

THE Sunburst



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNSHINE DISTRICT BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

Big Orange Chorus - 2024 Sunshine District Chorus Champion



INTL PRELIM QUARTET QUALIFIERS



Three and a Half Men



*Hernando Harmonizers
Sunshine District Most-Improved Chorus (spring)*



*Citrus Blend
Sunshine District Seniors Quartet
Champion*



*2023 BOTY
Steve Cragg*



Wildfire



*Suite Life
Sunshine District Youth Quartet
Champion*



*Harmony Platoon
Has Arrived!
See Pages 6 & 7*

President's Message

Bruce Checca

Sunshine District President

president@sunshinedistrict.org

Welcome to Spring!

The District is now in full swing, and just to prove it, we completed our best Spring Convention in quite a while ... we had 22 quartets and 11 choruses in a tight competition....that almost 500 attendees enjoyed!

We welcomed a new BOTY as well... congratulations to **Steve Cragg!**

Two of our district quartets qualified for International – **3 1/2 Men** and **Wildfire**, and another was so close they may get a wildcard invite!



SUN International Qualifiers –
Top: 3 1/2 Men,
Left: Wildfire



We are looking forward to even bigger things coming down the pike as the year goes on, so here's hoping we see all of you at some point... like **LDJ** or **Fall Convention!** Come join us in some fun singing and meeting up with old friends...or making some new ones!

Bruce Checca



Message from VP of Events

Bob Thau

Sunshine District VP of Events

cdd@sunshinedistrict.org

THANK YOU

I want to thank everyone who joined us in St. Augustine for the **Spring Convention**. This was the largest convention we have had since before the pandemic.

Labor Day Jamboree (LDJ) will again be at the Champions Gate Resort in West Orlando in 2024. We are looking at the Avanti Palms Resort on International Drive as a future site for LDJ.

After an extensive (but unsuccessful) statewide search, we are currently working to finalize a new

contract with World Golf Village Renaissance in St. Augustine. This property checks all of our boxes, is a true resort location, and provides us room to grow. The ballroom also has high ceilings (which many other properties do not have), providing a premium performing experience for our competitors. In addition, World Golf is clobbering the competition by keeping our room rates low!

Let's hope everyone can enjoy their summer and we will see you at LDJ

In Harmony
Bob Thau, VP Events



VP of Communications & IT

Roger Smeds
Sunshine District VP for Communications & IT
communications@sunshinedistrict.org

The Sunshine District Spring convention and contest was the best attended in several years with over 470 attendees! The district fielded 22 quartets and 11 choruses which made for an enjoyable semi-finals round on Friday evening and chorus competition on Saturday.

The cut for making the top 10 on Saturday evening was a respectable 68.8% with the **Notables** winning the Mic Tester slot with a 67.9%

When the dust settled, two quartets, **Three and a Half Men** (total score of 2245 or 93.4%) and **Wildfire** (total score of 1947 or 81.1%) qualified to represent Sunshine District at the International Quartet competition in Cleveland, OH on June 30 – July 7.

In the Chorus contest, *The Big Orange Chorus* (score of 907 or 75.6%), directed by **Daniel Pesante** won the Sunshine District Chorus Championship.

The Sunshine District Most-Improved Chorus Award [Spring] was won by the *Hernando Harmonizers*. They also took home the Sunshine District Chorus Grade Improvement Award [Spring] by moving from B- to B.

Score sheets for the competition are available [HERE](#).

Another first for Sunshine District was the inclusion of *Vocal Moxie*, a Harmony Incorporated chorus directed by Brent Graham and two Harmony Incorporated quartets, **Independent Ladies** and **SpanX** who were all attempting to qualify for Harmony Incorporated International Competition in Louisville, KY in November 6 – 9, 2024. It is believed that all their attempts were successful.



Three and a Half Men



Wildfire

You should know that our Social Media Team has expanded and that **Linda Mills** (wife of EVP **David Mills**) is now providing her expertise to the team. You might have noticed an expansion of our Social Media presence in the time leading up to the Spring Convention and I'm sure we can expect more of the same going forward. Welcome Linda!

If you have picture or videos that you took at the Spring Convention and are willing to share them, please be sure to forward them to our Social Media team at social.media@sunshinedistrict.org. Also, if

you have chapter annual shows or other performances that you would like to spread the word about, please send the information to our Social Media team as well.

Roger Smeds
VP for Communication & IT
Sunshine District
communications@sunshinedistrict.org



Message from Education VP

Jack Klotzbach

Sunshine District VP of Education

cdd@sunshinedistrict.org

Hello Sunshine District. As we move through 2024, we must continue to find ways to improve our performances, which will lead to new members, larger audiences, and community involvement.

In order to assist your chapter in a small way, I can arrange for a director workshop for your chapter. The workshop last 6 to 8 hours and includes coaching and practice directing, and a director collaboration session. The cost is \$75 per director. Please have your president, secretary or director contact me for more information. Workshops are open to all chapter

directors and assistant directors, or whoever is waving their arms in front of the chorus.

As we move through 2024 there will be a shift in the district board structure, but all services will still be available. For any educational needs, chapter, board, and/or director, please contact me.

2024-5 LEADAC will be held by Zoom Meeting possibly as early as December 2024. More information to come.

If you have any questions, please email me at leadac@sunshinedistrict.org



Message from Immediate Past President

Chuck Steiner

Sunshine District Immediate Past President

ipp@sunshinedistrict.org

Hello, Sunshine!

It was a great honor to Co-present the 2023 Barbershopper of the Year (BOTY) award at Spring Convention with **Tony De Rosa**, who always does a stellar job presenting and giving proper credit to all of the candidates. The adopted format of bringing all of the candidates on stage to praise them for their selfless work is very much appreciated, and that's what we'll do going forward. Classy, as always.

The candidates this year were **Steve Cragg**, **Steve Culpepper**, and **Jason Dearing**. All of these men have a true Servant's Heart. We're awfully proud that they are in the Sunshine District!

There can only be one winner, and I am happy to announce (again!) that your 2023 BOTY is: **Steve Cragg** - Tampa. (See more on Page 24).

BOTY pleasantries aside, I'd like to say how wonderful it was to see SO MANY of you in St. Augustine! The last two conventions have really shown how the District is rebounding. We had 150 more people in Spring than we did at Fall 2023. It felt like pre-Covid days, and that is a great thing! The competition was awesome, the atmosphere was fun and electric, and the facility met our needs well. I hope those that attended had a nice weekend.

Onward,
Chuck

The Sunshine District

Proudly presents

Harmony Explosion Camp 2024



Wildfire! -Resident Quartet



Duly Noted-
Resident Quartet



Special Guests- Suite Life

The Swinsain' 60s

Celebrate the
music that defined
an era!

Stetson University

DeLand, FL

JUNE 13, 14, 15

3 DAYS of PEACE & MUSIC

sunshinehx.org

Clinician-
Debbie Cleveland



Clinician-
Clay Hine



Harmony Platoon Has Come to the Sunshine District

by David Nations

On Thursday evening, March 21st, 12 intrepid Barbershoppers from across the Sunshine District came together to sing four songs. In quartets. Mostly with people they had never sung with before. And some of them had little or no previous quartetting experience. On Friday morning, there were 14 of us doing this all over again – with different combinations of people in the quartets. And this time with the members of Wildfire as our judges to see which of those quartets would get to be our Mic Testers at Friday evening’s quartet semifinals. On Saturday morning, 17 of us gathered on stage to sing two of the four songs as the Chorus Contest Mic Testers.

Yes, Sunshine District hosted its first Harmony Platoon at the Spring 2024 Convention. To participate in Harmony Platoon, you sign up and learn 4 songs + 1 challenge song. You do not have to have a lot of quartetting experiencing – in fact, you don’t have to have any quartetting experience at all. You do need to learn your part cold, so that your quartet can perform without any music. You then register for and show up to a District Convention hosting a Harmony Platoon where you will be randomly matched with three other Platooners to form a pickup quartet. After the quartets go off and practice a song of their choice, everyone comes back and the quartets all perform their songs in a fun and friendly competition. There are small prizes for the winning quartets on both Thursday night and Friday morning.

We will be having another Harmony Platoon at the Fall 2024 Convention. We will meet Thursday night, October 17th, and Friday morning, October 18th, for two hours each. We will form random pickup quartets, practice with those quartets, and then sing in front of each other and our special guest judges. And during the rest of the convention, we will be able to get together with each other and sing the songs some more – because that’s what Barbershoppers do.



Congratulations to Third Time’s A Charm, Friday’s winning quartet and Friday’s evening’s Mic Testers. (L-R) Peggy Wu, Andrew Borts, Jeff Paul, and Gary Raulerson.

The cost to participate is \$29 – which covers digital copies of the sheet music and learning tracks for all 6 songs. All of the Harmony Platoons across the Districts use the same music for the entire calendar year. We will be singing the same songs this Fall that we did at the Spring Convention. And you can sign up now in order to give yourself over 5 months to learn your part.

For more information about Harmony Platoon and how to sign up and get your music now so you can prepare for our Fall Convention, please go to the Harmony Platoon page on the BHS website: <https://www.barbershop.org/events/harmony-platoon>.



Join us for Harmony Platoon at the Fall 2024 SUN Convention:

\$29 USD* GIVES YOU:

- ♪ CHARTS and all LEARNING TRACKS for 6 songs (every part predominant and full mix).
- ♪ More QUARTET SINGING than you ever have ever done at a convention (before Platoon came along).
- ♪ A quality QUARTET CHALLENGE that is exciting, fun, and memorable.
- ♪ NEW FRIENDS from all over the Sunshine District who can't wait to sing with YOU!
- ♪ Deluxe color-coded Harmony Platoon LANYARD to locate other HP singers ALL WEEKEND.



Go to <https://www.barbershop.org/events/harmony-platoon>
for more information and to sign up.

| Title | Arranger | Contestable | Track Artist | Note |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Required Songs. Must Learn All Four.</i> | | | | |
| Beyond the Sea | Kevin Javier | Yes! | Kksounds.com | Bobby Darin iconic song – and contestable! |
| I Don't Mind Being All Alone | BHS | Show | BHS (Tim Waurick) | Fun classic @ 1926 |
| Let the Rest of the World Go By | Kirk Roose | Yes! | BHS (old school "masked singer") | Classic that Yesteryear turned gold in 1997, @1919 |
| I'm Beginning to See the Light | Marshall Webb | Yes! | Drewwheaton.com | Platinum gold in 2007 |
| <i>Bonus Challenge Song (Difficult)</i> | | | | |
| It is Well with My Soul | David Harrington | Show | Studiosh.com | Platoon's first ever tenor melody. |
| <i>Very Challenging, Very Optional BONUS Song</i> | | | | |
| Favorite Pair of Pants | Dominick Finetti & Will Lynch | Yes! | KKSounds.com | Brand new song! |



HERALDS OF HARMONY PRESENTS...

GO FOR THE GOLD SEND-OFF SHOW

A FREE FUNDRAISING EVENT



SUNDAY, JUNE 23 · 3PM & 7PM

NEW TAMPA PAC · HERALDSOFHARMONY.COM

Chapter Happenings

Venice Gondoliers

by Lee Frayer

Back in 1979, I attended Harmony College. One of the best things I did in my 57 years. The theme that year was “Barbershop Is Love.” I don’t know why international has not continued that theme as it is so right.

The Venice chapter just celebrated it’s annual awards diner and to honor these members is in itself the true meaning of “Barbershop Is Love.”

We installed **Bob Holms** as the 2023 Hall of Fame. **Nancy Frayer** and **Gary Woodward** as BOTY (Barbershoppers of the Year), **Ken Jordan** receiving the Musical Director’s special recognition award, and **Chris Dux** the President’s special award.

Wouldn’t it be nice if more chapters just simply celebrated the theme of BARBERSHOP IS LOVE.

“You Need to have a lot of fun along the way. It can’t be all work and no play.” – Lee Frayer



Left to right: Chris Dux, BOTY (Barbershopper of the Year); Nancy Frayer, BOTY; Gary Woodward, President’s Award; Bob Homes. Directors Award

The Venice Gondoliers finished off the 2023 season with a series of successful Christmas Performances. They advertised for outside the chapter guests to join them in their Christmas programs and ended up with four new members that decided to stay on with the chorus.

Then we enjoyed a final 2023 fun rehearsal ending with cheese cake and cherry pie celebration their director **Lee Frayer** and his wife Nancy’s 60th wedding anniversary. Lee a member for some 57 years and Nancy now singing Barbershop after singing some 40 plus years with the sweet Adelines - a chapter of friends one and all.



Sarasota Chorus of the Keys

by Roger Murphy

Sarasota Chorus of the Keys Sings the Star Banged Banner

On March 4 and 14 the Chorus of the Keys performed the National Anthem at the Baltimore Orioles and Pittsburgh Pirates Spring Training Games in Sarasota and Bradenton, respectively. The Chorus has performed our National Anthem for several years for these major league teams and their faithful fans.



(Continued on next page)

Chapter Happenings

The Capital Chordsmen Barbershop Harmony Chorus

Florida State Grad Student Named Barbershopper of the Year

The Capital Chordsmen Barbershop Harmony Chorus selected Timothy Yu as “Barbershopper of the Year”. The announcement and award were presented at their annual holiday party.



Timothy Yu Awarded
“Barbershopper of the Year”

Timothy is a graduate student at FSU studying musicology. He contributed greatly to the successes of the chorus this past year. Among his specific contributions and accomplishments:

- Actively assisted the director in preparation for the Chordsmen’s return to competition at the Sunshine District convention in October.

- Sang Tenor part in the quartet “Half Step Up” in competition at the Sunshine District convention.
- Assisted other quartets in coaching, musicianship, and presentation, including standing in and singing for missing members.
- Co-wrote the script for the Chordsmen’s Annual Holiday show, which was highly acclaimed by all Chordsmen and audience members alike.
- Arranged the song “Veni, Veni, Emmanuel”, a Latin version of “Oh Come Emmanuel.” The arrangement was a unique blend of barbershop and traditional hymnal styles.
- Encourages other singers to join in singing barbershop tags (one or two lines of embellished harmony usually ending a barbershop harmony arrangement.)
- Received the Anton-Carraway scholarship award for 2023.

Timothy is from Hong Kong, and selected Florida State for his musical education. He is working on his doctoral degree in Musicology. He was recognized earlier this year when he sang a Barbershop Quartet Valentine to his girlfriend in Hong Kong. It was recognized by the Barbershop Harmony society as the most long-distance Valentine ever sung!



Tenor Eleven



Limitless



Q4



Time of Our Lives



Chapter Happenings

HARMONIZERS PRESENT A MAJOR FUNDRAISER FOR CHARITY

by Doug Stewart, Associate Director, The Hernando Harmonizers

The Hernando Harmonizers (Hernando County Chapter, Spring Hill, FL) have always supported numerous charitable organizations and causes throughout the Nature Coast area. Boys & Girls Clubs, local food banks, area hospice care providers, and others. On April 17th they will be donating their talents to stage a major fundraiser for another worthy charity – the Mary Giella Children’s Clothing Fund, which provides free clothing and other essentials to the children of needy (and often homeless) families in Hernando and Pasco Counties.

The concert will be held at the Heritage Pines residential community in Hudson, where it will be cosponsored by the Heritage Pines Sportsmen’s Club. Several award winning barbershop groups will be featured in the program. In addition to the Harmonizers Chorus (3rd place and Most Improved Chorus at St. Augustine this spring) the show will include appearances by several outstanding quartets: “**Right On Q**” (4th place at St. Augustine and a prior BHS international seniors competitor) “**Citrus Blend**”, the 2024 SUN District seniors champion quartet, and the Harmonizers own chapter quartet, “**Voice Male**”.

What better way to share and celebrate the joy of our wonderful hobby than by offering a helping hand to those most in need?



Dynamix



The Vocal Chords



Right on Q



Skirt and Ties



Chapter Happenings

Chapter Report – Gainesville

by Dave Jacobs

The Barbergators Chorus is celebrating our 50th anniversary! Chartered in 1973, the chorus is one of the oldest standing arts organizations in Gainesville.

Our 50th Anniversary Show will feature Wise Guys and will be held at First United Methodist Church, 419 NE 1st St, Gainesville on Saturday, April 27th at 7pm. Also featured on the show will be the Barbergators' own Time of Our Lives, and the Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus.

This is the first big chapter show we've done in a long time. We're really excited to bring in one of

the most entertaining show quartets we know in **Wise Guys**. The fact that **Brett Cleveland**, **Wise Guys'** baritone, started his barbershop career in the Barbergators makes it all the more special.

Tickets links for the show are available at Barbergators.com.

Spring Convention: Barbergators members were all over the Spring Convention. Shout outs to **David Nations** and **Jennifer Gaspari** who were instrumental in organizing the first SUN district Harmony Platoon. ...and to convention photographer, **William McCombie**, who took over 2,000 photos! ...and it was great to see two quartets, **Time of Our Lives** and **Dynamix**, in the quartet contest!



Barbergators Chorus
Established 1973

50th Anniversary Show
Saturday, April 27, 2024 7:00pm
First United Methodist Church
419 NE 1st St, Gainesville, FL 32605

Wise Guys

Time of Our Lives

Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus

A QR code with a stylized 'B' logo is located in the bottom left of the graphic. The background of the graphic shows a group of men in suits singing, with smaller inset photos of the 'Wise Guys' quartet, 'Time of Our Lives' quartet, and the 'Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus'.

(Continued from previous page)

Chapter Happenings

The Heart of Florida Chorus

The Heart of Florida Chorus had a great time participating at the spring convention. We competed for the first time with our new Musical Director **Chris Barthauer** and 22 members on stage, and placed 7th. We very much enjoyed the process of learning our new music under Chris' leadership, showcasing what we learned for the audience, and connecting with friends old and new. We want to especially thank our families and friends who supported us along the way, our chapter Board of Directors who worked tirelessly to prepare our chorus to participate, and the district and C&J volunteers who helped make the weekend successful. We also thank everyone who cheered for us and encouraged us during our performance!



We are now preparing for our “5th Thursday” performances throughout 2024. Every time there’s a 5th Thursday in a month – usually 4 times per year – we set that day aside as a day of outreach. We will typically visit 1-2 assisted living or nursing homes in The Villages during that day and sing a 30 minute show for the residents and staff there, free of charge. Afterward, we go to dinner together and then have our normal Thursday night rehearsal. We love any opportunity we have to sing for our community, and we look forward to our 5th Thursday outreach days with great anticipation all year long. Here’s a photo from one of our previous 5th Thursday performances:



We are also starting to prepare for our 20th anniversary chapter show with a special guest we know you’ll love! Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 9... more details to come!

We look forward to seeing everyone throughout the year all around the Sunshine District.

Spring 2024 Convention Competitors

Click for full
scoresheet

THREE AND A HALF MEN

Tampa, FL; Frank Thorne
Joseph De Rosa, Josh Szolomayer, Tony
De Rosa, Chris Keough

2245 Points

INT'L PRELIM QUARTET QUALIFIER



WILDFIRE

Tampa, FL; Alexandria, VA; Southern New
England

Andrew Lujan, Stephen Goldman, Kevin
Mendez, Harrison Cooke

1947 Points

INT'L PRELIM QUARTET QUALIFIER

ON POINT

Jacksonville Big O
Taylor Despars, Daniel Pesante, Timo-
thy Keatley, Alexander Burney
1866 Points



Photography by William McCombie



Spring 2024 Convention Competitors



[Click for full scoresheet](#)

RIGHT ON Q

Tampa, FL; Frank Thorne
Paul Carter, Tim Perenich, David
Mills, Bryan Hevel
1757 Points



TIME OF OUR LIVES

Gainesville, FL
Dave Jacobs, Mark Slamka, John Dew,
Tyson Adams
1739 Points



4 FOR 4

Fort Walton Beach, FL; Frank Thorne
Dave Roberts, Nick Firth, Luc-Dogg
Lord, Jeff Buehler
1715 points

Photography by William McCombie

Spring 2024 Convention Competitors

[Click for full scoresheet](#)

SMASH HIT!

Tampa, FL; Winter Park, FL
Lee Markham, Gabe Maldonado, Nick Gonzalez, Jordan James
1700 Points



Q4

Tampa, FL
Mike Cross, Dave Cross, Michael Vokoun, Kyle Fisher
1686 Points

TALLAHASSEE TROUBADOURS

Tallahassee, FL; Frank Thorne
Ariel Rodriguez, April Finney,
Timothy Yu, Norman Young
1651 POINTS



Photography by William McCombie

Spring 2024 Convention Competitors



[Click for full scoresheet](#)

LIMITLESS

Greater Pinellas, FL; Frank Thorne
Juliet Collins, Britney Hoch, Dean Davis, Nick Collins
1651 Points

SUITE LIFE

Tampa, FL; Frank Thorne
Lex Goity, Cody Mathewson,
Tripp Carter, Zach Gould
916 Points



SUNSHINE DISTRICT YOUTH QUARTET CHAMPION



NOTABLES

Cape Coral, FL
Geno Woolwine, Glenn Siebert, Josh Nieves, Allan Engler
815 Points

Photography by William McCombie



Spring 2024 Convention Competitors

[Click for full
scoresheet](#)

WHAT'S THE DEAL

Greater Pinellas, FL
Helen D'Avanza, Dean Davis, Betsy
Walits, Joe Kane
800 Points



SKIRT AND TIES

Greater Pinellas, FL
Megan Clark, Mike Wood,
Gary Raulerson, Jeffrey Paul
789 Points

CASUAL HARMONIES

Niceville High School, Emerald Coast Chorus
Jonathan Duque, Trevor Saewert,
Ethan Milonas, Shaun Malonzo
782 Points



Photography by William McCombie

Spring 2024 Convention Competitors



[Click for full scoresheet](#)

DYNAMIX

Gainesville, FL
Jenn Gaspari, Josh Adams,
Bob Tucker, Dave Nations
761 Points

CITRUS BLEND

Spring Hill, FL; Hernando County, FL
Greg Bratton, David Gorecki,
Bob McFadden, George Flanders
756 Points



SUNSHINE DISTRICT SENIORS QUARTET CHAMPION



TENOR ELEVEN

Tallahassee, FL
Timothy Yu, Ethan Westrate,
Norman Young, Jon Hall
748 Points

Photography by William McCombie

Spring 2024 Convention Competitors

Click for full
scoresheet

THE VOCAL CHORDS

Central Florida
Kollin Dembeck, Michael Testa, Dave
Bankard, Mick Griffin
742 Points



BETTER DAYS AHEAD

Palm Beach County FL; Frank Thorne
Don Miller, II, Kurt Harrup,
Mike Tarlton, Chuck Martin
730 Points

INDEPENDENT LADIES

Harmony Incorporated
Judy Rector, Tiana Sandh, Julie Noon,
Trayce Elenteny



SPARX

Harmony Incorporated
Paige Sgrignoli, Dayle Ann Kerrigan,
Kathy Barnett, Andi Rostel



Spring 2024 Convention Competition

[Click for full scoresheet](#)



BIG ORANGE CHORUS

Jacksonville Big O
Director: Daniel Pesante
907 Points

**SUNSHINE DISTRICT CHORUS
CHAMPION**

THE FLORIDA SUNCOAST CHORUS

Greater Pinellas, FL
Director: David Martinez III
835 Points



HERNANDO HARMONIZERS

Hernando County, FL
Director: Bob McFadden
822 Points

**Sunshine District
Most-Improved Chorus Award
&
Sunshine District Chorus Grade
Improvement Award [Spring]**



Photography by William McCombie



Spring 2024 Convention Competitors

Click for full
scoresheet

GULF COAST HARMONIZERS

Cape Coral, FL
Director: Joshua Nieves
820 Points



ORLANDO HARMONY

Winter Park, FL
Director: Marshall Webb
816 Points

CHORUS OF THE KEYS

Sarasota, FL
Director: Drew Kirkman
811 Points



Photography by William McCombie

Spring 2024 Convention Competition

[Click for full scoresheet](#)



HEART OF FLORIDA
Central Florida (1, 2, 3)
Dir(s): Chris Barthauer
772 Points



BARBERGATORS
Gainesville, FL (1, 2, 3)
Dir(s): Mark Slamka
756 Points



HARBOR CITY HARMONIZERS
MIXED HARMONY
Melbourne, FL (1, 2, 3)
Dir(s): Justin Walker
686 Points

Photography by William McCombie

Spring Convention 2024



Hernando Harmonizers: Our Director hanging out with our "Ladies." Submitted by Allen Magnus - President Hernando Harmonizers. Front Row Left to right: Monica Lee, Judy Clement-Lee, Helen Moon Bertrand, Deb Pillow Crider, Nancy Manion; Top Row: Peggy Wu; Ground Floor Director Bob McFadden



David Mills, SUN Executive VP Presents at the Chorus competition



4 for 4



Vocal Moxie - Harmony Incorporated. Director: Brent Graham



Orange Blossom Chorus. Director: Sean Stork



Sunshine District Chorus trophy passes on to the Big Orange Chorus



Sean Stork hands out ribbons at the Chorus competition



Whats the Deal

BOTY

2023
Barbershopper of the Year



Steve Cragg

Tampa Chapter

Steve's years of work on the District Board as VP Youth involves planning and running our District's signature youth event, Harmony Explosion Camp, held every June. He also assists with our local county one day workshops. Steve works behind the scenes at our conventions, helping with sound, risers and whatever else he needs to do. He was the VP of Music and Performance for the Heralds of Harmony, which is a second job in and of itself! Please congratulate Steve when you see him - he still wears the actual bowtie (we can't get him to take it off). —Chuck Steiner

Donald H. Meyncke Obituary



Donald H. Meyncke, Jr., beloved husband of Mary Lou Fiscus Meyncke, passed away Tuesday, January 30, 2024 in Palm Harbor, FL.

Born on May 24, 1931 in Buffalo, NY, Don was the son of

Donald H. Meyncke, Sr. and Margaret Flynn Meyncke. A star football player and graduate of Bennett High School, he was awarded a full football scholarship to Cornell University. After breaking his jaw during a game in the first semester, and upon learning his best friend had been killed in Korea, Don enlisted in the Marine Corp. He returned home after three years, wounded in action, and received the Purple Heart, Korean War Service, National Defense, and United Nations medals.

Shortly after returning home, Don met the love of his life, and they built a life together over 68 years of marriage raising five children. He worked in many facets of the car business for almost 30 years and then began a second career as a financial advisor for another 25 years before retiring at age 72.

Don was an avid reader, loved to write, and developed a passion for Barbershop singing. He sang in several choruses and quartets over the years. Mary Lou would laughingly say they spent their yearly vacations at Barbershop Harmony Society conventions throughout the U.S. Don was a devoted Christian and member of the Episcopal Church and shared his love of Christ in the Kairos Prison Ministry.

In his later years, he wrote a song and had it copyrighted titled “Everyone Needs a Miracle” speaking of the power of Jesus in one’s life. He organized weekend staffing each year at Christmas for the Salvation Army’s Red Kettle Campaign and loved singing in the church choir too. Along with being a wonderful father to his five kids, he was a caring grandfather of eight and great grandfather of three. Don was never too busy to sit and listen to family and friends.

In addition to his wife Mary Lou, Don is survived by his daughter Barbara (Charles) Kunath of Palm Harbor, FL and granddaughter Jennifer Long of Holly Springs, GA and grandson Scott Kunath of Jacksonville, FL; his son Donald H. (Paula) Meyncke III of Columbus, OH and granddaughter Trisha Chapman of Dublin, OH and grandson Gregory Meyncke of Reynoldsburg, OH; his son Robert N. (Doreen) Meyncke of Cave Creek, AZ and granddaughter Jacqueline Neugue of Rowlett, TX and grandson Brayden Jordan of Cave Creek, AZ; his son David L. (Suzan) Meyncke of Tampa, FL and granddaughter Desiree Meyncke of Reston, VA; his daughter Beverly (Steven) Carrington of Clearwater, FL and her daughter Chelsea Carrington of Palm Harbor, FL.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Clearwater with a reception to follow in the church Fellowship Café.

Memorial donations may be made to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and Suncoast Hospice Foundation.

Jerry Ackley, Former Member of Winter Haven Chapter, Passes



Gerald "Jerry" John Ackley, 90

A lifelong educator, Gerald John Ackley, 90, of Lake Wales, Florida, formerly of Salamanca, N.Y., and Rockledge, Florida, died peacefully at his home on February 1, 2024, following a short illness.

Mr. Ackley was born in Salamanca on October 24, 1933 to the late John and Helen (Daly) Ackley of Gowanda. He was a 1951 graduate of Gowanda Central High School, and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture at Cornell University in 1955. Following his graduation, he spent two years as an agriculture teacher at West Valley High School.

During this time, he was a member of the U.S. Army Reserves for six years, finishing his active duty service as a First Lieutenant. He earned his Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Columbia University in 1958, and then spent two years as a sixth grade teacher in the Gowanda school system.

He left the classroom in 1961 to become principal of the Prospect Elementary School in Salamanca, leading the move to the new school building that opened shortly thereafter.

He spent a total of 28 years in the Salamanca schools system, eventually moving on to serve as curriculum coordinator for the district, and finally as Superintendent for 13 years, retiring in 1989. He also served as an interim Superintendent of Schools in several Western New York districts in his retirement.

He was very active in numerous groups, many of the musical variety, including the Cornell

University Glee Club, Killbuck Chorus and several barbershop quartets and choruses in his retirement years in Florida. He was a member of the Salamanca United Methodist Church, and he also served a term as President of Section VI of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association in the early 1980s.

In addition to spending time with his family, he enjoyed sports, coached Little League baseball, hunting, playing bridge and golf.

He and his wife Joanne Campbell Ackley were married on Dec. 28, 1955, who survives. He is additionally survived by a son Brian (Lori) Ackley of Fort Meade, Florida, grandsons Evan (Kelly) Ackley of Palm Coast, Florida, Aaron (Maria) Ackley of Sanford, North Carolina, a great-grandson, Beau Gerald Ackley, also of Sanford, and a daughter-in-law Linda Ackley of Palm Coast. He is also survived by three brothers - James, Harry and Douglas - and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased on August 26, 2023 by his son, Alan.

Services will be made with O'Rourke and O'Rourke Funeral Home in Salamanca, New York with celebration of life planned at a later time at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations will gratefully be accepted to the Salamanca school's Gerald J. Ackley Memorial Scholarship Fund. Please send donations to: Salamanca Central Schools, Attention: Karen Crandall, Business office, 50 Iroquois Drive, Salamanca, New York 14779. Checks can be made out to the Salamaca Central School District with a notation that it is for the Ackley scholarship fund. A scholarship in his honor has been awarded annually, since 1991, to a Salamanca graduate planning a career in education.

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