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Sent: Sun, February 14, 2010 8:51:01 PM

Subject: Communication #3 - Region 9 Competition and Convention - April 15-28, 2010

Hello, Region 9!

The deadlines for quartet and chorus contest registration are fast approaching - Feb. 15 for quartets and Feb. 16 for choruses. Please note that late entries for either quartets or choruses is now \$100! I guess headquarters is trying to tell us that we need to get our registrations in on time! :) The Order of Appearance draw will take place on Feb. 22. I will send out the Order of Appearance for both contests as soon as I receive it from headquarters. The Time Pattern will be prepared soon after and sent as soon as it is ready.

REMINDERS: Housing Requests are due to Diane Corrie by February 27. All Events Registration requests are due to Joann Abrams by March 12.

Quartet Briefing will take place at 11:00 am on Friday, April 16. Chorus Briefing will take place at 11:30 am on Friday, April 16.

I have several items I wish to communicate from our Site Visit on January 23. Please read everything carefully and communicate these items to your members:

1. There are two conventions in the hotel the week before us and who will be leaving on Friday morning, April 16 - the hotel is sold out on Thursday night. There is also another convention coming in the same day as we are - the hotel is sold out over our convention weekend. The point is to have patience when waiting to unload your car and during the pre-key time on Friday.

All unloading of luggage will be at the South Tower entrance this year. The bell staff will work as quickly as possible to get your luggage out of your car. **PLEASE NOTE: Put your name and chorus/quartet name on every piece of luggage AND all bags, coolers, hanging bags, etc. This will enable the bell staff to keep your items TOGETHER so that they can be transported to your room with nothing missing!** If your room is not ready at the end of the Pre-Key time on Friday, the bell staff will deliver your bags to your room as soon as it is ready. If you are going to the quartet contest, you will check in at the front desk and they will let you know if your bags have already been delivered. If not, the bell staff will be notified to bring them up to you.

Please inform your members that once the bell staff takes your luggage and other items, **they will not be able to access those items until they are in their room.** Last year, the bell staff had repeated requests to get things out of the storage area - this had a very big impact on the use of their time getting cars unloaded and luggage to the rooms.

Pre-Key on Friday will begin at approx. 3:30 pm in the St. Johns room. This is change from the room assigned last year - it's bigger and will have plenty of chairs for you to sit down and relax while waiting. Diane Corrie, Housing Chair, will be there to answer questions and keep things moving as quickly as possible. We are recommending that your chorus members keep in communication with each other so that perhaps luggage can be stowed in each other's rooms if all rooms are not ready at the end of the Pre-Key time.

Diane will also be at the Concierge desk in the lobby after Pre-Key closes to help facilitate getting everyone whose keys were not available at Pre-Key time checked in and into their rooms as quickly as possible.

2. Every room is guaranteed with a credit card # that is provided to your travel coordinator by the room captain. **ALL parking charges for that room will be charged to that credit card. If your chorus is paying for the entire room block with a chorus check or chorus credit card, the parking charges WILL NOT be charged to the chorus - they will be charged to the individual room on the room captain's credit card.** The roommates will then need to work out payment amongst themselves. Last year, there was much confusion trying to put parking on the chorus master account because of more than one person in the room. This will make it much easier and faster for the hotel to finalize the chorus master bill and get you out on Sunday. PLEASE communicate this **very well** to your members!

3. Parking - because the hotel will be sold out, surface parking will fill up fast. Please encourage your members to carpool as much as possible. Valet parking is available for \$17 per day with unlimited ins/outs with no extra charge. The self-parking lot is \$9 per day with unlimited ins/outs with no extra charge. Both the valet and self-parking in the Hilton lot will be charged to your room.

There is also a city lot across from the Peabody (attached to the Ocean Center) that charges \$8 per day. However, you will need to pay each time you remove your car in that lot. This will not be charged to your room!

4. REMINDER: Your hotel key is necessary to use the elevators between floors. Be sure to remind your members of this when doing makeup/hair checks.

5. There will be Seafood Buffet in the Doc Bales restaurant on Saturday night. Price is \$32.95. Reservations are encouraged in order to get particular seating times. The Food Court on the beach level will be open on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning for your convenience.

6. There are some changes in the room assignments as previously published for the weekend. I have attached a revised schematic of the hotel for your convenience. Please review this carefully!

- a. The Harmony Boutique will be in Flagler B & C - right next to the Hostess Room in Flagler A.
- b. Chorus rehearsals on Friday night will be in one of 4 rooms: Volusia B, St. John and Coquina F, and Coquina H (on 2nd floor in North Tower of the hotel)
- c. Chorus rehearsal on Saturday morning will be in one of 3 rooms: Volusia B, Coquina F and Coquina H (2nd floor in North Tower)
- d. Chorus Warmup rooms for the pattern are now in Coquina F or Coquina H (2nd floor in North Tower). From the elevator in the South Tower, this is about 270 steps (yep, we counted them!!). The choruses will follow the hallway past Doc Bales to the North Tower lobby area and use the escalator to go up to the 2nd floor. The rooms are on the far end of the meeting space there. We will have Assistance Chorus members available to guide everyone to the right places.

7. Both Quartets and Choruses will now depart the hotel from the North Tower entrance. Quartets will use the Tomoka A or C for warmup, then go back to the main hallway and to the North Tower to go out the door there and be picked up for transport to the theatre.

Choruses will use Coquina F or H upstairs in the North Tower for warmup, come back down the escalator (or elevator if using scooters or wheelchairs) and out the North Tower doors. The buses will be at the curb outside the North Tower entrance. There are no steps at this entrance and the slope down to the curb is much less steep.

8. The Saturday Night Show will have a different format this year. It will still be held in the Grande Ballroom of the Hilton, but we will be asking the 1st through 3rd place choruses, 1st through 3rd place quartets, 1st place small and 1st place mid-size choruses to perform for us. More info on this later. Tickets for those who do not have All Events tickets will be sold at the door for \$10.00.

9. Dee Lahr needs to know if you have Dual Members in your chorus that will be performing with TWO choruses during the contest. We need to know how many will be coming to the upstairs dressing area to change between choruses. Remember, however, International does not make allowances in the Order of Appearance draw for members performing in two choruses unless the member is a director of one of the choruses. Please send a list of your dual members (who are NOT directors) to Dee at harmonyd@verizon.net as soon as possible.

10. I have attached three forms:

- a. DVD Order Form - please be sure to put the entire song title and arranger on this form. This and your check should be mailed to Dee Lahr by March 1.
- b. Chorus Final Pose Form - please be sure to put songs in the order you will sing them and put entire song title and arranger on the form. Two copies of this form should be brought to the briefing on Friday morning at 11:30 am.
- c. Program Ad Form - if you wish to put an ad in the program, please submit to Marsha Williams no later than March 15.

I know this is a lot of information to digest! It is the goal of the Convention Steering Committee to make your convention experience the very best it can be. Please review all this carefully and let me know if you have any questions. Can't wait to see everyone! Best wishes and I'll be talking to you again soon!

In harmony,

Marsha Williams
Chair of the Regional Convention
Region 9