

The Sunburst Volume 43, Issue 2 April-June 2012



Sunshine District Quartets
WHO HAVE QUALIFIED
FOR THE 2012
INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION
IN
PORTLAND

Main Street 88.5

Throwback 85.2



Chad Bennett
Sunshine District 2011
Barbershopper of the Year





The PURSUIT 78.8



iQuartet
Sunshine District
Collegiate Quartet Champion
Qualify for the
Harmony Foundation
Collegiate Quartet Contest
in Portland

Competitor photos provided by Three Oaks Photography. Main Street photo on page 1 provided by Matt Bostick



OLD GUYS RULE
Sunshine District Seniors Quartet Champions



T.H.X. (Total Harmony Xperience)
Sunshine District Chorus Champions



Dave Kannberg Treasurer

Another convention is over and we did better than what I thought we would. As treasurer, I am a bit on the conservative side; hoping for the best but preparing for the worst. It was actually one of the best attended conventions we have had. We have fixed most of the problems with this convention with one being worked on and hopefully fixed by August 1 of this year. That would be the problems with the store processing your convention registrations by credit card.

By now, all the treasurers in the district should have filed their form 990 with the IRS and sent a copy to Nashville. I am already working with another chapter that hasn't filed in 3 years or more. Believe me, it won't be easy and it won't be cheap. They basically have to reapply for their non-profit status, pay the fees and possibly any fines the IRS decides to levy. Ask your treasurer if they have filed yet. In an e-mail I received 5/14 from Nashville, 27 of 37 chapters in the district have filed. 10 of you have not or have not reported it on ebiz. If you already filed but

did not report, please do so today. If you need to know how, let me know and I will walk you through it. I covered it during the Leadership Academy sessions last fall. Otherwise, you will be hearing from our SUN District pitbulls, Mr. Brinkmann and Mr. Roberts, who will hound you until you get it done.

Harmony Explosion is happening right around the time you read this. It costs the district about \$25,000 to put it on. We have taken in \$6500 at this time and already spent \$9500 with another \$7500 due in June. Please help support this on the chapter and individual levels. This is part of our youth program and has shown great dividends in bringing youth into our chapters and district. Again, there is not a chapter assessment this year.

We are starting work on Leadership Academies for this fall. Dave Roberts will talk more about it over the next two issues and at convention. I will tailor the treasurer's class to the problems you are having or want covered. Please let me know what you would like covered in the treasurer's class.

I am just an e-mail or phone call away.

Dave Kannberg, SUN Treasurer

treasurer@sunshinedistrict.org or 561-301-6901



Dick Shaw V. P. Financial Development

Progress, and it Shows

The Sunshine District has been shown to be generous when it comes to philanthropy and as a result has been a leader in generating funds for Harmony Foundation sponsored programs. Most notable are the MidWinter youth chorus festival, the college quartet contest, the Harmony Explosion Camp and the county wide youth festivals here in Florida. Some of these events are in their infancy but the College Quartet Contest is the granddaddy of them all and it has met expectations. Michael O'Neill, a Society field representative whom most of us know is a former college quartet winner. Three members of the Pursuit Quartet are alumni of the CQ contest. Other men are now judges, coaches, directors and

Harmony Foundation

administrators of some of our premier performing units. It is a bet that paid off.

To my mind, that makes the Harmony Foundation a worthwhile place to put my charitable dollars, so I have become a member of the President's Council, the Ambassadors of Song AND the Founder's Club. According to the statistics I see, a good many of you are also catching on. Society wide our participation in giving to the Foundation has risen from 7% to 15% of our membership. That is a significant jump and will catch the attention of organizations that award grants for worthwhile purposes. We can build a logical case for promoting our hobby to youth and now we are beginning to put our money where our mouth is.

If you aren't yet kicking in your share, be it modest or great, visit the Harmony Foundation website and look for the best avenue for your giving. You will

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DISTRICT BUSINESS

I Think It's Called "APATHY"

Look it up—here is one definition:

Apathy: lack of interest in or concern for things that others find moving or exciting. See indifference.

Do those words mean anything to you? Do they apply to someone you know? Too frequently we are all guilty of some degree of apathy because we all have different tastes and opinions. However, when apathy affects some aspect of what is socially or legally required, then we have another facet to deal with. Perhaps apathy is not the culprit but not being informed is. So continue on dear reader and let's see if we can differentiate between apathy and lack of knowledge.

To what am I referring? Well, some chapter leaders have not completed and submitted the Society requirements to ensure our chapters are in full compliance with the rules and regulations to keep us legal and in good standing with the Society. Did you not know about these requirements?

There are some others in the district who are unaware of or lack interest in programs that help make our district one of the more successful districts of the society. I am referring to chapter officers who could and should have nominated one of their outstanding chapter members for District Barbershopper of the Year. I know emails and forms were sent to each chapter president and former BOTY recipients. Who did not get the notice?

How about chapter representation and attendance at the House of Delegates meetings? At the last HOD meeting we had a record attendance of 39 attendees from 27 chapters. That's 73% of the chapters represented. However, the HOD is the

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6 Contest & Judging

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Convention Update

Dan Brinkmann District Secretary



meeting where YOU have the opportunity to agree or disagree with the policies that the incumbent board of directors has put in place. If your chapter is not represented, then you have relinquished your vote. I am happy with the attendance but are there some who did not know about the meeting?

Here is another place where apathy becomes an impediment. When was the last time anyone from your chapter wrote an article for the Sunburst touting the activities of your chapter? There are good things happening out there folks, and the rest of us would like to hear about them. Hey, the Sunburst is NOT just for the District Officers to publicize their opinions and feelings (like this article). There is a section in the Sunburst just for this type of information—did you know that? And you can send those snippets of Chapter news to the Sunburst editor, Bob Johnston at: rwjohn36@gmail.com

And let's not forget those other things that we do in the district in which you can (should?) be participating-Conventions, LEADAC, Harmony Explosion—are you aware of these programs? Information about each of them is contained on the District Web page, http://sunshinedistrict.org/, but I just want to stress one program particularly—LEADAC. This stands for Leadership Academy and it is the annual district sponsored all day training session for chapter leaders (you don't need to be an elected chapter officer to attend.) ALL chapter officers should attend, but if you want to learn more about what the chapter secretary or treasurer (or whomever) is supposed to do, then you are most welcome. These sessions will be held again toward the end of the calendar year and once again will be held at strategic locations throughout the district to reduce the travel time for attendees. Watch for this. It will eliminate the "didn't know" factor from the equation:

I don't know and I don't care (ignorance plus apathy) = inaction and failure

Now we need to work on the apathy issue

Contact me if I can be of service.

Barbershopper of the Year



Chad Bennett, 2011 Sunshine District BOTY

In the past year, Chad assumed the position of Sunshine District Vice-President of Events whose responsibilities include overseeing his earlier position of Director of Conventions as well as increasing his responsibilities for other events of the District. He was instrumental in ensuring the facilities met the requirements established by the Society to conduct contests. His unique trouble shooting abilities not only solved unforeseen problems with minor consequences but in several instances prevented minor irritants from becoming serious issues. When he was the Director of Conventions, he located and personally trained several key personnel in the various aspects of their tasks. As Events Vice President, he continued to monitor the activities of these

Just a friendly reminder that Standing Ovation reviewers across the State are willing to come to your next chorus or quartet performance - for <u>free</u> evento give experienced opinions and suggestions on what they see and hear. The intent of this Society program is to bring help to local chapters, to improve Barbershop Shows nationally and give greater satisfaction to you, the performers who work so hard to make these events special.

To schedule a review, email Jon at StandingOvations@SunshineDistrict.org.

personnel to ensure unerring performance. He also continued to perform many of the activities "behind the scenes" as the assistant to the Conventions Stage Manager.

In addition to the VP events responsibilities, he had volunteered to act as the interim District Web Master until the function can be assigned to another person or organization. As such, he has been responsive to inputs to update portions of the content and has been responsible for researching and evaluating proposals for web site management.

While most of the accolades are for Chad's efforts and accomplishments as a manager and administrator of an extremely difficult and demanding position in the District, it is imperative to remember that he is also a talented singer and performer. He is the tenor for The PURSUIT Quartet, international quartet competitor in last year's contest. He also is a member of a chapter quartet and sings all parts with Sunshine Jubilee, the Winter Park Chapter.

Lastly, Chad is an excellent representative of the Sunshine District. He is an outstanding and conscientious individual who will always do his very best to accomplish any given assignment. He is fully deserving of this award and recognition as Barbershopper of the Year for the Sunshine District.

Nomination narrative

Bart Van de Mark, BOTY 2009

Don't Lose Out On Your Chance To Promote Your Show or Quartet To A Vast Sunshine & National Audience

ADVERTISE in The Sunburst

13 Society liaison

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Contest & Judging

From the Contest & Judging perspective, we had a very successful contest in Punta Gorda in April. From the feedback I have received, the judges were pleased with the quality of the quartet and chorus performances and competitors felt that the information received in the evaluation sessions was very beneficial. Main Street, Throwback and The PURSUIT will represent Sunshine in Portland. Spanglish came in just under the qualifying score and there is a possibility that they could receive a wild card invitation. We also are sending our college quartet, iQuartet, to represent us in the Collegiate Quartet contest in Portland.

However, there was one disappointing thing that occurred regarding the Friday night evaluations. Three of the quartets scheduled to be evaluated did not show up for their scheduled evaluation sessions. Neither the Contest Administrators or myself was notified that they would not be showing up. If we had been notified that they were not going to show up, the evaluation schedule prepared by the Contest Administrators could have been configured to make the best usage of the judges time slots. All judges are prepared to provide an evaluation of contest sets and have suggestions for improvements.

Harold Lathom Vice President Contest & Judging



When you enter the contest via the Society's website, you indicate if you want an evaluation of your performance. If you check this box, we assume that you will be attending your scheduled evaluation session. If you don't want an evaluation, simply don't check the box. Otherwise, we expect you to be present for your evaluation session.

We were pleased that one chorus made a grade level improvement under our new grade level improvement policy. A majority of our choruses made overall improvements, which is great to see. Our chorus contest this fall should be great as we have three choruses (maybe more) who could represent our district in Toronto in 2013.

There has been some discussions held regarding developing a VLQ contest at our spring contests. Watch for future communications regarding this in Sunburst Articles and on the SunshineNet.

Music & Performance

Greetings! Hope everyone is well, and that you enjoyed our wonderful Spring Convention held recently in Punta Gorda, FL. Congratulations to Throwback and The PURSUIT, our International Quartet qualifiers, as well as iQuartet – Collegiate International Representatives, on earning the right to go to Portland. Throw current fifth place medalists Main Street into that group, and Sunshine will be well-represented this summer! Congrats as well to Seniors Champs OLD GUYS RULE and District Chorus Champs T.H.X. from Sunrise.

I again want to take the opportunity to remind everyone about the Standing Ovation Program (SOP). This program is an excellent means of getting positive feedback on your chapter show. If you happen to be attending the International Convention in Portland, Oregon this summer, and are interested in participating in this program, there will be a training session held on Tuesday July 3rd from 1:00 PM

Harold Nantz V. P. Music & Performance



to 5:00 PM. Further, there will be an SOP training session held at the Mid-Winter Convention to be held in Orlando next January (more to come on that). If you plan to attend either of these sessions, please send me a note at hnantz@cfl.rr.com.

Also, another resource that is available is the Coaches Guild. There is a request form on the District website (under the Services tab) that needs to be filled out and submitted to get something set up. Submit the forms to me and I will coordinate things, or have the coaches get in touch with you directly.

That's all for now!

International Quartet Preliminaries



Throwback (D) 85.2 Qualify for International Quartet Contest



Spanglish (D) 74.9



The Absolutes (D) 73.2



Everglades (D) 70.0



The PURSUIT (D) 78.8

Qualify for International Quartet Contest



iQuartet (C) 74.7 Qualify for Collegiate Quartet Contest



Monkey Business (D) 70.5



Click! (C) 69.2 Continued on page 8

International Quartet Preliminaries (cont'd)



Easy Street (D) 68.7



odd MAN out (D) 63.8



Sunset (D) 61.2



ALACRITY (D, S) 57.5

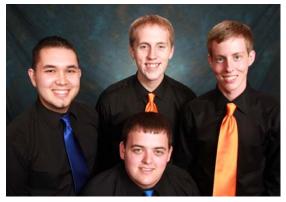


The Best of Times (D)

64.4



OLD GUYS RULE (S) 62.6 District Seniors Quartet Champions



Live Gators (C) 60.8



Sunsations (D) Continued on page 9 56.8

International Quartet Preliminaries (cont'd)



Tropical Depressions (S)

56.8



Seems Like Old Times (S)

55.2



The 4 Sharps (D, S)

55.5



Toast to Harmony (S)

52.8



Jerry Johnson Director Conven-

The Spring convention in Punta Gorda is over and I had a wonderful time. It was our first convention at the venue and the hotels - first in a long time if not first ever - and it went wonderfully. Yes, there are improvements that the convention team is working on - to be sure the Fall convention is even better - but, all in all, it was a great convention. My partners on the convention team are terrific. They are the reason that a convention in first-time hotels and a first-time venue can be successful. The staff at the venue was particularly helpful and contributed significantly to the quality of the contest sessions. The Fall convention is back in Punta Gorda and will be even better. Look for registration information in this copy of the Sunburst. And, remember, at the Fall conventions now we expect the Sunshine District past quartet champions to put on a great show in addition to the usual contest sessions.

Convention Update

Most things about the convention the Convention Team can control. One of the things we can't control is the courtesy of the attendees. One couple who attended the convention mentioned to me that they had a tough time enjoying some of the contest session performances because the people around them were too loud. One of the ways we can all contribute to improving our convention experience is to always be courteous and considerate. I believe it's an awareness thing. Sometimes, we just get caught up in the moment and lose track of what else is going on around us. Let's all commit to being more aware of the people around us and what's going on and conduct ourselves with the utmost courtesy. Our experience will be the better for it.

Thanks for your support of the District by attending the conventions.

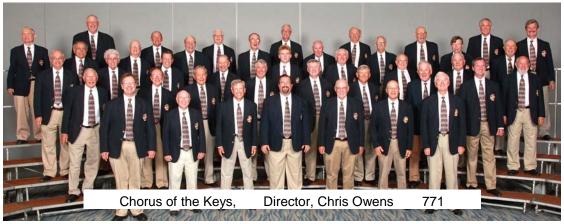
I'll see you in Punta Gorda this Fall.

Jerry Johnson









District Chorus Finals (cont'd)









District Chorus Finals (cont'd)







Competitor photos provided by Three Oaks Photography



Society Liaison Report



Jim Sams
Sunshine District
Society Board Liaison

District Liaison Report Re: Society Board Meeting – March 30-31, 2012 – Nashville, TN

The Society Board met to review a mixture of old and new business, in addition to having a session dealing with the impacts and effectiveness of the Carver model of Governance on the Society.

Highlights:

Consent Reports:

- 1. There has been some improvement in the completeness and "impact" of the Society OT (Operations Team) Reports submitted to the Board. Of interest and concern was the lack of conference calls in 2011 and thus far in 2012 by some of these committees, indicating a lack of strong linkage and communications to the respective District VPs. Plans are underway to combine all planned conference calls for the year and have that schedule available soon to allow districts to share ideas with a VP or representative on the call. The DP Moderator also submitted a report to complement those of the Society Committees.
- 2. All standing committees from the Operations Team, and other Board Committees, are reminded that quarterly reports to the Board are collected ahead of Board meetings.
- 3. OT Reports were sent to the DP Moderator for further distribution, review and discussion by the DP/EVPs.

Old Business Items

1. Society Public Awareness – Interim CEO Larry Deters reported that the Society currently lacks the expertise and resources at the HQ staff level to undertake a program that would push the Society's awareness, using mass marketing or advertising. The key right now would be to have each local chapter and district undertake (or re-discover) some of the basics of marketing, press releases, expanded social media and the like, to maximize the impact of their public performances, conventions, chapter shows and other events.

- 2. 2011 Chapter Assessment Program with the success and participation of almost 400 chapters reporting activities via the 2010 CAP program, the revised (based on feedback from those participating in 2010) 2011 program, questions, scoring and web site to collect 2011 activities will soon be available. The target completion will still be by June 1, 2012 to allow review of this data and trends at the Portland Convention and meetings.
- 3. Society President Lamson will be moving ahead to appoint two board members, along with two DP representatives identified by the DPs, to evaluate the current Society Regulations regarding the recommendation for chapter charter suspension and/or revocation. The Interim CEO, Society Board and District Presidents agree that the districts need to be a primary player in the review of any chapter status but additional editing on the policy documents need to reflect this. Goal would be to have some rewritten language for adoption by July 2012.
- 4. The Board Management and Finance Task Force has been active and BHS Board and HF Board financial representatives have met to review the overall business plans and program fund usage. The need is great to have everyone on the same track as it relates to strong cash positions on both sides, consistent with budgets and membership/giving plans.
- 5. HQ New Technology Hire after some additional review, HQ is recommending the budget for an additional hire be used between now and EOY 2012 to complete the APTIFY v5.5 upgrade. Some assistance from the APTIFY consultants will be used, but additional project planning to migrate existing features to the new platform (some functionality and extensive architecture changes) is required before the Society may review additional external interfaces to push functionality out to the chapters (e.g. allowing the chapter leader to create new member records, streamlining the capability of providing email lists, etc.).
- 6. Government and By-Laws Committee (G&B) recommended an update to the Society Whistleblower Policy, setting up the Chair of the G&B Committee as the contact. Board approved.

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7. Toronto – 75th Anniversary Convention – many possibilities for an expanded schedule of events are being looked at in order to encourage increased participation during July 2013, at the Society's 75th Anniversary Convention in Toronto. All attendees are reminded to get an updated passport as soon as you can. Space for a history display for each district and affiliate is being considered in addition to recognizing members and chapters associated with "75" events.

New Business Items

- 1. BHS and HF cash flows operational finances were reviewed that impact both HF and BHS cash flows and HF repayments of near-term loans. HF reported that member involvement in all HF giving programs increased during 2011 from 7% to right at 13% of all members. A good start.
- 2. District Liaison Reports each Board District Liaison gave an update on the highlights, concerns and general well-being of each district, based on phone conversations, HOD meeting experience or planned review of district/chapter items upcoming. All districts have indicated that the Chapter Visitation Program from 2012 and the Harold Hill program in 2012 (for those participating 51% at present) were allowing much more open communications to occur to support the local chapters and their goals for 2012.

- 3. BHS Organizational Structure Alan Lamson became the Interim Society CEO on 4/1/2012 until a new CEO is found and hired.
- 4. CEO Search The Board and senior staff completed interviews with the partner of the CEO Search team in preparation for the search firm to put out an expanded set of job skills and job descriptions for the Society CEO. Our goal is to complete final interviews and announce a new CEO in Portland.
- 5. Global Strategy Task Force President Lamson will re-charter this task force to examine current and future relationships with affiliates as well as potential development of new affiliates. Additional reviews of existing relationships within the World Harmony Council will be strengthened.
- 6. Education Session The Board was led through a thorough review of the Carver Governance model and discussed the traps for the Society. Future review of the expanded awareness of all operational plans and results is one area that might be enhanced in order to assure that all Society teams are focused on reaching the Society AIMS.
- 7. Society Membership Operation Harold Hill has begun to take hold in many chapters, but additional Harolds will be needed to contact and support those additional chapters who sign up. Board members were encouraged to take an additional 1-2 chapters as well as work to identify and recommend other members to perform Harold duties.







Dave Roberts V. P. CSLT

Leadership Training

The Sunshine District just finished a somewhat successful year in establishing Regional Leadership Academies. Though one year is too early to declare a success, we did improve our numbers somewhat, i.e. 2010 vs 2011 -- total students (96 vs 149 or +55%), total chapters represented (27 of 40 or 68% vs 33/39 or 85%) and we lowered the cost from \$180 vs \$80.

And from Dave Kannberg, our treasurer, 'for the regional LeadAcs, I am showing income of \$11,652.04 and expenses of \$10,316.47 for a net profit of around \$1,300. This compares with the LeadAc we held in January 2011 in Orlando that took in \$17,760 and had expenses of \$9,580.37. You have the number of participants. Yes, we did take in less money since we lowered the participant's cost. Our expenses were a touch higher because of travel. It could have been worse as some of us ate our expenses for many of the workshops. We knew going in that we would lose money on Ft. Walton Beach, but we did a great service to our membership by going out there. I think that it shows we should continue the Regional concept. I don't know if there are any expenses that can be cut as we ran a pretty bare bones budget as you are well aware.

Planning has begun for the 2012 Leadership Training with the following dates:

Oct 20 -- Panhandle Academy in Ft. Walton Beach Nov 10 -- Southeast Academy in Stuart

> Next Sunburst Deadline Aug 15, 2012

Dec 15 -- Southwest Academy in Venice Jan 5 -- Central Academy in Ocala

In developing or modifying the Academy Curriculum, we plan to solicit the ideas of the instructors who taught last year. But, as a description in general, our philosophy is to focus on the core offices. Our academy is a one-day, intensive class and we want to make it count. This coming year, our instructors will focus our instruction to a central theme that emphasizes membership growth, appropriate musical leadership, and chapter funding. But again, the instructors will decide.

The following instructors have been added to the society's 'master list' for certified instructors. This qualifies these instructors to teach in any district. Congratulations.

Dave Kannberg – Treasurer
Sterling Warner – Secretary
Larry Clapp – Secretary
John Pennington – Music and Performance
Christopher Baker – Marketing and PR
Dave Jacobs -- Directors
Jim Brown -- CSR

<u>Chapter Support – Chapter Achievement Program</u>

I have been waiting for the electronic form to be completed by the Society's IT department before requesting our chapters to participate. Because of this delay, Paul Wietlisbach, Society Director of Education, told me that they will delay the date of submittal for CAP survey input to June, 2012. However, I will send out the 'paper' forms so that the chapters that want to get started may do so. This is an important request.

Dave Roberts, VP of CSLT, Sunshine District

Harmony Foundation (con't)

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find it on the Society home page. If Ryan Killeen of the Foundation staff visits your chapter, pay close attention to his presentation. You will be amazed at some of the data he has to share and the stories he can relate. Let's keep Sunshine at the top!

Chapter Happenings

The Everglades Chapter By Robert E. Dimond VP/Marketing & Promotion

The "Chorus of the Everglades" was launched about 18 months ago. It was not started as a "beginner's" chapter, but rather jumped into the busy Naples arts scene featuring a veteran cast boasting more than 700 hours of SPEBSQSA singing experience among its 30-plus members.

Two of those veterans lead the group: Dennis Roussey is President and Bart Plescia is Director. Roussey, who lived in Detroit for 28 years, also spent some time near Cleveland but is a native of Buffalo, N.Y. He is a 10-year veteran of barbershop who was instrumental in helping to establish the group. Plescia, who contributes more than 50 years experience to the chorus, has sung with, coached, directed and judged numerous choruses and quartets.

The Everglades' 700-year membership number has been rising steadily in its early months as local audiences began hearing the mellow sounds from such a veteran group.

The year 2011 went out on a high note for the Everglades Chorus when members performed a unique service for the community while raising a record amount by any such group for the Salvation Army, details of which have been reported before.

But it was at the Everglades Chorus' annual 2012 concert that saw Naples' music lovers open their arms and their ears to this chorus and loved what they heard. "Radio Daze" was presented in the afternoon and evening in early March at the Naples High School Auditorium and the reception created a buzz that can still be heard today.

Playing to a full house on the evening of March 3, after a matinee before some 350 or so fans, the auditorium rocked in applause and laughter to a program loaded with great songs, humor that helped transport the audience to a 1939 radio setting, and the rousing sounds of the famous Fackahatchee Funtime Dixieland Band.

The numerous and well known songs by the Everglades Chorus were interspersed with the memorable tones by the Chairmen of the Chord and the Scene Stealers' two quartets that often stopped the show.

The surprisingly robust turnout was aided by several favorable articles in the *Naples Daily News*, supported by a strong color advertising campaign. It was obvious, when the dust settled, that Naples had fallen in love with their newest entertainment providers.

Not long after the concert, much of the Everglades group took part in the huge Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, which snaked its way through downtown Naples on March 17.

The Chapter's float consisted of a huge flatbed truck, with Everglades' signs and insignia, upon which many members of the chorus sat in their summer performing outfits, topped by Kelly Green Irish hats. Barbershop music floated from the truck as it wound its way throughout the several-mile ride, with chorus members supplementing the taped songs with their own voices, to the delight of the 40,000 thrilled onlookers.

It should be noted that not every Everglades Chorus member sat on the decorated float, however.



Tenor Chuck Smith once again played his familiar role as Irish Elf and walked the entire route of the parade. Not only was he handing out candy, as did the seated members, but he proudly wore an Everglades Chorus sign on his back that encouraged all those who love to sing to come join the group, with information to contact the chapter.

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EVENT HORIZONS



Chad Bennett V. P. Events

What a weekend! The Spring Convention in Punta Gorda was a great success. We couldn't ask for a better venue than the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center. If you missed this one, make plans now for the Fall Convention happening October 5-7. We'll be sharing hotel booking information on the SunshineNet email group soon, and there's already a registration form in this issue of the Sunburst. The Convention weekend was a fantastic experience for both competitors and attendees. Although some of the hotels were a bit out of the way, there was plenty of free parking and lots of places to grab a bite between sessions. Four quartets and two choruses are now heading to the International Convention and Contest in Portland this July! Main Street had already qualified out-of-district, and we added Throwback, The PURSUIT, and iQuartet to our Sunshine District Quartet Representatives. Jacksonville Big Orange and Sunrise THX are our chorus competitors. If you can't make the trip to Oregon this summer, be sure to catch them all on the webcast and cheer them on.

There are many elements that go into creating a great Convention weekend. It's not just about board meetings and competition sessions. There are also family outings, tag sessions, late night happenings, and the Video Vault to name just a few. Something I'd like to talk about briefly is the Mass Afterglow. There was a line to get in even before "Keep the Whole World Singing" was finished. While we worked very hard to provide something for everyone, it was overheard that several people near the front of the line were filling multiple plates, and going back for seconds before everyone came in. By the time the people at the end of the line got there. most of the food was already gone. Please remember, the District simply cannot cover the cost of the entire afterglow alone. Almost every competing chorus, plus several non-competing groups, donated funds so that everyone present would have a chance to eat, drink, and be merry. We heard from more than a few people representing those choruses that they were disappointed with how little was left by the time they got there, or shocked to see the early arrivals going back for more when some folks had not eaten at all. It seems the actions

of a few have put the future success of our Afterglow in jeopardy, since several groups have already said they will not contribute in the Fall as a result. Some say the easy answer is to have individual hospitality rooms again. We had already planned on that for our return to Orlando next year, but the limitations of the hotels and venue, not to mention costs, make it very hard to go that direction in Punta Gorda this Fall. As promised, we will absolutely explore the possibilities and share our findings with those chapters who have expressed interest in hosting a room of their own. In the meantime, we should all be sure to thank those chapters responsible for providing the hospitality, and remember there are always people coming behind us who deserve a chance to enjoy themselves as well. Now on to other things...

If you haven't made your reservations yet for the 2012 Labor Day Jamboree at the Orlando Airport Marriott, please do so soon. Rooms are filling up fast. We have a fantastic show lineup for you this year, including Lunch Break, A Mighty Wind, and Martini! Once again, the Dave LaBar Memorial Almost Classic Classic Golf Tournament will be held at the Rio Pinar Country Club. For more information about the weekend, go to www.labordayjamboree. com. It's been a Sunshine District tradition for over 50 years, drawing people from all over the country. Come join us and bring the whole family for a funfilled weekend!

One more thing... Many of you noticed the online store went away about a month before the convention. Due to outdated software and some fraudulent activity, we decided to shut the Zen Cart version of the store down permanently. We are currently working on developing a new store that will cater to all your registration needs, be more user-friendly and secure, and help your District Events Team track all the information in one convenient package. Our goal is to have it operational before Labor Day, and fully functional leading up to the Fall Convention in October. Watch for email updates via SunshineNet and in future issues of the Sunburst.

As always, your support and participation help make Sunshine District events the best in the Society! If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email me at events@sunshinedistrict.org to share your thoughts and opinions.



From the left, Kevin Brachle and Bill Dressel

"Six Degrees of Separation" is an idea that suggests everyone is, on average, about six steps away from any other person on earth. It's a wonderful concept. However, at the Paradise Coastmen Barbershop Chorus, separation doesn't matter. Even "Seven Decades of Separation" is shrunk to a closeness that only two people singing barbershop harmony can produce. Bill Dressel was born in 1914. Kevin Brachle showed up here on earth seventy years later in 1984. On March 23 & 24, Bill and Kevin joined their voices in delicious barbershop harmony during the Paradise Coastmen's 37th annual show. You knew they were brothers in song.

21 Tag Composium

22 Labor Day Jamboree

Almost four generations separating our oldest and youngest singers melted away on that stage of the North Naples United Methodist Church. Kevin and Bill are singing barbershop chords that began to be heard in England in the early 1800s. In the United States, Negro spirituals and men harmonizing in barbershops and parlors influenced those harmonies. In fact, in the 1890's, professional quartets were our musical rock stars. Minstrels and Tin Pan Alley moved the barbershop style forward until 1938 when O.C. Cash and twenty-six of his friends in Tulsa, Oklahoma organized the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, now known as the Barbershop Harmony Society.

The Paradise Coastmen Chorus was organized in Naples in 1974 and was known as the Neapolitans. When they joined forces with the Ft. Myers Barbershop Chorus, they became the Paradise Coastmen to recognize all singers in Southwest Florida from Marco Island to Ft. Myers. Our Paradise Coastmen Chorus is an active member of the Naples Chamber of Commerce, the United Arts Council of Collier County and other community organizations. We support the Society's Youth in Harmony program which teaches young men how to sing a cappella harmonies. We also support the Salvation Army Christmas Sing Program by raising thousands of dollars for that charity each Christmas season. Our mission is to come together in fellowship and harmony to enrich lives through singing. We sing for churches, community and fraternal organizations and enjoy every minute of musical camaraderie. You may even find us singing the National Anthem the next time you visit Hammond Stadium to see a Miracles game. So, if you like to sing, be sure to check our web site for details about the Paradise Chorus: Coastmen http://www. naplesbarbershopchorus.org/. We rehearse every Thursday night at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1955 Curling Avenue, just behind Sam's Club. Visitors are always welcome! We end every rehearsal by singing our Society's theme song, "Keep the Whole World Singing"! That's a goal that people all over the planet can support!

Don Kirkpatrick

Editor "ShopNotes" Naples Barbershop Newsletter Naples, FL 239.597.7536

Chapter Happenings

Melbourne Chapter



District Board Member Dan Brinkmann presents 50 Year Membership Award to George Liacopoulos

In 1962 Jim Grover, a member of the Columbus, Ohio Singing Buckeyes Chapter, sold George Liacopoulos two tickets to their annual show. It just so happened that the Suntones were the featured quartet, soon after they had won their gold medals. He was so impressed that he joined the chapter the next week. The Singing Buckeyes won the District Championship the next year and went on to finish in 8th place at International competition held in Ontario.

Then due to a work related move to Tulsa, Oklahoma, George joined that chapter where **Mo Rector** was the director of the chorus.

It wasn't long until he was transferred to Cape Canaveral, Florida. He joined the **Canaveral Chapter** and sang with them when they won the District Contest under the direction of **Bob Boemler** in 1967.

George always had a Dixieland Band and his quartet, **That Old Gang of Mine**, was a part of their act.

He joined the **Melbourne Chapter** when they chartered and is still a member. George will always be singing in quartets at any barbershop get together such as chapter picnics, parties, afterglows, etc.

George is a barbershopper who always has fun and enjoys being with his barbershop buddies.



A group of singers from W. Melbourne Central Middle School entertained our chapter with songs they will be performing in concert. They are the students of Mr. Nick Bodino, who wanted to expose the singers to our art form. Both groups seemed to enjoy singing together. We hope they will visit again.

Our chapter is singing this summer at the Space Coast Stadium for the local pro baseball team.

continued from page 16

Chuck commented that if he interests one new member with his stroll, it is well worth the effort. "As a matter of fact," Chuck corrects us, "I don't consider it an 'effort' at all. I love every step of the way. The interaction with both Naples citizens and 'Snowbirds' all the way along the parade route is a highlight of my year. I look forward to it."



Our president, Dennis Roussey was named the Chapter's Barbershopper of the Year.

Mike Joynt, Bob Rancilio, Den Roussey, BOTY –2011 and Chuck Smith

The Chorus is back at work polishing old and new numbers at their regular rehearsal spot, Joe's Crab Shack. All are invited to come check us out. And Naples music lovers are preparing for an Everglades Encore.



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FALL 2012

OCTOBER 5-7 PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA







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REGULAR PRICE CUT-OFF IS OCT. 1									
Name Badges, or tickets, are required to be shown each time upon entry/rentry to the auditorium									
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Bart Van de Mark V. P. Chapter Development

The First Semi-annual Tag Composium was held around a table in the lobby of Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, headquarters of the SUN Spring 2012 Convention.

Participants were Sean Stork, Ken Wantuck, Lee Plaskoff, Keith Hopkins and Bart Van de Mark.

Sean brought a tag along that he composed, *All I Do is Cry*, inspired by Burt Bucharach's *One Less Bell to Answer*.

All we had for tools were a piece of paper, a pencil, a pitch pipe and our collective ears. Lee proposed the lead line and off we went, not without differences of opinion, as you can imagine. The tag, *Harmony, the Staff of Life* resulted. Took an hour. Sounded good to us. Here it is.

Look for another Tag Composium in the Fall. Stay tuned.

Harmony, the Staff of Life

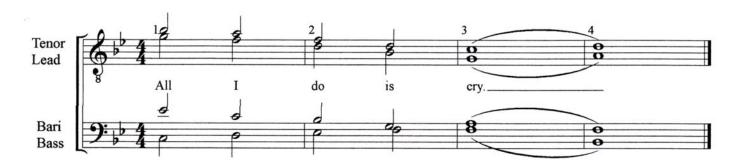
Composed and arranged by Sean Stork, Ken Wantuck, Lee Plaskoff, Keith Hopkins and Bart Van de Mark at SUN District Convention, April, 2012



All I Do is Cry

Inspired by Burt Bucharach's One Less Bell to Answer

Sean Stork, 2012



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