



## Far Western District

### Convention Honoree

## Bill Kane – 2015 FWD Spring Convention Honoree



There is no truth to the rumor that Bill attended the very first barbershop event in 1938, cause he was only one year old. But he was fortunate to have both parents and a sister who sang, and so started singing harmony soon there after. In high school and college he formed quartets and soon discovered SPEBSQSA.

Nearly all of Bill's 50+ years of society membership have been in the great FWD. Since he lived in both Northern California and Southern California before moving to Arizona, he has been an active member of six district chapters: Marin, South Bay, Santa Fe Springs, Phoenix-Saguaro, Greater Phoenix and was one of the founders of the Arizona Quartet Chapter. He served as President and Music Vice President and a number of other chapter officer positions for several of these chapters. Bill competed on the International stage with three of these choruses, and considers the thrill of singing at that high quality level to be equally as important as the medals gained. A couple of these chapters have named Bill their Barbershopper of the Year.

Quartet singing has been a most important part of Bill's barbershop life. Among his dozen and a half quartets have been a NorCal Novice Champ, Arizona Division Novice Champ and FWD Senior Champ. Although primarily a bass, he has also sung tenor and bari in quartets. He has sung in several different Music Man productions, totaling over 30 performances.

Bill met wife Jean singing in a mixed quartet, which has certainly been a bonus benefit of quartet singing for him. Jean is also a 50+ years member of her society and has been honored for her contributions to Sweet Adelines, having served on the International Board, won a regional quartet championship, been a certified music arranger, was first judge in the Expression Category and won a couple of International gold medals with her chorus. As a team, Jean and Bill have been recognized by his chapter for a Barbershop Harmony Month in Phoenix and FWD for a Harmony Express Train to International. They began taking barbershoppers on cruises many years ago and believe they may have been the first to do so.

Bill has held Division and District level positions, such as Events Chairman for AZ Division and Marketing VP with the District. He was recognized with an award by BHS for his PR skills. His current position of FWD Quartet Activity Chairman is giving him a great amount of pleasure. Through the Harmony Platoon program, started a couple of years ago, hundreds of men have had the opportunity for fun quartet competition at our conventions. The program has expanded to other districts, and in 2014 to both International conventions.

Bill states that he is very proud to be recognized by FWD in this way, and vey humbled to join the ranks of the men previously so honored...a list of his barbershop heroes.