

Extra, Extra, Read all about it The Fall Convention in Fresno Oct 13-16

What is a Fall District Convention in the Far Western District?



It's all of the above and even more because it includes all your old friends and all the new ones you'll discover over the weekend.

It's also a bit of a tongue-in-cheek game!

Our new FWD Quartet Activities Chairman Bill Kane has promised you more quartetting fun. Well, he's seeing that everyone will receive a sticker like this one.

BUT don't use it until you have sung in a pickup quartet. **THEN** you can proudly wear it because you have demonstrated a major aspect of fun at our conventions. It also gives you license to find others not wearing their sticker and to draw/coerce/beg/plead/nudge them into a quartet. This is the weekend for everyone to get sticker stuck.



The Far Western District is the premier quartetting district in the BHS and you get to help prove it.

Quartet and Chorus Contests

The Fall District Convention is where we crown the quartet and Chorus champs for the following year. The best of the best are who you will see and hear on stage. We have some terrific contenders this year. If you like really good barbershop, you need to get registered ASAP. The sooner you register, the better the seats you'll be assigned.

The sooner you register at a hotel, the closer you'll be to the terrific Saroyan Theater for the contests. Be sure to check with the Radisson Hotel first. Sometimes rooms are released and you just might get in. The hotel has filled up twice, but then some rooms freed up. The Holiday Inn is close by too and recently remodeled. See our Hotels page at <http://www.fwdconventions.org/2011fall/hotel.cfm>



What if you're not coming because you aren't competing?

Hey, hold on there a minute. You mean if you can't sing on stage then there's no need to come?

Well we have a great fix for that. Eric Essayan from Fresno will be directing the Joe Barbershopper Chorus as the Mic Testers and we hope to announce the two songs in the next eNews. Don't tell anyone, but we'll have a secret singing judge or two in the audience covertly scoring us, so shhhhhh.

The opportunities to sing off-stage are incredible at Fresno

This will be the singiest convention in a very long time.

24/3 Singing: Our members love to form pickup quartets and group sings anywhere and everywhere—lobbies, hallways, staircases, empty side rooms, electrical closets, sidewalks, and, well, anywhere. And don't forget to put your **Putting the Q in BHS** sticker on then.

The primary 24/3 singing zone is the hotel lobby where you'll find tables, chairs, food, and beverages. The 16/3 singing zone is the AHSOW room, another great place to put a quartet together.

Sing with the FWD Champs: The 2010-11 FWD Quartet Champs, The Crush, have a one hour class on Friday at 1pm and they'll be singing with members of their class and that is YOU. It's part of their last hurrah before they hand over the traveling trophy on Saturday night. Not only are they our champs, but they placed in the top 20 at the International Convention in Kansas City.



Audience Singing: At every contest this Fall the audience will be singing. We'll start the first contest with Val Hicks arrangement of The Star Spangled Banner (#7643) and at intermissions we'll bring you back with more singing. At one of the intermissions we'll sing the lullaby Kentucky Babe. Download the chart and learning tracks at <http://www.fwdconventions.org/2011fall/Singing.html>

Mass Sing: On Saturday at 3:30pm in the lobby of the Radisson Hotel we'll fill the place with singers and Jim Turnmire will direct from a second floor location. It's gonna rock!

Tag Singing: And quartetting too. It's a 3PM Friday afternoon class led by Paul Engel, but if you are new to quartetting, be sure to take his 2PM class just ahead of this one where you'll learn all about putting a quartet together that stays together.

Woodshedding: When OC Cash and friends met on that rooftop in 1938 they didn't have any printed music. All they had was melodies of popular songs, so they invented the harmonies on the spot. That's what we call woodshedding today. On Friday at the convention at 1PM you can learn how to do it from Mark Torrance in his Beginning Woodshedding class and then stay over as the audience and be the judges for the 3PM Woodshed Quartet Contest. If you are already an experienced woodshedder, put a quartet together and stop by the Pick A Melody table in the registration area at noon and get signed up to compete at 3pm.

Are you the bashful type?

Do you hunker down at the end of your chapter meeting when a volunteer is wanted to lead Keep The Whole World Singing? Did you decline to be a section leader because you'll totally embarrass yourself flapping your upper appendages? Do you have the tiniest inclination to be a director?

Well then, you need to head straight for Ray Rhymer's 1PM class on Beginning Directing on Friday. Ray is a certified director and he loves to share his knowledge with others. He'll explain and then demonstrate the things you need to know to get started. And the students will all get a chance to give it a shot.

So what about food in Fresno?

Why not start your weekend off with a great lunch Friday at the [Silver Dollar Hofbrau](#)? It's just 10 minutes North up Hwy 41 to the Shaw Ave exit, turn right, and you are there. We have the back room reserved where you'll find other barbershoppers ready to sing with you. That's why we call it the Harmony For Lunch Bunch.



On Saturday at 4:30pm there'll be a buffet dinner offered at the Radisson. No driving required since it's just across the street from the contest site. Hmmm, with the Mass Sing at 3:30pm at the Radisson, it's the perfect place for a stress free dinner where singing is expected.

If you want to go farther afield, check out the [Restaurants near the Convention Center](#). Most of the hotels have in-house restaurants also.

What about shows with top performers?

Yup, we've got you covered. On Friday night after the quartet contest head straight for the AFWDC Late Show. This popular event features district quartet champs from recent years and you never can guess ahead of time what they'll come up with. You can buy tickets in the registration area and at the door.

Then on Saturday night after the quartet finals we'll have the Show of Champions where you'll hear both last years winners and this years winners, plus 2011 Bronze Quartet Medallist Masterpiece and 2011 Gold Medal Chorus Masters Of Harmony. The quartets and choruses tend to take advantage of the judges no longer being in the pit, and, well, you just have to be there.

Board of Directors Meeting

The elected district officers and many of the district chairmen meet on Thursday from 2pm to 10pm to report on progress and frequently take up thorny issues on your behalf. By the end of the meeting they will have several items ready for the House of Delegates meeting the next day. Did you know that you are welcome to sit in the audience and learn how the district operates? Just show up.

House of Delegates

If you are a Chapter President, seriously consider attending this meeting on Friday at 1:30pm. This is where district business is conducted and you are needed to represent the needs and concerns of your chapter. There are usually issues to vote on and a number of announcements are made.

You'll be asked to vote on the nominated slate of district officers for next year. This is where you learn how your district functions and the place to get better connected to

district leaders. The district secretary publishes a HOD Brochure approximately one month before this meeting and all chapter presidents are given the opportunity to read it.

If you can't personally be there, be sure that you send someone in your place.

Chapter Presidents meet the FWD Board

If you are a Chapter President, here is your very best chance to get connected to your district officers. The event is about you and your chapter, unless you are not there, so you really do need to show up. It's held on Sunday Morning at 8:30am.

If you are not familiar with the Fresno area

The area is billed as a year-round playground. You can learn more at [Play Fresno](#).

You've probably heard of the giant Sequoia Redwoods, but if you've never seen them it's hard to grasp just how giant they are. A hiking path leads through a tunnel of one of them. And there's a giant dome rock with an incredible view, but with warning signs to get off the rock if the hair stands up on your arms.

The nearby underground gardens are supposed to be interesting too.

You can register right now

We recently added online registration and payment. Just click on [Sign Me Up Right Now](#) and in a few minutes you'll be fully registered for the singingest convention ever.

And don't forget to [Visit our Website](#) regularly for the very latest information.

One more thing! If you wait until after September 8 to register, the fee goes up \$10 per person to \$50. So now is a great time to register for a great time in Fresno.

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