

# The Sunburst

# Sunshine District



Barbershop  
Harmony  
Society



The Sunburst

Volume 44, Issue 4

Oct-Dec 2013



[www.sunshinedistrict.org](http://www.sunshinedistrict.org)



**The Sunshine District 2013 Hall of Fame Award**

The award reads:

*In grateful recognition of Barbershoppers who have given of themselves and have continuously contributed their talents in spreading the spirit of harmony for over 25 years.*

**Keith Hopkins**, this year's recipient of the HoF award has been a Society member since 1977. He has served as president for both the district and his Winter Park chapter. He was the District Barber-shopper of the year in 2008. Some of the Quartets he has sung with are Four Man Vocal Band, Special Edition, Shenanigans and On The Szame Page. He performed with the Dapper Dans at Walt Disney World. Keith has become a sought-after Emcee Society-wide for countless shows, contests and International Mid-Winter Conventions.

**WE LOVE YA KEITH!**



**The Society (left)**

The 2013 Sunshine District Champions. Thor Young, Andrew Borts, Eddie Mejia, Amos Velez

**Night Shades (below)**

Qualifies to represent the Sunshine District at the International Seniors Quartet contest next January. David Eastlake, Charles Solomon, Steve Jamison, Greg Shuss

**The Front Cover**

**Back Street 4**

Joseph De Rosa,  
Brock Stratton,  
Anthony De Rosa,  
Aaron Stratton

Voted most entertaining quartet by the audience, four standing ovations. **Now I know what the 4 stands for.**





**THX Chorus,**  
Sunshine District Representative at the International Chorus contest next July



**Shannon Elswick, President, BHS**  
Quartet Finals  
Master of Ceremonies



Would you call this, "ON THE JOB TRAINING"?



Harold Lathom and daughter Jem Morton express their joy and love at the awards presentation.

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**Harold Lathom** received an award recognizing his 20 plus years of judging in the Barbershop Harmony Society. The plaque was for his retirement from the SCJC (Society Contest and Judging Committee). He had been a Secretary in the old categories prior to certifying as a Contest Administrator in 1993 along with **Dave Kannberg** and a host of others. Dave presented the award at this Fall's convention. Because Harold has been ill this past year, he had his daughter **Jem Morton** speak for him to express his appreciation for the award.



## Christopher Baker



Christopher, a Navy veteran, was a three-term President of the Daytona Beach Chapter, bass section leader and bass of the "Surftones" quartet.

Myron Menaker  
Daytona Beach Metro Chapter

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This is so sad. I've known Christopher when I was still in the Kalamazoo chapter. I was always amazed and thrilled by the way he described barbershop harmonies and with his permission I used some of his ideas in my PR news releases. Rest in peace, my friend. I will miss you

Alexander Boltenko  
abstpete@gmail.com

How sad - Chris was an amazing resource for the Sunshine District - he served as marketing director for YEARS!!!! we all owe Chris a lot...

Andrew Borts

This is indeed a sad day for The District and all Barbershoppers. Chris was a true Barbershopper with a song always close to his heart. He was a tremendous asset to all around him and a wonderful Bass. I will miss him!

David Hanser

I worked with Christopher quite a bit in recent years when he was VP of Marketing & PR in the District and called upon him often for his insight and wisdom on so many different issues. Always there, ready to assist in any way that he could. He will be missed by all, I'm sure.

Nick Schwob

When I was asked to take the post of Editor of the Sunburst, Christopher was the first to welcome me aboard and let me know that I could come to him with any problems I had with the job and he was always there for me. Thanks Christopher!

Bob Johnston

On behalf of my fellow members of the Daytona Beach Chapter and the Sunshine District, I sadly announce the passing of Christopher Baker. He passed away on Friday, November 9, 2013, following a brief illness. Christopher held many positions in the Sunshine District and Daytona Beach chapter and was widely known for his expertise in the PR and marketing fields. He had been Vice President for Marketing in the Sunshine District for a number of years and was a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society's Marketing and Public Relations Committee.

Born in Ohio, Christopher spent most of his life in Florida, most recently in St. Augustine where he became a master gardener and did the marketing for the Datil Pepper Festival.

Christopher was a professional MC and broadcaster and had been "discovered" and recruited while co-hosting a radio talk show on Ormond Beach station WELE. He could regularly be heard doing voiceovers on the large screen ads during International conventions.



*John Spang*  
President

## It's Up To Us!

It's certainly been my pleasure to be your District President over the past two years. The time has flown by as time seemingly does the older I get. I've learned a lot and had the great opportunity to meet many members of our District and also work with a number of fantastic people that are currently serving on your District Board or have served on it in the past. In looking back over the past two years, we can be proud of the Sunshine District and all that it represents! I'd like to recount a few of those accomplishments that stand out in my mind.

Our District Conventions continue to remain "poetry in motion" with our current events team. We consistently receive excellent feedback from our membership and from other Districts and Society headquarters that our conventions are very well run and something of which we should be very proud! Certainly a carryover from the near perfection in running of our District convention is the way our Operations Team handled the Mid-Winter Convention held right here in Orlando. Many from outside our District that have traveled to many Mid-Winter Conventions felt ours was the best they had seen in many years. The Sunshine District should be extremely proud of its Convention Team and for the many members that step up to assist in running these events! However, **it's up to us** to continue to support these events both with our attendance and as a volunteer.

Another area in which we have addressed chapter concerns was that of Leadac. The past several years, the District has conducted regional Leadacs as a means to bring the instruction to the chapter officers that require it. As a result of this program participation has increased as has the knowledge of our Chapter officers to do their jobs. Armed with the knowledge of what to do, our District's chapters are far ahead of most Districts in terms of meeting their paperwork requirements for the state and federal governments and just running their weekly meetings. Once again **it's up to us** to continue to support the regional Leadacs when offered so we can continue to have the best chapters in the Society!

Our youth program remains one of the best within the Society. The evidence is clear in our award

## President's Message

winning youth chorus from South Florida. There is nothing like excellence to bring new youth members into our midst. We continue to offer many youth workshops all over the state to introduce our style of music to our youth. Our Harmony Explosion Camp provides an unbelievable experience for our youth to become immersed in the barbershop style for a weekend. A goal for our District is to increase the number of youth choruses we have in our District so that interested youth don't have to travel to Sunrise to sing with their peers. Once again **it's up to us** to volunteer to assist in making this happen.

Over these past two years we've started a Youth Advisory Group in which the youth in our District provide us ideas and insights in how we can make their barbershop experience a little better. I know it's been quite some time since many of us have thought like a 20 year old and therefore we need their ideas so they too can have a fulfilling barbershop experience both at their chapters and at conventions. **It's up to us** to be open to these ideas brought to us from the youth group for only then can we expect them to stay and sing with our chapters or simply consider barbershop as an alternative for the many other music outlets.

Finally, I come to those individuals that make things happen at the District level, your District Officers. Many of these men continue to serve on the District Board year after year as a means to give back to the Society that has given them so much. I hope you will take a moment to thank them for their many volunteer hours in putting together the various events produced by the District or simply being a part of making this District run as smoothly as it does. We are truly indebted to them for their efforts and those of the many volunteers that assist them.

I could continue to go on and on about the many great things happening at District. Many of you could likewise tell me about the many great things going at your chapter. Bottom line is that these things don't happen without someone making them happen. Whether it be as a volunteer in your chapter, an Officer on the District Board, or some other way you find to assist us all in making barbershop the special experience it is, **it's up to us** and no one else to get the job done. So as we move into 2014 and beyond, make it your New Year's resolution to become more involved in your chapter or even at the District level. We all want to be able to look back and see how we've made an impact on this world. Let this be your opportunity to make that impact!

### MORE CHAPTER REQUIREMENTS

Remember the last Sunburst and my article that reminded us all about the requirements that keep us legal? You know, state incorporations, taxes, ASCAP, BMI/SESAC—those things. Well last time I was bugging you guys to get the stuff done for 2013---now I'm bugging you to get ready to do it ON TIME for 2014. Here we are nearly at the close of the year and I want to give you an update on those requirements.

#### New Chapter Officers

Congratulations to all you new Chapter Leaders even if you are repeating. Don't forget LEADAC whether you have attended in the past you should still go to this year's training to see what is new and to meet your fellow leaders from the other chapters. Eleven have not logged in the officers/leaders for next year. This MUST be done:

**CRITICAL – Report in the CHAPTER LEADERS>Future Leaders section of eBiz the elected slate of new officers. If you don't report them in the Future Leader section, when the new year rolls around your officers will be left out of the communications loop and you will be unable to update anything in eBiz because your authority to edit that information expires when the computer thinks you are out of office, usually 12/31/20XX. At a minimum, report the new secretary, even if it is you.**

#### State Incorporations:

Now is the time to start scheduling when you are going to file your not for profit incorporation paperwork with the State. All filings are due at the same time—May 1, 2014. 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 990 on time.

#### Financial Review

There is one other "business" type requirement that has been somewhat ignored, and that is the Financial Review. Ten, that's right, ten of our chapters, are 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

Dan Brinkmann  
Secretary



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.

#### ASCAP

ASCAP payment for 2013 is due if your chapter had a performance where admission was charged. The fee is \$235.00 **if your chapter does not gross more than \$51,111.11** in ticket sales for ALL performance(s) during the year of 2013. When submitting your fees, please fill out **SECTION A** of the ASCAP submittal form and mail it with a check made out to BHS for the minimum amount of **\$235.00**. This process applies to 95% of our chapters. Keep in mind the annual minimum fee is just that an annual fee, not a per show fee. The fee amount noted in the 2013 secretary's manual is incorrect as it indicates the fee is \$230. The correct fee is \$235. Please be sure to use the ASCAP form for 2013 NOT the form for 2012.

Now, If your Chapter grosses more than \$51,111.11 in ticket sales for ALL performance(s) during 2013, check the procedure at: <http://www.barbershop.org/document-center/category/71-show-clearance-and-legal-ascap-etc.html>. The ASCAP form is to be completed to comply with the agreement between The Society and The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). You should submit this form to your District Secretary (me). My Address is:

Dan Brinkmann  
4399 Wood Haven Dr  
Melbourne, FL 32935

Once again, checks should be written out to the "Barbershop Harmony Society" NOT ASCAP. **DO NOT SEND ANY PAYMENTS DIRECTLY TO ASCAP.** Download the form and more information from the Society web page at:

<http://www.barbershop.org/document-center/category/71-show-clearance-and-legal-ascap-etc.html> and click on "ASCAP Reporting Form 2013".

*continued on page 11*



*Nick Schwob*  
Exec. Vice Pres.

Well, we are winding up another great year in the Sunshine District. We started with the Mid-Winter Convention in Orlando and from all of the reports back from the attendees, they had a fantastic time. The Youth Festival was a great success with more participants than ever before and the Seniors Contest was better than ever. Again I want to thank all that participated in making this event the success that it was. The District Events team, along with all of the volunteers, is to be commended for their enthusiasm and helpfulness to the attendees. Thank you so much.

Our Spring Convention was down somewhat in attendance but our Fall Convention was up, all compared to last year. This leads me to address one of the issues that was mentioned in the previous issue of the Sunburst, that of whether to have one or two Conventions a year. I know that some of you have your definite opinions on this subject and I fully understand your concerns but we would really like to have the input from all of the members in the District. Very shortly, Chad Bennett will be sending out a survey to all members in the District addressing this very issue and I urge all of you to take the time to answer and comment where indicated, your thoughts and concerns. We in the District do not want to assume we know how you feel and make a hasty decision without all of the facts. If we were in a position financially that we were losing money on either one or the other, Spring or Fall, then a decision could be made based on that information only. However, this is not the case at present. Again, please answer the survey when asked.

**Just a reminder to all of the Chapters in the District. We would really like to have you contribute to every issue of the Sunburst---how you're doing, what your accomplishments have been and your community involvement through the course of the year. This is your time to shine.**

Every year, during the month of November, the BHS holds a meeting called The Forum. This is

usually the time that the District Presidents and EVP's have their meetings along with meeting with the BOD of the BHS. This year was no exception. We held our meetings and I will be passing on the results of same to you all during our next House of Delegates meeting in the Spring. Also, during Forum this year, they tried something new and they held Focus groups in four areas, Recruiting, Communication, Coaching and Shared Activities. In attendance at these meetings were your District Officers for Membership, EVP, Youth in Harmony and your Treasurer. We will be putting all of the information that was gathered from all of the Districts throughout the country and Canada into a format that we'll be able to pass along to all of the Chapters to assist them in these areas and perhaps change their focus somewhat to improve the thought process and garner better results in the long run.

Another area of interest that came out of the District Presidents meeting was the relationship between the Barbershop Harmony Society and Harmony Foundation. We, in Sunshine District, should be extremely proud of our relationship with the Foundation and for the contributions that we make every year to this group. There has been quite a bit of discussion lately all over the country about charitable giving and how we perceive it to be. One of the District Presidents passed along a video that looks at this subject in a different manner. Here is the link to this video.

[http://www.ted.com/talks/dan\\_pallotta\\_the\\_way\\_we\\_think\\_about\\_charity\\_is\\_dead\\_wrong.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/dan_pallotta_the_way_we_think_about_charity_is_dead_wrong.html)

Please take a look at it when you get a chance. Pretty interesting stuff.

Lastly, I want to thank all of the District Board Members for all of their hard work and dedication this year and for those that are stepping down, thank you for all of your service through the years. We could never have accomplished what we have without all of your assistance, expertise, prodding and help.

Thanks guys.

## Fall District Convention



**The Society** 2013 District Quartet Champion  
*Thor Young, Andrew Borts, Eddie Mejia, Amos Velez*



**Overdrive**  
*Trey Allen, Kevin McMahon, Mitch Greenburg, Jonathon Meadows*



**FOURFUNATE**  
*Michael Roth, C.J. Shaw, Robert Tucker, Tyson Adams*



**Weekend Edition**  
*Jerry Anton, Marc Cammer, Charlie Nelson, Dan Smith*



**Back Street 4**  
*Joseph De Rosa, Brock Stratton, Anthony De Rosa, Aaron Stratton*



**Makeshift**  
*Nick Ricci, Pete Anderson, Bob Reed, Seth Elsheimer*



**VoxFire**  
*Bart Van de Mark, Roger Smeds, Pat Gilson, Les Rottner*



**Rolling Tones**  
*Erich Brough, Frank Broen, Thomas Brandt, Dennis Fagen*





**THX** Qualifies to represent the Sunshine District at International Chorus Contest next July.  
Director, Alex Rubin



**Big Orange Chorus**  
Director, Anthony De Rosa



**Heralds of Harmony**  
Director, Anthony De Rosa



**Orlando Harmony**  
Director, Marshall Webb



**Capital Chordsmen**  
*Director, Greg Hilliard Jr.*



**Harbor City Harmonizers**  
*Director, Gretchen Lux*



**Orange Blossom Chorus**  
*Director, Matthew Boutwell*



*Dave Roberts*  
V.P. Financial  
Development

Funding our chapter activities especially in growth plans in today's financial climate demands that each chapter's board find additional funds for their current revenue streams. There is money available from public, corporate, and private sources but there is effort in applying for those funds.

In conjunction with John McGoff, VP of Chapter Support/Leadership Training, we will be providing

## FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

instructions in Grant Writing at the Ocala Leadership Academy on Saturday, January 11, 2014. Our chapters need to ensure their plans include sending a member to this important class. Every chapter needs to be represented.

Again,

- Grant Writing Class
- Leadership Academy in Ocala
- Saturday, January 11, 2014

We hope to see you there.

## DISTRICT BUSINESS (cont'd)

*continued from page 6*

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

### OCTOBER

#### President

Read the proposed slate of officers for the coming year at least once each week for two weeks ahead of the Annual Chapter Meeting and once at the Annual Chapter Meeting for a total of three readings.

Nominations from the floor must be received and announced at least one week prior to the Annual Chapter Meeting.

Preside over your chapter's Annual Chapter Meeting by October 15th.

Remind newly elected officers of the importance of attending the officer training at the January **District Leadership Academy**.

#### Secretary

Record minutes of the **Annual Chapter Meeting**.

**CRITICAL** – Report in the **CHAPTER LEADERS>Future Leaders** section of **eBiz** the elected slate of new officers. **If you don't report them in**

**the Future Leader section, when the new year rolls around, your officers will be left out of the communications loop and you will be unable to update anything in eBiz because your authority to edit that information expires when the computer thinks you are out of office, usually 12/31/20XX. At a minimum, report to the new secretary, even if it is you.**

### **NOVEMBER**

#### President

Assist the new President in transition to office.  
Plan to attend Leadership officer training.

#### Secretary

Assist the new Secretary in transition to office.  
Plan to attend Leadership Ranch officer training.

#### Treasurer

Assist the new Treasurer in transition to office.  
Plan to attend Leadership officer training.

### **DECEMBER**

#### President

Verify with the Treasurer that the annual ASCAP filing and payment were made.

Have a great and safe Holiday season.

## Hiram Edward Manville III



Hiram Edward Manville III, of Lyme - Old Lyme, CT and Sarasota, FL, passed away peacefully at the age of 81 surrounded with family at Yale New Haven Hospital on September 29, 2013.

He was born May 21, 1932. Ed is survived by his beloved wife of 43 years, Nancy Manville, his son, Hiram Edward Manville IV, his adopted daughters, Nancy McMahon and Donna Islieb, his step-children, David J. Tiffany, Jennifer Tiffany and Andrea Tiffany, and his sisters, Ethel Woolverton, Mia de Laire, and Deming Pratt Holleran.

Ed was born in Mt. Kisco, NY, son of Ethel Schniewind Pratt and Hiram Edward Manville Jr. He was great grandson of the founder and grandson of the President of the Johns-Manville Corporation, an insulation and building material giant of the American Industrial Age.

Ed lived fully and courageously, demonstrating remarkable patience, humor and a passion for

life especially during his last 8 years while facing numerous health challenges.

Ed began his formal education as a boarding student at the age of 9, attending the Eaglebrook School in Deerfield, MA, followed by St. Paul's School in Concord, NH and Brown University in Providence, RI. He excelled in athletics, particularly ice hockey and was an Olympic hopeful for the 1952 US Olympic ice hockey team.

He served 2 years in the US Navy and during that time was a code decipherer for the NSA. His business career and hobbies gave him the opportunity to utilize his technical and creative genius; he enjoyed woodworking, building, was a successful real estate developer and sold and consulted on the use of laser alignment precision equipment for power plants in the north east.

**He had a passion and talent for music and sang 4 part barbershop harmony nearly his entire life. Dixieland, in particular Wild Bill Davidson, were music favorites** and he was a big fan of the Giants (football) and the Bruins (ice hockey).

He was known and loved by his family and friends for his sharp wit, unusual dry humor and warm affectionate nature. He leaves behind 3 generations that affectionately called him "Popeye" and will miss him dearly.

A graveside service for family was held at the Pleasant View Cemetery in Lyme, CT on Saturday, October 12, followed by a reception for friends and family at the Old Lyme Beach Club.

**Donations in his honor may be given to Harmony Foundation International at [HF@harmonyfoundation.org](mailto:HF@harmonyfoundation.org).** Please visit [www.fultontherouxoldlyme.com](http://www.fultontherouxoldlyme.com) for photos, and tributes.

## SARASOTA CHORUS OF THE KEYS CHANGES DIRECTION TO ATTRACT YOUNGER SINGERS.

In an effort to attract younger singers from across the Sunshine District, the Sarasota Chorus of the Keys has installed a new leadership team that combines youth, energy, and great musical experience.



Standing left to right, Patrick Kilbane, Byron Poore and Duane Fenn.

Last January the Chorus brought in Byron Poore, 35, from Land O Lakes, Florida to direct. Then in September, the Chorus elected Patrick Kilbane, 34, of Sarasota to serve as President. In October, to add wisdom and experience to the young leadership team, the Chorus added Duane Fenn from Fort Myers to serve as Assistant Director.

Despite his youth, Byron Poore brings over 20 years experience in barbershop singing to the Chorus. His experience includes his role as Assistant Director for the Heralds of Harmony and other choruses in the District, and he has competed with several excellent quartets, including Last Call and Harmonious Hunks. A stickler for vocal production and excellent singing quality, he has noticeably

improved the sound of the Chorus, according to unbiased observers. This has resulted in a dramatic influx of new singers.

"I am delighted by the addition of an experienced pro like Duane Fenn as Assistant Director," said Poore. "Duane has sung with five award-winning quartets, and he honed his directing skills by serving on Jay Giallombardo's musical team with the New Tradition Chorus." Both Poore and Fenn have competed on the International stage several times with their quartets, and are sharing these extraordinary experiences with the Chorus. But as Poore and Fenn would agree, the driving force behind the new direction of the Chorus is recently elected President Patrick Kilbane. A fairly recent addition to barbershopping, having joined the Chorus in 2006, Kilbane brings the energy and discipline of a young professional businessman to his new assignment. "When I joined the Chorus, I saw a lot of guys who could be my father, and in some cases, my grandfather," Kilbane said. "Don't get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with that. But I think the Chorus needs guys who could be my brother. With our new focus, our new team, and our new music, I am confident we'll attract guys like that."

Evidence of the Chorus's new music and new sound will be on display at two shows on Saturday, February 22, 2014, in Sarasota at the Riverview Performing Arts Center. Barbershoppers across the Sunshine District may want to travel to Sarasota and take in this show because, in addition to hearing the Chorus of the Keys, the audience will be treated to the sounds of two internationally acclaimed quartets, Acoustix and Live Out Loud. For more information, see the Chorus of the Keys ad in this issue of Sunburst, visit [www.chorusofthekeys.org](http://www.chorusofthekeys.org), or contact Bob Amer, VP Marketing/PR at [robertamer66@gmail.com](mailto:robertamer66@gmail.com).

**Next  
Sunburst Deadline  
February 15, 2014**

See page 25 of this issue for **The Chorus of the Keys** flier for their Chapter Show on Saturday, February 22, 2014  
Guest quartet, **ACOUSTIX**

You asked, we answered! After the conclusion of our most recent Grapefruit League Novice Quartet Competition, suggestions came in on how we may improve. We listened to what everyone had to say and decided we wanted to get back to the original purpose of the Novice Competition. Namely, to inspire chapters to promote quartet singing.

All members of the Barbershop Harmony Society and any of their non-member friends are eligible to sing in the contest. Quartets do not have to be made up from the same Chapter.

### Exceptions:

- The quartet cannot contain more than two members who have been a finalist in any District Contest or have competed in International Competition (including Collegiate and Seniors) within the past 10 years.
- No more than one member who has been a District Champion, or International Finalist within the past 10 years (including Collegiate and Seniors).
- *Last year's Novice Quartet Champions are not eligible unless they change two members and the quartet name.*

Quartets will sing two songs in the Barbershop Style. Quartets are encouraged to wear costumes and the performance and music will be in good taste. The winning quartet will sing on Saturday night's show, so proper attire is expected.

### Judging

Three excellent and experienced judges will make assessments in three categories: Music, Presentation, and Singing. Each Judge will score from 0 to 100 points for each song, or 300 points total for each song. The highest cumulative total for both songs will determine the winners.

### NEW

Scoring assessments will be available after the contest has concluded. Quartets are welcomed to evaluate their performance with the judges. Also, if your quartet would be interested in coaching with an experienced competitor before the contest, you may schedule a coaching by contacting Sean Stork (that's me!) at [seans2576@gmail.com](mailto:seans2576@gmail.com).

**Deadline** for entries in the **GLNQC** is **ONE WEEK PRIOR** (Friday, August 22nd). This is a great chance to put a quartet together, get some great coaching, and get the feel of a competition stage. The registration form is below.

The fun is in the participation, the coaching, and the camaraderie.

Harmoniously,

Sean C Stork

SUN Director of Quartet Development  
[www.facebook.com/SeanCStork](http://www.facebook.com/SeanCStork)  
Orlando Exchange, Baritone





It is with great sadness that we report the death of **Lowell Wolfe**, 85, currently of Lynchburg, Virginia, formerly of Battle Creek, MI who spent most of his retirement years in Sarasota, FL.

Retirement really didn't fit his routines as he was always very active in Barbershop quartets. He was an original member of the **Harmony Hounds** comedy and show quartet out of Battle Creek, Michigan. He spent some 16 or more years with them traveling all over the states plus overseas entertaining for the USO tours. Moving to Sarasota found him in still another popular comedy show quartet called

**The Jokers Wild** and again traveling all through the eastern states entertaining for shows and afterglows. With a little confusion between International and the quartet, the name Jokers Wild was issued to another now famous quartet so he continued on with that quartet but changed the name to **The All 4 Fun comedy and show Quartet**. Again, it was a very popular group entertaining all over the state.

All this time, he never let down his chapter where he sang with the **Chorus of the Keys** and never charged a penny to sing for his chapter's annual shows. His idea of a crowd was singing to a thousand folks or just two people. He'd sing at the drop of a hat for anybody, anywhere, anytime. When it comes to being a natural great singing bass and quartet comedian, he was one of the best in the society. He was never one for competition but his quartets sang untold district and International conventions.

Even towards the end of his life, he was still singing with his wife and family at special church functions. He seldom ever forgot his words, music and routines but it was Alzheimer's disease that ended his love of life and love of entertaining.

Lee Frayer  
2127 Schwalbe Way  
Sarasota, FL 34235

Things are going great in the Youth in Harmony arena. We had seven very successful workshops this fall, with one more pending in December. Over 1300 students and 40 teachers were introduced to high quality Barbershop. I would like to thank the following chapter YIH coordinators for their hard work in making each of these workshops a success. Pinellas County – **Barb Kunath**; Palm Beach County – **Shoshana Davidowitz & Mitch Greenberg**; Citrus County – **Bob Spence**; Duval County – **Dave Parker, Charlie Young, Gabby Breedon**; Highland County – **Stirling Snyder**; Dade County – **Matthew Kaskel**. I coordinated the workshop for Hillsborough County. In addition, a large group of high school boys attended the Joe Breedon Panhandle Regional Festival coordinated by **Phil Cody** and **Darrell James**.

I would also like to thank the clinicians and quartets for sharing their time and amazing talents with the youth and teachers of our communities. It is truly appreciated. I know their efforts will enrich the lives of the students and help keep our love of barbershop music alive for future generations. In different combinations, **Kevin Mendez, Alberto Rico, Andrew Lujan, Michael Skutt, Mike Slamka, and Peter Cunningham** were in the teaching quartet at most of these workshops! Kevin Mendez also served as clinician at several workshops! **Mike Slamka, Mitch Greenberg and Alex Rubin** did an awesome job as clinicians at the other workshops. Our wonderful co-sponsor SAI clinicians included **Faye McClanahan, Denise Helbig, Debbie Cleveland, Holly St John** and **Camille Sanabria**.



*Arne Helbig*  
V. P. Youth in  
Harmony



Additional SAI quartets included **Winsor** and ladies from the **Gulf to Bay Chorus**.

-Please remember to set aside funds for **Harmony Explosion Camp** scholarships in your chapter's budget. The camp staff is busy planning our 16<sup>th</sup> annual camp. We are happy to announce our first co-ed camp held in June was an amazing success! We're expecting HX Camp 2014 to be the biggest ever so.....Please help!

After many years of dedicated service **Ken Carter** has decided to retire as Camp Director. We wish him the very best and sincerely thank him for all his hard work making this camp a wonderful experience for many, many grateful students and teachers.

I'll be filling in as interim camp director until a replacement can be found.

-Please let me know about any youth activities occurring in your chapter. The District YIH VPs are going to be communicating on a regular basis and I'd like to share what you are doing. I can be reached at: [chbgh@allstate.com](mailto:chbgh@allstate.com) or 813-310-6914.

Thanks!  
Arne Helbig





## Sunrise Chapter

THX is Las Vegas bound for its third consecutive International Competition

By: Ernie de la Fe

THX has once again been honored by being selected as the International Chorus Representative for the Sunshine District. With 63 men on the risers and under the direction of Alex Rubin, THX earned that honor on Saturday, October 12th, by scoring an 83.2 at the Sunshine District convention in Orlando. It did so, surpassing 7 other very fine competition choruses from around the Sunshine State.

Rounding out and arriving alongside THX's successful District achievement is the added bonus of seeing that the new District Champion Quartet, "The Society," has come from its roster as well. All 4 of The Society's singers: Andrew Borts (Lead), Eddie Mejia (Tenor), Thor Young (Bari), and Amos Velez (Bass) hail from the ranks of THX.

Sticking to our original plan of once-a-month rehearsals, with each of the members strongly committing to learning the music at home rather than during chorus time, THX sang the same set that got them the 8th place finish in Toronto this past July: Clay Hine's arrangement of "Somebody Loves Me" and David Wright's arrangement of "That Lucky Old Sun."

"We opted to go to the District contest with a known factor, working those two songs that we already knew - to the bone, and choosing to save the introduction of a new set for Internationals, if we got there," said Director Rubin. "At this stage of the game, we are of the mind that our toughest competition is right here in our home District, and we might not have even gotten out of Florida if we'd played around with trying to prepare two new songs

with our limited rehearsal schedule. The hard work of learning our new songs for Internationals begins now," continued Rubin.

Chorus member and Bass singer, Steve Moody, attended the post-contest evaluations in Orlando. Most of the critique he heard coming from the judges had to do with the singers' faces and their need to facially and physically express the emotions that come across so strongly in the lyrics of those songs. One even said that "when it's time to smile you've got to make sure that your eyebrows are at your hairline." Moody later commented that he's heard it all before – from Alex. "Easy to understand," he says, but "sometimes hard to do. If you want to help THX increase its presentation scores, then sing in front of a mirror and watch your face and body, and pretend to be Robin Williams or Jim Carey. In other words, overdo it," he concludes.

THX's numbers are expected to increase in the coming months. The excitement that has been brewing now for the past couple of years in South Florida's Barbershop community is continuing to build a momentum that is shaping THX at its core. The chorus is attracting more and more good singers from not only Miami-Dade and Broward Counties in South Florida, but also points south, north and west – and they're not stopping at the Florida State line, either.

They had 70 men on the risers in Toronto and expect to have more on the risers in Las Vegas this July. They're having fun growing and getting to know each other and becoming one big THX family. They don't know how many more will come in the next few months, but Sunrise Chapter President elect, Bruce Checca, himself a resident of Key Largo in the Florida Keys, says: "We've got a plan to put every single one of them on the risers, and if we don't have enough risers, we'll go out and buy some new ones!"



## Warrior Beach Retreat

### Hello Sunshine District

Just to let you know we are few in numbers, still we remain active in the community and now have a very solid group of singers.



The Panama City Chapter, Barbershop Harmony Society, was honored to perform at the Warrior

Beach Retreat Opening Ceremony in Panama City Beach, FL on 19 September. Fifty (50) Iraq and Afghanistan Wounded Warriors and spouses or caregivers from all over the country came to Panama City Beach to enjoy a seven day retreat hosted by local businesses. The Retreat is sponsored two times a year by Warrior Beach Retreat, Inc. which provides a forum to bring honor to those Wounded Warriors who have served our great country. Over 700 residents attended the ceremony.

The Chorus included LEAD singer, WWII U.S. Army veteran Hank Dusseault.

Schuyler Cunniff  
saratgasky@aol.com

For Men Who Like to Sing!  
Fort Walton Beach: [emeraldcoastchorus.com](http://emeraldcoastchorus.com)  
Panama City Beach: [gulftoneschorus.com](http://gulftoneschorus.com)



Front row from left: Jack Machtly, Garrett Kivett, Hank Dusseault (WWII Veteran), Jim Vandervest, Brian Dusseault, Joe Wander Sr. Back row from left.: Pat Mumme, Lee Edwards, Matt Albritton, Bob Jones and Schuyler Cunniff (Director). The chorus sang The National Anthem, God Bless America, Sentimental Journey, It Is Well With My Soul and The Irish Blessing.

**Next Sunburst Deadline  
February 15, 2014**

**HARMONY  
FOUNDATION**  
*Sing...for life*

**Miami Chapter**  
**By: Ernie de la Fe**

As Fall 2013 has come roaring in, so too has the Miami Chapter's new "Music Medics" program, a project meant to bring Barbershop singing to children's hospitals in Southern Florida. So far, three of the area's children's hospitals: Miami Children's, Chris Evert Children's and Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospitals have been the recipients of monthly visits by Miamians quartets and VLQs singing to their child patients, families and hospital staff. Hosted by the "Child Life" departments of these institutions, the Miamians Music Medics have been delighting the kids with their renditions of Disney classics and other children's songs.



*The quartet posing in front of CECH signage.*



**Zachary Pearson-Martinez, MD, Lew Geer, David Hanser and Steve Rosen** sing to a child in an ICU room at Chris Evert Children's Hospital, Ft. Lauderdale

Dressed in hospital "scrubs" with stethoscopes on their necks and the like, the kids see what appears

to be ordinary-looking doctors, nurses or technicians who have all of a sudden decided to sing them a song in four-part harmony. The singers are escorted into lobbies, waiting rooms, playrooms, ICU units, wards and even individual children's rooms to bring the kids a special musical joy. Two hours is the typical length of the entire visit. So, by the time the "rounds" are all over, the singers are tired but feeling very good about what they've done with their morning.

David Hanser was the Lead in a quartet that recently visited Ft. Lauderdale's Chris Evert Children's Hospital. In one playroom, the children were telling us the names of the movies that the songs we were singing came from. Then we went and sang in an oncology ward where a young boy *continued on page 22*



**Mike Verdesca, Arne Themmen, Thomas Paul, Dean Ziff, Tim Stewart, Lew Geer and Zach Pearson Martinez, MD,** sing in the lobby of Miami Children's Hospital

## Ensemble Spotlight



**Jim Shubert,**  
Artistic Director  
Paradise Coastmen  
and Venetian Harmony Choruses

For those who love and sing Barbershop harmony, it becomes an insatiable hunt for the “ringing” chord; the defining characteristic of the Barbershop style, known as the fifth voice, the overtone or barbershop seventh. To every Barbershopper, it’s the “angels voice.” It’s what kept Jim Shubert involved in Barbershop his entire life.

According to Shubert, his musical life has been a series of lucky and providential meetings and happenstances that have led from one position to another. For example, while singing in a church choir in Chicago, the director, who was a good friend, suggested that he take a course in liturgy training where he met and became friends with another musician who happened to work in a community that his wife and he had decided to move to. That meeting led to a sixteen year tour as Director of Music Ministries at St. Patrick’s of Lemont, Illinois. While in his twenties, he joined a barbershop chorus and a few years later the director quit. “Without any training or experience (I was probably the only one there who could read music). I stepped out in front and never looked back. That led to directing four more choruses over the next twenty years while meeting and making friends with a number of people who have trained and mentored me as both a director and as a composer/arranger,” He said.

Since moving to Florida, he has become the front-

line director for both the **Naples/Fort Myers Paradise Coastmen (Naples)** of the Barbershop Harmony Society as well as the **Venetian Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines Incorporated**, a female barbershop chorus located in Venice. Still actively singing, Shubert is also a member of two quartets... **CrossTown Connection**, a **2010 Florida State Senior Champion and Tropical Depressions**, a comedy quartet. “I’m having a great time because I have some wonderful people to work with. In fact, I’m having such a good time I think I’ll keep going as long as I’m still looking at the green side of the grass.”

That enthusiasm is what has kept Barbershop singing flourishing.



**MARTY JAHNEL (T), RALPH BROOKS (L),  
DONALD SMIT (BR), JAMES SHUBERT (BA)**

*CrossTown Connection*  
**2010 Sunshine District Senior Champs**

Don Kirkpatrick  
SHOP NOTES Editor,  
Paradise Coastmen  
Naples/Ft Myers Barbershop Chorus  
<http://www.naplesbarbershopchorus.org>

Ensemble, an "e-Magazine" (free publication) promoting the choral art form in Southwest Florida. It is published by Jim George and read by thousands of choral members from Sarasota to Marco Island - the Paradise Coastmen Barbershop Chorus' corner of Florida.

You can reach Jim George at:  
[Ensemble@comcast.net](mailto:Ensemble@comcast.net),  
[www.ensemblemedia.org](http://www.ensemblemedia.org)

## The Hernando Harmonizers

The Hernando Harmonizers Annual Show, **Celebrate Harmony**, celebrating the Society's 75th Anniversary, was Saturday, November 16, 2013. To promote the show, Chapter quartet **Sunset** was featured on Tampa Bay area WFLA Channel 8 morning show **"Daytime"**, the NBC affiliate and nationally syndicated show, on Friday, November 8. Sunset members are Paul Brazil - Lead, Chuck Swenson - Bass, Doug Stewart - Tenor, and Tom Rooney - Baritone. They appeared throughout the

one-hour show and were proud to represent the Hernando Harmonizers and barbershoppers everywhere! Chapter President, Tom Rooney, had been trying for three years to get a spot on the show and persistence finally paid off. Originally intended as a quick appearance, the producer and the two hosts were so impressed with barbershop harmony (not the typical talent they have as guests), that **Sunset** opened and closed the show, and wound up featured in about 25% of their air time that day. It was quite an experience for the guys.



The Sunset quartet and "Daytime" hosts, Cyndi Edwards and Jerry Penacoli.

**Next Sunburst Deadline  
February 15, 2014**

Thanks to all who attended the Fall Convention. The success of all your District events depends greatly on your support of each Convention. If you were unable to make it, hopefully you were able to see the action online. We hope to continue to offer the webcast for future Conventions. Congratulations to the folks who took top honors, including your new District quartet champs **The Society**, International Seniors representative **Night Shades**, and International Chorus representative **T.H.X.** The educational/informational classes on Saturday were well attended for the most part, and the Orlando Airport Marriott continues to be a great all-in-one venue for our events.

By now, your chapter officers should be making plans to attend the nearest **Leadership Academy**. Even if you've been to a LeadAc before, take the opportunity to return and learn something new. Maybe even share your knowledge with newer officers. Since our Convention weekends are already

*Chad Bennett*  
V. P. Events



jam packed with excitement, options are being explored for the return of **Sizzle**, along with new ideas for multi-chapter events of the same nature. Speaking of shared activities, several of us recently attended the **Barbershop Harmony Society's Leadership Forum** in Nashville and have brought home some exciting information that will be shared over the coming months. You can expect to hear more about that soon.

It's not too early to start thinking about the 2014 Spring Convention... mark your calendars for May 2-4 and join us! Please feel free to contact me any time. I can be reached via email at: [events@sunshinedistrict.org](mailto:events@sunshinedistrict.org) or just find me in eBiz.

## Chapter Happenings (cont'd)

*continued from page 19*

pulled out his iPad and started taking video to put on his Facebook page. Just before that, this one kid had been bee-bopping in his bed and getting the nurse's station all excited and into the whole experience. It was an awesome time.

Each of the members of the Miamians Music Medics have voluntarily added an additional eight-song children's repertoire to their normal chorus fare, which repertoire is expected to grow to sixteen during the first year of the program. Also, each Music Medic must pass muster with the chorus's Music Team before he goes out to one of the hospitals, in order to assure that the quality of the music is as high as it can possibly be. When originally asked, thirty of the chorus members volunteered for this duty and to date, the Music Team has certified a dozen of them for Medics duty in their respective voice parts.

Once it feels like the hospitals currently being visited have settled into a regular routine and more singers come on line, The Miamians will look to expand the program to one more hospital. So far they are in the big three in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. Hopefully, with the addition of a fourth, they will be able to accommodate their members who live in Palm Beach and Martin Counties with a children's hospital that's near their homes, so they too can experience the joy of singing in that environment.

In the meantime, The Music Medics are getting their flu shots, learning the ropes of in-hospital singing performances, one patient at a time, and doing their best to brighten the day of ailing children by bringing some happy familiarity to an environment where they might otherwise be intimidated by all of the technical stuff going on around them.

Support the Sunshine District's  
young men by supporting  
**Harmony Explosion**

Keep your personal information,  
home address, email address, telephone (home & cell)  
up to date in the Society database.  
Check with chapter secretary if help is required.  
Do Not send any personal changes to the District Staff.



*Bart Van de Mark*  
V. P. Chapter Development

**The Sunshine District will conduct another VLQ (Very Large Quartet) contest at the Spring (2014) convention in Orlando with the following conditions and parameters. Please note the changes in section d.**

- a. A VLQ shall consist of five to eleven singers.
- b. All singers shall be members of the Sunshine District, although not necessarily the same chapter.
- c. Each singer shall possess an all-events pass.
- d. **A SUN VLQ may include no more than 50% of its members who are members of any current registered quartet. IE: in a VLQ of 8 members, 4 may belong to a registered quartet; in a VLQ of 9, 4 may belong to a registered quartet; 10, 5; 11, 5; etc**  
**Ed: This will hopefully open small ensemble opportunities for new and/or inexperienced singers to be part of a fairly competitively even contest.**
- e. The VLQ contest shall be conducted as part of the chorus contest, and shall be included in the draw for Order of appearance.  
Ed: An opportunity to perform to a larger audience.
- f. VLQs shall compete in one of three categories
  - i. Youth (26 and under),
  - ii. Senior (55 and older),
  - iii. Regular (everyone else)**with champions in each category.**
- g. All members of a VLQ competing in the “Youth” and “Senior” classifications shall meet the age restrictions for that category in order to qualify for competition.
- h. VLQs competing in the “Regular” category may consist of a mix of age group singers.
- i. The competition set shall consist of two songs selected by the VLQ which meet the Society Standards for Barbershop competition.
- j. A VLQ shall enroll in the contest via the Society Website.
- k. The official judging panel assigned to judge the convention contest will score a VLQ using the same judging standards used for quartets and choruses.
- l. Champions shall be determined for each competition category.

## VLQ Contest (cont'd)

- m. A Scoring Summary shall be created listing all of the VLO's and their scores. This would only be a Sunshine District report.
- n. There would be no formal evaluation schedules for the VLOs. However a VLO would have the option of contacting the scoring judges post contest and ask for a written evaluation of their performance.

Editorial from my perspective as the A: Chapter Development (Membership) VP for the Sunshine District and from my perspective as B: Music Director for the Martin-St.Lucie Mariners.

A:

- Smaller chapters might now have a chance to perform at a convention in a contest.
- If we continue to next Fall, the concept will provide a focus opportunity for chapters which suffer from snowbird depletion in the Summer months.
- What an inter-chapter opportunity!
- What an opportunity for a chapter to sponsor a youth ensemble from a local school!  
Think about it.

B:

- It'll create some focus for the Summer months.
- It'll allow me to sing facing the audience.
- It'll give coaching opportunities for other members of the chapter.
- We'll treat VLQ's like quartets and allow them the opportunity to perform in front of the chapter, with the understanding that VLQ rehearsals will be separate from the chapter meeting.

Bart Van de Mark  
SUN VP Chapter Development  
BHS Membership Committee  
Music Director, Marin- St. Lucie Mariners  
Sunny Boys Quartet  
Substitute Tenor, Bari , Bass in other Quartets

## Director's Position

**With the retirement of our former director, the esteemed Jack Slamka, the Suncoast Statesmen, Charlotte County's barbershop chorus, finds itself in need of a director for the fall. During the summer, the Executive Board, in conjunction with the Music Committee, has moved ahead and secured the date and venue of our annual Spring concert, as well as chosen the music and developed a proposed theme for the show. However, we would certainly prefer not to try to direct ourselves. (The venerable one-armed paper hanger image comes quickly to mind). Therefore, if you are interested in directing a chorus ready to come together in the fall to produce a quality Spring show, please contact:**

**Mr. Richard Cunningham**

**Home 941 637-9421**

**Cell 941 380-9521**

**Secretary, Suncoast Statesmen**

**email [rcunningham@comcast.net](mailto:rcunningham@comcast.net)**



SUNSHINE DISTRICT, ON FEBRUARY 22:

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## Thank You Mr. Chapter Secretary

By Bob Brutsman, District Board Member at Large

Chapter Secretaries are the front line of your chapter. They maintain your membership records, send membership applications and officer updates into Nashville, take minutes of all meetings, file for show clearances and submit license applications for ASCAP or BMI, file documents with the State of Florida, order chapter supplies/music, ensure that membership and chapter information on the Society website is accurate, maintain all legal files for the chapter and are active members of your Chapter Board. Needless to say, they are active, busy and an important link in the operation of your chapter. Unfortunately, they generally go about their business and don't get the credit they deserve. Below are the photos of the Chapter Secretaries in the Sunshine District. Next time you see your Chapter Secretary, say "Thank You".



Ed Hart  
Boca Raton



Al Case  
Cape Coral



Bob Spence  
Citrus Hernando



Brad Williams  
Ft. Walton Beach



Stan Blomeley  
Gainesville



Bill Ross  
Gtr. Canaveral



Dave Kesler  
Gtr. Pinallas



Dan Proctor  
Jacksonville



Tim Fenton  
Englewood



Ken Geisinger  
Manatee Cty



Ron Carnahan  
Martin St. Lucie



Sterling Warner  
Melbourne



Bruce Ross  
Miami



Dave Eastlake  
Naples Ft. Myers



Phil Hapgood  
Ocala

*continued on page 27*

Sunshine District Chapter Secretaries (cont'd)

continued from page 26



Bob Reed  
Orlando



David Erdman  
Palm Harbor



Morgan Smith  
Polk County



Dick Bechtel  
Sarasota



Steve Moody  
Sunrise



Rob Brunger  
Tallahassee



Brian Wunderlin  
Tampa



Bob O'Connor  
Venice



John Knight  
Winter Haven



Keith Hopkins  
Winter Park



Bob Bosomworth  
Daytona Beach



Dave Cassens  
Pensacola



Patrick Memme  
Panama City



Ed Meissner  
Everglades



Jim Busko  
Central Florida

Not Pictured: Richard Cunningham (Charlotte County), Phil Haas (Greater Sun City Center), Reuben Cooley (Palm Beach County), Carl Ekblad (Pasco County), Paul Wilcox (Sebring).



## Youth Harmony Workshop

What does it take to get 350 high school students from **Hillsborough County** high schools organized to produce an hour show? What happened on this October 18<sup>th</sup> Friday was simply amazing.



The organizers of this extravaganza, **Denise and Arne Helbig**, began early in their planning by sending invitations, music and learning files to the area high school's music programs and music teachers. It is a message to the teachers that says we are planning a day of a cappella singing for you and your students. All you have to do is show up. Denise and Arne are both shown here in action. Arne opens the action in his cheerful way and you can see in the following pictures the energy and anticipation of the students. Now, how do you get these 350 students, which includes 150 males and 200 females, deployed to begin their day?



It starts by introducing **Debbie Cleveland and Mike Slamka**. This is the seventeenth year in a row that Debbie Cleveland has served as a clinician to these workshops. She has been recognized as an

outstanding educator and is well known in the barbershop world as she has won two International championships in the Sweet Adeline International Society.

**Mike Slamka**, the clinician for the boy's side, is also a well known barbershopper as he is a two time gold medalist in the Barbershop Society as well as the current director of the **Spirit of the Gulf**, an outstanding Sweet Adeline Chorus.

We take the musical knowledge of our clinicians and mix that with an outstanding youth quartet which includes two members from the Miami area and two from the San Antonio Texas area. All four are attending their respective universities. These young fellows add an additional level of energy as the students see four part harmony delivered in an outstanding way by members of their own age group.



**Andrew Lujan, tenor, Peter Cunningham lead, Michael Skutt, bass and Kevin Mendez, bari.** Peter and Michael are from SWD. Andrew and Kevin are from Sunshine District.

**The Heralds are proud to have provided financial and member support for the Youth Harmony Workshops in Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties over the past years.**

**For the Heralds of Harmony,**

**Dave Roberts**

**Photos provided by Dave Roberts**



A very typical **Youth Harmony Workshop**, by that I mean all the work and planning that people like **Denise and Arne Helbig, Kathleen and Ken Carter, Carlton Cox** and others put into these events. The talented and dedicated people like **Debbie Cleveland, Mike Slamka, Alex Rubin, Quartets Max Q, Men In Black, iquartet** just to name a few and I'm sure many others. Add in the support and workers provided by the local chapters and you can see there are many people supporting these workshops. I would like to know just how many pizzas have been consumed since the first Youth Harmony Workshop? If you have never attended a show by a **YHW**, do yourself a favor and go see how great the students sound and perform. Ed

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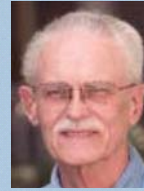
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