



# The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsman  
March/April 2020 - Issue #24



## **President's Message: by Nance Hennefer**

Greetings Portsmen. Well, we are living through an historic time. No, duh.....

First off, I hope you and your families are all well and healthy, both physically and mentally. As annoying and time sucking technology can be, I am thankful that I can stay connected with the world. Thanks to all of you that have posted on FB and messenger; the music, YouTube links, ha ha's and uplifting posts have reminded me that we are all in this together. We, as a chorus, have a bit of a head start with this whole "do it for the good of everyone" approach. We are used to relying on each other to sing the right notes, sing the right words and sing as one. Let's continue to rely on each other as a group of people that care about each other, and to look forward to when we can all be together again. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your Portsman family, even if it's just a quick check in to get you back on track.

On to business....

The President's message is supposed to bring you information and reminders of upcoming events and activities. Obviously, time has stopped for now, along with all upcoming events including the LA International's this summer. I did participate in my first ZOOM meeting with the FWD House of Delegates. The good news is that the Cruise is still on and the ONLY thing any competing chorus or quartet needs to do to qualify is to REGISTER as a competitor! That gets you 1 point, and you're good to go! A September 1<sup>st</sup> deadline was discussed but nothing yet on when registration will be open. IF the cruise needs to cancel, all deposits and payments will be fully refunded. Right now, around 400 cabins have been booked! The 2021 Spring Contest is still scheduled to take place in Stockton at McNair.

Nothing else to report on except to say...take this time to practice your music, sing to your pets, watch and listen to fun quartets and choruses and STAY HEALTHY!!!!

Sending love notes,  
Nance

March/April 2020 - Issue #24  
April 1, 2020

## **Musical Director's Message:** **by Bill Litz**

Until recently I hadn't really thought much about the fraternal aspect of the Barbershop Harmony Society or the Portsmen. I think of it as a singing and performing outlet. Most of my concentration is focused on encouraging better singing and performing.

Even though my best friends are my barbershop friends, I often take those relationships for granted. As long as my quartet and chorus mates have the same basic goals, we all enjoy each other's company. But as we see more opportunities for performing and competing in front of us (or maybe not enough opportunities), we can feel a little friction as our commitment is questioned.

What things do you desire in your barbershop experience?

- To sing better personally
- Making friends to share experiences
- To build community relationships
- To help others sing better
- To introduce barbershop to others

More importantly, what things do you desire for other people in your quartet or chorus in their barbershop experience? That is where we too often fail in enjoying our time together. We think their experience should be the same as what we want.

The expectations we have for others need to be understood and agreed to, so that we don't become frustrated with our chorus experience. We need to each live up to what is required, bringing our emotions and talents to our meetings/rehearsals and performances.

The COVID-19 influence on our getting together has made me even more aware of the differences in what we each want and need to feel motivated and fulfilled. I miss my quartet gathering and look forward to when we can get together next. Having four people make a decision – with similar goals and desires and the same plan for being prepared – is a world away from getting the chorus on the same page. I look forward to finding a new balance of what that means as we go forward this year with limited performance opportunities and the fears we may all encounter in regards to meeting while this virus is active.

As your director, this is how I've seen the Portsmen:

- We are group that is welcoming and encouraging to all singers  
We should be friendly and personable, leaving worries and troubles of the world at the door
- We are each teachers AND students  
Don't hold back your best while waiting for others to get up to speed – that doesn't help them be better  
Make sure *you* are not making others wait for you to learn or try something new  
Not everyone can read music – we need to help them to learn the music

As a nonprofit organization, the Barbershop Harmony Society understands and embraces the transformative power of harmony. We know that group harmonizing can help:

- improve physical and emotional health
- build healthier communities
- young people become healthier adults
- forge inter-generational bonds
- reduce barriers across diverse cultures and groups

- We are a group that is continually learning  
We try new songs and styles with varying degrees of difficulty  
This is probably the most troubling place in that some people learn easily  
and others need to work harder to learn and memorize
- We are performers – not professionals but performers nonetheless  
Not everyone is a seasoned performer – we need to help them to be more outgoing  
We need to be prepared to entertain at a moment's notice – we need to be better at being ready
- We are volunteers  
We each have different schedules and different amounts of time available  
We each need to be involved in choosing our direction and goals

You each see the Portsmen a little differently. It's important that we share our visions and desires for the chorus and for each other. And to do this in was that inspires and encourages each other.

I've felt a little paralyzed in knowing what to do in regards to so many things during our "Shelter in Place". I suspect that it will be another month before we are able to meet together. I miss our fellowship. I miss the harmony we make together.

I encourage you to sing. I encourage you to check on each other. I encourage you to be safe. Be on the lookout for some new ways to communicate as a chapter and to plan for what we will be doing when we next see each other. I'm excited about the time when we can get back together and to be able to sing again for our families, friends and community.

## **How Do You...?** **by Al Wolter**

The operation of a Barbershop Chapter should be an easy thing; everything revolves around singing and singing well, right? Seems pretty straight-forward.

But before you can sing something, you need someone to sing it with. That means there has to be members. Finding and keeping members is not as straight-forward as one would hope. Lots of folks like to sing, they sing in the shower, in the car, at concerts, in churches and schools, in choirs, and on stage in musicals and plays. So getting them to visit, get hooked on the sound and then stay members for life is a piece of cake – NOT!

For starters, there are lots of different ideas about Barbershop singing (from 'it's too hard' to 'it's not properly disciplined' to 'only non-serious people do that') and our collective lives only get busier each day making it hard to find the time.

Still, Al Farnum had the perfect answer Tuesday, January 7, 2020 when talking about selling Valentines – “you have to ask!” Ask who? Ask anyone you know or run into that you note are singing: “do you like to sing,” “where do you sing,” “have you ever thought about singing A’ Capella harmony?”

You do not have to be a salesperson; you just have to be confident in what you do / are as a Barbershopper, be a little observant, and ask anyone who you see that might be a benefit to the Chapter. But you need to be prepared for rejection – not because you did anything wrong – it is just the way it is.

If you get turned down, just look for the next opportunity. If you think that a friend would really be a good fit, however, keep asking. Don't be a pest, but don't give up either.

I hope this helps – and if you have any questions, please feel free to send me a note and I'll try to help.

## **NorCal Novice 2020** **by Richard Lund**

Six quartets participated in the 2020 Novice contest held Centenary Church in Modesto February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The winner of the men's quartet contest was Fourward Motion representing the Palo Alto –Mountain View Chapter. The winner of the mixed quartet contest was Royal Flush representing the Stockton Chapter.

The six participating quartets represented seven chapters. Our contest administrators were Chuck Hunter, Sr. and Ben Porter. Our judges were Paul Engel, Mike Cating and Jamie Bedford. Golden Valley Chorus members provided the stellar manpower needed to put on such an event.

Following the contest an afterglow was held at the church with quartets singing in addition to tag singing.

## Celebrations

### March/April Birthdays

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Marc Jantzen	3/1
Sue Atkins	3/20
Ron Allison	4/8
Nick Adams	4/12
Raphael Pazo	4/26
Kep Miller	4/30



### mixed meta4

By Joan Ray, Tenor



*a barbershop harmony quartet*  
**209-881-SING (7464)**

Joan Ray – Tenor                      Al Farnum – Lead  
Dave Harmon – Baritone              Nick Adams – Bass

## Tune Struck Quartet

By Al Wolter

Tenor – Tune Struck Quartet

209.747.7499

[www.TuneStruckQuartet.com](http://www.TuneStruckQuartet.com)

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

As expected, month of February was a fairly busy time for Tune Struck. It started off with a Valentine plug on the 'Women of Wine Country' radio and Facebook Live show on The Voice of San Joaquin & Stockton (formerly KXVS Radio), though we needed two replacements. Thanks to Nancy Hennefer and Gregg Willis for stepping in.

We then returned to O'Conner Woods to sing for the PEO Sisterhood's luncheon. This was the second performance for them, glad to have good friends like Lynn Terry ask us to sing.

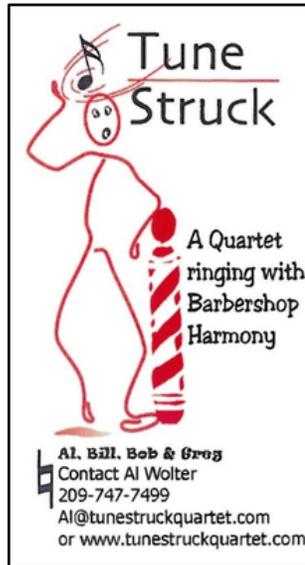
Valentine's Day is always a busy period for the quartet, unless Al decides to do something special for his Wedding Anniversary, and this year was no different. Even though we are now a Senior Quartet, we are still the best fit to run the halls of St. Joseph Hospital. This year the deliveries were made on Thursday and were led by our good friend Jim Linderman, who is back as a retired Volunteer.

Friday's deliveries started at 9 am with a breakfast for two lovely folks, we did keep from trying to eat their food. Deliveries were scheduled about once an hour, which gave us ample time to stop and sing for friends and family along the way. Attached are a few of our favorite recipients, including the red-headed School Teacher in Manteca whose class loved us and everyone enjoyed her blush.



To close out the month, we were asked to serve as Mic-testers for the NorCal Novice Quartet Contest in Modesto, which is always an honor.

As I finish this, I think “why would people care about all this?” My answer to myself and thus you all is “one – cause it is important to document what we do as examples of our (Chapter and Quartet) charitable efforts, and two – encourage others to follow in our footsteps.



## Royal Flush Barbershop Quartet

By Nance Hennefer (Baritone)

Despite rehearsal times being few and far between, Royal Flush was able to spend a half day delivering Singing Valentines, with fellow Portsman Derick Sturke filling in on bass for the rest of the day. Thanks, Derick!!!

We were very happy with our performance at Modesto’s Novice Contest, scoring a solid 65.7, just .8 points behind the overall first place quartet (made up of all guys from Fog City, no less!) Congrats also to Derick and his newly formed Chord of the Rings who put on an entertaining performance. We’re in the process of finalizing a new contest set and looking forwards to Divisions in May!



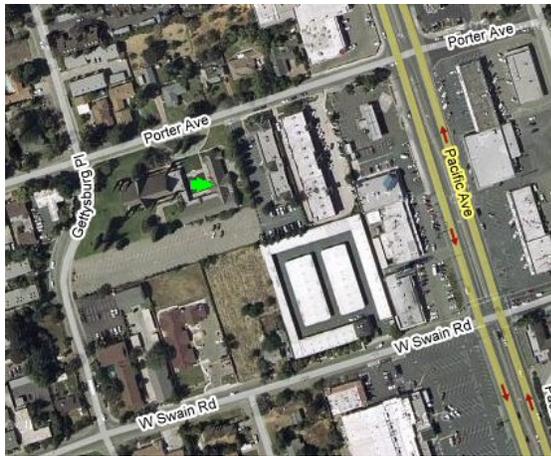
## Weekly Chapter Meetings:

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

[Click here to go to Stockton Portsmen Website](#)  
[Click here for Facebook Page](#)

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.\*

## 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.



**STOCKTON PORTSMEN  
BARBERSHOP MIXED  
CHORUS & QUARTETS**

**\*\*\*Hire Us\*\*\***

**Book us for your next events**

- 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**
- **Ph. (209) 881-SING (7464)**

## **\*\*Save the Dates\*\***

### **2020 Events**

**Oct 8**    **FWD Fall Convention Cruise**  
Long Beach, CA – Ensenada, BC

### **Harmony Lunch Bunch**

#### **Sam's Hof Brau**

2500 Watt Ave, Sacramento, CA 95821  
11:30 AM (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month)  
Kent Borrowdale [kborro@comcast.net](mailto:kborro@comcast.net)

### **Barbershop Links**

- Barbershop Harmony Society  
<http://www.barbershop.org/>
- Far Western District  
<https://www.farwesterndistrict.org/>
- VoCal Voices of California  
<http://voicesofcalifornia.org/>