



*Sunshine District Representative
International Senior Quartet Competition*

Equinox

Tr, Ralph Brown

Ld, Frank Bovino, Jr

Br, Wm. Patrick Bower

Ba, Ed McKenzie



*2015 Fifth Place Bronze Medalist
Throwback*

Tr, Paul Saca

Ld, Sean Devine

Br, Alex Rubin

Ba, Michael Skutt



Equinox
Sunshine District
Senior Quartet Champions



Keith Hopkins,
the **Sunshine District's**
own award winning Emcee,
entertained the audience at
the Saturday Night Show .
WE LOVE YA KEITH!



Vintage Mix
Quartet of Quadruplets Extraordinaire

These fantastic young singers aren't kidding when they say harmony runs in the family. Quadruplets (that's right...quadruplets) Ian, Kelsey, Anika and Julia make up the members of Vintage Mix. Hailing from Milwaukee, their musical journey started with "The Sound of Music" sung at a local talent show. It was then and there that they realized that there was something "special in the mix." We're fortunate to have them be a part of our incredible lineup in Reno!

All Contest Pictures Supplied by Lorin May



Nick Schwob
President

I keep saying this but it's true, time flies when you get older. Sailed through 2015 and here we are, almost through February in 2016. I recently returned from Reno and the Mid-Winter Convention and Youth Festival, and again the young voices seem to be getting better and better. There were over 400 youth that crossed the stage during the Festival and again, I can't stress enough that if you ever get a chance to attend a Mid-Winter Festival, make it a special point to do so. The Seniors contest this year was better than ever, I might be a little prejudiced because "I is" one, but the scores seem to be reflecting this also. The Friday night show with our very own "Throwback" was great as always! I could listen to that quartet all night long.

The only down side to the Mid-Winter this year and last was that it was so damn cold. I thought that

New Orleans was bad but Reno held its own with temperatures in the low 20^s and snow. I thought that the Mid-Winters were supposed to be in the warmer climates in the country.....

We continually work to improve our District Spring and Fall Conventions cost-wise for our attendees and for Spring we have given you the option of two different room prices. Let me know your thoughts.

Our Webmaster Guru, Roger Smeds, has redesigned the District Website and has done a fantastic job. As you can imagine, this has taken hours of work, and his dedication to the District warrants a thank you whenever you get a chance to do so.

There are still a number of items being discussed by the District Presidents as we speak and I will bring you UTD as we go along if the item will affect us in any way, either at the District or the Chapter level.

That's it for now, a lot more going on, but I'm going to let the others on the Board bring you UTD in their various areas of expertise. Have fun guys and see you at the Spring Convention.

Keep your personal information, home address, email address, telephone (home & cell) up to date in the Society database. Check with your chapter secretary if help is required. Do not send any personal changes to the district staff or the Sunburst editor.

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MISS OUT ON
THE OPPORTUNITY
TO ADVERTISE
IN THE
SUNBURST!**

**PROMOTE
YOUR CHAPTER
SHOWS
AND/OR
QUARTETS.**

**Next Sunburst
Deadline
May 15, 2016**

HELLO AND REMINDERS FROM THE NEW DISTRICT SECRETARY

Hello all, my name is Brian Wunderlin and I am your new 2016 District Secretary replacing the one and only Dan Brinkmann who has been doing this job for like the past 100 years (just kidding of course). Dan has done an awesome job and his retirement from this position is well deserved. I have had the honor of working with Dan for the last couple of years while preparing to take over this position and I am proud to say I have found a good friend as a result... thanks Dan for all you have done!!!! Though not to worry as Dan still has agreed to stay involved retaining some of the responsibility of maintaining the Districts Governance Manual which he personally developed over the years.

So with that, I will now be the one sending out the pesky emails to the Chapter Secretary's and Presidents providing reminders and such to help keep you and your chapter legal and up to date with your record keeping. One thing I will ask of you Chapter Secretary's and Presidents; if you have a filter on your email to block unknown addresses that you add mine (see email address below) to your approved list... sorry but I am just too busy to take the time to request permission. Your help with this is greatly appreciated.

Below is a list of reminders of upcoming deadlines and requirements to help keep us all legal with the government and the rules of the Society. First, I would ask that you verify that all officers are correctly entered into eBiz as that is the only way I know who in your chapter to contact. In addition please make sure throughout the year that you keep this information updated and correct in the event a Chapter Officer is replaced. For the same reason, it is also important to make sure your personal information including Phone, Email, and Home Address on eBiz are also correct since that is how I know how to contact you. If you have any questions about this please don't hesitate to call or write and I will do my best to assist you in any way I can... I am here to help you.

SESAC/BMI:

As of the writing of this article there has been no increase in the fees we need to pay when we register our shows. So far I have received several forms which I have processed and sent to International for

Brian Wunderlin
Secretary



processing. When I process the forms, I email back to the Chapter Secretary a scanned copy of the signed form along with a copy of the check for your records... if you have sent in a form and I have not sent back a copy, please let me know and I will get back with you as to why we failed to connect. As always, please know the BMI Show Clearance Applications should be filed before finalizing show venue and guest quartet contracts. This is to help alleviate the possibility of chapters in close proximity to one another from having shows on the same weekend. Should such an occasion arise, the earliest cleared show will usually control the date. In any case...no show clearance, no show. Thanks for your help with this.

ASCAP:

As of the time of my writing this article, the 2016 ASCAP form has not yet been uploaded to the Society website... as soon as it is I will email it to the Chapter Secretaries, Treasurers and Presidents. Keep in mind, we do not yet know if the fees will decrease, remain the same or increase... so stand by for that when the form becomes available.

Remember that the ASCAP fee is a yearly fee based on the gross receipts from all performances your chapter has produced and for which you sold tickets. If you do not have a show, you do not need to pay the annual fee.

To make life a little easier, you might want to hold off sending your payment until close to the end of the year. AND remember at present, all ASCAP and SESAC/BMI payments must be sent through the District Secretary (me). Here is my address:

Brian Wunderlin
1727 Madrid Drive
Largo, FL 33778

If you are not required to pay a fee (i.e. no accompanying check is required), you can email a signed copy of the form to me at:

secretary@sunshinedistrict.org
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State Incorporations:

Have you filed your Florida State Not For Profit incorporation documentation yet? Now is the time to do it!! All filings are due at the same time—May 1, 2016. Sounds like a long time away, but time has a way of sneaking up on you.

Taxes, Taxes, Taxes:

Don't be one of the chapters that run up against the tax issue next year. Plan now to get all your financial records ready to file your 2015 form 990 on time.

Financial Review:

There is one other "business" type requirement that has been somewhat ignored, and that is the Financial Review. There are several district chapters still delinquent in that requirement either for last year or for a number of previous years. Delinquency in any of the requirements puts the chapter in jeopardy of incurring penalties including disqualification from competition. You can check to see if your chapter is in this category by simply going to the chapter financial records on eBiz. If you have questions or need assistance, let me know.

Here are a couple more reminders of what kind of information and requirements are (or were) due.

FEBRUARY

President

Send the name of the chapter delegate to the House of Delegates meeting at the Spring

Convention to the District Secretary. The submission must be in writing for it to be authorized. Email is acceptable.

Secretary

Record the name of the delegate to the Spring HOD in your chapter board minutes. Update eBiz to include "Chapter District Delegate(s)". The president is typically automatically an assigned delegate, although if someone else will be attending in his place, make sure eBiz reflects both attendees unless you only need to add the additionally assigned name besides the Chapter President.

Treasurer

IRS Forms 1098/1099 are due to the IRS and to anyone your chapter pays (director, etc) by February 28th of each year.

MARCH/APRIL

President

Plan on attending the HOD meeting. Oversee completion of required legal documentation.

Secretary

Verify chapter's incorporation status and prepare documentation in preparation for May deadline.

Hope to see you at the Spring Convention.

Lemon Bay Barbershop Chorus

The "**Lemon Bay Barbershop Chorus**" is hosting, for the first time, a Dinner Show at the Englewood Event Center. In addition to our chorus and quartets, we will have as our special guest, the ladies "Nightcap" quartet. The dinner is **MARCH 19 (Saturday)** at 6 pm, with show starting at 7:15. Tickets are available @ \$34.95 / Dinner & Show, or \$20 for Show only. Call the Center @ 941-270-3324, or if in our Englewood area, see a member of the chorus.

By the way, we rehearse Thursday evening at 6:30 pm @ Christ Lutheran Church, 701 N. Indiana Ave., Englewood. All singers are welcome to join us in Barbershop songs. Anyone responding might e-mail in advance to our Membership V.P. Gary Morton at gary@mortons.ca .

Roy Hayward, Chapter President



Dan Brinkmann
Retired



At a recent District Board meeting, President Nick Schwob declared April 30th as “Dan Brinkmann Day.” He is retiring as District Secretary after a long tenure. We will celebrate with Dan at the upcoming Spring Convention.



Where as, Dan Brinkmann has served many years at the local chapter level and earned the honor of being chosen the Sunshine District Barbershopper of the Year (BOTY) in 2004; and

Where as, Dan Brinkmann served the Sunshine District as the President of the Board of Directors in 2004-2005; and

Where as, Dan Brinkmann served the Sunshine District at the International level as a Board member of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber-Shopping in America, Inc. (SPEBSOSA), now the Barbershop Harmony Society in 2006-2007; and

Where as, Dan Brinkmann served the Sunshine District Board of Directors as Secretary of the Board of Directors in 2011 - 2015 and is retiring from Board service;

Now, therefore, I, Nick Schwob, President of the Sunshine District do hereby proclaim April 30, 2016 as Dan Brinkmann Day throughout the Sunshine District and encourage all of our barbershoppers to recognize the significant impact Dan has made and continues to make to our barbershop hobby.

Nick Schwob

Nick Schwob, President, Sunshine District

Signed this 15th day of January, 2016



Steve Jacobsen
V.P. Chorus Director
Development

Greetings to everyone in Sunshine. I'm new to this position, taking over from Dave Jacobs, who served you well and faithfully in this position for several years.

My job is to coordinate available educational opportunities for chorus directors and chapter music leadership. I'll say right up front that while I am here for every chapter in the district, the thrust of my efforts will be directed to chapters that clearly need assistance in getting the right director in front of the chorus, and to provide that person with the tools needed to create and/or maintain a successful music program. To the extent that we can provide educational opportunities to music team leaders, we will do that as well.

Some of the things we can do for you include regional workshops (CDWI) along with Next Level, a more advanced workshop; the Outstanding in Front program, to develop novice directors, assistant directors, section leaders and music team leadership. We can also assist chapters in getting their director to Harmony University on scholarship – and by the way, the deadline for that is March 31st, so contact me if you are interested in doing that. The important thing to remember is this: We are here to help you.

That's the official part of my report, and now I want to tell you a little story, if you'll grant me a small indulgence.

My home chapter is Tallahassee. I have been president of the chapter for quite a while now, and during that time we've been up and we've been down, like just about every other chapter that's ever existed. Our ups tended to be average ups, and our downs tended to be really down. Sound familiar? In 2009, we hired Mike McGee to direct us. Mike is well-known to everyone in the society, and he put us on the path to better vocal production, which was a new and novel approach to singing for our chapter at that time. But in 2011, Mike moved to Orlando full time, and we set out on yet another director search. Tallahassee is our district's most

geographically isolated chapter (no one within 100 miles or so) so a director search can be daunting, to say the least.

Hiring Mike when we did was a rare opportunity that more or less dropped in our laps, and we knew that next time around we would again be looking at candidates with little or no experience. We're in a university town, so finding someone with basic ability to wave arms and read music is not a problem. Finding someone with a desire to learn and grow into the job, who will become one with the chorus, is the trick. We interviewed two candidates, but one in particular caught our attention: A young man, a local music educator, who had never directed a barbershop chorus, but had enthusiasm and talent oozing out of every pore.

We hired him, and in our agreement, we had two components to his compensation package: Salary and professional development. And along with our long-range music plan, we set up a long-range development plan in consultation with Dave Jacobs, who kept tabs on his progression right along, and for the next five years we sent him to Harmony U, CDWI, Next Level and any other workshop we could find and that we could afford. In addition to that, he took it upon himself to attend other out-of-district workshops and events. He's now one of four certified directors in Sunshine District. Tallahassee is now knocking on the door of scoring 900 in contests, we perform an abnormally large number of public performances, we are growing in spurts, and maintaining level membership numbers when we are not. We put on dynamic original productions for our annual shows that are drawing sell-out sized crowds, and those crowds are enthusiastic fans. Our music program is as hot as we can possibly make it, and that is a lot more fun than anything else. If you've been to conventions in the past three years, you've seen us on stage, directed by **Greg Hilliard, Jr.** We have a burning desire to keep making better music, and that's because we have a great mutually beneficial partnership with our director, we realized that a solid professional development plan was key, and we all took the time to do it right. It is truly great to be a Barbershopper, and just now it's great to be a member of the Capital Chordsmen.

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Leadership Academy

Well, another successful Leadership Academy just finished January 17, 2016. If you missed it, here are the facts. Fifteen out of 36 Sunshine District chapters were represented over the two day school. There were 47 students in attendance. Classes offered were President class taught by past District and International President **Shannon Elswick**; Treasurer Class taught by Ocala's **Joel Swanson**, whose monopoly format was unusual; Secretary class taught by Melbourne's secretary **Sterling Warner**; Chapter Development class taught by Stuart's **Bart Van de Mark**, encompassing membership, marketing and public relations; and finally Music and Performance Class taught by Gainesville's director, **Dave Jacobs**. A good time seems to be had by all. There was much information passed around and provided by the students as well as the instructors. Adding to that, our own Sunshine District web-master and IT Guru, **Roger Smeds**, was there all week-end, tirelessly video-taping all of the sessions

John McGoff Jr.
V. P. CSLT



in abbreviated format. Working along with Shannon Elswick since the Fall competition, they are trying to develop a teaching video to accommodate those who can not attend Leadership Academy due to financial constraints or various other reasons. The video would also provide a back-up support for those in office to review.

Please look forward to future notices of the next Leadership Academy.

Sincerely,

John McGoff
Sunshine District VP CSLT

Chorus Director Development (cont'd)

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That's our story, and if some of those circumstances are familiar to you, I hope it's an inspirational tale. The cliché disclaimer is that results may vary, but the bottom line is, if you want to have your own story like that, then together let's make it happen for you. We know it can be done because we've done it. Nothing could be better for this district and for this hobby than to have every chapter with the most vibrant music program possible, and the most dynamic and properly educated director in front of you as we can possibly have.

I have a little organizational work to do, and some things to learn about the nuts and bolts of putting on the workshops, and I promise to do that expeditiously.

I'm not a music director, but I've hired them and I have some administrative abilities I can contribute, as well as a lot of chapter leadership experience. I know the issues pretty well from the chapter side of the equation.

Very soon, I will begin contacting chapter music team leaders, to find out first-hand what your needs in this regard may be. In the meantime, if you're ready to either start or continue your journey to higher heights, then don't wait for me to get in touch with you. Call me, text me or e-mail me, and we'll get the process started for you.

Harmoniously,
Steve

NEXT SUNBURST DEADLINE
May 15, 2016



Chuck Steiner
V. P. Events

Hello Sunshine District,

It's me, your friendly VP of Events. I'm using this article space to ask, nay, **IMPLORE** you to get ready for our upcoming Spring Convention! We will be meeting in Orlando at the Marriott Lakeside Friday April 29th and Saturday April 30th. There is a "push" going on now to get as many SUN competitors and patrons at this Convention as there ever have been! Our Fall attendance was greatly reduced by a number of factors, so we really, *really* need EVERYONE to show up and support this fine hobby that we all love.

A few new things to consider:

- 2) **1) The Marriott is offering us two price points.** You may choose from a **standard \$99** rate per night, or you may choose **\$119/night which includes a Breakfast Buffet (limited to two vouchers per room, per night.)** in the world famous Crimson Tavern. We're not talking about muffins and pre-packaged oatmeal here, folks...I'm selling you eggs, biscuits and gravy, fresh fruit (because we're all about being healthy), and pancakes and sausages. We'll have you waddling onto the stage to sing in a most happy state of food-induced pleasure that you can imagine- and you won't even have to leave the building!
- 2) **The District Board has approved a Family Plan to the mix.** That's right... now all of the kids and grandkids (16 and under) can come watch our contests under the umbrella of an all-inclusive price point. Heck, bring their friends from school that like to sing, too! \$125 gets you two (2) Adult All Event Passes AND up to six (6) kids under the age of sixteen. We've learned of other Districts with a similar plan, and wanted to offer the same thing to our families. So load 'em up and move

'em out, and bring them in our direction. Yes - this is a clever ploy to fill seats with young, impressionable people...so please take advantage of it and get these kids hooked!

- 3) President's Council, Hall of Fame, and 50 Year BHS Members all get preferred seating privileges.

We are expecting performances by choruses that haven't graced our stage for some time...decades, in some cases. They need to be encouraged to NOT make this a "one and done" trip! This is for our District Chorus Championship, but overall, it's for the love of singing and performing for your District!

Our SUN quartets are gearing up to qualify for 2016 International in Nashville which, and if history repeats itself, will be an awesome contest! Some of our quartets will be making a legitimate run for the gold, and I know they'll appreciate a big, supportive Sunshine District audience cheering them on. What can we expect from our talented groups? Come and see for yourself...

Add all of those things to our already affordable Early Bird price points (we are among the lowest in the country, y'all), and there's really nothing that should stop you from attending. President Nick said he'd even chip in for your gas money. (*Disclaimer: he really didn't say that...because someone will undoubtedly take it literally and ask*).

So please- make your plans NOW to book your rooms and get your registrations in! Please visit our *new and improved* web page; <http://sunshinedistrict.org/event-tickets/> to book everything at once.

-Marriott Hotel must be booked by March 29th
-Early Bird Registration ends April 15th
-All online sales end April 27th

See you in Orlando!

Carry On (in tune),
Chuck

Contest & Judging

Good Morning Sunshine members!! Are you ready for a great year of barbershopping??!! What a year it should be! Hopefully, ALL of you are planning to join us April 29th to May 1st in Orlando at our Spring Convention. For all the snowbirds – just delay your return to the northern territories until May 2nd!! You'll be glad you did . . .

Ok, for some news on the C&J front. You should all know by now that the Presentation category has become the Performance category (or will be as of this July!). This change is to better define for both the Contestant and audience at our contests what those judges are "judging". If you have questions, check out the Harmonizer articles in the last two editions or on the BHS web site.

Also, many Districts are helping with the BHS initiative to get the Music teachers and communities involved with our activities, including our Conventions. The Sunshine District is going to do our part in all of this. If you know of a Music Teacher we can invite to enjoy the "Best Seat in the House" (share a seat with the Judging Panel), let me know. They will get a briefing prior to the contest and join in the scoring, just like the official judges. The scores won't be used for determining the winners but they will get a chance to join the judges for evaluations and hopefully learn a little about barbershop singing. Just send me an email at contestjudging@sunshinedistrict.org.

Along with that, if you know of some performance groups that might like to perform for a great audience, get some coaching and enjoy getting to know the great barbershop family, get me the details. For right now, we are mostly looking for groups around the Orlando area so traveling any great distance is not involved but if you know choral groups, school choral music groups, college groups, whatever just let me know and I will do the follow up. Just give me a contact name. Not only is it a great experience for the choral group but it is a great change of pace for our conventions and adds something new and different which is a good thing. And again, it helps to spread the word and also helps our Convention attendance. You saw some of this with our attempts last year with combined choruses and a performance by a Harmony Inc chorus. We are working to provide a lot more surprises at our Conventions!



Steve Janes
Contest & Judging

Are you a mixed quartet? There is room for you too. Sign up just like any other quartet for the contest and join in the fun. We would love to have you join us and share the stage with all your friends! The judges are ready for anything we throw at them. And the CJ-20 system (for signing up) is up and running. Just log into the members only area and go to "Contest Entry" dropdown.

It looks like the Sunshine District will have 7 members heading for judge certification/re-certification this summer. What a great happening for Sunshine! The District will have a great pool of people to help with local events. Keep them in mind when you are looking for coaching for your quartet or chorus. A list of these judges is on the Sunshine District web site.

Although it is great to have 7 judges within the Sunshine District, we are in need of at least two members to become CA's (Contest Administrators). A contest Administrator does not have to be a coach/musician but is the person responsible for making sure the Contest runs smoothly. They should be a well organized person with an administrative background and not afraid of modern devices (computers/printers/laptops/etc). If you think you might be interested, check the BHS web site for more information or drop me an email for more information. All applications must be received before December 31 of this year. It then becomes a 3 year process to become certified in 2019. This goes for anyone interested in becoming a certified judge. The deadline for COMPLETED applications is December 31, 2016. If you don't make this date, the next open period is 2019. And this applies to associate members (women) as well. Just as the Society began allowing women to become Chorus Directors, the Society has made a decision that it wants the BEST judges it can find, regardless of gender. If you know someone that would qualify and might be interested, make sure they know (and let me know)!

Naples/Ft. Myers Chapter



Pictured left to right are **George Lancaster**, Outreach Chairman, **Major Dan Proctor**, and **Bob Slade**, Chapter Vice President

On December 11, four ensembles from the **Paradise Coastmen Chorus** visited local restaurants to share Christmas cheer and to solicit donations for the **Salvation Army Christmas Fund**. The groups raised a total of \$5,100 of which \$4,100 was donated to the Naples area fund and \$1,000 to the Fort Myers fund. This represents the tenth year members of the Naples/Ft. Myers Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society have participated in the outreach which has generated in excess of \$50,000.

Gray Poehler, President

Naples/Ft. Myers Chapter

Cell # 804-405-2620

Naples/Ft. Myers Chapter

Executive Director and CEO of the Barbershop Harmony Society, **Marty Monson**, installed the 2016 officers of the **Naples/Ft. Myers Chapter** on January 15. Pictured left to right are **Bob Slade**, Program VP, **Larry Leonard**, Music VP, **Gray Poehler**, President and **Marty Monson**.

Gray Poehler
Cell # 804-405-2620



Director Search

I'm Gene Schuh, V.P. M&P for the Hernando County Chapter and we are in need of a Director. The Hernando Harmonizers are a 40 man Chorus located in Spring Hill, FL. We are anxious to improve the quality of our performances. We've competed at District several times with getting "Most Improved Chorus" the last time. We're planning to compete again on 4/30/16 with one of our Assistant Directors. Our Chapter was Chartered in 2001.

If you are interested in this position, please contact:

Gene Schuh <gschuh6@gmail.com>

Tampa

You call this a “break” from competition? Well, I doubt that any member of Tampa’s **Heralds of Harmony** would tell you that our short hiatus from the competition cycle has been anything close to a break in the action.

After our **exciting 9th place finish in Pittsburgh**, our Musical Team, under the leadership of Director, **Tony DeRosa**, wanted to take stock of where we were, musically, as a chorus by focusing very hard on improving our singing and performance capabilities. We felt that this could best be done by “sitting out” of one full competition cycle and focusing on not only our craft, as a singing organization, but also expanding our musical offering by exploring new audiences and exposing more and more patrons to the world of Barbershop.

We began that musical journey in September with The Super Show, an a cappella Spectacular in The Villages: a combined show: hosted by the **Heart of Florida Chorus** where the Heralds joined our hosts, along with the **Atlanta Vocal Project**, in a show benefitting The Villages High School Music Boosters. The show’s finale, a combined effort including AVP, the HOH, Main Street and A Mighty Wind in performing Gary Lewis’ masterful arrangement of the song “*When You Believe*” from Disney’s *Aladdin*. That stirring rendition brought the fans to their feet in both shows.

Following those wonderfully successful shows, the Heralds, with our friends from the Jacksonville Big-O Chorus, combined to produce five exciting Christmas performances in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Jacksonville. Brand new performances of Jim Clancy’s version of “*Mary Did You Know*” along with new secular material highlighted all shows. Again, Main Street and the incomparable Tiffany Coburn provided vocal treasures for our holiday audiences. This year, our newest DeRosa performer, Sophia, was featured in a number of songs, joining brother, Joseph...and mom and dad, of course...in raising our family musical offerings.

But we certainly aren’t finished. The best is yet to come! We’ve partnered with our sister chorus in Tampa, the fantastic **Toast of Tampa**, to expand our musical experiences even further. Beginning on February 21, we’ll be joining the “gals” in their Villages Show and then continuing our combination

project by jointly producing two more shows - *Spring into Harmony* --on March 6 in Dunedin at the High School, and in Lakeland on March 13 at the First United Methodist Church.

We had our first joint rehearsal on Monday, January 25 at the Terrace Palms Community Church, and we are ALL very excited and looking forward to putting this product on the stage this spring. Each chorus will sing for the audience with their own material, and then join together for a not-to-be-missed finale singing “*In Harmony*”, “*Do You Hear the People Sing*” and closing with another Gary Lewis arrangement of “*The Circle of Life*.” Yep, we even learned a little of the Zulu language to do this song!

We’re so excited about this joint project that we’ve invited the Toast of Tampa to be guest performers on our annual show, **Encore 2016** with one show in St. Pete on June 10 and two shows in Tampa in June 11.

During all of this excitement, we’ll be introducing our new contest set towards the last of the first quarter in preparation for re-entry into this Fall’s Contest Cycle. To prepare, we are working diligently to expand and improve our singing and presentation abilities.

Each week, our Artistic Director and his team, present solid vocal production and artistry lessons for the first 30 minutes or so of our rehearsal, and then reinforce those lessons in the balance of the practice. We stress continual improvement in all phases of our process, every song, every hour, and every rehearsal. To help individual singers take those continuing improvement steps, every member is receiving one-on-one vocal coaching from Tony (in a process that will take us through the end of April) so that everyone knows how they can individually contribute to the betterment of the whole.

Our future, and our present, has never been more exciting. Our members have bought in to what the Music Team and Tony is presenting, and every rehearsal and every performance has generated enthusiasm and excitement.

We’ll see our District friends in the October contest, but we cordially invite you to come and hear the Heralds of Harmony as we continue our quest to become a better musical, singing organization.

Man, this is fun!!!

Charlie Nelson, Music Vice President.



MARINERS CHORUS HOSTS REGIONAL "A CAPPELLA FEST"

By
Mike Tarlton

Stuart, FL, February 12, 2016— The Mariners Chorus, the Martin & St. Lucie Counties chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society's (BHS) Sunshine District, recently hosted their first-ever "A Cappella Fest." The event was held at the North Stuart Baptist Church here in Stuart, Florida. The goal of the event, according to Bart Van De Mark, the chapter's Vice President of Programs, was to encourage people who may not otherwise get the chance to experience barbershop harmony or a cappella singing to come listen and even give it a try, if they were so inclined. The chapter also hoped to attract members from other BHS chapters in the region.



The result was a Saturday morning and afternoon of singing tags and standard barberpole cat songs by a variety of ensembles ranging from quartets to very large quartets, whose membership might actually number as many as eight or ten singers. One amazing aspect of the event was that none of the members of these small ensembles had actually sung together in those ensembles prior to the event. There were BHS members from a

number of BHS chapters throughout southeast and central Florida. There were even a few spouses that joined in on the fun. Of course, nobody complained about the free lunch provided by the chapter to all the attendees!



"Incredibly, many of the attendees had the opportunity to sing a number of tags and songs with others that they hadn't even met prior to that day. Everyone seemed to have a wonderful time," according to Van De Mark.

Sunshine District wasn't left out, either. The event was attended by Sunshine District's Vice President of Music and Performance, Sean Stork. Sean was there to lend support, teach some tags, and sing along.

The chapter hopes to make the A Cappella Fest a recurring event, and wants to expand it by inviting nearby Sweet Adelines International members and other BHS chapters to join them, and eventually to reach out to young singers from area schools. Chapter officers are already working on plans for the next event to occur in the near future, so stay tuned!

###

If you would like more information about this topic,

Contact Mike Tarlton
Telephone 561.351.5659
Email mariners.chorus@gmail.com
Website www.marinerschorus.com



Roger Smeds
V. P. Comm. & IT

The Sunshine District website at <http://www.sunshinedistrict.org> has been undergoing a major re-design in the past few weeks. At the recent Sunshine District Board of Directors meeting held on Friday, January 15, 2016, just prior to the LeadAC training session in Ocala, FL, the new design concept for the website was approved by your board of directors.

This has been a fairly major undertaking and during the process, some sections of the website have been temporarily unavailable, exhibited reduced functionality, or may not have appeared as you were used to seeing them. As of this writing, the process is still on-going, but we have made significant progress towards completion. We continue to ask for your patience during the remainder of this process. We have attempted to simplify navigation of the site without sacrificing the existing content. You should still be able to find most everything that was included in the previous design plus some additional new content.

The new design is what is called "responsive" which means that it will modify itself to be compatible with whatever device you choose to use to interact with it. That means that you can use your computer, smart phone or tablet to view the website and it will adjust to the screen size of your device and will display the content in a manner that best suits the device you are using.

Event Centric Design

One of the features of the new design is that the site is moving toward being event centric. The district calendar will become a central location for information about happenings around the district and will be displayed on the home page. Conventions, chapter shows, training sessions, International events as well as other related events can be displayed.

Clicking on an event will take you to a page with more information about the event. Some of the great features available with the event centric model will be the ability to have direct links to purchase tickets to an event, like a chapter show, assuming the chapter presenting the show provides that information.

The event display on the calendar will have default icons that display for the category (District events, chapter shows, International events, other musical events, are some examples) of event, unless an image is supplied by the host of the event (Chapter Show poster, etc) in which case that image can be used in place of the default.

Content Migration

Current news for the district is available under the heading of "District News" and all existing content and resources currently available on the website are in the process of being migrated to the new design. If you find something that doesn't work or links that are broken, etc. please send an email to webmaster@sunshinedistrict.org with the specifics of the problem you encounter and we will work to resolve the issue.

Information for the Calendar

With the event centric model, and to get the maximum exposure of your chapter event, it is important that you provide as much information as possible regarding your event so that we can include the information in the listing. Contact information for the event, online address for purchasing tickets, pictures or posters for the event as well as a description of the event are examples of the kind of information you should provide.

Other news

In other communications news, our videoing of the chapter officer training sessions at LeadAC in January are in post-processing and will be available soon on the new District website. So, if you were unable to attend or just want to be educated, they will soon be available.

Roger Smeds

VP of Communications & Information Technology



Arne Helbig
V. P. Youth
In Harmony

Six very successful youth related events were held in the fall of 2015 including five Youth Harmony Workshops and one Youth Camp. Approximately 1,150 students and teachers attended these six events. Special thanks go out to the following coordinators: Citrus County (Bob Spence), Hillsborough County (Arne Helbig), Palm Beach County (Shoshana Davidowitz), Duval County (Dave Parker and Charlie Young), Highlands County (Stirling Snyder) and Camp Timpooshee (Phil Coty).



Sharing their amazing talents, Will Rodriguez, Mitch Greenberg, Wayne Grimmer and Tony DeRosa served as the guy's clinicians with Debbie Cleveland, Faye McClanahan, Karen Breidert, Elaine Haugen and Kim Griffin serving as the girl's clinicians! Signature, Orlando Exchange, members of Hot Shots, the Little Debbies, Ciao Bella, I-4 and Novella were the outstanding teaching quartets for these events.

It's time to start thinking about Harmony Explosion Camp fundraising. Please ask your chapter's board to set aside funds for this very worthwhile event. Please check out the HX Camp website for additional information: <http://sunshinehx.org/>

Thanks!
Arne Helbig
Youth in Harmony VP
Sunshine District

Chapter Happenings

Daytona Beach Chapter

It has been a busy several months for the **Daytona Surfside Chorus**. A few of our snowbird brothers are back and have helped fill out the chorus. We had a successful Holiday season, with several sing outs and a good performance at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach. If you can imagine an outdoor stage about (100) feet from State Road A1A during the hot rod Turkey run....with all the cars going by with loud (or no) mufflers, you can see the challenges we faced. But we got through it and were well received.

Our Valentine program was successful; we had (3) quartets and the recipients were all very surprised and pleased. Feedback has been excellent, so for a small chorus of about (15) guys, we did pretty well. We also performed at the Museum of Arts & Sciences and put on a (50) minute show on only (10) days notice. So some of us may be older, but we're still flexible!

Much of our recently found confidence can be attributed to our new Director....**Sean Stork**. Sean is a Music Performance graduate from FSU, sings

Bari in the 2nd place District quartet "**Orlando Exchange**" and also happens to be the District Music VP. He has brought new ideas and is reinforcing basic breathing and vocal production technique that some experienced but older singers have perhaps forgotten.

We are looking forward to contest and to doing some combined singing with several other smaller chapters in the Central Florida area. This is something that the District has supported and is part of the "thinking outside the box" approach that is going to keep Sunshine District not only active, but an example for other Districts. We send our best wishes to all Florida's choruses, both big and small, and look forward to seeing and singing with you soon.

Bob Stump

President: Surfside Chorus
Phone: 386-882-4274
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www.surfsidechorus.org

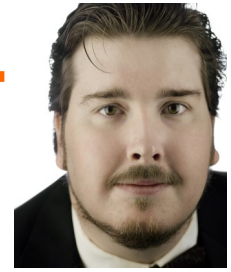
Music & Performance

Every year, the chapters in the panhandle get together and have their own festival called the Joe Breedon Regional Festival at Camp Timpooshee, a 4H camp in Destin. Five chapters collaborate for a weekend of coaching, competition, and fun. It's been going on for years and last year they used the opportunity to compete in the District's "Combined Chorus Contest" in the Fall.

Last week, I joined members of the Martin-St. Lucie chapter for an a cappella fest of tag singing, woodshedding, quartetting, and general merriment. There were representatives there from several nearby chapters from Miami to Daytona Beach. They plan on getting together once a month to do more of the same and hopefully lead to other collaborative programs in the future.

Something I've noticed while traveling to chapters around the state is that there are often chapters nearby that, either for competitive or political reasons, they simply don't (or won't) collaborate with. I think we're missing out on a great opportunity for growth. If nearby chapters can set aside their

Sean Stork V. P. Music & Performance



differences and work together, they can form inter-chapter quartets, perform joint-shows, and gain ideas for marketing, fundraising, and more!

We'll be strongly encouraging groups of chapters to form Regional Festivals throughout the state so that your chorus can make connections with each other and your communities. Did I mention that the Festival in the Panhandle reaches out to the high school choruses in Niceville and have them perform on their show or that this year they're planning on including the girls choruses as well? Group collaboration is not only good for you, or for your community, but it's also good for barbershop.

Harmoniously,
Sean C Stork
VP of Music and Performance

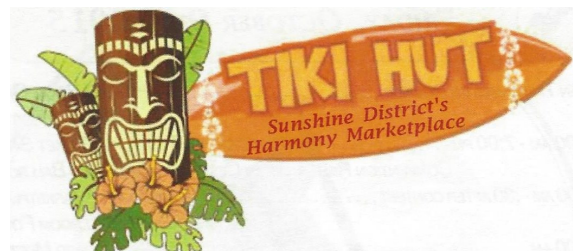
The "TIKI HUT"

Scott Salladin
scott.salladin@gmail.com

Now is the time to start thinking about what your chapter, quartet or even you might need or want from the TIKI HUT at the Spring Convention.

When you purchase items from the TIKI HUT, you are also putting money back into the Sunshine District, because the district will receive 20% of your order that is placed through the TIKI HUT.

I had a couple of inquiries last fall after the convention for more Pole Cat Song Books II. If you or your chorus are still looking for Pole Cat Songbooks II in any quantity, please send me a request so I can order them for you to pick up at the Convention. Also, you will be saving money as you will not have to pay the shipping or handling charges that Harmony Marketplace will charge when you order directly from them.



I will be ordering the Part CDs for the Polecat books, as well as the latest in CD releases from the Society Quartets.

For your information, we will also be selling the Name Badge Holders and Lanyards in the TIKI HUT for only \$1.

I look forward to everyone stopping by the TIKI HUT to browse through the merchandise.

HARMONY SHOWCASE 2016

Saturday, March 12th, 2016
2:00pm

Burnt Store Presbyterian Church
11330 Burnt Store Rd. Punta Gorda, FL



featuring the barbershop harmony of
the **Suncoast Statesmen**

Boardwalk

tickets: \$18.00

to purchase tickets

call

941-276-3658



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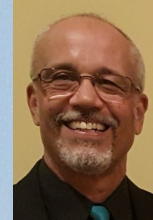
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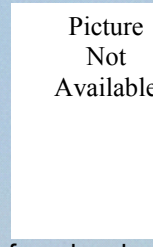
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NEXT SUNBURST DEADLINE

May 15, 2016

Sunburst Ad Prices

Per Issue		Annual Rate (4 issues)		Finished Ad Sizing	
Business Card	\$15	Business Card	\$50	Business Card	2" X 3.5"
1/8 Page	\$25	1/8 Page	\$85	1/8 Page	2.5" X 3.5"
1/4 Page	\$50	1/4 Page	\$170	1/4 Page	5" X 3.5"
1/2 Page	\$75	1/2 Page	\$250	1/2 Page	5" X 7.25"
Full Page	\$125	Full Page	\$425	Full Page	10" X 7.25"