

RMD Weekly

Rod Sgrignoli

Rocky Mountain District President

Editor: Tony Pranaitis (Immed. Past Pres.)

COTS AND HOUSE OF DELEGATES REPORT

The RMD 2006 COTS was successful by every measurement, except attendance. On the positive side, there were 10 "Tony" awards presented (this was an idea I had suggested to the Board when I was District President, and CSLT VP Lee Taylor decided to name the award a "Tony"). For every chapter that sends 4 attendees to COTS, they receive one tuition scholarship to Rocky Mountain Harmony College. There were 6 chapters with 4 (or more) and two chapters with at least 8 (those being Salt Lake City Beehive Statesmen, and Grand Junction Bookcliff Chorus). **WAY TO GO** for those 8 chapters, especially the top 2.

A star-studded faculty headed up by COTS dean Jim DeBusman presented an fabulous school. Bill Lahti did his usual excellent job of event organization and operation. Our outgoing President (Rod Sgrignoli) and President-elect (Mike Deputy) shared from their hearts to open and close the event. Our 2006 RMD Seniors champs "Category 4" entertained us, and Deputy and Sgrignoli both taught us tags until the wee hours. It was a weekend of chapter success-building, but also camaraderie and FUN.

It was also the "end of an era" for COTS. We don't know what the future holds, but due to some extreme financial constraints placed on the Society Board to fund the headquarters move from Kenosha to Nashville and the upgrade of our IT system for www.barbershop.org some things were slashed from the budget, including funding for COTS (Chapter Operations Training Seminar) and Leadership Forum (training for District officers). During this "spending moratorium" numerous options will be considered.

As you may know (and you do if you were at the House of Delegates meeting) I chaired a SubCommittee that studied COTS at the request of the RMD Board. Because the District is literally HEMORRHAGING money as a result of poor attendance at COTS (this year, to the tune of about \$8,000 of YOUR money) something must be done. The report of the SubCommittee and the PowerPoint presentation made at COTS are both attached to this Email (and will be available on the district website). I will produce a more detailed PowerPoint (with some additional discussion points) and let you know when that is posted on the web. Whatever we end up doing, it will be different than the COTS weekend we are used to.

Because COTS is not the only event that is poorly attended (attendance is down at BOTH Conventions...only RM-HC is "holding its own") the district budget has been suffering. Membership is also down, which means dues revenue is down. With revenue shortfalls, the HOD was presented options of what to slash from expenses, and the delegates were not ready to make the draconian slashes necessary to keep our dues the same for the 11th straight year. So a motion was made to increase dues \$10 and was seconded, and passed 23 to 1.

Elections were held for 2007, and your new officers are: President Mike Deputy, Immediate Past President Rod Sgrignoli, Executive Vice President Woody Woods, Treasurer George Brown, and Secretary Merle Quigley. There were two candidates for Secretary, and the vote was 13-11. There were two candidates for EVP, and the vote was originally tied 12-12, and one delegate announced he wanted to change his vote, we took a re-vote, and it came out 13-11. If you weren't there, and you think your vote wouldn't have mattered, think again. Congratulations to ALL who agreed to serve, and to our new Board of Directors.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HARMONY COLLEGE FEB 2-3

Kevin Pape, finishing his term at Events VP, told me that he is 99.9% certain that **GOTCHA!** will be on faculty along with Senior Gold medallists **Antique Gold** in Estes Park! What a school and what a Saturday night show this is going to be! You'll have a week to "rest up" after MidWinter in Albuquerque, so make plans for both!

TONY