



The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsman

January 2023 - Issue #42



**President's Message:
By Al Wolter**

THE VIEW FROM THE HELM



AND SO, IT BEGINS

Are you ready? 'Ready for what' you ask? To both redo a successful year like last year and to go back to years before the world was quarantined.

I took some time recently to re-read my articles for the Captain's Log, both my "Views from the Helm" and those as VP of Chapter Development & Membership. While I don't expect you all to do that, there are some worthwhile discussions on Barbershop harmony singing and how to administrate the Chapter that supports our hobby. For new folks, it wouldn't hurt to go back and read them (in my humble opinion).

My first “View” got lost – but in it I discussed how as the new Chapter President, I wasn’t looking to set lofty goals of building membership. Instead, I just wanted the Chapter to “stand” and be healthy – those that had been making the outdoor rehearsals during the pandemic to continue to develop confidence in themselves. I was sure that when the ten of us were able to hold our own and make good sound – no matter the configuration, good things would happen. Lo and behold – I guess I was right.

After completing our traditional December performances in 2022, with good numbers and sound, I am pleased with where we stand. At the end of 2021, we had 29 members on our roster. Since then, we have lost a number of members; John & Don passed away, Greg moved to Kansas, Alan got married and then divorced, Steve has had a year supporting his family, and Derick has dropped his dual membership. We have added twelve new members: Dianna, Laci, Chuck, and Stephanie have rejoined, Von has essentially transferred to us, Tom has become a dual member, with Kelly & Megan, Kitty, Mike, Joe, and John as new members. Overall, our ‘active’ member numbers have increased by a third and we are starting to see regular attendance over 16.

That is all well and good, but I am sure you are still asking, “so what is beginning, and what do I need to be ready for? Is he going to expect the same kind of progress in 2023?” Well, while I would love to see that, I am more of a realist than that. As I enter my 39th year as a Society member (with a lifetime of Barbershop experience), I know that things happen quicker when it just happens.

What I want you to be ready for is to step up and YOU to take charge of things. As I do a self-examination, I find that I am a lazy, fairly unmotivated, hypocritical procrastinator – traits I do not find very flattering and extremely annoying in others (I did say hypocritical). But I know I have been hefting more of the load than I should. More importantly, as the song goes, “who’ll take my place when I’m gone?”

By now you should know my history in the US Navy Submarine Service, which has had an influence on many things in my life. There, we HAD to prepare for people to come and go AND everyone needed to know how to do everyone else’s job in at least a general sense.

Over the years, I have talked about the things that need to be done to make the Chapter and Chorus run. One of the reasons I asked the current Board to stay on for a second year is the fact that everyone is finally getting a handle on the roles and responsibilities for their office. Does that mean that everyone is excelling in their capacities – maybe not, but at least they are more aware of whatever ball they may have dropped this year.

Still, there are a lot of roles, responsibilities, jobs and tasks that have been left idle over the past couple of years and it is time we start remedying that.

You should be reading this sometime after the Installation and Awards Dinner, where the Board was officially installed into office, so help us O.C. Cash, and those that did do good things last year were recognized – including our Barbershopper of the Year. It is a wonderful thing that good things have happened, but many more should have.

Now I need to appoint some folks into roles like the Nominating Committee for 2023 (Joan has already volunteered to chair it) and an Alternate Chapter Delegate for District House of Delegate meetings. We also have a Chapter Representative for Harmony Foundation (and other Chapter Fundraising), Youth in Harmony Rep, the Show Chair for 2024 and the 2024 Singing Valentine Coordinator. Are YOU ready to step up and fulfill any of these roles?

Additionally, there will be things that everyone of us will need to do, like sell Ads for the Show Program and tickets. I am hoping that most of you feel better about what we do, to the point of being proud to show it off to your friends and neighbors. Now, like the saying on Memorial Day, “some gave all, but all gave some,” not everyone is expected to do the same as others. However, a little effort by us all can yield great results.

So last year was about being able to “stand” and we grew. We grew so much that we are becoming a different Chapter / Chorus, seems we are becoming the “Go-To” Chapter of the Division. Looks like there will be a Novice Quartet Contest in Northern California, the Stockton Portsmen will be hosting it. That will need you all to help (as well as compete). So, I am hoping that this year we all can step up (walk), and maybe we will end up running.

SO! Are you ready? Ready to step up. Step up to work, sell, share, learn new music while keeping the skills you have mastered? The things we can accomplish when you do will make 2022 look weak.

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

Happy New Year!!! Since the newsletter is a little late coming out this month (because I was holding it up), I've already had a little glimpse of what the future has in store. The life of the chorus is starting to look like more the pre-pandemic existence. I'm looking forward to things starting to fall into place that we haven't done for a few years:

- February 14th - Singing Valentines was off the table, but maybe some of you do want to make that happen
- March 4th - Not only Participating in, but Hosting a Novice Quartet Contest
- April 14th – 15th 2023 Division Contest
- May 6th - 2023 Spring Show

As we prepare for the show and contest, we are looking to incorporate a couple songs from the Pole Cat II books that we got last year. I'm looking forward to each of you having a couple new songs to sing in the halls at conventions. Isn't the 2022 Spring Convention where *Kitty Harmon* found the *Portsmen*?

- From The First Hello to The Last Goodbye
- Over The Rainbow – I'm hoping this can be a dynamic ballad that can teach us to express ourselves

We also have two new songs that will come from contemporary musicals. One of them is an ode to the power of positive thinking, faith and believing in your dreams from ***The Greatest Showman***. The other, which might be the most difficult song that the *Portsmen* has ever put into its repertoire, is from ***Seussical***, a musical comedy based on the many children's stories of Dr. Seuss.

- A Million Dreams
- How Lucky You Are

Check out the *MEMBERS ONLY* section of the website for new music and learning tracks. And look for the complete list of songs slated for the show in May.

I look forward to a year of learning new songs with you. Next article will have some thoughts and tips on learning and memorizing music. *How Lucky WE Are* to be able to sing and share time together.

2023 Board of Directors

President	Al Wolter
Secretary	Kitty Harmon
Treasurer	Al Farnum
VP: Membership/Chapter Development	Dave Harmon
VP: Marketing & PR	Brad Nieman
VP: Music & Performance	Sue Atkins
Member at Large	Joan Ray
Member at Large	Tom Harmon
Immediate Past President	Nancy Hennefer

Celebrations

January Birthdays

Chuck Thurman	January 5 th
Brad Nieman	January 7 th
Stephanie Thurman	January 18 th
Laci Parker	January 20 th
Joan Ray	January 22 nd



QUARTET MUSTER

Tune Struck

December has always been a busy time for the quartet, first with supporting the Chorus at Micke Grove for the 'Festival of Trees.' This year was only different in that we were more involved with the Chorus on Saturday and had Sue sub on Sunday. Still, we had our special songs to step out and share the quartet sound.



We enjoyed a Holiday dinner at the Root's as part of a regular rehearsal time.



Singing at the Fox / Bob Hope Theater is always a great time to step out for a song and get a photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus.



We were invited back to UOP to sing the Anthem for the men's basketball team's game against BYU.



Pictures from the Festival of Trees



Thanks Nancy & Al W for setting up the Christmas Tree!



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 meeting nights)

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

See calendar for up-to-date information:

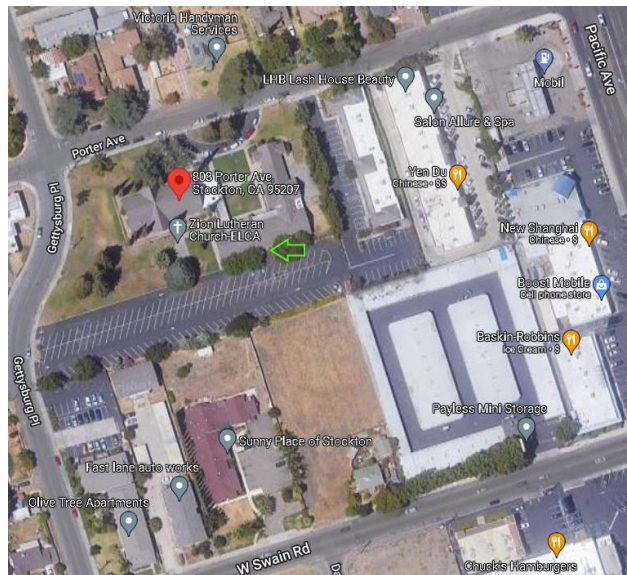
[Click here to access the Stockton Portsmen Calendar](#)

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****

- 3/4 2023 Nor Cal Novice Competition (TBD)
- 4/14 2023 NorCal Divisions Convention (TBD)
- 5/6 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/>