

We wanted to keep all the medals in our awards bag!

WHY do we have to return the extras??

When you have a contest you have major expenses. One of those is the money spent for awards. You have medals and certificates and trophies and plaques...oh my! When you see those little medals hanging on someone's neck you probably don't give any thought at all to the expense. Last year Region15 spent almost \$3,000.00 on the awards ordered from SAI. And that did not include ribbon and trophies and plaques that need to be replaced yearly. It adds up to a LOT of money.

All the winning choruses are asked to return medals that are given to them exceeding the number of members onstage when they won. And here is why:

First through **Fifth** place **overall** medals must be ordered for the number of members in the largest competing chorus plus the director and an extra or two. So each of those categories can have as many as 98 medals in their bag. If a chorus of 40 wins a category they have a lot of leftovers. When the medals are returned they are used the following year. If a chorus chooses to give medals to non-performing members they are supposed to be purchased directly from SAI at the chorus' expense.

Division A Choruses (per SAI) are only allowed 30 medals plus one for the director. Extras or replacements must be ordered directly from SAI at the chorus' expense. Extra medals in their bag

exceeding the number of members onstage are to be returned and they are used the following year.

Division AA Choruses (per SAI) are only allowed 60 medals plus one for the director. Extras or replacements must be ordered directly from SAI at the chorus' expense. Extra medals in their bag exceeding the number of members onstage are to be returned and they are used the following year.

Most Improved Chorus medals need to equal the number of members in the largest eligible chorus. Again a very small chorus may well win this category. And then there was the contest a few years ago when we had a tie!

You may ask why we don't count out the medals before they are awarded onstage at the end of contest so that an exact number are presented to the chorus. Very simply, SAI stipulates that no one knows the results before the winners are announced.

And that, my sisters in harmony, is why we all need to cooperate in keeping this major expense under control by returning medals!

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at nkduke@gmail.com.

And I have a question for all of you. I would also love to hear about your experiences with the traveling trophies and plaques. Does your chorus have a place to display them or are they put in a closet, never to see the light of day, until they are transported to Albany

the following year? Is there a better solution? Looking forward to your ideas.

Chordially,
Nancy Duke
Region 15 Awards Chair