

## **Desert Aires hope to retain championship title**

The Desert Aires Barbershop Chorus, fresh from a highly successful annual concert in February, now turns its attention to the Arizona Division contest April 16 where they will attempt to claim their third straight "A" Plateau championship.

The chorus, made up of West Valley singers, will compete with two songs from the latest concert, Erin Go Broadway. Director Jerry Roland has chosen "My Wild Irish Rose" and "MacNamara's Band" for that division contest. That recent February concert resulted in record attendance with more than 2,000 fans.

The Desert Aires, during this past concert season, has performed at 17 different venues including competing in California in the large Far Western District of the BarberShop Harmony Society (SPEBSQSA).

The current chorus roster of 70 singers represents 23 different states, with 36 from the upper midwest - Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Indiana, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Seven come from New York, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania, with the rest from this side of the Mississippi. The Desert Aires meet Tuesday afternoons most of the time at the Sun City Christian Church at 98th and Palmeras in Sun City. Occasionally, as is necessary, they meet at the Masonic Lodge at 107th and Union Hills in Peoria. New members are welcome. The local chapter is probably with oldest in age in the entire Barbershop Harmony Society with average age of 76, Twenty-one members have more than 10 years of experience, 28 members have 20 or more years, 11 have 30 or more years, and six have 40 or more years. There are four having 50-60 plus years of experience.

Source: Peoria Independent, April 13, 2011