**Membership Report for November 17, 2021 VHS Board Meeting**

Our chorus is back in-person at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Van Nuys, CA. Everyone is in good spirits. The pure joy of singing together is overwhelming. Tom and Jeffery are doing a fine job every week to make our rehearsals as innovative and enjoyable as possible. Our tech 3, Mark W. Bob, and Shelley have done a remarkable job in making sure our members as well as guests can participate with the chorus while on Zoom. Saiba Singh is still attending our Zoom Meetings as often as she is able.

We are planning on having a holiday party on Monday December 20, 2021 in the social hall. As of now we have 25 people attending our party. In January I would like to have a guest night at the church with our meetup members who live locally in the Valley. This will be brought up as new business.

**FWD Membership Meeting on Zoom**

On Saturday November 13,2021, I attended the Far Western District Membership Meeting on Zoom. I counted 18 members present. Jeremy Loper (FWD Membership Recruiting and Education person ran the meeting. Also present was Kathy Kileen (FWD Southwest Division VP, and John Donehower current (President of the Barbershop Harmony Society).

Most of the FWD Chapters went on Zoom and eventually on Jamulus shortly after the Covid-19 stay -at home order was given. Some of the chapters started in early Summer singing outdoors in parks, and in members backyards. Many quartets did the same. Some of the quartets and larger choruses have already scheduled holiday performances. Most adhering to strict CDC guidelines of masks and spacing. Some were very successful in attracting potential members by performing outdoors. Some of the chapters lost their rehearsal venues due to the pandemic. There are a few chapters who are still struggling to get their members back in- person. We are one of the luckier ones.

Kathy Kileen ,VP Southwest Division reminded us that the members of the Barbershop Community are very creative. Each chapter are finding their way around this pandemic to make it work for their members. Some have been more successful than others. Kathy mentioned that the FWD and the BHS have different ways of aiding any chapter who are finding it difficult getting back operating again. Don’t be afraid to ask for help through the Society Customer Service Department as well. Several chapters including our own have very little revenue coming in. She reminded us of the joy of singing polecat and tags together. Society President John Donehover also stressed the pure joy of singing in-person 4-part harmony, also to share that joy with the rest of the community we live in.

I feel that all the work we accomplished in the break-out rooms on Zoom has really paid off. We’re almost 100% off music and sounding really good. Even though we won’t be performing this year, this will prepare us for next year. I see that on our new calendar for 21-22’ we are currently scheduled for a Spring Show, Ice Cream Social, and a Fall Show in 22’.

We all have to count our blessing for getting to this point after going through such a thematic pandemic and variant scare. I know I have. Ben Marder, Membership VP VHS 11-16-21