

INTERNATIONAL  
QUARTET CONTEST



MAIN STREET, 3rd PLACE



THROWBACK, 5th PLACE

INTERNATIONAL  
COLLEGIATE  
QUARTET CONTEST



SIGNATURE, 15th PLACE



THE INSTITUTE, 14th PLACE





**Sunshine  
District**  
Barbershop  
Harmony  
Society



The Sunburst

Volume 46, Issue 3

July-Sept. 2015



INTERNATIONAL  
CHORUS CONTEST

TAMPA, 9th PLACE

Heralds of Harmony

Director, Tony DeRosa

Contest Pictures Provided  
by Lorin May





INTERNATIONAL  
CHORUS CONTEST

SUNRISE, 16th PLACE

THX

Director, Alex Rubin



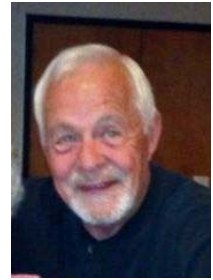
## President's Message

Well, I thought that last year, when I was Chorus Host for **THX** as they were going through their competition cycle at International, was one of the highlights in my barbershopping experiences, this year, in Pittsburgh, I was able to do the same job, that of Chorus Host, for my own Chapter, **Heralds of Harmony**. This made it full cycle for me in that I was Chorus Rep for so many years, taking the guys (herding the sheep) all through the process to and from International but never getting the chance to take them that one step further, directly to the stage. A great moment for me and judging from their results, back into the top ten and scoring better than ever, the whole process worked as it should. Fantastic performance guys and thanks for sharing it with "the old guy".

There are a number of changes on the horizon in Sunshine, some of which have already started. In our never-ending process of controlling District costs, one area that has been addressed is the Board of Director meetings. It is mandatory that the Board attend the House of Delegates meetings twice a year and since we have to be there anyway, we will continue to have face to face meetings just prior to the HOD meetings at the Spring and Fall Conventions. The other two Board meetings that we have, one around LDJ and the other at LeadAc, will be done with conference calls. We have already had our first one, which actually went rather well.

LeadAc is another area that we're looking at and will be changing the format on for next year. We are trying every way possible to keep all costs down for this important meeting, both for the District and the Chapters. You will be hearing much more about this shortly.

*Nick Schwob*  
President



Since you all responded more than the norm to the last survey we sent out, we're going to send you another one very shortly. There are a number of areas that are covered and rather than spoil the fun, I'm just going to let it go at that.

LDJ is just around the corner and it looks to be good weather and some excellent singing by fantastic quartets!! Room rates are right in line, the hotel has added more things to do around the pool area, so get your tickets NOW!! Relaxing weekends don't come around that often so take advantage of them when they do!

Lastly, we are in need of someone to fill the position of VP Financial Development for the balance of the year and in the future. We also know that we're going to have to look for someone new for VP Director Development as Dave Jacobs would really like to retire. If you, or someone you know, would like to assist the District in any way, such as coming on the Board, assisting with the Convention Team or in any other area, please contact me. We are always looking for younger and more energetic team members to replace us "old guys", but it would really be advantageous while we're still here to assist you in the transition.

Till next time.....See ya at LDJ!!

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**DON'T  
MISS OUT ON  
THE OPPORTUNITY  
TO ADVERTISE  
IN THE  
SUNBURST !**

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

**Next Sunburst  
Deadline  
Nov. 15, 2015**





**Dan Brinkmann**  
Secretary

## THIS AND THAT

KNOW WHAT IS NEXT ON THE HORIZON FOR YOU? CHAPTER ELECTIONS!!! IT IS NOT TOO EARLY TO START THINKING ABOUT WHO YOU WOULD LIKE TO MANAGE YOUR CHAPTER NEXT YEAR. AND FOLLOWING IS MORE OF THE STUFF YOU NEED TO BE THINKING ABOUT AS THE YEAR PROGRESSES. THIS IS FROM THE SOCIETY *"THE BUSINESS OF BARBERSHOP, A CONSOLIDATED AT-A-GLANCE CHAPTER BUSINESS GUIDE FOR BHS CHAPTER PRESIDENTS, SECRETARIES, AND TREASURERS FOR CHAPTERS IN THE USA"*. If you haven't looked at this lately (or ever) now would be a great time.

### AUGUST

#### PRESIDENT

- o Verify Nominating Committee is preparing the Slate of Officers for the coming year.

### SEPTEMBER

#### PRESIDENT

- o Set the date for the Annual Chapter Meeting at which the next year's chapter officers will be elected. Must be before October 15th of each year.
- o Have the Secretary send notices to the membership of the Annual Chapter Meeting.
- o Receive the coming year's proposed slate of officers from the Nominating Committee.
  - Give a copy of the proposed slate to the chapter secretary for inclusion in the record.
  - Read the proposed slate weekly prior to the Annual Chapter Meeting.
- o You are the presumptive chapter delegate to the Fall District House of Delegates Meeting. If you cannot make the meeting, please designate an alternate and have his name read in to the minutes of a Board meeting.

## District Business

- o Share with membership the Fall District House of Delegates Meeting information.

#### SECRETARY

- o Send required notices to the membership of the Annual Chapter Meeting.
  - Standard Chapter Bylaws requires notification at least two weeks prior to the meeting.
- o If your chapter selects an Alternate Delegate to the Fall District House of Delegates Meeting:
  - Record the name of the alternate in the minutes of a Chapter Board Meeting.
  - Report that fact to the District Secretary.

### OCTOBER

#### PRESIDENT

- o Attend the Fall House of Delegates Meeting at the Fall Convention as your chapter's official delegate.
- o Must 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.
- o Nominations from the floor must be received and announced at least one week prior to the Annual Chapter Meeting.
- o Preside over your chapter's Annual Chapter Meeting by October 15th.
- o Remind newly elected officers of the importance of attending the officer training at the January District Leadership Academy.

#### SECRETARY

- o Record minutes of the Annual Chapter Meeting.
- o 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

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## District Business (cont'd)

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**thinks you are out of office, usually 12/31/20XX. At a minimum, report the new secretary, even if it is you.**

o File any changes in the make-up of your Chapter Board with your Secretary of State, Incorporations Section (or equivalent agency), if required in your state.

o Register incoming officers for District Leadership Academy.

### NOVEMBER

#### PRESIDENT

o Assist the new President in transition to office.

o Attend Leadership Academy officer training.

#### SECRETARY

o Assist the new Secretary in transition to office.

o Attend Leadership Academy officer training.

#### TREASURER

o Assist the new Treasurer in transition to office.

o Attend Leadership Academy officer training.

### DECEMBER

#### PRESIDENT

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

And you know what else would be a good idea? A turn over book for your successor. Some of you, when you took over your chapter officer job, probably had absolutely no idea what you were supposed to do but you stuck with it and figured out at least part of your responsibilities and with time you became pretty good at it. You know how your chapter works and the things your chapter does that may be a little different from other chapters...and that is good. However, do you want the person who is replacing you to have to go through the same turmoil you went through? You are the expert, pass it on to the new guy. No

sense in having to plow the same ground over again is there?

For all you chapter officers, now is the time to start thinking budget...and include in the budget process some time and funds for your new leaders to attend Leadership Academy (LEADAC). Even if you have been to LEADAC in the past, new requirements can be laid upon the chapters that need to be accomplished.

Have you thought about a joint meeting with one of your neighboring chapters? Great way to expand your circle of barbershop friends and see what they are doing. Might even get some ideas that you can "steal" to make your meetings more enjoyable and fun. Try it. It does not take a lot of planning and travel time is usually pretty short.

If you are planning an annual or holiday show, don't forget to let me know so I can "clear" it.

#### **SHOW CALENDAR:**

Want to know if your show is "on the schedule"? Well, here is how you can check:

On the Society Master Schedule:

Go to the Society Web Page,

<http://www.barbershop.org/home.html>

Click on the "News and Events" tab

Scroll down to "Full Calendar of Events"

Check the date for your show

On the District Master Schedule:

Go to the District Web page,

<http://sunshinedistrict.org/>

Click on "Events"

Scroll down to "Calendars"

Scroll to "Sunshine District Registered Chapter Shows"

Hope you're having a great summer....see you ALL at the Fall Convention.



## Sunshine District loses one of its Greatest

By: Ernie de la Fe

July 23, 2015, has come and gone, and taken with it one of the greatest gifts ever bestowed upon the Sunshine District and the Barbershop world. Gene Cokeroff was no less than a giant of a man, an icon, a mentor, and a father-like figure to the Barbershop personas of many of our past and present members.

So many of us owe our participation in this wonderful hobby to the day we first heard Gene and The Suntones that the landscape of the hobby might have been much different today if not for Gene's lifelong and tireless efforts in the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Singing in America, ... and the world.

Born in Birmingham, Alabama, on August 28th, 1935, he arrived in South Florida in 1941, at the age of 6, and there became the kid who every teacher would ask to sing at all their school functions. He was the kid who could actually carry a

tune. In Junior High School, Gene sang in various school choruses and met and made friends with a kid named Bob Franklin, who could also sing. It was there, in Junior High, that both boys came under the spell of a music teacher named Mrs. Ayers, who introduced them to the four-part harmony of the Barbershop Musical style, and specifically, she taught Gene to sing "Coney Island Baby," his very first Barbershop song.

While attending high school, Gene became involved with "The Miamians," Miami, Florida's chapter of SPEBSQSA, known today as the Barbershop Harmony Society, a chorus that he ended up directing during several eras of its history, for a total of 40 years. Gene enjoyed telling stories about those early years, with the numerous colorful personalities of that chorus - and its weekly meetings, where singing, beer and liquor seemed to mix seamlessly in the chapter's meeting place alongside Biscayne Bay. Throughout his high school and college years, Gene sang in a Miami chapter quartet called "The Memory Four," with the support of all those early Miamians, who would frequently drive the youngsters around to their various gigs. *Continued on page 8*



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In 1957, Gene, now 22 years of age, formed a little chapter quartet called "The Suntones," with Miami-ans Clark Bell on Lead, Bill Wyatt on Baritone, Danny Whipple on Bass and, of course, Gene himself singing Tenor. The following year saw some turnover of the quartet's members with Gene's old friend, Bob Franklin taking over the Lead voice from Bell and with Bill Cain replacing Whipple on Bass. That new version of The Suntones immediately began a meteoric rise to the top, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place win in the 1958 district contest, then taking 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 1959 Sunshine District contest, and finishing the year with a 14<sup>th</sup> place finish in Chicago's 1959 International Contest.

One more change in the makeup of the quartet was to be made before all was said and done. Back during the 1958 district contest, they had met and sang with a Baritone from West Palm Beach named Harlan Wilson, and when Bill Wyatt decided to leave, Wilson was the Baritone voice that Gene and the others turned-to. Rumor has it that much tire rubber was left on the Florida Turnpike between Miami and West Palm when these four started singing together. The new blend of their four voices was like magic from the start. In 1960, The Suntones went on to place 8<sup>th</sup> in the International Competition held in Dallas, Texas.

The following year, at the 1961 Philadelphia International, the relative underdog Suntones simply ran away with the competition, singing to standing ovations, something never before seen by any competing quartet. The Suntones were crowned International Champions of the Barbershop Harmony world at that 1961 convention, but that's not where our enchanting story would end. These guys stayed together as a quartet and became the face of Barbershop to the rest of the world, with innovative music and singing techniques, the likes of

which had never been seen in the Barbershop style. They experimented with modern music, sang new arrangements, sang and recorded almost 50 songs that were arranged by Gene who, in the process, became a premier arranger and self-taught vocal musician like no other. They went on to become regulars on the Jackie Gleason Show when it began originating from Miami Beach in 1966, and performed side by side with many of America's top performers.

Originally an electrician by trade, Gene's 1978 meeting with the then Executive Director of the Orange Bowl Committee, who wanted The Suntones to entertain at the annual coaches' luncheon that year, turned into a job offer and a 20-year career for Gene in the production of Miami's nationally televised Orange Bowl Parade and Orange Bowl Football Game's halftime show. It is no secret that Gene was responsible for turning that game's halftime show into the dazzling **ORANGE BOWL HALF-TIME !!SPECTACULAR!!** that we all once came to know and love, with its great music and innovative light shows. It seemed like everyone across the country was tuning in to enjoy the halftime show, whether they were football fans, or not. After Gene retired from that position, the parade seemed to falter into a high school band display, then non-existence, while the halftime show became just another uninteresting "me too" presentation.

Gene's love of Barbershop music never faltered, though. After his retirement from the Orange Bowl, he continued to direct the Miamians, producing many annual Barbershop shows, having them sing out often, all the while arranging new music for his chorus and others. He introduced many previously non-singing men to Barbershop, frequently telling them that one doesn't need the greatest singing voice in the world to enjoy the hobby, "all you need to do to sing Barbershop well is: 1) You have to be able to match pitch; and, 2) you must be able to carry a tune." If Gene was anything in that regard, though, he was brutally honest. If a guy came in that couldn't sing, he would tell him so and tell him that he could come and enjoy hanging around the chorus, but not sing. Gene was always about the quality of the singing.

Most especially, though, "Geno," as he was known to most of us who loved him, reflected on his own early "Coney Island Baby" experience and once

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again took up the flag of preserving the Barbershop style by introducing as many youngsters to the style as he possibly could. In that vein, his Miamians hosted annual Youth Harmony Workshops for Miami-Dade County high school students; He and his lovely wife of 43 years, Iris, (herself a Sweet Adelines International Champion) frequently served as clinicians for the workshops and similar festivals held across the country. A lover of fine musicianship in all musical styles, including Classical, Country and Gospel, rather than trying to recruit the young workshop attendees into Barbershop, Geno would tell them that he didn't care what kind of music they chose, but encouraged them to sing their whole lives. He concentrated on helping their teachers foster vocal music programs in their schools.

Geno served as Chairman of the Society's Young Men In Harmony (YMIH) Committee and served as Vice President of the Sunshine District's YMIH. In 2008, he led by example when The Society decided to host its first-ever youth chorus contest at its Midwinter convention in San Antonio that year. He quickly put together a team of Miamians to help him locate and gather young singers from the ranks of the Miamians and other Florida choruses, as well as past attendees of the youth harmony workshops, and put together a representation of 16 youths called "The Young Miamians" to participate in that festival. Geno directed The Young Miamians to a second place finish that year. That feat was not to be repeated, though, as the un-dependability of the young, a fact that Geno always recognized, but willingly and lovingly chose to ignore, led The Young Miamians to fall apart shortly after that final performance in San Antonio.

Over the years, Geno coached countless young quartets, including an International Collegiate Champion and many others that attained high levels of competition success. His final such success came by way of coaching "Signature," a local South Florida quartet that took a 15<sup>th</sup> place finish in 2015, the last International Convention that Geno ever attended, in Pittsburgh, less than a month before his passing. Signature had never competed prior to 2015, but seems to have a very bright future ahead of it.

Geno also served on the Board of the Association of International Champions (AIC) and served as a Certified Music Judge for the Society for 10 years. He was twice elected to the Society's Hall of Fame, once as member of the legendary 1961 Suntones and the second, as an individual of immense merit, for all of his work and personal dedication to the hobby. In the May/June issue of "The Harmonizer," the official publication of the Barbershop Harmony Society, Geno was honored as one of the "10 BEST TENORS OF ALL TIME." In fact insiders say that he ended up tied for first place with the legendary Vern Reed of the Buffalo Bills, a Tenor that Geno had always greatly admired. After learning of his tie with Reed, Geno would often kid Iris, saying: "[Me] and Vern are just like that!", while crossing his fingers.

At the time of his death, Geno had been battling Cancer for the better part of a year. All involved thought that he'd beaten it and that he was indeed a Cancer survivor, when his doctors suddenly found it necessary to return him to the hospital for some additional cancer treatment. He was looking good and strong and was ready for the battle, confident that he would beat it. He wasn't ready to go,

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### Chuck Steiner, III SUN VP Events

V. P. Events  
Chuck Steiner



*Hello, Sunshine!* For those of you who don't know me, I'm Chuck Steiner, VP of Events. I'm a Tampa Herald, second-generation Barbershopper, and I'm glad to be serving the District in this capacity! Please come chat with me and say "hello" at the next SUN Convention this Fall. My team's job is to see that our Events are planned well and run smoothly. We are also always in constant listening mode to hear what you, our SUN Members, want. Along with the Convention Services Team, Facilities, C&J, Tech/Social Media, and Music and Performance, we want to continue to be the pinnacle of the Society as far as Events goes. We are always looking to re-invent and tailor to the ever-changing needs and wants of our Members. We want to know what drives you to come (or not come) to our Sunshine District Events and what we can do to make them more appealing to you as a contestant and as a spectator.

*What a summer it's been for the Sunshine District...* Main Street placed #3 in Pittsburgh and brought the house down with every single performance, Throwback medaled at #5 with their continued mastery of sound, Signature and The Institute took the International stage by storm, The Tampa Bay Heralds of Harmony had a top-10 finish with their highest score in chapter history (85.9), Sunrise-THX finished a very respectable 16<sup>th</sup> with a score of 81.8, and then we experienced heartbreak when we lost a true Barbershop legend and mentor to many in the sudden passing of Gene Cokeroff. A roller-coaster of emotions like that makes you very proud (and very humbled) to be a Barbershopper in the Sunshine District. This Fall's Convention will be held in remembrance of Gene. What a great loss, and what an even greater life.

On the Events front itself, we have some really GREAT things going on in the District, as well as some goals to meet...and yes, we have some challenges to overcome. Our Youth Harmony Workshop was very well-attended, with Tony DeRosa and Debbie Cleveland serving as facilitators for the growing throngs of youth interested in our craft. Imagine being a teenager and getting a full week-end with Tony and Debbie, not to mention the talented district quartets that helped out and showed them how it's done! Arne Helbig does a fantastic

job of getting our kids involved and excited about our hobby, and I know he will have a more in-depth report.

Labor Day Jamboree (LDJ) is coming up quickly in the first week of September, Byron Poore is leading the charge to bring that event back to its past glory; the level of talent that LDJ is bringing in on a yearly basis is simply staggering. Quartets this year include top BHS and SAI groups *Throwback*, *BLING!*, *Monarch*, *Kickstart*, *Ciao Bella*, *Rooftop Records*, *Speed of Sound*, *Forefront*, *Black Tie Affair*, *Swing Line*, *Signature*, *Windsor*, and *Boardwalk*. Good grief! Plus, there's a novice quartet competition, adult beverages, pool parties, and a golf tournament, all in a fun, non-competitive atmosphere. Yet, attendance is down as is also the case with our conventions. A lot of people are very interested in fixing that.

Of course, our two largest SUN events each and every year are our two conventions in the Spring and in the Fall. Your District House of Delegates (HOD) voted overwhelmingly for SUN to continue hosting two conventions every year, just like we always have. There was a very serious discussion about cutting down to one big convention, but it was made quite clear by the District Membership via the HOD that one in the Spring and one in the Fall is what is wanted. Nearly 100% of active Chapters sent delegates to *that* particular meeting to vote on *that* specific topic. Impressive!

*So...where is everyone?*

-Why aren't all of those Chapters that said to hold two conventions attending and singing at them?

-What can we do to bring back some of the Chapters that have not been on the contest stage at a SUN convention in years (some haven't been for a decade or more!)?

-Do we want to look at re-formatting, and have all of the major contests at one convention (SUN District Champions, as well as chorus and quartet International prelims)... and then designate the other convention as a "teaching-workshop/festival/sing for score" event?

-Would incorporating Sizzle, LeadAc, and other workshop-type events into a single convention be

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something that would draw members (with some quartet and chorus shows peppered in, of course!)?

These are just *some* of the many questions that we are asking ourselves. These are questions that we will be asking you and your Chapter Leaders in the near future in the form of surveys and direct communication. I've been told "it's always about the music first!"...and yes, it absolutely is! But it's also (very much) about the money. Putting on these events with the quality that we want to is expensive. Most people don't want to hear about the "behind the scenes" stuff like money. But it's important that everyone who wants all of these events to take place understand what it takes to not only hold these events, but to put on a quality show. They don't just "happen". As an example that everyone can relate to: Group hotel room rates are negotiated and leveraged well in advance of our events in large part by how many attendees we can guarantee will occupy a room. That's why we need YOU to be at our Conventions and events... whether it's competing in a quartet, singing with your chorus, BOTH, or as an audience member. Any (or all!) of these contributions for just a few weekends each year will help your Chapter, Quartet, District, and Society as a whole.

**If you are a member of a chapter or quartet that is a "stalwart" at our conventions and other events, THANK YOU!** If, however, you are a member of a chapter that just doesn't come to conventions (or LDJ, or SUN leadership Academy, for

that matter) for whatever reason, then please, please have a talk with your chapter leaders to find out why. Ask a very simple series of questions:

-*"Why are we doing what we are doing?"* ("getting chicken wings after rehearsal" is not an acceptable answer! By itself, at least...)

-*"Why doesn't our chapter participate at District Conventions so that we can improve and attract new singers?"*

-*"Our District is asking us to attend and compete at at least one convention per year...so why don't we?"*

As you can see, a LOT is being looked at- and we must think outside the box. I know...how cliché, right? But it's a tough box to break out of. Mixed quartets, Combined Chapter Choruses, and Combined Seniors Choruses are but a few things on the very near horizon that are being finalized and rolled out. If we can get to a consistent level where we have 500+ attendees at our conventions, 15-20 competing choruses, and 30+ competing quartets, we will have an Events program that is able to do much, much more for you on multiple fronts, which in turn makes for a happy and thriving district. It can be done. But it all starts with you.

Hoping to see all of you in Orlando!

Carry On (in tune!),  
Chuck

p.s. Early Bird registration is open for Fall Convention until Sept 20th... please decide to join us.  
<http://sunshinedistrict.org/events/event-tickets/>

## Gene Cokerft (cont'd)

*Continued from page 9*

by any means, having earlier told Iris that he still had: "lots to do and music to arrange." His passing came suddenly and unexpectedly as a result of a massive brain hemorrhage that he suffered in his hospital room while in the company of Iris, the love of his life. He was having a conversation with her, and just simply stopped talking. His end thus came suddenly and without pain, something for which we should all be thankful.

Geno has been buried in Iris's family gravesite at a beautiful quiet cemetery in the small town of Homeland, Florida, on State Route 19, just north of Fort Meade. This is the place where he'd always wanted to be buried, right next to his sweetheart. On the day of his burial, and while observing the beautiful setting in the shade of a large old oak tree where Gene was being laid to rest, lifelong friend and fellow Suntone, Bob Franklin, was heard to say to Iris: "Now I see why he wanted to be buried here."

### How to move your chapter meetings from good to great!

Every chapter has their own way of running a chapter meeting. A lot of times, they are fun from start to end and you don't even notice the time going by. Sometimes the program is over-loaded with one activity or another and the pacing seems to drag on until the end of the night. Have you ever been sitting in a chapter meeting just waiting for the afterglow to start? I know I have. I've had the great opportunity of getting to visit many chapters in the District and I would like to share with you what some other choruses are doing that make their meetings awesome!

#### Have a plan

The very best chapter meetings I went to see had a well-defined plan of action. If your chorus has a Plan Manager, odds are you never have to guess what's going to happen next. A lot of guests are deterred by the down time between repertoire songs or activities. If your director finishes an activity and then says, "umm... uh... well... I guess now we can move on to..." then you could really benefit from having a Plan Manager! A lack of downtime keeps the pace moving and the members engaged. At the end of the night, they should be saying, "is that all? I can't wait until next week!"

#### Know your weaknesses

It's important to know that there is a big difference between a chapter meeting and a chorus rehearsal. There are many competition-level choruses who will spend the majority of their time as a chorus rehearsal. These kinds of meetings are a lot of fun for guys who are excited about contest and shows, but may not be as interesting for guys who see barbershop as more of a social hobby. Take a look at your membership and decide just how much time you want to devote to each activity in your meeting.

#### Know your strengths

When I first started out singing in a barbershop chorus, I instantly gravitated to arranging. The chapter leadership found out my interests and suggested I try my hand at arranging a few tags. Then, a few songs. Eventually I was writing shows and making learning tracks. My barbershop experience may have been a very different one had it not been for having my talents brought to light. There are guys in your chapters who have secret hidden talents you know nothing about! Why not flush them out by having a tag writing contest, or a having random

Sean Stork  
V. P. Music &  
Performance



members teach a tag or lead a woodshedding session? It could mean the difference between a one-year member and a lifelong member!

#### Pick and choose your activities

What do the guys in your chapter like to do the most? Sing tags? Woodshed a song? Form impromptu quartets? Poll your members and find out what it is that makes them want to come back every week. Then... do more of that! You don't have to devote 20 minutes of every rehearsal to tag singing if no one in your chorus wants it. It turns out that a lot of guys in my chorus are interested in learning about how to read music! So, give them what they want. If they are enjoying themselves every week, they'll be more likely to invite their buddies to come along with them.

#### Better singing begets better singers

I don't care where you are, there are a lot of talented singers in your area that never seem to make it out to visit your chorus. It happens to everyone. When I was in Tallahassee I had a very hard time convincing my college buddies to come visit our chapter meetings. The reason: they were convinced that it wasn't worth their time. They had either had a bad experience hearing a less-than-performance-ready-chorus-or-quartet singing in public, or they fell for the urban myth that barbershop singing is easy and anyone can do it (and often do... poorly). As soon as they heard one of my quartets singing on a show or got to see one of the chorus's well-produced performances, opinions began to change. With District programs like **The Coaches Guild** and the **Standing Ovation Program**, you have all the tools you need to turn the heads of all the talented singers in your area.

These are just a few ideas that can take your chapter meetings to the next level. As always, I encourage you to contact me via e-mail at: [music@sunshinedistrict.org](mailto:music@sunshinedistrict.org) if you have any questions about these programs. I hope each of you can bring some fresh ideas to your chapters and Keep The Whole World Singing!

Harmoniously,  
Sean C Stork  
VP of Music and Performance  
Director of Quartet Development



### Heralds of Harmony

The Heralds of Harmony were excited and honored to be the Sunshine District representative at the International Competition on July 3rd in Pittsburgh. Our top 10, 9<sup>th</sup> place finish, and achieving our highest total point score ever, was affirmation that the chorus is meeting our goal of continuous improvement in our musical performance.

Our visual and musical leadership...all driven by our Director, Tony De Rosa, pushed the chorus to a very realistic point during our rehearsals. By the time we got to Pittsburgh, we were comfortable and ready. It's the first time in a long time that this chapter has been *that* prepared. We all felt it. Sure, the nerves were there going on stage...but we were ready for it. Seemingly "little" things that

had been drilled into us just came naturally. Everything just kind of gelled. We breathed. We encouraged each other. We belonged there.

This performance confirmed that if each chorus member does what is asked of him on the performance stage then our ability will continue to be recognized as improving with a continuing effort for better performing skills. Each member knows they can meet their responsibility to the chorus by just doing what the director and music team asks. To see and hear 85 men in total "sync" and peaking at the perfect time was a great thing to watch unfold and to be a part of. Now we know what it takes to be in the top 10. Our future goals will require that and a lot more. And we are ready to take that on.

Steve Matheson  
VP, Marketing and Public Relations





**Artie Lemieux:  
He lived his life  
in harmony!**

INVERNESS—Wherever Artie Lemieux went, there was singing. Barbershop harmony was in his blood.

From age 20, in 1944 until his death on May 6 at age 91, Arthur Harold Lemieux was a lifetime member of the Society for the Preservation and Encourage-

ment of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America. He was also one of four Barbershoppers in the nation who sang with the Society for more than 70 years.

“He sang Falsetto tenor, like Frankie Valli—only he was cuter”, said Janet Lemieux, his wife of 48 years.

Locally, he was one of the two Citrus County founders of the Chorus of the Highlands, along with Gabe Lanzano. “He was a character” Lanzano said. “We had a good time singing together and he was a pretty good singer.” Mrs. Lemieux said at one time the Chorus of the Highlands packed Curtis Peterson Auditorium with their concerts. “Artie was **Mr. Entertainment**, he loved to entertain, which was funny because he was always shy” she said. “But when he was singing, he loved it. He loved being on stage and greeting people in the crowd. He was kissing hands.” And he loved a good joke or a funny bit. On Valentine’s Day, we would sing for people at their homes or offices and Artie loved it when I’d go to the courthouse” said Dan Donohoe, a Barber-shopper who sang with Artie in a quartet called The Young and the Rest of Us. “He loved to embarrass the deputy at the front door, Donohoe said, “whenever they would do a show all dressed up in formal attire, Artie would be the only one wearing bright red socks. Of course, that was planned, and the three other members of the quartet would tease him for being a red socks fan.

From Holbrook, Massachusetts, Artie loved red socks and he loved the Red Sox. Ted Williams was one of his favorites and he got the chance to meet him at a preseason game.

Artie was also known as the **Wooden Calendar Man** making and selling wooden calendars at local craft shows.

He was a regular at Pleasant Grove Elementary School, reading to kindergarten students—not just reading to them, but drawing pictures and putting his all into entertaining the kids. Artie loved kids.

But his first love, second if you include family, was singing with the Barbershoppers. He sang ballads, but what he really loved was “up” tunes. They had to have a beat. One of his favorites was **WAIT TILL THE SUN SHINES, NELLIE**.

As a boy, Artie hurt his leg while trying to jump on the back of a truck. He fell and was later diagnosed with osteomyelitis and was in a body cast for a year. He was 16 and still growing, so this stunted the growth of one of his legs by four inches and he wore a built-up shoe. But that never stopped him.

When World War II started, he went to enlist. “They laughed at him”, Donohoe said. He told them, “I could sit in a hole and shoot a gun”, but I don’t know if he made that up or not. Artie loved to joke around.

In his later years, Artie performed while in his wheelchair, but even then, he wouldn’t let a funny bit pass. The three of the four members of The Young and the Rest of Us would go out on stage and make like they were going to start singing, then one would ask, “Where’s Artie?” Then Artie would be yelling from off stage and then wheel on in.

“One time, we were singing **ON TOP OF THE WORLD** and Artie was in his wheelchair and stood up”, Donohoe said, “But then he fell back and Artie just pretended like we had rehearsed it.”

Artie was a trooper. He knew the show must go on. He never missed a rehearsal and he always knew his music. “The last time we sang with him, at the end of the show, it took two of us to get him in his chair” Donohoe said. “He gave everything he had when he sang.” Donohoe said “It’s not yet official, but The Young and the Rest of Us will soon change its name to the Art Lemieux Quartet.

Artie was never one to say, ‘I’ve been doing this longer than you, so do it this way.’ “He was never one to be a know-it-all” Donohoe said, even though he knew it all.





Harmony Explosion Girls Chorus Directed by Debbie Cleveland



Harmony Explosion Boys Chorus Directed by Tony DeRosa

## Jean tag

GENO

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

Jean. \_\_\_\_\_

1 X 2 X X X 3 X X 4 X 5

Come in - to my heart, Bon - ny Jean. \_\_\_\_\_

Jean. \_\_\_\_\_



### HX Camp

For the past 16 years, the Sunshine District has sponsored Harmony Explosion Camp for Florida high school students and their Music Educators. After the success of our first two co-ed camps, and with help from Region 9 SAI, we have decided to make this a co-ed camp from now on. Our 17<sup>th</sup> annual event was our largest camp to date. Over 225 students, teachers, chaperones, teaching quartets and clinicians attended! Our lead Clinicians were **Tony DeRosa** and **Debbie Cleveland**. Our teaching quartets were **Sunny Boys, Max Q and Bling**. The students experienced the very best of every aspect of Barbershop singing!

The Saturday evening show was nothing short of magical! Both the boys and girls choruses were awesome. The combined chorus number was a moment to remember. The sound and performance level Debbie and Tony were able to pull out of these kids in three short days was amazing! We are lucky to call these two uniquely talented people part of our own. Adding Sunny Boys, Max Q, Bling and the top six outstanding student ensembles from the Friday night ensemble contest to the program, one can easily see the unique caliber of the show.

We heard many comments from both the girls and the boys that they would spread the word about the camp so even more of their friends could attend

**Arne Helbig**  
V. P. Youth in  
Harmony



next year. Many of the teachers have attended our camps in the past and make a point to attend year after year. It was heart warming to hear that they remain in contact with prior students who are still excited about singing and often comment that this camp strongly contributed to their love of singing.

Sincere thanks to the Boards and Members of the Sunshine District and Region 9 for your generous contributions! Without your support, these kids would not have been able to experience what we hope was a life changing event.

### Youth Harmony Workshops

Six Youth Harmony events are planned for this fall, with a possible 7<sup>th</sup>! Clinicians, teaching quartets, sheet music and learning tracks are being arranged. We will continue to utilize the HX Camp website for the Workshops to distribute the music, learning tracks and general information. That worked very well last year.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the Youth in Harmony Program.

Thanks!  
Arne Helbig  
Youth in Harmony VP  
Sunshine District



The combined chorus of the girls and boys of Harmony Explosion Camp filled the stage at Florida Tech in Melbourne, only because most of the singers had to stand sideways to get everyone on stage. It's amazing to see just how really well the kids preformed in just three days under the leadership of Tony DeRosa and Debbie Cleveland. It's a show you shouldn't miss next year. As Arne Helbig said, **"It's the best \$20 you will ever spend."** Ed.





Quartet Finalist  
Main Street 3rd



Quartet Finalist  
Throwback 5th



Quartet Semi-Finals  
Signature 15th



Collegiate Quartet Contest  
The Institute 14th

Contest Pictures Provided  
by Lorin May



2014 Collegiate Quartet Champions  
The Academy

### PROBE Honors Best Bulletins

**PROBE** (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors) recently honored the four top chapter bulletin editors in the 2015 International Bulletin Contest. The top two bulletins are from the Sunshine District. Earning the top spot was **John Alexander** who has finished in the top ten for a number of years. **Roxanne Clapp** finished in second place in this year's contest.

The top four are listed below:

**The Orange Spiel** (John Alexander) Jacksonville, Fla.

**The Tampa Herald** (Roxanne Clapp) Tampa, Fla.

**Concho Capers\*** (Paul White) San Angelo, Texas

**Toosday Toons** (Bob Heim) Nassau Mid-Island, N.Y.

**\*Dick Girvin Most Improved Bulletin Award**

PROBE serves as a support system to mentor, tutor, and provide contests for our hard-working communicators, whether they edit bulletins (printed or electronic), edit a website, and/or promote the heck out of this wonderful obsession we call barbershoping. The winners will be their chapters as these editors will take what they have learned to improve their bulletins for their members. To learn more about PROBE (or join for \$10 yearly) visit <http://probeweb.org>.

## How to post your most interesting barbershop stuff on the Sunshine District Facebook Page

(and not go crazy while doing it....)

- **Note:** The below instructions pertain to a person that has a Facebook account in place already! If you do not have an account in place yet, you need to register for one at:
  - [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

1. After you've registered for an account, point your web browser to this page:

<https://www.facebook.com/sunshinedistrict>

It should look something like this:



2. Log into the Facebook page with your username and password.

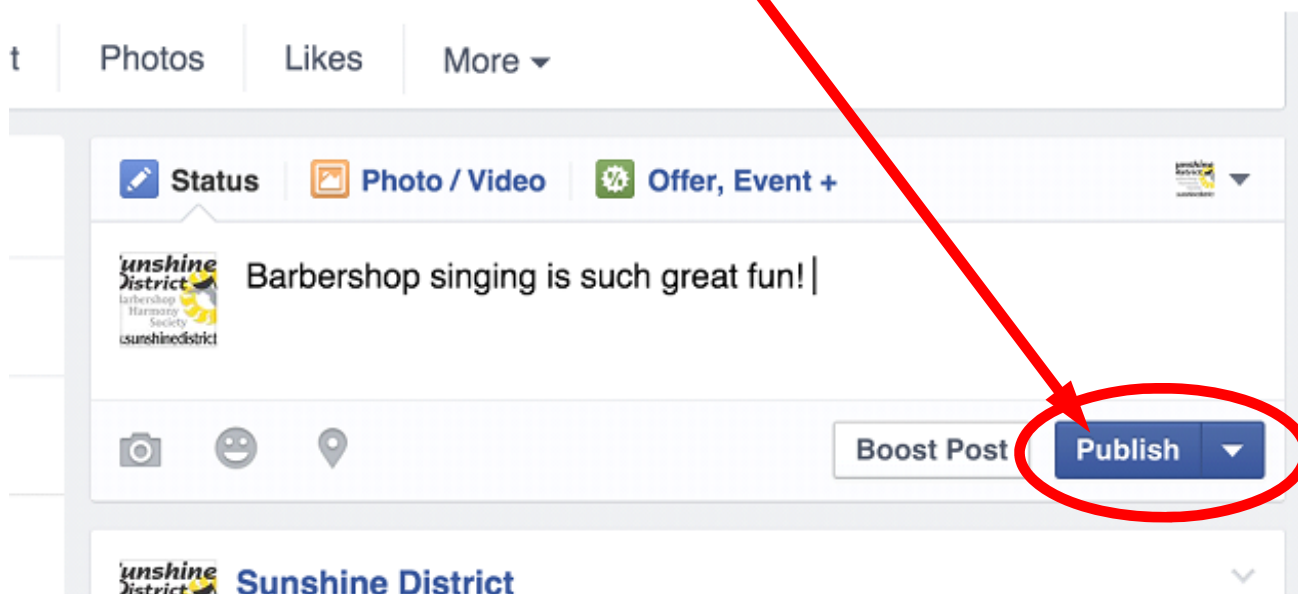
**NEXT SUNBURST DEADLINE**  
*NOVEMBER 15, 2015*



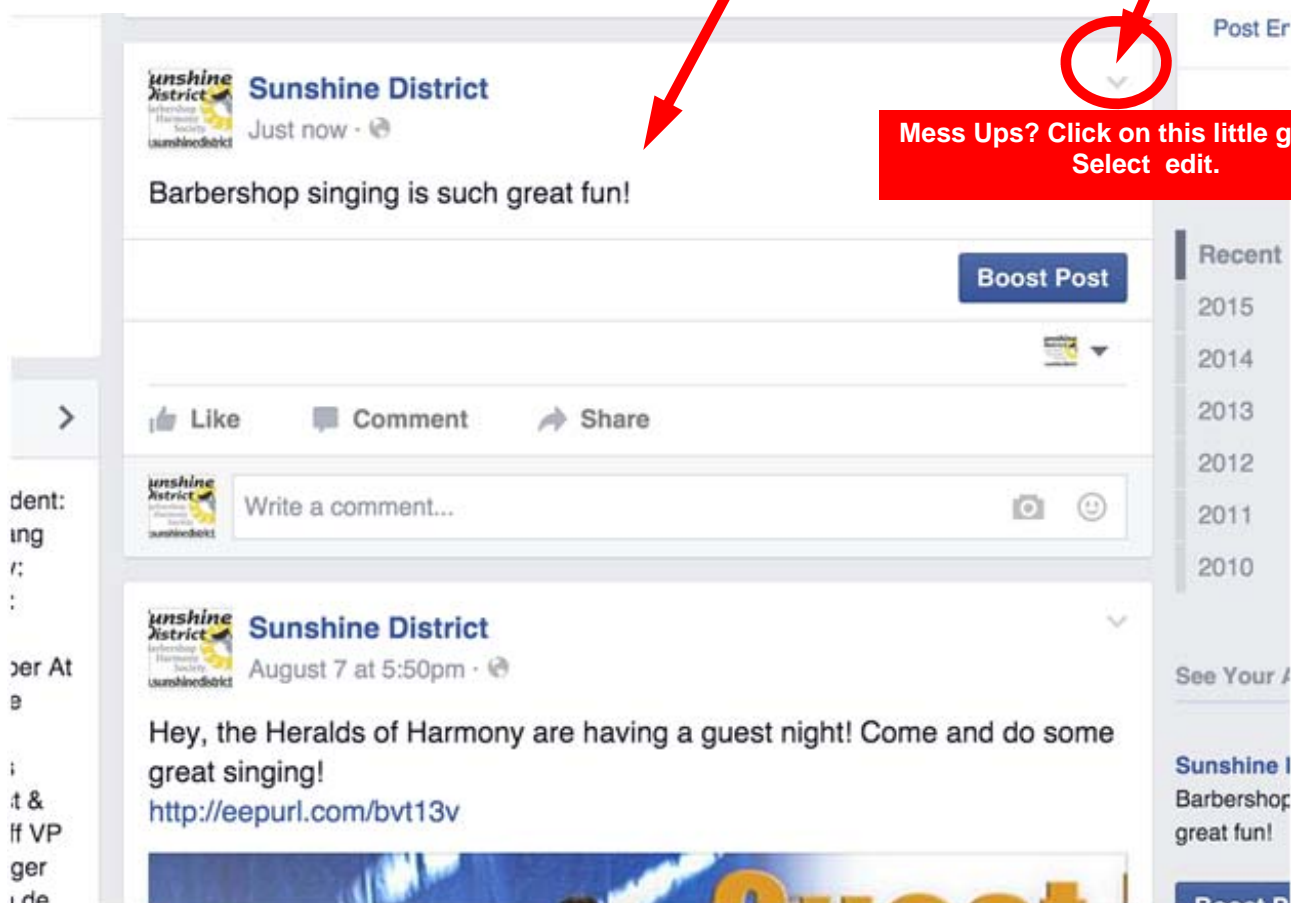
3. After you do so, the page should look something like this:



4. Look down the page a bit to the **“What have you been up to?”** section. Here you can make a general post, post a photo or video, etc. Here's my example. When you are done typing, click **“Publish”**



5. You should now see your post! **Look here:**  
If you mess your post up and want to fix it, click the little subtle down arrow.



6. Once you've submitted a post, picture or the like, a page administrator will review it, and then post it to the page. **PLEASE KEEP ALL OF YOUR POSTS, PHOTOGRAPHS, VIDEOS, ETC APPROPRIATE FOR ALL AUDIENCES, AND RELATIVE TO THE CRAFT OF BARBERSHOP SINGING!**

Thanks for reading! More to come in the next episode!

Steve Cragg,  
Sunshine District Social Media Team



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## The TIKI HUT by Scott Salladin, Chairman

It is now time to start thinking what you would like to see in the TIKI HUT that would be different from the past couple of years.

We will have all the new items in stock, like the New Polecat Song Book.

Tombo Pitch Pipes are only \$33.50 each.

New Quartet packets includes 4 copies of sheet music plus 1 learning CD.

New CDs have just been released.

New Manuals and many other new items are now in stock since the Spring Convention.

If you wish to order anything from the TIKI HUT, the Sunshine District will receive a 20% commission on all orders you place on line and all sales at the convention.

If you wish to make an order through the TIKI HUT, please send an email to: [scott.salladin@gmail.com](mailto:scott.salladin@gmail.com)

Looking forward to another great convention this fall. Stop by to say Hello or better yet buy something.

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

## NEXT SUNBURST DEADLINE *NOVEMBER 15, 2015*

### Sunburst Ad Prices

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