



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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FEBRUARY 2006

CAPITOLAIRE'S ANNUAL BANQUET

By Alan Swanson

The Capitolaire's annual banquet was held on January 10, 2006 at the delightful **Casa Garden Restaurant and Meeting Center**, at 2760 Sutterville Road in Sacramento.

Sixty three members and guests were present to enjoy the evening. This was the most highly attended Annual Banquet in years. If you were not in attendance, you missed a very enjoyable evening.

A great slide show was prepared by Rosye Salz and presented during the cocktail hour. The slide show recreated many memories of the participants and many Capitolaire events during 2005.

An excellent dinner was served by the staff of Casa Garden Restaurant. During dinner, we were treated to the wonderful sounds of a cello trio, **Cello Sounds**, with our Capitolaire, Chuck Kenney, along with Beverly Rodgers, and Margo Scandella.

The Barbershopper of the Year for 2005 was awarded to Norm Smith for his outstanding assistance to the Capitolaire's during the past year. Norm has been available for riser duty, worked on the **Gotcha!** show and has taken on the monumental task of maintaining records for the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts grant. Norm was the behind the scenes guy to take reservations for our shows. He was instrumental in obtaining the new site for chapter meetings. For his outstanding contribution to the Capitolaire's, Norm Smith is the Barbershopper of the Year 2005.

The President's Award was presented to Frank Kinnison for his continued work as Secretary and special assistant to the President.

The Bill Donnell Distinguished Service Award was presented by Jim Corson to Gib Hertler for his outstanding

(Continued on page 3 - Banquet)



Barbershopper of the Year 2005 awarded by Gib Hertler to Norm Smith



Presidents Award presented by Jim Corson on right to Frank Kinneson



Bill Donnell Distinguished Service awarded to Gib Hertler by Jim Corson

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THE SACRAMENTO CAPITOLAIRES MEET EVERY TUESDAY AT 7:00 PM IN THE PILGRIM HALL OF SIERRA ARDEN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, 890 MORSE AVENUE AT NORTHRUP AVENUE



PRESIDENT'S CHORDS

BY JIM CORSON, PRESIDENT



It seems like it has been some time since we have had as many attend our Annual Banquet as did this year. We are indebted to Don Salz for arranging for the different location, and for planning the evening's program. I don't remember the exact count from last year, but it seems as though we came close to doubling it! I don't know if it was the fact that we held it on a regular meeting night, or that we changed locations, or a combination of the two, or something else entirely. As the board evaluates the event, and plans for next year, it will be helpful to have your feedback about the timing, the location, and the program. Drop me an email, or tell someone on the board how you feel about any part of it.

And, what a treat it was to have the mid winter convention come to Sacramento! Those were two great evening shows. I sure am glad that I didn't miss either one of them.

I was particularly pleased on Saturday evening when our chapter got some good PR time over the involvement of the youths who sang a number with Westminster. Norm Smith was a prime mover in putting that package together, and received great cooperation from a variety of different folk. I think it's great when top quartets and a top-level chorus value efforts to expose young men to barbershop enough to give of their time and themselves. Saturday's workshop feels like a major step forward in building credibility with students and music educators alike, and holds promise for the future success of similar activities.

Clark Abrahamson was our point man for coordinating with society staff about our varied volunteer roles for mid-winter, and deserves our undying gratitude for his careful persistence in negotiating a myriad of pit falls, both during the days and weeks before the event and then during the week itself. Some of you who were involved in various volunteer roles will understand more fully than others what underlies that comment! In any case, we seem to have survived the week without any major casualties – although I have not heard from Clark over the past several days, I trust that he survived as well!!

Surely, 2006 started out with a bang!



WAY BACK WHEN

The First Chorus Contests

By 1952, a new facet in Barbershop competition was gaining steam--chorus contests. In the summer of 1952, both the Land O' Lakes District and the Johnny Appleseed District held chorus contests with more than 1,000 barbershoppers and members of their families attending each. These were not the first chorus contests in those districts but they were indications of the growing enthusiasm. Others of the 14 districts had chorus contests scheduled for the late summer and early fall months. The first Michigan District chorus contest was held in July of 1952 with nine choruses competing and roughly 2,100 barbershoppers and their families attending.

The first international chorus contest was held in Detroit at the 1953 convention. The winners, the Great Lakes Chorus of Grand Rapids, Michigan, were acclaimed the "1953 International Convention Championship Chorus." Fifteen other choruses competed, and the affair was considered a big success. It was an experiment to test the popularity of the chorus contest idea, but not all districts were represented, so it was not until 1954 in Washington, D.C., that the winning chorus, the Singing Capital Chorus of the host chapter, could be crowned the "SPEBSQSA International Chorus Champions." Some 889 men in 23 choruses were involved in that contest, which from then on became an official part of the annual convention program.

--From *Heritage of Harmony*, edited by Val Hicks, published by SPEBSQSA, 1988, for the 50th anniversary of the Society

BARBERSHOP HISTORY QUIZ

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

- 1- Where does the term barbershop harmony come from?
- 2- What were barbershop's two major showcases from the 1880's through the 1930's?
- 3- What caused barbershop's demise as a major form of popular music?
- 4- Why was barbershop harmony important to George Burns, Bing Crosby and Al Jolson?
- 5- What was the influence of Black Americans in barbershop's formative days?

Answers on page 3.

IT'S NOT TOO HEAVY
WHEN ALL DO THEIR SHARE





FUN AT THE ANNUAL BANQUET



Gene Gerschovich, Gib Hertler and Jim Newlove watching the slide show



The 49R4 quartet table ready for dinner with Verne and Annice Bagby and Tony and Mary Prowense.



Bill Cale, FWD President, Installing the 2006 Officers

PHOTOS BY ALAN SWANSON

(Banquet Continued from page 1)

service to the Capitolaires.

The Capitolaire 2006 officers and board were installed by Far Western District President, Bill McCabe who is also a Capitolaire member. Officers serving for 2006 include Jim Corson, President; Keith Slater, V.P. Music; Jim Newlove, V.P. Membership and Chapter Development; Don Salz, V.P. Program; Dave Jones, V.P. Public Relations; Clark Abrahamson, V.P. Marketing; Norm Smith, V.P. Young Men in Harmony; Frank Kinneson, Secretary; Tom Reaves, Treasurer; Gib Hertler, Past President; and Members at Large David Wilder, Patrick Fleeman, and Randy Finger.

Answers to this month's history quiz:

1- Barbershops, first in England, then here, were places of extemporaneous, amateur music making since Elizabethan times. A song written in 1910 and entitled [Mister Jefferson Lord] "Play That Barbershop Chord" iced the cake.

2- Minstrel shows in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and, thereafter, vaudeville.

3- Radio, more so than any other factor. For the first time in human history, radio brought affordable and widely available entertainment into almost every home. This led to the rapid demise of vaudeville shows, barbershop's most important venue during the first third of the twentieth century.

4- They began their show biz careers as professional barbershop quartet singers.

5- The influence was immense, but this is a give-a-way to all of you scholars who read the lengthy article on the history of barbershop harmony in the August 2001 issue of the *Harmonizer*.

**WHO IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
SHOULD BE SINGING
BARBERSHOP??
INVITE THEM TO A CHAPTER
MEETING TO GIVE THEM A
TASTE OF BARBERSHOP.**



EDITORIAL

Train your Replacement

BY ALAN SWANSON

It seems to me that each board member and committee chairman of the chapter must prepare and train his replacement. As a board member or committee chairman, you have to recognize that you will not have the same job forever. You do know how to do your job better than anyone since you have been through the tough times and the joyful times in your yearlong accomplishments.

But, let's look at it a different way. We come to sing and to have fun. There are many tasks that need to be done that make it fun to come and sing. It seems to me that everyone in the chapter should have a part in those tasks that need to be done to make it fun to come and sing.

As a member of the chapter, whether you are an active chorus member or not, you can make a great contribution to the singing and fun of the Capitolaire. If you have a particular talent that can be useful for the benefit of the chapter, let your board or a committee chairman know of your interest. If you are a board member or committee chairman, find people to help you, to mentor, or be your successor.

By mentoring your replacement, there is always someone to step in to take over when you decide you want to take on another challenge. As my mother often said, "Many hands make light work".

So, if there are individuals in the chapter who would like to be on the staff of the Swipes and Tags, to learn how it gets done every month, contact Alan Swanson, e-mail: ahswanson@surewest.net or phone 916-786-6018. You just may find that you really enjoy making a contribution to the chapter in this way.

FROM THE EDITOR

The goal of Swipes and Tags is to provide members with timely and relevant information about the chapter members and activities. Do you have some barbershop stories to share, or concerns about barbershop? The Swipes and Tags would like to receive them. Please e-mail to: Ahswanson@surewest.net. The deadline for the March issue will be Tuesday, February 21. Contact Alan Swanson 916-786-6018 or e-mail to Ahswanson@surewest.net

SINGING VALENTINES

BY PAUL GREISEN,
VALENTINE CHAIRMAN



Valentine's day is upon us again. Singing Valentines has become one of our most productive fund raising activities as well as a most enjoyable event for everyone who has participated. The recipients are thrilled, the onlookers are both jealous and entertained and we continue to receive appreciative comments from the senders.

I urge every barbershopper to sell at least five Singing Valentines. I don't need to sell this to anyone who has done it once as all seem to look forward to doing it again. The audience is diverse, the venues are varied and the responses run the gamut from tears to cheers.

Only \$40 for a four hour delivery window
Only \$55 for a one hour delivery window

For Reservations call
916-408-8889

**START BY ORDERING A
SINGING VALENTINE
FOR YOUR OWN VALENTINE**

It will surely increase your available time to be barbershop singing!

FWD SPRING CONVENTION WANT TO SAVE MONEY?

To save \$20.00, be sure to sign up for the FWD Spring Convention and NCENN contest in Sparks, Nevada by Valentines Day, February 14.

Spend the savings on a Singing Valentine for your own sweetheart. All participants must be registered.

Sign up sheets are at the chapter meetings or on the FWD web site: <http://spebsqsafwd.org>.

Headquarters Hotel is:
John Ascuaga's Nugget
1100 Nugget Avenue
Sparks, NV 89432-0797
800-648-1177

The block of rooms reserved for the event will be released on February 16. Reserve yours now!

Chorus competition will be Saturday morning. Plan to arrive at least by Friday evening.

**2006 Midwinter Convention & Contest—January 15-22**

Learn To Be A Better Barbershopper!
We've Got The Classes!

Experience An Exciting Location!
Northern California Can't Be Beat!

Thanks so much to all the Guys and Gals that helped out at Midwinter! I got many accolades, both from the Kenosha staff and from attendees at how smoothly everything went (really!!!), and how willing we were to jump in and do what was necessary.



Here, in no particular order, are the heroes who participated so magnificently, helping out at the Convention/PR office, handling the house at Friday/Saturday shows, driving quartets (with impossible flight schedules), and generally making my job as chairman a snap:

Jim/Janice Newlove, Gib/Barbara Hertler, Cal/Gale Smith, Norm Smith, Les Cudworth, Gary Heal, Jack McPhillips, Joe/Leila Sisson, Ed Comingore, Joe Samora, Tom Reaves, Frank Kinnison, Chuck Marr, Al James, Keith Slater, Bill Borah, Alan Swanson, Randy/Dana Finger, Derick Sturke (Central California), Wally McClain

WELL DONE! I'm so proud of y'all!

Clark Abrahamson, Capitolaires Chairman

From Bruce Sellnow on the FWD e-mail list.

Many of you are aware that we hosted a Youth Harmony Workshop in Sacramento during the Midwinter Convention. Norm Smith, of the Capitolaires, headed this up with a lot of help from the Sacramento Capitolaires. Our clinicians included Mark Freedkin and Rick Spenser, and featured the time and talents of **Metropolis**, **OC Times**, **Late Show** and **Good Time Harmony**. The highlight of the day was when the entire **Westminster Chorus** arrived, to rehearse a song with the boys that they got to perform with them on the Saturday Night's Show!

Thank you so much to all the guys who helped make this a success! There are many more, Chuck, Bill, Keith, Steve, Jim and many others, who aren't all listed here. We're already making plans for the next one! Here are some unedited comments from one of the high school students who attended our workshop.

What worked for you?

"EVERYTHING! I absolutely loved it! Seriously. As a barber-shop singer and member of a quartet, this opportunity to sing with the best quartets/chorus in the FWD is easily the highlight of my life. The guest directors were great, just like they have been at the other Youth Harmony events that I have been to. But, the highlights of the day were definitely singing tags with the guest quartets and then watching them perform for us, and

singing with my favorite collegiate barbershop chorus (I knew and adored them even before this festival) the **Westminster Chorus**, and getting to sit in on their rehearsal. Saturday was a day full of events I will not soon forget and I will probably still be bragging about it with my friends months from now."

What would you change?

"More advertisement of the festival to get even more guys to come. If I ever had this opportunity again, I would also make damn sure the rest of my quartet was up there with me, even if I had to drag them there, because I know in the end they would have thanked me just as I am thanking you."

Overall, words cannot quite express how enjoyable Saturday's festival was for me. Just to see those quartets and Westminster Chorus perform live would have been a momentous occasion, but to have the opportunity to sing WITH them, and PERFORM with them....I can't even put into words how awe-



PHOTO BY KEITH SLATER
Royce Ferguson directs our boys plus the Westminster Chorus

some that is!!! I cannot express enough gratitude to Norm and everybody involved in setting up and running this festival....More thank you's cannot quite encompass just how grateful and blessed I feel to have been a part of this occasion. There is a reason barbershop singing has lasted so long in this country, and that reason is the dedication and support shown by people like you who spend countless hours planning and organizing events like this to spread the joys of barbershop to young boys everywhere. Once again, although the words are not quite adequate, Thank you so much for putting on Saturday's festival, and I look forward to hopefully seeing you all again in Reno this March.

Appreciatively yours,
Bruce Sellnow

Vintage Gold takes Senior Silver at Mid-Winter

Far Western District Senior quartet **Vintage Gold** placed second at the Mid-Winter Contest in Sacramento. They were just two points behind gold medalists **Antique Gold**.

The FWD continues its tradition of quality quartets! **Vintage Gold** represents the Bay Area (merged SJ/BAM) and Fresno chapters, and is: **Ron Bass**, tenor; **Gary Bolles**, lead; **Pat Henley**, bari; **Jim Sherman**, bass.

From the FWD website



NOTES FROM AROUND THE BARBERPOLE



Barbershop Harmony Society to seek HQ site in Nashville

PLAN TO ATTEND THE CAPITOLAIRES RETREAT

When: Fri-Sun, Feb. 10-12, 2006; plan to arrive late afternoon on Friday and return on Sunday around noon.

Where: Community of the Great Commission, Foresthill, near Auburn CA



Cost: \$125 per person, which includes two nights lodging, meals — Friday dinner thru Sunday breakfast.

Community of the Great Commission Bobbitt Hall

Coaches: Royce Ferguson, the music director for our FWD Champion Chorus, Westminster and also well known as the tenor in the 1998 International Quartet Champion, Revival and Gabe Caretto, our fellow Capitolaire and baritone of **Late Show**.

Questions: Call Keith Slater @ 786-7898 or send an email at kwstenor@quiknet.com.

January 20, 2006 – Sacramento, CA

The Society Board at its 2006 Midwinter Convention in Sacramento, CA has adopted a motion instructing the Headquarters Relocation Committee to find an appropriate site for Society Headquarters in the Nashville, Tennessee area.

"The Board feels that Nashville will prove the greatest location in which we can achieve our vision of the Society's future," said Society President Drayton Justus. "Nashville's international reputation as 'Music City USA' connects our musical art form with many other resources to advance our mission and vision."

Strong possibilities for tourism, an excellent business and employment climate, and a transportation-friendly central location were also cited as reasons for the choice.

The action comes after four years of national search by a Harmony Hall Task Force and its successor Headquarters Relocation Committee, both charged with evaluating and identifying locations for the Society Board to consider. Nashville, Dallas-Fort Worth, and the Milwaukee-Chicago corridor had been considered finalist locations from an initial list of more than fifteen cities.

Although several Nashville-area facilities have been reviewed, no specific site has been selected. "The Board's action Friday directs the committee to bring back a list of options, and a business plan for relocation, including the actual site in Nashville, the headquarters total operational needs, and the staffing to support it," said Justus.

An initial timeframe for moving in Spring 2007 is contemplated, although this will depend in part on the progress of a new IT infrastructure installation, and the timeliness of the recommendations and negotiations in securing the best site within the Nashville market.

"Our dedicated Harmony Hall staff has been extremely patient through this entire search," said Executive Director Ed Watson. "Some families may choose to not relocate, yet their professionalism continues to drive them to serve our members every day. The Board applauds the dedication and patience shown by our staff during this unsettling period of uncertainty."

In the The Woodland Opera House Concert

OOPS

article in last months Swipes and Tags, the names of two individuals are corrected as follows: **Late Show** consists of Raymond Davis and Mike Stewart, formerly of "Q."

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Randy Finger	02-05
Joe Samora	02-09
Grant Fernish	02-10
John Osborn	02-18
Dusty Rhoads	02-19
Bill Cale	02-23
Jack McPhillips	02-27
Alan Swanson	02-27
Jim Corson	02-28*
Gary Heal	02-28*

*Chapter Night



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proved as received. Frank Kinnison reported that the 2006 Society dues are \$87.00 and the 2007 dues will be \$97.00.

Jim Corson, President, appointed the nominating committee for 2006. They are Gib Hertler (Chair), Jim Minoudis and Randy Finger.

Keith Slater, Music and Performance VP, reported on the plans for 2006. The "Jazz Medley" may be dropped in light of our absence from the Jazz Jubilee this year. Instead two songs will be introduced, "Way Down Yonder In New Orleans" and "Mardi Gras March/ South Rampart Street Parade Medley". The Music Team viewed a VHS tape of "How to Build a Better Chorus" with Bill Biffle and Dr. Greg Lyne. The Team thought it was very well done and will be used at our Chapter meetings and reinforced at the Retreat.

Jim Newlove, Chapter Development and Membership VP, reported that the Chapter Development Team is working with Public Relations and Marketing VPs on a schedule of three Guest Nights and three AFA's or mini AFA's for next year as well as other marketing ideas in promoting our chapter's membership. We are also looking for ideas on ways to bring back non-regular members, increase the number of guests who are potential members and on programs that will improve the chances that these guests will want to join our chapter.

Gib Hertler received a letter from Iris Renfree, Guide Supervisor, with the Department of Parks and Recreation at the Capitol thanking the Capitolaire for our participation in the Annual Holiday Music Program. She wrote, "Thank you for your musical gifts to the visitors as well as the staff. We have all been enriched by your efforts." She went on to say "P.S. We'll try to book the Governor next year for you."

Barbershopper of the Month for DECEMBER 2005



Gary Heal has made many contributions to the success in the Capitolaire. One of his most memorable was to take on the part of Marvin the Elf in the Christmas show at the Towe Auto Museum.

For his contributions and very entertaining portrayal of Marvin the Elf, Gary Heal is the Barbershopper of the Month for December.



PHOTO BY MARC NUTT



BY FRANK KINNISON,
SECRETARY



Jan 7, 2006 Board Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM with the singing of "Down Our Way".

Tom Reaves, Treasurer, reported that the total funds available are \$3,808.90. His report was accepted as received. The minutes of the previous meeting were ap-

TAG OF
THE MONTH

TAG:

2006 CALENDAR SUMMARY

FEBRUARY

4 9-11 Board Meeting
 10-12 Retreat
 14 Singing Valentines (No Meeting)

MARCH

4 9-11 Board Meeting
 16-19 FWD Spring Convention NCENN Division
 Contest, Sparks

APRIL

1 9-11 Board Meeting

MAY

6 9-11 Board Meeting

JUNE

3 9-11 Board Meeting
 6 ? Nevada Placer Bean Feed
 9 Sing Out at Eskaton
 tba Capitolaire Founders Day

July

2-9 International Convention, Indianapolis
 15 9-11 Board Meeting
 16 Stockton Area Picnic
 21-23 Harmony College West at Redlands

August

5 9-11 Board Meeting



SWIPES & TAGS

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Address Correction Requested



THE SACRAMENTO CAPITOLAIRES MEET EVERY TUESDAY AT 7:00 PM IN THE PILGRIM HALL OF SIERRA ARDEN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, 890 MORSE AVENUE AT NORTHRUP AVENUE