



The Captain's Log

The Newsletter of the Stockton Portsman
November 2018 - Issue #8

Stockton Portsman 2018 Mixed Chorus Champions at FWD Fall Convention



“What is certain is that singing is not merely modulating a song by means of the voice: we sing and we celebrate the beauty that we can grow and live every day. If you want to sing and give emotions to those who are listening, you must have something to tell through your singing; you have to use singing like an instrument to tell something.” Andrea Bocelli

President's Message: by Harry Williams

Hi Youal. October goes out with a bang! Lots of good memories left over. A great Convention in Fresno, a terrific guest night that happen to fall on Halloween Night, another Anthem for Heat Hockey, and lots of great things coming up for November.

Our Chapter and Quartets will be busy with 2 different Gigs on Veterans Day, a performance at Senior center, 2 gigs for Tune Struck, and continued preparation for our Dec 2nd Christmas Show. We also have a strolling sing on Dec. 1st for the Festival of Trees. I'm sure other things will come in also.

Till next month`s Captains Log
Pres. Harry

Musical Director's Message: by Bill Litz

November is here and **Thanksgiving** is right around the corner. That gives me pause to reflect on what has happened over the past year.

- Participating in Division contest in Brentwood (15 on stage)
- Releasing a monthly newsletter – The Captain's Log
- Performing at many local events
- Revitalization of the Portsmen Board
- Establishment of a functioning Music Team
- Developing section leaders to develop a unit sound
- Constructing a new look in our attire – the look is exceptional
- Embracing our identity as a *Mixed* Chorus
- Using coaching sessions to improve our performance
- Reviewing audio and video recordings for personal growth
- WINNING the 2018 FWD Mixed Barbershop Contest (26 on stage)
- Planning NOW for our next three shows and contests
- Every member having more fun by becoming a better singer

Foremost, I'd like to thank each of you for your commitment to the Portsmen. I am thankful to what each of you bring to our group. As I said in Fresno, I used to be proud of the extraordinary things ordinary singers could accomplish. I've come to realize each of you has skills and talents that make you uniquely extraordinary! Thank you for sharing those with me and your chorus members.

Having added a contest cycle to our already busy schedule might have made you feel frazzled. It's easy to get overwhelmed by all the things going on. All the work; all the training; all the planning – to culminate with six minutes on stage! Fortunately, we got an extra moment on the show of champions to celebrate all that work – that is a moment I will cherish forever.

(Continued on next page)

I've wanted to say many times in so many stressful situations, I can't wait until the next "thing" is over.

Every moment I spend with you makes me not to rush past all the small accomplishments like: learning a new song; singing chords with all the parts in balance; having everyone sing matched vowel sounds; singing a new tag or using an exercise to achieve a better singing technique; and seeing the emotion of a phrase or even a single word ripple through the chorus. All these are musical and performance attributes that we need to revel in every time we sing – being joyful in each of those moments – that six minutes on stage in contest is a blink of an eye compared to the time we spend preparing.

There are non-musical things that I've come to find joy in: seeing you appreciate and care for each other; laughing at the humor in a mistake; feeling empathy when a troubled moment comes; finding solutions to personal conflicts; learning to trust each other; and celebrating together – I really do feel a synergy and family when we are together.

I hope you all can learn not to rush past the moments we share weekly. Bring your best to rehearsal. Respect what your chorus mates have to offer. Be thankful for what we're accomplished and shared. And know that it's only going to get better!

Chorus News:

Exotic Move



What a Great Looking Chorus!!!



Performing @ the William Saroyan Theatre





the Stockton Portsmen present

ACapella All Aglow

\$15

featuring:

**Dynamix
Tuesday**

Tunestruck

MiXed Meta 4

Battlewagon Gang

and other special guests

in addition to The Portsmen Chorus

**SUNDAY
December 2
2 PM**

808 Porter Avenue, Stockton 95207

for tickets call (209)881-SING(7464)

or visit www.stocktonportsmen.org

Quartet News:

mixed meta4

by Nick Adams, Bass

October was a slow month for our quartetting. We were focused on District. Joan was preparing for a trip to Saint Louis for Sweet Adelines International and recognition of her sixty years of Barbershop! The rest of our quartet was traveling or nursing ourselves through chest colds or falls. Our focus in November will be Christmas - old favorites and some that we hope will become favorites. We are thanking the Society for accepting the Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association and our chance to be part of the Stockton Portsmen for a historic performance in Fresno.



Joan Ray – Tenor
Dave Harmon – Baritone

Al Farnum – Lead
Nick Adams – Bass

TuneStruck

Harvest is over, and Fall is here, with it comes new opportunities to sing. November has several performances set - if we can only get a rehearsal or two in beforehand.

As an aside, due to Greg Hedges trip to Colorado to Trick or Treat with grandkids, the Four Portsmen of the Apocalypse sang for St Joseph's Dignity Health Week

Al Wolter
Tenor - Tune Struck Quartet
209.747.7499
www.TuneStruckQuartet.com

[Click here to follow us on Facebook](#)



The Four Portsmen of the Apocalypse



Carol Clark, Bill Litz, Al Wolter and Nancy Hennefer, aka **the Four Portsmen of the Apocalypse**, sang for the staff, patients and visitors of St. Joseph Medical Center for Dignity Health Week.

Celebrations:

November Birthdays

Al Wolter	11/7
Bob Yater	11/23



Barbershop Tags:

Who loves a good Barbershop Tag? If you don't know already, here's a great website to find all your favorite tags. "This site contains 3,940 freely-downloadable Barbershop tags with more being added every day. Many tags come complete with learning tracks, sheet music - even video clips of them being sung." If you're feeling creative, you can create and submit a tag/video too!

[Click here to go to Barbershop Tags](#)

Forget Me Notes:

WE ARE NOT MEETING while Don Wilson is recovering from his bout with bladder cancer.

Don phoned today and extended his congratulations to the chorus for winning the first FWD Mixed Chorus Contest in Fresno.

He's now well enough to receive emails, phone calls, and cards. His contact information is on the Portsmen web site.

Harmony Lunch Bunch:

11:30 AM (3rd Thursday of each month)
Sam's Hof Brau
2500 Watt Ave, Sacramento, CA 95821
Contact: Kent Borrowdale
kborrow@comcast.net

**Member Reveal
from October Issue**

Joan Ray



**Can you guess who
this current
Stockton Portsmen is???**



Bill Legg



**Honoring & celebrating the
past, can you guess the name of
this former Stockton Portsmen?**



What does it mean to be a Stockton Portsmen Barbershopper?

By Sue Atkins, Lead

August 2017, I walked in the open door to find my answer to this question. What drew me to this group? Seeing them perform at intermission during Music in the Park in the summer of 2015. As they were finishing their songs they invited the public to come sing with them on Tuesday nights. Although it wouldn't be until a couple of years later that I would search them out and investigate how to get involved. I by no means considered myself a singer, even though I had been playing ukulele for a couple of years and performing. I was not comfortable with my singing voice and wanted to improve. When I walked through the door I was welcomed by a fascinating group of men and women who shared their love for barbershop music. It wouldn't be until later that I would realize how special that moment would be.

Each barbershopper has their own experience and most are willing to share their story with you. I found that what I put into my barbershop experience determined what I would get out of it. The more vulnerable I allowed myself, and the more I faced my fears, the more rewarding the experience became. During one of the earlier meetings I was placed in the front row, in the middle of the chorus, and as we sang I felt the voices overwhelm me with beautiful sounds and emotions. It was a feeling of pure joy and awe. It was an amazing collaborative effort which produced an emotional impact that cannot be replicated when performing alone.

The Stockton Portsmen believe in the "Everyone in Harmony" vision (promoted earlier this year by the Barbershop Harmony Society) and they show many examples of inclusiveness, allowing people who enjoy singing regardless of experience the opportunity to sing with them. They provide a wonderful opportunity to those who never knew singing with a chorus would be an option and they are great ambassadors of the mission of bringing people together through harmony.

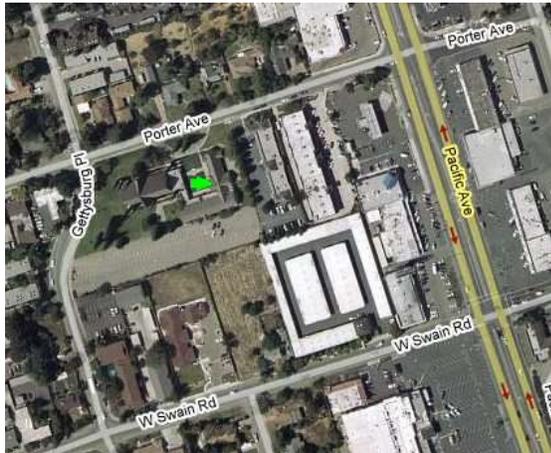
I am truly thankful for the opportunity to sing with the Stockton Portsmen and appreciate each member for what they share and bring to the chorus. Many of them have gone out of their way to help me learn to carry my part. It's been a pleasure to watch our group grow and continue to evolve over this last year. It's truly been magical and I will forever be grateful for the experience. I look forward as the adventure continues. It's GREAT to be a Barbershopper!!!

Weekly Chapter Meetings:

Location: Zion Lutheran Church –
808 W. Porter Avenue – Stockton – CA
Tuesdays: 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

See calendar for up-to-date information:
[Click here to access the Stockton Portsmen Calendar](#)

Map:



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 Rd turn north on Gettysburg Pl then turn east into Zion Lutheran Church parking lot.

We meet in Grace Hall on the northeast side of the complex.

Website:

<http://www.stocktonportsmen.org/>

Facebook:

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

Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association Page:

<https://www.mixedbarbershop.org/ensemble/stockton-portsmen-barbershop-chorus/>

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 Dates****

2018 Events

- Nov 3 *The Central California Chapter presents...*
Golden Valley Chorus Fall Show
Turlock, CA
[Click here for more details](#)
- Nov 17 *The Santa Rosa Chapter presents...*
Redwood Chordsmen Fall Show
2pm & 7pm shows
Santa Rosa, CA
[Click here for more details](#)
- Nov 18 *The Marin Chapter presents...*
Marin Golden Gate Barbershop Chorus
Fall Show
2pm
San Rafael, CA
[Click here for more details](#)
- Dec 1 Festival of Trees (Micke Grove)
(12:00 PM – 2:00 PM)
- Dec 1 *The California Delta Chapter presents...*
VoCal Christmas Show
Folsom, CA
[Click here for more details](#)
- Dec 2 **Annual Show – Christmas Theme**
Zion Lutheran Church
(2:00 PM – 4:00 PM)
[Click here for more details](#)
- Dec 4 Stockton Chapter Meeting & Portsmen
Chorus
O'Connor Woods West Hall
(6:45 PM – 8:15 PM)
- Dec 9 Bob Hope Fox Theater
(12:30 PM – 4:30 PM)

2019 Events

- Feb 14 Singing Valentines (2019)
Mar 17 Ice Cream Social (2019)
Mar 21 FWD Spring Prelims NE/NW
Division (2019)
Mamie Starr Performing Arts Center
Ronald E McNair High School
Stockton, CA
(March 21 – 24, 2019)
Oct 10 FWD Fall Convention (2019)
(October 10 – 13, 2019)
(Sacramento, 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/>