

# Chapter 8

## November 1981 - October 1986



The 1981 District Contest and Convention was held in Sacramento but sponsored by the Vacaville Chapter and drew a record number of attendees. Three new members were elected to the 1982 District Board, namely Terry Aramian, Floyd Thaller and Chuck Lowrey. The SoCal West Antelope Valley Chapter, which had come close to folding, was revitalized mainly through

Joe Frazier. A chapter in Yuma, Arizona was licensed in December, but it wasn't chartered until about 11 years later. The Aloha Chapter performed with the Honolulu Symphony. Six of their chapter members ran in the Honolulu Marathon on December 13.

In January 1982, the Tucson Chapter hosted the Society Midwinter Convention. FWD "Sharing" Chairman, Chuck Hunter reported that the Tucson Chapter also put together a set of directions on how to put on a successful cabaret show and made them available to District chapters. The Las Vegas Chapter did likewise with a set of instructions for putting on a pancake breakfast. The Fresno Chapter earned \$600 when some of their members and their wives helped with the county election. Don Dorsey of the Whittier Chapter was named FWD Bulletin Editor of the Year for 1981. In March, Buz Smith received the "Area Counselor of the Year" award. In April, FWD's Reedie Wright was the recipient of the "Distinguished Service Award," the highest award given by the Institute of Logopedics, the Society service project.



*"California Fever"  
1981 Far Western District Champions  
International Representatives 1981 & 1982*

the work of a West Virginia transplant, Jack Hall. Over 400 newly elected chapter officers attended the C.O.T.S. (Chapter Officer Training Seminar) at Fresno in November, 1981. In late 1981 George Dohn passed away. George was FWD president in 1955-6 and again in 1959-60, and served the District as International Board Member in 1961 and 1962. He was an early Editor of *Westunes Magazine* and had much to do with the format that is still being used.

Another late 1981 event was a historic barbershop marriage. Talented chorus director and quartet baritone, Bob Gray, Jr. was married to Lisa Diane Morrison at a church in Arcadia with quartet performances by "Grand Tradition," "California Fever" and "Four Points West." In addition, an octet sang which included father-of-the-groom Bob Gray, Sr. and father-of-the-bride Dick Morrison. If that wasn't enough, the service was performed by Navy Chaplain and San Diego Chapter member



*"Music Appreciation 101"  
Popular Show Quartet*

In March, 1982 the Salinas Chapter, which had been in existence since the late 40's, disbanded. In the same month the Sonora, CA and Kingman, AZ chapters were chartered. A name change for the Clearlake Chapter to the "Lake County Chapter" was approved. Three brothers performed in the SoCal East chorus



Lou Perry  
FWD Hall of Fame  
1982

contest. If that doesn't surprise you, how about the fact that they were in three different choruses? Hal Palmer sang with Riverside, Charlie Palmer with San Diego and Bob Palmer with Santa Ana. After producing a radio program "Close Harmony" for ten years in his chapter city of Phoenix, Don Richardson offered to make his weekly 30-minute barbershop music program available to any other radio station that would air it. In May the Merced Chapter put on a show in a hangar at Castle Air Force Base, helped out by guest choruses from Modesto and Sonora, and a guest quartet, "A Tonic Explosion" from

Fresno.

The Santa Rosa Chapter held a non-registered quartet contest with a Vice-Mayor of the city and a County Supervisor as judges, and the story was carried, with pictures, in the August 1982 issue of *Sunset Magazine*. In August, it was announced that the Far Western District had been in first place in the Society achievement program for two months and by quite a wide margin. A Mini-HEP school was held at U.C. Davis in September with



"Pacifica"  
1982 Far Western District Champions

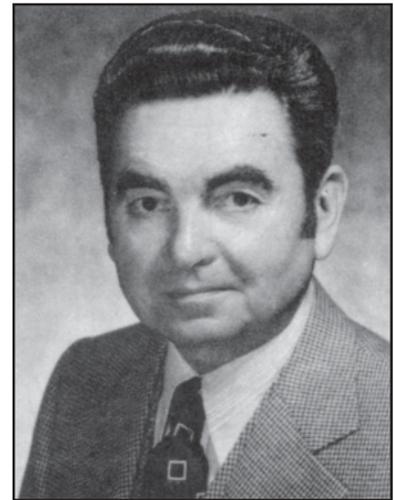
Society staff members Joe Liles, Dave Stevens, Paul Mayo and Dave LaBar.

In September another Mini-HEP was held in Santa Barbara with Stevens, Mayo and LaBar on the faculty as well as Brent Graham of the host chapter. Also in September, Bob Johnson, Society Director of Music Education and Services, retired and moved to Tucson. The FWD Flying Barbershoppers Association had a joint fly-in and sing-out at Columbia, California, September 18-19. The Sierra Vista, AZ Chapter was chartered in October 1982 and became the furthest south and furthest east chapter in the FWD. At the fall District convention in Pasadena, since the Santa Cruz, Monterey and Santa Clara Counties were

on or near the Pacific Ocean, the Board decided to move chapters therein from the NorCal East division to NorCal West. By some different logic, chapters in the State of Hawaii would fall in NorCal East. Solano County chapters would also be in NorCal East.

In the fall of '82, the Long Beach Chapter received a Society PR Award for performing the National Anthem at a local sports event which appeared on Cable TV. Peninsula Chapter member Jerry Orloff set a record, that still stands at this writing, when he brought his 100th new member into barbershopping. The Whittier Chapter donated several sewing kits to Logopedics. The Downey Chapter, chorus and quartets, performed at Shakey's Pizza on Thursday nights for three hours, receiving 20% of the gross revenue on food sold during the time they were there. The C.O.T.S. sessions to train new chapter officers for 1983, were hosted by Fresno in November 1982 with a record number ("nearly 400") in attendance. Christmas shows were becoming popular in the District with at least twelve chapters doing them in 1982.

District President Don McAvoy declared 1983 to be the "Year of the Quartet." He called for a 20% increase in registered quartets, increased quartet activity in every chapter, more quartets competing at the Division level and two FWD quartets in the top



Don McAvoy  
Far Western District President 1983  
International Board Member 1989  
FWD Hall of Fame 1990

10 at the Society convention in Seattle in the fall (there would be three). In January 1983 the NorCal chapters put on another Logopedics Spectacular in San Francisco with newly retired Bob Johnson directing the massed chorus in ten songs and featuring "The Classic Collection," "Four-Do-Matics" and "Music Appreciation 101" men's quartets and "Easy Street" from the Sacramento Sweet Adelines. The Placerville, California Chapter was chartered in January 1983 and the Visalia, CA Chapter was chartered in March 1983.

As a strong advocate of "keeping it barbershop," 1982 District Hall of Fame member Lou Perry was asked if minor chords had a place in barbershop arrangements. Lou replied that they do, saying: "They create the tension, but then the barbershop sevenths bring you back to the happiness." John Sasine, 22 year-old member of the Fullerton Chapter received the AIC (Association of International Champions) scholarship. (John would later switch to the Foothill Cities Chapter and sing lead with the 1996 Society champion "Nightlife" quartet.) 1982 Bulletin Editor of the Year award for large bulletins went to John Butcher of the San Diego Chapter and for small bulletins to Bob Tobias of the Carson City Chapter.

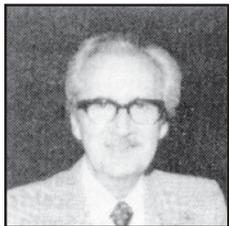
In 1983 the Tucson and Rancho Bernardo chapters took

advantage of a new Society program to present the "Award of Harmony" to members of their areas for community service. It was pointed out that the Far Western District had contributed more money to Logopedics than any other district in five of the previous eight years. For the third year in a row, the San Francisco Chapter hosted a "Barbershop on the Bay" cruise featuring the San Francisco Cable Car Chorus and several area quartets. In mid-1983 Whittier was the largest chapter in the Society with just under 200 members. The Young Men In Harmony program



*Carl Campbell  
President's Award  
1983*

was a past president of the Downey Chapter and sang in several quartets including the "Merry Chords" and the "Four Bits of Harmony" and he was an active quartet coach. In June the Association of Far Western District Champions (AFWDC) was sanctioned by the District board. Also in June, the Downey



*Gene Hartzler  
President's Award  
1983  
FWD Hall of Fame  
1983*

Chapter hosted a picnic which drew barbershoppers from as far away as Hawaii. In August, the Reno Chapter hosted its 2nd annual barbershoppers' campout at Lake Tahoe.

The FWD supplied 16 faculty members to the Society's

Harmony College in St. Joseph, Missouri that summer. The Nevada-Placer, CA Chapter was chartered in August 1983. Also during the summer, the Fullerton Chapter staged its 5th annual Logopedics Spectacular featuring several nearby chapter choruses and a number of top quartets from SoCal. The Napa Chapter



*"Special Request"  
1983 Far Western District Champions  
International Representatives 1983 & 1985*

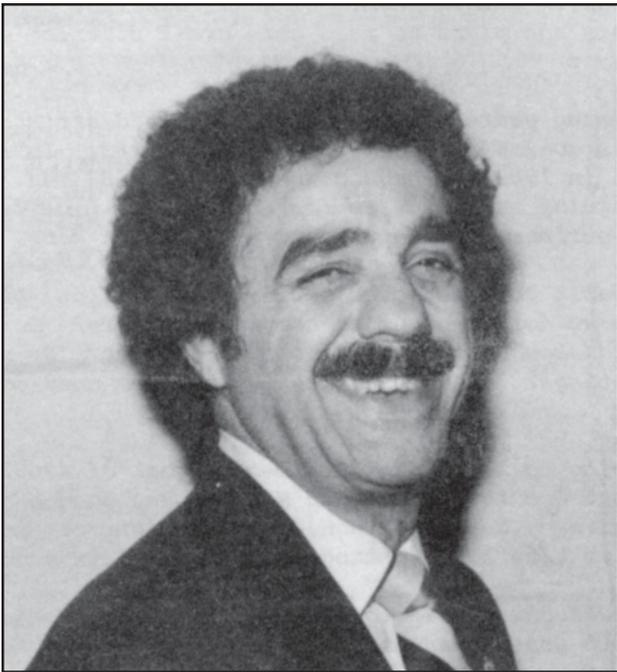
hosted a wine-tasting, barbecue and golf tournament that drew barbershoppers and their wives from all over NorCal.

In October the Santa Ana Chapter held a YMIH Harmony Jubilee at Santa Ana College and invited students from 35 high schools and junior colleges with the "139th Street Quartet" and the "Upper Classmen" quartets to teach the young about barbershop harmony. Music teacher Steve Diamond of the Santa Monica Chapter was taking a quartet to local schools to demonstrate the art and then teaching the school chorus a tag. Near the end of 1983, the Whittier Chapter reached their Membership VP, Ralph Bishel's goal of 200 members. The Whittier Chapter was blessed with a 3-generation family which included Don Shively (father), Paul Shively (son) and Donnie Shively (grandson). A family quartet was out of the question since ALL THREE sang bass!

1984 saw new members to the District Board in Mike Hatfield, Chuck Hunter and Terrel Perkins. The Society Mid-Winter Convention was hosted by FWD's Aloha Chapter and chaired by Dr. Hank Hammer. The FWD Spring Convention was hosted by the San Jose Chapter with Chuck Hunter as Chairman.



*The "Phoenicians" - 1983 International Chorus Champions - Lou Laurel, Musical Director*



*"Nevada" Sam Barger  
Far Western District President 1984-85  
International Board Member 1986-87*

The 1983 and 1984 FWD Directories erroneously showed Chuck's area code as 404 instead of 408, which resulted in many phone calls to him re the contest going to someone in Atlanta, Georgia. At the convention, Bulletin Editor of the Year awards went to Bob Allen (San Mateo) and Bert Keifer and Harry Shearin



*Bob Bisbo  
President's Award  
1983*

(Pasadena). Tom Costello of SoCal East was named Area Counselor of the Year. The Lompoc Chapter was honored for the highest-ever per capita contributions to Logopedics of any chapter in the District (\$105/member).

District President Sam Barger challenged District Service Chairman John Burby to lose one pound for each \$2000 raised by the FWD for Logopedics during 1984.

Based on the total raised (the goal was \$40,000) for each pound that he failed to lose, John would contribute \$10 and for each extra pound that John might lose, Sam would contribute \$10.

In March 1984, the District Board voted to revoke the Yuma Chapter charter due to inactivity and to dissolve the Association of Far Western District Champions (AFWDC) as a District sanctioned organization (it would be re-sanctioned in 1986). Also in March the District achieved its highest membership to date (4118). In June the Arcadia Chapter hosted a "2 X 4 Bash" which was a double quartet contest, for the purpose of developing more chorus members into quartet singers, won by "Eight the Hard Way" from Whittier. Upon learning that the California State Assembly was preparing to vote on the selection of a State Song, the Peninsula Chapter chorus quickly learned arrangements of "I

Love You California" and "California Here I Come" and made a recording of them which received air time on several NorCal radio stations.

The Far Western District supplied 15 faculty members and 84 students for the Society's Harmony College at St. Joseph, Missouri, in August 1984. The Vacaville Chapter toured Alaska, putting on shows in Anchorage and Valdez. The Reno Chapter hosted its 3rd annual barbershoppers' campout at Lake Tahoe, with District President Sam Barger as Camp Director, and with campers coming from throughout the District. In September the Fullerton Chapter hosted its Sixth Annual Logopedics Spectacular.

The Davis-Woodland, CA Chapter was chartered in October. Also in October, the Bakersfield Chapter hosted its 7th FWD Convention, putting it one ahead of Pasadena and Sacramento. For the first time, a barbershop quartet entered the San Francisco Bay-To-Breakers foot race. San Francisco Chapter's "San Andreas Faults" quartet entered and even sang while running, receiving TV coverage. Lee Nickerson of the Rancho Bernardo Chapter sold over 500 copies of his song "That Crummy Old Quartet of Mine" with proceeds going to Logopedics.

In November, the San Diego Chapter sponsored a 2-day barbershoppers' cruise from Los Angeles to Ensenada and back on the SS Azure Seas, featuring top quartets from the District.



*"The New Tradition"  
1984 Far Western District Champions  
1985 International Champions  
International Representatives 1984 & 1985*

The District purchased ten electronic keyboards to be used by FWD students at Mini-HEP schools. Don Sprouse, editor of the Monterey Peninsula Chapter bulletin "Hot-Aire" was named FWD Bulletin Editor of the Year for large bulletins, and Ralph Bryant and Hank Gomez of the San Francisco Chapter and co-editors of The Foghorn, won the award for small bulletins

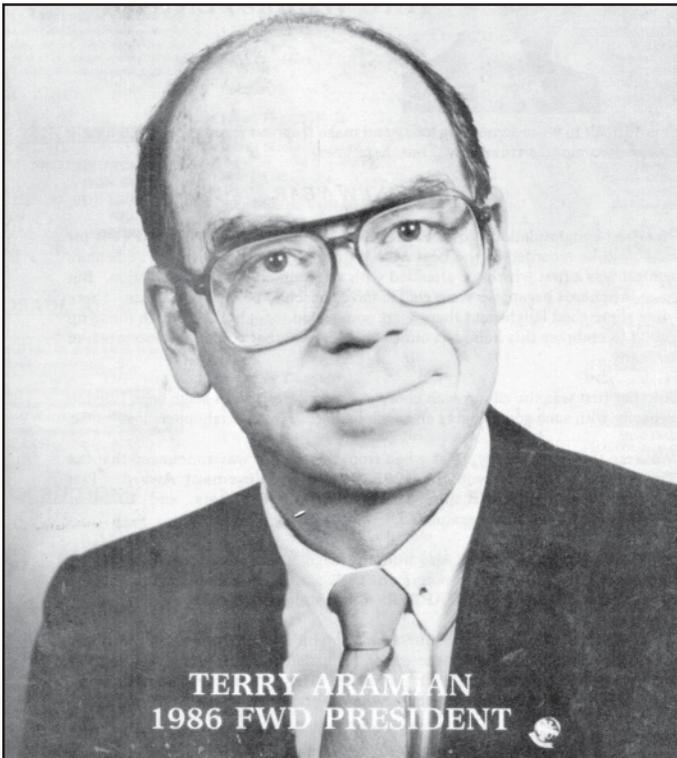
The Chico Chapter was chartered and the Crescent City Chapter was re-chartered in March 1985. The Livermore Chapter folded. Pomona Valley's "Sentimental Gentlemen" quartet performed in the Ontario Civic Light Opera production of The Music Man. Rancho Bernardo's "Ranchtones" quartet was



*The "Knudsen Bros."  
1985 Far Western District Champions  
International Representatives 1984, 1986, 1992*

performing regularly at Disneyland Park in Anaheim. The District Board voted to donate a redwood clock to the Logopedics raffle at the Society summer convention in Minneapolis.

When the City of San Francisco reneged on its commitments to the District and placed insurmountable financial restraints upon it, the 1985 District Contest had to be moved to San Jose to be hosted by the San Jose Chapter. In May, the Santa Rosa Chapter won first place for its colorful float in the Santa Rosa Luther Burbank Rose Parade. Pal-Pac's 18th summer Comedy Quartet Contest was won by the "San Diego Extension



*Terry Aramian  
Far Western District President 1986-87  
International Board Member 1988  
International President 1992  
Far Western District Hall of Fame 1995*

Chords" with Gary Mathews, Rich Phinney, Stan Christman and Bob House. The Reno Chapter presented its first annual Award of Harmony to TV executive Bill Andrews. At the May-June District Board meeting the Board voted to declare San Diego's "Four Staters" quartet as 1948 District champs. The Board also decided to cut the number of issues of *Westunes Magazine* back to 9 per year. It was also decided that each division would be represented by at least one chorus at the District contest, regardless of its score in the division contest. In addition, any chorus scoring 760 point or above (double judging panel — 380 with a single panel) would be eligible to compete in the District contest.

At the Society summer contest the "New Tradition," with



*The Far Western District in its present state.*

John Sherburn, Dan Jordan, Bob Gray, Jr. and John Miller, became the 6th FWD quartet to become Society champs. Foothill Cities, CA Chapter was chartered in October 1985. At the District convention in San Jose, District Historian Bob Bisio arranged for a reunion of members of the 1957 Society chorus champion from the old Berkeley Chapter, which was the first FWD chorus to win this distinction. At the convention, the Phoenicians won the District Chorus Contest for the 10th time and Phoenix' "Knudsen Bros." quartet won the quartet contest. Long-term judges Lou Benedict, John Ford and Joe White were honored as were Wesley Meier and Bob Oertel for their long support of the judging program. The Board voted to disqualify any quartet that changes personnel between the division and FWD contests.



*Jerry Graham  
FWD Hall of  
Fame 1986*

"Mixed Metafour," one of the first male-female barbershop quartets in the west, toured Sweden, Norway, Scotland, England and Wales. Members were Jerry Orloff and Bev Wesley of the Peninsula Chapter, and Kim Orloff and Bev Wesley of the Cabrillo Del Mar Sweet Adelines Chapter. Mini-Harmony College was in Sunnyvale in September. The FWD Chapter Officer Training Seminar (C.O.T.S.) was held in Anaheim in November. After 7 years of serving as Editor of *Westunes*

*Magazine*, Dick Girvin resigned and Fritz Grunenwald took over the job. In November the District Board gave approval to a proposed merger of the Pasadena, San Gabriel and Arcadia chapters (later only San Gabriel and Arcadia merged to become the San Gabriel Valley Chapter).

In late 1985, 102 members of the Phoenix Saguaro Chapter went to Hawaii and performed with the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra. Around that time, Bill Scavo of the Whittier Chapter was making up 300 walking sticks, from the shafts of golf clubs, which would be given away over the Christmas holidays to local rest homes. In February 1986, Bill would host a "Barbershop Logopedics Benefit" at his restaurant in Downey.

Tucson hosted the Society Mid-Winter Convention in

January 1986 featuring the "World's Largest Chorus" directed by Bob Johnson, as well as the medalist quartets from the previous Society Summer Convention and the first annual Seniors' Contest. At this convention it was announced that the Far Western District had won the 1985 District Achievement Award!

In February 1986 the "139th Street Quartet" performed on the TV show "Cheers." "Yer Fadder's Mustache" quartet performed on the daytime program "General Hospital." Joe Liles directed the 430-voice chorus for the 1986 NorCal Logopedics Spectacular in San Francisco in May. Joe was then the Society Director of Musical Activities and would later assume the job of Executive Director of the Society. At the District Board meeting in March, bulletin editor awards were made to Don Sprouse of

Monterey Peninsula (large bulletin) and Ray Rosenbaum of San Fernando Valley (small bulletin). Sprouse went on to become First Place Editor in the Society-wide contest and Gale Sherrodd of Whittier was third. A trophy was presented to Gunnor Ryge, Logopedics Chairman of the Marin Chapter, for their record donation of \$124.33 per man. Jerry Orloff received recognition from the Society for his 105th Men Of Note award. The "Knudsen Bros." and "The New Tradition" quartets received Society recognition for participating in the Music Educators National Conference in Anaheim.

Mini Harmony Colleges were held at Chapman College in Orange, California in July and U. C. Davis in September 1986.

**EXPERIENCE**  
**The NEW FANTASYLAND**

The Long Beach Chapter  
S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. INC.  
Presents

**Barbershop Party**  
at  
**Disneyland**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1984**  
**5:00 P.M. - 1:00 A.M.**

**ALL FOR JUST ONE PRICE**  
**\$700**  
PER PERSON  
Children 2 years  
and under free

Your Party Ticket Does It All!  
Admission to Disneyland Plus Unlimited Use of  
All Attractions and Shows.  
(Except Arcades)  
There's Even Free Parking!

**Featuring**

- ✦ The New District Champion Quartet
- ✦ 6 TOP FWD Barbershop Quartets
- ✦ 2 TOP FWD Sweet Adelines Quartets

and Main Street Pianist Judy Carmichael

*At left: Vintage ad copy from the Long Beach Chapter appearing in the January 1984 edition of Westunes Magazine.*