

In the old fashioned report card sent home from Richard Lund's kindergarten teacher, the comment about his wonderful singing ability struck his parents as only natural. Unfortunately, Richard did nothing with that voice until high school and a little in college; and then he really sat on it until his mid fifties when he discovered Barbershop. He's been working hard to make up for that loss ever since.

Richard attended the University of Wisconsin where he earned his bachelors and masters degrees in engineering. After working in the field for 4 years he returned to Stanford University and was awarded a PhD in Materials Science and Engineering and he has spent his career as an independent consultant doing Failure Analysis.

Shortly after moving from the Bay Area to Placerville, Barbershop struck like a bolt of lightning in Richard's life. One of his favorite ways of describing the effect on his life is that "Barbershop filled a part of my life that I didn't know I was missing". If you really think about that statement you realize that it's pretty profound.

The Placerville chapter provided the first ten years of Barbershop singing under the incredible mentorship of FWD Hall of Famer Ray Rhymer. What a wonderful teacher!

Richard sang with Placerville for ten years, concurrently with Reno for 7 years, competed in the last Divisional contest in three quartets and one chorus. Richard recently made the tough decision to take a leave of absence from Placerville and join Voices In Harmony to work under Dr. Greg Lyne. He also has attended his fourth Harmony University session, this last one to join the Honors Chorus under Mark Hale.

The Placerville chapter has always had a strong Youth Outreach program under the incredible direction of Ron Murray that has been the model for YIH in Northern California for years. Ron invited Richard to help out with Youth Harmony Camp in 2002 when it was still being held in the Santa Cruz Mountains. That was the year that the leadership announced that the FWD was running out of money and this would be the last year for Harmony Camp. Well, Richard went to work over the winter and after numerous meetings and lots of cooperation with Placerville, Sacramento and others, a new model emerged for fund raising based on Richard's extensive fundraising experience with the Palo Alto YMCA (Richard and his wife Patsy spent many years fund raising for the Y). Richard refused to let the YHC to be cancelled because of his intense belief in the good the camp does for the boys. The camp now thrives at the Sly Park Educational Center in Pollock Pines, CA.

Boating and water skiing were another area of interest in Richard's life; and at one point he approached the YMCA leader of the weeklong water ski camp and volunteered both himself and Patsy as counselors on the annual trip. These two old-timers were certainly viewed with substantial skepticism, but in the end permitted to tag along. The next year, the experienced leaders had moved on and Richard and Patsy became the leaders of the water ski trip and continued to do so for the next ten years! They would take roughly 40 coed high-schoolers to Trinity Lake for a week of camping and skiing with a hand picked group of counselors. Lots of wonderful memories from those years.

That's a long way of explaining that after camping with forty coed high schoolers in the woods for a week while teaching them water skiing, cooking, and group cooperation, running a weekend long Youth Harmony Camp seemed a natural extension.

The key for Harmony Camp, however, has always been and will always be fund raising. If you can't raise the money to run the Camp, you can't have the Camp. It truly is just that simple. That is a way of bringing it all back to where the money comes from. It comes from

YOU reading this page in the program. As a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society and your chapter, wherever it is, it is because of your support both believing in the Camp and working to help the Camp that allows Harmony Camp to happen. This award may be in the name of Richard Lund, but it is YOUR support and YOUR belief in the Camp that has made so many magical moments happen with young high school boys from all over the west. Thank You!

The Far Western District is fortunate to have Richard among its members. It is our pleasure to honor his contributions during this 2009 Fall Convention.