados Country Club



