



# The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsman  
June 2021 - Issue #26



## **President's Message: By Nancy Hennefer**

Greetings, fellow Portsman! It truly seems that there is light at the end of the CoVid tunnel! It feels good to see those of you that have been able to attend rehearsals and even better, to sing without masks!

As most of you know, we were unable to accept the invitation to perform at the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. We are still "on the list" of invitees for either a trip to Washington DC for one of their annual Memorial Day Concerts and/or a trip to France in 2024 to honor the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Normandy invasion. Wouldn't THAT be a wonderful trip!

We are sounding very solid for our performance at the Cherokee Memorial Day event, thanks to all of you showing up to rehearsals and Director Bill leading the way. We are also honored to have some of our fellow Barbershoppers from GVC (Golden Valley Chorus) join us! You will be reading this after the fact, but I'm sure it will have been a great event as always.

Hopefully, there will be something coming up to celebrate 4<sup>th</sup> of July (my favorite holiday!) but nothing on the calendar yet.

I wanted to mention our tenors that we have missed. Renee is busy with her quartet and enjoying time with her hubby. Carol has moved to the "other" California (i.e. southern CA) to be with her kids and grandkids. We miss them both and will hold a spot if they can ever make it back to Stockton!

Don't forget to use [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) for your shopping! All you need to do is choose a charity (us) to support, then each time you make a purchase, a percentage goes right back to us! Spend, people, spend!!!

Here's to looking ahead to sunny days and ringing chords.....

Sending love notes, Nance  
President



## **Musical Directors Message:**

### **By Bill Litz**

**You need to be better at \_\_\_\_\_ – singing, performing, communicating** or a hundred different verbs. Do statements like those, that define your success, motivate you? Or do they make you feel deflated? How do you balance what you think you should be able to do with what you can do?

In my barbershop experience I've had moments that I've been very proud. Like my quartet singing the National Anthem at a Ports opening day, or the chorus singing on the Far Western District Show of Champions as the first Mixed Chorus Champion. So proud that my buttons were about to burst...maybe some of that was being a little overweight. Even just now, describing times that should stroke my ego, I found it easy to discount the successes. It has taken me a long time learn to celebrate.

Tune Struck, being in existence for eighteen years, has had its ups and downs. We've never really cracked that district level score, which caused many moments of self-doubt and second guessing about what is worthwhile. In trying to put my thoughts into words, I recently read an article about [Striving for Success](#). I see how NOT doing many of the steps it outlines, made me and probably my quartet mates have many moments that generated feeling of failure.

**STRIVING FOR**  
**SUCCESS – LEARN**  
**WHAT IT TAKES TO**  
**CLIMB THE LADDER OF**  
**SUCCESS BY STRIVING**  
**FOR IT AND THEN**  
**REMAINING THERE**

- Do Things You Love
- Seek Out Someone Successful
- Be Ready for Disappointment
- Always Practice to Make It Perfect
- Make A Plan
- Stay True to Who You Are
- Like The Journey You Are On

It's interesting to see that we painfully experienced most of these steps on the way to finally realizing that singing together is something that we love. *Liking the journey you are on* - maybe the final thing that we came to understand, would have been a great place to start! Simple daily successes were what we needed. Ringing a chord – being reinforced by smiling faces of an appreciative audience – reaching a new high or low note – feeling accomplished learning new skills and songs of all types. We almost let go of all those mini successes as a result of setting a

goal that we didn't currently have the skills or time to achieve, reflected by not scoring well in a contest or having someone make an unflattering comment. Daily successes were what we needed to recognize and celebrate to actually be successful day in and day out. While working on new songs and skills (not always with success), we came to appreciate the things we could do, the many songs we could perform well.

What am I really trying to say? Have goals. Try songs that are challenging. Enter contests. Pursue performance opportunities. But keep your expectations of each thing that you haven't had success with yet, rooted with all the things that you have already learned and become proficient at.

Develop an attitude of celebration and joy every time we sing together. That is the real feeling of success.

## BACK IN THE OLD ROUTINE

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*I'd give the World to start all over (No more blue songs)*

*Back in the old routine*

*To live my life in fields of clover*

*Back in the old routine*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1yhGhC9swc>

While I have heard a lot of quartets and choruses sing this over the years, I'm sharing the Bing Crosby and Donald O'Conner's version (helps explain the lyrics I posted [from near the end]). As we have been back to doing what we do, this song came to my mind – for it is SO good to be getting BACK into the 'Old Routine.' We have slowly gotten nearer to being back to our regular schedules and we have even had guests. It has been a great pleasure to have Franz and Emma (John Eiler's son and his girlfriend) and Alan from Farmington join us. I am looking forward to the rehearsal when a number of our friends from the Golden Valley Chorus join us to prepare for Memorial Day and our performance at Cherokee Memorial Park.

Still there are a number of folks that we would love to see back with us, but getting back into the old routine isn't as easy as the song implies. There are SO many things that quickly become the new routine and making the change back to the old can be difficult. It takes effort, but boy does it feel good to be singing again.

One of those routines that has slipped a lot for me is checking the Society/Chapter information at [www.barbershop.org](http://www.barbershop.org). Not sure if you paid any attention ( tried not to honestly), but during the sequester the Society updated the Members Only section and, as usual, its different. There are things that am not sure are improvements, but hey its new and improved and that's all that matters to some. There are some tutorials to help you. I have yet to figure out how to see who is good and who needs to renew/update, so not sure where we really stand membership wise. I will say that they tried to get me to pay twice for Chapter dues (so be careful and mindful of your due dates and payment status). Contact me (or Sue) if you need help.

I will say that we will likely be dark after Memorial Day as our Director and Chapter Secretary take a quick trip to see family. Though there are other opportunities to keep the routine going— visiting GVC or another Chapter that's meeting, reviewing some Society YouTube videos, or brushing up on the songs we have been singing lately.

## IN MEMORIAM

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Unfortunately, taxes and the end of our lives are a routine that always remain. So yes this past May the Second, **Kep Keplinger** joined the Portsmen Chorus of the heavens. Kep was a meticulous jokester. As an Engineer, he was precise – everything had to be 'just so.' This made everything that everyone did after him much easier to do. He also had a wonderfully wicked sense of humor. As a tall man with a booming bass voice, this made everyone much more at ease around him. Kep was another who served as a member of the Chapter Board, up to and including Chapter President, and was awarded the Barbershopper of the Year for his work as Valentine Coordinator (many of the things we do regarding Singing Valentines were instituted by Kep). He will be sorely missed whenever the 'Old Routine' takes us back to O'Conner Woods.

### **Quartet Update:**

News from Royal Flush.....

Chuck, Stephanie, Nance and Paul have finally had the chance to start up rehearsals again! We are scheduled to sing at Paul's father-in-laws' celebration of life coming up in June. We are also planning (and hoping) to compete in the District Convention in Arizona, tentatively scheduled for Oct 7-10. Looking ahead to the holidays (don't laugh, they will be here before you know it!), new holiday songs, along with some oldies but goodies, are being worked on. We would love to spread some Holiday Cheer and forget about the last 2 years! Hey, that could be a song lyric!

## **Weekly Chapter Meetings:**

**\*We are currently meeting outside in the courtyard without masks.\***

Location: Zion Lutheran Church – 808 W. Porter Avenue – Stockton – CA

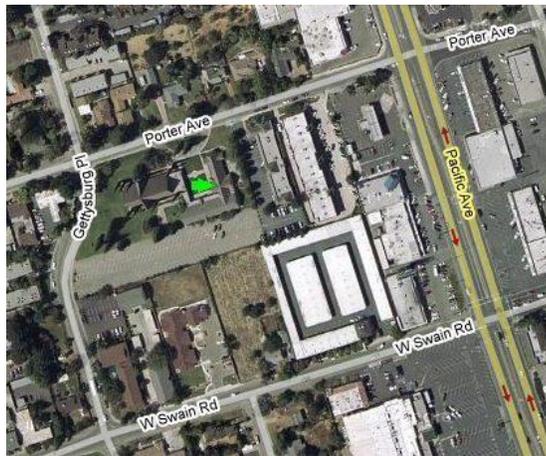
Tuesdays: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM See  
calendar for up-to-date information:

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

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

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

### **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.

## **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\*\***

### **2021 Events**

- 6/30 – 7/4      2021 Virtual International Convention
- 7/2 or 7/3      Chorus Performance – Details to follow
- 7/17 – 8/7      Harmony University (Virtual)
- 10/7              FWD Fall Convention (Tentative) – Gilbert (Phoenix) AZ
- 10/22             Harmony Camp 2021

### **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/>