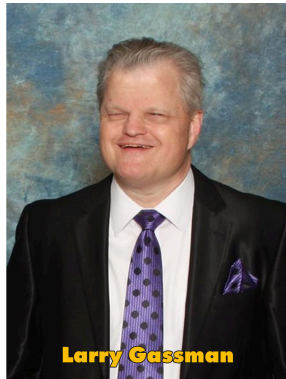




## Far Western District

### Convention Honoree

## John & Larry Gassman – 2017 FWD Fall Convention Honorees



In 1972 John and Larry Gassman visited the Whittier chapter with their high school music teacher and were immediately hooked. Looking back on their 44 years of Society membership one finds an incredible record of achievement and dedication at the chapter, district and societal levels.

John has served as Program Vice President, Music and Performance Vice President, and twice as President of the Whittier Chapter. In more recent years he has been Program Vice President and Music and Performance Vice President of the Brea Chapter. He has also been a section leader in both of these chapters.

Larry served both as Music Vice President and President of the Whittier chapter and after transferring to the Brea chapter served as both President and Music and Performance Vice President. He served as President for a total of four years, and also has been a section leader in both chapters.

As identical twins John and Larry are difficult to tell apart, and in life they are often inseparable. As a consequence their accomplishments are often recognized together:

- 1974 – Co-Winners of the Whittier Freshman BOTY
- 1984 – Co-Winners of the Whittier Chapter BOTY
- 1989 – Co-Winners of the Whittier Hall Presidents Award
- 1993 – Co-Winners of the Whittier Hall of Fame Award
- 1993 – Co-Winners of the FWD Presidents Award

Individually Larry has also received the following:

- 2003 – Whittier Earl Moon Award
- 2005 – Whittier Earl Moon Award
- 2005 – Brea Hall of Fame Award

In addition to administrative accomplishments and singing on the risers with their chorus John and Larry are accomplished quartet singers who have competed at the District level with three different foursomes: Pacific Electric Chord Company, A Pitch in Time, and Four Fifteen, a quartet which made the top 10 at the District Contest several times.

The twins have emceed barbershop events at all levels. In addition to entertaining at chapter shows they have been very successful as presenters at contests for division, district and international preliminary quartet contests. The highlight of their emceeing career was when they did both sessions at the International Contest in Anaheim in 1999.

In addition to barbershop music the brothers share a love for old time radio. John has worked at the Braille Institute in Anaheim, and in 2003 was the first totally blind person ever hired by the Walt Disney Company, where he books vacation packages for the Walt Disney Travel Company as well as training all new blind hires on the reservation system. Larry works for the Marriott Corporation where he not only makes reservations for individuals arranging for stays at Marriott properties but also tests scripts and new applications to make sure they are accessible for blind people.