



# Swipes & Tags

The official Newsletter of the Sacramento Capitolaire, Sacramento, California  
Chapter of the Far Western District of the Barbershop Harmony Society



## 69 years of Barbershop Singing in Sacramento

Where Singing Happens!

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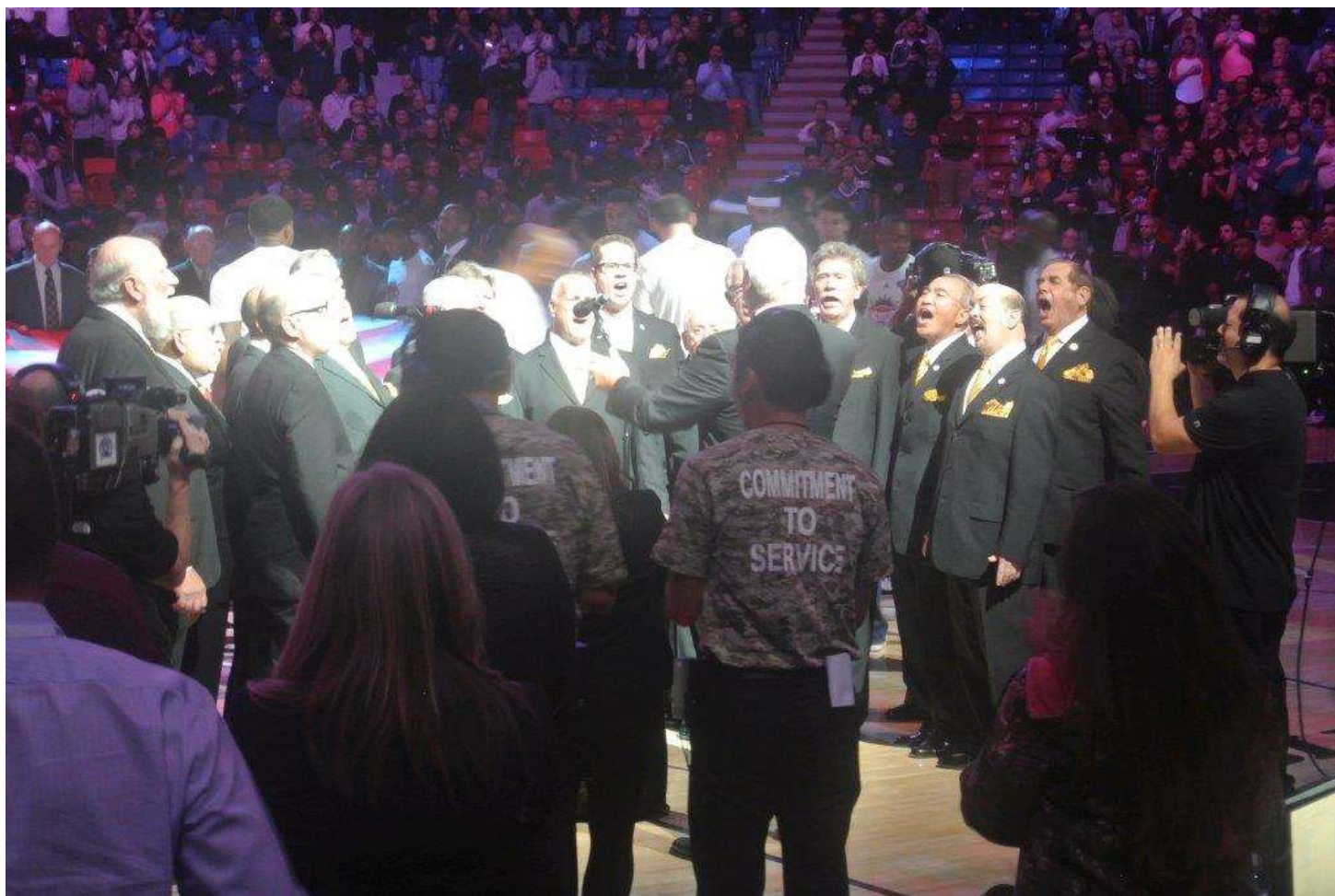


Photo courtesy of Norm Hile

**Two dozen Capitolaire sing the National Anthem during the Sacramento King's Game Military Appreciation Night held on November 11, 2015 in the Sleep Train Arena (Natomas).**

### Harmony Open House

The Capitolaire held their annual Open House on October 6, 2015 in Christ Community Church. A half dozen guests attended and were invited to sing polecat songs with the chorus and quartets. Membership Vice President Steve Cudworth chaired the event. It was so successful that **the Board voted to hold Guest Nights every fifth Tuesday (March, May, August, November, 2016).**

**The Sacramento Capitolaire meet every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Community Church, 5025 Manzanita Avenue, Carmichael, CA. Check out our website [www.capitolaire.org](http://www.capitolaire.org) or phone (888) 877-9806.**

## Capitol Pops Concert Band's Brews & Boos



Hosted by the Capitol Pops Concert Band, the band played to an appreciative audience on October 16, 2015. Brews & Boos combines October Fest and Halloween and is held annually in the Citrus Heights Community Center. This is the third time that the Capitolairens have sung. A small chorus of a dozen and half men entertained several hundred people for 30 minutes, beginning with "Roll Out the Barrel". A children's dance group performed to the music of Michael Jackson's "Thriller". There was a costume contest, raffle prizes, German food and beverages.

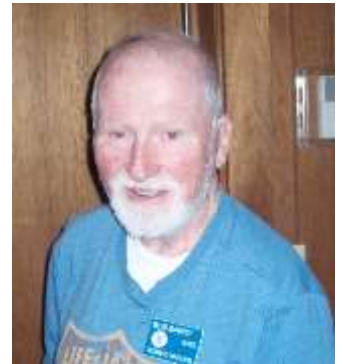
### Amazing Grace?

A man and his six year old daughter are passing a piano store. Now his daughter has never seen a piano before, so they walk in and take a look. Upon seeing a beautiful grand piano, his daughter sits down and starts to play a beautiful melody. Her father gasps, and says, "That's Amazing, Grace!" "No, Daddy," Grace replies sweetly, "It's Beethoven's Fifth." *(shared by Larry Larsson)*

### New Member Profiles

#### Bob Barry

Bob sings Bass. He was born in Utica, NY and came to CA in 1960. Bob is married to Betty. They have six children and 13 grandchildren. He earned his Associate Degree in Business in 1970. His career includes over fifty years in Real Estate /Construction and Facilities Management. Bob retired as Project Manager at Southern California Edison. His community service consists of the 20-30 Club, volunteering at local churches and the Parkinson's Support Group. Prior to singing at Southern California Parkinson's group meetings with the "Tremble Clefs," Bob sang in church choirs and productions. He sang barbershop in Southern California with the Beach Cities Harmonizers and South County Sound. Bob has two "Men of Note" awards. He likes singing with the Capitolairens because of the many friendships and personal involvement in each other's lives. Bob would like to help with recruitment of new members. Interesting little known fact: he hit a home run in Cooperstown, NY and in high school he scored a touchdown in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, CA. Great to have you ring chords with us, Bob!



#### Michael Burror



Mike sing Bass. He is married to Donna Reed. Retired, he worked for the State Board of Equalization. His community service includes being active in the Delta Lions Club. He has no Prior singing experience but enjoys singing with the Capitolairens. Interesting little known fact: "I live on a pear farm." Expect the best, Mike.

## Al Harrington

Al sings Bass. He is married to Janine and has two children in college. Al played basketball and volley ball in college. He met his wife at California State University, Sacramento. They have been married for 28 years. Al has worked as a software engineer at Hewlett Packard for over 27 years. His community service includes volunteering to coach high school basketball and volley ball for seven years. He has sung Doo Wop and a cappella for several years including barbershop for four years. Al is a former member of the Sierranders chapter and has served on their Board of Directors. He likes singing with the Capitolaire because he likes hanging out with guys that love singing barbershop. Interesting little known fact: "I played on the same All Star Basketball Team as Mayor Kevin Johnson." Great to have you hang out with us, Al!



## Gil Robles



Gilberto (Gil) sings Baritone. He was born in Santa Clara, CA. Besides singing, Gil's talents include playing guitar, banjo, ukulele and mandolin. Gil has sung Tenor in Woodland Chamber Singers. His community service consists of being director of People Resources (Meals on Wheels), director of Yolo County Red Cross, and others. He was a retail Store manager for Safeway, Staples and Target. He also served as County Tribe Coordinator for Yolo County/Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians. Gil likes the good times, good camaraderie and a chance to sing. Interesting little known fact: "My Dad had four years of school. There were six students in his class. Del Webb was in it." Welcome, Gil!

## Election of 2016 Officers

The following officers were elected: President **Gary Halldorson**, Music & Performance **Norm Hile**, Marketing VP **Robert DuPlantier**, Public Relations VP **Dan Swink**, Membership VP **Steve Cudworth**, Treasurer **Chuck Kaul**, Secretary **Dave Young**, Program VP **Steve Kennedy**, Youth in Harmony VP **Rick Cram**, Members-at-Large, **Doug Saathoff**, **Joe Samora**, and **Mike Selby**. Board meetings are held the second Saturday of the month.

The Nominating Committee consisted of **Dave Young**, Chair and **Steve Kennedy** and **Steve Cudworth**. The slate of nominees were presented and the election was held for Members-at-Large when six members ran for three positions.

Officer training was held on December 12 at Christ Community Church. The officers required to attend classes included the president, secretary and treasurer.

## Meet Your President

**Gary Halldorson** was born on Valentine's Day in Sacramento, CA. He has been married to his wife, Aleta, for 27 years and they have four children between them. Gary's sons have bands. Greg, his oldest, sings original music in his band, "Rosewell." Glenn is a guitarist in his band, "Rewind." They play 80s music. Glenn also writes and records music. His daughters work for US Airways and Dept. of Motor Vehicle.



In 1968, Gary was drafted into the Army and spent the summer at Ft. Meade Maryland to back up the National Guard in Washington, DC for riot control after Martin Luther King’s assassination. Then he was sent to Germany to work in the Pirmasens Army depot repair electronic test equipment. Gary completed his Army career in 1970 as a Specialist E-5.

He worked at McClellan AFB on aircraft instruments and eventually received training in solid state and digital electronics. Gary worked on Aircraft Air Data Computers. During his career, he worked on many types of planes and was on the Tiger Team to write technical orders. Gary retired when he was 51 after the base was closed and his work load was sent to Hill AFB in Utah. He had worked at McClellan AFB for 33 ½ years.

Gary began singing in the children’s choir at Pioneer Congregational Church. When he was a teenager, he joined the adult choir and sang with his Dad. He began singing again 15 years ago when he joined the Chancel Choir at Celtic Cross Presbyterian Church. Gary also sang in the Praise Team.

“Joe Samora sings with me in the choir and talked me into trying Barbershop singing. For a couple years I kept turning him down because Tuesdays and Thursdays I had Karate. On December 12, 2012; I tested and received my black belt. I decided that one degree was enough for me and started singing Barbershop.”

### **Noteworthy Comments from our Co-Director Ray Rhymer**

It is my practice to reflect on the blessings of the current year during the period of time from Thanksgiving through the end of the year. Perhaps we all do. We are all blessed to have our families. Barbershop is my second family, and as a long time member, I am blessed to have friends in the greater Sacramento area, and throughout the FWD and BHS, for that matter. Of course, the Sacramento chapter is my most immediate Barbershop family.



As members of the Sacramento chapter, we share the blessing of enjoyment and satisfaction every week in our chapter meeting. It is good to share Barbershop music with each other by singing some old songs, learning some new songs, and perhaps singing together in a quartet. There is a joy realized in good Barbershop sound and we get to share it. I thank you all for the blessing we experience every week.

My personal 3 goals are:

- 1 – Enjoy myself every time I get together with Barbershoppers
- 2 – Do that through singing Barbershop music
- 3 – Strive to improve continuously

I adopted these from BHS Icon Earl Moon over 40 years ago and they have served me very well. I confess I attempt to apply these goals when I direct the chapter.

Reflecting on 2015, I perceive we had an enjoyable year with good accomplishments, e.g., good show, good contest results, good chapter meetings, good growth, etc. We sang Barbershop, enjoyed it, and brought craft throughout the year.

2016 is fast approaching and it is time to plan. Regarding Sacramento chapter activities in particular, I want to enhance your Barbershop experience. In 2016 as your Music Director, I will strive to:

- 1 – Conduct enjoyable chorus rehearsals
- 2 – Select and teach Barbershop arrangements
- 3 – Bring Barbershop craft to meetings so all can improve

I ask for your help so we can enhance our Barbershop experience together. Please give me feedback throughout the year on how I am doing with implementing these goals. I think it imperative you enjoy the rehearsal portion of the chapter meeting. Let's work together to maintain or even increase your enjoyment.

Here's looking forward to making 2016 even better – together.

Ray Rhymer

## Polar Express

The past four years, the Sacramento Capitolaire quartets and VLQs have been hired by the California Railroad Museum to sing for their annual Polar Express Train Ride during the holiday season. This popular family event has sold 30,000 tickets in one day.

The Polar Express Train Ride is patterned after the Warner Brothers movie. The movie is about a doubting boy who boards a magical train ride on Christmas Eve which takes him to the North Pole where he receives a special gift from Santa. The story is heart-warming and reminds us all to BELIEVE in the magic of Christmas.

The railroad depot and trains are decorated for the holidays. In the trains, waiters dance down the aisles as they serve hot cocoa and cookies while the children and some parents, dressed in pajamas, travel to visit Santa Claus. Santa greets the children and gives each child their own silver sleigh bell, just like in the movie, to those who BELIEVE. (The train ride takes an hour).

Quartets (Capitolaire) clad in colorful holiday sweaters, scarves and hats, sing Christmas carols to entertain the families as they wait patiently for their trains to depart and also greet returning trains at the conclusion of their holiday adventure. Thank you **Steve Allison** for coordinating the Polar Express quartet singing.

This year the Capitolaire quartets sang four times a day for eleven days between Thanksgiving and the week before Christmas. What started as a novel idea has turned into a Sacramento holiday tradition and the Capitolaire are proud to play a role in keeping the spirit of Christmas alive.

## Capitol Rotunda Sing Out



*Photo courtesy of Carol Menefee*

Co-Director **Ray Rhymer** is seen directing the Capitolaire in the State Capitol rotunda on December 16, 2015. Twenty singers participated.

There were about three dozen tourists and capitol staffers who enjoyed the hour performance.

The Capitolaire have been singing in the Capitol holiday performances since its inception in 1992. We concluded our program with "We Wish You A Merry Christmas."

## Calendar of Events

- October 16 **Capital Pops Band Boos & Brews Concert**  
*Citrus Heights Community Center*
- October 25 **Shepherds Luncheon Performance**  
*Celtic Cross Presbyterian Church, Citrus Heights*
- October 29 **Folsom Seniors Outreach Holiday Caroling**  
*Senior Centers in Cameron Park and El Dorado Hills*
- November 3 **Election of Officers**  
*Christ Community Church, Carmichael*
- November 11 **Sacramento Kings Basketball Game**  
*Sleep Train Arena, Sacramento*
- November 26- **Polar Express (Train Rides) Quartet Caroling**  
December 20 *State Railroad Museum, Old Sacramento*
- December 4 **Mercy San Juan Hospital Holiday Party**  
*Northridge Country Club, Citrus Heights*
- December 5 **Sierra Regency Holiday Performance**  
*Retired Living Facility, Roseville*
- December 12 **Leadership Academy**  
*Christ Community Church, Carmichael*
- December 16 **State Capitol Rotunda Holiday Performance**  
*Sacramento*

For details on specific events check the [Weekly Update](#) and [Call Sheets](#).

## Editorial Comments



The mission of the [Swipes & Tags](#) is to provide members with timely and relevant information. It is a record of past activities and events. Newsletters will be published quarterly and include color photographs. Copies are available on the chapter website and hard copies will be available for our guests.

[Swipes & Tags](#) deadline for the Winter issue is March 15. Send submissions to **Joe Samora** at [tm39samora@comcast.net](mailto:tm39samora@comcast.net), a proud member of PROBE (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors) since 2008.

News articles and photographs are appreciated. Thank you **Bob Barry, Mike Burror, George Friend, Gary Halldorson, Al Harrington, Norm Hile, Chuck Kaul, Steve Kennedy, Larry Larsson, Carol Menefee, Ray Rhymer, Gil Robles, and Doug Saathoff.**



The Sacramento Capitolairees need someone to work on grant applications. The Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission offers funding annually to Sacramento area performance groups who qualify for their regional grants. Please notify a Board member, if you are interested in filing grant applications.