



The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsman

November 2022 - Issue #40



President's Message:

By Al Wolter

THE VIEW FROM THE HELM

AFTER ACTION REPORT – ISSUE 11

After any exercise or engagement, there needs to be a review of what occurred and any lessons learned; like what went well, what didn't, what could be done better. What other take-aways were there?

Well as I write this, it is the Tuesday after the Fall Convention and our fairly spectacular weekend in Fresno. As I look back on it, I am so very pleased with what we did and how we did it. I am not sure what we could have done better. I can't say that I really have a burning desire to move into the AAA Scoring Category, competing against the likes of Fog City, VoCal, Westminster and the Masters. My father and I disagreed on the need / purpose for Chapters & Chorus' like The Masters and Fog City. I know that there are many folks that

strive for perfection. Our focus (as described in our Mission Statement) is to ‘provide good family entertainment to the greater Stockton area. That doesn’t mean I am fully satisfied with how we did, there is always room for improvement, but still, we did well and receiving “Most Improved” and “AA Champion” was a very pleasant surprise.

We had 17 on stage, 23 active members with an additional 4 past members or otherwise Portsmen family in attendance. We had two quartets cross the stage with Portsmen as their members: Notable Vintage with Raphael Pazo (Tenor) and Gregg Willis (Bass) and Aces High with the Thurmans, Nancy and Alex. Both did admirable jobs and did us proud. Scores can be found at <https://farwesterndistrict.org/media-various/scoresheets>

Now, where does this fall in your emotions? Are you so satisfied that there is no need to do more? Or does it excite you and make you more encouraged to sing better? Only YOU can make the efforts (or not) to sing better and still have fun.

Speaking of having fun, did you? Part of the Convention experience is to find ways to have Barbershop fun. Singing with folks you just met, singing for groups, like in Hospitality Rooms. Running into old friends and making new ones is always a treat. This year I personally reconnected with another son of a Whittier Choralaire, Peter Burt. Peter is the son of Mort Burt, the author of the Society’s ‘Show Manual’ and the producer of Whittier’s shows that were the standard of Barbershop Shows for a long time. A number of us children of Whittier were on stage in the performance of Showboat, where the Chapter had made a side-wheel river boat out of scaffolding that us kids pushed on stage, with my brother and I making the paddle-wheel turn. Peter was part of that.

For those that left early or didn’t come up to my room, you missed a heck of a time, as we were entertained by District Champs, the newly crowned Novice Champs, the Most Entertaining Quartet (as crowned by the Lloyd Steinkamp Award), our own quartets and lots of others. There is really nothing like sitting four feet in front of some of the best quartets around.

What else did you take away from the weekend? Was there a group, a song, someone that you want more of, like “I want to sing that song” or “I hope we have that quartet on our show.” Did you observe things that made you go, “I should be doing that” or “I sure hope I don’t do that?”

Lastly, the purpose of the Convention is to do district business. Like the Chapter, there are Officers to elect, budgets to pass and a myriad of procedural things that need to be discussed and if necessary approved. This business is done at the District Board meeting on Thursday and then at the House of Delegates (HOD) meeting Friday morning. As Chapter President, I am tasked with either attending or designating a Delegate to represent the Chapter. As we are just getting back from the pandemic, the attendance was fairly sparse,

but a quorum was present. I encourage you all to review the HOD Brochure at <https://farwesterndistrict.org/media-various/hod-brochures-minutes>. The slate of officers was approved as was the proposed budget.

Information provided included the fact that Chapter Shows can now be uploaded to the BHS U-Tube channel by emailing upload-marketing@barbershop.org. That there are currently 760 chapters, 608 men's choruses, 135 mixed and 17 women's. 790 quartets, 658 men's, 103 mixed and 29 women. There are 125 requests for charters, which are split about equally. As of October 7, there were 13,406 members. The International Convention was up in paid attendance and was very successful.

Jim Clark, as he stated in his presentations during the contests, shared with the HOD the fact that the FWD has received \$8300 so far this year with the expectation of receiving about \$27,000 and that Chapters have received on average \$9,000 so far with about \$24,000. #4 Chapters applied for and received Direct grants from Harmony Foundation Inc. (HFI). Over 4000 school students were exposed to Barbershop Harmony through Association of International Champions (AIC) outreach events. There is also a Youth program for kids in Ohio Juvenile Detention Facilities that receive HFI funds to help reduce the numbers that return. This program is expanding, with places in Texas being supported by the Dalles Vocal Majority.

On a sad note, the HOD recognizes those that have transferred their membership to the Chapter Eternal. The Outgoing Champs sing, while the names are read off. Since this was the end of the pandemic, the list was long and was not clear on what period of time it included. On the list that was read, was our own Don Wilson. Other names of note for me were Clark Abrahamson of Sacramento, he who was the inspiration for the name of my first quartet with Joan Ray's husband and my good friend and former-Portsmen Dave Kester. The other name that hit me was Shelley Herman, the man on whom all Sound Guys are judged. With our friend and former-Portsmen Bill Cale being added to the list for next year, it was pretty solemn.

I will say that the North-East Division was the best represented Division, which I think Chuck Roots and VP for the Division found comforting (always good to have a member serving on the District Board).

As I close, knowing that we are taking tonight off, I ask each of you to review the weekend in light of these things. For those that were unable to attend, I hope that my words help to encourage you to attend, even if we are not competing, to experience a really great time. There was a phrase by an old-timer, can't put my name on them, that was always used: "being hot-dipped in Barbershop."

Musical Director's Message: **By Bill Litz**

I can honestly say, the **Fresno 2022 Fall Far Western District Contest and Convention** was one of my favorite barbershop events. I started off being proud of **ACES HIGH** for representing the Portsman (thank you **Stephanie, Chuck, Nancy** and **Alex**). Also representing Stockton was **NOTEABLE VINTAGE** (**Raphael** Pazo, Jr., Ollie Brilhante, Steve Huskins, **Gregg** Willis). It was great to see them on stage and they were key in getting the hospitality suite started swapping parts to allow different Portsman to quartet. The **AFWDC Show** didn't disappoint as one of my favorite parts of the weekend including singing with many friends when it was over. You all looked great and did a great performance on Saturday. Even though the numeric score was a little lower than we wanted, the reality of being **AA Champion** and being **most improved** is something we can enjoy. Being inspired by **Fog City Singers, Southwest Vocal Alliance** and **Pacific Coast Harmony** makes me want to plan our future to be better performers. Picking **The Summertimers Harmony Band** as the winner of the quartet contest put a smile on my face. And there is nothing better than singing together and having the finest quartets singing for us, up close and personal, in our own hospitality suite - thank you **Al** for making that a reality.

Even as I mention those recent moments, hundreds of other experiences from my 22 years in barbershop pop into my head. Performing in quartets like, **GENERATION BLEND, KABLAM!** and **TUNE STRUCK** has had a mixture of joy and frustration – mostly joy! I've also seen many ups and downs **leading the Portsman for 20 years**. There have been many songs sung and many directions taken in the types of performing the members have wanted to do. I've seen people come and go. I suppose I shouldn't be surprised at how many people make barbershop a part of their lives. The friends are lifelong and singing brings joy both as a performer and as a listener.

It's good to be back in the contest cycle. Participating in these contests gives us focus – places in time where we can evaluate our performance and points from which to plan our future. Attending them allows us to see what other barbershoppers are doing, hopefully inspiring us to develop our chorus programs to meet our membership needs. For many years the Portsman did not compete. The **Portsman of old** just wanted to sing and hang out every week. Their evaluation came from within and from the responses to the events that they sang every year. I can understand why they didn't care for going through the evaluation process that is part of contest. Evaluations don't always seem The contest judges are just one of the many audiences that "judge" us. It is important for us to temper their assessment of us with all the other voices we hear telling us our value.

With contest cycle complete, we are again at that point where we evaluate what things the Portmen do that we like, and what things we'd like to change. What is our vision of what the Portsmen should be?

But before we do an informal survey, I want you to know that I am proud of the Portsmen just as they are today. While we can still do better with some of these core traits, they are a solid place to build upon.

- We sing well – each member is working to be a leader, not a leaner
- We look great – not only on the contest stage, but when we appear at less formal events
- Our performance is authentic – we've worked a lot at getting to this point where everyone is engaged
- We treat each other with respect and love – egos are set aside, and we work as a team
- We work within our community – it's not about us, it's about our audience
- We are open to new people and new ideas – ANYONE who wants to sing has an opportunity here
- We sing barbershop standards that encompass many styles and appeal to different age groups
- We put on shows and performances that are fun for our audience and our membership
- We encourage quartetting and make opportunities for all our members to experience that through our VLQ

All of those traits support our mission to ***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.***

After reviewing our performance and seeing what other groups in the **Far Western District** are doing, I am proud of our accomplishments and inspired to take some steps to make every Portsmen's barbershop experience even better.

- Reestablish our community performing – COVID allowed us to focus on singing without the pressure of preparing for performances, but we need to be sharing barbershop within our community. Having a published schedule of events can give us things to work toward.

- Select new material that is more inspiring to our audiences and our membership – While continuing to do songs that we can do well and that are appealing to our audience, we need to add songs that allow for more drama and visual appeal. I don't see us doing backflips or the theatrical performances that some choruses do. We can select songs that challenge us to add more emotional and visual impact.
- Do more training. Let's work on: reading music and barbershop music theory; choreography and movement; vocal production and pronunciation; and show production and staging.
- Grow our chorus while focusing on individual improvement – As a small chorus, each of you has become a leader in your own right. Having more members is imperative to the Portsmen survival. By building our program to include learning and performing we can have something that people will want to be a part of. I think we already have some of that in place. We need to advertise that and find people that want to sing and get them to join our ranks. More good singers will allow us more flexibility in what we can choose to experience.

Are there things that you would like to see the Portsmen doing? Are there ways that you want to be more involved? Are there songs you'd like the Portsmen to try? Talk to me or a board member about how you can help us become a stronger, more appealing organization. Sharing our success will make us more successful.

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT FALL CONTEST





KITTY, SANDY & JOAN



CAPITAL RING



95 NORTH



NOTABLE VINTAGE



RAPHAEL, BRAD, CHUCK & STEPHANIE



VELVET FROGS



C.O.D.



CHROMATICS



NEXT IN LINE?



VELOCITY



NEVER TOO LATE



MOTLEY Q



AL, BILL, SUE & PAUL



QUARTET MUSTER

Tune Struck

The month of October was a return to unavailability for various members of the quartet. First and foremost was the harvest of walnuts at Yater Farms. With Bob having to lead that charge, and Al helping (even got Bill out to walk rows), two Mondays were browned-out. Chuck had some family things out of town and Bill and Sue had some out-of-town things too. Throw in the Fall Convention and poof, the month is gone.

Back in the day, we had some dependable replacements to fill in for Bob or whomever was singing Baritone. At Fresno, we had the opportunity to bring one of those in for a song in the Portsmen Hospitality Suite, with Gregg Willis filling in for Bob.



We have been developing a new “Understudy” for the Lead position in Sue Atkins. We shared a song in Fresno and worked on our Placerville set with her standing in for Chuck.



The fact that we are still able to make music with each other after all these years is such a blessing. We encourage everyone to find the joy of quartetting. Looking forward to getting back into regular rehearsals, getting ready for the Holiday season, and working on all those new songs to the repertoire.

Aces High

Hats off to Alex for joining Chuck, Stephanie, and Nance to form an offshoot quartet, Aces High. We had a blast performing on the big stage and getting a taste of "how to have fun" in a contest! A respectable score was earned in Fresno and the judges gave us good feedback. They were both amazed that we had only rehearsed together a total of 5ish hours!

Royal Flush (Chuck, Stephanie, Nance and Paul) have been able to get some rehearsals in. We will be singing at the Placerville Cabaret Show (along with Tune Struck) on November 5th and for the Tokay A's Model Ford Club who will be having their annual Holiday party at the Ryde Hotel in December. We were also invited to sing at the Golden Valley Chorus "Cherry Pie Social" next February. Getting lots of singing and laughter in on our Monday night rehearsals!



FRONT RUNNER

Don't recognize the name, we are the Four Portsmen that have been attending races at The New Stockton 99 Speedway. The eighth of October was the second time we sang the National Anthem to start the races.

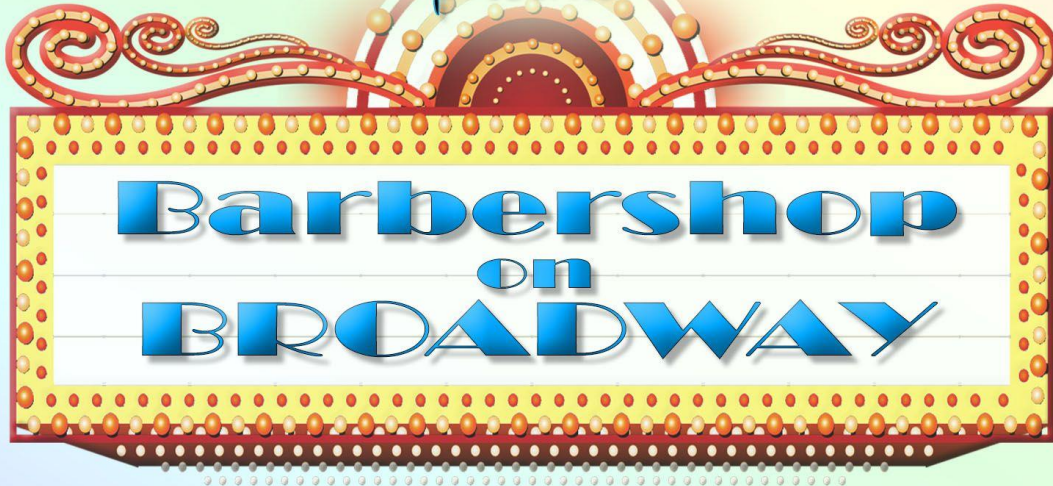


While Sue's friend Jeena was never able to get her new Late Model on the track, our sponsorship was extended to the number 500 Bomber, which finished second in that night's race.



The Marin Golden Gate Barbershop Chorus

presents



Sunday, November 20, 2022 2:00pm
Marin Center – Showcase Theatre



Featuring
Show Tune Favorites
&
Special Guest Quartets



Tickets available
in-person from chorus members
and online: tickets.marincenter.org

Applicable COVID standards
will be implemented

Weekly Chapter Meetings:

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

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

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

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

See calendar for up-to-date information:

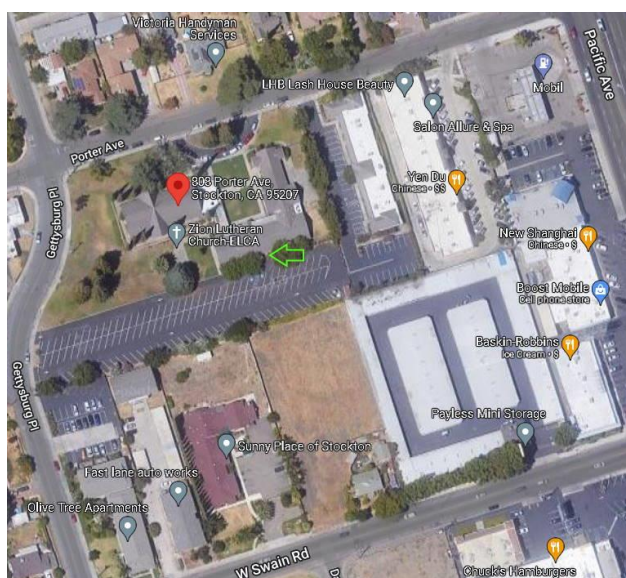
[Click here to access the Stockton Portsmen Calendar](#)

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****

- 11/17 Sacramento Harmony for Lunch Bunch (11am – 1pm)
- 12/3 Festival of Trees Micke Grove Lodi, CA (10am – 12pm)
- 12/4 Festival of Trees Micke Grove Lodi, CA (10am – 12pm)
- 12/15 Sacramento Harmony for Lunch Bunch (11am – 1pm)
- 12/18 Friends of the Fox Theater (12:30pm – 4:30pm)

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/>