

VOLUME 53, ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER 2022

# THE Sunburst



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNSHINE DISTRICT BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY



**SMASH HIT** winner of the Grapefruit League Novice Quartet Contest at LDJ got to sing on the Saturday night Sunshine Show!

*L-R Lee Markham, Gabe Maldonado, Asher Carlson, Jordan James*

*See more LDJ Photos on Pages 12-14*

# See you at the Fall Convention!

*See Page 4 for more details and registration information*

**SUNSHINEDISTRICT.ORG**

# President's Message

Chuck Steiner III  
Sunshine District President  
president@sunshinedistrict.org

## Hello Sunshine,

Well, it's been a long time since we've been together, but we are SO excited to be holding our Fall Convention on October 21-22! We have not had a convention since fall 2019, so this fall will be pivotal to get the District back up and running. We will be at World Golf Village Renaissance St. Augustine Resort and Conference Center this time, and cannot wait for you to see the property. The address is 500 South Legacy Trail, St. Augustine, Florida USA 32092, right off I-95 near St. Augustine. Your SUN Events Team is working very hard to make this convention a success and get us all back in the saddle, so to speak. All quartets and choruses are all encouraged to come sing. We will have a contest with judges as this is an international prelim for choruses going to Louisville in 2023; but if your group just wants to come and sing for fun, c'mon and do it on the District stage! This will be a "fall festival with a contest inserted" for those competing for score, and for those just singing for fun. We want as many groups to participate on stage as possible and to participate in your own way. So come sing a set for the best audience in Barbershop! Hope to see you all there! Register and book your hotel room using the links at [www.sunshinedistrict.org](http://www.sunshinedistrict.org)

The state of the District is 'alive, but depleted.' Our membership numbers are down due to several factors, but we hope by ramping up events/conventions, folks will renew memberships and new members will join us as we expand our contest stage to all singers. We are also actively looking for new venues for our conventions in 2023, so if you know of a performing arts center or school of the arts

that has a theater in the central part of the state (including the coasts), please reach out to the Events Team or Board Members and let us know about it.

The Sunshine District was represented at International in Charlotte by **Throwback**, who brought home 3rd place bronze quartet medals with a score of 8283 or a 92.0% average. In the chorus competition, the *Tampa Bay Herald of Harmony* finished in an impressive 7th place with a score of 2676 or an 89.2% average. Also representing Sunshine District was the Sunrise chapter *THX*, who came in 35th place with a score of 2253 or a 75.1% average.

We also had a hugely successful sold-out Labor Day Jamboree at OMNI ORLANDO RESORT AT CHAMPIONSGATE drawing close to 300 people and showcased the best in barbershop with two shows! Sunshine's signature event came back after a two-year hiatus with a massive lineup of talent and attendees from all over the country. Well done Chad Bennett and the whole LDJ Team!

Upcoming after Fall Convention will be **LeadAc** and **SUN Harmony College** in January 2023. **BHS Midwinter Convention** will be held February 2023 in Daytona Beach, and then our **SUN Spring Convention** will be held March 31-April 2, 2023. Lots to look forward to!

Thanks so much for your continued support of SUN, your participation, and for reading.

In harmony,  
Chuck Steiner, SUN President

*continued on next page*



## VP Music and Performance Message

**Steve Culpepper**

*Sunshine District VP of Music and Performance*

Sunshine is back, please come to the convention in October. We need every quartet and chorus to come and compete and show the

BHS that Sunshine is back. It was great seeing you at the World of Golf in St Augustine for LDJ.



## VP Events Message

**Bob Thau**

*VP of Events*

events@sunshinedistrict.org

Save the date: October 21- 22, 2022. The Sunshine District will be holding the Fall Convention at the World Golf Village Renaissance in St Augustine FL.

Since we are at the famous Golf Village, we are trying to set up a golf outing for those interested. I will need to know how many foursomes are going to participate so we can get special pricing and tee times on Friday morning.

Something new that we would like to offer is a buffet on Saturday evening with the cost

between \$18 - \$20 per person depending on the interest. Bruce is checking to see if we can add this to the Eventbrite website.

The afterglow will be in Ballroom C and with value added snacks.

Come on out and help celebrate the start-up of the Sunshine District. See you in October at the convention.

Sunshine District Fall Convention  
Registration and Hotel Reservation links are now LIVE!

# Sunshine District Fall 2022 Convention

at the World of Golf Village, Renaissance  
500 South Legacy Trail, St. Augustine, FL 32092  
October 21 – 23, 2022

Come one, come all – to the Sunshine District's 2022 Fall Festival & Convention. We can't wait to finally get back together for singing, fellowship and catching up after such a long break.

Note: All competitors must have an All Events Ticket and be a member in good standing of BHS and SUN to be on stage. See you in St. Augustine!

You can find all the current information about the convention by visiting the District website at: <https://sunshinedistrict.org>

Book your hotel room(s) at the convention rate of \$124 per night by clicking the button below.

Convention rates are only available until  
September 29, 2022  
so book NOW!

[Book your hotel reservations NOW!](#)

Book your 2022 Fall Convention **registrations** by clicking the button below.

Early-Bird All Event registrations at \$40  
are available through  
October 14, 2022  
so register NOW!

After October 14, 2022, registration fee increases to \$75.

All competitors must have an All Events registration and be current members of BHS and Sunshine District.

[Register for SUN Fall 2022 Convention NOW!](#)

We hope to see you there!

Events Team, Sunshine District



# VP of Communication & IT's Message

**Roger Smeds**

**Sunshine District VP for Communication & IT**

communications@sunshinedistrict.org

Our largest single news item is that we have a new Social Media person for the District. Jack Klotzbach's wife, Melissa Klotzbach, has volunteered for the position. She is starting a social media marketing agency and has an extensive background in traditional sales and

marketing. She has some great ideas about how to improve the marketing of our "product" and I am sure she will be a tremendous asset to us going forward. I hope to have her fully on-board by the Fall Convention and be able to take advantage of her talents.

Here is her introduction statement:

*Hello singers and such.*

*Please allow me a moment to introduce myself. My name is Melissa Klotzbach. I recently married John (Jack) Klotzbach who is a member of your organization. I am starting up a new social media marketing agency. I have an extensive background in traditional sales and marketing. The digital field is something that I have been studying most recently.*

*The online (digital) world is where almost everyone gives their attention. Print and television advertising are in our rear view mirrors. I'd like to bring the Sunshine District more into this "brave new world" and bring awareness to your organization, your membership program, upcoming conventions, and events.*

*I am currently in conversation with Roger Smeds. We are collaborating to develop a marketing plan and list of strategies to drive traffic toward membership and encourage more sign-ups for your events.*

*This will be an ongoing process. It may take some time to see results. I will be monitoring the success of different campaigns by using analytical measuring tools and data trackers.*

*It is my pleasure to serve you. I am looking forward to seeing your organization grow.*

**Teamwork makes the dream work!**

*Melissa Klotzbach*

Hope you continue to do your Amazon shopping at smile.amazon.com! As of June 2022, our District has received \$594.70 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!



# VP CSLT / VP Chorus Director Development (Education)

Jack Klotzbach

*Sunshine District VP CSLT / VP Chorus Director Development (Education)*

cdd@sunshinedistrict.org

Hello Sunshine District. As 2022 has zoomed past us (pun intended), we look for new ways to grow our chapters musically, in membership and within our communities. It is so important that your Board works as team and ensure the chapter is involved. No one person can manage each of these tasks on their own nor should they have to.

I will be looking for new ways to provide training for directors, chapter boards, and choruses. If your chapter was unable to send your BOD members to LEADAC and would like a

LEADAC workshop, I am willing to travel at your chapter's expense to your city or town and hold weekend training and coaching or can provide a zoom meeting workshop.

We will seek opportunities to hold some Chorus Director's Workshop Intensive (CDWI) during 2022. CDWI provides the best opportunity for personalized coaching on things that YOU want to work on. If you are interested in participating or willing to host a workshop, please contact me. jackklotzbach@gmail.com

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## VP of Youth in Harmony

Steve Cragg

*Sunshine District VP VP of Youth in Harmony*

studentactivities@sunshinedistrict.org



Harmony Explosion kicked off again after a long three-year hiatus... This year we met at Stetson University for the first time, since our regular venue was not available... Although our numbers were smaller than usual, we had a great turnout and our clinicians were awesome



as usual! Our clinicians were Tony DeRosa and Debbie Cleveland, and our teaching quartets were **Wild Fire**, and **Duly Noted**! Stetson was a gracious host and we look forward to doing this again next year!



# THE HEART OF FLORIDA CHORUS

The Heart of Florida Chorus is ready to reintroduce the ringing chords of barbershop harmony to our Central Florida audience.

**Come Celebrate With Us**

**Saturday, October 29, 2022**

**7:30 PM**

New Covenant Methodist Church 3470 Woodridge Drive, The Villages



featuring  
**2017 International Champions**



**Tickets \$20 Available at [HOFChorus.eventbrite.com](https://www.hofchorus.eventbrite.com)**



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# Chapter Happenings

## Gainesville Choruses Help Helping Hands Clinic

by: Dave Jacobs, Barbergators Chorus President

On July 23rd, the *Barbergators Chorus* and the *Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus* joined voices to present their joint summer “For the Longest Time”. On Wednesday, Aug 17, 2022, the members of the *Barbergators Chorus* presented over \$850 raised at the show to Helping Hands Clinic.

The concert, titled “For the Longest Time,” was the first time the two choruses performed together in over two and a half years. Both choruses specialize in the a cappella style of the barbershop quartet, and perform together at least once a year. But, when the COVID-19 pandemic started, both choruses had to shut down. Choral singing was determined to be a super-spreader activity.



Front row: Dave Jacobs, Barbergators President and Michael Ekbladh, FUMC Director of Music Ministries. Back row: Steve Black, Board member, Dick Moyer, Board member, Beth Starr, FUMC Pastor, Mark Slamka, Barbergators Chorus Director

They had to cancel the 2020 Christmas show we were planning and when 2021 came around, only one chorus was able to perform. The *Barbergators* put on a solo Christmas show. Since it was their first public performance in almost two years, the *Barbergators* celebrated by making it a free show and donating all proceeds to Grace Marketplace.

For this summer show, *Barbergators* President, **Dave Jacobs**, asked the show committee if they could raise money for the Helping Hands Clinic. “During the shutdown, we talked a lot about how we wanted to do more than just sing in the Community. We wanted to make a difference in our Community, to make lives better doing what we love,” Jacobs said. “It’s becoming part of our mission to use our talents to make the Community a better place, so we were thrilled that the GHSC members supported the idea as much as we did.”

Helping Hands Clinic operates out of a building on the First United Methodist Church campus. Helping Hands is a group of volunteer health professionals who have provided free healthcare to the poor and/or homeless for over 30 years, according to their website. On Monday nights, they provide free healthcare and a free meal to clients, all of whom are living under the poverty line.

During each of two concerts, Jacobs appealed to the audience to donate to Helping Hands Clinic when the concert was over. Concert goers donated over \$400 at each show for a total of \$865.50.

On Wednesday afternoon, members of the

(continued on next page)



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*Barbergators* leadership team (Jacobs, Music Director **Mark Slamka** and Board members **Steve Black** and **Dick Moyer**) presented a check to First United Methodist Church pastor, Beth Snarr, and Director of Music Ministries, Michael Ekbladh.

The *Barbergators Chorus* is a men's barbershop chorus that sings a cappella four-part harmony in the style of the barbershop quartet. They are a chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. They are hosting a guest night on Tuesday, September 6, for anyone who is interested in joining.



The *Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus* is a chorus of Sweet Adelines International. They also sing barbershop harmony and welcome women to join.



## Gainesville Chapter Announces New Director

by: Dave Jacobs, *Barbergators Chorus* President

The Gainesville Chapter is proud to announce that **Mark Slamka** is the new director for the *Barbergators Chorus*. Mark first joined the *Harmony Heritage Chorus* of the Macomb County Chapter in Michigan. It was the chapter his dad, Jack, founded in 1986. For many years, Mark has directed and performed at the district and international level. He competed with the chorus and several quartets including **Powerplay**, the 2003 International Champions along with his dad, brother, Mike, and cousin, Don.



"The *Barbergators* are excited to have a director with Mark's experience at the helm. Mark brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to the chorus. He moved to the Gainesville area a few years ago, and we are excited that the timing was right for Mark to step in," said Chapter President, Dave Jacobs.

As the chorus began in-person rehearsals in a parking garage on the University of Florida campus, Mark stepped in as a coach and then directed a few numbers on our 2021 Christmas show. He then accepted the position of full-time director in January.

"What attracted me to the *Barbergators* was how they managed to stay active and create music even during the pandemic. They have a good core of singers and leadership. And the way they have refocused their mission to use their talents to make their community a better place was really appealing," said Slamka.

The *Barbergators* are excited to be on a new journey with a new director and a new mission.

(continued on next page)





## Venice Gondoliers Chorus

by Lee Frayer, Director

We are in a year of rebuilding. Like many chapters, the past couple of years have reduced our participating numbers in both the chorus and audience. Our Board of Directors is working hard to come up with some new creative ideas for growth. Wish us luck!



## 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.

While the *Capital Chordsmen* were preparing for the Valentine Serenade sing-outs, we had a special thing happen. We delivered a Valentine Serenade to Hong Kong.

We believe this is a record long-distance delivery, and thought you might find it interesting.



## NEW DIRECTOR SEARCH

The Central Florida Chapter - Heart of Florida Chorus, 2019 Most Improved Chorus in the Sunshine District, is seeking a front-line director.

We are a vibrant chapter that focuses on singing well, community performances, annual show and competition. Salary and benefits are negotiable.

For more information on our chapter visit [SingWithHOF.com](http://SingWithHOF.com).  
Contact Dave Bankard at [HOFPREZ1@gmail.com](mailto:HOFPREZ1@gmail.com)



# Foundation Corner

**Chris Rodgers**

*Sunshine District VP of Funding*

harmonyfoundation@sunshinedistrict.org

A big “THANK YOU!” goes out to our grant writer Jenna Felder at Carriage House Consulting, LLC. We begin the second half of this year with a \$25,000 grant from the State of Florida! This grant is distributed quarterly over the year (July 2022 – June 2023). We were fortunate that our grants this year were fully funded by the state. These funds are much needed for programs such as youth oriented events, LDJ, and district conventions. Grant application for next year has been submitted and we will be attending the grant panel review at the end of September. The size of this grant depends heavily on our financials over the past two years. Since this was COVID time, we expect lower grant sizes for the coming year or two.

If you know of grant programs in groups like arts councils (city, county, etc.) or even private foundations, please let us know and we can look into them to see if we can secure additional funding. Many companies actually have an associated (non-profit) foundation organization that may be able to help us with music education for youth and other projects. Ask your company if they have one of these

foundations and let us know so that we can coordinate with you to see if they might be able to help us with projects in the next few years.

Would you like to donate to help us with youth camps or LDJ? You can donate directly to the Sunshine District. Check with our Treasurer, Dave Kannberg, for details on how to donate directly. If you donate to BHS, remember that you can direct up to 85% of your donation to the Sunshine District. You can elect to make your BHS donation recurring and spread your donation throughout the year. When you make donations to BHS or Sunshine District, check with your employer to see if they do a donation match. Many companies will match employee donations to non-profit organizations like ours. That can be an easy way to double your donation without additional cost to you!

If you have found a grant that your chapter would like to apply for, let us know and we can help you write the grant application as well as ensure you are set up for success to meet the requirements of the grant. Contact me at [harmonyfoundation@sunshinedistrict.org](mailto:harmonyfoundation@sunshinedistrict.org) for more information.





## A Whole New World

By Melissa Klotzbach

*New District Digital Marketing Consultant under Roger Smeds*

My husband, Jack Klotzbach, is a barbershop singer. We recently married in June 2022. I have been to a few of his singouts – Christmas at the Mall in Destin Commons was my first. Oh boy was I hooked! He has been telling me “wait ‘til we go to LDJ!” We had intended on going last year but due to COVID-19 it was cancelled. We even bought matching outfits for the event. I had been anxiously waiting for the time to come. Then it was time...

Once we entered the corridor to the resort we could hear them. My husband’s face lit up with pride, “They’re here.” There were singers in the halls rehearsing their “tags,” — a new term for me. I could listen to this beautiful exchange for hours.

The novice contest was Disneyland for my ears. Each quartet had a unique style. Some were funny, some were melancholy, and some were almost operatic. What a treat!

Then they sang at the pool and in corners of the hotel. It was a barbershop lover’s dream.

The final night of performances was full of surprises. I quickly found my favorites. This is a whole new world for me. I have found a new love, it’s called barbershop.



*Photos courtesy of Jack and Melissa Klotzbach*



# SCENES FROM LDJ 2022



*Audacious*



*Bourbon Brothers*



*Duly Noted*



*GQ*



*Mainstreet*



*Midtown*

Photos courtesy of Jack  
and Melissa Klotzbach



# SCENES FROM LDJ 2022



*On the Wire*



*Signature*



*Throwback*



*Nightlife*



*First Take*

*Photos courtesy of Jack  
and Melissa Klotzbach*



# SCENES FROM LDJ 2022

*Photos courtesy of Jack  
and Melissa Klotzbach*



# Sunshine District Management Team



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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)



## Next Sunburst Deadline To Be Announced



### 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.



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.