MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR VHS NOVEMBER 20, 2024 BOARD MEETING

**MEMBERSHIP**: Immediately after our Director Tom Raffety lost his battle with colon cancer, we started to lose members of the chorus. First Chuck Brooks, baritone decided to no longer be a participating member.

 September 9th was Casey Pennuto’s (lead)

last night with the chorus. Casey moved out of the State. Then in October Alma and Ron Malkin left the chorus. Our youngest member Jesse Corona also will not be returning. That is 6 less people singing with us, including Tom. I know they all have their personal reasons for leaving, I can understand that. What about the remaining 17 participating members? Since July 31, 2024 we have lost 2- baritone’s, 2-lead’s, 1-bass, and our director. Several of these people were in quartets.

 **Kirk Prather**, baritone will be singing in the show. Update: Kirk completed his taxes, and my return after the show.

 I contacted Kathy Kileen, Southwest Rep. of the Far Western District with our dilemma. Kathy had briefly mentioned this new program called **“The Big Leap”** to our chorus. Attached to my report is a more detailed description of the workshop program.

November 22-24, 2024 is the first workshop in Washington DC. It is too late for that one. Kathy said they may record it for utube. The next workshop is February 7-9, 2025 in Dallas, TX.

 **Sean Chasworth**, baritone has conveyed to myself and other members that he wishes to become our Interim Director. Jeffery Brunch would become his assistant director. That is ok with Jeffery. That only leaves one baritone, Mathew Schreiber. Mathew’s good, but against 15 only chorus members; I do not know about that. If Mark Wolfe and I switch parts and join Mathew, that would work. Afterall, I sang baritone for 14 years. I was also baritone section leader to 11 Bari’s. when we qualifying for contest.

 Sean will be directing the first half of our Fall Show; Jeffery the second half. They have both done a fine job in polishing up our show songs. Everyone is working hard to make our Fall Show a big success. Let us continue this effort into next year. Ben Marder, membership VP. VHS

**Farmers Market Sing out:** On Sunday November 17, 2024 a dozen of the chorus member sang at the Onegen. Encino Farmers Market. After moving twice, we finally got to sing. There were only a few vendors around our area; Therefore, we did not make much money. At least the chorus and 2 quartet got to sing. We also passed out a few show fliers.