



Far Western District

Convention Honoree

John Jones – 2014 FWD Fall Convention Honoree



Many folks contribute, year after year, “to the preservation and encouragement ...” So recognition of an individual should be a recognition of those who supported that individual and who have made multiple contributions themselves. I would like to point out some of those who contributed to my love of our barbershop hobby.

In the beginning (circa...1975)... Al Drouin and I met by accident in Chicago as we both were moving from the East Coast to Palo Alto and he introduced me to barbershopping in the shape of the Peninsularies. I’ve never been tempted to seek another home. It was here that Peter Poland, whom we recently lost, put my son, Pat, on the risers and gave him what Al had given me. It was in this chapter that Carl Truman, Jerry Valencia and Ron Skillicorn invited me to join a quartet, the Pacific Sounds. We sang for many years together and were recognized by the

Peninsularies Hall of Fame committee for contributions to the chapter. Under the choral direction of Sam Gonzales, Wayne Mansfield and John Williams, I enjoyed the experience of medaling at International in 1980 and 1982.

Along with the efforts of Steve Sammonds, Bob Morrison, Dave Morley, Bert Laurence, and others, I participated in the refocusing of the Peninsularies to the task of “Share the Joy of Barbershop” as well as continuing to seek achievement on the contest stage. This led to many roles in the production of shows, cabarets and contests and an interest in those activities that drive the presentation of barbershop for others to enjoy. Chuck Hunter, Dick Whitten and Chuck Leavitt involved me in the production of the Northwest Division Convention, and I followed Chuck Hunter through a contest and was hooked. It is a fun thing to get to do. I learned much from Sam Barger and Bob Cathaway about both Division level and District level conventions from contest management, to hotel management, to venue management.

There was also a great deal of joy and accomplishment involved in working backstage with the grand master of production, Doug Maddox. Recruited by Carl Truman to play “go-fer” and later by Bob Lally to take on the role of Show of Champion Producer, I was in a position to meet many of the folks that cross our contest stage as we sought to create an environment where the singers could focus on their performances and not on the logistics. Providing structure for all the participants, contestants and non-contestants alike, increases the enjoyment of all convention attendees.

Much of the role of event production and convention management lies in controlling the white space between various activities. Russ Young noted this when he presented me the President’s award two years ago. He said that you sometimes don’t recognize an effort until it’s gone. After serving as Northwest Division Vice President and then as District Events Chairman, I am aware of the full impact of the administrative, logistic, planning, and policy load carried quietly by our District Board Members and Management Team Members. Please go out of your way to recognize and thank Allen Webb, Russ Young, Bernard Priceman, Bob Lally, Peter Feeney, Bill Cale, Ron Black, Nick Papageorge, your Division VP’s and other movers, shakers and just plain doers for all the time, effort and intelligence they expend on our behalf.

John Jones, Bass