



SWIPES & TAGS

60 YEARS OF BARBERSHOP SINGING IN SACRAMENTO



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SACRAMENTO CAPITOLAIRES, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
CHAPTER OF THE FAR WESTERN DISTRICT OF THE BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY.



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APRIL 2006

CAPITOLAIRES QUALIFY FOR THE FALL FWD CONTEST



PHOTO BY WARREN WONG

The Sacramento Capitolaire Chorus qualified for the Far Western District Contest October 5-8, 2006 in the San Jose Civic Auditorium, San Jose, California. Twenty-eight of the Capitolaire's members were on the risers singing "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows" and "Way Down Yonder in New Orleans".

The scoring was as follows:	MUS	PRE	SNG
I'm Always Chasing Rainbows	182	184	286
Way Down Yonder in New Orleans	175	181	178
TOTAL	1086		
AVE	60.3		

Be sure to send in your registrations for the FWD Fall Convention early. The registration is \$40.00 per adult and \$20.00 for student under 23 prior to September 5, 2006 and \$50.00 adult and \$25 student under 23 after September 5.

You can register up to eight people on one registration form. That is an improvement over the past when each person had to have an individual registration form. See the insert for a registration form.

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**THE SACRAMENTO CAPITOLAIRES MEET EVERY TUESDAY AT 7:00 PM AT
SIERRA ARDEN CHURCH OF CHRIST MORSE 890 AVENUE AT NORTHRUP**



PRESIDENT'S CHORDS

BY JIM CORSON, PRESIDENT



As I reflect back over our recent weekend in Reno – well, okay, so technically we were in Sparks – there are a variety of things that come to mind.

First thing is gratitude that there was a sufficient lull in the stormy weather so the highway was clear over the mountain, both ways. I hate driving with chains on – and the putting on and taking off are equally as unpleasant.

Another bit of trivia is that it may have been the only time I have been in Nevada without putting at least one coin in at least one machine during my entire stay. As someone observed, that made me 0 for 0 on the trip.

I really enjoyed the quartet competition too, as much if not more as any other year. The singing was great, as usual. And then there was the added dimension of having some sense of connection with some of the quartets. How great it was to qualify 5 for International. And how impressive it was to see the number of young guys in the mix. I expect some of them are going to medal in Indianapolis

It seemed to me that there was a high level of camaraderie mixed in with the competition. That came home to me during the end of show call-back on Saturday evening, when the quartets came out in mixed up sets of four, wearing portions of one another's outfits. One can't say we lack a sense of humor in the Far West District.

I was sorry that our evaluation session overlapped the high school quartet contest, for I particularly wanted to hear our local lads – **One Too Many** – one more time, in their role as mike testers. I did get in on the end of it all, and got to hear several of them sing. Great fun!

And then, of course, there was the chorus competition. The good news is that we made the cut for District, even if by the skin of our teeth. And in some ways I think we sang better than we have in some previous competitions. The bad news is that we didn't sing as well as we have shown we are capable. As someone observed after watching the DVD of our performance, it sounded like 28 individual voices singing rather than four unified sections. So, our work is cut out for us as we make our preparations for San Jose in October.

I am happy for that challenge, as well as the challenge to steadily improve as we appear before folk at the Folsom Dam event, at Eskaton, and at several churches over the summer. I'm willing to work for that improvement, and I bet you are too!



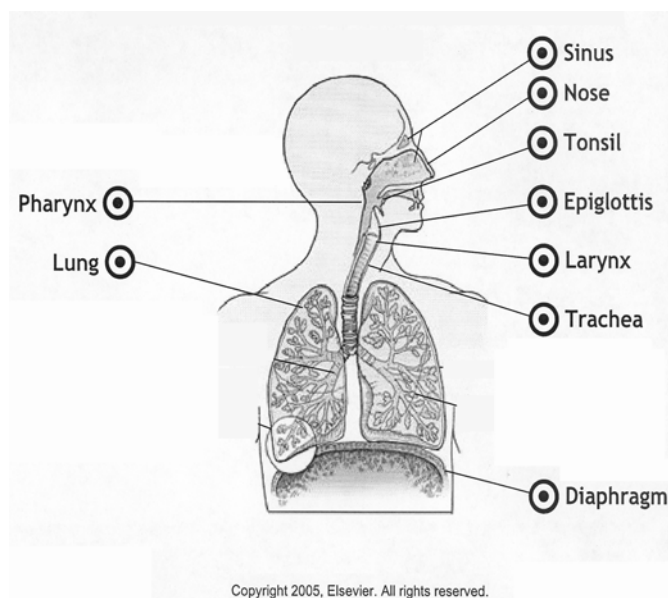
REVIEWING MUSIC and PERFORMANCE

BY KEITH SLATER, VP MUSIC & PERFORMANCE



MORE ABOUT BREATH CONTROL

Our coaches at the retreat, Royce Ferguson and Gabe Caretto, did a great job of honing our singing skills. Royce's approach was to have us sing with lots of air, open the breathing mechanism to allow the tone to be generated in the larynx, then allow the air to resonate in the space above the soft palate. Again from the last month's Swipes and Tags, issue, to help illustrate the parts of human anatomy that are used in singing, please see the diagram below.



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The diaphragm assists us in taking a good deep breath of air to fill our lungs. The air then travels through the trachea and past the vocal cords in the larynx to establish the tone that we are singing. This tone then passes up into the pharynx (throat) and into the resonators — the mouth and nasal cavities, the hard and soft palate, into the sinuses and even in the bones of the face and skull.

When Royce taught us to sing by opening up the singing instrument, raising the soft palate and allowing the sound resonate in the head, we were making beautiful music with expanded sound. Now, the trick is to make this type of singing a habit, which may not seem easy since most of us have been singing in a different way for many years. However, if we concentrate on the fundamentals of good singing — proper posture, breath support, an active face, vowel shapes that are vertical (not horizontal) — and learn to recognize the difference in the way we sound when we are doing all these things, then we'll be off to a great start.



Swipes and Tags places Silver at FWD

BY ALAN SWANSON, BULLETIN EDITOR



At the Far Western District Spring Convention in Sparks Nevada, it was announced that the Sacramento Capitolaire's' bulletin, Swipes and Tags received second place in the chapter bulletin contest. The first place went to the Whittier Chapter who was last years International Bulletin Contest winner.

There are three copies of three successive monthly issues submitted for judging. Judging of the chapter bulletins is similar to the music judging using three categories. Scoring in the bulletin contest is done in three categories with a total of 2,000 points, as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| • Content | 800 points; |
| • Layout and Reproduction | 600 points; |
| • Grammar and Style | 600 points |

Each issue is allocated one-third of the points: 267 for Content, 200 for L&R, 200 for G&S.

The Swipes and Tags scoring was as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| • Content | 390 |
| • Layout and Reproduction | 546 |
| • Grammar and Style | 565.8 |
| • Total Score | 1501.8 |

As in the past, the Swipes and Tags fell short on the contents category. A Summary of some of the deficiencies noted are:

- Lack of editorial material
- Should be a looking back article to educate members where we have been
- Should include a thumbnail of the songs we sing
- Should include a bio of a member each month
- A craft article should be included
- Let everyone know the chapter's plans and goals
- Include something about good-works project
- A listing of guests and their sponsors should be added

These are areas that the bulletin could improve to make it more meaningful for the members and guests. This is why I keep asking the officers and members for contributions to the bulletin. Not just to fill the pages, but to inform the members and guests what is happening at the Capitolaire's.

Each district has the opportunity to send two chapter's bulletins to International Bulletin Contest. The Whittier chapter, which won the International last year is ineligible to submit a bulletin this year. Therefore, the Far Western District bulletin contest representatives will be Sacramento and Hemet who was third in the district. I have sent the 2005 September, October, and November bulletins for judging at the International Bulletin

INTERNET CONNECTION

BY NORM SMITH



The Capitolaire's Web site has been brought up to date. Take a look and see the changes at www.captolaires.org. Watch and listen for changes to be made in the future.

Many thanks to Alan LeVezu for training Norm Smith, Cal Smith and Frank Kinnison in the procedures for keeping the web site current. If you have any problems with any of the links or information, contact Norm Smith by phone, 916-408-8889, or e-mail rvngolf@starstream.net.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS	
Chuck Myer	04-04*
Patrick Fleeman	04-09
Doug Enoch	04-20
Gabe Caretto	04-21
Winston Char	04-22
Gib Hertler	04-28
Joe Sisson	04-30
*Chapter Night	

Capitolaire's Performing Chorus

BY KEITH SLATER, VP MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE

During our "admin" session at the retreat, the Music Team presented a Music Achievement Program —a set of guidelines that we feel will lead us to becoming a better performing chorus. The session provided an opportunity for discussion and input about what we all can do to improve our level of singing both as individuals and as a group. We discussed the roles of both the Music Team and Chorus Members in making this program successful.

Everyone received a copy of our revised Performing Chorus Policy, which outlines the requirements to be part of the Capitolaire's Performing Chorus. If you were not at the retreat and did not receive this document, please ask me for a copy at our next meeting.

Contest. The results of the contest will be announced at the PROBE meeting at 9:00 am Thursday, July 6, 2006, in Room Grand 3 at the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis.

Thanks to all who have contributed articles to the "Swipes and Tags." This is your vehicle to provide information for the members and guests. In this way, the bulletin will improve and the chapter will improve.



JOIN THE CLUB!



Recruit five members in 2006 and your dues are waived!

- Everyone can win, not just the superstars!
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Hold your guest night on your schedule.

You're the boss! We've got your plan!

That's right! You'll receive a free ride in 2007 and pay no Society dues. Most districts and many chapters are extending this campaign to include district and chapter dues as well so don't miss this great opportunity!



Also, 100% Club members will receive this special member button which can be worn proudly at chapter, district and Society events. 100% Club members will receive special recognition at district and Society events.

Chapters with a large number or percentage of 100% Club members will also receive special recognition! **100% Club awards are based on recruiting throughout the year of 2006.**

FROM THE SOCIETY WEB SITE

FROM THE EDITOR

The goal of Swipes and Tags is to provide members with timely and relevant information about the chapter members and activities. **If you have friends who would like to receive a copy by e-mail, send me their e-mail address.** Do you have some barbershop stories to share? Send them to me. The deadline for the May/June issue will be Tuesday, April 18. Contact Alan Swanson 916-786-6018 or e-mail to Ahswanson@surewest.net

BARBERSHOP HISTORY QUIZ

author: Mark Axelrod, editor of "Blue Chip Chatter," Teaneck, NJ.

- 1- A problem with harmonization of most 19th century (post Civil War) songs was the lack of variety of the chords then used. A barbershop song which is still sung to this day featured a good deal of this otherwise difficult-to-find variety and, consequently is seen as an extremely important milestone in the development of the barbershop idiom. Name the song, and, for extra credit, the year in which it was written.
- 2- When and by whom was the term, barbershop harmony first used in print?
- 3- One of the most dearly beloved barbershop ballads of all time is "Last Night Was The End Of The World". "I Want A Girl Just Like The Girl Who Married Dear Old Dad" and "Wait 'Till The Sun Shines Nellie" were also written by the same composer. Name him.
- 4- In the very early days of recorded barbershop music, the 1890's and the early years of the 20th century, three quartets above all others achieved stardom. They were household names in their day. Name them.
- 5- The lead of the **Peerless Quartet**, which was active from 1906 until 1928, is very probably the most recorded singer in world history, having twelve thousand recorded songs to his credit. As a benchmark, Bing Crosby recorded 1/10th that number. Name this extremely famous turn-of-the-20th-century barbershopper.

(Answers on page 5)



Register online now! <http://secure.spebsqsa.org/HarmonyUniversity/index.aspx>

The Barbershop Harmony Society will return to **St. Joseph, MO July 30-August 6, 2006** for an up-graded, exciting, new *Harmony University*.

While Missouri Western State University is the same location we have held *Harmony College* in the past, it is definitely **NOT** the same place. Significant remodeling and new meeting space (with room for more people) has once again made it an excellent fit for one of the most exciting weeks in barbershop...**Harmony University!**



QUARTET CORNER

THE LUCKY FOUR COMPETES AT NCENN DIVISION



The Lucky Four quartet which includes Ed Comingore, baritone; Norm Smith, tenor; Frank Kinnison, lead in front; and Les Cudworth, bass competed in the NCENN novice quartet contest at Sparks, Nevada on March 18.

Even though they did not win the novice contest, they stood tall and represented the Capitolaire. They learned a lot about singing together and competition at a division contest. Our hats are off to **The Lucky Four** for their courage and improvement in singing. Quartet singing will continue to improve the chorus singing in the Capitolaire.

One Too Many

were to be the mike testers for the High School Contest in Sparks. A flu bug got them and they were not able to perform. Remember when they performed for the Capitolaire in June last year?



One Too Many including I-r Cory Wallace, Sam Merwin, Ty Wallace, Chris Burlando & Tim

YOUR CHAPTER NEEDS YOU

BY GIB HERTLER, NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN



The nominating committee will soon be preparing the slate of officers to lead our chapter in the coming year. Please contact any member of the nominating committee, Gib Hertler, Jim Minoudis, or Randy Finger and let them know which way you would like to assist in leading our chapter for 2007. The continued success of our chapter depends on you.

REMEMBER WHEN



Delta Music Society with Chuck Freeman, tenor; Joe Sisson, lead; Larry Earlywine, baritone and Chuck Kenney, base.

What years did they sing together?

Barbershopper of the Month for FEBRUARY 2006



The Barbershopper of the Month for February was awarded to Jim Minoudis. Jim has always been available to create the scenery for our performances. Jim is the guy who is always there taking the roll each week. Jim has been most helpful to members as a part of the music team by maintaining the music library and distributing learning CDs for the chapter members.

Because of his continued service to the members of the Capitolaire, Jim Minoudis is the Barbershopper of the Month for February.

(Answers from page 4)

- 1- "I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen," written in 1876
- 2- In 1900 by "Tom the Tattler," (my source did not indicate Tom's last name) a newspaper music critic. In an odd twist of history, Tom absolutely lambasted barbershop in his review and dismissed it as "musical slang". Go figure.
- 3- Harry Von Tilzer
- 4- **The American Quartet, the Haydn Quartet, and the Peerless Quartet**
- 5- Henry Burr



NOTES FROM AROUND THE BARBERPOLE



Bring all your friends to the Northern California West/Hawaii Convention on April 8 in Campbell, CA. We will have a spectacular quartet and chorus contest. **Late Show**, the new NCE/NN quartet champion and International qualifier will be our quartet contest mic tester. The new Voices In Harmony Chorus under the direction of Dr. Greg Lyne will also debut. Stay late for a great afterglow.

You can get information, register online or download a registration form by going to www.vihchorus.org and following the convention link.

I hope to see you there!

Chuck Leavitt
NCWH 2006 Convention Chairman
ChuckLeav@aol.com

The Top Ten Reasons To Recruit

FROM LIVE WIRE 3-3-06

1. More members means more tenor singers.
2. More members means more quartet singers.
3. More members means more tag singers.
4. More members means more people to sell show tickets, bigger show audiences and louder applause for your performance.
5. More members means more future role models. Imagine being the genius who recruited guys like Jim Clancy, Dave LaBar, Dave Stevens and Jim Kline. Imagine the countless lives your protégés might influence.
6. More members means more future coaches for your chorus or quartet. The new guy you recruit might eventually be the one who brings out your inner champion.
7. The average chapter loses about 11% of its members each year. The average chapter must recruit four new members each year just to replace the members it loses.
8. Operating without a plan to replace these lost members can have a devastating impact on your chapter and your barbershop experience.
9. More members means more dynamic and talented music and administrative leaders to grow existing chapters or start new chapters.

I GUESS IF YOU DO ALL NINE, YOU WON'T NEED THE 10TH ONE. (Editor's Note)

Barbershop singing is easy

Excerpt from "Three Simple Messages Describe Barbershop Harmony" by Brian Lynch

"Easy to do, hard to perfect" might be more accurate. Not everyone can sing at the level of an international champion, nor should they try to. *Barbershop harmony is about participation, not perfection.*

The very roots of our style come *not* from trained musicians teaching vocal technique and vowel shapes. They lie in average guys, with average ability, enjoying the sound of their own voices contributing to barbershop harmony.

While it may be difficult to perfect, barbershop harmony is not difficult to do pretty well. As Jim Miller says, "it's just a bunch of guys doing the same thing, in the same way, at the same time." Everything else is just a refinement on this.

However, you can stress that many skilled musicians in the Barbershop Harmony Society have, over the years, developed a number of materials and methods of making barbershop even easier for the average guy. Learning tapes make it possible for singers to become proficient without ever looking at a sheet of music, much less knowing how to read it.



Come find out what kind of mischief Marion, Robin and the 'boys' are up to these days



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Admission:

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7 PM - \$25.00
Student - \$15.00





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BY FRANK KINNISON,
SECRETARY



March 2006 Board Meeting Summary

President, Jim Corson, called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM with the singing of "Down Our Way".

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as received. The treasurer's report was accepted as received. Tom Reaves emphasized the need to make more money.

President, Jim Corson, submitted an update to the revolving calendar.

Secretary, Frank Kinnison, reported that the board meetings for May, June, August, September, and October will be held in the Community Room at the Arden Dimick library at the corner of Watt and Northrop.

Chapter Development V.P., Jim Newlove, reported that he met with Clark Abrahamson and Dave Jones last month to discuss the planning for events that might bring new members into the Sacramento Chapter and build public awareness of your barbershop chapter. Discussion included a Saturday workshop auditions for good singers in the Sacramento area and auditions for admissions on a Saturday at a local mall. Research and fact finding is now being done and all who are interested in helping are encouraged to do so.

Music and Performance V. P., Keith Slater, provided a follow-up on the Retreat. Mostly positive feedback, but food choices could have been better. Royce was awesome and we should bring him back again. I will try to schedule some time next year to work one-on-one with individual voices.

Uniform Update –"Mardi Gras" colored vest and matching bow ties have been ordered and will be worn at the Reno contest.

Plans for summer 2006: Church sing outs – Sierra Arden in July and considering St. Mark's UMC again. Keith will be contacting DDSO to see if we can hold SAQW it there again. Saturday coaching session will be planned with Marty Lovick (EVG) in August.

The Presentation Team of Jim Newlove, Joe Sisson. Gary Heal and Bill Borah will meet soon to work on chorus repertoire presentation.

A show planning committee was established to look at show possibilities. The committee consists of Clark Abrahamson, Jim Corson, Keith Slater, Bill Borah, and Jim Newlove.

The chapter web site www.capitolaires.org is currently being upgraded and maintained by Norm Smith, Frank Kinnison, and Cal Smith with the guidance of the Webmaster Alan LeVezu.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM with the singing of "Keep The Whole World Singing".

The next board meeting will be held on Saturday, April 1 at 9:00 A.M. Call the president or secretary for the location. All members are encouraged to attend.

