



Barbershop Harmony
Society Week

September 18–25, 2011

Proclamation

WHEREAS, barbershop singing is a true American art form, the creation of which was influenced by African American musical traditions, formal church hymns, and recreational songs; and,

WHEREAS, barbershop's unique musical style – melodic, a cappella singing with special emphasis upon the dominant seventh chord — regained popularity in the 1940s; and,

WHEREAS, barbershop music continues to be widely-practiced and loved today, with hundreds of thousands of people participating in barbershop organizations, such as the Barbershop Harmony Society and its nine affiliates; and,

WHEREAS, the Barbershop Harmony Society unites those with a similar passion for singing, hosting conventions and competitions for the purposes of learning and building friendships; and,

WHEREAS, the organization has provided an often cherished service to their communities as well, with their harmonic performances, singing valentines, and educational programs for youths and adults; and,

WHEREAS, members of the Barbershop Harmony Society have contributed to the evolution of barbershop performance groups as they now perform an expanding repertoire of contemporary music; and,

WHEREAS, barbershop organizations are composed mainly of older men and a few youth; and,

WHEREAS, there is a need for increased public interest and education so that this time-honored tradition continues on; and,

WHEREAS, on September 23–25, 2011 the Illinois District of the Barbershop Harmony Society will hold its Fall Convention and Illinois barbershop championship competition:

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim September 18–25, 2011 as BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY WEEK in Illinois, in order to introduce the melodic performances of this unique, American tradition to a greater number of citizens from across the state.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol in the city of Springfield this second day of August in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and eleven, and of the State of Illinois one hundred and ninety-third.

Jose White
SECRETARY OF STATE

Pat Quinn
GOVERNOR