



The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsman

August 2022 - Issue #37

President's Message:

By Al Wolter



THE VIEW FROM THE HELM

What Happens Next? – ISSUE 8

So, we are now working on the back half of the year, so what happens next? What are you looking forward to doing with your voice, time, money? Sounds a little religious, doesn't it? Well, we are to keep religion out of our Society membership – but as I have said before – just like with politics, you can't really.

As I type, I am hoping the Nominating Committee is hard at work developing the slate of Chapter Officer nominees. It is my expressed desire that most of the current board retain their positions for next year. Like our COVID downtime, where many have learned better singing skills, our board members have had a little time to learn their roles and duties, leaving next year a better chance to implement them more efficiently.

That is essentially nine of us, so what about the rest of the Chapter members? I know a few are not active, a couple more already have more to chew on, especially those that are dual members. Still there are places for the majority of you to step up. Before long, we are going to need to find someone to coordinate the Singing Valentine program. We also need to develop our Show, with writing any dialog to tie songs together, identifying those songs, coordinating outside talent, stage setting, venue procurement and most importantly the person who coordinates the whole thing,

All that aside, what are YOU doing to make us better? Are you singing during the week, working on your voice, breath support and lung capacity? Are you working on the songs from last rehearsal that you had issue with? Don't have a keyboard or anything to check pitches with, might be a good investment – you don't have to know how to play to plunk out a note or two (I know from experience). Do you sing into a mirror? I know, it can be a bit horrifying to see what you look like when you sing – just think what our patrons and the judges think (yes that is supposed to be funny). It is proven that you sound better when you have a smile on your face (yes, your whole face – lips may be making an “oh”, but your cheeks and eyes are smiling).

During our recent Guest Night (with only two guests), we did a little quartet drill that I hope to see us do more of. While we were going through the various foursomes, did you listen (when not singing) to the differences each quartet made?

As you read this, we should only have ten, maybe eleven, weeks to refine what we are going to sing in Fresno – yeah, we are going to go. The Music Team is currently determining what it is we will be singing. The key is how well YOU are prepared for whatever that is. But contests should not be the only time we have that mindset. Each time we perform, we should be doing the very best we can individually do – and ensuring that we are having as good a time as we possibly can.

We have a couple of new members for that specific reason, we try to sing as well as we individually can while still having a good time. Positivity, performance, and fun are an infectious combination. Our performances for Memorial Day, Fourth of July, the Fox Movie pre-movie entertainment, and National Anthem sings do more than a whole bunch of Guest Nights. We still need them but singing out is our best tool.

As I close, while we work on all the of the above, let's not forget to look long-term. We'll be working on holiday songs before our trip to Fresno, so listen to one or two of the Yuletide Favorites each week which to give you a head start. We do have a sizable repertoire, larger than many other Chapters that are held in high esteem for their contest performances, but it is the price we pay for being able to perform throughout the year in many different scenarios.

My answer to “what's next?” is being closer to normal – singing to the Greater Stockton Area with fun and good will. Join me?

Musical Director's Message: **By Bill Litz**

July was a month of ups and downs. It was great to sing for ***Celebrate America in Lodi*** and for the showing of ***Independence Day for the Friends of the Fox at the Bob Hope (Fox) Theatre in Stockton***. Then succumbing to COVID for a second time took away some of the drive, focus and momentum that we've gained over the summer causing us to cancel our Remote Rehearsal at O'Connor Woods. Hopefully we can get that rescheduled soon.

It made me realize how fragile our barbershop journey can be. Just a few people getting sick or being absent for any number of reasons can stall our progress because of missing out on rehearsal. I hope you were able to continue singing on your own. I think having longer term plans would help us have a reason to practice when something gets in the way of our normal practice schedule.

We need to keep our voices in shape and our minds learning. Some opportunities are always looming out there:

- The next contest – we usually have both a Spring Division and Fall District chance to compete. The preparation can include coaching sessions that are more impactful if we are more prepared.
- A local outing – a ball game, local fair, or retirement facility - some we know in advance, others can get scheduled quickly
- Quartetting – having a skillset and robust song repertoire can give you a chance to sing in a rehearsal, performance or convention setting

Take time to go through ALL the songs on the rep list. Include Pole Cats in your practice so that when someone asks, you'll be ready.

We are planning a coaching session or two before contest. We look forward to working with Paul Kimball (active musician, conductor of hundreds of local musicals, conductor and artistic director of the Zion Chamber Orchestra & is in his 34th year in the Lincoln Unified School District where he has taught Orchestra, Choir, Piano and Classroom Music). With his knowledge of creating successful performances and having a look from a non-barbershop perspective will be insightful. Keep an eye out for the date and be prepared to be a part of fun evening of coaching.

Stay after regular chorus rehearsal to be a part of the VLQ (Very Large Quartet) rehearsal. These sessions will focus on quartet singing. Singing in small groups through COVID has helped a lot of our members become stronger. The people in the VLQ will get more opportunities to quartet without having to develop their own quartet. This could happen by stepping out in rehearsals and local performances to going out as an impromptu quartet when we get a call. In addition to practicing quartetting with chorus songs that we know, the VLQ will have some songs that are special just for VLQ members to stretch their song list.

We've considered a workshop for working on music reading for a long time. We've got people at different levels of understanding, but this class (probably in small increments each week), will go through all aspects of reading music and starting to understand music theory including how the parts work together. I'd like to see us ALL be able to read music and to be able to try different music without it being a struggle or something that must be learned by ear.

Please communicate with me about things that will make your barbershop experience better. Suggest performance opportunities. Suggest songs you'd like to try. Discuss concerns you might have about your performance skills and how you can improve them.

I look forward to us growing and learning together.

Harmony Camp 2022



MIDTOWN

INTERNATIONAL 5th PLACE FINALISTS

Along with four topnotch clinicians:

Gabe Caretto, Ron Black, Chris Lewis, and Bruce Sellnow

October 21-23, 2022

Sly Park Educational Center

5600 Sly Park Road, Pollock Pines

\$100 for the entire weekend

This is an Educational, Tag singing, Fun filled, weekend capped off with a Friends and Family Show Sunday morning at 11 am

Richard Lund 530-621-1904 rlund@innercite.com

<https://www.farwesterndistrict.org/events/youth-harmony-camp>

Weekly Chapter Meetings:

Location: Zion Lutheran Church – 808 W Porter Avenue (Stockton, CA)

Tuesdays: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM (Fireside Room)

VLQ (Quartetting) 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM (except nights of board meetings)

(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 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
- Phone (209) 881-SING (7464)

****SAVE THE DATE****

- 8/18 Sacramento Harmony for Lunch Bunch (11am – 1pm)
- 8/27 Stockton Portsmen Picnic (4pm – 7pm)
- 9/15 Sacramento Harmony for Lunch Bunch (11am – 1pm)
- 10/14 - 10/16 FWD Fall Convention (Fresno, CA)
- 10/20 Sacramento Harmony for Lunch Bunch (11am – 1pm)
- 10/21 - 10/23 Harmony Camp (Sly Park)

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/>