



# The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsmen

April 2024 - Issue #56



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

**By Bill Litz**

Thank you for all your efforts in learning the music and trusting my leadership every time we perform. What a ride the last few years have been. We went from:

- NOT competing
- to being allowed to compete as ***Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association*** members in **2018**
- to being on the regular ***Barbershop Harmony Society*** contest with the implementation of **Everyone in Harmony** in **2019**
- to being crowned **Nor Cal East Division Champions** in **2024**

The contest cycle presented had its ups and downs in my 20+ years as a barbershopper. The subjectiveness of judging an art form is a difficult thing – we each have different things that appeal to us, but I do think the BHS judges do a remarkable job at ranking each competitor that crosses the stage.

***How Lucky We Are*** as **Portsmen** to share the stage together and to sing for the joy of singing. I'd like to think I understand the scoring system, but when it comes down to it, I just want us to be entertaining, have a good time and to feel good about the art we create.

Being a Portsmen is so much more than our six minutes on stage. For many years there weren't very many Portsmen members that attended conventions. It's been exciting to see that change and see our involvement have an impact on the whole experience. It made me proud to see our membership:

- Be the backbone of the **Everyone In Harmony/Mic Tester Chorus**
- Attend the **quartet sessions** to see what our fellow barbershoppers are doing
- Participate in the **quartet contest** (really sorry the Three Lads and Alas had to drop out)
- Have **every active member on stage** – even a few people that have just joined
- Take part in the **Nor Cal Harmony Collective**
- Engage fully in the **chorus evaluations** – 100% of the people on stage participated in that process
- Share our joy in accepting the trophy singing ***How Lucky You Are*** and ***A Million Dreams***
- Spend time after the convention **creating formal and informal afterglow memories**

I have never been prouder to be in front of the chorus and of each member that is so friendly and approachable as you contributed to the Far Western District Convention.

I look forward to more moments together as we prepare for the **Hollywood and Barbershop** show in May and the **On To Normandy** Tour in June. Do your part by learning your music and inviting people to the show. I enjoy every week together as we sing together and become better performers!

## STOCKTON PORTSMEN RATED #1

(by Tom Harmon)

### ----- THE EMERGENCE-----

“If you don’t have a dream, how you gonna make a dream come true?”

(South Pacific)

Most people, upon seeing a caterpillar, do not see what the caterpillar might become. Bill Litz, director of the Stockton Portsmen Barbershop Chorus had the vision and the dream that a ragtag chorus of amateurs from Stockton, California could become a beautiful butterfly.

Bill recognized that an ordinary person could have extraordinary potential if given mentoring, encouragement, and a thoughtful sense of self-worth. His vision has been rewarded.

Under Bill’s direction, on March 16, 2024, his chorus of twenty members entered the competition stage at Fremont, California to participate in the Far Western District’s Division Contest. As his twenty, formerly ordinary, singers mounted the risers, there was a sparkle in Bill’s eyes. As the singers focused upon Bill, the audience disappeared, and only the magic of practice and dedication appeared. As the audience applauded, the singers all knew that something beautiful had occurred.

Later that afternoon, as participating choruses were commended, it was announced that, after thirteen years, there was a new championship chorus....THE STOCKTON PORTSMEN....YES, THAT LITTLE GROUP OF TWENTY HAD EMERGED.

And while it is true that Bill Litz, a master showman, had carried the vision, it is also especially true that the chorus had become a band of equals, a company of high camaraderie, where each member was highly valued and appreciated, where each member would step forward to any task, and where dedication occurred not only at rehearsals on Tuesday night, but on each day preceding Tuesday. The spirit and love of a common bond became the essence of success.

I am so pleased to be a member of this chorus. It fills my heart with joy to know that I am in a world of those who can dream, and that we can each add some luster to the beauty which is emerging.

If you know anyone who would like to become a part of our growth, visit the Portsmen on Tuesday night from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at our rehearsal hall, Zion Lutheran Church, 808 Porter Ave, Stockton. Come around behind the parking lot and arrive at the building's entry gate. A red A-frame sign will greet and direct you... or you could just follow the delightful music in your ears.

### **FWD Division Everyone in Harmony Chorus Performance**



### **Stockton Portsmen FWD Division Performance**





**Accepting the plaques for**  
**Northeast Division Chorus Competition Chorus Champion &**  
**Northeast Division Chorus Competition Plateau AA Champion**





**Richard Lund presenting the trophy at Rehearsal**



**Afterglow!**

**Never Too Late**



**Fourward Motion**







## Celebrations

### **March & April Birthdays**

Marc Jantzen – 3/1

Mike Drouin - 3/9

Sue Atkins - 3/20

Willys Nitschke – 4/18

Regina Brown – 4/23

[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  
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  
  
Kathryn Olsen  
  
Anonymous  
  
Willys Nitschke - Member: Stockton  
Portsmen  
Kitty Harmon - Member: Stockton  
Portsmen  
  
Mahesh Ranchod  
  
Jami Howland

# The Stockton Portsmen Barbershop Chorus

Proudly Presents

our 67th Annual Show

## HOLLYWOOD & BARBERSHOP

Singing favorite songs featured in Hollywood movies over the past century, in 4-Part Harmony!



Featuring:  
The Stockton Portsmen Barbershop Chorus  
&  
Local and Guest Quartets including:  
**Three Lads and Alas!**, and **Royal Flush** and many more!

Saturday, May 11th, 2024 @ 2:30 PM

Zion Lutheran Church  
808 W. Porter Ave, Stockton CA

Tickets: \$20 | Kids 12 and Under Free  
209-881-SING(7464) | [www.StocktonPortsmen.org](http://www.StocktonPortsmen.org)



## Novice Competition Hosted by the Stockton Portsmen

### Tune Struck (Mic Testers)



### Lords of the Ring



## Panning for Chords



## Three Lads & ALAS



## Fanny Pack



## Snag a Bass



## Judges



## Mike Cating announcing the Novice Winners





## Novice Winners Fanny Pack



Quartet Updates

***Tune Struck***

Performing for a Celebration of Life



# Royal Flush

## Mic Testers at FWD Division Competition



## National Anthem for the Stockton Kings Game



## Three Lads and Alas!

February was an interesting month for our quartet. We competed in the Novice Quartet contest, Willys' first competition, and although our scores were not what we had hoped for, the experience we gained and the feedback we received from judges Robert Lenoil and Rafael Pazo was very helpful. It was also gratifying to hear compliments from the audience on our performance.



For Kitty and Willys, this year was their very first time doing Singing Valentines, and we all enjoyed it very much, with five in-person and two remote deliveries. We kept our strength up for the hard work by munching on glazed butterscotch oatmeal bars!



We worked very hard on our songs for the division competition in March. Unfortunately, laryngitis got the best of us, and we were not able to compete. But we were all on stage for the Portsmen's amazing championship chorus performance. We'll start working now on our songs for Bakersfield in October. With the addition of Willys, we are now officially a seniors' quartet. And in two years, the Good Lord willing and the creek don't rise, we will be super seniors!

## 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:

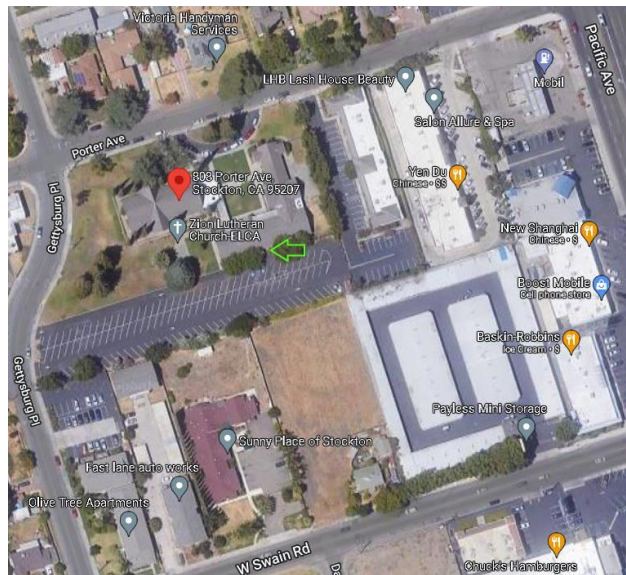
[Click here to access the Stockton Portsmen Calendar](#)

### 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**

- 4/4 & 4/6 Barbary Coast Show
- 5/4 California Delta Show
- 5/11 Stockton 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)
- 10/25-10/27 2024 FWD Youth Harmony Camp (Pollock Pines, 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/>