



Westags

The Far Western District Summer Board Meeting
Las Vegas, Nevada. June 11, 2005

Board Meeting Highlights

Your board of directors met in Las Vegas, Nevada on Saturday June 11, 2005 for the regular Summer Board Meeting. The meeting resulted in the establishment of the proposed budget for 2006 and a series of proposals to the House of Delegates in the fall for your approval or rejection. Here is a summary of these proposals:

Approved a revised plateau system. Acting on the previously submitted proposal for a new plateau system (A, AA, AAA) the board voted to approve the system and recommend its adoption by the HOD. This new system will group choruses based on the past two average scores at a district level contest. A key feature of this new system is that any chorus may elect to be classified as AAA regardless of score. Absent such a choice, the new system would classify any chorus scoring 71.0% or higher as AAA.

All choruses scoring between 61.0% and 70.9% would be classified as AA, and those choruses who scored less than 61.0% or who have not competed at the district level in the past three years would be classified in the A plateau category. This proposal is subject to the approval of the HOD.

COTS Fee increase. Your board voted to raise COTS fees to \$135 per participant for 2005. Each year the district subsidizes the cost of the attendees at COTS. This increase in fees will not eliminate this subsidy, but will reduce it. In 2006 we hope to revise the COTS program to permit a one-day seminar in both the north and the south, thereby reducing the cost for each attendee at COTS. This proposal is subject to the approval of the HOD.

Special Assistance to C&J Applicants. Your board voted to provide a one-time reimbursement of expenses incurred by the nine C&J applicants to C&J Candidates School in Columbus, Ohio this summer. These funds will be charged to a reserve established for such purposes and will not affect the 2005 budget. As you know the Society and the district need qualified judges for our contests and each year some of our most experienced judges retire. We need to continue to develop new judges. This is an investment in our future. Our thanks and best wishes to those nine candidates. This proposal is within the budget authority you have previously granted to your board.

Convention Registration fees. Your board voted to increase the regular district convention registration fee to \$40 and the regular

division registration fee to \$30 in 2006. This proposal is subject to the approval of the HOD.

A proposal to increase district dues was considered. Increased dues would generate required revenue instead of increasing registration fees. There were good arguments for each. The majority of the board decided to propose the increase in registration fees rather than dues. While each board member voted as he saw fit, for myself I believe the increase in fees in a more fair way to pay for these conventions than increasing dues because I think the fees charged are meant to equal the value received. A countervailing argument is that all members should be asked to carry the increased costs we face in operating the district. This proposal is subject to review and approval by the HOD, so if you feel strongly one way or another please speak with your chapter president and ask him to represent your views at the HOD. Currently our district dues are \$19.00 per year.

Approved the Inland Empire Chapter. Your board approved the merger of the Pomona Valley Chapter with the Inland Cities Chapter to form the Inland Empire Chapter. Congratulations and best of luck to this new chapter!

Prepared the proposed 2006 budget. The board spent a considerable amount of time reviewing actual expenses and agreeing on projections for the coming year in the preparation of the 2006 budget. The proposed budget, to be presented to the HOD in October, was finalized with a positive \$3679 (income vs. expenses).

Conducted the draw for the Fall Contests. The draw for order of appearance of the qualified contestants for the Fall Contests was conducted. The results will be published in the next WESTUNES and will be carried on the FWD Website (www.spebsqsafwd.org) after the completion of the International Convention in Salt Lake City in July 2005.

This is your Society and your District. If you would like your views represented at the HOD in Pasadena this fall, please contact your chapter president.

Peter Feeney
President
Far Western District
Barbershop Harmony Society

2005 Las Vegas DMT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

By Bill Cale, DMT Coordinator

The District Management Team (DMT) met Friday night June 10, 2005 in Las Vegas. All of the chairmen of the Society mandated Functional Committees submitted written reports in advance so that all members could be informed of activities and participate in the discussions. Also, the VP of Financial Development, the Chairman of Convention Activities and the Chairman of the Long-range Planning Committee were invited to submit reports and enter the discussions. Their full reports of all are on file with the District Secretary.

Here is a summary of those items that were discussed:

FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT:

As a result of the recent resignation of our Society's CEO, there have been some delays in planned programs. Major contributor contact will be coordinated out of our Chicago Financial Development HQ. The locating of the office in Chicago is proving to be beneficial as it places us in a center of financial activity.

YMIH

Great amount of activity is reported in all divisions except NorCal West, where most of the activity is centered around Santa Cruz. We need someone or some chapter to step up in the Bay Area.

We need to establish a database of music educator and school contacts. It will take a while but we need to get started, no matter how small the amount of information you might have. Send info to John Krizek. (JKrizek@aol.com).

CSLT/COTS

COTS is set for this year at the HILTON in Sacramento on November 12-13, and at the LAX Hilton on November 19-20. Note these are the same venues as last year and are two-day sessions. Beginning in 2006 we plan COTS to be **one full day only**. (In fact, we may even accomplish that in NorCal this year as we have three potential sites already).

We really need help in SoCal to find potential one-day sites ASAP. Ollie Brillhante has the proposal info for potential sites. Or contact Dick Girvin or Bill Cale. We figure one-day COTS can save each participant \$50 or more, plus saving the District a like amount in the subsidy provided. Attendance has been close to 150 people in the North and 200 in the South. You do the math!

EVENTS

The Spring convention is contracted for in Reno for 2006 and 2007. The Fall is in Pasadena with Hilton as HQ.

We need to look into a one day Spring Pre-Lim (as in the olden days). Other options are to possibly combine NCE and NCW?

There is an obvious need to increase convention registration fees to offset increased venue costs. Further, we really need a database of potential contest venues. This does not mean that your chapter has to run the contest if the venue is in your back yard, as the District will run it if necessary. Are their venues in your area? Let us know.

DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT

We should consider budgeting more money for Director Development activities to establish a cadre of "stem-winders" to assist the Chairmen in visiting and assisting chapters. We are currently utilizing Yahoo email Group and conference call approaches.

C&J

A very thorough report was provided which analyzed trends in contest participation and profitability.

Nine FWD applicants are in line for the judging program. The BOD needs to consider some financial support as an investment in our future.

M&P

The Standing Ovation Program is successful, but only to the extent it has been requested. More chapters and quartets need to take advantage of the program. Chairman is asking for a few good men in the various divisions who would be willing to help him out from time to time. Talk to Jerry Fairchild (jerryfairchild@verizon.net) and/or your DVP.

Harmony College West looks like a real winner with a fantastic faculty holding 13 different classes. Featured as quartet coaches and Sat night show entertainment are the *Most Happy Fellows* and *Hi-Fidelity*.

MEMBERSHIP

A man is needed in each Division to help coordinated membership matters. Is that you? Let us know.

UCANSING2 is almost here. It is designed to bring in more members to the chapters. The FWD sent in \$2.00 for each man in the District as seed money for this recruiting effort. We would like to know what the other Districts have done.

We should consider reviving the "AFA" program that was so successful here in the FWD years back as we've not had a program anywhere near as successful since.

Our overall membership compared to last year is down .8%. This is much better than the overall Society figures, but still not good, especially since California, Arizona and Nevada are among the very top states in national population growth.

MARKETING

The Chairman has been making many contacts throughout the District but he could use some help, also. He continues to hold sessions on Grant Writing when ever and where ever possible. He is also using Yahoo e-mail Groups.

We are concerned over chapter responses to the *UCANSING2* Program with some responding: "We're just trying to keep afloat." We need the chapters to jump onboard as the Society and District are financially involved for one purpose only: to increase the number of members in the chapters.

CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

The generally poor turnout in Burbank was discouraging and raised the question of whether or not the special add-on event efforts were worthy of continuing. We have less than two years experience, and it usually takes three as a minimum to determine success, so we will continue with the program.

A *bomb* of a suggestion was lobbed into the middle of the room. **Should we consider lumping all our contests, division AND district, into one week-long extravaganza?** There's enough in that for all to think long and hard about.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The report was so complete and organized; it was decided to just present it to the BOD in the form it was submitted.
