



Wednesday  
July 5th

~ The 79th Annual Barbershop Harmony Society's International Convention ~

2017 DAILY BULLETIN

# DESERT NEWS

The Las Vegas  
**Silver Statesmen**  
Barbershop Chorus



③

## Quartet Contest Starts Today!!

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### The Future of Barbershop

If you missed the Youth Quartet contest last night, you missed out on a real treat!

Two of the quartets stopped by the Convention Office and sang a couple of songs for all of us there.

If this is what the future of our Society looks like, then we are in very good shape, indeed.

~ Fred Green, editor

(more photos in our online edition)

(photos by Bulletin Staff photographer, Chris Wethered)



Elementary Mix consists of **Logan Allison**, 14, bass; **Ty Coblents**, 9, baritone; **Dominic Gear**, 8, Lead; **James Stinson**, 9, Tenor. They have been singing together only five months!



The **Quin-Tones** quartet is made up of (right to left) **Jacob Lapp**, 14, tenor; **Julian LeFlore**, 16, lead; **Chris Crawford**, 15, bass; and **Tommy Hunter**, 15, baritone.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

An Overview of Daily Details

#### Wednesday, July 5

**Arranger's Gathering**  
9am - 11am, PH - Wilshire A

**Registration / Exhibits / Harmony Marketplace**  
9am - 6pm, PH - Mezzanine

**Convention Office**  
9am - 6pm, PH - Sunset 3-4

**AHSOW Room**  
9am - midnight, PH - Santa Monica 4

**Harmony Platoon / Brigade Singing**  
9am - midnight, PH Santa Monica 2

**International Quartet Quarterfinals Session #1**  
10am - 3:30pm, PH - Axis Theater

**Harmony University Classes**  
10am - 9pm, Bally's - Skyview 1,3,5

**BarberTots Room**  
10am - 10pm, PH - Sunset 2

**International Quartet Quarterfinals Session #2**  
5pm - 10:30pm, PH - Axis Theater

**Dixieland Band Performance**  
10:30pm - 11:30pm, Bally's - Event Center

Would you like to see your Daily Bulletin in **COLOR** with more pictures and information? Access the online edition each day at:

[www.barbershop.org/vegas](http://www.barbershop.org/vegas)

[www.farwesterndistrict.org](http://www.farwesterndistrict.org)

[www.silverstatesmen.com](http://www.silverstatesmen.com)

### The Harmony Brigade SINGS!

Twenty Harmony Brigade members left the relative comfort and air conditioning at Planet Hollywood on Tuesday afternoon to share their love of singing.

They travelled to the Las Vegas Outpatient Rehabilitation Corporation and the St. Joseph Transitional Rehabilitation Center and entertained a total of about 50 patients at both locations.

This is what "community outreach" is all about. Thanks, guys!!

~ Fred Green, editor



### Changes to Harmony University Classes

Occasionally, things happen that are beyond our control. Such is the case on some Harmony University Classes previously scheduled. As we receive the info, we will publish those classes that have been cancelled. Please check your Daily Bulletin to ensure you don't make an unnecessary trip to Bally's for a class that won't be conducted. Here is one class that has been cancelled for Wednesday:

**Nikki Blackmer**  
12:00pm Skyview 5  
How Do I Become A Great Lead  
(this class *WILL STILL* be offered at 6pm)



## Quartets Begin the “Weeding Out” Process Today!!

Axis Theater  
(first session, 10am)

Clutch (SWD)  
Maelstrom (RMD)  
Pratt Street Power (MAD)  
4.0 (EVG)  
The Collective (CAR)  
Frontier (PIO)  
Drive (NED)  
Forecast (MAD)  
Stockholm Syndrome (SNOBS)  
Harmonium (CSD)  
Main Street (SUN)  
The Pine (RMD)  
Lockout (BHA)  
Upper Deck (PIO)  
The Core (JAD)  
Rooftop Records (SUN)  
Frank The Dog (MAD)  
Quorum (JAD)  
The Crew (JAD)  
Showpiece (SWD)  
BoomTown (CSD)  
Hemidemisemiquaver 4 (PIO)  
Cold Snap (SLD)  
Gimme Four (MAD)  
Flipside (EVG)  
Late Shift (CAR)  
The Con Men (JAD)  
Kordal Kombat (LOL)  
Boardwalk (DIX)  
‘Shoptimus Prime (ONT)  
Reckless (BABS)  
Up All Night (MAD)  
Category 4 (DIX)  
Midnight Croon (LOL)  
Vintage Stock (CSD)  
Fleet Street (CSD)  
The Newfangled Four (FWD)  
Speakeasy (JAD)  
Blindside (BHA)  
Yonge Guns (ONT)  
Route 1 (MAD)  
CHORD SMASH! (LOL)  
Southern Company (SWD)  
Artistic License (FWD)  
Fuego (SUN)  
Test Drive (ONT)  
Finest Hour (BABS)  
‘Round Midnight (MAD)  
Dream Machine (SNOBS)  
Throwback (SUN)  
Zero Hour (NSC)  
The Committee (ILL)  
Signature (SUN)  
The Hanfris Quartet (SABS)  
After Hours (ILL)

## A 4th of July Wedding

There was a “special, special event” for a couple of convention attendees on the holiday yesterday. Judy Ogden and Marc Cammer (the ‘tag king’) were married in the Little Vegas Chapel in a mid-afternoon ceremony.

Providing a couple of songs and presiding over the wedding was Elvis impersonator, Charles King. Pattie Marino was the Maid of Honor, Alex Rubin was the Best Man, and Mike McGee (baritone for Main Street) was in the wedding party. Judy is the widow of Rick Ogden, graphic artist who did Society album covers for many years, to include all of the Suntones’ covers.

A hearty Barbershop congratulations to the happy couple!

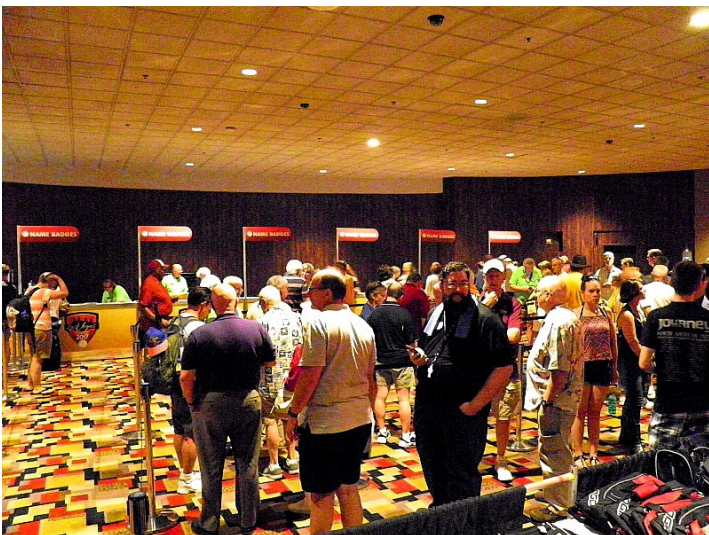
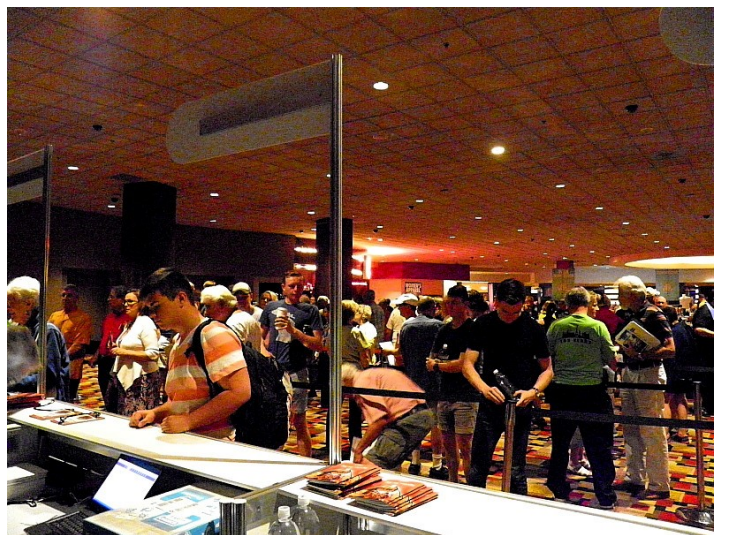




## Registration

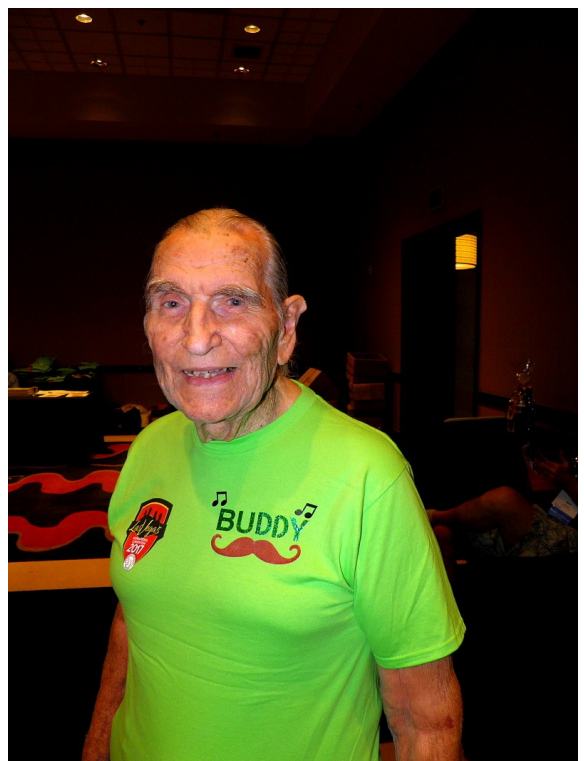
Registration is a necessary pain, both for the person being registered and the person doing the job. On Tuesday, the convention registration was quite busy. One registrant commented that the line was long but moved along fairly fast. In the late morning the wait was around 45 minutes.

*(photos by bulletin staff photographer, Dave Kennedy)*



## **Buddy Seeberg**

Perhaps you noticed Buddy working registration Tuesday afternoon. The 83 year old tenor is a member of the Las Vegas Chapter. He moved here from Florida recently and his colorful history included 30 years singing with Disney's Dapper Dans. If you happen to see him around, give him a "Hi Buddy!"





## People & places around the convention.

*(Photos by bulletin staff phototographer, Chris Wethered)*





## Society Board Makes Some Momentous Decisions

(submitted by Bulletin Staff Writer, Ford Fuller)

While the Board of Directors of the Barbershop Harmony Society meets regularly, it is customary for them to meet during International for two full days, the second of which is open to the public. During the open session at this year's Las Vegas Convention, the public session yielded some fascinating insight into the direction our board is taking our society.

Two words perhaps best sum up the essence of yesterday's meeting: **Strategic Planning**.

Eighteen months of deep thinking, surveying and planning have resulted in the creation of a Strategic Vision video and several documents under the "Everyone in Harmony" banner, unveiled just a few days ago [[Strategic Vision video](#) & [www.barbershop.org/everyoneinharmony](http://www.barbershop.org/everyoneinharmony)].

You will be pleased to know that our organization is in truly good hands. For example, we are solidly solvent, albeit currently break-even operations-wise, but that includes substantial investments in future-looking programs. Harmony Foundation International (HFI), the Society's separate fundraising arm, will be announcing Saturday night a generous \$100,000 gift-matching program aimed at new donors over the next 12 months. HFI is embarking on an ambitious "Boots on the Ground" program to share with chapters the details of "where their donations went, and why it matters," in a concerted effort to discover and solicit new donors using testimonials to encourage more donors to step up.

If even half of our members not currently Ambassadors of Harmony or higher would commit to donating just \$2 per month, HFI would have another \$1million to invest in youth and community outreach programs to further our artform and guarantee its survival.

Director of Finance/CFO Erik Dove announced a number of initiatives to increase revenues, stating that just "increasing prices, dues, convention fees" is no longer sufficient; in fact, new revenue streams are being discovered and implemented. Plans for 2017 already include a lot of growth opportunities.

Some exciting news is that first-year retention rates are up significantly, from the low 60s percent-wise, to 67, with 70%+ the goal. This type of membership "fix" goes directly to the society's bottom line. Interestingly, the level of volunteer contributions of time and services is way up, totaling more than \$370,000 in the last year. Every volunteer hour at the headquarters operations level adds positively to the bottom line.

One very significant charter support funding increase was approved by the board: Creation of a board-restricted endowment of \$50,000 Scholarship Fund in the name of the 1941 Grand Central Red Caps Quartet (more about this fascinating, but bittersweet story later) to provide scholarships to encourage the broadest possible participation of promising Barbershop singers, music educators and directors of color. As CEO Marty Monson said, with great emotion, "This is so important for the world, [and] it's so important for the Barbershop Harmony Society." He added, "We have such great work to do. This is not just a hobby. We have great intentions, and we have a commitment [because] this world needs more harmony!" Marty continued: "We can make a difference, and we are making a difference!"

In other action, Director of Projects Erin Harris announced that the annual report will again be published in the *Harmonizer* magazine. Look for it in the upcoming August issue.

There was much discussion about the newly-released Strategic Vision video, with some 60,000 "views" and over 900 "shares" recorded in just the first few days. The video speaks to the desire for the bold direction towards full inclusion that our board is taking. People want it, and they like the direction. "We have been validated," said Monson. The strategic vision is an invitation that says, "Will you join us?" BHS Facebook comments on the Strategic Vision range from "I've reinstated my membership!" and "I've made a last-minute decision to go to Vegas. It is clear, our Society has huge support both inside and outside our organization for the direction we are going.

The meeting wrapped up with election or re-election of officers and board members for the next one-year term. Convention goers will have a chance to "meet" the new and returning members of the board on Friday night after Chorus Contestant #29 (SmorgasChorus) via the LiveStream Vegas (Webcast). You'll be hearing a lot more from this board! Stay tuned!