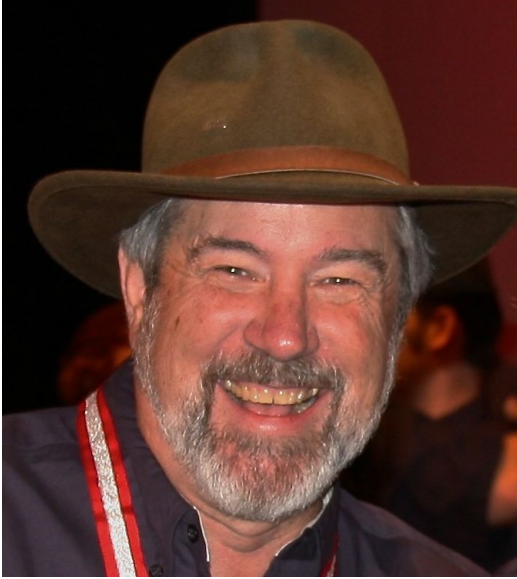




## Far Western District

### Convention Honoree

## Gary Bolles – 2024 FWD Spring Convention Honoree



Gary began barbershopping in 1964 in Providence Rhode Island in the Northeastern District. He sang in two district champion quartets and directed several choruses before moving to the Far Western District in 1978. He quickly made his musical mark, singing baritone in FWD District quartet champion as well as two FWD medalist quartets. He competed in International Quartet competition twelve times, reaching the semi-finals twice. More recently he has been active in Senior Quartet activities, competing a total of six times, winning three bronze and three silver medals. He directed the Bay Area Metro Chapter's Pot O' Gold from 1987 to 2002, leading them to district championships in 1995, 2000 and 2004. Under Gary's direction BAM competed at the International Contest five times, placing as high as seventh.

In addition to his prowess as a performer Gary is also a highly sought after coach, working with both choruses and quartets which have gone on to win International Championships. For nearly twenty years Gary split his time between the US and New Zealand, and while down under he worked with choruses and quartets at all levels, some of which went on to place at the highest level in our International Contests, including

the Musical Island Boys who won the championship in 2014. He was also instrumental in the design and implementation of a Musical Director Trainer Training Program for Barbershop Harmony in New Zealand (BHNZ) which has resulted in the creation of two very successful programs, the BHNZ National Education Program and a Coach Training and Certification Program.

As a member of the international Contest and Judging community Gary served as a certified judge for over 35 years, first as an Interpretation Judge, where he also was Category Specialist, and then as a Music Judge and member of the Board of Review.

A BHS Harmony University faculty member for nearly 30 years, Gary has served on the faculties of many district and regional training programs including the Society's former Chapter Officers Training Sessions (COTS) and Top Gun Schools all across the US and Canada.