



Swipes & Tags



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SACRAMENTO CAPITOLAIRES

62 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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Looking Back & Looking Forward

Keith Slater, Music and Performance VP

I want to thank everyone for their enthusiastic participation in our well-received holiday performances. Thanks to Joe Samora's efforts in chapter development, we had 12 new men singing with us in our Holiday Chorus, and they did a fantastic job of learning a great deal of music in a short period of time. This greatly enhanced our sound as a performing ensemble and with the addition of our two new songs, Carol of the Bells and The Secret of

Christmas, the chorus sang a total of 16 songs for our performances. The Towe Show was one of the best we've ever done with a

great script by Clark Abrahamson and masterful narration by Marc Nutt. The Elk Grove Rotary Club provided a warm and appreciative audience for our holiday music on December 5, and we had a great time caroling at the Capitol Rotunda and in Old Sacramento on December 16. It was a busy and gratifying season for us.

Now get ready for a jump start on 2008! We have some exciting events coming this spring. We're providing entertainment for a private party at Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church on February 9. Then it's time for our Singing Valentines program on February 14 - we hope to have 7-8 quartets delivering to sweethearts all over the

Sacramento area so if you haven't signed up, please do. If you can't sing in a quartet, please volunteer to help man the phones or drive a quartet around for the day. See Mike Gilmore or Bill Quaglia if you can help. You'll find it to be a fun, heart-warming, and definitely joyful experience.

The Music Team met before the holidays and we're making extensive plans for the New Year. Bill Borah will be sharing craft skills at our chapter meetings with a "PITCH PIPE" series of lessons on singing. We'll be learning some new music to add to the chorus repertoire. In March, we'll be going to the mountains for our Annual

Retreat. Be sure and save the weekend of March 28-30 and plan to attend - more details to follow as we get closer.



Then in May we have two events to look forward to: the NorCal East/Northern Nevada and NorCal West division conventions will be combined this year and will be held in Stockton on May 17. Then, after a short hiatus, the Jazz Society has offered the Capitolaire an opportunity to perform again at the Jazz Jubilee on Memorial Day weekend. We'll be performing for the Closing Ceremony on Monday, May 26.

I want to wish you all a very Happy New Year and hope that you are ready to warm up those vocal chords for an enjoyable, exciting, and rewarding year of barbershop harmony. S&J

From Our President:

Norm Smith, President

Thank you all for your confidence in the board and me by electing us to serve for 2008. I have a great team to work with.

I am looking forward to a challenging and rewarding year. Our job as your Board of Directors is to provide leadership in scheduling and financing to allow the music team and our director, Bill to provide us with new music and training so that we get better as individual singers and as a chorus. Picture, if you will, a schedule of shows two or three years out, show chair selected a year ahead and music planned to fit the show theme rather than the theme

chosen to use the music we already know. Oh yes and being able to buy the music and have learning tapes produced in a timely fashion because we have the reserves in our treasury to make the commitment before we have proceeds from the show. Picture also the chorus being coached two to three



times a year by top-notch coaches as well as the chorus being able to supplement the costs of chorus members because we have the funds to do so.

Pie in the Sky? I don't think so. The second show at the Towe demonstrated what we can do as a chorus now. We just need to be consistent. (Have you heard that before?) Our new members have been good additions to our sound and reduced the average age of the chorus. (Thanks Joe and Men of Note.) As we continue to sing better, we will attract more good singers. The Board will also need to take a careful look at the budget for this next year and the Board will need to work together with the whole chorus to move us to a positive cash flow and then to a reserve account that will support the continued development of our music program. This year will also involve major preplanning for the October 2009 FWD convention we have agreed to host in Sacramento.

A challenge? YES! Are we up to it? YES! *SES*

DIRECTORLY SPEAKING

Bill Borah, Director

2007 was a very successful year musically for the Capitolaire. We competed in the NorCal East Division contest, sang for numerous churches during the summer,

put on a very entertaining '50s show and (2) 16 song tour de force shows at Christmas, appeared twice at the Capitol rotunda and several other smaller performances. In the process we picked up about a dozen new singers. The addition of these new singers and the improvements being made by all voices has significantly raised the quality of our sound. In the vernacular of the infomercial - "But wait - there's more." 2008 is shaping up to be even more energetic and exciting.

We're going to start the New Year by going back to basics and work on individual vocal production and ensemble skills. We will also start on our new contest package. We have an exciting retreat scheduled for March 28 - 30 with guest coach Royce Ferguson the

Director of the current International Chorus Champions, The Westminster Chorus. Royce worked with us at our retreat 2 years ago and was outstanding. It's really important that everyone plan on attending this retreat. It has been on the calendar for several months so there should be no excuses of schedule conflicts. You'll receive 6 months of instruction and

rehearsal in one weekend. If you miss it, you'll have a lot of catching up to do as well as missing the opportunity to spend some quality time with your brothers on the risers.

In May, the 17th to be exact, is the NorCal East and West combined Divisional Contest in Stockton where we will debut our sparkling new package and take the Division by storm. I predict that if we continue to grow and improve at our current rate that the Most Improved trophy is in the bag. Two weeks later we are producing and performing at the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee closing ceremonies. After a lay-off of a couple of years we're excited to be involved again in the Jubilee (Thanks, Clark). Not only is it fun to sing at the Jubilee (very appreciative audiences), but as an added bonus, you get free Musician passes for the entire weekend. We're hoping that this will precipitate an even greater involvement in the Jubilee the next year, so, while preparing for contest we also have to learn several new songs to add to our Patriotic package.

In June we'll start our summer church performances again. This is always a great opportunity to perform a service and get our product in front of new audiences.

In August we will be reprieving our '50s show for Sun City Lincoln Hills. (Don't put away the Pomade.) At the same time we will be learning some new material for our

Continued on the next page.

fall show (probably late September) as well as cranking up for the District competition on October 10 -12 in Bakersfield. Then - guess what? It's Christmas time again!!

As you can see, there is no slack time. Every rehearsal, every week will be important. I'm planning to bring in more outside coaching throughout the year to hone us to a finer edge. We could and should be a real force in NorCal and for that matter the Far Western District, if you're willing to step up to the plate and give it your very best. I promise to give you my very best in return. *SEJ*



Christmas performances in the community and there is at least one other quartet that has started rehearsing together.

We had 30 wonderfully dedicated members on stage for the NorCal East/Northern Nevada Division Contest in Reno last March; two more than in 2005 and 2006. We almost qualified for the Fall FWD District Contest. In the 2008 Division Contest (May 17 in Stockton), we should have far more on stage and we certainly are singing better. The efforts of Membership VP, Joe Samora, and those of you who invite guests are paying off. After all, we had 46 on stage for our Towe Christmas Show!

Our director, Bill Borah, deserves much of the credit for our vastly improved singing. He is gently and relentlessly shaping us into a very good chorus. He challenged us to learn many new songs this year - though it made his own job much harder. He has also done a fine job making use of his assistant directors, Randy Finger and Mark Coldiron.

However, Bill Borah also is greatly responsible for our increased membership. Challenge is fun. Our chapter meetings are fun, as well as a good workout. By challenging us, we are not only becoming better singers, we are attracting men who like challenge.

Don't forget, our Annual Retreat in March features coaching from Royce Ferguson, director of our current International Chorus Champion, Westminster. I can't wait to find out what else is in store for 2008! *SEJ*

January 2008 Challenge:

Challenge yourself to distribute at least ten Chorus business cards this month.

Presidential Echo

Don Salz, Immediate Past President

I could not have hoped for a better Board of Directors during my year as President. I especially want to thank Treasurer Tom Reaves and Secretary Frank Kinnison who have quietly and expertly performed their terribly important duties for years.

The Capitolaire's learned 10 new songs this year. Sure it's great to sing songs better and better. However, I think the new music instilled massive energy into the chapter. Special kudos to the basses who had to work extra hard to learn all those do-wop rhythms for the 50's show!

In the February 2007, the River Tones represented our chapter in the NorCal Novice Contest. In February 2008, we may have more. Four of our quartets did



December 8, 2007 Board Meeting Summary

Frank Kinnison, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM with the singing of "Down Our Way." The newly elected 2008 Board Members and our Director, Bill Borah, were present at the invitation of the current Board. The minutes of the prior meeting were approved as received. The Treasurer's report was accepted as received. Tom Reaves reported that our financial situation is still in the critical



state but that our share of the Christmas show income, which is not available to us until mid January, will help out.

President Don Salz then discussed the upcoming banquet on January 8.

Secretary Frank Kinnison reported that Gale Smith wants to set up a memorial fund in Cal Smith's name.

Keith Slater, Music & Performance VP, reported that the music committee is looking at new music for the division chorus contest in the spring and that the music needs to be ordered now. Upcoming events and performances are: Feb. 9 Fair Oak Presbyterian Church; Valentine's Day; March Retreat Plans; May NCENN Convention in Stockton, and the Jazz Jubilee.

Clark Abrahamson, Marketing VP, reported that we have been asked to produce the entire closing ceremony of the Jazz Jubilee. We are not getting paid but those that participate and fulfill rehearsal requirements will receive an all-events badge. He is also encouraging the quartets to improve their web image to include sound clips, pictures, short video clips, bios, fee schedules, performance schedules, testimonials, etc., toward more effective marketing. He is working with the membership team to identify and act on opportunities to promote membership recruitment and retention.

Valentine Chair, Mike Gilmore's goal is to provide the best show of our singing talents to a wide paying audi-

ence. In addition to the four or five registered quartets the goal is to have seven or eight quartets to cover the Sacramento area. A suggestion is for the quartets to explore a greater variety of songs from the archives instead of relying on the standards of the past. Mike said that he is open to suggestions on how to handle this and how to work the songs into rehearsal time. Our goal will be for each quartet to work 25 gigs. The major promotional points will be the offering of a LIVE rose, a small box of chocolates, a card and of course, two beautifully performed songs.

Bill Borah's State of The Chorus Observations.

1. The Chapter has a very strong Music Team! The Board has fallen behind the Music Team and needs to support them.
 2. The Chapter is approaching a B-level chorus.
 3. The Board needs and should be using an action item agenda.
 4. The Chapter should issue a quarterly newsletter to sell our shows.
 5. Ticket sales should emphasize Senior Citizens establishments.
 6. A monthly Community Calendar (i.e. AAA) should be developed.
 7. We should be advertising free vocal lessons.
 8. Planning should be 18 months out.
 9. We should be initiating/attending a cappella events.
 10. We need to place more emphasis on the Youth Outreach program.
 11. The Chapter needs new risers with back railing for safety.
 12. The Chapter should have a rehearsal hall that has heating and air conditioning.
- The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM with the singing of "Keep The Whole World Singing." S&J



Swipes & Tags Submission Deadlines:

Please note I have changed submission deadlines.

No February Issue.

March Issue Deadline: February 14, 2008.

April Issue Deadline: March 20, 2008

2008 - A New Beginning for the Capitolaire

David Jones, Public Affairs

It's a new year and a new beginning for the Capitolaire.

What, you say? How is it a new beginning?

Well, I'll tell you, so keep on reading.

As I see it, we're on an upswing in terms of membership. Keeping that momentum going is key to our growth, and the sound we create on the risers.

But growth without other facets of our craft is like smoke without a fire. It's smoldering, but may not burst into flame.

To follow the previous example, we can outgrow our riser space (smoke), but if we don't continue to improve our singing, we likely won't be able to keep some of the new the guys we have, let alone attract more guys who want to sing. Our show at the Towe in early December last year is a start. I heard from some friends and family members that this was the best we had sung in a long time (fire). And our director, Bill Borah, confirmed that fact for us. So let's sing the best we can each time we sing. We expect excellent sound to come from the chorus. So do our audiences who have paid to hear us.

To improve our singing, each of us has to "buy in" to chorus improvement. That means, among other things, getting "off the music" as quickly as possible. To do that requires some effort. You're going to have to do some practicing on your own. I don't read music, so I pop a learning CD into my car's CD player, and sing along as I drive about town. That works for me. Something else might work for you. But you sure can't just attend practice Tuesday evenings and expect everything to just "click into place." You can also "buy in" by paying attention when a craft session is being presented, and by practicing riser discipline. Riser discipline means NO TALKING! And turn those cell phones off, too. That's just being polite.

Speaking of "buying in," that's a key word in our new beginning. This phrase rings true when our next big fundraising event nears - Singing Valentines. If EVERY member doesn't "buy in" and do his part to sell Singing Valentines, the program will FAIL (smoke). Failure in this case is defined as the program generating less revenue than expected. Since this program is a critical key in our chapter's financial health, YOU will have to sell some Valentines. I'm not going to tell you how many to sell, but if you don't sell any, you are not pulling your weight as a member of the group (smoke).

Another area where "buying in" is key is in chapter jobs. There is a pretty long list of jobs that need to be done in this chapter. Since this is a volunteer-driven organization, if all you do is show up and sing, you're not

really "buying in." Seek out opportunities to contribute to the chapter (fire) in terms of helping someone out, joining a committee, or offering your talents. You only get out of this Barbershop Harmony experience what you put into it.

I'm really looking forward to the New Year, and all of the opportunities we will have to turn smoke into fire.

Are you in? ☺☺☺

*Ignorance can be **our** bliss. Know when to ignore the men around you on the risers.*

Ignore them when they talk and we have bliss.

Ignore them when they sing and we go amiss.



T.E.A.M.

Joe Samora, Membership VP

The theme for the Sacramento Capitolaire 2008 membership recruitment program is Together Each Achieves More. Musically, we want to do our best and in return, if we sound better in public performances we attract men who are better singers and who want to join the Chorus.

Increasing the size of the Chorus involves more than one person. It takes each of us working together to attract more talent and then provide support through the Buddy Program. This past year, we attracted 28 guests and over a dozen members served as buddies. A dozen guests became New Members. This program matches experienced singers with guests and New Members.

In addition, we need to involve family and friends in support of the Chorus and Quartets by asking them to volunteer to serve on Capitol For'em. This group promotes fellowship among our families while assisting the Choir during fundraiser events. Interested parties should contact Joe Samora, Membership Vice President at (916) 631-9848 or tm39samora@comcast.net

Continued on the next page.

Thanks to the Membership Team for a dynamic year (Dave Jones, Clark Abrahamson, Bill Quaglia and Joe Samora). Welcome Tobias Stockler to our Team. Our meetings are normally held the second Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in joining this committee, contact Joe Samora.

Let's "think outside the box" to gain New Members. What more can you and I do as a T.E.A.M.? ☺☺



2007 & 2008 From Public Affairs

David Jones, Public Affairs

Well, another year has begun, so it's time to look back at 2007, and ahead to 2008.

Last year was one of challenges and triumphs from a public affairs perspective for the chapter. Challenges abounded when trying to prepare publicity for Valentines Day, our Fall Show in Granite Bay, and our Christmas show at the Towe Auto Museum.

For Valentines Day, I managed to get a quartet and myself on KFBK-AM radio with Kitty O'Neal, and on Channel 10's Sacramento & Co. morning show to promote our Singing Valentines. And I sent out a news release to all area newspapers. Even so, our Singing Valentines revenue was much less than expected. Public Affairs did its part (I even sang in a Valentines quartet and had a blast!), but membership on a whole failed to sell many Singing Valentines. Since Valentines Day is just around the corner, let's get out there and sell! Each member MUST sell some of them to ensure our success.

I sent out a news release to all area newspapers again for our Fall "Rock 'n Roll is Here to Stay" show in Granite Bay, and a quartet and I appeared again on Channel 10. But despite my best effort, and those of others associated with the show, we didn't get

many butts in the seats, and our revenue fell short of expenses. Again, members didn't sell many tickets, and without a strong selling program among the members, we failed to produce revenue. Again, membership as a whole must get out there and sell some tickets!

Christmas at the Towe Auto Museum was, happily, a better story. A quartet and I appeared on KFBK with Kitty O'Neal and R.E. Graswich during evening drive time, and another quartet and I appeared on Channel 10's Sacramento & Co. morning show to promote the concert. I sent news releases out again, and this time hit pay dirt. The Friday Sacramento Bee "Ticket" edition just before the concert featured the "10 Best Things to Do This Weekend." It listed the best events in food, stage, movies, etc. We were featured in the Music section and we got about 3 column inches of type. That was a huge hit! All this publicity, coupled with this time pretty strong ticket sales among members resulted in a nice windfall for our treasury.

So what's ahead for 2008? It's my third year as a board member and I'll have to push hard to ensure we get in the news enough to have a positive effect on ticket sales, and membership growth. When we get a lot of "butts in seats," then a few of the men who attend shows actually show up as guests and sing with us. So it's a win-win, with more money for our depleted treasury, and more guys to sing with us.

I'm up for the challenges bound to appear in 2008. Are you ready to do your part to help ensure not only our survival, but our success? ☺☺



Pictures on pages 1,4,& 5 of our Towe show, thanks to the assistance of Mrs. Slater. Pictures on pages 2,3, & 6 courtesy of David Jones. Pictures of Towe rehearsal, editor.

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Refer to VP Marketing

The Editorial Solo

Tobias Stockler, Editor, Swipes & Tags

Welcome to another issue of Swipes and Tags. Thank you to Bill Borah, Keith Slater, Dave Jones, Joe Samora, and Frank Kinnison. I am grateful for the contribution of so many members. Please keep contributing. You have truly made the editorial seat a pleasure. I was afraid it would be more challenging.

Let me introduce myself. I am the young bass that ruins the sound of all you otherwise good guys. I was born here in this sunny state too recently to



know all about the fifties music we sing. I love travel, probably because I grew up in twelve different states. I lived five years in Canada.

I joined the Capitolaire specifically to improve my singing ability and give me a relaxing hobby to counter the intensity of the rest of my life. I do not claim any great musical accomplishment, but I have a lot of fun singing with you guys and really appreciate you tolerating me.

I do not have much time for this newsletter. But I always like to contribute and editing is easy. So I am doing my best.

Swipes and Tags is *our* newsletter. It is how we talk to ourselves. Talk to me and I will guarantee your soap box gets a microphone or at least space here. Tell us about yourselves. Tell us about singing a long time ago. Tell us what makes for good singing now. Tell us why you like to sing. Talk to us, and I will do my best to help by editing and publishing what you say.

Thank you all and a happy new year to you.

PS Pardon an issue of Swipes and Tags with no swipes and no tags. Those will come in the future.

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			2008			
January				July		
5	9-11	Board Meeting @ Arcade Library		-6		International Convention, Nashville
8	6-9 pm	Annual Banquet		12	9-11	Board Meeting
18-20		SA AAIM - San Ramon				
February				August		
2	9-11	Board Meeting @ Arcade Library		2	9-11	Board Meeting
9		Fair Oaks Presbyterian Presentation				
14		Singing Valentines				
March				September		
1	9-11	Board Meeting @ Arcade Library		6	9-11	Board Meeting
13-16		FWD Spring Convention		19-21		SA AIM - San Ramon
28-30		Annual Retreat				
April				October		
3-6		SAI Region 12 Convention - Sacramento		4	9-11	Board Meeting
5	9-11	Board Meeting @ Arden Dimick		9-12		FWD Fall Convention, Bakersfield
May				November		
3	9-11	Board Meeting @ Arden Dimick		1	9-11	Board Meeting
10		Society sponsored Blood Drive		4-8		SA International, Hawaii
16-18		NCENN Convention		17		NC COTS Delta College, Stockton
23-26		Sacramento Jazz Jubilee				
June				December		
3	?	Nevada-Placer Bean Feed		2	7-10	Meeting at Towe
7	9-11	Board Meeting		4	7-10	Dress Rehearsal at Towe
10		Open House		6	9-11	Board Meeting
29-		International Convention, Nashville		7	1 & 3 pm	Towe Show
				?		Capitol Rotunda Singout
				?		Caroling