



The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsman
December 2023 - Issue #53

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



THE VIEW FROM THE HELM

"LOOKING BACK!" – ISSUE 24

As your Pilot, my job is normally to look ahead and help navigate our way forward but, since I am more than just a Harbor Pilot, a look back at things isn't out of line. That is especially true for the last article of the year.

As Chapter President, I made sure that I was present for both of the Proclamation presentations the Chapter received this year. First, a big note of THANKS needs to be given to Nancy Hennefer who has been tireless in her pursuing funds and recognition for our trip "On to Normandy."

It is very nice to be recognized by our elected officials for the things we do. Listening to the County Clerk of the Board read the Proclamation with its listing of the things we are known for made me step back a bit. I hope you read that in last month's Captain's Log and you read the Proclamation from the Lodi City Council in this issue.

I have alluded to the low level of esteem the Stockton Chapter held not that long ago. That opinion was not totally unfair, as our predecessors did a good job of earning it, with their Friday night Chapter meetings at the Port that was more focused on male fun than singing and singing well. We have come a long way in changing that, and as I look back at the past year, it is hard not to smile.

Withstanding those things, let us not forget the wonderful things that lie in our wake: two very successful quartet appearances in the Spring Division Contest and the Chorus' AA Chorus Championship (backing up our District AA Championship and 'Most Improved Chorus' Award), our return to Annual Show productions and money from unsolicited Singing Valentines.

There are all those December gigs; our annual appearance for the Micke Gove 'Festival of Trees' as well as our Holiday Show "Holiday Harmonies." We have had holiday shows before, several in other locations. The fact that we are learning new songs for the show, with a little contemporary feel, makes things more of a challenge – but with the newer additions to the membership, some of the old songs would be new again anyway. I do hope that you had already planned on who you were selling tickets to, or at least buying tickets for.

I would be neglected if I didn't take a moment to talk about all the things that we needed to go forward. First, the Fund-raiser Gala: did you supply anything for the 'Silent Action' or invite anybody that might bid for any of those items? This was really uncharted territory for us to navigate, and we not only learned how best to make the best of such an event but made some money.

After Bill's encouraging message in last month's newsletter, are you ready to sing for a Holiday-gram? This should be an easy way to add to our available income, be sure to let folks know that this is going to our "On to Normandy" fund.

Next year is FULL of things for us to shine in. BESIDES going to France, there is an Annual Show: "Hollywood 'n Barbershop," Singing Valentines, a Novice Quartet Contest we are hosting in Lodi (already have a registered Quartet: 'Fanny Pack' from Barbary Coast [D-022]). While I personally don't think we will be part of the Cherokee Memorial Service outright, I do believe that there could be the opportunity to try out our hour-long France Concert set there in the Chapel as an additional fundraiser.

So, as I close, let me ask you: ‘where are YOU in all this?’ Are you excited, happy, concerned, fearful, numb or afraid? Is this something you are looking forward to or something you kind of want to run away from? There is a lot to all of this and there is nothing wrong with any of those feelings/emotions. The key for me is knowing that you know how you feel and are ready to do what you want and can and not feeling compelled to do something outside of your comfort zone, yet acknowledging that there is a great personal and corporate benefit to challenging yourself and stepping a little outside of that comfort zone.

There are no organizations that can exist without people that are involved enough to participate. As a Lifetime member of VFW and a Paid-up-for-Life American Legion member, I am less than active with them, but see what goes on. All of these volunteer organizations, including the Elks, Moose, etc. are all feeling the effects of these modern times – it’s hard to recruit, even harder maintain members. Most of the time, it is our own issues that make it so – even when folks like me say you are wanted, desired and worthy.

As I get ready end this: let me say I am PROUD of all of you, those that have been long time members, the inactive folks that still support us and stop by from time to time, the dual members that sing with others but still care to be a part of us, and even those that have recently left us – that still graced us with their talents for however long – you may be gone, but are not forgotten and will be welcome back anytime with open arms. Know that you ARE worthy, and I believe that we can help you make yourself better. I always say that “if you can walk, there is a pretty good chance you can run, so if you can talk, there is a pretty good chance (even better than the walking analogy) you can sing.” It is rare that I have ever stood next to someone that I thought “man they really can’t sing a lick.” One of those that I thought that of, found a medical condition that corrected their issue and went on to sing with another group well for quite-a-while (my-bad).

So, let’s all look back at the wonderful things we (or other predecessors) have done as the springboard for all the awesome things we can accomplish in 2024.

Musical Director's Message:

By Bill Litz

It's been quite a few years since the Portsmen did a Holiday Show and even though doing a show can add stress to the holidays, it can also make for a very special time.

I'd like to thank the Portsmen for being so outgoing during the whole holiday season, stepping up to do so many performances:

- Veteran's Day
- Both Days of The Festival Of Trees
- Our Holiday Harmonies Show
- Friends of the Fox It's A Wonderful Life Showing
- Stockton Rehab Facility
- Dameron Hospital

In the past, it was sometimes hard to get members to just show up. It was exciting to not just have members show up, but to have us create wonderful music every time out. The successes we had in contest carried over to allow us to perform at a higher level and do more difficult/entertaining arrangements.

Seeing you do that gives me pride and anticipation for the year ahead with contests, and the spring show leading us to the Normandy trip. I'm also looking forward to doing some music training and developing the VLQ (very large quartet) to reach for even better performance skills.

Be committed to learning and staying involved as we start the new year even if you can't make the trip to France or some of the other events. We can sing and grow together.

Have a continued happy holiday season and a Joyous new year. Thank you again for making this holiday season so special.



PROCLAMATION

Stockton Portsmen Barbershop Chorus

WHEREAS, The Stockton Portsmen Barbershop Chorus was organized and received its Charter from the Barbershop Harmony Society on October 18, 1954, gaining their name from their location at the Port of Stockton, and

WHEREAS, The Stockton Portsmen were founded by J. Lyle Stevensen, Edwin D. Tiede and Paul Mehlhaff; and

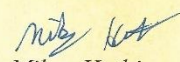
WHEREAS, The Stockton Portsmen have integrated into the community and made it their mission to provide the community with quality Barbershop chorus and quartet music and wholesome family entertainment; and

WHEREAS, The Stockton Portsmen have performed at a variety of events, including local events such as Stockton Ports Games, Lodi Grape Festival, Celebrate America at Hutchins Street Square, and Veteran's Day Celebrations; and

WHEREAS, The Stockton Portsmen Barbershop Chorus has been invited by the Mayor of Paris to perform at the Music Celebrations International in the 2024 D-Day 80th Anniversary Commemoration Concert Series in France, on June 6th 2024; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Mikey Hothi, Mayor of the City of Lodi, do hereby recognize the Stockton Portsmen Barbershop Chorus for their outstanding musical contributions and congratulate them on their invitation to perform in France at the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

SIGNED on this 1st day of November 2023.



Mikey Hothi
Mikey Hothi
Mayor, City of Lodi





Celebrations

December Birthdays

Tom Harmon – 12/5

Harry Williams – 12/11

Von Wallin – 12/17

Steve Yund – 12/23

Yvette Thomas – 12/29

From your Normandy Coordinator.....

Looking back at 2023 are reflections of the lowest of lows but some pretty nice highs. Starting with a personal thank you to my Portsmen family, you lifted me up and rode it out when my emotions got the best of me. Definitely an experience I hope never have to repeat.

The highs were multiple: singing with Royal Flush, Chuck, Stephanie and Paul, competing in our first “Big Stage” quartet competition, singing for and at some amazing events and our Monday night rehearsals. Huge thanks to Kitty, Tom and Dave for your amazing, creative minds for our ...On to Normandy fund raising gala. There were over 40 businesses and individuals who donated items and experiences for the event. In addition, there were many friends, family members and businesses that contributed good old-fashioned money! Although the profits from the evening were a bit underwhelming, the fact that we were able to highlight ourselves to many new supporters is priceless. Thanks, Al Farnum, for getting our new banking up and running so quickly. Again, thanks to Van Ruiten Winery for donating their beautiful facility and to Darlene at Lodi’s Hollywood Café for the nice, and relatively affordable, spread of food. Fund raising is ongoing, so let’s keep our eye on the “Eyefull” Tower! My wish for the new year is that EVERY member of the Portsmen would be on that plane with the rest of us!

Merry Everything and a Blessed New Year for us all!nance

A message from member Dave Harmon (Bari)

I have been in marketing / sales my entire earning years, but I am usually reluctant to approach others regarding donations or fundraising. For some unknown reason this time I volunteered to assist Nancy Hennefer on her "On To Normandy" committee when she asked for help. Although I attended her brainstorming and planning sessions, true to form I procrastinated when it came to actually speaking with decision makers regarding donations... until time was running out.

It was Al Farnum who finally drug me into a meeting with the owner of Papapavlov's Restaurant, and from there, Al and I cold called on Long's Jewelers, where we were so warmly received that I walked over and spoke directly to my old friend, the owner of Area Wide Pest Control, who immediately committed to a generous monetary contribution. With that positive reinforcement I began to feel way more confident and started to imagine creative ways to have fun while making my calls and approaching businesspeople, Church friends, and previous employers in Stockton. Soon I remembered how much fun it could be, and I thought to myself, "This is why Harry Williams is always so successful in selling our show tickets and Singing Valentines, he loves it and our Chorus benefits."

Of course, every sales person learns to expect a certain number of turndowns, but most people are so interested in hearing about our Normandy invitation and the whole D-Day experience, that each "presentation" is a positive experience whether it results in a donation or not.

Thanks, Nancy, for letting me be on your committee.

[Click link to our Go Fund Me Account to be a Sponsor](#)

Thanks to Rosie for setting up our Go Fund Me Page!

Thank you to our sponsors!!!

Angie Rogan, Akalia and Staff
- Van Ruiten Winery, Lodi
Betsy Smith - Velvet Grill Creamery, Lodi
Christal - Corner Scone Bakery, Lodi
Seth - Lodi Beer Co, Lodi
Avenue Grill, Lodi
Jennifer - Airport Café, Acampo
Joe Fiori - Fiori's Butcher Shoppe & Deli, Lodi
Papapavlo's Stockton/Lodi
Bon Appetite, Lodi
Darlene - The Hollywood Café, Lodi
Dee - De Vinci's, Lodi
Thai Spices, Lodi
Smack Pie Pizza, Lodi
Arroyos Mexican Café, Stockton
Genoa Bakery, Stockton
Buds Seafood, Stockton
Whirlows, Stockton
DeVega Brothers, Stockton
Christine Robles - Red Lobster, Stockton
Michael Gilliland
- La Mesa a Mexican Kitchen. Stockton
Big Belly Deli
Cindy Burke - Burke's Family Restaurant
The Mud Mill, Lodi
Mark Armstrong - Lodi Grape Festival
Nikki Burgess - The Dermal Clinic, Lodi
Yvonne Holland - Dermal Clinic, Lodi
Richard Lund and Patsy Miller
Lori Makabe
Mark Huntley
Gary Floyd - Tokay A's Model A Club
Arecelli - Stockton Civic Theater, Stockton
Judy - Minerva's Furniture, Lodi
Liana Roman - Now and Zen Yoga, Lodi
Castle Oaks Golf, Lone
Brenda Patterson - A Cut Above, Lodi
Planet Fitness, Stockton
Asia - Arthur Murray Dance Studio, Stockton
Mr Alex Munro - Hilton Stockton
Bob Weisenberg
- Woodbridge Uncorked, Woodbridge
Mangal Singh - Clements Ridge Produce and Bakery
Zoom Car Wash, Stockton
Regina Brown - Member: Stockton Portsmen
Kathy Duran - Voila Gifts and Home Decor, Lodi
Denise Solari - SDS Designs
Rhoda Legaspi - Baked with Love
Robert Verhines
Gerald Garfield - Food for Less, Stockton
Gary Long - Gary Longs Jewelry, Stockton
Made in Amador, Sutter Creek
BedBug on Main, Lone
Hotel Sutter Restaurant, Sutter Creek
Monarch, Lone
Sue Kenmostu
Y Acosta - Acosta Construction, Lodi
David A Neal, DDS - The Lodi Dentist, Lodi
Christian Phillips - Phillips Financial, Stockton
Bill and Audrey Churchill
Dr Mike Pontius
Roberts Retirement
Anthony Neiddu
- Raymond James Financial Services, Lodi
Ron and Sue Van De Pol
James Van Sickler, Jr. DDS
Robert and Rosemarie Keller
Fritz and Phyllis Grupe
Ron and Kris Katzakian
Ken and Nancy Mullen
Star Heers
Carol Holt Bedell
Daniel Bernick - Sacramento Artist
Daniel Meza - F&M Bank, Lodi
Sandy - House of Clocks, Lodi
Brain Synowicki - Synowicki's Jewel Box, Lodi
Sandy Padgett - La Fleurette Garden Décor, Lodi
University of the Pacific
Dave and Sandy Harmon
- Member: Stockton Portsmen
Tom and Diane Hofsommer
Nancy Hennefer - Member: Stockton Portsmen
Colette Allen
Carol Simms
Susan Atkins- Member: Stockton Portsmen
William Litz- Member: Stockton Portsmen
Jeana Ramos
Ryan Venhuizen
Allen Wolter- Member: Stockton Portsmen
Rosie Estrella- Member: Stockton Portsmen
John Highsmith
Joyce Tanaka
Al Farnum - Member: Stockton Portsmen

Quartet Updates

Three Lads and ALAS!

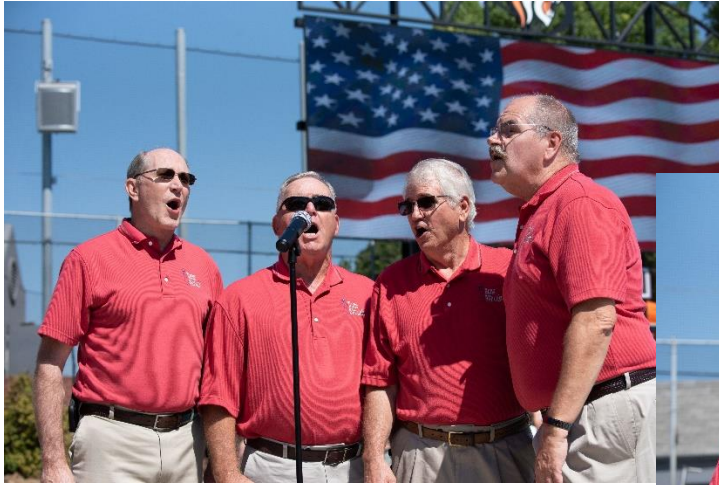


December has been busy for Three Lads and Alas! We performed on the Portsmen Christmas show and received some compliments. We also appeared at Christmas luncheons for the Sierra Belles ladies club in Jackson and the PEO ladies club in Lodi and enjoyed them very much. Our most gratifying performance was at the Lone Business Association opening of the Christmas season. We were able to carol up and down the commercial section of Main Street (all two blocks of it) and got a very positive reaction. The first week of January, we'll be back at work preparing for the Novice Contest, Singing Valentines, division competition, the Portsmen spring show, and then—for 3/4ths of us—on to Normandy!



Tune Struck

Two updates ago, we talked about getting a photo from our visit to the UOP Pool, singing the Anthem to start the Water Polo game against our friend Harry Williams' Cal Team. It took a little effort on our friend Alec Ehlers' part to track down the photographer (not sure if she was from UOP or Cal), but they came out nice



Our first gig for November was a trip back to UOP to kick-off the Women's Soccer Game, actually think it was the Season finale. It is always a treat to sing for our local athletic teams, and while we do hope that folks in the Music Programs have their shot, showing young folks how music can be part of their adult lives is an honor for us.



The very next day, we made our second annual trip to downtown Turlock and the Shop-the-Blocks kick-off for the Holiday Shopping Season. This year it was warm and sunny – not conducive for sweaters, but was a nice time none-the-less.



In order to encourage support for the Portsman's trip to France, we shared a couple of songs at the Gala



In a omage to the old saying: “a funny thing happened...” there was a concern and thus mixup with the performance of Royal Flush on the Placerville Chapter Show. With past Portsmen and Chuck Thurman’s Uncle Tim Tuggle’s illness, there was a possiblity that Royal Flush wouldn’t be able to sing, so we were polled about our abilty to step in for them. With Chuck giving the Invocation for the Marine Ball, John Hunt was petitioned to serve as Lead, then Royal Flush confirmed they will be there. Still, with Bob subbing with Three Lads and Alas!, John, Bill and Al decided to go up anyway and sing over pizza anyway. Low and behold the Show needed more material and we got to sing anyway. Plus we sang over pizza too.



December holds a number of performance oppertunities as well. Glad to be back out in the community sharing the Old Songs.

Royal Flush news



2023...Royal Flush hitting our stride. It's been a marathon, definitely not a sprint! Even though it seems like a long time for a quartet to be together (5 years), it has taken us fromwell....what? Lots of laughs, just looking to sing some songs, finding our "signature song" (Loch Lomond) and now tackling some very difficult arrangements (at least, difficult for us!) Our personalities are so matched but so different: Stephanie, the much needed critic, Chuck, for his goofiness and unending stories of random information (and his pitch pipe), Captain Paul to keep our ship upright, and me...Momma Bear. We were honored to have been invited to sing on various stages (even though we had to turn some down) and singing at our December Holiday Show was the highlight. We felt all our blood, sweat and yes, tears, were worth it. Thanks to the Chorus for encouraging us with your comments and support. God (or whatever your higher power might be) willing, Royal Flush will continue to improve and be a proud reflection of the Portsmen.

Festival of Trees



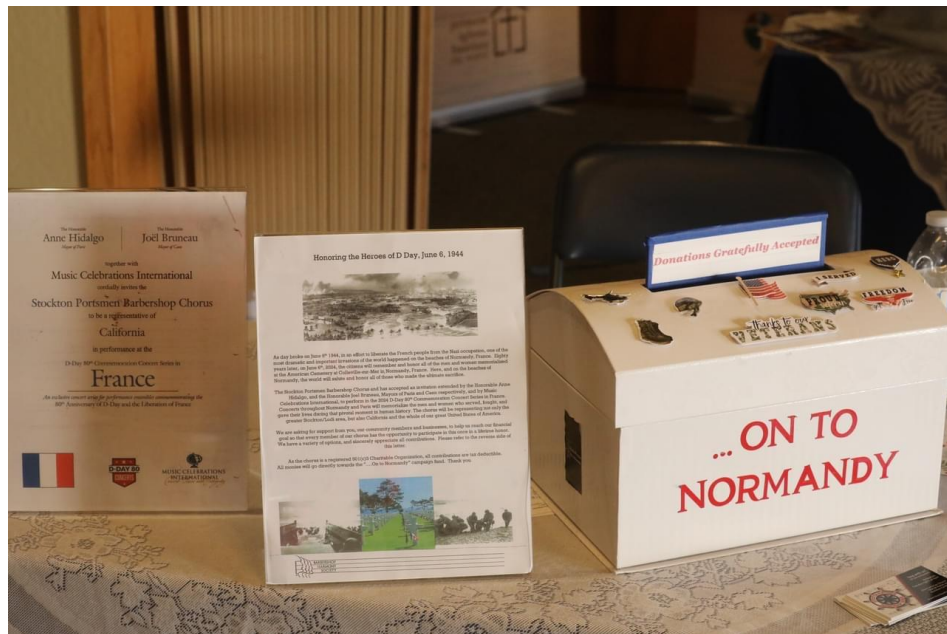
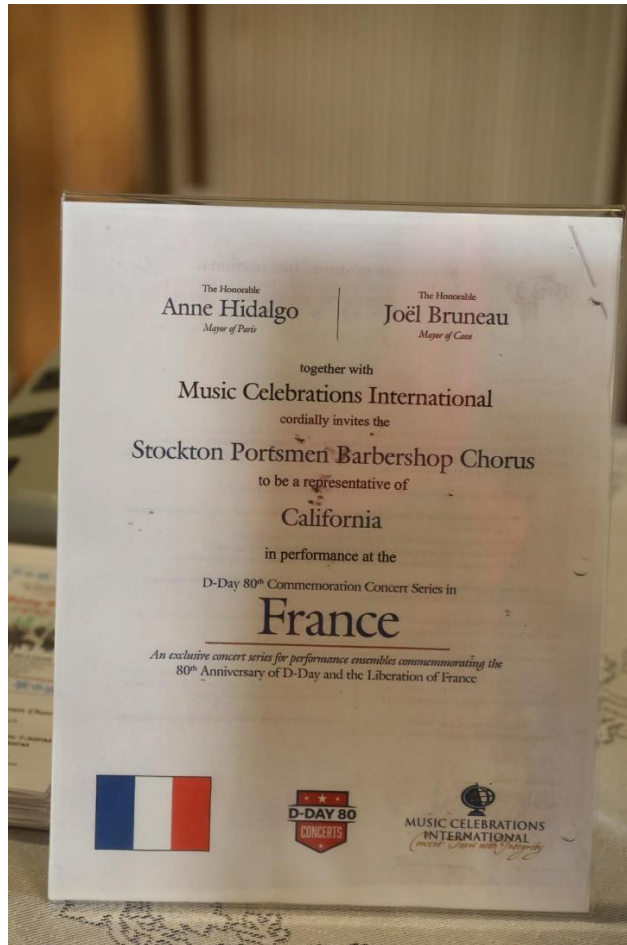




Holiday Harmonies

Special Thanks to Tim Ulmer for taking pictures and sharing them with us!
More pictures can be found on our Facebook page.







Tune Struck



3 Lads & Alas



Ukulele Ladies



Hot Mess Express



Royal Flush



Singing Carols at Dameron Hospital



Singing Valentines

Sung by Barbershop Harmony Quartets
All members of the
Stockton Portsmen Barbershop Chorus

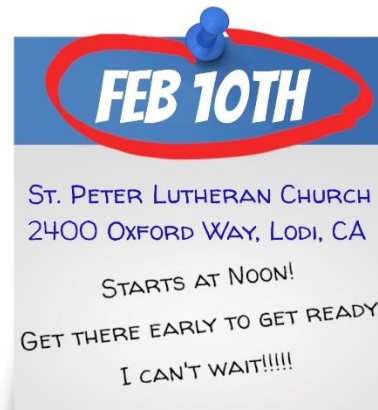
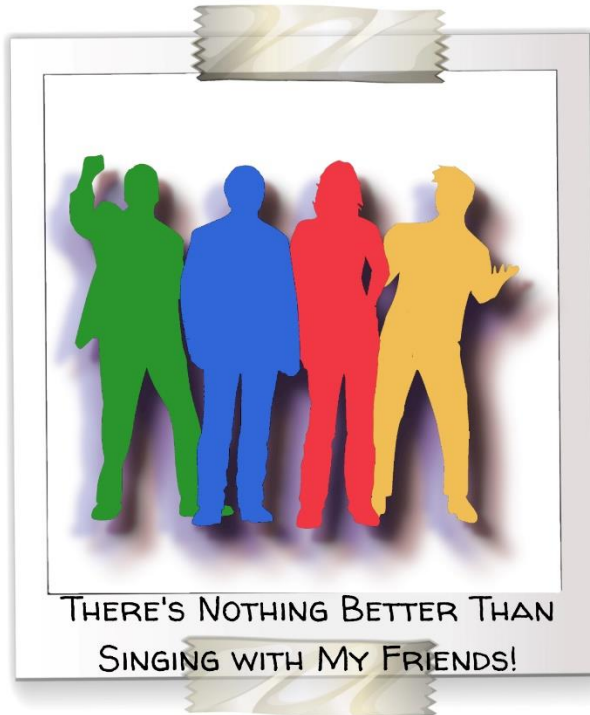
Package includes two great love songs,
a lovely fresh rose and a valentine card
with your personal message.



For details call: (209) 881-7464
Or Email to valentine@stocktonportsmen.org

N

2024 NorCal Novice Quartet Contest



FOR REGISTRATION FORMS
AND CONTEST RULES GO TO:
WWW.STOCKTONPORTSMEN.ORG



EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS TO:
INFO@STOCKTONPORTSMEN.ORG
OR CALL 209-881-7464

THERE WILL BE 2 CATEGORIES:

- 1) REGULAR (ANY 4 BHS MEMBERS)
- 2) HIGHSCHOOL (ANY 4 STUDENTS)

\$10 PER QUARTET MEMBER

\$10 GENERAL ADMISSION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

JANUARY 30TH

MAXIMUM OF **20** QUARTETS

Weekly Chapter Meetings:

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

Tuesdays: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM (Grace Hall)

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:

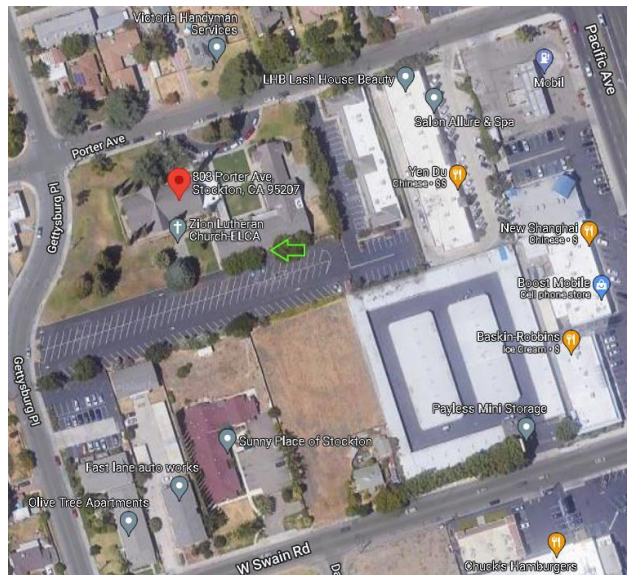
[Click here to access the Stockton Portsmen Calendar](#)

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
- Phone (209) 881-SING (7464)

****SAVE THE DATE****

2024

- 2/10 NorCal Novice Quartet Contest (Lodi, CA)
- 2/14 Singing Valentines
- 3/14-3/17 2023 FWD Spring Convention, NorCal Divisions (TBD)
- 4/27 Portsmen 67th Annual Show – Hollywood ‘n Barbershop
- **6/4 – 6/12 D-Day 80th Commemoration Concert Tour**
- 10/17-10/20 2023 FWD Fall Convention (Bakersfield, CA)

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/>