



The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsman
September 2022 - Issue #38

President's Message:
By Al Wolter



THE VIEW FROM THE HELM

PERSONAL GROWTH – ISSUE 9

One of the responsibilities of anyone in charge is to encourage and ensure the personal and professional growth of those under them. This is true for any group but is highlighted and imperative in military organizations. As I hope most of you know, I am a veteran of the Navy and the US Submarine Forces, so a lot of how and why I think about things was fashioned by my time on board my ship.

In the service, there is a never-ending change of personnel (hopefully), so the senior folks leave to be replaced by rookies. When a person reports to a new command, they know little about their jobs and must learn. By the time their assignment has end, they are the ones that are the teachers. In the Submarine Service, this is extremely important as each crew member needs to know how to do everything in more than just a cursory manner – you never can tell when the actual crew assigned to do a job is unable. Even in the ground forces, many a Private has found themselves in charge when all the other senior members of their unit had fallen.

Thankfully, here in the Stockton Chapter and its Portsman Chorus, we don't worry about our leaders being taken out by opposing forces and we can enjoy each other's participation for long periods of time. Still, the need for each of us to learn how to do the jobs of the Chapter and Chorus is more than necessary.

I will say that over my more than 38 years of being associated with Barbershop Harmony, I have learned and experienced a lot. Most of the time, as I look back, I was saying "who, me?" Still, as I write this, most of you think I know everything. You do learn a lot over the years and while serving in all the positions on the Board, but most of what I learned I learned by trying.

By now you may be asking "what's this all about?" Well, as we get back to doing things, we need all of you to step up and share your thoughts and opinions on things. There have been a

few comments made recently that someone doesn't "feel qualified" to share their opinion on something. While I may understand that position, it isn't all that helpful to the overall growth of the chapter and the chorus. If someone has been singing with us for a while, they have developed an opinion about some things, like the songs they like and don't like. There is also the amount of work one is willing to expend on our hobby. It is no secret that I have no desire to sing with the big competition chorus' nearby, as I don't want to work that hard. I like the amount of effort my quartet and our chorus require of me, and while I do believe that I could fit in with them (the 'big guys'), the rewards compared to the work doesn't work for me. Can you tell me that you do not have similar opinions about yourself?

The longer your longevity with the Chapter, the more experience and thus opinion you must share. When asked, all you need to share is what you think. When you are asked to serve, especially when you are asked what skills you think you have beforehand, don't worry about what you can't do – think about what you can do and what you can learn.

There are several places where you can find information about what positions in the Chapter and the chorus do, I do believe I have written about most that we need in past articles. I would hope that you, as an important member of our Barbershop family, would look at them and want to do some of those things.

This month is very important, as the Nominating Committee is in the process of forming the slate of officers whom you will be asked to elect to run the Chapter in 2023. Now, I have asked that most of the Board remain for another year, as we have just gotten back to normal, and folks have learned what to do in their roles. The Annual Chapter Meeting, where the election will occur has been set for September 27, with the slate of officers from the Nominating Committee presented to you all on September 13. It will be your right to nominate an opposing candidate (with their concurrence) the following week. Now this DOES NOT satisfy the notification requirements, but it isn't going to hurt.

There are other outstanding needs, like someone to coordinate Singing Valentines and to Chair the Show Committee. It does take a lot of little things to make the Chapter work. Somebody must take the calls, write down information, make sure things are ready to go, figure out what things will cost to ensure we can make enough money to pay for the things we need to keep us going.

As I close this month, I do hope that you consider yourself a valuable and knowledgeable member, whose thoughts, opinions, and service is important to the running of the Chapter.

Musical Director's Message: By Bill Litz

Our *ability to improve* is directly linked to our *capability to change*. Consider that we are always looking at the world through a keyhole. Things that are straight out in front of us we can see directly, and we feel like we have an understanding of them. Other things, on the edge of our vision that we may only see a part of can leave us with questions or fear.

Our singing abilities are similarly defined by the successes and failures based on our vision through the keyhole of our encounters with different teachers and musical circumstances. The Portsmen chorus is made up of adults (most of us anyway) that have years of experience that can manifest itself in confidence or in fear. Confidence can lock us into a way of doing things that “works for us”. Fears can keep us from trying something different because we might get embarrassed. Sometimes the things we cling to as truth may not be as undisputable as we thought. We need to evaluate our performance to make sure we are making the sounds we think we are making and communicating the story we think we are telling.

I was thrilled to see the ability of each and every one of you to try new things when **Paul Kimball** coached us a few weeks ago. I also gained fresh insight from **Keith Harris** in a quartet coaching session. They used their experience to open doors and show us different perspectives.

- Breathing is very important but doesn't need to be noisy – try doing your starting breath through your nose to generate a smile and open your nasal passages
- Shaping of vowels can be a good starting point but can be over emphasized – too much movement of the jaw can muddy your sound
- Sometimes you need a darker or brighter vowel to make a more pleasing sound that communicates the word you are trying to sing – each person or part may need a slight alteration in their target vowel to find good resonance
- Each of our voices is unique – using your best voice is where you need to start -that means supported, relaxed tone
- Facial expression needs to be a part of every note we sing not an afterthought to add at performance time
- Rhythm is generated by the timing of the notes, not by emphasizing consonants – always sing smooth – the duration of the notes will create the rhythm
- Focusing your performance on another person helps to make it genuine – share that expression with each other – translate that to the audience when on stage

I'd love to hear what each of you got out of the session – what things stood out to you – what new understanding came your way – what things that you thought were the only way to do something were questioned.

Some of the things that we heard were not new, but it took someone with a different perspective or a different way of saying it to make it take root. We need to look for different viewpoints that can inspire use to be better singers and performers. It's great to have a new face, a coach with energy, lead us. But we also can get inspiration from each other and from tools available to us via "THE GOOGLE" or other on-line sources. We need to actively look for new doors to open.

When someone hands you a key, stop looking through the keyhole and just open the door to a new world of opportunities.

QUARTET UPDATES

Tune Struck

After a very quiet month of July, as evidenced by the non-post in the last Captain's Log, Tune Struck started to get back on track. The highlight of the month was our second trip to the City of Davis and coaching by Keith Harris. Keith has been the vocal coach for VoCal for sometime now, flying out from New York, where he sings with the Metropolitan Opera and directs the Westchester Chordsmen Chorus. The experiences with him are so good, Bill Litz is hoping to have him work with the Portsmen the next time he is out here. It is truly a pleasure to visit Richard Kaiser's home.



i with Keith Harris



ii Richard Kaiser

We are looking forward to some scheduled performances in November and Holiday performances.

Frontrunner

Don't recognize this name, maybe Unnamed Masterpiece will sound more familiar? Al W., Sue A., Alex B., and Bill L. who have been working off and on together, sang at the Been Feed have attended a few races at the New Stockton 99 Speedway. Sue knows one of the drivers, Jeana Ramos, which led to us attending. We asked if we could sing the Anthem before a race, had a short audition, and got the gig. Might even get another. Joan, Al & Dave from Mixed Meta4 came to support us and watch the races too! We have such a good time, we even offered to sponsor Jeana's car a little with a Portsmen Logo.







4 Portsmen

The Chapter received a request from a friend of past-member Roberta Keith to sing for her mother's 100th Birthday. Now it may be hard to keep up, because there are three Roberta's in this story: Roberta Keith, Roberta (Bobbie) Wood and her mom, Roberta. As no organized quartet was available, Al Wolter, Sue Atkins, Alex Bernal and Nancy Hennefer accepted the gig. We agreed to meet Bobbie at First United Methodist in Lodi around 10 am Sunday (after Church) and sang Happy Birthday and a couple of 40's songs, making Roberta very happy. She and Alex had a nice little chat afterwards too.



Portsmen Annual Picnic







Notable Vintage

“Notable Vintage made an appearance at the Portsmen Picnic as they work up songs for the Fall Quartet Contest at the FWD Convention in Fresno.”

Harmony Camp 2022



MIDTOWN

INTERNATIONAL 5th PLACE FINALISTS

Along with four topnotch clinicians:

Gabe Caretto, Ron Black, Chris Lewis, and Bruce Sellnow

October 21-23, 2022

Sly Park Educational Center

5600 Sly Park Road, Pollock Pines

\$100 for the entire weekend

This is an Educational, Tag singing, Fun filled, weekend capped off with a Friends and Family Show Sunday morning at 11 am

Richard Lund 530-621-1904 rlund@innercite.com

<https://www.farwesterndistrict.org/events/youth-harmony-camp>

Barbershop Quartet

EXTRAVAGANZA

Sunday Oct 2, 2022

AT 2-4 P.M.



TRACK7 TAPROOM

826 Professor Ln #100, Sacramento, CA 95834

Tickets: www.voicesofcalifornia.org

Stay Tuned Chorus

**PERFORMANCE AND DESSERT
DASH FUNDRAISER**

OCTOBER 22, 2:30PM

tickets \$15 (presale only)



CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM
4746 EL CAMINO AVE, CARMICHAEL

Weekly Chapter Meetings:

Location: Zion Lutheran Church – 808 W Porter Avenue (Stockton, CA)

Tuesdays: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM (Fireside Room)

VLQ (Quartetting) 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM (except nights of board meetings)

(Please verify for location of rehearsal as it may change)

See calendar for up-to-date information:

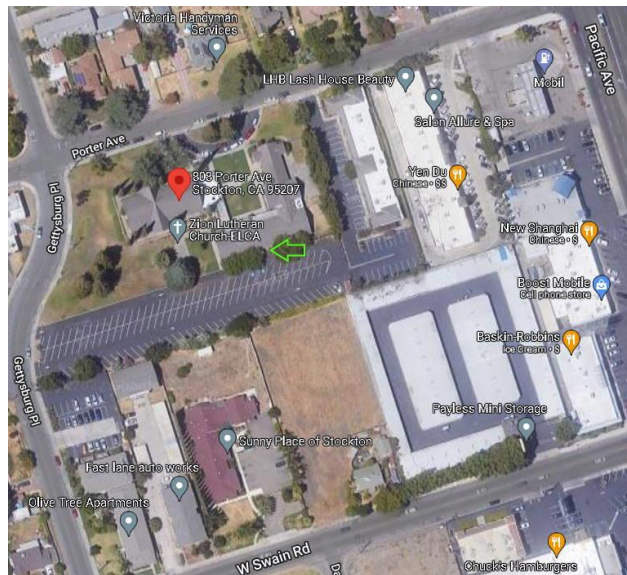
[Click here to access the Stockton Portsmen Calendar](#)

Website:

<http://www.stocktonportsmen.org/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/194542747456>



Directions:

- From Pacific Avenue go west on Porter Way turn south on Gettysburg Pl then turn east into the Zion Lutheran Church parking lot.
- From Pershing Avenue go east on W. Swain Rd turn north on Gettysburg Pl then turn east into Zion Lutheran Church parking lot.

Mission Statement:

Provide the greater Stockton area with quality Barbershop chorus and quartet music and wholesome family entertainment, while encouraging every individual of good character who loves to sing the opportunity to find their place with us.

Hire Us:

Book us for your next event:

- Community Concerts
- Fairs
- Festivals
- Grand Openings
- Holiday Tree Lightings
- Memorial Services
- National Anthem
- Singing Valentines
- Summer Concerts

Performance times usually range from 20 to 40 minutes but can be adjusted up or down to fit your specific program. Contact us by email or phone below for a proposal:

- Info@StocktonPortsmen.org
- Phone (209) 881-SING (7464)

****SAVE THE DATE****

- 9/15 Sacramento Harmony for Lunch Bunch (11am – 1pm)
- 10/8 Grace Church of Lockeford 160th Celebration (4pm – 8pm)
- 10/14 - 10/16 FWD Fall Convention (Fresno, CA)
- 10/20 Sacramento Harmony for Lunch Bunch (11am – 1pm)
- 10/21 - 10/23 Harmony Camp (Sly Park)
- 11/17 Sacramento Harmony for Lunch Bunch (11am – 1pm)
- 12/4 Festival of Trees Micke Grove Lodi, CA (10am – 12pm)
- 12/5 Festival of Trees Micke Grove Lodi, CA (10am – 12pm)
- 12/15 Sacramento Harmony for Lunch Bunch (11am – 1pm)

Barbershop Links

- Barbershop Harmony Society <http://www.barbershop.org/>
- Far Western District <https://www.farwesterndistrict.org/>
- Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association <https://www.mixedbarbershop.org/>
- VoCal Voices of California <http://voicesofcalifornia.org/>