



# The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsman

August 2023 - Issue #49

**President's Message:**

**By Al Wolter**



## THE VIEW FROM THE HELM

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### **BREAKFAST? – ISSUE 19**

Last time I wrote about the difference between 'involvement' and 'commitment.' There is another piece of that participation pie, 'confidence.' I bring these things up, NOT because I see a serious lack in them rather that I would hope to foster a greater development of them.

I had the pleasure of waving my arms in front of the Chorus and was very pleased with the overall sound. As I directed the three new songs, each one had its area of difficulty, mostly a product of non-confidence. I fully understand that, as I have yet to establish the 'rock solid confidence' I desire in each of them. I tend to wake up with pieces of "Dreams" or "Lucky" playing in mind, it's the easy parts and the meaningful lyric. There are many tools you can use to help with the areas you have issue with, and Bill has discussed them in past Captain's Logs – I highly encourage everyone to utilize them (or whatever you do) to improve your confidence in every song you sing. Until such time that you are confident in the words and notes, there is no way that you can fully implement the artistic plan for the song.

This past month was the International BHS Convention. The level of commitment and confidence on display is indicated by the scores. Some of you know that I didn't watch any of the content – really didn't need to. While there are always special moments, every one of the quartets earned their way to that stage, the form factor that makes an International Competitor is fairly well established. So seen them once, seen most. It was good to see Midtown take the Gold, KJ McAleesejergins is the Baritone and a past Placerville Chapter member. Was good to see good showings from the Far Western District (FWD) Quartets. The lack of FWD Chorus participants was surprising – unlike the past. The effects of the pandemic and the local area's response has had a profound effect on our membership and everyone's confidence. While it isn't the easiest to build confidence in a foursome, especially regaining it for an existing foursome, doing so for a high performing chorus, like the Masters of Harmony is quite the task.

It needs to be our commitment to build our collective confidence in ourselves and our Chorus. As we do, I hope you are aware that the sky is the limit. With each passing rehearsal, as we get closer to our own International Performance opportunity, I get more excited about what a confident Portsmen Chorus can do.



## **Celebrations**

### **August Birthdays**

Dianna Goodwin - 8/1

Derick Sturke - 8/5

Alex Bernal - 8/7

Gregg Willis - 8/14

Joe Hunt - 8/21

## Musical Director's Message:

By Bill Litz

The **Barbershop Harmony Society** has many documents to help you learn more about singing and barbershop in general. While skimming through the [Directing A Barbershop Chorus Manual](#), I found a section to share with you this month.

What type of learner are you?

Left Brain Learning Styles	Shared Hemispheres	Right Brain Learning Styles
Auditory – <b>listener, thinker, analyzer.</b> Wants to understand before experiencing.  CAUTION: Learner can block if overloaded. Learner will ask questions to seek understanding before even attempting the task.	Visual-- <b>watcher, mimic, hearer.</b> Wants to see (vicariously experience) before either understanding or experiencing.  CAUTION: Learner can be overly distractible. <i>Mimics</i> can give the appearance of having learned, when the performance that they give to demonstrate understanding is only a reflection of what they just heard	Proprioceptive – <b>feeler, intuitive, doer.</b> Wants to experience before understanding.  CAUTION: A kinesthetic learner would rather perform physical activity to learn something, instead of listening to a lecture or watching a demonstration. They may never gain understanding being satisfied with feeling the experience.

- Understanding -- "knowing why" -- what the listener, thinker, analyzer THINKS is the goal. This is a booby prize because understanding may never include "doing."
- Experiencing -- "doing" -- what the proprioceptive learner wants to do BEFORE, or instead of understanding. This is also a booby prize because it may never include "knowing why."
- Knowledge -- what the learner gets with both understanding and experiencing. This is the real prize because you know why you are doing what you are doing!

Connect the two sides of your brain. Go out of your "comfort zones" to learn as a thinker, mimic, AND a feeler.

- *Analytical learners* rarely identify musical sections by subjective criteria such as "they sound the same."
- *Proprioceptive learners* rarely identify musical sections by whether they are the same as or different from other sections.
- *Mimics* rarely identify musical sections at all, they just repeat what they have heard (usually accurately) without actually "learning" the music they just sang.

If you use all your senses, you will really learn the music and remember it for years to come.

# QUARTET MUSTER

## **Tune Struck**

July has been full of scheduling conflicts for the members of Tune Struck. It is one of the drawbacks from having members that still earn their living or are engaged in many other activities, like chairing the local Veterans Support Organization “The Port City Patriots.”

Needless to say, we have not been together as a foursome for a while and will not be together until late into August. With the Portsman producing a Christmas Show, when we do get back, we will be focusing on Holiday tunes special to us.

And yet, the music goes on – this month John Hunt filled in to sing Happy Birthday and a couple of other songs for a lovely lady celebrating her 80<sup>th</sup>. Corrie was surprised by her friend Elly with a large surprise party with us as entertainment – even her daughter didn’t know the full extent of the surprise.



# THREE LEADS and... ALAS!



We continue to meet & enjoy singing at rehearsals. On July 4<sup>th</sup> (see picture below) we performed and attended the flag raising and pancake breakfast in Lone. We're excited to announce that 3LAS has been invited to be the guest quartet for the Folsom Harmony Express show in October! We also look forward to performing at the Portsmen Christmas show.



# NORMANDY 80<sup>TH</sup> D-DAY TRIP

Parlez vous Francais?? The Stockton Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society's Portsman Chorus has been invited by Music Celebrations International to represent California at the 80<sup>th</sup> Observance of D-Day in Normandy France, June 2024.

This observance will include both performances (two in Normandy, one in Paris) and sight-seeing (such as the American Cemetery and the Louvre Museum). The trip leaves from San Francisco June 4 to fly to Paris and will return to San Francisco on June 12. See the attached informational material from MCI. You can find more about them on their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=music%20celebrations%20intl.%20-%20concert%20tours%20with%20integrity>

The chapter has already made a \$1500 deposit to hold our place and our Event Coordinator Nancy Hennefer has taken a pre-tour of the area. She has nothing but good things to say about the trip — tres bien! — even though there are some European things that are not typical of our American expectations. The chapter needs to have two things to confirm this invitation: first, a total of between 30 and 47 committed travelers (with the best price at 45); second, a balanced and good-sounding chorus within those 30 to 47 travelers (max of 49 with two free).

In order to achieve these two things, we need to establish a committed roster of travelers and singers, listing the part(s) they sing. To that end, we need you to submit a \$200.00 check (per person) made out to SPEBSQSA, Inc. with the notation "Normandy" and an indication of your role: entourage, singer's partner, or singer/which part). This is a first-come, singers-first situation, with the \$200.00 due before August 15th. We need at least 30 attendees to keep the price as low as possible per person and cannot really exceed a total of 49 travelers.

If the trip is canceled before MCI's drop-dead date, these funds will be refundable. The first half of the remaining balance per person will be due in October 2023 with the final payment in February 2024. Let's hear it for the Portsman invasion of France!

## Message from Tom Harmon:

I was just thinking about our upcoming trip to Normandy, France, for the 80th anniversary of D-day, Operation Overlord, What an honor to be selected! Not only are we a part of a much broader extravaganza, we also represent the United States of America in the language that every human heart understands: music and brotherhood. By way of preparation, we need to do three essential things: 1) increase the number of people who will be going, 2) bolster our financial reserves and 3) master the repertoire of songs we will perform.

At our last performance at Celebrate Lodi, I mingled with the crowd and handed out 20 chorus cards to various attendees. My main tools of persuasion were a smile, a bright and cheery voice, and encouragement for them to come and join us on Tuesday evenings. As a result, we had one visitor, Willis, carrying his card, the very next week. Imagine....one visitor for twenty cards.....HMMMMM.....five visitors for 100 cards handed out.....twenty-five visitors for every 500 cards handed out.....AND....who knows how many cardless visitors by word of mouth as the invitation begins to spread and the exciting opportunity draws near.

"NOW" is the time for each of us to grab some cards from Brad and begin the encouraging distribution among personal friends, musical acquaintances, and anyone who would like to travel or be a part of world history.

The aspect of sharing life's moments among friends and being a positive influence in today's world is now standing immediately beside and around us. Don't miss the opportunity to be the light and happy remembrance so sorely needed...the light of America's greatness.....the light of the world's gratitude.....the camaraderie and brotherhood which is ours to present. Ah, but what, then, do we present? What is the repertoire?

The repertoire is a loving heart and a willing voice...words of praise and joy in the presentation. We become one with dedication to our music and living the lyrics we present. Our confidence and ability is returned from the audience by tones of appreciation. The music committee is working on the song selections and our skills will achieve prominence and luster as we progress. Each of us can bring optimism to our weekly meetings, and each of us can also bring the time spent learning, memorizing, and practicing in the days before each rehearsal. The better we perform at our weekly rehearsal, the better those who visit us will progress. In the navy the expression "Full Speed Ahead" indicates the intent to achieve. We Portsmen need to become "Full Speed Ahead" sailors.

The opportunity to pass our cards is ours. The opportunity to smile is ours.  
**THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUCCEED IS OURS!!!**

## Weekly Chapter Meetings:

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

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

VLQ (Quarteting) 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\*\***

- 8/26 Stockton Portsmen Picnic
- 10/12-10/15 2023 FWD Fall Convention (Gilbert, AZ)
- 10/20-10/22 Harmony Camp 2023 (Sly Park) Teaching Quartet – Vocalocity
- 12/2-12/3 Festival of Trees (Micke Grove - Lodi, CA)
- 12/9 Stockton Portsmen Holiday Show
- 12/10 Bob Hope Theater Friends of the Fox (Stockton, CA)

### **2024**

- 3/14-3/17 2023 FWD Spring Convention, NorCal Divisions (TBD)
- 10/17-10/20 2023 FWD Fall Convention (Bakersfield, 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/>