



## Far Western District

### Convention Honoree

### Paul Engel – 2025 FWD Fall Convention Honoree



Paul Engel began his barbershop career when he was in the Air Force. While visiting his hospitalized flying partner at Mather field he was invited to attend a meeting with the Sacramento Capitolaire, and in spite of fact that the singing was pretty ragged he was hooked. Almost immediately he was shipped to Vietnam, where he organized a quartet, The Rice Paddy Four. Reportedly the quartet rendition of "I'm All Alone" was not well received when song at the Officers Club!

Subsequent to his return stateside his fifty-seven year membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society has seen him wearing many hats. In addition to serving as a Music Judge for 26 years and serving on the faculty at Harmony College for ten years Paul has been an active quartet and chorus singer. One of his first

quartets, the Fancy Dans, was among the first quartets to tour New Zealand in the early 1970's. The Dans competed at the FWD District Contests for six or seven years, placing as high as third. In addition he has been a frequent competitor in the Senior Quartet contests. His favorite quartet was Blood Sweat and Years with gold medalist Bill Myers on bass.

Bill has a number of published BBS arrangements to his credit. He won an award for his song "When You Ring a Chord on a Cable Car" which was performed at the 1990 International Convention in San Francisco. He loves to talk about the public domain songs he has arranged and updated, and is quite happy to share them with anyone who might be interested.

When Greg Lyne was directing Voices in Harmony in the early 2000's and they placed third at the Denver International Convention Paul was one of his capable assistants.

Currently Paul sings with Team Harmony, and as at most conventions, when he's not harmonizing with his quartet he is happily teaching tags and working toward his goal of winning the Super Senior Championship at age 100! The fact that he is 'only' 83 doesn't seem to be a hurdle he can't clear!