



# The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsman

June 2024 - Issue #58



Stockton Portsman @ the 2024 Memorial Day at Cherokee Memorial Park & Funeral Home

## THE VIEW FROM THE HELM

BY AL WOLTER

PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE - ISSUE 30



Well, no one commented to me about the numbering of my articles, which just confirms that most don't read what I type, but that is fine. Not sure how or why I could make what I say be more interesting or read-worthy, but I do what I can to encourage, enlighten and educate you all – after that – ain't my problem.

I am writing this in the glimmer of the show, it being a Matinee, means my Glimmer is home at 2230, with high expectations of being 'racked-out' before eight bells.

First, my appreciation to those that truly put the Show together. It was a good show and overall, was artistically successful. As always, the financial success of any show takes more than a little while to determine. The fact that a fair crowd was in attendance was a good indicator (but did YOU have anyone in the pews that you 'invited'?

Next, I am not sure how aware you, as a Portsmen, may be regarding the other Chapter Shows and the number and quality of songs the Chapter chorus(es) may sing. That being said, I will say that most do NOT sing 16 songs, and then both decently well and of extreme variation. We sang Pop songs, World War One songs (that were resurrected for the next one, a World War Two song, a rock song – up-tunes and a lot of ballads. I would say that is twice of what many Chapter choruses sing on their shows. Now I will not comment on the quality, I was singing along with you, but my audience members stated that it was good – comments I take to heart as they know a wee-bit.

A lot of effort was expended by you to learn these new songs, especially the ones that we will take to France. As we work over the next three weeks to make the French hour-long performance solidified, the need to find artistry and confidence should be on the top of each of our lists.

I am regularly asked if I am looking forward to or excited about our trip. There are aspects that I am eager to pursue, but there are lots of logistics that make me less than eager for the whole event. The fact that we have folks leaving our entourage and those that will be filling out our performance ensemble only lessens that eagerness. Intellectually, I know everything will work out fine, but a greater sense of security about that would be appreciated.

The addition of the Memorial Day Service at Cherokee Memorial Park will both help and hinder our preparations. I fully expect that many of our Normandy songs will be part of our performance set.

## Musical Director's Message:

By Bill Litz

Can you believe it! As you are reading this, we will be winging our way to France for the 80<sup>th</sup> Remembrance of D-Day. I'm so happy for us as a group, and also for each of you. All of our plans are coming to fruition, and we get to experience the moment we created.

Embrace the now; it's where life truly happens. Being open to the present moment is a beautiful practice that can bring a lot of peace and fulfillment. Here are some ways to cultivate this openness:

- **Practice mindfulness:** Focus on the present moment without judgment. Pay attention to your surroundings and sensations and experience what happens.
- **Let go of expectations:** Expectations often lead to disappointment when reality doesn't align with them. Instead, try to approach each situation with an open mind, without preconceived notions of how things should be.
- **Focus on gratitude:** Be grateful for what is happening right now, rather than dwelling on what you expected or wished would happen. Even in challenging situations, there is usually something to be grateful for and many times reality offers a better experience than you even imagined.
- **Embrace uncertainty:** Life is inherently unpredictable, and trying to control everything will only lead to frustration. Learn to embrace uncertainty and see it as an opportunity for growth and exploration.
- **Practice acceptance:** Acceptance doesn't mean resignation or passivity; it means acknowledging things as they are without resistance. When you accept the present moment for what it is, you can respond to it more skillfully.
- **Stay curious:** Approach each moment with a sense of curiosity and wonder. Instead of lamenting unmet expectations, explore what the present moment has to offer and what you can learn from it.
- **Cultivate flexibility:** Adapt and adjust your plans when things don't go as expected. Flexibility allows you to flow with the ever-changing nature of life.
- **Find joy in small moments:** Happiness doesn't always come from big accomplishments or events; it often arises from appreciating the small, everyday moments of beauty and connection.

By incorporating these practices into our trip, we can experience the present moment and experience greater peace and contentment, even when things don't go as planned.

As we embark on this journey together, let's remember the power of sharing our experiences with one another. Whether through laughter, conversation, or quiet moments of reflection, let's cherish the bonds we form and the memories we create as we navigate this adventure side by side. Together, we can magnify the beauty of the present moment and enrich each other's lives in ways we never imagined.

For those who are unable to join us on this trip - Although you may not be physically present, your spirit is with us. Remember that distance cannot diminish the bonds we share or the impact of your presence in our lives. We carry you in our hearts. Your absence serves as a reminder of the importance of cherishing every moment and every experience. We look forward to sharing stories and memories with you upon our return, knowing that our experiences will be enriched by your love and support. Until we reunite, know that you are cherished and will be missed dearly.

There won't be any official meetings or rehearsals for the next two weeks. But remember we have a performance to prepare for - July 2<sup>nd</sup> Celebrate America in Lodi.

Consider attending the Bean Feed in Folsom on Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. It is always a fun time of singing and fellowship.

I can't wait for us to be back together on June 18<sup>th</sup> and am looking forward to learning some new songs over the summer and developing a program that is more inviting so we can share our passion with more people in the community. Keep the Whole World Singing.

Our President was inspired to share a second article this month...

## THE VIEW FROM THE HELM – TAKE 2

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BY AL WOLTER

OFF WE GO! - ISSUE 31



It is with high expectations that this issue of the Captain's Log and thus this "View" will be published before we board the bus to take us to the plane for our flight to France. This is such a daunting endeavor; it has pushed our processes past our normal comfort zones. I can't say that that is a bad thing, and if we can adjust to this new normal, we will grow.

As I started thinking about this missive and our trip, the story of the "Little Engine that Could" came to mind. The mantra of "I think I can, I think I can" with its theme of the little guy getting done what others won't.

While it may not be best to dredge up the past, it wasn't that long ago that the Portsmen met on Friday nights at the Port of Stockton and did almost more 'other things' than they sang. The Chapter had a reputation, and it wasn't a good one. WE are already not that Chapter, but the reputation still lingers. In Fremont, I overheard a conversation with a past District President about where he was singing and the closest Chapter – his response was "Stockton, but I would never sing there." Now I don't know if he feels that way because of the reputation or because we are a mixed chorus now. I am hoping that feelings like that will go the way of the dodo bird. The fact that we still sound like a Barbershop chorus is something I feel proud of, as it is such a special sound. Sweet Adelines use the same musical structure, but the pitches at which they sing change the sound.

Now, as some of us are packing, we need to keep the same energy we have had the past couple of months. For those that are staying behind, I ask you what you are going to do those two Tuesdays? With the Director and Assistant Director(s) in France, there will be a large void left behind. Some options would be to take a road trip to Modesto or Sacramento, two Chapters that could use some support.



## **Celebrations**

### **June Birthdays**

Chuck Kenny – 6/8

Bill Litz – 6/22

### **The Singing Heart**

Poem by Tom Harmon

Hooray for the red, white, and blue;  
We lift our heads on high.  
When shadows fall upon the earth,  
Courage is our reply.

Courage and faith in a brighter tomorrow  
And a willingness to see it through  
Is always what builds great visions,  
As it also builds me and you.

Be thankful for the gifts you have  
That help many others arise.  
Be thankful and extend your heart  
To remove those cloudy skies.

The singing heart brings laughter  
As its wings lift through the airs;  
The singing heart brings comfort  
As it eases our worldly cares.

## **Thank you to our sponsors!!!**

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Seth - Lodi Beer Co, Lodi

Avenue Grill, Lodi

Jennifer - Airport Café, Acampo

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

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Dee - De Vinci's, Lodi

Thai Spices, Lodi

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Nikki Burgess - The Dermal Clinic, Lodi

Yvonne Holland - Dermal Clinic, Lodi

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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, Lone

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Asia - Arthur Murray Dance Studio,  
Stockton

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Bob Weisenberg

- Woodbridge Uncorked, Woodbridge

Mangal Singh - Clements Ridge Produce  
and Bakery

Zoom Car Wash, Stockton

Regina Brown - Member: Stockton  
Portsmen

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Decor, Lodi

Denise Solari - SDS Designs

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- Raymond James Financial Services,  
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Star Heers  
Carol Holt Bedell  
Daniel Bernick - Sacramento Artist  
Daniel Meza - F&M Bank, Lodi  
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Brain Synowicki - Synowicki's Jewel Box,  
Lodi  
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[Click link to our Go Fund Me Account to be a Sponsor](#)

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



## Golden Valley Chorus Ice Cream Social

Thank you to GVC for including our  
Stockton Portsmen Quartets to perform at your Ice Cream Social!!!



## River Lights Chorus



**Royal Flush**



**Three Lads & ALAS**



**Tune Struck Quartet**



**Finale**



## Quartet Updates

### **Tune Struck**

Tune Struck has been having a great time together as we work toward our trip to France with the Portsmen. Having some extra rehearsals has really helped our sound and sharpened our performance. We're especially excited to be working on "I'll Be Seeing You", one of our favorite ballads to share with the audiences in France. We are proud and humbled to be a part of the celebration of freedom performing as a quartet and with the Stockton Portsmen Barbershop Chorus. We also enjoyed performing at GVC's Ice Cream Social.

### **Royal Flush**

We are proud of what we've accomplished in the shows we were recently part of. We are looking forward to Meeting and discussing the future of our quartet once Nancy returns from France. Our next performance will be singing the National Anthem at the River Cats Game on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Go River Cats!

# Three Lads and Alas!

## What's in a Name?

A couple of months ago Nancy mentioned she had gotten a call from a lady at the Stockton Irish Club who was looking for a quartet to perform at a luncheon meeting. We checked our calendars, found we were available, and told Nancy we'd be happy to perform. She gave me the lady's name, which was Rose. I spoke with Rose to arrange details, and we started practicing a couple of Irish songs—of course, My Wild Irish Rose and Irish Blessing—and well as some others in our repertoire. We decided to wear shamrocks (see below). When we got there, we were a little surprised not to see a lot of green but went ahead with our show, which was well received. Speaking with our contact later, we saw the sign and asked whose birthday was being celebrated. Obviously not St. Patrick's! We were told it was the anniversary of the Stockton IRIS Club!! Oops! I'm sure they were all wondering what the heck the shamrocks were for! We all had a good laugh. Evidently this wasn't the first time someone had made the same mistake!



## 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:

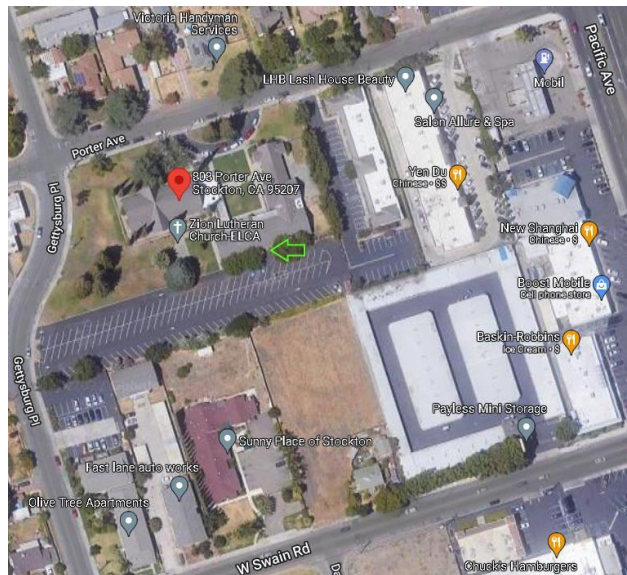
[Click here to access the Stockton Portsmen Calendar](#)

### 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](mailto:Info@StocktonPortsmen.org)
- Phone (209) 881-SING (7464)

### **\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\***

#### **2024**

- **6/4 – 6/12**      **D-Day 80th Commemoration Concert Tour**
- 6/12              Folsom Harmony Express presents The Annual Been Feed  
A Somewhat Serious Quartet Contest
- 7/2                Celebrate America (Lodi, CA)
- 10/17-10/20      2024 FWD Fall Convention (Riverside, 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/>