

NICK PAPAGEORGE

The Far Western District Board of Directors and the District membership are proud to dedicate the 2008 Spring District Convention to **Nick Papageorge**. While at Occidental College, Nick began his life-long hobby of barbershop quartet singing. He sang lead and his quartet (all members of the Occidental Glee Clubs) joined the Barbershop Society in 1973 with the South Bay Chapter and began competing in District and International Contests. **THE OCCIDENTALS** won the district quartet contest in 1977 with Russ Walker, tenor; Nick, lead; Peter Beers, baritone and Kevin Smith, bass. They achieved International Finalist ranking and traveled throughout the United States in their 10 years together. Nick also sang lead in the very popular quartet **4 POINTS WEST** for 5 years, and **MARGERRY SHARDON'S FAVORITE BARBERSHOP QUARTET** for 4 years. He then switched to Baritone in order to sing in **CALIFORNIA GENTRY**, where he made the solo "In Your Eyes" (arranged by Larry Wright) a barbershop favorite. Most recently, Nick has sung baritone in the International Finalist Quartets "**GREAT STAGE ROBBERY**" and "**STANDING ROOM ONLY.**" Nick has directed barbershop choruses ever since he joined the Society. He has directed **Fullerton**, **South Bay** (two tours) **Whittier** (two tours) and **Brea**. Currently Nick sings in, and occasionally directs, the A Capella group VoCA with many of his close friends.



Nick received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Choral Conducting from **Occidental College** and continued his choral conducting education at **California State University, Fullerton**. He was fortunate to have studied with world-renowned choral conductor **Dr. Howard Swan** at both Occidental and Cal State Fullerton. Nick has also received a Master of Science Degree in Online Teaching and Learning from Cal State Hayward. He has been teaching Vocal Music and Theater Arts at Sonora High School, his alma mater, in La Habra since 1975. At Sonora he conducts a Madrigal Choir, Jazz Choir and Concert Choir. He teaches all of the Theater Arts classes and produces and directs all of the school's plays and musicals. In 2000 he was Teacher of the Year and he has brought barbershop harmony into his student's lives. Two of his students, **Dan Jordan** (The New Tradition) and **John Sasine** (Nightlife) have won Society Quartet Gold Medals while two others, **Paul Olguin** and **William Hill** (Special Feature) have been medalists. He also formed **Papa's Boys**, who were FWD High School Quartet Champions in 2001. In 2006 Nick was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Music Educators National Conference. To round out his workday, he also coaches Varsity Football and Varsity Girl's Softball.

Nick is a Certified International Music Judge in the Society contest system and serves on the Board of Review for the Music Category. He served as FWD Chairman of Young Men In Harmony for several years. He was on the founding board of the FWD Chorus Director's Guild and is President and founder, with the other three members of **THE OCCIDENTALS**, of the Association of Far Western District Quartet Champions. He is also on the BHS International Music Faculty. He has traveled throughout the U. S., Europe and even China to coach many quartets and choruses in the barbershop style of music. Nick is a member of Actor's Equity and loves to champion the Arts, music in particular.

Singing is a family way of life in the Papageorge home. All three of his sons have sung barbershop harmony (Sam is a Gold Medalist Baritone in the 2007 International College Champions ROADTRIP) and his wife, Gerry, is a two-time International Champion Quartet Singer in Sweet Adelines, International. She was tenor of PANACHE, 1990 and bass of FANATIX, 2002. Nick of course, coached both of those championship quartets. Also, Gerry has been an International finalist in all four voice parts.

The Far Western District is fortunate to have Nick among its members. It is our pleasure to honor his contributions during this 2008 Spring Convention in Bakersfield, California.

