



# The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsman  
February 2024 - Issue #55

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



## THE VIEW FROM THE HELM

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### EVENTUALITY— ISSUE 26

This concept has been floating around in the back of my mind for a couple of weeks. As much as I dislike the whole idea of it, there are things that are wearing on me in the regards to the eventual changes that we all will experience.

I am starting to put these thoughts onto paper after the Installation and Awards Dinner, and before I get too far into where I hope to go with this, I want to thank Nancy Hennefer and Dave Harmon for a great night – yes Nancy did all the heavy lifting, but it falls under the VP: Chapter Development & Membership's auspices. Congratulations go out to the recipients of the Awards:

- Kitty Harmon – Rookie of the Year
- Rosie Estrella – Recognized for her GoFundMe Efforts
- Brad Niemen – Recognized for his Video Promotional activities
- Al Farnum – President's Soaring Eagle Award recipient for Normandy financial efforts
- Nancy Hennefer – Barbershopper of the Year, Normandy Chair, et al

Special thanks go to Bill Litz for serving as the Installing Officer and congratulations to the 2024 Board, that looks a lot like the 2022 and 2023 Board – and for me, that is not a bad thing. Eventually, it will change, and the one big change we did see is an indicator of that eventuality. Our bodies fail us, even when we are doing the things we love.

Bet you are starting to see how and why the topic has taken residence in my conscience. Tom Harmon planted the seed as we worked to get him up to speed with the financial software and the tasks associated with the Treasurer's Report. There are a lot of things I know, both as a 40 year – Second Generation BHS member and as a Chapter administrator; serving in all the positions on the Board. Having been associated with four different Chapters and the Frank Thorne Chapter-at-Large, I have seen lots of good and bad things. Being part of the behind the scenes of the Chapter, there are a lot of lessons learned. Eventually, you gain experience, knowledge, and some understanding. Sharing that makes you an indispensable expert it seems. Fortunately, most of us really aren't indispensable – normally there are others that can step up when eventuality arrives, and the previous expert is no longer available.

As I stated in my remarks at installation night, one of my intents of this missives is to help make you all the next expert, when I can no longer be the expert, I surely hope that there is someone to run the Chapter.

As we get closer to our trip to Normandy, I think of all the men that fought in World War II, how they prepared to invade the European Mainland via France, how they had to have known that their "eventuality" would be very suspect – and yet they were ready to storm the beaches. I oft wonder how we today would think about that task if we had to do it today.

Eventuality catches up with us all. As the saying goes, 'there are only two guarantees in life: death and taxes.' While a case could be made about taxes (sometimes think that is the popularity of Communism/Socialism), the former really has no real escape. We never know when our time is up (sorry – I know, downer thought), so the sharing of information and practices is imperative.

So, my charge for myself, is to move the information from this paper and into you all, all the while helping get us to France to honor those that took on the beaches that June morning.

**Kitty Harmon – Rookie of the Year**



**Rosie Estrella – Recognized for her GoFundMe Efforts**



**Brad Niemen – Recognized for his Video Promotional activities**



**Al Farnum – President's Soaring Eagle Award recipient for Normandy financial efforts**





**Nancy Hennefer – Barbershopper of the Year, Normandy Chair, et al**











## Musical Director's Message:

By Bill Litz

Where did January go? As I think about all the performances ahead of us in 2024, I realize that we need to be efficient in our rehearsal time. I also see that when each of you take time each week, even just 15 minutes a day to go over the music, we can more easily put all the parts together into an artistic musical expression.

Let's assume we have all practiced and are confident about our notes and words... The final phase in creating an artistic performance is creating the visual presentation. I just read that "*people hear 80% with their eyes*". We need to create a visual experience that enhances the aural sounds we work so hard to create.

Some visual aspects can be laid out as structured choreography that unifies the chorus:

- What emotions do we want to portray?
- What facial expressions support the emotion we are trying to elicit?
- Where should our visual focus be and when should it change?
- What movement should we do – are there group moves that add to the spectacle?

But even if there is no structured plan, we each need to consider those same elements in delivering our performance. And that needs to happen in our practice environment.

- Prepare an emotional space/feeling as (or before) the pitch blows
- Take a singers stance before singing the first note
- Use each breath to reset your mind to focus on the aspects of delivering the next phrase
- Be aware of your facial expression and body language – change them as needed for the music
- Risk feeling the emotions of the drama you are performing

Don't wait for someone to tell you how to move or to express emotion while singing. As we create more visual moments, our musical expression will also improve. The energy you create will lift that of your chorus mates which will spiral the quality of our performance higher.

I look forward to those moments when we are all in the same mind creating art.





## **Celebrations**

### **February Birthdays**

John Hunt – 2/16

Sandy Mosley – 2/23

**[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, Ione

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, Ione  
Hotel Sutter Restaurant, Sutter Creek  
Monarch, Ione  
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  
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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  
  
Kathryn Olsen  
  
Anonymous  
  
Willys Nitschke - Member: Stockton  
Portsmen  
Kitty Harmon - Member: Stockton  
Portsmen



## Quartet Updates

# **Tune Struck**

One would think that a quartet that has been together for over twenty years would have experienced just about everything there is, but this year we had our first “Opening Act” gig. We ‘warmed-up the audience for the Liberty Quartet (<https://www.facebook.com/libertyquartet>), which was a first. Since Chuck has joined the quartet, we have done a couple of events at the First Christian Reformed Church of Ripon, enough that we feel comfortable in the space. Singing as the warm-up act with several folks we know in the audience was an added treat.



The second performance of January was to return to UOP to sing the National Anthem for the Women’s Basketball game. We have been to enough UOP games, that we think we need to get some orange spirit to wear.



As we stood on the sidelines waiting for the time to walk out on the floor, the 'Play-bb-Play' Announcer for the ESPN coverage approached us and asked if we were the Anthem singers, a Barbershop Quartet and did we know Don Gubbins – as he was Don's son.





It is always a treat to sing in support of our local sporting events and Teams. Many fond memories come from such performances. A little step back in time, when the Stockton Lightning Indoor Football Team was playing in the Stockton Arena. In 2008, we sang the Nation Anthem for our most memorable photo, both teams breaking ranks with Colors posted to thank us.



# THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

First, we are a Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. (S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.) doing business as the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS). BHS Chapters exist in the United States and Canada and are divided up into 17 Districts, which we are in the Far Western District (FWD); and our Chapter number is D-042.

As a Chapter of the Society, we are under the Society's 501.c.3 Non-Profit exemption by the IRS (you can find the IRS Exemption Letter, last updated 2022 and the listing of the Chapter's which are under that umbrella on the [www.Barbershop.org](http://www.Barbershop.org) website) and we are registered as such with the California Secretary of State and the California Franchise Tax Board. We are also registered with the California Attorney General's Office. That in of itself is the benefit of being a member – and oh by the way, if you itemize, you can claim some of your participation requirements on your own taxes (there is a document about that too on the Society's website).

The Society has an affiliated charitable organization, the Harmony Foundation, International (HFI). HFI provides funds to enhance musical education and other such altruistic musical endeavors. Contributing to HFI is tax deductible and up to 20% can be directed back to the Chapter.

We have our own website ([www.StocktonPortsmen.org](http://www.StocktonPortsmen.org)) and Social Media accounts. A lot of useful information is presented here. You can not only find copies of the Chapter Newsletter, the Captain's Log, in the Gallery Section, but information of the Chapter's history, our quartets, our Awardees, our calendar (under events), links to the Society and District webpages, and more. You should review all that is presented here from time to time, if for no other reason to suggest changes and point out errors. The idea is to provide information to both the public and our members. Members specific information is under the 'Members Only' tab and password protected.

As part of providing information to members and the public and providing an easy mechanism to get information to the Chapter, we have several email accounts and targets.

These are the email accounts from which Chapter information is sent. These accounts are usually accessed by one person to send to groups.

[PortsmenContact@gmail.com](mailto:PortsmenContact@gmail.com) – This account is also the account for the Chapter Telephone Number and is currently accessed by the Director.

[StocktonPortsmenChorus@gmail.com](mailto:StocktonPortsmenChorus@gmail.com) – This account was once used for Show Mailing List.

[PortsmenStockton@gmail.com](mailto:PortsmenStockton@gmail.com) – another Mailing List submittal account.

Next is a listing of our email targets, which when used, sends information to member email address.

[INFO@StocktonPortsmen.org](mailto:INFO@StocktonPortsmen.org) – Used for general inquires and is usually pointed to the Chorus Contact

[EVENTS@StocktonPortsmen.org](mailto:EVENTS@StocktonPortsmen.org) – Used for ticket sales and is usually pointed to individual handling event ticket processing.

[VALENTINE@StocktonPortsmen.org](mailto:VALENTINE@StocktonPortsmen.org) – Used for Valentine sales and is pointed to the Valentine Coordinator.

[SUNSHINE@StocktonPortsmen.org](mailto:SUNSHINE@StocktonPortsmen.org) – Used to indicate the need for help or an absence from a scheduled Chapter event and is pointed to the VP of Membership & Chapter Development and the Sunshine Chairperson

[TREASURER@StocktonPortsmen.org](mailto:TREASURER@StocktonPortsmen.org) – Used for financial communication and is pointed to the Chapter Treasurer and President.

As noted earlier, the Chapter has a telephone number (209) 881-SING [7464]. Like the email targets, this number can be pointed to the cell phone of any member depending on the time and activity.

The Chapter has the following Social Media Accounts (you should follow/like):

Facebook (actually two accounts):

<https://www.facebook.com/StocktonPortsmen>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/194542747456>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/stocktonportsmen/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PortsmenChorus>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@stocktonportsmen>

As a Non-profit semi-fraternal organization, we have Conventions to conduct Society / District business (elections, budget approval, motions, etc.). In order to encourage attendance, contests were established for first quartets and then chorus'. There is a cycle to these events. The BHS has two conventions a year, the Mid-Winter and the Summer. Mid-Winter hosts the Senior Contest and the Summer is the International Quartet and Chorus Contests. In order to qualify for the International Contests, FWD quartets compete in the International Preliminary Quartet Contest held in conjunction with the FWD Spring Convention, which is now held in conjunction with Divisional Contests (see below).

Each of the five Divisions of the FWD (Northern California East (with Northern Nevada) & West, Southern California East (with Southern Nevada and bit of Sothern Utah) & West (with Hawaii), and Arizona have a Spring Convention in which Quartets and Chorus' compete to qualify for the Fall District Convention and Contests. Recently, the NorCal and SoCal Convention and Contests have been held concurrently (aka at the same time) and each are held in the May time frame. As noted earlier, one of the Divisional Conventions is held in conjunction with the Spring District Convention in March. The Fall District Convention is held in October, along with Quartet and Chorus Contests. The Chorus Contest winner is invited to the International Convention and Chorus Contest in July (around the Fourth) and the Quartet Champion is crowned and can no longer compete at the district level. They and any other quartet may qualify to compete at International with scores at the Preliminary Contest in March.

One last thing, as a Chapter of a 501.c.3 Organization, we are listed in the document referred to in the IRS recognition letter that can be found on the BHS website. The letter was last updated in 2017 and will have to be reissued whenever the BHS address changes. The Listing is a spreadsheet that is organized by Districts and is also posted on the BHS webpage. The Chapter does have Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, with lots of identification numbers (Tax ID for Feds and State, Secretary of State, etc.) which should be known by the Secretary and Treasurer.

Every member should be at least aware of these things, if not having a working knowledge.



## 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:

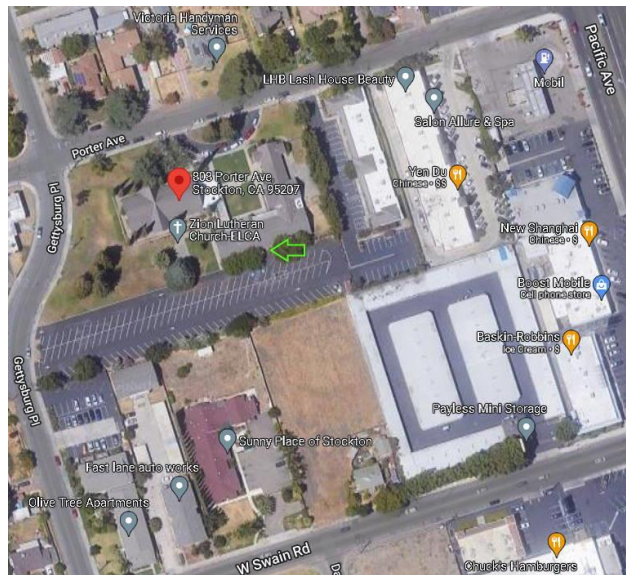
[Click here to access the Stockton Portsmen Calendar](#)

### 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**

- 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/>