



Westags

The Far Western District Spring Convention in brief....
Bakersfield, California. March 13-16, 2008



Four (Maybe More?) To Nashville!

Achieving the "magic number" of 1824 or more points (76%) in Bakersfield at the Far Western District International Quartet Preliminary contest were:

OC Times	88.1%	2115
Late Show	80.9%	1941
Stardust	78.0%	1872
The Crush	77.4%	1857

Still to come are the results of the FWD quartets that have chosen to compete out of District: **VocalEase**, **Metropolis** and **Audacity**.

In FWD's combination Prelims/SoCal West Divisional at Bakersfield, there were a total of 12 quartets that trod the boards with some opting for the Prelims, some for the Divisional, and some for both.

The top SoCal West quartet qualifying for the FWD Fall District competition was **Masterpiece (84%)**, (**Rob Menaker**, **Mark Hale**, **Alan Gordon** and **Brett Littlefield**) from Santa Fe Springs and Bay Area chapters. Also qualifying for the Fall contests were: **The Crush (76.8%)** and **Expedia (67.2%)**.

Rincon Beach's Pacific Sound chorus took the top honors in the SoCal West Divisional contest with convention host, **San Fernando Valley's Valleyaires** and **Pasadena's Crown City Chorus** qualifying for the FWD Fall Contest.

The High School Quartet Contest, which was judged by a triple panel of seasoned quarteters (**Raymond Davis**, **Alan Gordon**, **Mark Hale**, **Gabe Caretto**, **Rob Menaker**, **Brian Philbin**, **Brett Littlefield**, **Jordon Litz** and **Mike Stewart**), showcased seven good-sounding young quartets vying for the crown.

Element (Foothill High School, Pleasanton) took the gold with **Booth Street Quartet** (Reno High School, Reno, NV) the silver, and **The Bandits** (Ponderosa High School, Shingle Springs) **The Overtones** (Tesoro High School, Las Flores) **The League of Ordinary Gentlemen** (Summerville Union High School, Tuolumne), **3rd Try** (Carson High School, Carson City, NV) and **Tone-Deft** (Jurupa Valley High School, Mira Loma) close behind.

CONVENTION AWARDS

The convention was dedicated to long-time Society member and quarteter **Nick Papageorge**.

The 2007 President's Award by IPP Bill Cale went to **Ron Murray** of the Placerville Chapter.

Les Woodson was inducted (posthumously) into the prestigious **FWD Hall Of Fame** by **Dave Briner** and the near-dozen current members of HOF who were in attendance.

Santa Cruz was named "*Chapter Of The Year*," as a result of their longstanding work with high school age singers and school music programs.

BOD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

FWD President, Bob Lally opened his board of directors meeting on Thursday afternoon and it was concluded before midnight (recessing, of course, at a reasonable time for dinner) All but two of the elected officers were present (EVP **Ivan Jensen** was home, ill and DVP NorCal East, **Jim Turnmire** was excused). Reports and issues discussed and resolved included:

- Comments by **Lou Benedict** Society Rep.
- College contests to be highlighted with winner's plaques and greater recognition
- Membership statistics were presented by Chairman **Clark Abrahamson** and statistician **Keith Eckhardt**.
- To dedicate the 2008 Fall FWD Convention to **Jim Holder**
- The next meeting of the FWD BOD and DMT will be in Southern California (TBA) on June 13 and - 14, 2008.

HOD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Delegates and officers attending the Spring meeting of the FWD House of Delegates were provided a review of the current status of the Society by Paired (EVG/FWD) Board Member **Lou Benedict**. The problems with the current data system *Aptify*, were identified and solutions were promised.

Other important issues were presented to the assembled delegates and included:

- 24 chapters had delegates at the HOD meeting.
- Reports of the District Officers and Committee Chairmen were received.
- FWD Bulletin Editor of the Year **Mark Sheldon**, **Orange Chapter**

The next meeting of the House of Delegates will be in Bakersfield on October 10, 2008.