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VP - MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE
REPORT TO THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES Oct 16, 2016

Please note that the budgets for these activities are found in the Treasurers report.

ONTARIO SENIORS CHORUS - 2016

Since its birth at the HOD April 2016, this activity has exceeded all expectations. The guys do their homework with the result that this is a really good barbershop chorus. The camaraderie of the group and the thrill of singing in a fine chorus are addictive. About 67 men from all over ONT have participated. Dr. Ray Danley is giving the guys a fabulous singing and learning opportunity. Chapters that hosted rehearsal venues have provided a great service. It is a blast to sing with this chorus!

Administratively, we have experienced all of the expected growing/learning pains: registration software confusion, website access confusion, rationalizing the budget between cash registrations and Paypal, providing the necessary membership detail to C & J, etc. The good news is that the bugs have been identified and worked out. If the District Seniors Chorus concept repeats in 2017, there are some easy simplifications that can be made to simplify the administrative side. From the budgetary side, it now appears that the seniors chorus 2016 will cost the District, M&P budget around \$2-300. A summary budget for 2016 is being prepared and reconciled with the Treasurer's data. A final report will be distributed to the HOD.

There has been some discussion that the Mid-Winter Seniors chorus Festival may continue for 2017. If the Seniors chorus project continues for 2017 a new project proposal will be presented for approval at the Spring 2017 HOD.

ONTARIO QUARTETTING EVENT 2016

This years OQE was a fabulous experience for everyone. The gentle audition for the participants resulted in few, if any, men who truly were not prepared. Those men who did not work in the qtte rotation in the afternoon, were coached by Ray Danley to the point that they participated in qttes in the evening 'contest'. Thus everyone was a winner for the day.

However, it must be noted that OQE is a learning experience, so there were a few fellows who were working hard at how to be a quartet man. To my mind the joy of the experience was that the VERY wet weather, tornado warning, and power outage did not damper the spirit of the day at all! The only real downside of the weather was that we did not get the planned PR photos of the day.

Huge thanks to the Simcoe Chapter team for their superb work! Rob Arnold was a hero getting the selection lists and afternoon planning done despite the weather. Harmony Ranchers were, as is their habit, wonderfully hospitable.

This year OQE ended up with a decent financial surplus (see the full report). The surplus funds will be returned to the District and the team will review the cost structure for 2017.

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ONTARIO QUARTETTING EVENT 2017

The songs have been selected. The Simcoe team has agreed to continue as organizers. Work on the various details has begun. The tentative date will be August 13 at Harmony Ranch. In 2017, we will repeat the morning audition process. In addition, a greater effort will be invested in getting representation from all chapters.

WESTERN Division SCHOOL - Sat Sept 10, 2016

Under the leadership of Dan Locke, a Harmony Education School was mounted in Strathroy. Your VP-M/P provided background advice and ideas. We may have some verbal reports on the day from men who were able to attend the school. Many thanks to Dan for his leadership!!

SENIORS TOP GUN COACHING

Two SR. Quartets qualified to participate in the 2016 Mid Winter contest in Reno NV - Basses Unlimited and On Q! After discussion with the quartets, a coaching subsidy was offered to these fine quartets. We will use a similar process for the 2017 Mid-Winter Contest.

TOP GUN COACHING SCHOOL

There were embryonic plans to mount a Top Gun School in parallel with Leadership Academy 2016. With the cancellation of LA 2016 a coaching subsidy was offered to our Quartets that competed at International in Nashville 2016.

In 2017, the plan is to have a Top Gun school sometime in late Feb early March. This will assist quartets working toward earning the right to go to International in July 2017.

ANTHEMS AND THEME SONGS AT ONT DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

The anthems and theme songs are up on the website and all chapters have been notified via their: Presidents, VP M&P and Music Directors. I was remiss in not reminding/urging chapters and leaders to be ready to sing our various anthems and theme songs during the Convention this Fall.

DO List For 2017

- mount a regional school and quartet coaching day - in Peninsula or Northern
- get going on defining a "Music Mentor" program
- start succession planning for the VP-M&P role - there may well need to be some assistant VP's in order to achieve all of the various goals of this complex position.
- warn all chapters and leaders that we will sing the anthems and theme songs at the Spring 2017 Convention

I welcome any and all other ideas which might assist us to grow our membership, our skills, and provide an exciting, fun singing experience.

Yours Bass-ically, Ken Fisher VP Music and Performance