



Report: Music and Performance
Don Smit and Tom Woodall Co-Chairmen

2/24/2013

Though some of the new initiatives that will be implemented at the upcoming Spring Convention may ultimately come under the umbrella of Music and Program, the major item of interest now is the recent IDAH report.

IDAH Illinois District Academy of Harmony

This year the Illinois District celebrated its 30th anniversary of IDAH schools, in hopes of not only providing learning opportunities through classes and quartet coaching, but also to promote a tighter fellowship of Illinois barbershop singers.

Site/Venue

The most recent IDAH was held at the Faith United Methodist Church – Champaign, on February 8th and 9th.

We held the IDAH School there in 2012 and were so pleased with the venue and the church staff; we quickly reserved it for this year. The location is perfect. It is centrally located in the state (chapter members from any place in the state can get there in three hours. North-South and East-West Interstate Highways bring participants/staffers right to the door and the church is located about equidistance from Chicago, St. Louis and Indianapolis. Amtrak train and airport allows for other methods of arrival. There is excellent parking facilities and the entire building is wheel chair accessible.

Doug Abbott (Director of Church Administration) is the gracious liaison who arranges for meals to be served at the church and for use of more than 18 different rooms for classes, coaching and large group gatherings.

The Meals and coffee/food at breaks were excellent.

Staff

Don Smit, Tom Woodall and Bob Squires worked diligently for 8 months in making arrangements, contacting staff, scheduling activities, publicizing and encouraging participation. If there is a downside to the event, it is the frustration of working so hard and having so few people take part. Invariably, every person leaves with a good feeling about the experience, but until chapters really encourage their members to attend, we are putting a lot of energy and effort into an underused opportunity.

An experienced and talented teaching/coaching staff of 20 men (6 with certified judging experience and one candidate) worked hard throughout the day. The comments from participants revealed they were very pleased with the school

Participants/Students

This year nine quartets received six hours of coaching on Saturday and some had another 90 minute shot on Friday night. On Saturday, there were six hours of classes (Becoming a Better Singer, Understanding the



Judging Program, Basic and Advanced Music Notation and Getting the Most Out of the Music) which were attended by 19 men.

Evening Show/Extravaganza

In addition to tags and spontaneous singing throughout the day, eight of the coached quartets sang a song for the entire school at the final General Session of the day. Immediately following dinner, school staff and participants were joined by community residents (they paid \$10 each) to hear/see an outstanding show. Two Illinois District Championship Quartets After Hours (2010) and Velvet Hammer (2012) were followed by Premium Blend who coached throughout the day. This newly formed CSD foursome is made up of very experience singers who will no doubt be at least semi-finalists in Toronto. In addition, their coaching was outstanding. The 60 man SOI (Sound of Illinois Chorus –Bloomington) performed, much to the enjoyment of the approximately 200 audience members.

Miscellaneous:

The Coles County Chapter sent 13 members who not only sang in quartets or enrolled in classes but they also hauled, set up risers, and the sound system.

As of this writing, no decisions have been made about IDAH 2014. If you have any suggestions for the IDAH Committee, please send an e-mail to Don or Tom.