



The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsmen

January 2025 - Issue #65

Sending Love Notes



The View From The Helm has come in to dock. A new year has started, a new First Mate has been recruited, and all speed ahead!

Am having a hard time getting this first of many messages started, but I hear Sue's voice saying, "so, I'll get that article from you tomorrow?" Now giving it my best attempt without the use of AI.

Having just completed a very lovely Installation Dinner, thanks go out to Dave and Sandy Harmon for organizing the food and beverage, to our MC and outgoing president Al Wolter, to Director Bill Litz for leading us in song (and to he and Sue for baking up the lovely desserts), to Steve Yund for his photography skills, to those that helped with set up and take down and looking for Rosie's key, to our loyal members for attending and bringing family and friends, and to those that are forever a part of the Portsmen family. Special thanks to Curtis Mannah and wife Pam, who drove many miles from the Bay Area and for Curtis's leading the Installation Ceremony. Thanks also to the Lodi Grape Festival and to Doug and Sam Seed with Morada Eats Catering.

Curtis had some wonderful and compelling comments. I especially connected with "looking forward, looking backward and looking outward". I see this as the cornerstone of my year as your President: to honor where we have been and how we got to where we are now, to look, with creativity and without trepidation, into what could be in our future, and to embrace all that ripples out from our experiences in the now. 2024 will be a hard year to beat! We will be going through transitions as we bid goodbye to some and saying welcome to others. As a small(ish) chapter, we need to rely on each other to step up in any and all ways possible. You will be receiving a questionnaire in the very near future, as a tool to enhance our experiences and expectations as the Stockton Portsmen. This is a result of a session that Al and I attended in Riverside. Joe Cerutti, Jr. Artistic Director of Alexandria Harmonizers, had so much information about growing and maintaining a healthy chapter, I would like to introduce some of what has made

them so successful and add it to our repertoire of continued growth and success. You can visit their website at [www.https://harmonizers.org](https://harmonizers.org) It's pretty awesome! .

Thank you again for trusting me with this Presidency and the chance to make up for my LameDuck CoVid years! I hope you share in my excitement for what lies ahead and for the beautiful music we will be making together. Blessing to us all for a wonderful 2025!

Sending love notes,



Nance

Musical Director's Message:

By Bill Litz

Happy New Year to all you talented members of the Stockton Portsmen Chorus!

As we step into 2025, let's remember that every note we sing is more than just a melody or a harmonious blend — it's a reflection of our passion, dedication, and the unique harmony we create together. The year ahead is filled with opportunities to grow, learn, and share the joy of music with each other and our community.

Looking back, 2024 was a year packed with accomplishments that we joyfully achieved as a team. I couldn't be prouder of the performances we shared and the personal relationships we foster with each other doing it.

Let's continue to push the boundaries of what we can accomplish together, blending our individual strengths into something even more special. 2025 holds the promise of unforgettable performances, deeper connections, and the sweet sound of success.

Let's make a New Year's resolution to sing every day, with a special focus on learning all the music for Valentine's Day, the Nor-Cal East Division Contest, and our spring Disney Tribute. All the music is available for easy access on your tablets, making learning both fun and convenient. I also encourage you to get more involved, whether that's stepping into leadership roles within the chapter, singing in a VLQ, or forming a quartet. Have the courage to embrace new challenges, celebrate our progress, and allow the power of music to uplift us all.

Here's to a bright, beautiful year ahead — full of music, friendship, and the magic that singing barbershop music creates. This year let's sprinkle in a little Disney magic as well!

Keep the whole world singing!



Thank you, Curtis Mannah, for installing our officers!

2025 Board of Directors

President	Nancy Hennefer
Secretary	Stephanie Thurman
Treasurer	Willys Nitscke
VP: Membership/Chapter Development	Dave Harmon
VP: Marketing & PR	Brad Nieman
VP: Music & Performance	Sue Atkins
Member at Large	Joan Ray
Member at Large	Al Farnum
Immediate Past President	Al Wolter

Rookie of the Year – Willys Nitscke



Certificate of Appreciation – Bill Litz



Certificate of Appreciation – Sue Atkins



Certificate of Appreciation – Al Farnum



President's Soaring Eagle Award – Rosie Estrella



President's Soaring Eagle Award – Nancy Hennefer



Barbershopper of the Year – Kitty Harmon



Festival of Trees – Saturday 12/7



Festival of Trees – Sunday 12/8



Barbershoppin' Around the Christmas Tree Show



Tune Struck



About the time you are reading this, the registration for Tune Struck will be coming due, for our 22 year. Our 21st was full of ups and downs, a couple of of the ups were the reunions with our first Baritone and Founder: Steve Taylor (see the photos in the November issue). The second reunion came with our Annual visit to Micke Grove and the Festival of Trees, for

whom was manning the Volunteer Gate but the original intended Lead: Jerry Smith.

Sue sang with us for both days at the Festival of Trees as well as for the Portsmen Holiday Show, photographic evidence not currently in this scribe's inventory.

While not exactly Tune Stuck (though it would have been if Bob had been feeling better); Sue, Bill, Al and Nancy Wilson sang for special donors to United Way, to thank them from United Way for all their support.





The Sue version also sang for the Lodi Rotary's Holiday Party at St. Jorge Winery and the residents of Dianond Care, Inc – Senior Services.

Many unanswered questions still exist, but the Spring Annual Show may well have a Tune Struck appearance.



Celebrations

January Birthdays

Chuck Thurman – 1/5

Brad Nieman – 1/7

Bob W – 1/12

Stephanie – 1/18

Joan Ray – 1/22

Thank you to our sponsors!!!

Angie Rogan, Akalia and Staff
- Van Ruiten Winery, Lodi
Betsy Smith - Velvet Grill Creamery, Lodi
Christal - Corner Scone Bakery, Lodi
Seth - Lodi Beer Co, Lodi
Avenue Grill, Lodi
Jennifer - Airport Café, Acampo
Joe Fiori - Fiori's Butcher Shoppe & Deli,
Lodi
Papapavlo's Stockton/Lodi
Bon Appetite, Lodi
Darlene - The Hollywood Café, Lodi
Dee - De Vinci's, Lodi
Thai Spices, Lodi
Smack Pie Pizza, Lodi
Arroyos Mexican Café, Stockton
Genoa Bakery, Stockton
Buds Seafood, Stockton
Whirlows, Stockton
DeVega Brothers, Stockton
Christine Robles - Red Lobster, Stockton
Michael Gilliland
- La Mesa a Mexican Kitchen. Stockton
Big Belly Deli
Cindy Burke - Burke's Family Restaurant
The Mud Mill, Lodi
Mark Armstrong - Lodi Grape Festival
Nikki Burgess - The Dermal Clinic, Lodi
Yvonne Holland - Dermal Clinic, Lodi
Richard Lund and Patsy Miller
Lori Makabe
Mark Huntley
Gary Floyd - Tokay A's Model A Club
Arecelli - Stockton Civic Theater,
Stockton
Judy - Minerva's Furniture, Lodi
Liana Roman - Now and Zen Yoga, Lodi
Castle Oaks Golf, Lone

Brenda Patterson - A Cut Above, Lodi
Planet Fitness, Stockton
Asia - Arthur Murray Dance Studio,
Stockton
Mr Alex Munro - Hilton Stockton
Bob Weisenberg
- Woodbridge Uncorked, Woodbridge
Mangal Singh - Clements Ridge Produce
and Bakery
Zoom Car Wash, Stockton
Regina Brown - Member: Stockton
Portsmen
Kathy Duran - Voila Gifts and Home
Decor, Lodi
Denise Solari - SDS Designs
Rhoda Legaspi - Baked with Love
Robert Verhines
Gerald Garfield - Food for Less, Stockton
Gary Long - Gary Longs Jewelry,
Stockton
Made in Amador, Sutter Creek
BedBug on Main, Lone
Hotel Sutter Restaurant, Sutter Creek
Monarch, Lone
Sue Kenmostu
Y Acosta - Acosta Construction, Lodi
David A Neal, DDS - The Lodi Dentist,
Lodi
Christian Phillips - Phillips Financial,
Stockton
Bill and Audrey Churchill
Dr Mike Pontius
Roberts Retirement
Anthony Neiddu
- Raymond James Financial Services,
Lodi
Ron and Sue Van De Pol
James Van Sickler, Jr. DDS

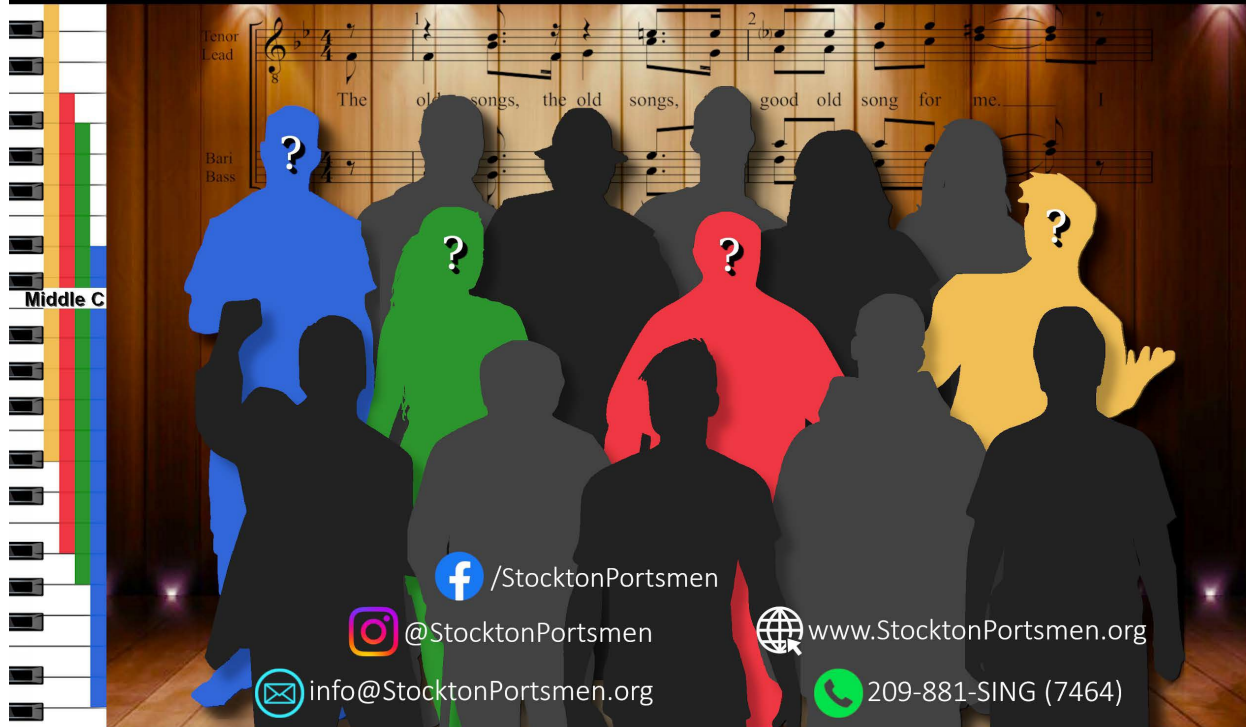
Robert and Rosemarie Keller
Fritz and Phyllis Grupe
Ron and Kris Katzakian
Ken and Nancy Mullen
Star Heers
Carol Holt Bedell
Daniel Bernick - Sacramento Artist
Daniel Meza - F&M Bank, Lodi
Sandy - House of Clocks, Lodi
Brain Synowicki - Synowicki's Jewel Box,
Lodi
Sandy Padgett - La Fleurette Garden
Décor, Lodi
University of the Pacific
Dave and Sandy Harmon
- Member: Stockton Portsmen
Tom and Diane Hofsommer
Nancy Hennefer - Member: Stockton
Portsmen
Colette Allen
Carol Simms
Susan Atkins- Member: Stockton
Portsmen

William Litz- Member: Stockton
Portsmen
Jeana Ramos
Ryan Venhuizen
Allen Wolter- Member: Stockton
Portsmen
Rosie Estrella- Member: Stockton
Portsmen
John Highsmith
Joyce Tanaka
Al Farnum - Member: Stockton
Portsmen
Greg Devine
Kathryn Olsen
Anonymous
Willys Nitschke - Member: Stockton
Portsmen
Kitty Harmon - Member: Stockton
Portsmen
Mahesh Ranchod
Jami Howland
Thomas Lauzz

Tired of Singing Alone?

Great! Come sing 4-Part Harmony with the **Stockton Portsman**!

Are You a **Bass**, **Baritone**, **Lead**, or **Tenor**?



Discover **your** voice part and make some friends!

🎵 Join Our Mixed Chorus – All Voices Welcome! 🎵

Whether you're a seasoned vocalist or just love to sing, we invite you to join our local chorus!
No prior experience required—we welcome singers of all skill levels.

This year, we're learning exciting new songs and preparing for our Disney-themed show in May 2025. Rehearsals take place every Tuesday night from 6 pm to 8 pm at Zion Lutheran Church, 808 W. Porter Ave, Stockton.

Come visit us on a Tuesday night for a free trial—no obligation to commit!
If you enjoy singing but haven't found a place to do so confidently and safely, you're not alone. We'll sing alongside you, supporting each other every step of the way.

We'd love to welcome you to our chorus family!

Singing Valentines

Sung by Barbershop Harmony Quartets
All members of the
Stockton Portsmen Barbershop Chorus

Package includes two great love songs,
a lovely fresh rose and a valentine card
with your personal message.



For details call: (209) 881-7464
Or Email to valentine@stocktonportsmen.org

NorCal Novice QUARTET CONTEST

Feb 22, 2025
Lodi, CA



stocktonportsmen.org/novice2025

(209) 881-7464

Weekly Chapter Meetings:

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

Tuesdays: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM (Grace Hall)

VLO: 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 Portsman 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 or Phone **(209) 881-SING (7464)**

****SAVE THE DATE****

- 1/28-2/2 2025 BHS Midwinter Convention (San Antonio, TX)
- **2/14** **Singing Valentines**
- 2/22 NorCal Novice Quartet Contest (Lodi, CA)
- 3/13-3/16 2025 FWD Spring Convention (Riverside, CA)
- **3/28-3/30** **2025 FWD Northern Divisions Convention (Davis, CA)**
- 5/2-5/4 2025 FWD Arizona Division Convention (Phoenix, AZ)
- 6/29-7/6 2025 BHS International Convention (Denver, CO)
- **10/9-10/12** **2025 FWD Fall Convention (Fresno, 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/>
- Voices of California (VoCal) <http://voicesofcalifornia.org/>