**Membership Report for VHS Board Meeting September 18, 2024**

The Valley Harmony Singers Mixed Barbershop Chorus are still reeling from the sudden and unexpected loss of our director, Tom Raffety on July 31, 2024.

In the past two years 6 of our members have passed away. On top of that, two of our youngest members are no longer singing with us.

 **Jesse Corona** (Bari) is working full time at CSUN. His Latino band of mostly relatives is still rehearsing on Monday nights. They perform weekends. Jesse plans to do a little traveling this Fall. After December Jesse wants to try to come to every other of our chorus rehearsals, if that is ok with his band members and the Board. Jesse enjoyed singing with us, and hopes to continue next year.

 **Casey Pennuto** (Lead) is moving out of state. Last Monday, September 9, 2024 was Casey’s last night singing with our chorus. We all wish Casey and Diana the best of luck, and to keep in touch in the future.

 **Chuck Brooks** (Bari) made the decision to no longer sing in our chorus without Tom being present. Chuck will be missed not only for his singing and arranging ability; but for his skill in teaching the chorus tags.

That is four active participating members we have lost this year. Most smaller choruses would not be able to cope with these losses, but our chorus with its fine Board and leaders will go on and survive this period. The Board has given Jeffery Bunch (former Associate Director to Tom Raffety their confidence, and appointed Jeffery our main director. Give Jeffery the respect and attention he needs and deserves.

With our Fall Show creeping up on us, Jeffery has a tall order to fill. All section leaders need to step up currently and help Jeffery out. Jeffery should not be going over notes during rehearsals. If the section leaders see that their people need section rehearsals, make the time to help your people out. All our songs have been on our website for a very long time. Jefferey cannot direct properly when most people have their heads stuck in their music books. He needs eye contact with all chorus members to convey his feelings to us.

It is up to all our members to try to recruit new people of good character into the chorus. As leaders of the chorus, we need to set an example. Because of our heavy losses, I am going to ask the Far Western District Rep. Kathy Kileen to help us out with recruiting suggestions. Kathy mentioned that the FWD have the resources to assist chorus in need. **Ben Marder, MVP 9-16-24**