



# Westags

The Far Western District Fall Convention in brief....  
Bakersfield, California. September 30-October 3, 2004

## Convention Highlights

### Contests

Another great one for FWD—thanks to Events Chairman, **Sam Barger** and his events team headed by Convention General Chairman, **Dave Prigge** and ably supported by the entire **Fullerton Chapter**. A standing “O” for this group is indeed warranted.

**Masters of Harmony, O.C. Times, and Sands Of Time** won their places as 2004 **district champions**. The chorus contest saw 23 choruses trod the boards for an afternoon of great singing, a total of 812 chorus singers were on stage—not counting the “*All Star Barbershop Chorus*—mic testers composed of non-competing members.

There were 19 division qualifiers in the regular quartet competition with nine in the top 10 (*Uncalled Four* made the cut but withdrew).

Nine Senior Quartets vied for the top District slot as well as the nod for International and, as **Sands of Time** had never been district champ before, they wear **both** crowns: District and International Rep. To the Midwinter Society Convention in Jacksonville Florida in January, 2005.

### Special Recognition

Long Time Barbershopper, **Gene Hartzler**, was honored as the *Convention Dedicatee*. His resume contains many barbershop entrees: Past FWD Secretary, COTS faculty member, Charter President of El Cajon Chapter, and currently an active Pal Pac member. He and Maxine were very much among those present at Bakersfield.

### BOD Meeting Highlights

The FWD Board meeting convened earlier than usual (1 p.m. Thursday) and considered a full slate of issues. Among those were:

- Recommended the change of date to Sept 29-30 2007 Fall Convention
- Recommended the bid of Greater Phoenix to host Fall 2007.
- Donated two registrations for the Fall Convention as the grand prize for the Harmony Foundation raffle.
- Approved the rewording of SOP Section 8.3.2.4 that returned FWD to the previous contest selection of only the top five Senior Quartets from the divisionals to vie for district and/or International.
- To return to the printed and mailed version of the delegate’s brochure.

### HOD Meeting Highlights

The HOD meeting convened one hour earlier than normal to allow time for the Senior Contest that was being conducted as a separate section beginning at 3:15. All district officers, eight past presidents, and delegates for 42 chapters were present.

The Keynote Speaker was **Don Harris**, CEO of the Barbershop Harmony Society, who provided insight to the current status of the Society and, later installed the district officers.

Retiring district champion quartet **Q** brought the attendees and guests to their feet with the National Anthem to start the proceedings.

Actions of the HOD included:

- Approved the bid of Greater Phoenix for the Fall 2007 Convention
- Approved the site of Bakersfield for the Fall 2008 Convention
- Accepted the budget as presented.
- Approved eight of the nine changes in the SOP
- Did not approve the change to permit quartets to attempt to qualify for Fall in more than one divisional.
- Re-elected the current slate of district officers.

**Revival**, in one of their final appearances, provided a sensitive and moving background for the annual memorial service for the 44 FWD members that had passed on during the past year.

A number of awards were made to FWD chapters. A new Society award, provided by Kathy Edwards in memory of Owen, was presented to the **Riverside Chapter** in recognition of the Society-Wide leadership in member retention. **San Jose** and **Fullerton** chapters received Society awards for 10 new members and **White Mountain** and **Truckee-Tahoe** received special awards for a 25% increase in membership from new members.

### General

Task Force Chairman of the *Get Our Conventions Singing Again*, **Keith Eckhardt**, and his very active committee were everywhere keeping the singing going (remember seeing those hats?). Starting with *Jump Start Barbershop* on Friday night, following with a great number of singing opportunities (*Sing and Be Coached by Q*, *Tag Singing by Dan McQuigg*, etc...) and culminating Saturday night with the *Woodshed Quartet Contest*.... all proved that the FWD conventions are really singing more...these days. Good work, Keith!