

**Email Announcements from Brenda Bernhardsson, Communications Coordinator
Sent to Chapters@region17online.org on 10/13/2009**

All,

When I made some announcements at the Presidents/Team Leaders Meeting at HW a couple of weeks ago, I promised you a follow-up email. Sorry it's so late, but I've been trying to get all of my ducks in a row. :)

Firstly, attached here is the RMT Meeting Summary. Some of the items in the summary are also covered in more detail below.

Listed here are the things I spoke about at the meeting. Please take a look and let me know if you have any questions.

Communication – The region has a bunch of email groups that we use. Much of the time it's used by the RMT to make announcements, but you can also use it to easily keep in touch with each other. Any of you can reach all Presidents and Team Leaders by sending an email to "chapters@region17online.org", just like you send any other email. You can use this for any chorus/region-related emails – special news, chorus show announcements, costume sales, or just a neat idea that's worked for your chorus that you'd like to share.

International Elections – As announced by International, they've sent out the election materials last week. Hopefully you have them by now. Please be sure to participate! International really does look at the level of participation by region, and we should have 100%! The deadline is 3pm, Wednesday, Dec 2. I'll send out a couple of reminders prior to the deadline.

Regional Nominations – Watch for information to come out within the next week or so regarding Regional nominations and elections. The goal is to have folks who are interested in either an RMT position or working on a regional committee to fill out and return applications by Dec 15. The applications will be reviewed at the January RMT meeting.

The Beacon – Things are a bit skewed this year as we get started with the new newsletter, but the goal is to have 3 issues/year on a standard schedule: Deadline-Feb 15 / Publish-March 15; Deadline-Jun 30 / Publish-July 31; Deadline-Nov 15 / Publish-Dec 15. This gives us one after HW in January, one after Regional Competition and the summer RMT meeting, and one after Fall HW and International Competition.

ChorusLine News – In the past, there was always one issue of the SoS per year that focused on chorus happenings. I'd love to have info on chorus happenings all year round! If you have something to share about what your chorus is doing, please submit it! Since it's been a while since we've featured this in the newsletter, I'd encourage all choruses to submit an item for this next newsletter, by Nov 15. But going forward, please submit items at any time. If you've got something neat to share, we want to hear from you! Picture attachments are welcomed.

Advertising – As announced, all chorus-related ads will be free in a bulletin-board style towards the end of each issue of The Beacon. If the ad is for profit (a side business, a vendor, etc...), we may charge. We've not discussed that yet, so will deal with it if/when it comes up. If you've got an ad to place that you think should be free, just send it to me anytime for posting in the next issue. If it's determined that there's a cost (if it's personal/business related), then we'll let you know. Also, remember, if it's a chorus-related item, you can always email the chapters anytime (see "Communication" above).

Feedback – We need to hear from you! You have to let us know how we're doing, and what you like & don't like. Harmony Weekend has always had an evaluation form to fill out, and now it's online! From the 350+ folks who attended HW, we've only received a small smattering of evaluations. Please announce to your chorus that if they attended HW and didn't get a chance to fill out the evaluation, go online to the regional website (www.region17online.org) and click on "Harmony Weekend Evaluation" in the Quick Clicks orange box. It will be open until the end of October. And also encourage voting on the "Question of the Month", which is still the one from September because we got so few votes the first month. 😊

Chapter Resources - I've had a couple of requests for an easy spot to refer to for announcements from the RMT. There is now such a spot, and I'll try my best to keep it current. Go to the regional website (www.region17online.org) and click on Regional Management. If you scroll down to near the bottom, there's a link called "Chapter Leadership Resources". My goal is to put in an entry when something informational is sent out on this email group so you can make sure you're not missing anything, or easily refer back to something that was sent out. I'm afraid this hasn't quite reached the level of habit yet, so if I forget something, please let me know and I'll get it posted.

I think that's it for now. Whenever you have questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to drop me an email.

Thanks!

-Brenda :)