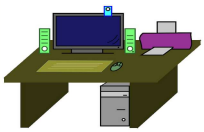
Desert Aires Barbershop Chorus

ENTERTAINING THE WEST VALLEY

2026
Issue 4

On The Air(es)



from the desk of the President…

Hi Guys,

Wow, a quarter of the year has already passed. We've enjoyed a busy and productive time together, highlighted by our performances and the anticipated success at the FWD Convention.

Although we've shared many achievements, the arrival of warm weather signals the annual migration of Snowbirds heading to cooler places. We'll certainly miss you, but the chorus will stay occupied here - learning new songs and honing our performance skills while also providing new opportunities to sing in Quartet situations. When you return in the fall with your smiling faces, you'll be amazed by our progress and eager to put in extra effort to catch up.

Roy

April Birthdays

Grant Fox 7th, Gunner Varga 9th, Bob Gorman 22nd

2026 Officers & Directors

Roy Botterbusch
President

Bob Geinosky
Secretary

Rich Harvey
Treasurer

Brion Grant
VP Music

Smiley McGinnis
VP Membership

Brion Grant
VP Program

Aaron Burleson
VP Marketing

Directors at Large

Bill Shaw 1y

Barney Barnhart 2y

Greg Layne 3y

Cary's Corner

Society Core Values

Have you ever read the Society's core values? I admit that I haven't. I was looking for some information on the BHS website and found it. It is divided into three main principles: *inclusion, service, and humanity*.

Inclusion BHS members welcome all singers and potential singers into our community and create environments for them to thrive regardless of their circumstances or abilities. This is a bold statement. Regardless of "circumstances or abilities" can refer to many things. Circumstances may include socioeconomic status (affecting ability to pay due to lack of surplus funds), health (physical and/or mental), work, family, ability to travel to rehearsals, handicap, and personal responsibilities. Abilities can include physical, mental, vocal, musical experience, vision, ability to read music, and ability to stand for long periods. Certainly, there are many other considerations.

I wonder if we are ready to accept those who do not readily conform to the "average barbershopper". For instance, during contests I always ask for there to be more lights for us backstage, so we don't trip on cords. Sometimes, at larger venues like at District contests, those with mobility issues must take a longer and more strenuous path from the warmup area to the stage. Having chairs onstage ready for those who need, is another accommodation that barbershoppers should be cognizant of.

Service BHS members regularly give our time, talent, and treasure to support the organization and ensure it thrives in perpetuity. The goal is to keep BHS thriving. Why? Why do we do this and why should others do it? I can speak for myself. Barbershop has given me most of the good things in my life. I have met so many wonderful people through my 27 years of barbershopping. And I get to meet new people every time I coach, judge, or attend a barbershop event. I have made lifelong friends in extremely short amounts of time, and those friends live all over the world. Barbershop taught me to focus on lifting people up, rather than making the music the most important thing. It has allowed me to travel to places I never would have seen.

This is just my journey. You have had your own barbershop journey. Who are the people who served so you could have a positive experience? Many of you have given your time and effort to ensure that this chapter, and others, thrive. Coaches often coach groups that will face them in competition, which is so rare in competitions.

Humanity BHS members assume positive intent, treat others with integrity and respect, and embrace opportunities to learn and improve.

There are 8.3 billion people in the world. Every one unique. Sometimes it's hard to image that everyone has a unique story. We all have different lived experiences, different bodies, different abilities, different minds. We all carry characteristics like gender, race, sexual orientation, age, identity, culture, and religion or non-religion.

I got my degree in Sociology in 2022 to learn about the various types of people in this wide world and, as you can probably guess, I barely scratched the surface. People are fascinating.

Con't on Page 4 (Cary's Corner)

38 year member of BHS,
Musically Judge since 2010, 2024 Desertaires Barbershopper of the Year,
Coach and arranger,
Director of a senior men's chorus, the Desertaires of Sun Cities, AZ Chapter,
Director of a women's a cappella chorus, Wicked Pitch of the West,
Director or a 160 member community chorus for 20 years

MEMBER CORNER

My Travels & Barbershop

I grew up in a Barbershop Family. My dad sang Barbershop since the late 1940's and started the Bellingham, WA chapter. I didn't officially join until 1979 when I was 13. I sang in various quartets and choruses over the years. I graduated from High School in 1984 and went to Western Washington University for 2 years. I didn't know what I wanted to do for a career at that point and I dropped out of College. I didn't want to spend time and money spinning my wheels. During this time, I got my private pilots license (my instructor was a barbershopper). I had a friend at the airport where I learned to fly suggest that I apply to FAA for an Air Traffic Controller job.

I thought that would be a good idea and applied and took a bunch of tests. I was hired by the FAA in November of 1988. The first four months were an all expenses paid trip to the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City. It was brutal and very stressful since the pass rate was only 60%. I passed and was hired to go to Anchorage Alaska. I moved to Anchorage in February of 1989. There was a training backlog so I didn't start actual training until October of 1990. Once, in the pipeline, I was a fully certified Enroute Air Traffic Controller by July of 1992. I worked as a controller and in various support staff positions until I retired in December of 2013. It was a good career and I'm grateful for it but 25 years was enough and I moved on.

I met my lovely wife Jennifer (Jen) through mutual friends while in Alaska. I worked with her best friend's brother and they thought we would be a good fit. They were right. We did the long distance romance thing. I lived in Anchorage and she lived in Chicago. I had business trips to the lower 48 so I could always stop in to see her on the trip back and forth. We were married in 2004.
We moved around a bit after I retired. We went to Sparks, NV, Burlington, WA, and then finally settled in Buckeye(Sun City Festival). We've been in Arizona for 2 1/2 years and enjoy it very much. We enjoy RVing around the western US and we're looking forward to traveling the rest of the US and Canada. We may even go back to Alaska.

I was singing in a local quartet and that is where I met Gunner Varga. The quartet didn't work out and Gunner invited me to the Desert Aires and I've been coming ever since. I've sung Tenor and Baritone over the years and now lead with the chorus. I'm enjoying my time with the Desert Aires.

Con't from Page 2 (Cary'sCorner)

The barbershop of today recognizes that to stay viable, we need more people singing. More people singing now, means more people singing 100 years from now. Our grandchildren and their grandchildren should have a place to harmonize where they are included, they can help one another be successful through the service of giving their time and energy, and where they are respected as the unique humans they are.

It's a great time to be a barbershopper!

And it's great to be a Desert Aire.

Cary

The Arizona Division Convention, will be held on April 18 at Apollo High School, 8045 N. 47th Ave, Glendale AZ and will bring together an exciting showcase of talent, harmony, and community spirit. Hosted by the Far Western District of the Barbershop Harmony Society, the event welcomes both choruses and quartet singers and audiences from across Arizona for a day filled with outstanding musical performances.

Quartets and choruses will take the stage throughout the contest, delivering dynamic renditions that highlighted the precision and artistry of barbershop harmony. From tightly blended quartet arrangements to the rich, full sound of choruses, each performance reflected dedication, skill, and a shared love of singing. The competition provides an opportunity for groups of all experience levels to shine, while also celebrating the tradition and future of the barbershop style.

Awards will be presented in Class A, AA, and AAA divisions, recognizing excellence across a range of ensemble sizes and experience levels. These honors not only celebrate musical achievement but also encourage growth and participation within the barbershop community. After the contest, each group that wishes will be critiqued by true professionals in the field and will be given 'tip & clues' on ways to improve their presentation.

The Desert Aires will compete as the 4th chorus in competition. As yet, the time is unknown.

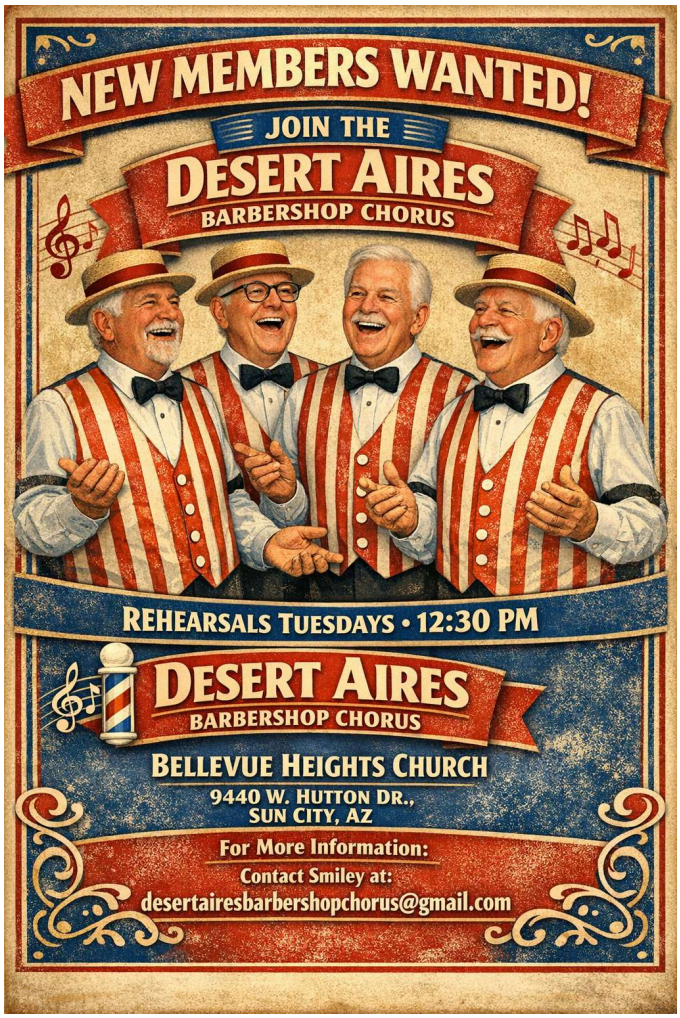
Desert Aires Bring Harmony and Heart to The Palmeras Senior Living Facility in Sun City

The Desert Aires Barbershop Chorus continued its tradition of community service this month with a special outreach visit to The Palmeras Senior Living Facility in Sun City. The event blended music, fellowship, and genuine connection—an experience that resonated deeply with both residents and chorus members.

The chorus delivered a lively program of classic barbershop tunes, and sentimental favorites, that had residents smiling, singing along, and even tapping their toes sparked by the music of the chorus and the quartets. For many at The Palmeras residents, the performance offered a welcome moment of nostalgia and joy, while for the Desert Aires, it was a reminder of why community outreach remains central to their mission.

The afternoon reinforced the chorus's belief that music is more than entertainment—it's a bridge that brings people together, lifts spirits, and strengthens community bonds.

As the Desert Aires look ahead to future outreach events, their commitment remains the same: to share harmony, friendship, and goodwill throughout the Sun City area, one heartfelt chord at a time.



🎶 Join the Desert Aires Barbershop Chorus! 🎶

Love to sing? Come harmonize with us!

We rehearse Tuesdays at 12:30 PM at Bellevue Heights Church,

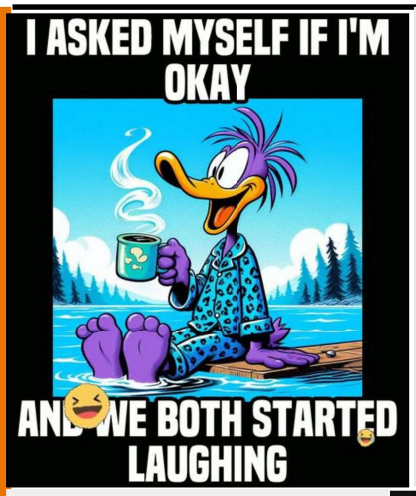
📍 9440 W. Hutton Drive, Sun City, AZ

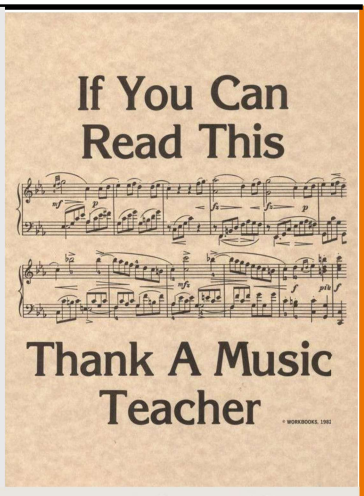
No experience needed — just a love of music and fun!

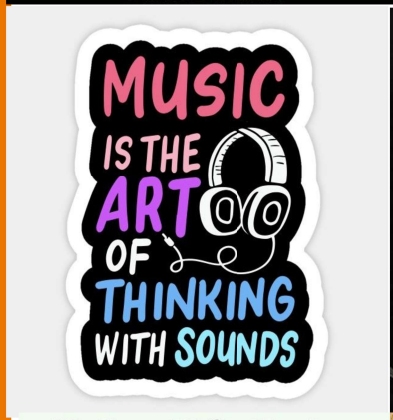
Members - Ask your friends, neighbors or those you sing with at church.

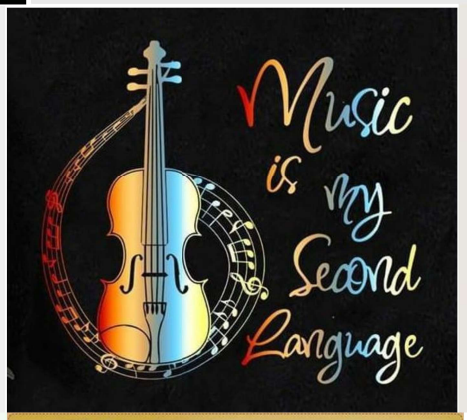
We're a fun bunch of guys who get together once a week to rehearse. We also are involved with community outreach to bring the barbershop style to those in various senior living facilties.

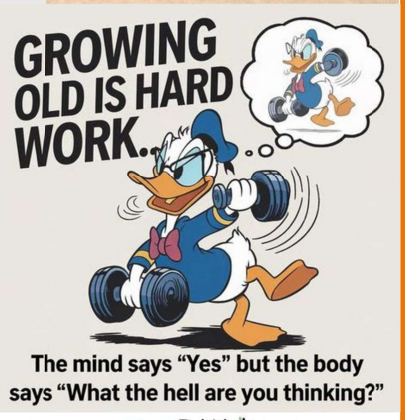
You Can Hire Us

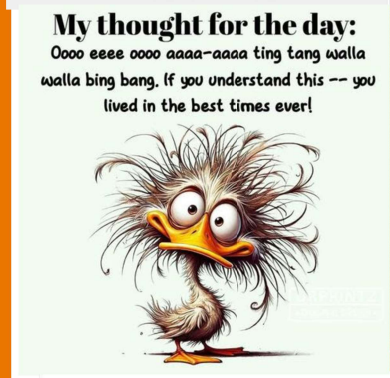




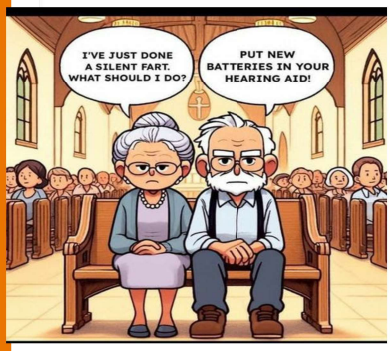








S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.



Addiction to harmony is a real disease. It can be found in singers around the world. Symptoms include cringing at bad chords, knowledge of pointless barbershop facts, and late-night tag singing. If you or someone you know has been affected by harmony addiction, repost this for harmony addiction awareness week.

Editor—Bob Geinosky
desertairesbarbershopchorus@gmail.com
Appreciate your Comments or Complaints