

RMD Weekly

Rod Sgrignoli

Rocky Mountain District President

Editor: Tony Pranaitis (Immed. Past Pres.)

HISTORIC GATHERING OF DISTRICT QUARTET CHAMPIONS

Be in Ogden for the Spring Convention of the Rocky Mountain District April 28-29 where the Saturday night "Show of Champions" will honor all Quartet Champions in RMD history (beginning with "Classic Collection", and including "Bank Street") and these and other Champion quartets will perform for us, proudly wearing their new medals.

Remember that March 30 closes the convention room rate and the early bird registration rate, so ACT NOW.

"RMD FESTIVAL CHORUS" OPPORTUNITY AT MIDWINTER

The Society is contemplating adding a District Chorus Festival to the MidWinter Conventions, and since the RMD will be HOSTING the 2007 MidWinter (in Albuquerque) it would be WONDERFUL if barbershoppers from our own District would flock to this event. Bill Biffle has agreed to direct the Festival Chorus, and feedback is being sought from you whether this idea would be appealing to your chapter members, and how could we make it more appealing? Responses can be sent by reply to TonyChiro@juno.com and will be forwarded to the appropriate destination.

Some of the many benefits include the opportunity:

- For members to meet and network with barbershoppers from all over the district.
- For members from smaller, potentially more isolated areas to sing in a large ensemble.
- For members to sing in an ensemble conducted by some of the best talent each district has to offer.
- For the district to "rally the troops" and evoke a sense of pride in each member for the district and its team efforts.
- For members to travel and perform on a stage in front of an international audience.

Midwinter District Festival Chorus Showcase

Are you looking for that extra bit of fun to relieve the winter doldrums next January? Grab a couple of your friends, or four or five score of your friends, and plan on heading Albuquerque way, for the Society's Midwinter Convention

GENERAL CONCEPT: The Barbershop Harmony Society will be sponsoring a new type of fun-loving singing event...the **District Festival Chorus Showcase**. Singers from all across your district will gather to form one large chorus. There will be prizes to win, but the primary purpose is FUN.

ORGANIZATION: Each district will appoint its own person or group of people to oversee the organization of the **District Festival Chorus**.

GENERAL CONTEST RULES:

1. Districts are limited to one representative chorus
2. In order to enter, everyone in your group must have purchased a Midwinter Convention registration, and furnished a participant listing, to the event administrator (John Schneider), prior to 12/31/2006.
3. 11 sets of risers will be provided.
4. Total stage time will be 12 minutes from entrance to exit. You may use less than 12 minutes if you choose.

SCORING: Six evaluators will be used, evaluating every group. There will be no specific judging categories. Each will have up to 100 points to assign per group. The audience will also play a part in the process by helping to select the People's Choice award. They will have sole decision-making authority over who receives that award. Prizes will be awarded to the top five winners, plus the People's Choice prize.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: When will this event take place?

A: Saturday of the 2007 Midwinter Convention.

Q: When must my district confirm participation in this event?

A: No later than September 1, 2006.

Q: Where can my district get an entry form?

A: Once Society staff has received your commitment, you will be sent an entry form.

Q: Who will assist the housing and registration process for the Midwinter Convention?

A: Society staff.

Q: What about rehearsal space at the convention?

A: Rehearsal space will be coordinated by Society staff and will be provided to each group.

MESSAGE FROM SOCIETY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ED WATSON

It has been over six months since hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast area and required our members in the area to temporarily relocate. Last week I visited the New Orleans Chapter to assess their situation and determine if help was needed.

The New Orleans chapter and its Mardi Gras chorus have returned, but not without difficulties. Last fall, they were the SWD AA champions. Since then, all members evacuated New Orleans, and most have been able to return, but some have done so reluctantly. Others, including the chorus director, have chosen to permanently relocate rather than face another hurricane season. The chapter lost their secretary and all his expertise, and just appointed a new, but untrained, secretary the week of my visit. The chapter has been meeting at a local high school, unable to enter their former rehearsal hall until this week. They have appointed a former director in the interim, and seem ready to bring some much needed joy and music to the area.

However, their ability to raise funds on their own is slight. The overwhelming scale of the disaster has reduced the area's population, and therefore the chapter's potential audience. One estimate indicates 150,000 people where 450,000 used to dwell. Facilities that could house a chapter show are both difficult to find and charging premium rental fees. The situation in parts of New Orleans remains difficult, even while reconstruction efforts progress. Houses stand empty, businesses shuttered. Essential businesses restrict hours due to employee shortages. Each closure and each vacancy compounds the enormous complexity of restoring normalcy. Medical facilities and Post Offices are *just now* returning to service. Piles of refuse still litter every street and highway. As houses are demolished, some additional bodies are being discovered. The gruesome has become routine.

Mostly unaware of the outpouring of goodwill, sympathy, and money to relief agencies by Barbershoppers immediately following Katrina, (because they were dispersed) the chapter awaits barbershop help. The Society will work with the chapter on rebuilding their music library, getting coaching and remedial COTS training. Anything you wish to do as fellow Barbershoppers will be a hand up, not a hand out. Their biggest concerns are for chapter finances, coaching, music, and outside IDEAS. Many of you sent your help to relief organizations at the time of the disaster. If you can still help, great. The chapter President is Beryl Laufer, who can be reached by e-mail at tenorlauf@cox.net, or by phone at 504-831-0403.

Thank you for any efforts for our fellow Barbershoppers.

Sincerely,
Ed

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