



The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsman
May 2024 - Issue #57

THE VIEW FROM THE HELM

CONFIDENCE - ISSUE 29



How many of you actually read anything that I write, much less the whole Newsletter? I would hope that you all hung on every word and would even be aware of the numbering discrepancies in my submissions (will say for those that do, that the Editor deemed #27 unfit for publication and #28 was deemed by me to be worthless to type).

As I have talked about in the past, I see myself as the harbor pilot, and that the regular blue water navigation is the responsibility of the Director.

Have you ever considered the issues that might arise when the same ship and crew enter the same harbors all the time, like a cargo ship that takes a week to traverse between the same two ports? They would be entering and leaving each of the two ports every other week, likely with the same harbor pilots - how does the harbor pilot know more than the Ship Captain that is there every other week? The more one experiences things, the more understanding they develop. It is a slow thing that includes both education/understanding and confidence.

I am not a Naval Officer, but I know that as one progresses up through the ranks, the requirements to drive the ship increase, with the expectation that one becomes a 'Ship's Commander' eventually. While most that are in control of ships these days have a minimum rank of Commander, during World War II, most submarines were under the command of Lieutenants or Lieutenant Commanders. Still the need for understanding and confidence of how to maneuver the ship is paramount to keep the vessel in the fight.

Tune Struck is my third quartet, singing Lead in the first and Tenor in the next. As I started, I had a lot of trepidation about myself and my role in the quartet. Having sung with Tune Struck for 20 years now, it has surprised me how much understanding and confidence I have developed.

Regular quartet participation makes you learn and become surer of what you know and how to present each song. Being in a pickup quartet, singing chorus songs or even a couple of songs for a specific event does not teach or develop the same level of skill as being in a long-standing foursome. There is nothing like having yourself on the line to make that confidence in what you know become solidified.

Now that the Portsmen are Divisional Champions; with a special trip to France on the docket and the Fall Convention and Chorus Contest to display ourselves, the question each of us HAS to ask ourselves is; “what do we know and how confident are we in that knowledge?” Are you ready to stand on your own and deliver? Do you fully understand your own shortcomings, such that you can understand how to minimize them?

There are a lot of things that each of us can do to improve our skills. Just had Bill tell us at a rehearsal that one of the big issues from Division in Fremont was “sync” related to ‘attacks’ and ‘releases’ – how each phrase is started and finished.

Those are the things that succeed or fail on confidence. Singing confidently means that you are not waiting for the individual you think knows their stuff do the next thing – instead you are doing what you know is right. When we all agree on what ‘is right’ and do what ‘is right’, we won’t have those sync issues. Another way to help that is to keep our eyes open and on the hands of the Director. When Rapheal was here to coach us a bit, that was an item he pointed out, that we were not watching Bill, for our eyes were closed. Judges may not be close enough to see that (but eyelids have a different shine than eyes), but they can hear the sync issues.

In a couple of weeks we will be presenting our Annual Show, with way more songs than we have sung on a show – a number of them not long in our repertoire, which means we have to really buckle down to get them presentable. Working hard to develop the confidence in them and ourselves will go a long way to make our presentations in Normandy and Bakersfield better.

Musical Director's Message:

By Bill Litz

I had the pleasure of going to see Jordan in New York in April. In addition to seeing *Wicked*, I also was inspired by a visit to the *Voices of Gotham Chorus* and enjoyed the thought-provoking musical, *Hadestown*.

Escaping Hell, or *Hadestown*, is a central plot point revolving around the ancient Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice. Orpheus, a gifted musician, is determined to rescue his beloved Eurydice from the clutches of Hades, the ruler of Hadestown. Orpheus is granted permission to lead Eurydice out of the underworld on the condition that he doesn't look back at her until they have both reached the surface. Their journey teaches them the importance of mutual trust, effective communication, and unwavering faith in each other, serving as the foundation for their love to transcend the depths of Hell and conquer all obstacles in their path.

We probably think of the director as the leader and of the chorus members as the followers. But as *The Portsmen Chorus* continues to improve, individuals need to be better leaders AND followers, depending on the situation. Switching between leadership and follower roles requires a diverse skill set that encompasses both assertiveness and adaptability.

The director (and music team) can come up with a plan that makes artistic decisions about phrasing, interpretation, and expression. But for the chorus to become more fluid and expressive, each individual needs to internalize the plan and themselves become leaders that emotionally connect with the audience and fellow singers. In that same moment, they must be aware of the rest of the ensemble, not to follow blindly, but to adjust to the ebb and flow of energy in the moment. It becomes the director's job to bring unity to the musical interpretation, smoothing the imperfections and helping each singer to make better choices in delivering the artistic plan.

Each performance takes a balance of communication and trust that takes developing traits internally and between each other.

- Be Dependable: Each member must fulfill their role, whether it's hitting the right notes, maintaining tempo, or following the director's cues
- Listen: Be attentive to other singers and the director to maintain cohesion and synchronization within the group
- Provide Feedback: Constructive feedback and being receptive to feedback from fellow singers fosters improvement and mutual understanding
- Be Reliable: Come prepared, attend rehearsals, and contribute to the group effort that builds trust with fellow chorus members
- Be Vulnerable: Share your feelings and emotions with the audience and among members as you trust, support and encourage each other
- Revel in Unity: Recognize you are part of a larger ensemble and that your individual contributions contribute to the collective sound

By leading with confidence and using our senses to feel support from each other and adapt to the changes in the moment, we can move forward to artistically reach the end of each word, each phrase, each song, and each endeavor together.

STOCKTON PORTSMEN RATED #1

(by Tom Harmon)

In the world of football there was a team which had the fastest runners, strongest passers, and coordinated efforts to move the ball downfield enormous distances, seemingly at will. What did they have? What made them special? Knute Rockne summed it up with two words: "The Team." A car doesn't move by itself, nor does it move only because it has tires. Nor does it move only because it has a carburetor, spark plugs, or fuel. Nor does it move only because it has axles, a transmission, crankshaft, and cooling system. It moves because all of these, in synchronized unity, work together to become a powerful machine. Success is more than inspiration, it is the unity of thought, mind, belief, and effort.

In speaking at a military graduation, General Douglas MacArthur emphasized the ideas of Knute Rockne and the need to function as an integrated unit, each man a part of the whole, each man knowing his importance and the importance of others if success is to be achieved. No man is alone. Each man is part of something larger than himself, he is a

part of what MacArthur called "The Corps," the group which, when spiritually bonded, with its many talents, can make a good accounting of itself in the presence of any challenge.

On April 15th, 2024, a little group of twenty singers went to Fremont, California for the Far Western District Barbershop Chorus Competition. Many larger choruses, many prestigious choruses, and even the perennial champions were already there. After the competition, the emcee announced the winners of the various category levels. The little group of twenty noticed that the Plateau AA competitions, their plateau, had not been mentioned. Everything had been awarded on the basis of total point scores, but the little chorus was not mentioned.

Now came the announcement of the highest scoring chorus in the Eastern Division of the Far Western District. A hush fell over the audience....and then came the name of the little chorus....and then a thunderous applause....The little chorus from Stockton had won the Eastern District Competition, for the first time since their inception nearly seventy years agoand all the regular choruses were present! Trophies were handed out, photos were taken, handshakes and hugs followed.....but..... HOW DID IT HAPPEN?? WHA>>>?

Knute Rockne knew the answer. Douglas MacArthur knew the answer. The STOCKTON PORTSMEN BARBERSHOP CHORUS had been unified by its director, the one and only Bill Litz, and by the unified spirit of esprit and camaraderie that had been building for an entire year. Individuals stepped forward: Al Wolter, Sue Atkins, Brad Nieman, Al Farnum, Joan Ray, Dave Harmon, Nancy Hennefer, Kitty Harmon, and a chorus determined to prove they were more than just pretty faces.

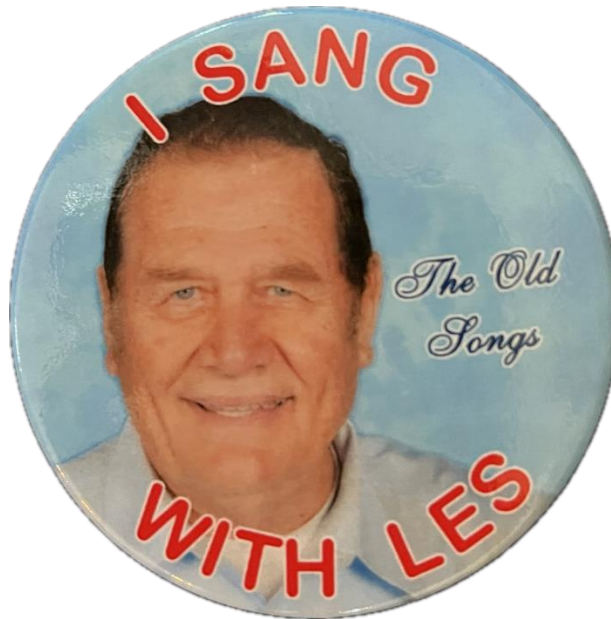
Skills were brought forward, encouragement was freely given, respect and confidence arose, devotion became a thought that accompanied personal practice. The Stockton Portsmen were coming of age, they had become.... a "TEAM."

As the Portsmen continue to build, we will be needing 2025 officers to step forward. We will be needing individuals to step forward and back up these officers. We will be needing to hear the words: "Count me in!""Yes. I'll do it!""I've got it done, Captain!"

Our Annual Show lies just ahead on May 11th, followed by Normandy, France on June 4th. Let's show the audiences why we wear the Eastern Division crown.

In Memory of Les Cudworth

He was more than a barbershopper, he was a beacon of harmony and goodwill. May his legacy inspire us to embrace life with joy, to cherish our friendship, and to always find harmony.





Celebrations

May Birthdays

Dave Harmon – 5/20

[Click link to our Go Fund Me Account to be a Sponsor](#)

Thank you, Rosie, for setting up our Go Fund Me Page!

Thank you to our sponsors!!!

Angie Rogan, Akalia and Staff

- Van Ruiten Winery, Lodi

Betsy Smith - Velvet Grill Creamery, Lodi

Christal - Corner Scone Bakery, Lodi

Seth - Lodi Beer Co, Lodi

Avenue Grill, Lodi

Jennifer - Airport Café, Acampo

Joe Fiori - Fiori's Butcher Shoppe & Deli,
Lodi

Papapavlo's Stockton/Lodi

Bon Appetite, Lodi

Darlene - The Hollywood Café, Lodi

Dee - De Vinci's, Lodi

Thai Spices, Lodi

Smack Pie Pizza, Lodi

Arroyos Mexican Café, Stockton

Genoa Bakery, Stockton

Buds Seafood, Stockton

Whirlows, Stockton

DeVega Brothers, Stockton

Christine Robles - Red Lobster, Stockton

Michael Gilliland

- La Mesa a Mexican Kitchen. Stockton

Big Belly Deli

Cindy Burke - Burke's Family Restaurant

The Mud Mill, Lodi

Mark Armstrong - Lodi Grape Festival

Nikki Burgess - The Dermal Clinic, Lodi

Yvonne Holland - Dermal Clinic, Lodi

Richard Lund and Patsy Miller

Lori Makabe

Mark Huntley

Gary Floyd - Tokay A's Model A Club

Arecelli - Stockton Civic Theater,
Stockton

Judy - Minerva's Furniture, Lodi

Liana Roman - Now and Zen Yoga, Lodi
Castle Oaks Golf, Ione

Brenda Patterson - A Cut Above, Lodi
Planet Fitness, Stockton

Asia - Arthur Murray Dance Studio,
Stockton

Mr Alex Munro - Hilton Stockton

Bob Weisenberg

- Woodbridge Uncorked, Woodbridge

Mangal Singh - Clements Ridge Produce
and Bakery

Zoom Car Wash, Stockton

Regina Brown - Member: Stockton
Portsmen

Kathy Duran - Voila Gifts and Home
Decor, Lodi

Denise Solari - SDS Designs

Rhoda Legaspi - Baked with Love

Robert Verhines

Gerald Garfield - Food for Less, Stockton

Gary Long - Gary Long's Jewelry,
Stockton

Made in Amador, Sutter Creek

BedBug on Main, Ione

Hotel Sutter Restaurant, Sutter Creek
Monarch, Ione

Sue Kenmostu

Y Acosta - Acosta Construction, Lodi

David A Neal, DDS - The Lodi Dentist,
Lodi

Christian Phillips - Phillips Financial,
Stockton

Bill and Audrey Churchill

Dr Mike Pontius

Roberts Retirement

Anthony Neiddu

- Raymond James Financial Services,
Lodi

Ron and Sue Van De Pol

James Van Sickler, Jr. DDS

Robert and Rosemarie Keller
Fritz and Phyllis Grupe
Ron and Kris Katzakian
Ken and Nancy Mullen
Star Heers
Carol Holt Bedell
Daniel Bernick - Sacramento Artist
Daniel Meza - F&M Bank, Lodi
Sandy - House of Clocks, Lodi
Brain Synowicki - Synowicki's Jewel Box,
Lodi
Sandy Padgett - La Fleurette Garden
Décor, Lodi
University of the Pacific
Dave and Sandy Harmon
- Member: Stockton Portsmen
Tom and Diane Hofsommer
Nancy Hennefer - Member: Stockton
Portsmen
Colette Allen
Carol Simms
Susan Atkins- Member: Stockton
Portsmen
William Litz- Member: Stockton
Portsmen

Jeana Ramos
Ryan Venhuizen
Allen Wolter- Member: Stockton
Portsmen
Rosie Estrella- Member: Stockton
Portsmen
John Highsmith
Joyce Tanaka
Al Farnum - Member: Stockton
Portsmen
Greg Devine

Kathryn Olsen

Anonymous

Willys Nitschke - Member: Stockton
Portsmen
Kitty Harmon - Member: Stockton
Portsmen

Mahesh Ranchod

Jami Howland

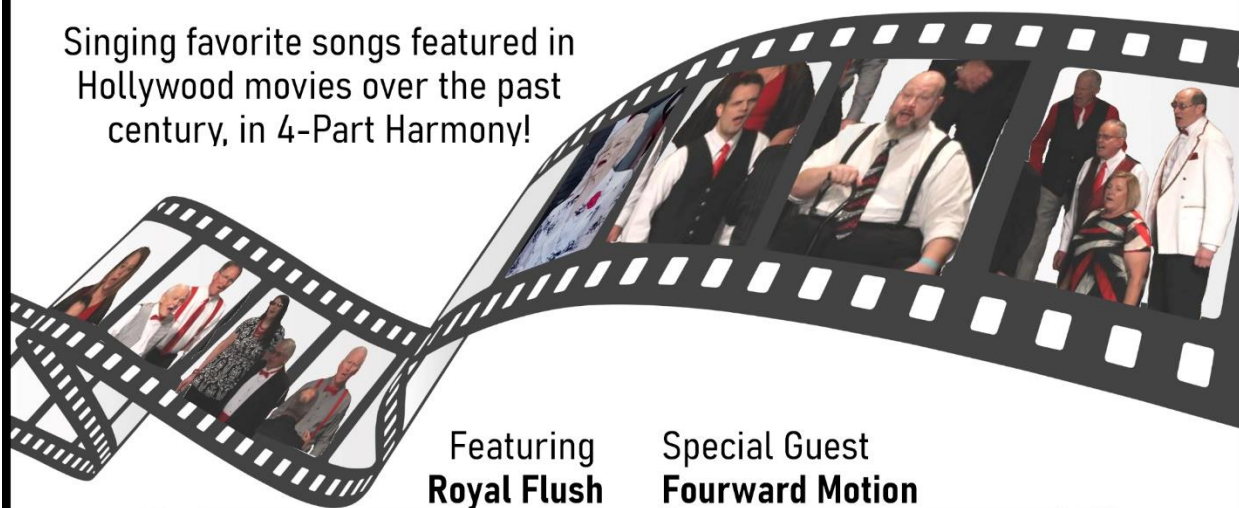
Thomas Lauzze

The Stockton Portsmen Barbershop Chorus

Proudly Presents
our 67th Annual Show

HOLLYWOOD & BARBERSHOP

Singing favorite songs featured in
Hollywood movies over the past
century, in 4-Part Harmony!



Featuring
Royal Flush

Special Guest
Fourward Motion



Along with... **Three Lads and Alas!, Tune Struck, and Panning for Chords!**

Saturday, May 11th, 2024 @ 2:30 PM

Zion Lutheran Church
808 W. Porter Ave, Stockton CA

Tickets: \$20 | Kids 12 and Under Free
209-881-SING(7464) | www.StocktonPortsmen.org



Quartet Updates

Tune Struck

We're working on a couple of new songs. Looking forward to performing on the Stockton Portsmen Show on May 11th and performing during the On to Normandy Tour in June during the 80th celebration of DDay.

Royal Flush

The stars continue to misalign for Royal Flush! Double weekly rehearsals in anticipation of 3 opportunities to perform for an audience! Unfortunately, Tenor Stephanie had an unfriendly appendix that decided to rupture and sent her to the hospital for multiple days. Blessings that she is home and recovering with Chuck by her side. Although this meant having to bow out of singing at the Peninsular's Chili Fest/Show scheduled for May 4, we are still looking forwards to the Portsmen Show on May 11 and joining GVC in Modesto for their Ice Cream Social on May 18th. We're having fun learning a couple of new songs which may or may not be ready for public consumption by Showtime!

Three Lads and Alas!



Three Lads and Alas! had the privilege of visiting and singing with one of the Portsmen's finest, Joan Ray, as she gains the strength to return home and join us on the risers!



We were pleased to sing for the 85th birthday celebration of a retired Navy Lt. Commander, so of course we included "Anchors Away!"

May will be a busy month for our quartet, as we perform for the Irish Club of Stockton, on the Portsmen's spring show, and for the ice cream social of the Golden Valley Chorus in Modesto. And next month, On to Normandy!

VoCal
VOICES OF CALIFORNIA

presents



A Tribute to **TONY BENNETT**

Saturday May 4, 2024 • 2 pm & 7 pm



Stay Tuned Chorus



The Summertimers
BHS Far Western District 2022 Champs



Gusto!
2023 Regional Quartet Champions



Voices of California

Tickets: \$12.50 Students | \$25 Gen. Admission | \$35 VIP
Purchase at: voicesofcalifornia.org

El Camino Fundamental High - Center for Performing Arts
2340 Eastern Ave., Sacramento, CA 95864

Voices of California is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization of the Barbershop Harmony Society.





enjoy every moment.

ice cream and music

Mãý 18.2024

2pm -5pm

Barbershop quartets



\$8

**TUNE STRUCK
THREE LADS and ALAS!
ROYAL FLUSH
MANCINI HALL
718 TUOLUMNE
MODESTO**

**BARBERSHOP MUSIC
GOLDEN VALLEY CHORUS**

CALL 209-499-1118

EMAIL

DARNELLROE@GMAIL.COM



FWD Harmony Camp

operates under the auspices of the Far Western District of the Barbershop Harmony Society with support from the Sacramento Region Community Foundation, and by Barbershop chapters and individuals from Northern California and Nevada.



SACRAMENTO REGION
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
YOUR PARTNER IN GIVING

The registration fee is \$100 per camper and scholarships are available.

**THIS CAMP FILLS QUICKLY
REGISTER EARLY!**

Richard Lund
Camp Director

6164 Windlestraw Road
Placerville, CA 95667

[https://farwesterndistrict.org/
events/youth-harmony-camp](https://farwesterndistrict.org/events/youth-harmony-camp)

Phone: 530-621-1904
rlund@innercite.com

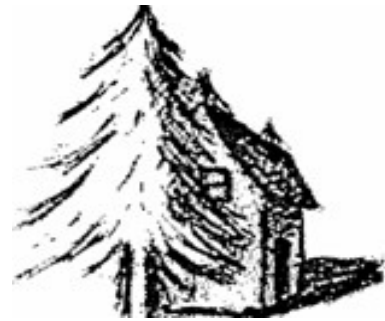
Richard Lund,
Camp Director

Twenty-two years of
harmony among the
pines!

Youth Harmony Camp

October 25-27 2024
Friday-Saturday Eve

A weekend retreat for
high school age boys



Sly Park Educational Center
5600 Sly Park Road
Pollock Pines, CA
Tel: 916-228-2485

Nestled in the Sierra Foothills off of Hwy 50 about halfway between Sacramento and South Lake Tahoe, California

HARMONY CAMP IS FUN: ringing chords, friends, ice cream, tag singing, music coaches, a capella / barbershop, international quartet champions, ping pong, woodshedding, vocal production, singing, quartet coaching.



High Priority is our 2024 Headliner Quartet from the Far Western District

High Priority formed in April, 2014 and fairly quickly won the 2014 AZ & Far Western District SENIORS Championships that fall, then went on to win the silver medal in 2015 in New Orleans at the International Seniors Quartet Contest.

Just one year later they were finally crowned Seniors Quartet Champions at the 2016 Midwinter Convention in Reno. High Priority is Ray Estes – Tenor, Byron Bennett – Lead, Mark House – Baritone, and Dan Davenport – Bass.

Comment from Dr. Sarah Parks, Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Music Programs, St. Norbert College, “*We decided to do barbershop for the first time. By the end, their ears were working so much better. When they heard a chord for the first time, that’s when intonation made sense. Now they’re coming back and asking for more.*”

Time at camp is divided between general sessions and small class sessions which afford the campers a chance to interact with the clinicians and teaching quartets. Tag singing ...time to relax ... fun social activities like ice cream are among the highlights of Camp.

Choral directors are always welcome to join us as guests of the District and we have a special session devoted to your questions and suggestions.

All meals...and nightly ice cream... are served in the dining hall. Hot meals are prepared by the camp staff and served by barbershop volunteers. The staff to camper ratio is roughly 1:3.

Quartet coaching is also available.



Richard Lund coordinates all aspects of Youth Harmony Camp, from the recruitment of clinicians, teaching quartets, and volunteers to welcoming late night arrivals at Camp. In his 22nd year as director Richard is the heart and soul of Youth Harmony Camp.

Meet Our Clinicians



Gabe Caretto, Dean
MS Music Education
University of Oregon
FWD Quartet
Champions:
Late Show 2006
Artistic License 2011
Director, Voices of California
Joined BHS...age 16

Gabe Caretto is a 33-year member of the Barbershop Harmony Society and has been active as a quartet singer, chorus coach, youth chorus clinician, music director and educator throughout the country. Currently Gabe is the Music Director of Voices of California in Sacramento, CA. A former high school choral music educator, he now works as the financial manager for CSHQA Architects in West Sacramento.



Keith Harris
BM Music Education & Vocal
Performance, Lawrence Uni-
versity, WI
MM Vocal Performance,
University of Washington, Se-
attle
LOL and ILL District
Champion:
Family Ties 1991,
VOCE 2007
Collegiate Champion:
Free Fall 1997
Joined BHS... age 9

Keith is a second generation barbershopper and his experience in barbershop is what inspired him to become a professional singer. An active opera singer, Keith has performed all over the world at places like the Metropolitan Opera and Carnegie Hall. He has been the Music Director of the Westchester Chordsmen in New York since 2008. Most recently, Keith was appointed Artistic Director for The Voices of Gotham in New York City



Weekly Chapter Meetings:

Location: Zion Lutheran Church – 808 W Porter Avenue (Stockton, CA)

Tuesdays: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM (Grace Hall)

VLQ: 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM (except board meeting nights)

(Please verify for location of rehearsal as it may change)

See calendar for up-to-date information:

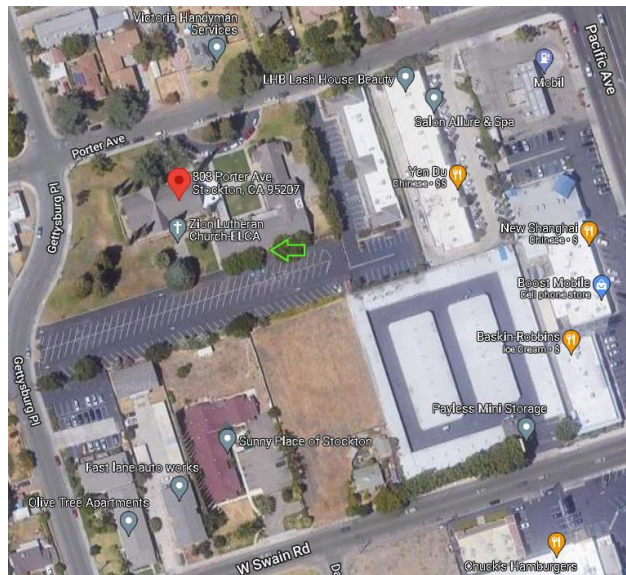
[Click here to access the Stockton Portsmen Calendar](#)

Website:

<http://www.stocktonportsmen.org/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/194542747456>



Directions:

- From Pacific Avenue go west on Porter Way, turn south on Gettysburg Pl then turn east into the Zion Lutheran Church parking lot.
- From Pershing Avenue go east on W. Swain Road, turn north on Gettysburg Pl then turn east into Zion Lutheran Church parking lot.

Mission Statement:

Provide the greater Stockton area with quality Barbershop chorus and quartet music and wholesome family entertainment, while encouraging every individual of good character who loves to sing the opportunity to find their place with us.

Hire Us:

Book us for your next event:

- Community Concerts
- Fairs
- Festivals
- Grand Openings
- Holiday Tree Lightings
- Memorial Services
- National Anthem
- Singing Valentines
- Summer Concerts

Performance times usually range from 20 to 40 minutes but can be adjusted up or down to fit your specific program. Contact us by email or phone below for a proposal:

- Info@StocktonPortsmen.org
- Phone (209) 881-SING (7464)

****SAVE THE DATE****

2024

- 5/4 California Delta Show
- 5/11 Stockton Portsmen 67th Annual Show – Hollywood ‘n Barbershop
- 5/27 2024 Memorial Day at Cherokee Memorial Park & Funeral Home
[Click Link for more details](#)
- **6/4 – 6/12 D-Day 80th Commemoration Concert Tour**
- 7/2 Celebrate America (Lodi, CA)
- 10/17-10/20 2024 FWD Fall Convention (Bakersfield, CA)
- 10/23 Folsom Show
- 10/25-10/27 2024 FWD Youth Harmony Camp (Pollock Pines, CA)

Barbershop Links

- Barbershop Harmony Society <http://www.barbershop.org/>
- Far Western District <https://www.farwesterndistrict.org/>
- Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association <https://www.mixedbarbershop.org/>
- VoCal Voices of California <http://voicesofcalifornia.org/>