



# The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsmen  
July 2023 - Issue #48

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



## THE VIEW FROM THE HELM

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### BREAKFAST? – ISSUE 19

Recently I had someone tell me I didn't need to do everything. I couldn't agree with them more – I don't HAVE to do everything, but you know – sometimes, in order to ensure things are done and done properly, you do.

There are a lot of things that one may be responsible for, doesn't mean you are going to do them – could be you don't realize that you need to do them, don't know how to do them, or could be that you just don't have the time to do it right. Still, that task needs to be done and done both right and in a timely manner. My task, as the Pilot of this vessel, is to ensure our Musical Leader is functioning properly, with the right tools & such, and that everyone learns what needs to be done (both when, how and why). One of my greatest shortcomings is my ability to teach – just ask Donna: I tend to 'do more' than 'show/inform', hence my tendency to "Nike – Just Do It." Still, as I do that, I hope that I am demonstrating what others should be doing.

I will say that sometimes, there tends to be a disparity between the "what needs to be done" and "the doing." It puts me in mind of the breakfast joke: the chicken is involved but the pig is committed. Sometimes we are just involved in what we do, but we need to be committed – not as much a pig in breakfast, but more than the chicken.

So, you ask ‘what’s your point AI?’ Well, Joan and the Nominating Committee need to start finding nominees for the 2024 Board of Directors. Last year I specifically asked that the core of the Board be re-nominated and re-elected. After the Pandemic, we seemed to have lost some of our knowledge on how to function. The 2022 Board was fairly new and just starting to find the lost know-how. The 2023 Board is running pretty well, think that was a good suggestion on my part. Now, after two years of service I have no desire to make sweeping changes, but it is up to each individual if they want to serve another term.

I would be extremely pleased if they did keep their hats in the proverbial ring. It would tell me that they were more than involved [UPDATE: they all said they do at the June Board meeting]. Still, there is always room and need for new ideas and new energy. If you feel that you have something to give and want to be more than involved, talk to Joan and tell her what area you want to serve.

There are a number of places that you can find what the jobs are on the Board. One place you can find information is the Chapter By-Laws. Another is the Society webpage. While what is presented is focused on the President, Secretary and Treasurer, this can provide some useful information: <https://members.barbershop.org/s/article/Chapter-Leadership-Training>.

We get better when we work together, with a more committed and dedicated level of participation. Our acceptance of the invitation to represent California in Normandy next year is a truly a major undertaking. To meet some of those needs, the majority of us have accepted to do a Christmas Show and, if quartets are willing, to do Christmas-grams. With all these things, support from everyone is really necessary.

## **Musical Director's Message:**

**By Bill Litz**

I'd like to thank Brad Nieman for getting us singing tags during rehearsal. You are probably already aware that a tag is a dramatic variation usually in the last section of the song. It is similar to a coda in classical music. Tags are characterized by heightening the dramatic tension of the song, frequently including a hanger or sustained note against which the other singers carry the rhythm. Good tags can be sung as short, stand-alone works. Tags may be soft and tender or characterized by loud, "paint-peeling", ringing chords.

Usually, we are working hard to get the right notes and worship the chords as they get in tune. But because tags are usually short, they are good vehicles to:

- Practice reading music
- Try singing different parts
- Quartet with a variety of singers
- Stretch vocal skills like dynamics and range
- Develop memorization techniques
- Experience other musical styles
- Foster teaching methods

In addition to singing better, tag singing can give us the opportunity to work on our presentation skills. Take the extra effort to develop your personal visual plan. Share thoughts you have about making the mini-performance more dramatic. Work with the other singers in the group to bring out the best in each other. Watch the videos Brad is posting to see how your expression is. Use them to see what others are doing in the group that you might be able to emulate.

Some tags may be difficult and not work for the group you are singing in. The range might be too high or low – try lowering or raising the key. It may be too long to memorize - take it a section at a time and use music to help you remember. You'll usually find success but be ready to move on to another tag if it's not coming together.

Have fun creating a special sound you haven't before. As you try more, you'll become a better tag singer, and a better singer in general. Be careful though.... you might find yourself up all night singing tags at the next convention.

# QUARTET MUSTER

## **Tune Struck**

Tune Struck has always tried to share what we have been doing, not to brag – rather to encourage other quartets and to provide documentation to help support the Chapter’s 501.c.3 status (AI being an old-time Chapter Secretary knows the old reporting that the Society used to require).

What is difficult, is when there are long periods of inactivity – what do you say? There was only one rehearsal of the official Tune Struck Quartet, and there is a good chance that we won’t have another till August.

Only two of us made the trip up to the Folsom Bean Feed, and both of us found a foursome to sing in. Knowing that we really couldn’t sing as a Foursome made the absence of the others okay.

With Sue Atkins singing as a substitute lead, we sang through the halls of St. Joseph’s Hospital, bringing a little Musical Therapy to the staff and few of the patients. It was good to be back doing this, not only to bring the cheer to Hospital, but to see our friend Jim Linderman who has served as our Guide and Chaperon over the years and make a little money for the Chapter.



**The Annual Bean Feed - A Somewhat Serious Quartet Contest**  
**Hosted by the Folsom Harmony Express**



**The Judges – Never to Late**



**Outrageous (1)**



**The Atria Quartet (2)**



**Oops! (3)**



**El Dorado Gold (4)**



**Four'n Exchange (5)**



**Birds of a Feather (6)**





Always Too Late 😊 (7)



Placer Villains (8)



**Three Hits & A Miss (9)**



**Pitch & Vinegar (10)**



**Lost In Space (11)**



**Cherry Fingers (12)**



**No Pronouns (13)**



**Renegades (14)**



**The Inbetweeners (15)**



**Hot Sauce (16)**



## Epiphone (17)



You're as welcome as  
the flowers of May - no  
June. Come a-long and  
sing you're song in tune.  
Come and eat some beans  
and dogs to-day.  
You're as welcome as the  
flowers in June

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Renegades**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Always Too Late ☺**



**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Hot Sauce**







## Celebrations

### July Birthdays

Les Cudsworth	7/6
Nancy Hennefer	7/13

## 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:

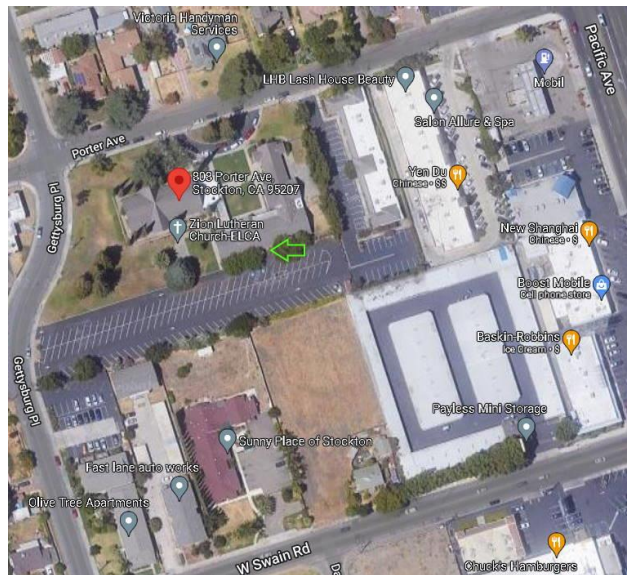
[Click here to access the Stockton Portsmen Calendar](#)

### 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 Road, 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](mailto:Info@StocktonPortsmen.org)
- Phone (209) 881-SING (7464)

### **\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\***

- 7/2-7/9 2023 International Convention (Louisville, Kentucky)
- 7/3 Celebrate America Hutchins Street Square (Lodi, CA) (5pm-7pm)
- 10/12 2023 FWD Fall Convention (Gilbert, AZ)
- 10/20-10/22 Harmony Camp 2023 (Sly Park) Teaching Quartet - Vocalocity

### **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/>