

THE Sunburst



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNSHINE DISTRICT BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY



BRONZED!



2023 International 3rd Place Bronze Medalists
Heralds of Harmony
See Page 7 for more.

2023 International
4th Place
Bronze Medalists
Three and a Half Men



2023 International 5th Place Bronze Medalists
Throwback



Register for
the 2023 Fall
Convention
NOW!

President's Message

Bruce Checca
Sunshine District President
president@sunshinedistrict.org

Welcome to Fall!

Hard to believe that it's almost fall with the hot weather we have here in Florida, isn't it??

Our Barbershop calendar is going to be getting busy real soon! Next week will be Labor Day Weekend... and one of the "BIG" events in Sunshine is going to be taking place right in our backyard! Yes, LABOR DAY JAMBOREE is taking place Sept. 1st - 4th! Do you have your plans in place? It's not too late! We have some of the top groups in Barbershop here for two great shows...including the current International Champions MIDTOWN! Not to mention a location that makes this one of the best weekends around! Visit www.sunshinedistrict.org to get your registrations and more information about the Omni at Championsgate, our event site with seven swimming pools and several golf courses to entice you!

But don't go away! There's even more to come this fall! Our Fall District Convention is going

to be Oct. 13th-15th at the World Golf Village Renaissance in St. Augustine! Come take part in the best our District has to offer! This year, we are going to celebrate some championship anniversaries... do you want to miss seeing our District quartet champions from 5, 10, 15, or 20 years ago as they get back together to entertain you?? I sure don't!! And how about the chance to see a few of our current international level groups as well??? And wouldn't it be great if you happened to be there because YOU were going to be up on stage with YOUR group in one of our events?

While you're on the website getting your LDJ tickets, stop by the Fall Convention page and pick up your registrations for that as well! We'll be looking for you!

Bruce Checca



SUN FALL CONVENTION OCTOBER 13-15, 2023! Hotel reservations and registrations are open NOW!

Come join your fellow Sunshine District barbershoppers for a fun-filled weekend in St. Augustine - October 13-15th!

You can book your room at the World of Golf Marriot Hotel for \$129 per night with the link below. Convention rates for hotel rooms end on 09/30/2023!

Early-bird registrations for the convention are now open as well and prices will go up after October 1, 2023, so register soon and save some money!

Register for the 2023 Fall Convention NOW!

Book hotel rooms at \$129 /night convention rate NOW!

The SDAQC Show is back on the schedule for this event with some past District champion quartets performing. Stay tuned for more information. Also, there will be additional activities and classes on the schedule. Look for more information at a later date.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Convention and if you have any questions, please contact me.

Bob Thau
VP Events
rosebob1@comcast.net
772-302-6301

VP of Communications & IT

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

Lots of great Barbershop happenings coming up soon! **LDJ** almost immediately with a fantastic lineup of talent as usual. **Fall Convention** is also just around the corner and links to hotel rooms and registrations are available on the District website now (and on Page 3). Don't wait to sign up, lots of good stuff happening this fall!

Recent developments in regard to the District Communications Team are happening, and I wanted to make you aware that **Brandon Hall** has had some recent changes in his life and will be moving out of the District. I wanted to express our sincere thanks for his great efforts with regard to our Social Media presence. He has really advanced the cause! We also want to wish him and his family the best of luck in all future

endeavors. Brandon has also coordinated for his replacement on the team. We are very happy to announce that **Lee Markham**, who is the Social Media coordinator for the *Heralds of Harmony*, has agreed to sign on to the District Communications Team and will be helping with all aspects of our Social Media efforts. We look forward to his contributions. Welcome to the team, Lee!

If you are going to **LDJ**, please consider recording (via photos or video) some of the happenings at the event and sharing with our team. Also, if you have photos or videos taken at the spring convention, please be sure to forward them to our Social Media team at social.media@sunshinedistrict.org.



Heart of My Heart
Featuring Seahorse Chorale from The Sanibel School

Cypress Lake Presbyterian
8260 Cypress Lake Drive Fort Myers, FL 33919
\$25 General Admission
\$20 Senior \$15 Student

2pm Sunday Nov 12th

Enjoy the The Gulf Coast Harmonizers chorus and quartets singing Barbershop harmony. To purchase tickets online:
gcharmonizers.com
gcharmonizers@gmail.com
855-425-3631

The poster features a large white heart in the center, set against a background of a sun rising over mountains. A group of people, including a barbershop quartet in blue vests and a choir in black dresses, are shown in the foreground. A cartoon seahorse mascot is on the right side.

Message from Education VP

Jack Klotzbach
Sunshine District VP of Education
cdd@sunshinedistrict.org



Ed Grimes coached by Larry Dodge



Matt Albritton coached by Debbie Dodge

Hello Sunshine District. Hopefully all the chapters and their choruses are getting back to an organized routine, are preparing to perform shows and singouts, and are participating at the conventions. Going into 2024, I want to do everything I can as your Education VP to assist your chapter in leadership and chapter officers and directors. We have held a successful director's workshop in the Panhandle and have a second one scheduled in Gainesville.

I have run into some road blocks trying to set up others in central and southern Florida. The workshops last 6 to 8 hours and include coaching, practice directing, and a director collaboration session. The cost is \$75. Please have your president, secretary or director contact me for more information. Workshops are open to all chapter directors and assistant directors, or whoever is waving their arms in front of the chorus.

Of course, it is time to start planning for LEADAC scheduled for Jan 5-7, 2024, at the Rosen Hotel, Orlando. As soon as your BOD is voted in, please contact me to get them signed up. I would also like to see quartets come get some high-level coaching. A district notification email and website information will be coming soon. If you have any questions, please email me at jackklotzbach@gmail.com



More About Our BARBERSHOPPERS OF THE YEAR 2019 & 2022

CURRENT 2022 BOTY PAUL AGNEW

*Frank Thorne & Sunshine District
VP of Contest & Judging*



Paul has been a Barbershopper since 1982. He joined the *St. Pete Suncoast Chorus* 42 years ago with his dad, making him a second generation barbershopper. His daughter and son are third generation!

He has served as DRCJ - District C&J Chair / SUN VP Contest and Judging for seven years, and is a performance judge and coach.

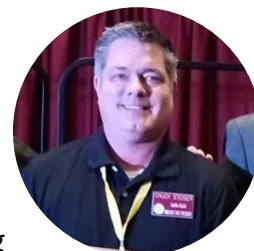
He is a four-time quartet champion singing with **Cheerful Noise**, **HotShots**, **The Pursuit**, and **Jam Session (JAD)**; a many-time International Quartet Representative with Top 20 **Hot Shots** and **The Pursuit**, and sings with the seniors quartet **The World According to AARP**; and is a Chorus Third Place Bronze Medalist having sung with *Kentucky Vocal Union*.

Paul has played a strong role in restarting the District conventions post-pandemic, hitting almost every area of the convention weekend and brainstorming / implementing new and different approaches for the convention weekend.

2019 BOTY CHUCK STEINER III

*Tampa Chapter & Current Sunshine District
Immediate Past President*

Chuck joined the *Heralds of Harmony* when he was in high school in 1991, when Joe De Rosa was the director. He took a short break and returned in 2010 and has been going strong ever since.



Chuck served as Sunshine District Events VP from 2013-2016, became District President 2017 and served under that title through the pandemic until 2022. He currently serves as Immediate Past President.

Some of his quarteting experience has been with **Flex Four**, a group of barbershoppers that switch time and parts to make up the quartet when it comes time to perform.

Chuck has always stepped up and into roles for the chorus and more importantly the District, as needed. He has helped run conventions and then stood in as a steady and calming voice of balance during years of change.

No award presented for 2020 & 2021 due to Covid.

Chapter Happenings

Tampa Chapter *Heralds of Harmony*

“And with a score of 2,782, a 92.7% average, your third place bronze medalist chorus is... the *Heralds of Harmony!*”

Hearing that announcement at the **International Chorus Contest** in Louisville set off an explosion of joy among the Tampa chorus members. For some men, it was their first International contest experience, while others had competed multiple times but never been rewarded with a medal. Indeed, it is the first medal in the Tampa Chapter’s 78-year history (and the first such medal in the Sunshine District for 66 years.)



Heralds Director **Tony De Rosa** expressed his elation and gratitude for the group’s success stating, “After 14 previous attempts at International with the *Heralds*, finishing 3rd this year has been a highlight of my barbershop career and a memorable life experience. That said, this is not a personal achievement. It is ALL about our community and the team we have built. The real ‘WIN’ in this was seeing our members overcome with emotion and gratitude. It was a great reward for the hard work, many hours, and resource input invested into the experience. There is nothing like it! I know it will serve as a catapult to future chapters of excellence with our organization.”

For the third time, the *Heralds* partnered with the *Atlanta Vocal Project* to compete on the International stage. That meant monthly joint rehearsals and a weekend retreat in Valdosta,



Georgia, and lots of individual work at the respective home chorus rehearsals. Once in Louisville, the joint chorus spent many hours fine-tuning their performance, while seeing for the first time the staging of the uptune (featuring many quartet medalist guests) come together.

The success of the chorus can be attributed to an amazing team effort: The overall concept from **Tony De Rosa** and **Clay Hine** (AVP Director), input from comedy specialist **Eddie Holt** (**Lunch Break**, **Music City Chorus**), two new musical arrangements from **Clay Hine**, performance coaching from **David McEachern**, the amazing work of our seamstress **Jeni Wells** (and AVP seamstress **Jenny Taylor**), and of course the individual hard work of all chorus members. All of this lead to the highest score ever in the history of the chorus, and the unforgettable moment of hearing the announcement of the third place finish.

The *Heralds* would like to thank all of our friends in the Sunshine District for your ongoing support. We hope that we continue to make you proud at the fall contest and in the years to come.



(Continued on next page)

Chapter Happenings

Central Florida Chapter

Heart of Florida Chorus

The Villages

The *Heart of Florida Barbershop Chorus* is excited to announce our new Directors!

Our new Musical Director is **Chris Barthauer!**

Chris became a member of the Barbershop

Harmony Society in

the late 1990s. Prior

to joining us at HoF,

Chris served as the

Musical Director

of the *Hernando*

Harmonizers, leaving

an indelible mark

on the chorus'

artistic direction.

Additionally, he has been an active member of

the 2023 BHS International 3rd place chorus

Heralds of Harmony, and also sings bass for

NEAT Quartet who placed 6th in last year's

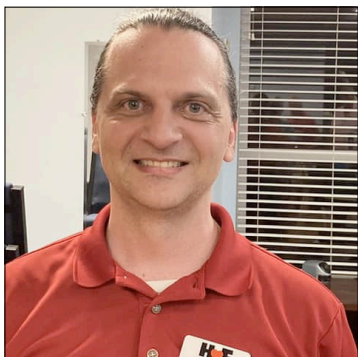
Sunshine District fall contest. Chris holds a

B.S. in Music Performance & Conducting from

Indiana University which provided him with a

solid foundation in music theory and conducting

techniques.



Our new Associate Director is **Michael Testa!**



Michael joined the Barbershop Harmony Society in 2019 as a member of the *Ambassadors of Harmony*, the St. Charles, MO, chapter. After relocating to Florida in 2021 and joining HoF, Michael

has served as Board Member-at-Large and Lead Section Leader. Michael also sings Lead for HoF chapter quartet **The Vocal Chords**.



It is our honor to recognize outgoing Musical Director **Scott Werner** as our Director Emeritus. We will always be grateful for Scott's leadership in bringing barbershop to The Villages

community. When you attended a rehearsal led by Scott, you knew that you were going to both learn a lot and have fun... and that combination brought members back week after week for the past 20 years. Thank you, Scott, for all you've done for our Chapter, and we look forward to seeing you on the risers!

Please join us in congratulating Chris, Michael and Scott! We look forward to soaring to new musical heights with them.



Sarasota Chapter

Sarasota Chorus of the Keys

The Chorus of the Keys hopes all Sunshine District members are experiencing an enjoyable summer even though we may be sheltering at times from the heat and humidity. Despite the weather conditions, the *Chorus of the Keys*, as usual, rehearses throughout the year and is currently working diligently on adding three new



Sarasota Chorus of the Keys

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Chapter Happenings

repertoire songs, with more scheduled in the coming months.

We have already completed much planning for next year's annual show which will be presented on Saturday, February 17, 2024, at the Riverview Performing Arts Center in Sarasota. There will be an afternoon and evening performance.

Annual show information will be posted on our website: www.chorusofthekeys.org. If you wish to receive personal notification for the 2024 annual show, please go to the website and enter your contact information under "subscribe".

Roger Murphy, VP Marketing
Sarasota Chorus of the Keys



Tallahassee Chapter *The Capital Chordsmen*

by Kenneth Schroeder

The *Capital Chordsmen* from the Tallahassee chapter return to the competition risers this year with their new director, **Norman Young**, and several new members. In addition, for the first time, the chorus' longest standing quartet, **Four Oysters in**

Search of a Pearl, will also enter the competition stage. Both return for two events:



First is an annual favorite among the Chordsmen membership: the **Joe Brendon Panhandle Music Festival**, hosted by the *Emerald Coast Chapter*. It is a weekend gathering of harmony enthusiasts from the Florida Panhandle, held this year on Sep 15 – 17. This is a Barbershop Harmony extravaganza, with male & female choruses, a mass-chorus concert on the last night

(combined with youth chorus from the Emerald Coast area). The event features contests for both quartets and choruses. Other events include a 'Krazy Quartet Contest', lots of tag singing in the evenings, with the last event being a bonfire & picnic 'sing-around'...where quartets & choruses share some of their favorites.

Then, only four short weeks later, the *Capital Chordsmen* return to the risers at the Sunshine District Fall convention in St. Augustine. The Chordsmen have not competed since 2018 when they had 36 voices.

Covid created a serious loss of members for various reasons: Fear of contact, loss of interest, family health issues. Active membership dwindled to around 12 active singers. In the last two years, however, they picked up new members (one was a Valentine recipient purchased by his wife). The annual show for 2023



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Chapter Happenings

had 20 singers, and the chorus has 22 active and four inactive members.

Everyone knows the Barbershop world is aging: The *Chordsmen* were no exception, with ages averaging 60 in 2009, and by 2015 had grown to a ripe 66-age average. The recent growth in membership, however, has dropped that average back to 60.1.

The *Chordsmen* hope those trends continue.

Oh yes, while you're recruiting, just remember, "A NO is a qualified YES!"



Naples Chapter

We're back! Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 9 @ 3 p.m. Following a successful spring show, the *Paradise Coastmen Barbershop Chorus* is excited to announce their holiday concert to be held in the Pulte Family Life Center at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 625 111th Ave. N, Naples 34108.



In addition to the chorus and chapter quartets, we will welcome a special chorale from the Seacrest Country Day School. Patrons will be treated to familiar holiday favorites sung a cappella in the barbershop style, plus a surprise visit by the jolly old elf himself!



"I was browsing through some chapter archives the other day and ran across the original charter for the Palm Beach County Coastmen, dated July 27, 1948. Doing some quick calculations, that makes us 75 years old this week. We don't sound a day over 50." ~Wes Osborn, Membership Chairman, Palm Beach County Coastmen



Food for Thought

We all need more members. So I recently talked the Venice Chapter into exploring the idea of creating a trifold pole sign that we can place around the city a couple weeks at a time at each location. We see a lot of these signs starting to be used and it's a lot less expense than newspaper ads and such, plus it can continue year round.



The only simple requirement is that the retail store has the big poles that stand near the front entrances of their store, and, of course, you talk to store management first. It's that simple.

If one sign creates some new members, you can always increase the number of signs placed around your city.

Lee Frayer, Director
Venice Gondoliers mixed Chorus



Sunshine District Management Team



President
Bruce Checca
president@sunshinedistrict.org

VP of Events
Bob Thau
events@sunshinedistrict.org

Immediate Past President
Chuck Steiner
ipp@sunshinedistrict.org

VP of Contest & Judging
Paul Agnew
contestjudging@sunshinedistrict.org

Executive Vice President
David Mills
evp@sunshinedistrict.org

VP of Communications & Information Technology
Roger Smeds
communications@sunshinedistrict.org

Secretary
Brian Wunderlin
secretary@sunshinedistrict.org

VP of Education
Jack Klotzbach
leadac@sunshinedistrict.org

Treasurer
Dave Kannberg
treasurer@sunshinedistrict.org

VP of Membership Development
Saurin Shah
membership@sunshinedistrict.org

Board Member-at-Large
Dave Jacobs
atlarge1@sunshinedistrict.org

VP of Music & Performance
Steve Culpepper
music@sunshinedistrict.org

Board Member-at-Large
Nick Schwob
atlarge3@sunshinedistrict.org

VP of Youth in Harmony
Steve Cragg
studentactivities@sunshinedistrict.org

VP of Finance
Chris Rodgers
funding@sunshinedistrict.org



District Committee Chairs
& Convention Committee Members
www.sunshinedistrict.org/home/leadership/

Sunburst Editor
Roxanne Clapp
editor@sunshinedistrict.org



Sunshine District

Barbershop
Harmony
Society



Please send photos, articles, and other interesting tidbits for inclusion in future publications of *The Sunburst*.
Send to Editor@sunshinedistrict.org



Sunburst Deadlines

Mar 15 • Jun 15 • Aug 15 • Nov 15



SUNBURST ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Ad Size/Dimensions	District Member Rates		Corporate rates
	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

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.