



Far Western District

Convention Honoree

Jim Turnmire – 2015 FWD Fall Convention Honoree

Jim Turnmire is a 40-year member of the Society and sang in his first Barbershop contest with the Fresno Gold Note Chorus in the Fall Contest in 1975.

At the chapter level he has served as Program Vice President, Chapter President, bass section leader, show chairman, assistant director, and finally as Musical Director. He was the Musical Director of the Fresno Gold Note Chorus for about 3 years. Some chapter awards include: Barbershopper of the Year, Administrator of the Year, and the President's Appreciation Award (twice).

His first directing experience was with a church choir. He directed two different church choirs for a combined total of about 10 years. His first barbershop directing experience was with a Sweet Adeline chorus starting in about 1970. He directed the Fresno Chapter of Sweet Adelines for about two years, and the Vintage Valley Chapter of Sweet Adelines for about three years. In 2007 when the Modesto, Merced and the Oakdale chapters merged to form the Central California Chapter (Golden Valley Chorus), he directed them for the first four years of their existence.

Jim has been in a quartet for most of those 40 years. The longest standing quartet, Harmony Spectrum, won the Far Western District Championship in 1989, and competed at International in '89, '90 and '91, reaching as high as 15th place.

At the District level, Jim was an Area Counselor for two years and was awarded the Area Counselor of the Year Award for 1994. He served on the District Board for about 10 years, including being Division Vice President and Chorus Director Development Chairman. He chaired a division contest in 2009 and was General Chairman of the Fall Conventions held in Fresno in 2011 and 2014.

At the Society level, he is a trainer for the Chorus Directors Workshop Intensive (CDWI) program and has been since 1999. He has led over 20 workshops throughout the Society, including several in the FWD. He also headed up the Director of the Future program and taught this class several times.

In his "other" life, Jim was an elementary school teacher for 35 years until his retirement in 2003. During his 35 years of teaching (at the same school), he was out of the classroom for a few years working at the administrative level, but preferred being back in the classroom. He was honored as Teacher of the Year for his district in 1997.

