

VOLUME 51, ISSUE 2

APRIL - MAY 2020



# THE *Sunburst*



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNSHINE DISTRICT BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

*Stay safe.  
Stay calm.  
Stay home.  
Stay healthy.  
Sing!*

**SUNSHINEDISTRICT.ORG**

## President's Message

Chuck Steiner III  
Sunshine District President  
president@sunshinedistrict.org

Well, it's not how you wanted it to go. It's not how we wanted it to go. It's certainly not how I wanted it to go! But deciding to cancel the 2020 Spring Convention was in the best interest of the greater good. I wanted to give you all a timeline of what led to the decision because it's important that you all know that things like this are not taken lightly or made "on the fly."

For those that did not know, Sunshine was the first District Convention of the 2020 spring season, and in fact, the only convention slated for that weekend. As is the case with all conventions, planning and preparation take place behind the scenes for weeks and months prior and actual physical setup (load-in) starts on Thursday afternoon. It was that Thursday when the news cycle really started to heat up. Several Districts in areas that had seen a spike in COVID-19 cases (and deaths) had already canceled their regional conventions, and several other districts were still contemplating.

So, on Thursday afternoon, as our ballroom, sound, Livestream, risers, and personnel all started to come together, we were still under the impression that we could hold the Convention *with an abundance of caution, following CDC Guidelines in personal hygiene*. But again, the news kept getting more and more dire.

Then, some of our judges began having concerns about travel. After a late-evening phone call with our C&J VP, **Paul Agnew** and **Steve Armstrong**, the BHS C&J Chairman, we de-

cided that the edict would go out to judges that were slated to join us for the weekend; they could still come on and join, or watch the Livestream and judge from there. *We were still a "go" as of 11 p.m. Thursday.* **Marty Monson** and his team called me around that time to ask if they could help in any way. I told him that we'd worked out a workaround with the judges and that with all of the cancellations and expected no-shows, we could still have a contest. We got word back that we'd have four judges in the pit, two CA's, and the rest watching and judging from the webcast. And that's how I went to bed Thursday night.

Did not sleep a wink.



I knew that we could not hold a contest like that; it would be unfair to the competitors and audience not to have a full compliment of judges. *But more so, the health and well-being of our members was not something that your Board or I was willing to risk.* The news had picked up to a frenzied pace by early Friday morning.

*(continued on next page)*

## President's Message, con't.

Our Governor had started recommending that groups of 250+ not gather. Knowing all of this, the only thing we could and should have done was cancel the convention. Then, about two hours later, BHS announced that all district prelims would be canceled. It was the right move, and I am sorry it did not happen sooner. Some of you were already on the road. We got word as fast as humanly possible. We were in totally uncharted waters and did the best we could under extreme circumstances and a world changing around us by the minute. I must say "thank you" to those that offered guidance and kind words in understanding our predicament.

With a hurricane, you can simply postpone or reschedule a convention. This was an outright cancellation. Unprecedented, for sure! That is all I will say on that; I just wanted you all to know how many moving parts (some not even mentioned) that there were, and that your District leadership cares deeply about you, our members, competitors, and patrons.

In the coming weeks, C&J will devise a plan for quartet qualifications for Los Angeles... but even that is still an unknown. SUN Spring attendees were given a choice of a refund or to have their registrations moved to fall 2020. Again, if you've not let us know which you'd prefer, please email [events@sunshinedistrict.org](mailto:events@sunshinedistrict.org) and tell us: Refund or transfer to fall.

Moving on... for fall, it struck me that we have quite a few choruses that elect NOT to compete or attend conventions - ever. I'd like to put out a **challenge** to every chapter and chorus, whether you compete or not: send

at least one quartet to fall contest to compete. Men's Mixed, Women's, send 'em all! If your chapter has not been to a convention in a long time, come to the fall contest! The judging that you'll receive will only help you be a better collective organization as you are out representing our District out in your communities. Remember, this fall is our last one at the Orlando Marriott! Next spring, we'll be at our new location at World of Golf Marriott Renaissance Resort in St. Augustine.

**An update on the Marriott hotel:** Many of you, as was I, were upset that the Marriott charged for a night. That has been rectified now, and those that were charged should start receiving refunds for that night soon (if not already). Do say a prayer or send good vibes to our service workers, small business owners, first responders, and especially our medical personnel. They're all getting especially slammed by this, as you know.

**Labor Day Jamboree** is our next big event (I'll let you guess which weekend that is!). Look for headline talent and announcements/ticket sales coming soon!

**Until then, for now, as hard as it is, I strongly encourage all chapters to cancel any and all in-person activities. Please stay safe, protected, and check in on each other!**

There are social media platforms available for "virtual singing." There are resources out there on [www.barbershop.org](http://www.barbershop.org) and sent via the weekly Livewire Newsletter that can help you stay



*(continued on next page)*

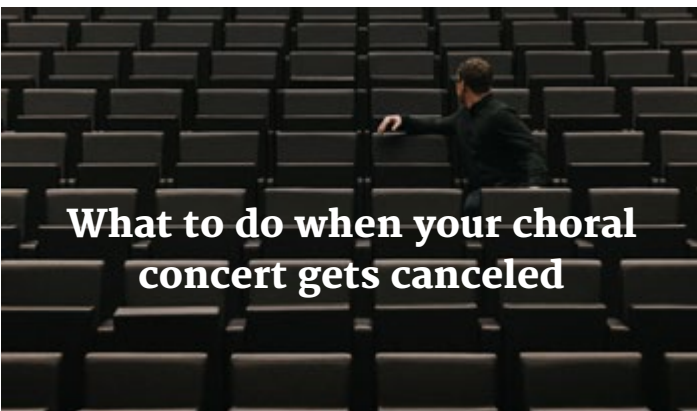
## President's Message, con't.

engaged as a singer. Maybe update your chapter records. Maybe participate in The Healthy Chapter Initiative? As a chapter, volunteer in your community delivering food or quartetting at a grocery store front to let people know that the BHS community is a part of them. Monitor the lines at your local Costco (ok no, scratch that; that could be more dangerous than the virus itself). But do try to be visible in your communities during this time (while practicing the recommended distancing).

### Read these:



<https://www.barbershop.org/spring-events-update-from-harmony-hall>



<https://blog.chorusconnection.com/what-to-do-when-your-choral-concert-gets-canceled>

### And watch this:



A Few Minutes with Marty | March 2020

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-4-zVJ-8D1c&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-4-zVJ-8D1c&feature=emb_logo)

We'll jam-pack everything that we missed out on in spring into our 2020 Fall Convention, including awards. We really, really need full participation. A packed house and a stacked lineup of quartets and choruses would be a great way to help us all recover and refresh ourselves into this hobby that we all love so much. So, if your chapter hasn't been to a convention for a while, or your quartet has been on the bubble deciding whether "now is the time?"- I'm telling 'ya- "NOW IS THE TIME."

Start making those plans!

Again, be safe, be kind, and keep singing!

Best to you all,

Chuck



# Chapter Happenings

## Englewood (Lemon Bay Chapter) and Venice Gondoliers Chapter Merge

As of Jan 6, Englewood started procedures to merge into the *Venice Gondoliers Chapter*. We were sorry to hear that the chapter was closing shop; but we are very pleased that their Board of Directors decided to merge with us in Venice. Now some members of Englewood will transfer to a more southern chapter due to distance to travel and Venice will share the rest. The sad note here is a few members have simply said they were through and do not wish to join up with either Venice or the southern chapter. We all feel bad about that. We do believe every voice counts.

Venice had a wonderful evening where we had the handful of Englewood transfers and on the same night had another five new guests join in with us. First time I have even held a voice placement test with three guests at the same time. WOW. What fun we had.

Venice is singing better and growing, and it all comes down to gaining more confidence in their singing ability. Better performances means new members.

Director Lee Frayer  
directorfrayer@gmail.com



## The Miamians Singing Valentines

by Steve E. Moody

Friday, February 14, a/k/a Valentine's Day, was a very happy day in south Florida for quite a number of people fortunate enough to have received a singing valentine delivered by one of the three quartets participating in the singing

valentines program from *The Miamians Chorus*. The day was filled with smiles and tears and, despite the health providers' warnings, lots of appreciative hugs.

Over 50 singing valentines were delivered and over \$2,000 was raised. Comments ranged from "Awesome!" to "This was the best Valentine's Day gift ever!" to "You won't believe what happened when I got home. Thank you so much!"

I was lucky to be singing with three guys who could, and did, sing very well and bought into the fact that our first delivery would be at 8 a.m. and our last at 9:30 p.m. A long day for sure, but what a pleasure to deliver the love, especially to those poor unfortunate souls who had never before heard the barbershop sound.

And what makes this program so great, just like the Music Medics program, is that the



## Chapter Happenings, Con't.

delivery boys get as much joy and satisfaction as the recipients. If you haven't participated, in all likelihood February 14th will come around again, so don't miss the opportunity to spread some happiness.

Wouldn't it be great if every day were Valentines Day? Well, no. I would pass out from exhaustion.



### Charlotte County Chapter Suncoast Statesmen

*Suncoast Statesmen Cancel Spring Show*

Port Charlotte, FL – 13 March 2020 – The *Suncoast Statesmen*, Charlotte County's premier a capella men's chorus, have announced the cancellation of their spring show, scheduled for 22 March 2020.

This decision was taken after full consultation with Barbershop Harmony District Staff, and an ongoing examination of contemporary news reports regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Purchasers of tickets may arrange for a full refund by contacting the person who sold them their tickets. As an alternative, purchasers may hold on to their tickets and use for next year's show.

Purchasers may also opt to forego a refund and contribute their ticket fee to the chorus to subsidize the many community outreach endeavors the chorus supports in our local community.

More information about the *Suncoast Statesmen* can be found at their website-- <https://suncoaststatesmen.com/>

For more information, contact:

John Williams, President  
941-637-7430  
[sailvie@aol.com](mailto:sailvie@aol.com)

Ray Danley, Director  
941-307-3157  
[ray.danley@yahoo.com](mailto:ray.danley@yahoo.com)

---

### 2020 BARBERSHOPPER OF THE YEAR

**Dr. Ray Danley** is the 2020 winner of the *Suncoast Statesmen* Barbershopper of the Year Award.

**Ray** has been directing our Chorus since 2015. A resident of Ontario with his wife, Vicki, he also directed a chorus at home, the *Gentlemen of Harmony* from 1958-1967 and again from 2001-2015. Several members of that chorus sing with the *Suncoast Statesmen* during the winter months, a tribute to their love and respect for Ray.

In 1976, **Ray** directed the *Dukes of Harmony* to a gold medal at the BHS International competition, the first chorus from outside the U.S.A. to do so. He holds five competition medals in total, two of which are gold.

**Ray** has been a member of the international Barbershop Harmony Society's Hall of Fame since 2018.

During his time with the *Suncoast Statesmen*, **Ray** has worked to boost membership, encouraged and coached novice and experienced singers alike, and brought joy to each and every member. He also conducts a series of *Learn to Sing!* sessions for all comers every January, aimed at enhancing the pleasures of singing with others.

Congratulations are extended from every member and friend of our chorus—this is a well-de-

## Chapter Happenings, Con't.

served honor!

### BOTY AWARD

Each year, the Barbershopper of the Year Award is awarded to a chapter member who has, during the previous year, most closely embodied the exceptional commitment and service by members of the *Suncoast Statesmen* to the ideals

of barbershop singing.

The award has been bestowed in our Chapter almost every year since 1990, when the first winner was Neil Plum, for whom our annual scholarship program is named.

All twenty-six winners of the award have demonstrated their dedication by exemplifying

our commitment to support community and charitable organizations, as well as senior citizens and schoolchildren in our District. Their names are listed on our website--- <https://suncoast-statesmen.com/about.html>

## Chapter Happenings & Events

*Stay safe, Stay distanced (for now), stay connected.*

Watch for event  
information on the  
District website!

<https://www.sunshinedistrict.org/calendar/>



**SUNSHINE DISTRICT  
FALL CONVENTION  
October 23-25**

**Orlando Airport Marriott Lakeside**

**CLICK!**

**2020 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
UPDATE**

<https://www.barbershop.org/la2020-convention-update>





# Singing on the Symphony

## Feb 6-13, 2021



**Join us for a  
fun filled week  
of a capella  
singing  
on the Symphony  
of the Seas**

**with**

**Tony De Rosa,  
Wildfire and  
VIVA!**



**855-627-8473  
cruisensing.com**



## ATLANTA VOCAL PROJECT

### Seeking A New Director

AVP is seeking a new director to lead us into the next phase of our journey. We've had much success over the past 15 years with 5 District Championships, 10 International Appearances including 5 Top-10 finishes and a robust local performance program. We have a strong commitment to excellence, a talented musical team, dedicated leadership, and a loyal following. We're looking for:

- An enthusiastic and proven musical leader with advance directing skills
- A team player who is a positive role model and people motivator with good planning skills
- A proven track record and barbershop experience

Our preferred candidate will be available on Thursday nights, able to lead us in contest and show prep, and available for paid performances through the year. This is a paid position including expense reimbursement.

Interested candidates should contact us at:

[directorsearch@AtlantaVocalProject.com](mailto:directorsearch@AtlantaVocalProject.com)

We anticipate having auditions in April and May with a start date in August of 2020.





# Save the Date: Jan 8, 9, & 10, 2021

## LeadAc/Harmony College 2021

Top Gun will Return in 2021! Get your quartets on board!  
Confirmed return of Chase Guyton and Mike Slamka as a coaches  
with more to follow.

Bringing back Directors track  
with Dr. Don Campbell, Dean of Directors College at HU.  
We are returning to The Rosen Plaza! Plan to make it a great  
weekend of learning, coaching, and great barbershop!



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

# Exec VP & VP of Events Message

**Bruce Checca**

*Sunshine District Exec VP / Events VP*

These days, it seems that there are both good and not so good things happening in the District!

Among the good:

- Contracts have been signed so that LeadAc is going to be at home in the Rosen Plaza in Orlando for the next three years!
- Male, Female and Mixed Quartets can now be competing for District awards!!
- The *Sunshine Statesmen* (the mens senior district chorus) competed at Midwinter in Jacksonville in January and came away with a "Superior" rating! Our intention is to continue with a Senior Chorus toward future Midwinter appearances! Look for more information about it in upcoming communications!

Unfortunately, there are also some not so good things:

- As you are probably already aware, our District convention was SUPPOSED TO BE the first up for the current contest season, but

was pre-empted by the COVID-19 outbreak minutes before it's scheduled start.

- At this point , ALL prelims around the Society have been canceled, and most chapters may decide to cancel meetings until the COVID-19 has run its course! We are still determining the effects of all this on the District, and will have more information as things settle down.

**STAY SAFE!**

- The Daytona Beach, Lakeland and Boca Raton Chapters voted to turn in their charters due to not having enough members to continue and are going through the process of dissolving. The Engelwood Chapter has decided to merge with the Venice Chapter, and has given up its charter.

If your chapter has questions about how the District could help with anything, please contact us! If we don't have an answer to your question, we certainly have contact with the people that do!



# VP of Communication & IT's Message

**Roger Smeds**

*Sunshine District VP for Communication & IT*

communications@sunshinedistrict.org

Well, it really was unfortunate that it was necessary to cancel the 2020 Spring Convention due to COVID-19 concerns. It was, of course, the correct decision under the circumstances. I certainly hope that you all stay safe and are following all the relevant information about how to stay that way. Please take the situation seriously and do your bit to help prevent the spread of this very infectious virus. It is shaping up to be a long haul. Consider spending some of the “extra” time you may have as a result of social distancing and restricting your normal activities to learn some new music.

We continue to support district communications needs via ConstantContact, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.

**Donell Torres** has been a great addition to our communications team and we have already seen a greater presence on our social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) as a result of his activities. He has actively promoted chapter activities and shows, and once the idea catches on, it will only grow as chapters and quartets send him information. So, when you return to more normal activities like regular meetings, shows, performances, etc., consider sending Donell information about your events to have them displayed on District social media. You can reach him at [social.media@sunshinedistrict.org](mailto:social.media@sunshinedistrict.org). Donell has also agreed to take over the production of a promotional video from pictures and video collected at the conventions, LDJ, LeadAC, etc. Just send along anything you have to him at the above email.

The project to update our District quartet search/listing process with additional fields to support “Everyone In Harmony” is com-

plete. With the advent of “official” mixed quartets and women’s quartets, as well as men’s quartets, the search process on our “Find a Quartet” page of the website now includes information on category of quartet (Male, Female, Mixed). You can include the category as a search specification. A contact zip code field has been added as well so that you will be able to search for quartets in a specific area by entering all or part of a zip code.

We have now automated the process of updating our district active quartet listing on the district website by uploading a downloaded file (csv) from the BHS Member Center listing. It has made the update process very quick and easy and it is more likely to be in sync with BHS listings.

**Hope you continue to do your online shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)!** As of February 2020, our district has received \$309.09 from our members supporting us on [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Not a lot maybe, but it is money the District would not have received otherwise to help support our programs. If all of our membership who shop online at Amazon sign up, it could be a lot more. It is easy to sign up and there is always a link on the home page of our district website that will take you to the right place to sign up. Please consider doing so, if you haven’t already. Every little bit helps!

Support  
Barbershop while  
you Shop!





## Foundation Corner

**Arne Themmen**

*Sunshine District VP of Harmony Foundation*

harmonyfoundation@sunshinedistrict.org

The chapter challenge has started for 2020. Sunshine is off to a great start with 12 chapters in the top 100 out of 633 chapters nationwide. Let's get together and make a great showing. The goal is to participate; the amount is not important. Everyone in Florida should make a donation of at least \$10 and continue our leadership status.

Currently we have two chapters that have no participation, but we're confident that Panama

City and Palm Harbor will step up and join their brethren in support of the Harmony Foundation.

Remember, utilizing Donor Choice, up to 30% of your gift can go to the chapter or district you designate in the proportion you select. It's so easy, just go to [HarmonyFoundation.org](https://HarmonyFoundation.org) and click on donate.



# VP Chorus Development

**Jack Klotzbach**

**Sunshine District VP of Chorus Director Development**

cdd@sunshinedistrict.org

Hello Sunshine District! As the new VP for Director Development, I am excited about learning about our chapter chorus directors and what I can do for them. We are planning to hold some Chorus Director's Workshop Intensive (CDWI) during 2020. CDWI provides the best opportunity for personalized coaching on things that YOU want to work on. If you are interested, participating, or willing to host a workshop please contact me. jackklotzbach@gmail.com



## Director's College Scholarships

Harmony U is held at Belmont University in Nashville, TN, and scholarships for Director's College are available! Are you a front-line director who is interested in the best continuing education experience available from the Society? Are you an assistant director who wants to hone your skills for that future front-line director's job? If so, Director's College is the experience for you! ...and Scholarships are available! Director's College scholarships are

available to first-time attendees and returning attendees who have not received a Harmony Foundation funded scholarship in the past five years. Front-line directors receive top priority, but assistant directors, section leaders and others who stand in front of the chorus are also eligible if scholarships remain available.

To apply, you must:

- Be a BHS member, associate or affiliate.
- Be a front-line director, assistant director, or aspiring director of a BHS chorus.
- Commit to becoming a Certified Director
- Have not received a scholarship within the last five years.
- Can commit to the dates of Director's College July 26 - August 2, 2020
- Submit your application online at <https://www.barbershop.org/events/harmony-university/scholarships#directors> until May 2020 .
- Your application requires a reference letter. The best reference for your scholarship is your DVP-CDD. That's me! So, contact me before submitting your application, so I can help!

*Director's College Scholarships*  
*Click to Apply*

# VP Music and Performance

**Steve Culpepper**

***Sunshine District VP of Music and Performance***

music@sunshinedistrict.org

We are in the process of revamping the coaches guild. If you want to stay in the guild, please send a short bio to me ( music@sunshinedistrict.org ) or Roger Smeads ( communications@sunshinedistrict.org ). If you are interested in joining the guild, please let one of us know with a short bio. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours in song,  
Steve Culpepper



## Sunshine District Management Team

President

**Chuck Steiner**

president@sunshinedistrict.org

Secretary

**Brian Wunderlin**

secretary@sunshinedistrict.org

VP Events

**Bruce Checca**

events@sunshinedistrict.org

VP CSLT

**Shannon Czwalga**

cslt@sunshinedistrict.org

VP Music & Performance

**Steve Culpepper**

music@sunshinedistrict.org

Immediate Past President

**Nick Schwob**

ipp@sunshinedistrict.org

Treasurer

**Dave Kannberg**

treasurer@sunshinedistrict.org

VP Communication & IT

**Roger Smeds**

communications@sunshinedistrict.org

VP Youth in Harmony

**Steve Cragg**

studentactivities@sunshinedistrict.org

Executive Vice President

**Bruce Checca**

evp@sunshinedistrict.org

Member-at-Large

**Jack Klotzbach**

atlarge1@sunshinedistrict.org

Member-at-Large

**Howdy Russell**

atlarge2@sunshinedistrict.org

VP Harmony Foundation

**Arne Themmen**

harmonyfoundation@sunshinedistrict.org

VP Contest & Judging

**Paul Agnew**

contestjudging@sunshinedistrict.org

VP Chapter Development-South  
District

**Les Mower**

membership@sunshinedistrict.org

VP Chapter Development-North  
District

**Les Mower**

membership@sunshinedistrict.org

Social Media Chairman

**Donell Toerres**

social.media@sunshinedistrict.org

Sunburst Editor

**Roxanne Clapp**

editor@sunshinedistrict.org







**Support  
Harmony  
Explosion Camp!**  
**Click here to  
donate.**

Please send photos, articles, and other interesting tidbits for inclusion in future publications of

*The Sunburst.*

Send to [Editor@sunshinedistrict.org](mailto:Editor@sunshinedistrict.org)

Support  
Barbershop while  
you Shop!

**amazon.com**  
**Smile**  
You shop. Amazon gives.



# Next Sunburst Deadline June 15, 2020 (for July publication)



Deadlines: Mar 15 • Jun 15 • Sept 15 • Dec 15

## SUNBURST ADVERTISING INFORMATION

District Member Rates			Corporate rates
Ad Size/Dimensions . . . . .	Rate per issue . . .	Annual rate (4 issues)	Per issue/Annual
Business Card (2" x 3.5") . . . . .	\$15 . . . . .	\$50	\$25/\$85
1/8 Page (3.75"w x 2.3125"h) . . . . .	\$25 . . . . .	\$85	\$50/\$170
1/4 Page (3.75"w x 4.875"h) . . . . .	\$50 . . . . .	\$170	\$75/\$250
1/2 Page (7.75"w x 4.875"h) . . . . .	\$75 . . . . .	\$250	\$125/\$425
Full Page (7.75"w x 10"h) . . . . .	\$125 . . . . .	\$425	\$225/\$800

Send material to [Editor@sunshinedistrict.org](mailto:Editor@sunshinedistrict.org)

Send payment to:

Sunshine District

Attn: Dave Kannberg

13948 Sheffield Court, Wellington, FL 33414

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 personal changes to District staff or *The Sunburst* Editor.