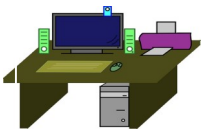
Desert Aires Barbershop Chorus

ENTERTAINING THE WEST VALLEY

2025

Issue 2

On The Air(es)



from the desk

of the President…

Happy February to all! This will be a busy month for us, with Singing Valentines on Friday February 14, and our annual show "American Bandstand Meets Barbershop" on Sunday February 23. These two events are not only really fun, they also make up the majority of our annual income for the year. Your support is both needed and appreciated!

I also want to take a moment and thank Howard Donley for once again coordinating our annual Installation Banquet in January. It was a fun event, and we appreciate the effort and attention to detail that Howard brought to the evening. I also want to thank Roy Botterbusch for stepping up to be our new Membership VP, and to thank Fred Anderson for fulfilling that role over the past two years.

This month, let's continue to work on strengthening our sound, supporting each other, and making the most of every rehearsal. We have some exciting opportunities ahead, and your passion will take us to new heights. Whether it's through vocal technique, harmony, or just the joy of singing together, we're all a part of something special.

Let's keep the energy high, the notes ringing clear, and the spirit of teamwork strong! Keep singing your heart out!

Rich

Make the Annual Show a Sucess

Get those Ads in Early

2025 Officers & Directors

Rich Harvey

President

Bob Geinosky

Secretary

Don Hales

Treasurer

Curt Struyk

VP Music

Roy Botterbusch

VP Membership

Gunner Varga

VP Program

Aaron Burleson

VP Marketing

Ken Corns

VP Communications

Directors at Large

Brion Grant

Bill Shaw

Dave Starcevich

MEMBER CORNER

My Story

I sang tenor in my high school chorus. After graduation in 1954, I enlisted in the USAF where I was based in Hawaii becoming a Hurricane Hunter and Atomic Cloud Chaser as a radio operator in a weather reconnaissance squadron.

After my tour of duty was finished, I became an air traffic controller with the FAA. I worked in NY and San Diego. While in San Diego, I picked up the nickname "Duke of Earl". I retired in 2000 after 41 years.

In 2009 while on a cruise attending a show the singer came up to me and placed a microphone in front of me and had me sing (something I hadn't done since high school) she said that she was impressed with my performance. This encouraged me to sing at jam sessions in the Sun City area.

In 2011 the Desert Aires performed at Theater Works. As they were recruiting members, I attended some meetings and became a member. The rest as they say is history.

Installation Dinner

Our Installation dinner went flawless this year with a big shout out to Howard Donley for all his work with an assist from Barney Barnhart. After we had wined and dined, We were honored to have the president of the Far Western District, Adam Kaufman conduct the installation of officers.

Unfortunately, a bout of the flu kept Cary away from proceedings but that didn't stop him from 'crowning' Rich Harvey as our B.O.T.Y. for 2024 via recorded message. (See page 4 for article)

Many quartets regaled us with lively song and even the chorus sang for our plus ones.

Barney was then recognized for his many years of entertaining audiences as our Master of Ceremonies with an award. (I hope he continues.)

Another award was given out. A rather humorous one but very to the point.. This one to VP Program Director, 'Gunner'. He was given the Spark Plug award for keeping our rehearsals so upbeat. But please, whatever you do, don't call him 'Sparky'. He has already threatened bodily harm to anyone who refers to him in this matter. Remember no Sparky. Gunner is fine. No Sparky. I repeat because some of us are susceptible to senior moments. **No Sparky, just Gunner**

We all enjoyed the comradery and congratulations to new officers and those recognized. For their accomplishments.

B O T Y 2025

This year's BOTY is Rich Harvey, our esteemed president. Rich sits in our baritone section and tries to keep up with the other baritones. Concentrate on that word **tries**. (Just kidding)

Rich started his musical career playing the one-string banjo, then the accordion and later the trombone, playing in a Dixieland combo called the "Bobcats". He graduated from Washington State University with a business degree and then spent four years in the Air National guard and pulled 'band duty'. Rich also sings in the ProMusica Arizona chorus as a baritone.

Rich is in his third year as president of our chapter and tries (there's that word again) to keep the board meetings flowing at a good pace. An introvert, he is not, he has an infectious laugh which does not have to be explained, only experienced. He is extremely thoughtful and works consistently to better the chorus, he never hesitates to pitch in when help is needed. An award very deserving.

Please put Cell Phones on "Do Not Disturb" or Vibrate during rehearsals and performances

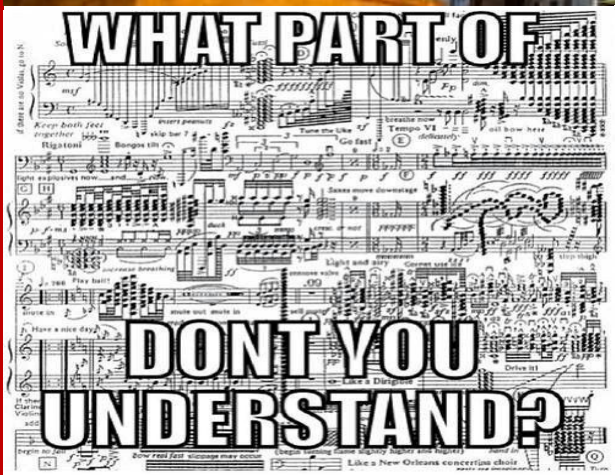
February Birthdays

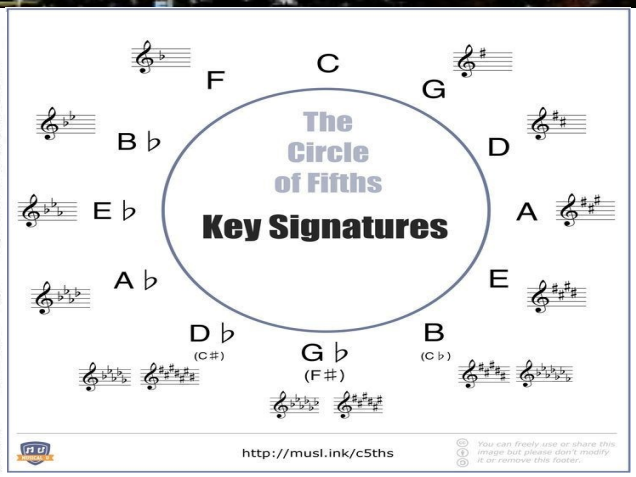
Curt Struyk 6th, Don Hales 9th

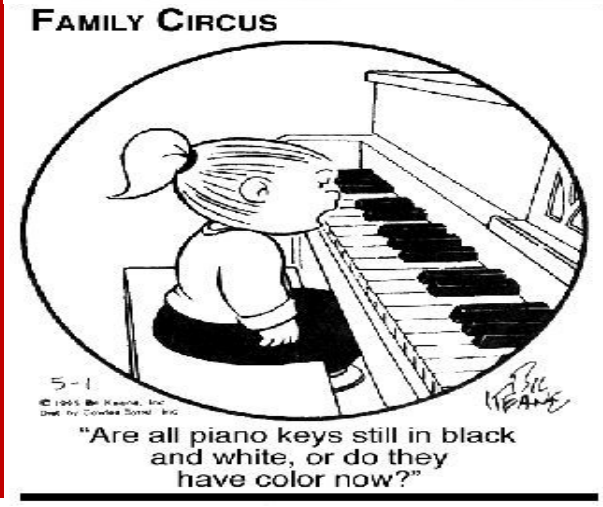
San Antonio Mid-Winter Convention

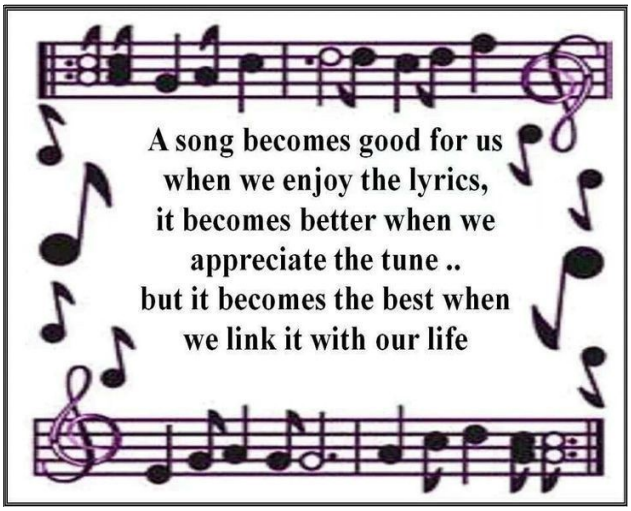
At the time of this printing, thirteen of our chapter are in San Antonio for the Mid-Winter Senior Convention to compete for the senior prize. We wish all were able to come, but realize that's just not always possible due to other commitments. Win or lose, (sorry there is no losing). It's a win just to be here. It's just great to experience the comradery and barbershop talent that is available. Fifteen High School quartets and many High School choruses will also be competing separately for recognition. So who says barbershop is dead.

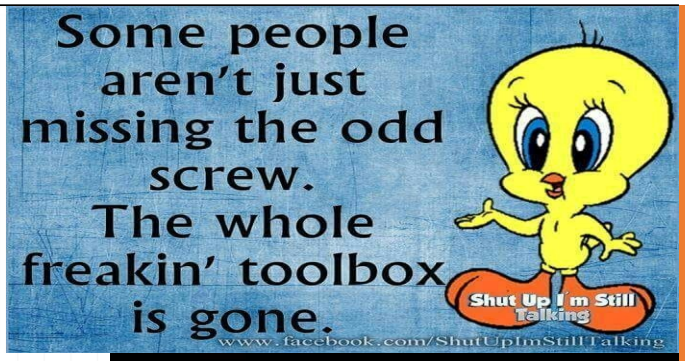
We'll see you when we get back











Editor—Bob Geinosky

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Comments or Complaints