



A Publication of Carolinas Barbershop Harmony



Membership Stats a/o 8/4/2025: NSC Active Membership: 485 (+7!)
NSC Registered Active Quartets: 45 / NSC Registered Active Choruses: 30

It's AUGUST. It's Back to School *Singing!* (LOTS to Read...Enjoy!)

- **HIGHLIGHT:** GUEST NIGHT SUCCESS for PVP - Details and Congrats!
- Chapter Ideas and Conversations
- Denver Spotlight: Land of the Sky Chorus
- Gold Standard Celebrates 75 Years!
- YIH-Two District Youth Choruses going to Midwinter 2026!
- A Snippet and a Link with Chapter Support...
- Our Coaching Team Updates
- Lakeside Harmony Weekend-TU for Your Survey Responses!
- BoD Minutes
- Thank You!
- And last but not least, our trusty Calendar of upcoming events

Guest Night Ideas

PVP Attracts 22 Visitors for Guests Night!



The **Palmetto Vocal Project, Mt. Pleasant Chapter**, hosted a successful Guest Night on August 14th with a total of 22 guests joining in barbershop singing on this happy occasion. This was their 3rd guest night in approximately 18 months.

Phil Wilcox, PVP's president, attributed the good turnout to a combination of building on the momentum of a successful July show, launching an aggressive social media campaign (including Facebook, Instagram, and What's App), and **Scott Monter**'s following up by email with those who expressed interest. They received approximately 100 responses.

Ian Galvin, PVP's director, planned the evening so that everyone had a chance to meet each other, find out about the chapter and barbershop singing, learn

tags and songs together, and sing on the risers.

Jay Butterfield led warmups and set the tone for the night, which was warm, friendly and welcoming. Scott taught a tag to everyone. And Ian led everyone through some intensive work on songs PVP will be performing.

Phil explained about the chapter, its transition from all-male to all-voices a year ago, and the planning session the chorus participated in the previous week. During the break, there was plenty of time for refreshments and for guests and PVP members to get to know one another.

And **Chucktown Sound Quartet** performed to rousing cheers!

As Phil commented in congratulating PVP members after the Guests Night, "The energy in the room was contagious, and the smiles on guests' faces told the whole story—they had a blast!" He added, "Let's keep that excitement alive. Let's build on this momentum and keep our chorus growing strong!"

Contact [Michael Smith](#) for more info!



CHAPTER IDEAS: SPONSORSHIP, SOCIAL MEDIA, MEMBERSHIP

Share the Wisdom!

While visiting chapters across the Carolina's, I am discovering that many have the same questions and needs. So sharing some of our discussion may be of benefit to all.

This week I met with **Dan and Kath Sprau** and **Bob Hanrahan**, board members of the **Greenville chapter**.



They had three major areas they wanted to cover:

- 1. ways to develop sponsors**
- 2. ways to use social media effectively**
- 3. ways to gain membership.**

Sponsors. They expressed a desire to get sponsors to help underwrite some of the expenses of putting on shows and other programs so that these may be offered freely. We discussed that sponsors are attracted to altruistic projects that give back to the community. One such project might be a **music medic program** that targets assisted living facilities and memory care units where quartets can stroll the rooms and common areas and provide entertainment and life enrichment for those that have been marginalized by society or circumstance. Sponsors will be drawn to the caring and giving this service provides.

Another idea is the great model provided by **Pinehurst**. They are hugely successful in reaching out to community businesses to buy ad space in their show program. Again, this activity succeeds because the vendors know that the proceeds of their sponsorships go to charitable contributions. With this

formula, Pinehurst raises \$20-\$30,000 consistently year over a year for their shows, giving proceeds to the community after expenses have been satisfied. [Bob Boone](#) is a great subject matter expert for learning more about this program.

Social media. The biggest social media platform is **Facebook** and every chapter member should belong as well as the chapter/chorus itself. Make it a habit to take pictures and post them. Include 'place' in the caption and tag all the people in the photo. In this way, the post will replicate to each person's page where it can gather more views. Appoint someone to manage the chapter's Facebook page, and be sure to post events such as rehearsals, sing outs, and performances.

Membership. There's another social media platform that is designed to directly build membership. It is called '**Meet-up**'. The way it works is the chapter purchases a membership to create and post events on the site. The secret sauce is to appoint a 'Mr. Meet-up' who sends notification to each chapter member of the event and they in turn respond on the Meet-up site that they are attending. This builds momentum for the event and reassures others that it is viable and worth attending and will attract more attendees. Once the event is over, have each chapter member go in and rate their experience, giving it five stars, of course, and commenting that it was well worth the time. Oak City Sound in Cary has been using this platform successfully for the last three months and typically has 10 to 15 guest every rehearsal night. As you can see, this can be a game changer. (Contact) [Mark Roblez](#) of OCS is the program driver on this and will have more information in the next issue of the Crooner

~ [Paul Martin](#)

SPOTLIGHT: BHS INTERNATIONAL 2025

The Land of the Sky Chorus Makes History

Earlier this summer, the Asheville, NC Chapter sent the **Land of the Sky Chorus** to represent the Carolinas District **2025 BHS International Chorus Contest in Denver!** The 46 singers who took the stage on July 5th included first-year BHS members, seasoned barbershoppers, music educators, and first-time International attendees spanning more than 70 years in age. After the competition, Asheville was thrilled to learn that Land of the Sky placed 21st in the world, earning 1,990 points (an 82.9 average) and arriving just 5 points shy of a tie for 20th! Additionally, data released after the end of the contest revealed that Land of the Sky had a larger 'jump' between their Qualifying Score and their Final Placement than any other ensemble that weekend, having been seeded 34th out of 39 based on contest scores from the Spring 2024 District Contest. Land of the Sky also broke the record for the highest score ever achieved by a Carolinas District chorus at an International event.

Historic results aside, chorus members first and foremost were deeply honored to represent their community and the artistic vision they crafted together. Themed around "Women in Jazz," their 2-song package featured in-house arrangements by chapter members **Andy Reach** and **Ross Turman**. It was shortly after arranging these two female-composed jazz charts for the chorus that Land of the Sky had to suspend rehearsals due to the arrival of Hurricane Helene in September of 2024. Eager to continue preparation, rehearsals resumed less than a month later and singers gathered around flashlights as electricity had not yet been fully restored in the Asheville area.



Musical Director Kati Swinney said that the contest results represented “an exciting rebirth for the chapter after rebuilding our community in the wake of Helene,” and that the scores were “an affirmation of our decision to be a community-oriented ensemble, rather than a more exclusive, competition-focused group.” Kati Swinney also expressed gratitude for “the wealth of music educators in our chorus, who offered their time and expertise to support the ensemble’s preparation.” One of these educators, middle school chorus teacher **Brooke Reyes**, made history herself as the first female **Chapter President** in Asheville’s 77-year barbershop legacy. Reflecting on the chorus’ results, Reyes said “we couldn’t have made any of this happen without our decision to go mixed after winning District in 2024. That change allowed me to join the chorus for the very first time after almost 5 years as a dues-paying member of the chapter, and it opened the door for so many talented singers and new Society members to join our amazing hobby.”

The Land of the Sky Chorus extends heartfelt thanks to the Carolinas District for their monetary support and the opportunity to represent North Carolina on the International stage. A special thanks to President Jeff Osborne for his personal engagement with and enthusiastic support of Land of the Sky Chorus in Denver, as well as to all those who contributed to the Chapter’s GoFundMe campaign which made it possible for many members to travel to Denver. Thank you!

~ Daniel Lowman

OUT-AND-ABOUT: CHAPTERS

Gold Standard Chorus Celebrates 75 Years!

The Gold Standard Chorus is celebrating a big milestone with some exciting events! Their 75th Anniversary celebration will engage the local community and showcase the talent of a cappella music. Our upcoming events:

- **Ice Cream Social & Concert, August 23**
- **Youth in Harmony Event, October 10**
- **Public Concert, *Harmony Bold*, October 11**

~ For more information, contact [George Simolin](#)

The Gold Standard Chorus presents

ICE CREAM SOCIAL & CONCERT

Indulge in a **FREE** delightful experience of flavors, fun,
and frozen treats at our Ice Cream Social event!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23
2:00 - 4:00

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP HALL
10140 PROVIDENCE CHURCH LANE
CHARLOTTE, NC



WWW.GOLDSTANDARDCHORUS.ORG

THE CHARLOTTE CHAPTER
PRESENTS

HARMONY GOLD

Featuring
THE GOLD STANDARD CHORUS
With Special Guests
IMPROMPTU
and
2024 International Quartet Gold Medalists
THREE & A HALF MEN
OCTOBER 11, 2025 @ 2:30 PM
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3115 Providence Rd. Charlotte, NC 28211
Ticket prices \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.
Children under 12 are free.

[Click For Tickets](#) OR 

www.goldstandardchorus.org

We are a proud member of the Barbershop Harmony Society
#EveryoneInHarmony Barbershop.org

HARMONY CAMP FRIDAY OCTOBER 10, 2025 HOUGH HIGH SCHOOL, CORNELIUS

- This could be you. Sing all day, professional coaching, Free registration, lunch and event T-Shirt.



- Coached by the 2024 International Barbershop Harmony Gold Medalists, 3 ½ Men Quartet



YOUTH HAPPENINGS

2 Youth Choruses Going To Pasadena in 2025!

Two Youth Choruses have accepted the invitation to compete in Pasadena next year in **BHS NextGen Music Festival**.

Congratulations to the **Mauldin High School Singers** and **Wade Hampton Singers**! You can also help our **Youth Outreach** efforts at

www.palmettostatesmen.com. On the website click on **Donate**, then click on **Youth Outreach Fund Donate Now**. Any amount you give will help!

~ Contact [Larry Gilhousen](#) for more information

CSLT UPDATE

Chapter Support & Leadership is BUSY

Justin is incredibly busy with his CSLT team; projects in process and visits ongoing... But for just a hint:

- Chapter Membership Review (July)
 - 33 Chapter leaders (33.67%) attended Lakeside Harmony Weekend
 - Increase of members in Greensboro, Research Triangle Park, Wilmington
 - Addition of quartet in Central Carolina Chapter - Cackalacky Sound Machine
- For more information, questions, etc. on what's next, contact [Justin Slack](#)

MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE TEAM UPDATE

District Coaching Program

If you're not on the list (yet), contact Tom Parker for more information!
Recent additions to coaches' list, both for Eastern NC: Fern Cicilia, Jen Wheaton.

Completed to date in 2025

- Coastal Harmonizers (Butterfield)
- Kids at Heart (Parker)
- Golf Capital Chorus (Plaag)

Scheduled:

- Men in Harmony (Asheville) (Cox)
- Oak City Sound (RTP) (Plaag)

~For more information: [Tom Parker](#)

LAKESIDE HARMONY WEEKEND 2025

The LHW Survey Is In...Thank you!

Thanks to everyone who completed the Lakeside Harmony survey! We really appreciate your feedback, encouragement, and suggestions to make 2026 even better. The events team is ready to plan for next year!

And now, for just a taste of the weekend, click here or on the image:
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/4dGTmCgqqUufoARQ8>



©Ken Thomas

DISTRICT EVENTS/NEWS

BoD Minutes

Just in case (!) you want the full info on our monthly Board meetings, they are available on our with Google Drive at [this link](#).

ETC...

A Note from the Editor

We ALL are curious and excited to see District activity at the click of our mouse...I want to give a huge **THANK YOU** for the content sent to me to be shared with the entire District!

The more we share our stories, ideas and pics, the more excitement there is...the more ideas we try...and that's just the beginning of our successes...

~Beverly Greene, Editor

Our Calendar

Your Link to Upcoming District and BHS Events



Click the link for the official [District Calendar](#), that includes time and place. Here's a recap of what's scheduled to date, as shown on our website.. Contact District Secretary **Richard Harris** at secretary@carolinasdistrict.org to get your chapter show cleared for posting to the District calendar, etc.

Oct 10 - Charlotte Chapter Show, Youth in Harmony Event

Oct 18 - Winston-Salem Chapter Shows

Oct 24 - Central Carolina Chapter Show

OCT 25 - NSC House of Delegates Meeting via Zoom

Nov 8 - Pinehurst Chapter Show

January 13-18, 2026 - BHS Midwinter Convention, Pasadena, CA

Important Links

[> Carolinas Barbershop Harmony](#)

[> Barbershop Harmony Society \(BHS\)](#)

[> BHS Free Classes and Tutorials!](#)

[> Previous Carolina Crooners](#)

Please send in letters, photos and comments with your opinions, ideas and experiences to share, and ideas to ponder. **We're always interested in celebrating what it is you are doing** out and about and at your rehearsals!

Beverly Greene, VP Communications
VP-Communications@carolinasdistrict.org



Carolinas District of the Barbershop Harmony Society | PO Box 98899 | Raleigh, NC 27624
US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!