



Far Western District

Hall of Fame

Ray Rhymer - 2004

Our hall of fame winner joined the Society in the Illinois district in 1949, while still a student in high school. Following graduation, his development in barbershopping was temporarily interrupted by the Korean War when he volunteered to serve in the United States Marine Corps.

Unable to get those ringing barbershop seventh chords out of his head, our honoree used his limited spare time harmonizing whenever he had the chance and could find three "good men."

Following his discharge from service, he returned to continue his education, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee and a Master of Science degree from the University of Southern California.

He is a recipient of Aerojet's prestigious R.B. Young Technical Innovation Award. Now retired, he spent 34 years as an aerospace engineer and manager and his last assignment was program manager for NASA.

Our honoree is an active quartet man as a tenor, lead or baritone with: Summer Sounds, Four Points West, Sixty Something, Foothill Songsters, Older Than Dirt and Preservation.

He is a charter member of the Far Western District Chorus Director's Guild, and has directed choruses in Simi Valley, Oxnard, Conejo Valley, Sacramento and Placerville.

In 1972, he became a Judge Candidate in the Harmony Accuracy Category; then a Certified Sound Category Judge from 1975 to 1993, judging the International Contests in Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Kansas City and San Francisco. In 1998 he was recertified as a Singing Category Judge.

He is "on call" constantly as a coach for quartets and choruses locally, district-wide, at our own Harmony College West, at Harmony Incorporated music seminars and on coaching faculties at Harmony College in St. Joseph, Missouri.

On the chapter level, over and above his service as chorus director, our honoree has served on most chapter committees and held almost all offices including President.

On the district level, he has served as Area Counselor, Assistant Contest & Judging Chairman, Assistant Director of Music Education, Vice President for Music & Performance and later, for Youth Activities and editor of *Westunes* since 2002.

Our hall of famer has received the Conejo Valley Chapter Barbershopper of the Year in 1979; became a Whittier Chapter Honorary Life Member in 1979; and Placerville Chapter's Barbershopper of the Year in 1997 and 2000. We have all been the beneficiaries of this man's talent and generosity for over 40 years. His personal motto is: "Encourage ... Enjoy ... Enthuse ... Excite!"

His successes over these many years, aided by his attention to detail and devotion to the basic principles of harmony, have made him the obvious selection for the Far Western District Hall of Fame.

Ladies and gentlemen: our hall of fame winner for 2004 ... **Mr. Ray Rhymer.**