



***A Publication of the Rocky Mountain District
BHS***

April 2019

Interim Editors: Al Klinger & Brett Foster

8 reasons to attend Rocky Mountain Harmony College



Adam Scott, RMD Music & Performance

#8.

Music, music, music. From tags to the Everyone In Harmony chorus, to the Platoon, there won't be an hour will go by when you don't sing something. It's the music that brings us together and there will be plenty of it.

#7.

Course offerings. With over 60 different options to choose from plus private voice, arranging, and conducting lessons, we have the courses you've been looking for.

#6.

Faculty. Some of the best and brightest minds are giving up their

recruiting, musicianship, and tuning.

#5.

Come for the music, stay for the afterglow. A hotdog bar and a taco bar will accompany your late-night tagging and quartetting.

#4.

See gorgeous Cheyenne in the spring. Cheyenne is gorgeous in the spring. If you're driving, you'll definitely enjoy the view.

#3.

Get an inside track for Fall convention. Fall convention will be held at the same hotel, so if you're coming with your quartet or chorus you can get a peak at where things are happening.

#2.

Bang for buck. BHS education events are basically zero expense events. In fact, many districts go in the red on them. So we're not making money on these. You can be sure we're using this event to get you the best we can. Compare Harmony U, RMHC, or any other Barbershop education event to a trade show or corporate event and you'll see we're far below what the rest of the industry charges. I've attended weekend events for choral festivals and other industry events and they're 2-3 times what you'd pay for barbershop. We're truly in this for you. This event represents hundreds of volunteer hours for events and operations district leadership, not to mention the guest faculty.

#1.

New friends. You thought I was going to put music first, didn't you? In all honesty, my very best friends in the world are folks I've met at these education events. I actually enjoy them more than contest weekends because there's less sit n' get and more

are really folks that I've not spent a ton of hours with but bonding during a class, a tag session, or around the lunchroom table is huge. Bringing your quartet or chorus to a retreat like RMHC is one of the best ways to solidify your dedication to the craft and grow your skillset at the same time. I hope you'll consider joining us for RMHC this year and will consider bringing your whole chorus in the future!

It's not too late to sign up for Harmony College but, it is THIS WEEKEND!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW!](#)

Welcoming Mixed Quartet and Chorus Contests to RMD

By Adam Reimnitz, RMD Contest & Judging



Hello, men and women of the Rocky Mountain District!

Recently, the announcement of Everyone in Harmony (EIH) from BHS has created many questions and concerns as to what changes will be taking place. Basically, BHS is allowing every district (and chapter) to continue to make all of their own decision as how they would like to proceed forward at this time

Recently, [Barry Towner](#) (former Ontario District DRCJ and VP of MBHA (Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association), emailed all the DRCJ's more info regarding moving forward with mixed ensembles at the district level. Note, the BinG (Barbershop in Germany) convention hosts the MBHA contest on an international level every year in Germany for those that are looking to compete at a level beyond the annual district contest.

Barry Towner writes ...

I am writing to you to hopefully provide some additional clarification regarding mixed quartet and chorus contests in your District this year as a result of the note sent by David Mills regarding official District contests. His statement is that now that there is no limitation as to who can be a member of BHS, the members of all mixed quartets and choruses must be BHS members to compete in an official District contest. In response to what effect that has on MBHA he added the following statement

"How about MBHA quartets that are not comprised of BHS members, but they would still like to compete so that they can become eligible to be invited to BinG? The good news is that BHS and the SCJC will continue to support MBHA by allowing these types of groups to participate in our BHS contests, (only no longer as official contestants for any district awards). Instead (assuming your district accepts their contest entry), they can compete for "score and evaluation only". While they won't appear on the BHS Official Scoring Summary (OSS) for that contest session, they will receive a Contest Scoring Analysis (CSA) sheet with all of their scores to use or share as they see fit."

The purpose of this note is to further clarify that opportunity and suggest opportunities for your District. This is particularly critical in 2019 is it is a qualifying year for mixed quartets and choruses wanting to qualify for the 2020 World Mixed Quartet and 2020 World Mixed Chorus contests being held in Germany in April 2020, sponsored by BinG!. MBHA is recognized by BinG! as the North American representative for BHS, SAI, HI, and MBHA to provide qualifiers from the United States and Canada for the World Mixed,

jumped in. MBHA have supported this activity by providing MBHA trophies for the top MBHA quartet or chorus in your District. We would like to continue to do that. The clarification from David Mills above allows for that to happen, if your District wishes to do so. A mixed quartet (or chorus; since the same process can work for both I will only refer to quartet going forward but it can be assumed to also mean mixed chorus) who is a member of MBHA, but not fully BHS members, can perform for Score and Evaluation. Following the contest, the CA can provide the scores from these groups which could then be compared to arrive at the top MBHA mixed quartet. Any BHS mixed quartets who are members of MBHA, will also be eligible for the MBHA trophy (which many Districts already have in their possession). For the official District Mixed Quartet winners (i.e. BHS members), a new trophy/medals/pins will have to be awarded.

What does that mean for Districts who have held MBHA sanctioned mixed contests for the past two plus years? You can continue to offer an MBHA mixed quartet contest or an MBHA mixed chorus contest but not as an "official" District contest. Barberscore will continue to be used as it has been for the past even for those mixed quartets or choruses who are not BHS members. Here is the response from Society C&J Chair David Mills to the question "Is there a facility to have ensembles in Barberscore that are not BHS members":

Yes. Any "non-BHS" quartet or chorus will need to be added to BS (Barberscore) just as we've done over the past couple of years. The only new change is that we'll need to add new "persons" into Barberscore (that are not BHS members) via the Member Center. This will require the "non-BHS" member "person" that wants to compete in a non-BHS quartet to create an "account" in the BHS Member Center. They don't have to become a member, but they will need to provide their name and a unique email address. (I'll provide more specific instructions for this soon). For choruses, we only need one "person" (usually the director or a chorus manager).

David's response related more to quartets, as he was not aware of the qualifying for Mixed Choruses for the World Mixed Chorus

choruses. BHS has indeed granted and allowed for non-BHS MBHA quartets to continue to participate in BHS contests (score & eval only). The reason for this was to support MBHA and those quartets as they seek to try to qualify for BinG (note that this should read for World Mixed as BinG! are the hosts of the contest). However, we have not received any authorization to continue allowing any non-BHS mixed choruses to be adjudicated by BHS judges. Is there some sort of "qualification" they are seeking?"

After I indicated that MBHA non-BHS choruses were also needed in Barberscore as there was also a World Mixed Chorus qualifying, he responded:

" Good to know - thanks!. I'll make the argument that we need to support MBHA choruses in the same manner as which we've agreed to support MBHA quartets... (score/eval only, for purposes of qualifying to BinG)."

So that means Barberscore will support MBHA mixed choruses, as well as quartets for the entry for Score and Evaluation only.

For those Districts for which MBHA has not so far provided an MBHA trophy to award to the highest ranking MBHA quartet or chorus, please let me know you are planning on providing the opportunity for MBHA mixed quartets or choruses to participate and attempt to qualify for the 2020 World Mixed, and we will arrange for a trophy (or trophies if both mixed quartet and mixed chorus) to be donated to your District. Keep in mind that the MBHA trophy can only be won by MBHA ensembles (either quartet or chorus). If you only have BHS mixed quartets or there are no MBHA quartets in your contest, then the MBHA trophy is not to be awarded.

I have attached an FAQ document that was sent out to the MBHA members following the BHS announcement re: quartets that went out this past week.

We look forward to continued MBHA participation at District conventions, as it provides additional financial opportunity to Districts through increased attendance at conventions by those

If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to ask.

In Summary:

RMD will now be hosting a mixed chorus and quartet contest every fall during our annual convention that will occur during the regular men's quartet and chorus contest. Those groups that register as a BHS mixed quartet or chorus will be eligible for the district championship in the mixed category. Those that wish to compete for rights to go to BinG! next spring but are not all BHS members will only compete for score and/or eval but will not appear on the district score sheet. (FYI- BHS will only be selecting 2 or 3 quartets and choruses from all of the society based on score to compete at BinG! next spring.)

Currently, there is not enough known interest to hold Plateau levels for either mixed quartets, mixed choruses or to begin hosting a women's contest. RMD is prepared to adjust and adapt in the future to the needs of the district.

Stay tuned for more details on contest entry for ALL ensembles, which will probably begin in July. While not necessary for MBHA competitors to be BHS members, ANYONE competing (quartet or chorus) will need to purchase a registration for the convention.

I know this is a LOT of information but felt it necessary to get it out to everyone ASAP. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

In harmony,

Adam Reimnitz

RMD District Representative Contest & Judging

rmd.drcj@gmail.com

RMD Giving – Be The Change!

By Neil Ridenour, RMD Financial Development



Hello RMD ... for those of who have forgotten who I am and what I do for the district, one of my responsibilities is to help ensure that RMD members have the latest information from Harmony Foundation (HF) on how RMD can support HF.

Recall that HF Impacts are grouped as:

1. Educational programs which truly embody the HF mission—to connect people through philanthropy to enrich lives through singing. This includes generous support to Harmony University and the Healthy Chapter Initiative, both of which help us reach a broader audience of community singers and directors to create a continuum across generations.

2. Outreach: HF supports the outreach programs of the Barbershop Harmony Society to promote singing across the continuum of life to in turn build a better society ... A Better World Singing. This includes the Youth Chorus Festival and the Grants Program, along with developing partnerships with professional choral organizations and leaders.

However, how did RMD do in 2018? Well, here's the most recent information I have from Jim Clark our very own district member, 2010 International Champion with the Storm Front quartet, and HF Western Regional Director:

· 20% of RMD members give to Harmony Foundation (HF), which is 3% below Society average (23%).

Please know that it's possible to elect up to 30% to your chapter and the district. But, in RMD just 12% goes to chapters, and only 3.5% goes to district. That's just about half (15.5%) of what's possible. I believe we can do better.

Further, in 2018, an RMD board motion passed to use Donor Choice funds for educational programs consistent with the HF mission and practices. So, with not one more dollar given by our members, consider giving to both the district and your chapter.

So, we should consider several things as RMD members:

a. Without increasing our giving by even \$1, increase our Donor Choice election up to 30% for your chapter and the district—again, a NO COST to you action. I recommend the 20% chapter / 10% district approach to our giving. But again, it's your choice. I did this and it's about a 7 to 10 minute phone call.

b. For those that can give more, yes, consider that, with the thought to also accomplish "a" above.

c. For those who haven't given before, anytime is a great time to start a monthly allocation to HF, whether it's \$10 or \$100 or even more. Giving regularly or consistently is more important than giving a certain amount.

d. Increase your allocation of giving or adjust your allocation soon—to sooner have a greater impact and accelerate change in the district.

How do you do this? While one could always write a letter and send via snail mail to HF, I recommend:

- Call HF at (615) 823-5611 or (866) 706-8021 or
- Email to: jclark@harmonyfoundation.org (be sure to have Donor Choice in your subject)

Tell 'em what you'd like to do with your Donor Choice dollars—it's your decision.

***** News Flash *****

This month Jim Clark reported the RMD is already "BEING THE CHANGE" with the following info: "Year-over-year, last Fall's Check was over \$2,500 higher than the prior year, and the Spring Check that was just mailed is over \$3,200 higher than last year.

Way to go RMD!!!

So, contact me if you can in any way be part of this rising momentum and I'll get right on it help you **BE THE CHANGE!**

Neil R Ridenour RMD Financial Development VP 719-260-7782
neil.r.ridenour@gmail.com

Compliance Filings and Reports

Tony Pranaitis - RMD Secretary



Every year, we elect officers to our chapter boards to take care of the “business” so we can enjoy the art of singing. It’s a good idea for **EVERY** barbershopper to understand basic chapter legal compliance and to review your chapter’s status.

BHS has set up a repository for documentation of the three legal requirements for all chapters:

- Non-profit Incorporation (via your Secretary of State)
- 990 filing with the IRS
- Annual Financial Review.

You can find this repository in the Member Center of www.barbershop.org (only members can access this with a user name and password). Go to your chapter page and you will see “Compliance Filings and Reports” in the left-hand column.

protections. Every chapter is an extension of this organization and must maintain their state incorporation in order to continue to enjoy these benefits and protections. Failure to do so puts your chapter at risk, as well as the District and the Society. This is why it is a REQUIREMENT. Once a chapter is incorporated, there is an annual (or in Nebraska a bi-annual) report that must be filed with a nominal fee in order to maintain “good standing” as a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation. Documentation of your certificate of good standing is downloadable as proof of compliance. This is uploaded into the Member Center and is proof of compliance going forward. The Chapter Secretary or Treasurer are responsible for filing these reports.

One of the benefits of a non-profit corporation is being tax-exempt regarding any revenue generated (performance income, etc.) and Form 990 is filed with the IRS every year. If your gross revenue is under \$30K (for all chapters but Denver Mile High) this is a simple postcard. Make sure your chapter is compliant with the IRS and files the 990. You should upload your Form 990 (once completed) to the Member Center.

Every year BHS files financial documents for the entire Society which includes the cumulative financial activity of every chapter. In order to do this accurately there is a very simple “Annual Financial Review” that needs to be completed and submitted to BHS. It is a “snapshot” of your chapter finances for the year-end, and the review process insures accurate accounting of your chapter finances. The completion and posting of this financial review from year to year should give every chapter member peace of mind. It is also useful to future chapter treasurers to be able to review past documentation.

Compliance with these three essentials (non-profit incorporation, IRS reporting, and Annual Financial Review) provide for many protections of Society membership, including insurance coverage. Insurance is something that you hope you never need, but should provide peace of mind for every chapter member.

Unfortunately, not every chapter in RMD is fully compliant with documentation of these three areas on the BHS Member Center. I recommend that every chapter member review the compliance of their own chapter and if you find a deficiency in any of these three required areas, you should courteously point this out to

not uploaded to the BHS Member Center. You should want to know where to find these documents in case a chapter officer gets hit by a truck, and the documents are nowhere to be found.

There are two other legal requirements for every chapter regarding music performance. Every chapter must file with ASCAP each year, but only pay the ASCAP fee if the chapter does public music performances. BHS negotiates a comparatively small fee for all of its chapters. (You would pay much more with a lot more paperwork if you were required to pay royalties directly to ASCAP). If your chapter does no public performances, you still file, but you owe \$0. The ASCAP form is specific for each year, as the fees change almost every year. The form is posted on www.rmdsing.org along with filing instructions. The check is payable to BHS, and is sent directly to Nashville.

All chapter shows require an individual BMI / SESAC license which is generally \$28 per performance except for large venues, and the form is also available on www.rmdsing.org along with filing instructions. The form is available as a “fillable .pdf” where you can type in all the information except the signature, print one copy, then sign it and send it to the District Secretary with the check (payable to BHS). As the District Secretary, I review the Compliance Filings for your chapter to make sure you can legally perform. Then I sign the license application and send it to BHS. I make a .pdf copy of the license and your check which I send to your chapter secretary and I keep a .pdf copy for the District files.

ASCAP and BMI / SESAC allow you to legally perform copyrighted music. Just owning a legal copy of the music doesn't make it legal to perform. Certain performances are exempt, and you can read about that in the instructions for each license.

Without the legal protection and negotiation that the Society (BHS) provides, this process would be a very long and difficult one for your chapter. Fortunately, it is a very simple process, but one that MUST be faithfully executed every year, for every show.

If you are one of your chapter fiduciaries (president, secretary, treasurer) make sure these filings are all up to-date before one of your chapter members reminds you to the contrary. However, getting a courtesy call from a chapter member reminding you is better than a threatening call from the IRS.

RMD Secretary

303 233 6234

CHAPTER DIGEST

This is an area for our RMD Association of Chapters to share some newsworthy events or activities that your chapter is involved in. Please consider submitting articles/pictures, etc. and share your successes with the rest of the RMD.

Sad to report that no chapters have sent any news to Vocal Expressions this month.

Copyright © 2019 Rocky Mountain District Association Of Chapters, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

