



The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsmen

Connecting members, supporters, and friends of the Stockton Portsmen

June 2026 - Issue #82



Greetings fellow Portsmen, friends and family!

As your Interim President, it's my honor to contribute an additional Love Note for the Captain's Log. First off, how did we get to June already! Although 2026 is flying by, we have accomplished so much in these first 5 months!

In January, we installed our Portsmen Board and began the start of a new year. Under the tutelage of President Al Wolter, a very successful Novice Contest was held in February. The number of novice quartets participating more than doubled over the previous year. New sounds were heard, new connections made, friendships shared.

March came roaring in with our hosting responsibility for Far Western District's Convention. Once again, McNair High School was a great setting and the new "Hotel Home Base" at Lodi's Fairfield Inn and Suites seemed to be a hit. It was fun getting to know the judges and listening to interesting conversations as we transported them to and from the airport and to the theater. Turns out, judges are people too... 😊 It gave me personal pleasure to contribute a small token of a charcuterie cup in each of their hotel rooms. I think after spending hours travelling, it was nice to find a little welcome snack in their fridge! Thanks to our Portsmen for pulling together, taking care of all the "behind the curtain" necessities to make a successful event. The Stockton Portsmen added another level of positive exposure to the FWD!

A very fast 3 weeks later, we were able to pull together our Annual Spring Show. Thanks to the efforts of President Wolter, Steve Yund and Bill Litz, an appreciative audience enjoyed our Christmas in April production. Of course, the full chorus stepped up, learning parody lyrics and lines of script in a flash!

May brought us our annual invite to sing the Cherokee Memorial Day Weekend event. I personally felt that it was one of our best performances on a Memorial Day. Kudos to the VLQ that then hustled over to Stockton's Civic Auditorium for that celebration.

Mix in Anthem Sings at the Ports games and various quartet gigs, and one can see that we aren't slowing down. The summer months will bring more opportunities to sing and share our harmony. During the next 26 weeks, there is a concerted effort to grow our chorus membership.

Obviously, there have been some changes in our roster. We welcome our new members and say goodbye to our members that are now on different trajectories. Now is the time to re-commit, stay the course and ask yourself what you can do to ensure the continued growth and success of the Stockton Portsmen and the traditions we represent. Even if our name changes, we will never leave behind the roots and tradition of our legacy. Happy Summer, all!

Sending Love Notes,

Nance

Interim President

Musical Director's Message: by Bill Litz

A few weeks ago, someone introduced the Stockton Portsmen as a “world-famous chorus.” My first reaction was to laugh a little. After all, most of us don't spend much time thinking of ourselves in those terms.

But the more I thought about it, the more I realized there was something important in that comment.

Being “world famous” isn't about how many people know your name. It's about the impact you have on the people who hear you, sing with you, and experience what you create. Every time we step onto a riser, perform in our community, welcome a guest, mentor a new singer, or represent barbershop harmony, we are ambassadors for an art form that reaches far beyond ourselves.

As we begin our 26 Weeks of Harmony program, I'd like to challenge each of us to think a little bigger about who we are and who we can become. Great choruses don't happen by accident. They are built one rehearsal at a time, one improved skill at a time, one stronger relationship at a time.

This program isn't just about learning notes and polishing performances. It's about investing in ourselves as singers, musicians, and teammates. It's about creating a culture where every member is growing and every voice matters. Most importantly, it's about building a chorus that we're proud to invite others to join.

The best organizations promote themselves not by telling people how good they are, but by consistently demonstrating excellence, enthusiasm, and a welcoming spirit. If we commit to the process over the next 26 weeks, the results will speak for themselves.

So, whether we're world famous or simply famous among our friends and families, let's carry ourselves with pride, sing with purpose, and continue building something special together.

26 Weeks of Harmony Status

Reconnecting • Welcoming • Growing

Our **26 Weeks of Harmony** campaign is off to a wonderful start, reminding us that the best ambassadors for barbershop are the people who already know and love it.

Since launching the campaign, we have been pleased to welcome **former member Joe Hunt and his wife Amy, former member Paul Grant, and former member Tim Tuggle**, each of whom has joined us for at least one rehearsal. We were also delighted to have **Greg DeMers from Golden Valley Chorus** join us for our Memorial Day performance at Cherokee Memorial.

At the same time, we are celebrating our newest member, **Gray Drohan**, who became a member in March and has already joined us on the contest stage and at many other performances. Gray's enthusiasm and willingness to jump right in are wonderful examples of what makes our chorus special, and we look forward to watching his barbershop journey continue.

The campaign reminds us that people are looking for places where they can belong. Every rehearsal is an opportunity to reconnect with old friends, welcome new faces, share a few songs, and enjoy the fellowship that has made the Stockton Portsmen special for generations.

Thank you to the members who have reached out, made phone calls, and invited friends and former singers back to rehearsal. Your personal invitations are making a difference. With a Division Championship, a successful spring show, and an active performance schedule behind us, there has never been a better time to share what we do.

Member Challenge: Invite one former member, one friend, one family member, or anyone who enjoys singing to join us for a Tuesday rehearsal. One invitation can make all the difference.

Harmony grows one voice at a time, and every voice is welcome.

Quartet Updates

Four Heaven's Sake

A Barbershop Quartet

John Hunt

Steve Fund

Dave Harmon

Willys Nitschke

UPDATE: 6-1-2026

It felt like a slow month for *Four Heaven's Sake*. Then, it came back to me... on 5/2/26, Oak Farm Vineyard hosted a fundraising event for the Hospice of San Joaquin. The theme was the running of the Kentucky Derby. There were horses, a barn, a jumbo screen on which to watch the derby, mint-julips, lots of wonderful food, beautifully dressed women in fancy hats, and the men put on the Ritz too! And who was that greeting all the guests as they entered the grounds? *Four Heaven's Sake!!*



John had another engagement, so Al Wolter graciously filled in. People and, at one point, the Sheriff's horses stopped to hear mainly PoleCat songs. We wandered around the site and sang as well. Good fun being ambience at a classy event like this!



Then on Tuesday, May 5th, we were part of a plot whipped up by John and one of his track athletes at Tokay High. He wanted to ask his prom date to the prom via song. So “Let Me Call You Sweetheart” became “Let Me Be Your Prom Date.” We put on our dress white outfits and showed up at her class. Simon (the lad with the idea) had arranged with the school and the teacher for the interruption. He blew the pitch. We sang. She said, “Yes!” While at the school, since John and Steve both had worked in the office in the past, we did a drive-by crooning of the counseling staff. Perhaps this is a market we can investigate for the future?

Since we were all dressed up and there was no place to sing, we went to the Lodi Chamber of Commerce. Sang a couple songs for them and got information about whether joining would be a benefit. A good day of visibility and song.

Then, 5/12/26 we sang at O’Connor Woods for our monthly remote rehearsal/performance. We are getting a following there. It’s fun to have so many people know the songs we are singing and join in when they can. One is a former co-worker with Steve, Lisa, who taught students with communicative disabilities. She sings along by using her sign-language skills. It’s like she is performing for us. Several indicated that they really enjoyed the Portsmen’s show!



June Birthday Celebrations

Chuck Kenny – 6/8

Paul Grant – 6/9

Bill Litz – 6/22

Barbershop Shows & Upcoming Activities

Join us for the...

Stay Tuned Chorus Show and

DESSERT DASH!

fundraiser and a cappella extravaganza

Sunday, June 7th, 3:00 P.M.
Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th St.
Sacramento, CA

Tickets \$15, pre-sale only
Contact: 530-350-0247 or
email: StayTunedChorus@gmail.com

www.staytunedchorus.com





*Presents The Annual Bean Feed
A Somewhat Serious Quartet Contest*



Wednesday, June, 10th 6pm

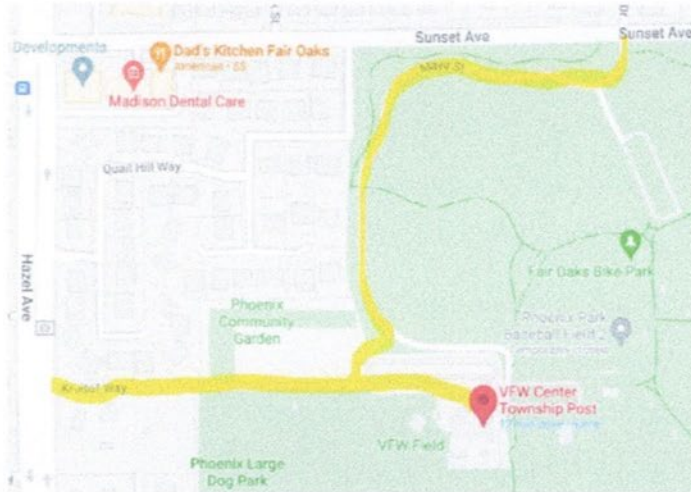
At The VFW in Fair Oaks

8990 Kruitof Way, Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Celebrating Over 30 Years of

Bean Feeds and Barbershop Quartet Contests

Tickets are \$10.00 at the door



Folsom Harmony Express
Non-profit Organization



Bring Harmony to Your Next Event

Book the Stockton Portsmen or One of Our Quartets!

A mixed-voice a cappella chorus celebrating 70+ years of harmony in the Central Valley.

Looking to add warmth, charm, and polished harmony to your next event? Whether you're planning a lively celebration or a heartfelt ceremony, the Stockton Portsmen Chorus or one of our talented quartets will bring unforgettable music tailored to your occasion.

We perform at:

- Community Concerts and Festivals
- Grand Openings and Ribbon Cuttings
- Memorial Services and Celebrations of Life
- Holiday Tree Lightings and Caroling Events
- Weddings, Anniversaries and Private Celebrations
- Corporate Gatherings and Award Ceremonies
- **Patriotic and Civic Events (National Anthems, Veterans Day, Memorial Day, etc.)**
- Senior Living Communities and Community Outreach Programs
- Singing Valentines and Special Deliveries (Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc.)

Flexible Performance Lengths:

Our typical sets range from 20 to 40 minutes, but we're happy to tailor the timing to suit your specific program or audience needs.

Contact Us:

Email: Info@StocktonPortsmen.org

Phone: (209) 881-SING (7464)

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

**We'd love to bring harmony to your special event.
Reach out today and let's create something memorable together.**

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.

Weekly Chapter Meetings:

Curious what it's like?

Come visit a rehearsal no pressure, just great music and great people. Come experience harmony with us. Visitors are always welcome on Tuesday evenings. No audition is required, just a love of singing and community.

Location: Zion Lutheran Church, Grace Hall - 808 W. Porter Avenue, Stockton, CA

Tuesday Rehearsals:

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM Chorus Rehearsal

7:30 PM – 8:30 PM VLQ, except board meeting nights (3rd Tuesday of each month)

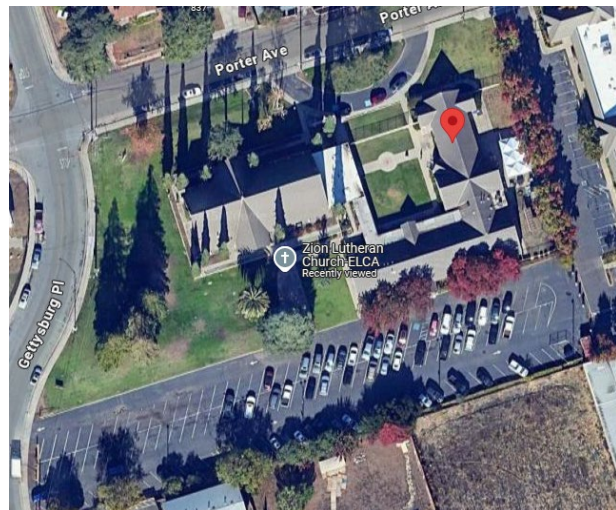
Rehearsals may occasionally be held at an alternate location, so please check the calendar for the most up-to-date information. [Click here to access the Stockton Portsmen Calendar](#)

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.



****SAVE THE DATE****

2026

- 6/7 Delta Chapter Show – Stay Tuned Chorus (Sacramento, CA)
- 6/10 Folsom Harmony Express Presents The Annual Bean Feed A Somewhat Serious Quartet Contest (Fair Oaks, CA)
- 6/18 Sacramento Harmony for Lunch Bunch (11:30 am – 1:00 pm)
- 6/28-7/5 [BHS International Convention \(St. Louis, MO\)](#)
- 7/1 **Celebrate America (Lodi, CA) (6pm-8pm)**
- 8/29 **Stockton Portsmen Annual Picnic (3pm-6pm)**
- 9/11 Youth Harmony Explosion (Visalia, CA)
- 10/6-11 [2026 Pan Pacific and FWD Fall Convention \(Honolulu, Hawaii\)](#)
[Click Link for details & registration](#)
- 12/5 **Festival of Trees (Chorus)**
- 12/6 **Festival of Trees (VLQ)**
- 12/14 **Stockton Portsmen Holiday Show**
- 12/18 **Philomathean Club Performance**
- TBD **Stockton Portsmen Holiday Roadshow & Remote Rehearsals**

Barbershop Links:

Barbershop Harmony Society <https://www.barbershop.org/>

Far Western District <https://www.farwesterndistrict.org/>

Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association <https://www.mixedbarbershop.org/>

Stay Tuned a Cappella Chorus Sacramento: <https://www.facebook.com/StayTunedChorus>

Voices of California (VoCal) <https://www.voicesofcalifornia.org/>

Westunes Magazine <https://www.farwesterndistrict.org/news/westunes/>