



The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsmen

December 2022 - Issue #41

President's Message:

By Al Wolter

THE VIEW FROM THE HELM



CELEBRATE! – ISSUE 12

POOF! It's already the end of the year, and oh what a year it has been. Have you had as good a year as we have had? I can easily say this, as there have been so many positives after the past couple of years of pandemic induced cloistering. And yet even during that time, there were positive things. As I look back, I see the addition of Brad and Isaiah, Alex, Tom & Kitty, Von and Mike. We have seen the return of folks like Steve, Laci and Sandy, as well as visits from Ron Allison. Keeping our paid membership in the mid-thirties is a very good thing.

There are a lot of things to celebrate. The increase in regular membership attendance, the improved singing by each and every member, the respectable scores in both evaluated events.

December is the Celebration Month, just completing the Thanksgiving Holiday, we have Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Festivus, as well as the New Year. Each of us will celebrate these things in our own way, in remembrance of our religious events. It is the time for us to look back at the year and what it entailed and look forward to the next and think of what we can do better.

Not all celebrations though are happy ones. I started this article with a heavy heart, as my very good friend and Baritone of my first two quartets had passed away, Dave Kester. Dave had moved back to New York State to be closer to family and care for his Father-in-Law and slowly succumbed to his rheumatoid arthritis and Alzheimer's. Since his passing, several other Barbershoppers that were key in my life have passed (Nick Pappageorge and Ken Koch) as well as a niece. Now this seems to be a strange thing to

celebrate, but in a sense that is what a Funeral / Wake epitomizes. These past couple of years have seen the loss of a lot of friends and family, many of which we were unable to celebrate their passing. One of those that comes to mind is Nick Adams – the inability to say goodbye leaves me still wondering if he will walk through the door to the Fireside Room and take his usual place in the Bass Section.

As we continue to return to the way things were before (sort of – did we learn anything on the way), let's take some time to celebrate everyone and all the good things we see and do. I hope that one of those things will be our next 'Annual' Show – things are starting to pull together, which I will talk about next month.

Enjoy the Holidays with our opportunities to sing the Songs of the Season, with family gatherings and your worship services. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Joyous Kwanza, and a Fun Festivus for the rest of you.

Stockton Portsmen Christmas Ornament

If you didn't attend our Christmas Party last Tuesday, please reach out to Bill or Sue to get your ornament.



Musical Director's Message: By Bill Litz

Happy Holidays!!! It's supposed to be my job as director of the Stockton Portsmen to inspire you. But I'd like to thank you for a year when you have inspired me as we traveled through it together.

First, I am thrilled that you have created an inviting environment that accepts people of all musical caliber. Everyone has their own insight to bring to the Portsmen. It's great when someone can learn something new while another can communicate an experience that helps us see music in a new way.

Second, I've seen an interest in each and every one of you to become better singers and performers. It's fun to get together and sing, but you've moved beyond passive singing to feeling the music and sharing the enjoyment that singing with emotion yields.

Third, everyone is involved and active. Your board is working to create a wonderful organization. Your attendance is really consistent (at least it was until the latest bout of winter viruses). I've often gone into a performance wondering who will be there and if we'll be able to have a good sound and balance. But this year, every performance has been well attended, giving us the opportunity to achieve artistry in our performance. Spring Division Contest, Memorial Day, 4th of July, the Barbershop Picnic, Fall District Competition (where we won AA Plateau and Most Improved Chorus) and Festival of Trees were successes because so many of you made sure to be a part of those events.

Finally, all those things combined to have a space that is special to sing and helps build a group of which people want to be a part. The Portsmen have added so many new members in the past two years!!!

Keep valuing each other. Unleash your expressive self as we practice and perform. Stay involved because each or your ideas and desires are what make the Portsmen special. Be proud and Invite others so we can continue to grow and accomplish even more together.

QUARTET MUSTER

Tune Struck

It was great to be performing on another Chapter's Show again. Was a full day for Al, who needed to drive up to Corning for a funeral that morning, but we gathered at the El Dorado American Legion Post to join the Gold Rush Chorus' Cabaret. We were pleased to share the stage with several quartets, including our own Royal Flush. Still dealing with a limited repertoire, we sang four songs including our new addition of "Sittin' on Top of the World."



Of course, we had to sing Irish Blessing before we left at the close of the afterglow.



The next day we were in Turlock to sing for the downtown 'Shop the Blocks' while focused at Chuck's daughter's store 'Rustic Roots.' We share Holiday songs in the store and on the streets outside. Always fun to sing this time of year.



We have been working on our special songs, to step out on Saturday at the Festival of Trees. Look for our new Holiday attire.

Unfortunately, our usual Holiday performance at Dillard's was canceled as they are doing a little downsizing their expenses, we hope to be asked back next year.

As we approach our 19th year as a registered quartet (2/13/2004), we are starting to get a few more planned performances, like singing for our Central California Chapter friends in April.

Introducing the Stockton Portsmen newest registered quartet:



Kitty Harmon – Tenor
Tom Harmon – Lead
Alex Bernal – Bass
Dave Harmon – Baritone

This quartet originally started practicing together when Dave asked if the rest of the group would be interested in practicing for Harmony Platoon. Dave was the only one who ended up performing at Harmony Platoon, however, they had a great time singing together so they decided to continue. Fun fact: Tom came up with the name, Kitty came up with the design of the logo and their 11-year-old granddaughter drew the logo above.



To show their dedication to Barbershop and their quartet they even practiced by lantern due to a recent power outage.



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:

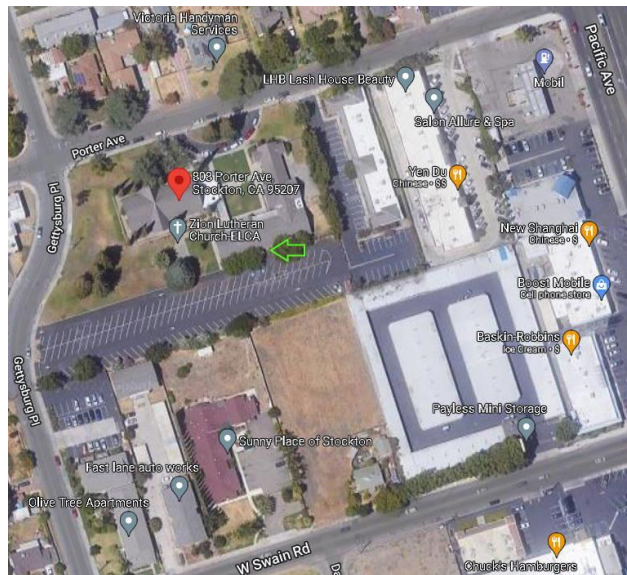
[Click here to access the Stockton Portsmen Calendar](#)

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****

- 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)
- 12/15 Brookdale (11am – 1pm)
- 12/18 Friends of the Fox Theater (12:30pm – 4:30pm)
- 12/18 Friends of the Fox Theater (12:30pm – 4:30pm)
- 3/4 2023 Nor Cal Novice Competition (TBD)
- 4/14 2023 NorCal Divisions Convention (TBD)
- TBD 2023 Stockton Portsmen Spring Show (TBD)
- 7/2-7/9 2023 International Convention (Louisville, Kentucky)
- 10/12 2023 FWD Fall Convention (Gilbert, AZ)

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/>