



PROPOSAL SPRING HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING APRIL 25, 2014 – DAVENPORT, IA

Proposal – adjust the current schedule of district conventions to include one “contest” weekend during a fall convention, while keeping a spring “festival” event in conjunction with IDAH.

Time Frame for implementation – beginning with the fall convention of 2014

Background Info:

The concept of moving to one contest per year is one that has received a lot of attention recently. Under the new leadership in Nashville, the Barbershop Harmony Society Board of Directors announced that districts wishing to move their current format to just one contest a year may do so with the approval of the Society headquarters. To date, two districts have already adopted this new format - the Southwestern and Carolina Districts. This idea was first brought to the attention of the Illinois District at the HOD in Peoria at the 2013 District Spring Convention by Society Representative Gary Parker. Subsequently, the issue was raised by District President Jeff Bowyer at the 2013 Fall HOD meeting in Bloomington. At that meeting, President Bowyer made it known that our district board was considering the “one contest a year” format and inquired whether or not the HOD approved of further consideration. While no motion was made or an official vote taken, the informal consensus was that of approval for consideration of this idea. After further discussion among the governance board and operations team at the pre-convention/board meeting held in Mt. Zion on Saturday, March 8, it was decided to put the issue before the HOD for consideration.

Options – After careful consideration, the district board came up with the following options:

1. Keep the current contest cycle as is – one spring contest in which international quartet representatives are chosen and one in the fall in which district quartet/choruses are selected as well as an international chorus representative.
2. Move to one contest in the fall which selects district quartet/chorus champions as well as international representatives. Hold a spring “festival” event (perhaps in conjunction with IDAH) in which quartets/choruses can receive coaching, perform non-contest repertoire, etc. See components below.

Components of Spring Festival Event:

- IDAH Coaching, Classes
- District Youth Chorus
- H.S. Quartet/Ensemble Contest
- Festival Quartet/Chorus Performances

Components of Redesigned Fall Contest Event:

- District Quartet and Chorus Contest
- Seniors Quartet Contest
- International Preliminary Collegiate, Quartet, and Chorus Contest

**Advantages of Redesigned Schedule:**

Weighing the options, the district board concluded that moving to one contest per year would have the following *advantages*:

- ✓ Allows international qualifying quartets an additional seven months to prepare for international competition
- ✓ Allows the spring event the flexibility of scheduling without the boundaries set by BHS
- ✓ Reduces district expenses
- ✓ Gives membership the option of attending a contest, a festival, or both
- ✓ Gives governance board more time to prepare and plan for a district contest and convention
- ✓ Gives the district more flexibility in securing locations and dates for district contest and convention
- ✓ Expands district quartet finals to include both the top district competitors as well as past champions who are qualifying for international

Disadvantages of Redesigned Schedule:

Weighing the options, the district board concluded that moving the district to one contest per year would have the following *disadvantages*:

- ✓ Lengthens the contest sessions as each category could have more competitors
- ✓ Increases judging costs as triple panels may be needed for more competitors
- ✓ Takes away emphasis on crowning a district quartet champion if combined with an international qualifying contest
- ✓ Having high school quartets compete in the spring (as many H.S. quartets would not be ready for the fall just a month after school begins) does not allow them to join the collegiate quartets in a formal competition on stage.
- ✓ Less free time for convention attendees as longer contest sessions, evals, awards ceremonies, and performances would be scheduled closer together