



# The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsmen

January 2024 - Issue #54

**President's Message:**

**By Al Wolter**



## THE VIEW FROM THE HELM

---

### **A YEAR THAT MAY BE LONG REMEMBERED – ISSUE 25**

Eighty years ago, there were plans being made to defeat the Axis Powers. Part of those plans were discussed in the recently liberated Tehran, Iran in November 1943 by the leaders of the Allies (Churchill, Stalin and FDR). The idea would be a May invasion of France. As we know, the weather didn't allow that plan to occur until June. The amount of planning and logistical readiness for D-Day would take from November until May. Seems like a long time, but as we prepare for our own 'invasion' of France next June, I think you can sense the anxiety those of us in administration may have. Kitty sent some of us a count-down clock for June 4, our D-Day, and it is 168 days away - feels a lot closer than that.

As we look at 2024, there is a lot ahead of us. It will be just a couple of weeks and we will have hosted the Novice Quartet Contest for Northern California and hopefully delivered a goodly number of Singing Valentines (I reiterate the need for you who still work to ask for 2/14 off, at least half a day). We have collectively agreed to compete in the FWD Spring/NorCal Division Contest in Fremont, CA, March 16. We will have our Annual Show Saturday April 27. These things we know for sure to occur before we leave for the airport.

There will be some upcoming special rehearsals, that I fully expect each and every one of the Normandy participants to attend. I have talked about quartet sound gel, but there is also a bit of that in chorus sound – a goodly portion of that is balance and voice placement.

It wasn't that long ago, that I would have thought that that would be bordering on too much for us to handle. With the things we have done and the positive vibes I get as we do them, I know that we are more than capable of doing this and more.

I have asked before, are you excited? But now I want to know, are you engaged? Meaning, are you committed and confident that we (and more significantly you) can do this? Do you fully understand your role in all these things? Are you ready to lean a little outside your comfort zone?

No matter how things go on February 10<sup>th</sup>, February 14<sup>th</sup>, March 16<sup>th</sup> and/or April 27<sup>th</sup>, the trip to France will be something that we will talk about all our lives. The key is to make all the stories be stories of goodness and satisfaction and not of what could have been. So as the Harbor Pilot, I encourage your Captain (Bill) and the Leadership (the Music Team specifically) to work the crew (that would be us – the chorus) hard.

By the next 'View' I will write, there will have been a number of folks recognized for their efforts to support the Chapter in 2023, but I can tell you that each and every one of them are key to where we are right now and where we will be in the future – and that future is bright.

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

**By Bill Litz**

Happy New Year!!! 2023 was a great year for the Portsman with wonderful chorus performances and many members finding ways to quartet.

My new year's resolution for the chorus ... I guess it would be more of a wish since I can't control the feelings and emotions of the membership, is that we can all get to that place where we find joy and confidence in our singing.

When I get together to sing with my quartet, it usually takes a while before I'm warmed up vocally and emotionally. I see that with the chorus, too. Sometimes it can take half of the rehearsal for us to let go of the things that stress us and feeling the lack of joy of the people around us.

When I visited the Mean Time Chorus in London last summer, I was shocked at how long their warmup time was – about 45 minutes. I think they do that to make sure when they sing the first note together as a chorus that they are all ready to make music. They would partner up in groups of 2 or 3 and work through a routine that included:

- Physical stretching to allow their bodies to become a singing instrument
- Chatting with other members to release the stresses of life
- Deep breathing exercises to reestablish the air flow needed for good singing
- Soft singing with back pressure – using a singing straw or a cup
- Singing scales and intervals to match pitch and harmonize short phrases
- Finally, they would group together to sing a new tag to harmonize and think as a group
- As they learned the new tag, they would share their thoughts and emotions about the process

I personally have had mixed emotions about how to warm up. Sometimes I can just jump right in and other times it seems like I never find that confident edge during the rehearsal.

The thing that I do know is that, when I find that confident place is when music starts being created and everyone involved starts to have a good time.

As you're singing a song find that confident control by:

- Seeing yourself as a singer ready to communicate
- Thinking about the words of the next phrase so you are ready to deliver them
- Taking a confident preparatory breath before each phrase
- Making sure your face and body are expressing emotion
- Listening to your ensemble and adjusting as needed
- Cherishing the moments you make – Appreciating what the members next to you are doing
- Being grateful for the performance you create

Back to the new year's resolution. Develop a warmup routine that works for you. Do some physical and mental preparation on the way to rehearsal so that we can start making music with the first notes we sing together.

## 2024 Board of Directors

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



### Celebrations

#### **January Birthdays**

Chuck Thurman – 1/5  
Brad Nieman – 1/7  
Stephanie Thurman – 1/18  
Laci Parker – 1/20  
Joan Ray – 1/22

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

Thank you, 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  
Greg Devine

## Quartet Updates

# Tune Struck

Per Chuck Roots "Every year Ripon hosts the Southern Gospel group, Liberty Quartet, from Nampa, Idaho. This year we will have the concert on Friday night, January 19 at the First Christian Church in Ripon, 305 Boesch Drive. The concert begins at 7:00pm with my quartet, Tune Struck, as the warm-up act. This will be a fun and blessed evening. Great time to bring friends, especially if they don't know Jesus yet. A love offering is taken to support the traveling ministry of Liberty Quartet."



**LIBERTY QUARTET**  
— IN CONCERT —

*January 19, 7:00*  
*At: First Church - Ripon*  
*(305 Boesch Drive) Love Offering*  
*\*New Location*

LISTEN + FOLLOW      
#LivingHopeTour   

*Living*  
**HOPE**  
— TOUR —

 [www.libertyquartet.com/tour](http://www.libertyquartet.com/tour)  
 Romans 5:5 & Romans 15:33

# 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.

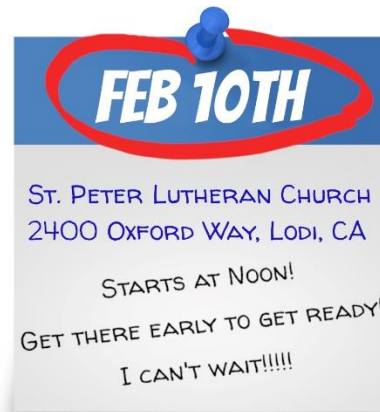
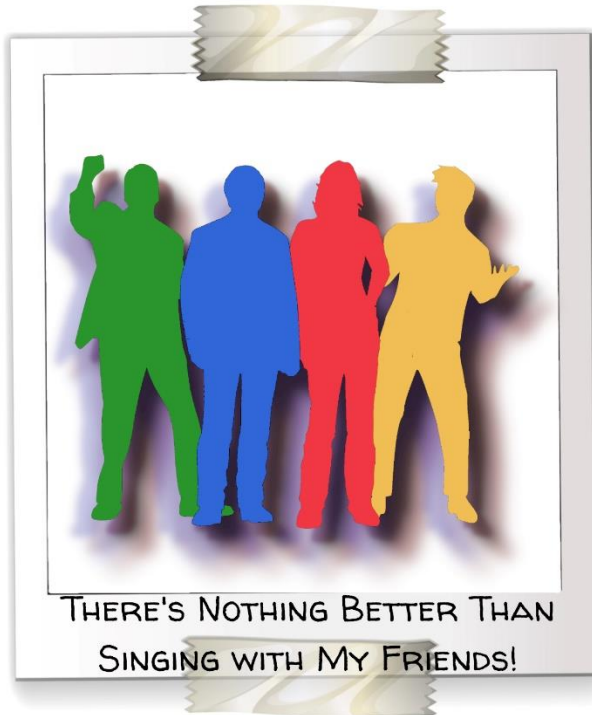


For details call: (209) 881-7464  
Or Email to [valentine@stocktonportsmen.org](mailto:valentine@stocktonportsmen.org)

N



# 2024 NorCal Novice Quartet Contest



FOR REGISTRATION FORMS  
AND CONTEST RULES GO TO:  
[WWW.STOCKTONPORTSMEN.ORG](http://WWW.STOCKTONPORTSMEN.ORG)



EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS TO:  
[INFO@STOCKTONPORTSMEN.ORG](mailto: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: 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:

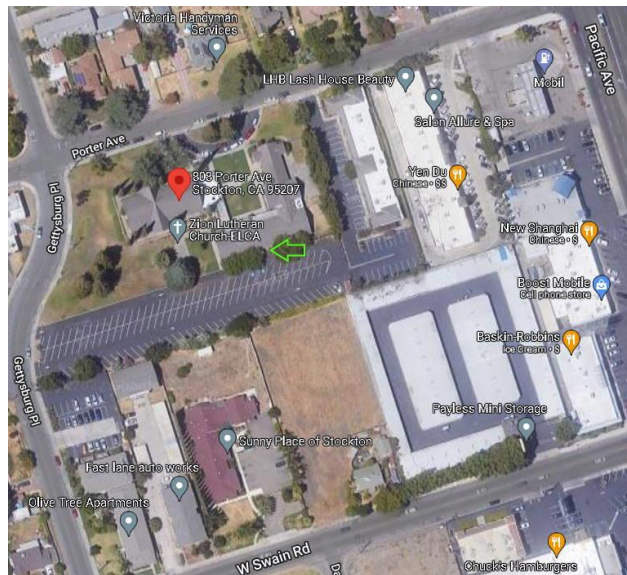
[Click here to access the Stockton Portsmen Calendar](#)

### 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\*\***

#### **2024**

- 1/23 Installation Dinner (Barrell Room) Lodi Grape Festival Grounds
- 2/10 NorCal Novice Quartet Contest (Lodi, CA)
- 2/14 Singing Valentines
- 3/14-3/17 2024 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 2024 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/>