



Far Western District

Convention Honoree

Steve Sammonds – 2016 FWD Spring Convention Honoree

Steve had his first taste of singing barbershop in 1974 as a lead in a junior high school quartet, but his first real contact with SPEBSQSA was not until 1984 when he visited the Baton Rouge Chapter with his uncle Ronnie. Three years later he discovered the Peninsula Chapter in the FWD and was hooked for life.

Peninsula recognized Steve's value right away and he found himself involved as music librarian, assistant director and Music Voice President in the first year. This was total involvement, with one exception: he missed his first chapter show. The chapter gave him a pass so he could attend his marriage to his wife Terri. He was awarded "Rookie of the Year."

In 1989 Steve was made Director of the Peninsulaires and attended the FWD Chorus Director's Guild. The year ended with his being named BOTY.

Sammonds attended the Society's first Director's College in 1990 and eight more times since then. In 2001 he became the first director in the Far Western District to complete the BHS Director Certification chorus curriculum. Steve became a member of the Palo Alto-Mountain View Chapter's hall of Fame about the same time.

Directing the Peninsulaires from 1989 to 2014, Steve was a major factor in rebuilding the chapter to the point where, since 1996, they have qualified for District level competition every year, and in 2002 they won the Small Chorus Championship. In addition to directing, he wrote and directed shows, designed choreography, and even edited the chapter bulletin.

Even with all that chapter responsibility, Steve served the FWD in a number of roles. Starting as Chapter Counselor, he moved on to the Long Range Planning Committee, District Chorus Development Chair, and Vice President of Division 3 (Northwest) for five years. While Chairman of the LRPC, he developed a plan to change the basis for making the chorus plateau level awards that we still use.

What kind of a Society would we have without quartets? Steve made sure he made time to sing in these: *Close Harmony Experience*, *Native CaliFOURNians*, *Mixed Metafour*, *Dalliance*, *Intermezzo*, *Shockwave*, *Adagio*, *SPAM*, and *Spellbound*.

Steve wants to be sure everyone knows he didn't do any of this by himself. He had loads of help, and wants to mention some of the key players in his chapter providing special support: Chuck Borrecco, John Jones, Bert Laurence, Dave Morley, Bob Morrison, Jerry Valencia, and Chuck Thompson. And from the District and Society, the mentoring and guidance of the following are more than memorable: Terry Aramian, Ron Black, Gary Bolles, Paul Eastman, Sam Gonzalez, Bob Lally, Greg Lyne, Evan, Stan Neff, Nick Papageorge, Stan Sharpe, Gary Steinkamp, Lloyd and Judy Steinkamp, Bill Tieberg, and Jim Turnmire.

Perhaps the most important help and support came from his wife, Terri, and sons Andy and Ryan.

