

## GREATER NY/NJ REGION 15 2019 CONTEST UPDATES

Our handbook will be coming out shortly, but in the meantime, we thought we would share some updates.

The RCC is happy to announce that the Quartet Open Division winners will be receiving medals compliments of Monkey Wrench Quartet. The award will be known as the

"Monkey Wrench Quartet Open Division Audience Choice Award."

Please see the following criteria:

If there is even one Open Division quartet competitor in a contest, medals will be awarded (along with other regional awards) as long as competitors meet the following requirements:

- Open Division quartet competitor must score 'C' or higher in each category.
- If a quartet competitor is disqualified from the Open Division, they are not eligible for the Audience Choice Award.
- At least one member of the quartet must be a member of Region 15.
- Quartet competitors competing at International in the current year, and performing in Open Division, are not eligible for the Audience Choice Award.

If there is more than one eligible Open Division quartet competitor, then a voting method will be used to choose the winner from the eligible competitors. Winners can only wear medals on their ribbons until the following contest is held, after which they can be worn alone as pins.

We are also happy to announce that the Chorus Open Division winners will receive a traveling plaque that they can get engraved with their name and the date of their win and take possession of for the entire year, returning it the following contest year, to be presented to the next Chorus Open Division winners.

The riser configuration will be the standard international riser configuration that we used last year. This gives every chorus an equal chance in the draw for the order of appearance and their placement in contest.

We are going to streamline audience busing this year to have shorter pick up and drop off times. The audience buses will run every 10 minutes instead of every 20 minutes.

Riser bags will be collected in the hotel lobby by your assigned riser bag members, before boarding the bus to depart for the Empire State Plaza Convention Center. We suggest that you pack a small EMPTY water bottle in your bag. It can be filled at a water fountain once you are done competing.

The Hilton will be offering limited choice menus on Thursday and Friday night to improve wait time and service. At this time there will not be buffets offered on those 2 nights.

Please remember, NO OUTSIDE FOOD is allowed in either hotel in any of the common areas, lobby, restaurant, bar area, etc. This is a strict hotel rule and must be followed.

To eliminate the noise issues that we have run into at each year at contest, the Hilton and the RCC have been working very hard to come up with a solution to this very upsetting problem.

In April, all floors occupied by Region 15 will be packed with Sweet Adelines. This may mean you will not be on the same floor as your chorus, but it is what is needed to do to make this happen. Also, those members who only have 2 people to a room will be assigned a King Bed room, as there are so many on the floors that we must occupy. 2 members will not be able to use a room with 2 double beds. Because there are so many King bed rooms on our floors, these rooms must be occupied by us, or the hotel will have to use them for "civilians" and once again, the "silence on the floor" will be enforced. The hotel has guaranteed us that if we can follow this procedure, there will be no need for silence. We will be able to party hearty. We ask for your cooperation with this issue. All King rooms on "our" floors must be occupied by Sweet Adelines or this solution won't work.

On behalf of the RCC, we thank you and look forward to a new and improved hotel and contest experience.

Truly and in harmony,

Linda A Hayes, CRC