

# THE Sunburst



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNSHINE DISTRICT BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

## Spring Convention Cancelled.



Sarasota Chorus of the Keys



The Capital Chordsmen



Hernando Harmonizer Chorus



The Heralds of Harmony

**Check out Chapter News Inside.**

**Start Planning for Fall!**

# President's Message

**Chuck Steiner III**  
*Sunshine District President*  
president@sunshinedistrict.org

## Hello Sunshine District,

We continue to feel the lingering effects of Covid throughout our District. It saddens me greatly to see another SUN Convention have to be cancelled. The decision was not easy- they never are- but after surveying choruses that usually attend Conventions, it became painfully clear that we would have very few attendees, thereby making it impossible to hold a Convention. The Events Team is looking for an alternate qualification site for our SUN quartets, but again, few have indicated that they are anywhere ready to compete, and most have not been singing. As of now, Labor Day Jamboree and Fall Convention are still on, and it is my sincere hope that every Chapter make it a priority to attend in Fall.

Make it a Chapter goal. We need you!

More to come on Fall Contest from Events/C&J as we have two years' worth of catching up to do.

Not going to lie, never would- but this is a pivotal year for the Society, and for the Sunshine District.

There must be some changes in SUN Convention format, schedule, venue, and housing. The old model worked so well when we had 1,200 members in the District. We don't have that anymore (not to say that some will return when Events return). We are certainly not alone as other Districts are in the same boat. We are a bit different due to our demographics and many Chapter's dependency on snowbirds that are still sparse, and we are just a bit crazier and definitely more fun than other Districts, but I would never type that! Hopefully they'll return.

In the meantime, the Events Team is actively looking for a Central Florida city/county for future convention sites. We are looking for a mid-sized performance hall with hotels nearby. We are connecting with Convention and Visitors Bureaus, but if you know of or have a connection with a nice theater or concert hall in your area that is near hotels, please let the Events Team know!

## On to happier things...

I'd like to give a HUGE "kudos" to **Jack Klotzbach** for single-handedly putting on our 2022 LeadAc in Orlando. Jack jumped through hoops as we had several facilitators drop the week of LeadAc due to Covid or exposure to it. Jack played "Jack of all trades" and taught several classes himself, had group sessions, and made the best out of it. Thank you, Jack!

**EVP Bruce Checca, IPP Nick Schwob** and I regularly attend remote/Zoom District Presidents Council meetings, and will do so again in Charlotte for our first in-person meeting since 2019 in Salt Lake City.

That's it for now. Wishing you all the very best- please don't hesitate to contact a Board Member if you need anything. Your 2022 Officers are here:

District President: Chuck Steiner

Immediate Past President: Nick Schwob

Executive Vice President: Bruce Checca

Secretary: Brian Wunderlin

Treasurer: Dave Kannberg

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## President's Message, con't.

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VP of Youth in Harmony: Steve Cragg

Yours In Harmony,  
Chuck Steiner III  
President- SUN



## Exec VP & VP of Events Message

**Bruce Checca**  
*Sunshine District Executive Vice President*

Dear Sunshine Members,

The Sunshine District was faced with yet another tough situation with our convention this Spring.

We contacted our District Chapters and Quartets to check on their status given the ongoing pandemic. Results overwhelmingly indicated scant interest in attending due to Covid-19. Based on these circumstances, it is impossible to hold our Spring Convention.

We realize this creates an issue for quartets looking to qualify for International and alternate options are being explored. Unfortunately, BHS and SCJC are not allowing video submissions and SUN quartets may need to compete in another District.

In Harmony,  
SUN Events Team

# VP of Communication & IT's Message

**Roger Smeds**

*Sunshine District VP for Communication & IT*

communications@sunshinedistrict.org

Who would have thought that we would still be dealing with COVID-19 issues in 2022! The good news is that more chapters are slowly starting to return to in person rehearsals. If yours hasn't, try to exercise a bit of patience and they probably will.

It is most unfortunate that the district has had to cancel the Spring Convention, but our survey of chapters and quartets indicated that there were just not enough people who were comfortable returning to large, in person events. Fingers crossed that we will be out of this situation by the Fall Convention so we can return to more normal activities!

In the mean time, do what you can to keep your voice in shape and the communications team will keep you informed of activities as they unfold. If you look at our district calendar, you will see a few chapters scheduling chapter shows in 2022. I'm sure there will be more to come.

Hope you continue to do your Amazon shopping at smile.amazon.com! As of November 2021, the district has received



\$552.74 from our members supporting us on 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 the 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!

Roger Smeds  
VP for Communication & IT  
Sunshine District  
communications@sunshinedistrict.org



## Chris Rodgers

*VP District Financial Development*

harmonyfoundation@sunshinedistrict.org

Currently, we have two main fundraising efforts for barbershop – the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) and the Harmony Foundation International (HFI). Both are funding different efforts within the barbershop community.

### **BHS Fundraising Efforts**

Several programs are now being funded directly by BHS fundraising efforts. BHS is currently focusing on fundraising efforts through their Donate page (<https://www.barbershop.org/donate>). When you donate, you can choose to direct your donation to one of the following funds/projects:

- ♪ Unrestricted – BHS Mission
- ♪ Energize Young Singers
- ♪ Next Generation Barbershop 2022
- ♪ Build Thriving Singing Communities
- ♪ Preserve Barbershop
- ♪ Support Music Education

If you feel passionately about one of the specific funds/projects, then you can select that option. Otherwise, if you select the Unrestricted option, then BHS can apply the money to the greatest need within BHS and its projects.

In addition to specifying what fund or project you want to support, you can direct up to 85% of your donation right back to a specific chapter, district, or brigade. This is a great way to help your local group directly and have it all counted toward your giving level within BHS.

BHS has introduced new Donor Recognition Levels. More information on the recognition levels is available on the Donate page. Silver Level (\$1,000–\$4,999) and above will include VIP seating at international conventions. This is separate from any giving to HFI.

### **HFI Fundraising Efforts**

HFI continues to raise funds for grants in the barbershop and singing community. The HFI main website (<https://www.harmonyfoundation.org/>) has links to various programs and ways to give as well as donor recognition levels.

With the Donor's Choice Program – Designate up to 30 percent total back to a District, Chapter and/or Brigade by simply entering the percentage breakdown along with the District, Chapter, and/or Brigade names.

The District Direct program is the portion of a donor's President's Council, Ambassador of Song or Key Voices Annual Gift to Harmony Foundation which is automatically allocated back to their home BHS District to support District Programs. District Direct funding disbursements will be scheduled for use to support pre-planned/scheduled programs or events by District. The Sunshine district currently uses these funds to help support Labor Day Jamboree and District Youth Ensemble projects.

Check out HFI's web site for more information on their mission, programs, grants, etc.



# Chapter Fundraising Through BHS

**Chris Rodgers**

*VP District Financial Development*

harmonyfoundation@sunshinedistrict.org

Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) has introduced a new way to help chapters, choruses and districts to do fundraising with a custom fundraising platform (web site).

Want to boost your fundraising at your live or virtual holiday show?

Would you like assistance raising funds?

BHS can help!

Let the BHS team get your chapter set up with all the technology and planning tools needed for a successful fundraising campaign. You will receive:

- ♪ Custom fundraising website that is yours for all activities and events.
- ♪ Training and support to maximize your fundraising activities
- ♪ Revenue deposited monthly to your chapter, chorus, or district.

Here are a few fundraising pages that BHS has already built for some chapters:

[Ambassadors of Harmony](#)

[Hartford Men In Harmony](#)

[Southern Gateway Chorus](#)

[Vocal Revolution](#)

[13th Colony Sound](#)

[PDX Voices](#)

BHS will take care of the building, hosting, and money collection costs for a flat 15%. That means that 85% of all donations are deposited to your account along with a detailed report of donors and (full) amounts for your financial records.

Email [development@barbershop.org](mailto:development@barbershop.org) to get started today.



## VP of Music and Presentation Message

**Steve Culpepper**

*Sunshine District VP of Music and Presentation*

We are looking at bringing back the Standing Ovation program for critiquing chapter shows. We are still working on updating the coaches guild. So if your interested in helping coach or

being coached let us know. We would also like to know if your Quartet and choruses are active. Keep your fingers crossed. Hope 2022 will be a great year for you!

# Chapter Happenings

## Venice Gondoliers Show Chorus

by: Lee Frayer, Director

Were singing live and loving it. Also planning on an annual show for Saturday March 19th and a mini show on March 20th. But it's not been easy. Back in 2019 we were ready to put on our show with some 30 members. At this point we will be lucky to do it with 22 members. We even worked out a package with our guest quartet where (**Dewey, Singum, & Howe**) is going to sing with the chorus as well as being our feature guest quartet. Great bunch of guys.

We are very fortunate also with having the Venetian Harmony Sweet Adeline Chorus and their popular quartet "String of Pearls" doing their part on the show.

So we are trying our best to get things back to normal and to put on a very entertaining show. Covid has been showing it's ugly head several times but we are working through it. **Director Lee Frayer** had to miss one rehearsal because of a fear of covid and the chorus still worked on their own with singing to the learning tracks in his absence.

It's not really back to normal but it getting better. It sure beats those over 70 sessions of zoom we put up with. We did average approx. 15 to 18 member each week while on zoom.

Also had a great time promoting a Christmas song Sing along Party with our spouses and special guest.



## Hernando Harmonizer Chorus

by: Ron Hesketh, VP Marketing & PR for 2022

The *Hernando Harmonizer Chorus* (Hernando County chapter, Spring Hill) is alive and well. We hired a new director in late 2020. His name is **Bob McFadden**. He is a certified singing judge for the Society and has really improved our chorus sound. We resumed in-person rehearsals in April, 2021 & we rehearsed all summer for our annual show, which turned out to be a practical sellout. It was titled "We Remember Radio". All of the chorus dressed in 1940's garb and performed radio type acts including jingles, such as Ajax, Barbasol, Chiquita Banana, Texaco and many more. We even had a Frick & Frack comedy skit that drove the audience wild as well as a soap opera called "Stella Faces Life."



The chorus is anxiously awaiting the spring contest, COVID permitting. Our "Love" theme should be an interesting production. As a final plus, the chorus now includes six ladies. We are currently planning our next fall show with the theme of "The Great American Songbook" to include music since the 50's.



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## The Paradise Coastmen

by Gray Poehler, VP Marketing & Public Relations

The Naples/Ft. Myers Chapter has hired **Mike Slamka** as the director of its “Paradise Coastmen Chorus”.

Mike is the two-time gold medal lead of the 2003 **Power Play** and 2009 **Crossroads Quartets**, and former director of the Sweet Adeline International Award Winning *Spirit*



*of the Gulf Chorus* in Ft. Myers, Florida. Mike’s motivation for accepting the position is that he has missed the fellowship and camaraderie which local chapter membership affords and his desire to give back and help our chapter and chorus become the best that it can be. The chapter also recently hired young **Jackson Rine**, a music major at Florida Gulf Coast University, as its assistant director. With the addition of these two fine musical leaders, we look forward to a bright future.

## More from The Paradise Coastmen

by John Kaspar, Sunshine Chairman



The Paradise Coastmen send you greetings from beautiful Naples, Florida! We have been busy



representatives of the Barbershop Harmony Society as fundraisers for The Salvation Army of Collier and Lee Counties and as good-will ambassadors for the BHS during a recent appearance of the magnificent, world-renowned Budweiser Clydesdales as they visited our city.

Several ensembles and volunteer elves visited numerous restaurants in downtown Naples over a pre-Christmas weekend and entertained diners with Jingle Bells, Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer and We Wish You a Merry Christmas! Along with personal donations from our members, we raised over \$8000 in support of the incredible work the Salvation Army does for the residents and underserved members of the southwest Florida community. Our 14th Annual Sing For Salvation program was hugely successful, and we’re already looking forward to our next effort this coming December. Their need is so great, and we truly cherish the opportunity to partner with them !

Our president, **Doctor Bill Hutchins**, is a great advocate of mentoring the youth of our area. He and other chorus members coach and support music students from Florida Gulf Coast University as they embrace, master and perform our cherished barbershop music.

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The wonderful college student singers of the **Pitchikers** quartet brought Christmas cheer to hundreds of enthusiastic listeners at the Bayfront Shops of Naples plaza during a recent appearance of the Clydesdales. The quartet sounded fantastic, but the horses? Despite the students' best coaching efforts, the Clydesdales failed Vowel Locking 101 and Basic Diphthong Turning! But the good news?? These spirited young barbershop singers shared their

harmony and spread good will to all. We can be confident that through efforts of youth such as the **Pitchikers**, our Barbershop Harmony Society will continue to grow and flourish!

We southwest Florida members of The Paradise Coastmen, along with our esteemed two-time gold-medalist director, **Mike Slamka**, wish you and your loved ones a very Blessed and Happy New Year!



## Sarasota Chorus of the Keys

by Roger Murphy, VP Marketing

The Sarasota Chorus of the Keys recently awarded a Sheridan E. Brown Memorial Scholarship for 2021. Chorus President **Ken Rear** announced that the scholarship, totaling \$2000, was awarded to **Tyndale McCoy**, who graduated from Pine View High School in Sarasota, where he played trumpet in the Wind Ensemble and the Jazz Band. Tyndale is currently attending Florida State University. The Chorus has been awarding college scholarships to deserving high school students for more than 20 years.



Sarasota Chorus of the Keys  
February 22nd Annual Show Chorus photograph

More information about the Chorus is available at: [www.chorusofthekeys.org](http://www.chorusofthekeys.org).

## Tampa Chapter

### Heralds of Harmony

On December 12, 2021 the *Heralds of Harmony* sang the national anthem at the home game between the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Buffalo Bills. This is the second time that the *Heralds* have recently performed the Star Spangled Banner at Raymond James Stadium, but the first time in front of a sold out crowd.



Heralds during sound check at Bucs game December 12, 2021.

The *Heralds* continue to have “hybrid” rehearsals where members can either attend in person or join in a live Zoom call. These rehearsals were an important part of preparing for two joint shows with the *Toast of Tampa Show Chorus* to sold-out audiences on December 19th and January 23rd.

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# The Capital Chordsmen

by Kenneth Schroeder

The Capital Chordsmen Are Back Singing



The Capital Chordsmen emerged from the dark days of COVID with renewed vigor and dedication.

The 2021 Holiday season proved especially difficult, with a really challenging performance schedule with five full chorus concerts, and two quartet presentations in a two week period, culminating in a well-attended holiday party and New Officer installation ceremony.

The chorus rehearsed for months without a director, but in October selected **Norman Young** from a list of well-qualified candidates. Members have taken on a full-time, all hands on deck, take no prisoners mode to train Norm. (We are really excited with his progress.) At the same time, the chorus created and filled an assistant director position with **Elizabeth Uchimura**.



Elizabeth Uchimura,  
Assistant Director



Norman Young, Director

During the height of COVID, The City of Tallahassee shut down our rehearsal site. We met on Zoom during our regular rehearsal times to keep in touch. Luckily, the Salvation Army was gracious to let us use their facility, resulting in only a few weeks without any singing. As members became more comfortable, our numbers continue to return to near normal, even picking up a few new singers helping to balance for those who have as yet to return.

We're really excited about the future as we are leaning hard into both Valentine Serenades, and prepping for our annual show on June 11th, with a tribute to the Beach Boys Barbershop and a salute to the surfing sounds.



## ABOUT US

The Capital Chordsmen, a.k.a. Tallahassee Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, is a non-profit organization dedicated to singing and preserving the barbershop style of music. The organization consists of The Capital Chordsmen, currently singing as a mixed chorus. (The Barbershop Ladies of Tallahassee are currently in a re-organization hiatus). The men and ladies sing as individual groups, as mixed groups, and as individual quartets. They continue to entertain, surprise, and delight audiences throughout the local 7 county area with their Gospel and Inspirational concerts, Valentine's Serenades, Christmas concerts, private and community service performances.

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Interested in joining us? Just show up at any rehearsal at the Tallahassee Senior Center, 2nd floor auditorium at 7:00 p.m. any Thursday evening. For additional information, send us an

e-mail: [info@capitalchordsmen.org](mailto:info@capitalchordsmen.org) or phone or text: 850-570-3148

Keep the Whole World Singing



## Gulf Coast Harmonizers

by Charlie Sears, Chapter President

The Gulf Coast Harmonizers of Lee County are back rehearsing since June with good success.

Along with getting back to singing, we would like to introduce our new Director Nathan Johnston brought in under Immediate Past President Saurin Shah.



Nathan Johnston, Director Gulf Coast Harmonizers

We are very excited to work with Nathan as we go forward.

Nathan has been a member of the BHS since 2011. Nathan began singing barbershop with the *Ambassadors of Harmony* while attending the University of Missouri St. Louis. He earned a gold medal with The Ambassadors in 2012. Nathan sings baritone in the current

international bronze medal quartet **Quorum**. During his time in college, he also received two bronze medals in collegiate quartets. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education, & a Certification in Audio Engineering. Nathan also currently sings with his wife & close friends in a mixed quartet called **Double Date**. **Double Date** won two BinG! World Mixed championships in 2014 & 2016. Nathan and his wife Michaela are also owners of Johnston Music producing learning tracks, audio, and video production. He currently lives in Florida, where he lives with his wife Michaela, their son, Miles, & their dog, Tag.

We hope everyone is staying safe so we can "Keep the Whole World Singing"!



# THE CHORUS OF THE KEYS

*proudly presents*



## *Together... Again*

*The Sarasota Chorus of the Keys proudly presents our 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Show featuring the best in Acapella four-part harmony... "barbershop style". We will be "TOGETHER AGAIN" to entertain you with songs that rekindle fond memories of good times and joyful moments, along with spontaneous laughter and happy expectations for the future.*

**Saturday, Feb. 26th, 2022**

**Two Performances: 2:30 and 7:00 p.m.**  
Riverview Performing Arts Center, Sarasota



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**By Phone at: (941) 224-0314**

# Sunshine District Management Team



President

**Chuck Steiner**

president@sunshinedistrict.org

Immediate Past President

**Nick Schwob**

ipp@sunshinedistrict.org

Executive Vice President

**Bruce Checca**

evp@sunshinedistrict.org

Secretary

**Brian Wunderlin**

secretary@sunshinedistrict.org

Treasurer

**Dave Kannberg**

treasurer@sunshinedistrict.org

Board Member-at-Large

**Howland (Howdy) Russell**

atlarge1@sunshinedistrict.org

Board Member-at-Large

**Saurin Shah**

atlarge2@sunshinedistrict.org

Board Member-at-Large

**Dan Brinkmann**

atlarge3@sunshinedistrict.org

VP of Funding

**Chris Rodgers**

harmonyfoundation@sunshinedistrict.org

VP of Events

**Bob Thau**

events@sunshinedistrict.org

VP of Chorus Director Development

**Jack Klotzback**

cdd@sunshinedistrict.org

VP of Contest & Judging

**Paul Agnew**

contestjudging@sunshinedistrict.org

VP of Communications & Information Technology

**Roger Smeds**

communications@sunshinedistrict.org

VP of CSLT/Education

**Jack Klotzback**

leadac@sunshinedistrict.org

VP of Membership Development

**Stephen Goldman**

membership@sunshinedistrict.org

VP of Music & Performance

**Steve Culpepper**

music@sunshinedistrict.org

VP of Youth in Harmony

**Steve Cragg**

studentactivities@sunshinedistrict.org



**District Committee Chairs  
& Convention Committee Members**

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

Sunburst Editor

**Roxanne Clapp**

editor@sunshinedistrict.org



# Sunshine District

Barbershop  
Harmony  
Society



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

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



## Next Sunburst Deadline To Be Announced



### SUNBURST ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Ad Size/Dimensions . . . . .	District Member Rates		Corporate rates Per issue/Annual
	Rate per issue . . .	Annual rate (4 issues)	
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.



The Sunshine District wants to ensure our performances and programming are accessible to everyone. Should you require a special accommodation, please contact us, and we will be happy to help you.