**MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR VHS APRIL 16, 2025 BOARD MEETING**

**In Memory of William (Bill) Cohen:** Bill Cohen passed away on Monday April 7, 2025 at the age of 82. On Tuesday April 15, 2025 Bill was laid to rest at Mt. Sinai Memorial Park in Simi Valley, CA. After a brief Jewish Service followed by a distinguished Naval Guard blowing taps then performing the Flag Folding Ceremony, and presenting it to Bill’s wife Phyllis; Bill was laid to rest. Afterward, all present were invited to a Celebration of Life Reception at the Hampton Inn in Porter Ranch. The food was wonderful. Because of Passover, only Matza was served.

Bill served with honor 2 tours in Viet Nam as a US Naval Officer around the same time I served with honor in in V.N. in the Army.

 Bill joined the Valleyaires Barbershop Chorus just 4 months after I joined in 1993. At that time there were 41 men in the chorus. Bill was very active and vocal as a member, and Board Member at large. Throughout the years Bill received every award the chorus had to offer. In 1997 he was awarded the Barbershopper of the Year.

Bill, a natural Bass loved singing in quartets. In 2003 Bill formed a new quartet, and became its administrator. Bill got together 3 baritones. Bill thought of the name, “Bill’s Bari.” After one of the Bari’s wives (Karrie Schreiber) suggested the name (Pie), thus the name became, “Bill’s Bari Pie.” The original members were, Ed Schackman-Tenor, Ben Marder-Lead, Mathew Schreiber- Bari, and Bill-Bass.

They performed throughout the years at chorus socials and shows, as well as for other outside events.

Bill also gave back to the community as a member of **Encore, (Entertainment** **Community Outreach Ensemble).** Encore performed approximately from 1991- 2012. After the original founder, director, and manager of Encore, (Tom Mayfield) left the chorus and state; I (Ben Marder) directed Encore for the last 6 years.

They donated most of their earnings to the Barbershop Harmony Society Youth Programs, the Chorus, and One Generation Senior Center, (where they rehearsed). At the end of the year a wonderful Luncheon was held for all members and their spouses.

Encore sang at a variety of places, including Convalescent Hospitals, Assisted Living and Active Senior Homes, for the Braille Institute and Veteran’s Home. Also, for Social Men’s and Women’s Clubs, and Church Clubs throughout the San Fernado Valley. Encore also performed for all holidays throughout the year.

Even through Bill suffered several strokes through the years and had to become a non-participating member; He never gave up his active membership.

****Bill loved his family, singing barbershop and his quartet singing. Also working on cars, and voicing his opinion when he felt a wrong was committed. He will be missed by all who knew and sang with him throughout the 31 years he was a member. REST IN PEACE**.**

 **Ben Marder, fellow quartet member and friend. 4/16/25**

**I have made up a Memorial Picture Album of Bill Cohen, which is in our Public Galley on our website. There are also additional pictures in the Image Galley, for members only**

**Active Members and Candidates Report:**

Last week we only had 14 members at our rehearsal.

**Jeffery Bunch** will be taking care of his wife who his back problems for the foreseeable future. We wish both well.

**Dave Kirby** will be away until April 27th.

**Candidate John Nave,** had oral dental work, and is still removing.

**Candidate David Troidl,** has been under the weather.

When Dave returns, he wants to have his first Barberpole Cat audition in a quartet.

**Bob and wife Beth Karlin**, have only been staying at rehearsal until breaktime, because Bob is still recovering from his last hospital stay.

Bob needs to get off his feet, and have plenty of rest.

**Chuck Brooks,** I have not heard from.

**Good News: Kirk Prather**- Bari has been attending our Monday night rehearsals.

Sean Chasworth, our director has been doing a fine job in preparing us for our upcoming Spring Flip Show. Each week no matter who, or how many people are present. Our members are all working very hard to make this our best performance ever. I am looking forward to have Davis T., and John N. become new members soon. Hopefully Logan will join them. **Ben Marder, Membership VP, VHS. 4/16/25**