

## AREA 4 COUNCIL MEETING September 16, 2017

Area 4 Director Betty Gunterman welcomed participating Council Members to the meeting held in Glen Ellyn, IL. The meeting was called to order at 9:23 AM, with the following Council Members, Chapter Representatives and Committee Chairmen present:

### Council Management

Betty Gunterman, Area 4 Director  
Denise Struve, Secretary  
Mary Ross, Treasurer  
Janice Westphal, Education Chairman  
Sara Stone, Convention Team Manager  
Linda Bloch, AC&C Treasurer

- \*Denise Thede representing Covered Bridge Harmony (Greencastle, IN)
- \*Sara Stone representing Harmony Magic (Central Indiana)
- \*Barb Ries representing Misty River Music Makers (Geneva, IL)
- \*June Hahn representing St. Louis Chordinals (St. Louis, MO)
- \*Kerry Wilson representing Sound Celebration (Plymouth, WI)
- \*Jacquie Jensen representing Village Vocal Chords (Metro Chicago, IL)
- \*Voting Members of the Council (Chapters officially represented) in this meeting**

Not present:

Beth Montgomery – Membership  
Melanie Concklin - Website Manager  
Linda Kersey – Associate Coordinator  
Valinda Petri, Bluegrass Harmony  
Annette Draper, California Note Catchers  
Sarah Vaughan, Wolf River Harmony

Copies of this meeting’s Agenda and Treasury Reports were distributed via email prior to the meeting.

Welcome	Betty welcomed Council Members and led them in reciting the Harmony Creed, then shared general information:
June Meeting	✓ Minutes of the June, 2017 meeting were approved by email and posted to the website
AC&C Fundraisers	Betty reviewed the email discussion and results regarding fundraisers at AC&C, which is attached to these minutes as <b>Appendix A</b> .
Associate Coordinator	Betty appointed Linda Kersey (former VVC) to the position of Associate Coordinator, replacing Joy Sullentrop.
World Harmony Jamboree	The World Harmony Jamboree (BHS) has changed its name to World Harmony Showcase

Area 4 AC&C Article	The Area 4 AC&C article for the Summer KeyNote was assigned to Angie Beatty, Bluegrass Harmony PR person, for completion.
Finances	Mary Ross reviewed the Area 4 financial statements (Income and Expense, Balance Sheet, Budget vs Actual year to date). There is approximately \$9800 in the Area treasury.
	<b>MOTION</b> by Sara Stone, seconded by Denise Thede, to accept the financial statements as amended. <b>Motion carried</b>
AC&C 2017 Budget	Linda Bloch, AC&C Treasurer, presented the AC&C 2017 Final Budget. She explained that the cost for the Saturday dinner actually exceeded the agreed upon cost. Discussion followed concerning the fact that the dinner is negotiated by the chapter responsible for the afterglow, separately from the other contracts, since it is not provided by the hotel.
	<b>MOTION</b> by Jacquie Jensen, seconded by June Hahn, that the AC&C 2017 final budget be approved. <b>Motion carried.</b>
	<b>MOTION</b> by Sara Stone, seconded by Denise Thede, that going forward, the Convention Team be responsible for all AC&C contract negotiations, including the Saturday banquet meal. <b>Motion carried.</b>
AC&C 2017 Profit	The 2017 AC&C resulted in a net profit of \$968.29.
	<b>MOTION</b> by Sara Stone, seconded by Denise Thede, that any excess revenue from AC&C will be reviewed annually at the September meeting to determine how funds will be allocated. <b>Motion carried.</b>
AC&C 2018 Budget	Linda Bloch presented the proposed 2018 AC&C budget. It was agreed that the \$968.29 profit from AC&C 2017 would be added to keep the AEP at \$100 and result in a positive budget, with a net expense/revenue of \$18.79.
	<b>MOTION</b> by Jacquie Jensen, seconded by Denise Thede, to approve the AC&C 2018 budget as amended. <b>Motion carried.</b>
Area 4 2018-19 Budget	Mary Ross presented the proposed 2018-19 budget which includes total revenue of \$1530.00 and total expenses of \$1391.40, resulting in net expense/revenue of \$138.60.
	<b>MOTION</b> by Barb Ries, seconded by Kerry Wilson, to approve the Area 4 2018-19 budget as recommended. <b>Motion carried.</b>
Chorus Coaching for 2018-19	Consensus is that Area 4 has sufficient funds to support chorus coaching for all chapters, regardless of whether or not they participated in AC&C.

	<p><b>MOTION</b> by Sara Stone, seconded by Denise Thede, that each chapter in Area 4 be allowed to request up to \$200 for coaching in 2018-19. <b>Motion carried.</b> Note: Begins April 1, 2018</p>
<p>Education</p> <p>Coach Pulls Out</p> <p>E-mail Vote</p>	<p>The Area 4 Education Day will be held April 21, 2018, at St. Thomas United Methodist Church in Glen Ellyn, IL, with the VVCs again providing lunch. Janice Westphal reported that the 2017 Education Day received rave reviews and she would like to follow the same format (coaching for quartets and education classes for individuals) in 2018. It was agreed that the cost for this event will be increased by \$5. Janice presented the Education Day budget, which includes a grand total of \$1700.20, with \$300 coming from the Area 4 budget and \$170.20 coming from Betty’s discretionary funds.</p> <p><b>MOTION</b> by Jacquie Jensen, seconded by Denise Thede, to approve the Education Day budget, making the cost \$30 per person. <b>Motion carried.</b></p> <p>During the week following the Council meeting, one of the judges pulled out of coaching. Another coach, Derek Glenna, was recommended. Derek has graciously offered to waive his coaching fee, but since he lives in St. Paul, MN, he will require travel expenses and an overnight hotel stay, increasing our expenses by \$156.</p> <p>Betty Gunterman volunteered to have the additional amount (\$326.20) come from her Area 4 discretionary funds. An e-mail vote was conducted with results as follows:</p> <p>Yes votes (6 of 9 chapters):  Bluegrass Harmony  Misty River  Sound Celebration  VVC  California NoteCatchers  Covered Bridge Harmony</p> <p>No response from:  Harmony Magic  Wolf River  St. Louis Chordinals</p>
<p>Website</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Council minutes have been posted</li> <li>✓ Have been checking and updating as corrections are found</li> <li>✓ Looking into secure mode (https) for website</li> </ul> <p>There was a question as to whether the website manager is looking into a Members Only section, as well as how we might be able to get access to our AC&amp;C contest performances and post them? Sara Stone will put something together for Betty to take to the IBOD regarding acquiring AC&amp;C performance videos.</p>

OLD BUSINESS	Chords and More in Area 4
Support Stickers	<b>MOTION</b> by Sara Stone, seconded by Denise Thede, that we order stickers to support our Area 4 contestants at IC&C. <b>Motion carried.</b>
AC&C Quartet Contest	It was suggested at the June meeting that the quartet contest begin earlier so that evaluations could end earlier. A survey was sent to chorus presidents in order to solicit chapter input. After consideration of survey responses,  <b>MOTION</b> by Sara Stone, seconded by Denise Thede, that we adjust timing of the quartet contest to 6 PM on Friday night and adjust the schedule accordingly. <b>Motion carried.</b>
Operations Manual	The group discussed the status of the Operations Manual and determined that while there may still be a need for one, perhaps it could be put on the website in sections to allow for ease in updating.
Area Incorporation	Betty Gunterman will look into the progress on this.
NEW BUSINESS	Chords and More in Area 4
Mixed Quartets at Area Contests	An ad hoc committee was formed at the International level to discuss this. The minutes of the committee discussion are attached as <b>Appendix B</b> . Consensus is that Council is okay with mixed quartets competing at our AC&C, and there will be further discussion during a Zoom conference between the Six Area Directors and the committee.
Next Meeting	The spring Council meeting will be a teleconference on Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 5:30 PM Central Time.
Adjournment	Council thanked Jacquie Jensen for securing the meeting venue, Betty Gunterman for treating members to lunch and Maria Bunte for ordering and delivering it.  The meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.
AC&C Chapter Rotation Schedule	2018 – Convention Team with chapter responsibilities as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ St. Louis Chordinals – Hospitality/Welcome, create/distribute ditty bags, and Assistant Convention Manager</li> <li>✓ Covered Bridge Harmony– Moonglow (selected 2018 AC&amp;C theme and advertised on back page of the 2017 AC&amp;C program)</li> <li>✓ Sound Celebration– on site contest services (door ticket takers, photographer, backstage &amp; pathway help)</li> <li>✓ Harmony Magic– education (introduce instructors, direct attendees to rooms) Work with Janice Westphal who will contact judges and set up classes.</li> <li>✓ Village Vocal Chords -- registration (manning desk and collect room numbers)**</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Bluegrass Harmony– Judges services (snacks, general hospitality, transportation)</li> <li>✓ Misty River Music Makers– publicity and program**</li> <li>✓ Wolf River Harmony --??</li> </ul> <p>**Libby Brown designed and printed program, printed name badges and tickets</p>
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## CHAPTER UPDATES

Presented as received...

### Sound Celebration – Kerry Wilson

- Preparation continues for SC’s Annual Show, Hard Hat Harmony on October 20th (Fri) and October 21st (Sat)
- Tuesdays in November, we will welcome guests to come sing with us during the Christmas holiday season.

# Anne\* Draper-Presiden

## California Note Catchers

We have been very busy since the beginning of the year. We had our 22<sup>nd</sup> Installation of Officers on March 20<sup>th</sup>. We have performed at 13 locations and have at least 6 on our calendar. We had a very successful Summer Harmonies show on June 25<sup>th</sup>. We are now gearing up for our Holiday Harmonies Show on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our Director attended Harmony University and came back with some great ideas and lots of enthusiasm. The Chorus was so excited to meet our HI President, Christina. What a delight that was. She gave us some great information and answered so many of our member’s questions.

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### Misty River

Misty River hosted a Batavia Park District Class for 4 weeks in July. We had good feedback regarding the class last year. We were able glean 2 members from last year’s class. Hopefully some of the participants will join this year. We had 4 participants. We had our annual banquet in August and we were entertained by our chorus members. We are singing for the community in various locations the next few months. We are working on our Christmas Show, which will be on Dec.9 at 1pm at the House of God located at Mooseheart.

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### Bluegrass Harmony

Bluegrass Harmony has been busier than ever since our last report in February 2017. We have had a retreat, sing outs, AC&C, summer pool parties, fundraisers, planning for Halifax and planning our first annual show. In our spare time, we have been working diligently on internal processes, finances, long range planning and membership processes.

Here is a brief listing of what has been happening at Bluegrass Harmony:

- Retreat

- Rehearsal
- Team Building exercises led by Margie Dimond
- Discover Bluegrass with Angie Beatty...activities and breakout sessions to discover who is Bluegrass Harmony and to develop chorus culture, values and mission statement.
- Party with chorus participation games and activities to further strengthen the team
- AC&C
  - Placed second overall and qualified to participate at IC&C in Halifax
  - Two quartets qualified with a third receiving an invitation to compete
- Fundraising
  - Community performances
  - Cookbook sales
  - Yard sale
  - Weekly split the pot marble game to benefit the Angel Fund
  - Various other small activities with plans for the show in October
- Summer
  - Celebrated Christmas in July by beginning our Christmas music and decorating
  - Chorus pool party complete with first time visitor and prospective member (and she stayed and joined)
  - Halifax chorus rehearsals
  - Learning new repertoire music
  - Three-week break
  - Had a wedding and birth
  - One high school graduation and one member passed the bar
- Welcomed three new members, one of which plans to be with us in Halifax
- Implemented new member process complete with online voting process
- Implemented organizational chart and job descriptions

In summary, Bluegrass Harmony is very pleased with our progress. We are steadily growing in numbers at a rate that is allowing room for the chorus leadership to grow along side of the numbers. The chorus leadership had set some lofty goals at the beginning of the calendar year and have accomplished all of them as well as adding competing in Halifax to the calendar.

The chorus had voted in January to focus on internal goals and sit out of Halifax if we should qualify. After area, it was decided that we would compete with how many ever members want to compete. We would still focus on our internal goals and would not have extra rehearsals and a lot of extra time commitments. The solution was to have regular chorus rehearsal every week as planned but every other week trim ½ hour off regular rehearsal. The Halifax chorus will remain an extra half hour and rehearse for 45 minutes to an hour. In mid-September, the Halifax chorus began meeting every week. This has allowed us to compete as well as focus on our original commitment to excellence in all things we do.

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### **Village Vocal Chords**

The Village Vocal Chords have been busy since our last Area Council meeting in June. Our Vice President is tasked with planning short but fun events to take place at chorus rehearsals, and this year's recent events have included Christmas in July, Tacky Tourist Tuesday and Oktoberfest. Each event encourages

appropriate attire and treats. We just completed our annual Retreat with the theme, "Hats Off To Broadway", as we prepare for IC&C chorus contest in Halifax. In support of the church where we rehearse, we held a benefit concert to replace the parsonage roof, earning over \$3000 for this important project. Chorus fund raisers for this year include Flower Power, Christmas Forest and Yankee Candle on-line sales programs, as well as our Singing Christmas Cards. We also are in the final stages of planning our first Vendor & Craft Fair, with 20+ booths "sold". Our Communication Team has been busy updating our branding and we're excited about what they have created to improve our online, printed materials and social media presence.

## Appendix A

### Post June 8, 2017 Meeting thru email discussions Update on AC&C Fundraisers July 14, 2017

Betty Gunterman sent an e-mail to chapter Presidents, detailing what transpired following the AC&C fundraisers. She explained that the basket raffle brought in \$976. A donation of \$250 was sent to Harmony for the Director's First campaign. This amount was a mistake – it should have been \$200. Betty stated that if Presidents have no objection to the higher amount having been sent, a vote to that effect could be taken via e-mail or at the September meeting.

The remaining \$726 was donated to Sound of Illinois for their Youth Camp in appreciation for their help in supplying our risers and helping backstage during the chorus contest. The hope is that Presidents will agree with this decision. Next year, a \$500 donation to the men's chapter will be in the AC&C budget.

A second fundraiser was held in which chorus directors walked around during the Moonglow, collecting donations. That effort raised \$1,262.36. From this fund, the four Area 4 directors receiving scholarships to Harmony University were given checks of \$200 each for a total of \$800. This left a balance of \$462.36 in the fund.

Betty explained that last year, Maria Kolano, director of Misty River, received a scholarship from Harmony but the Area didn't have the policy of providing financial support to our directors at that time, so she did not receive any money. She is planning to attend again this year, paying her own way. Betty also learned that Janet Foster, director of Harmony Magic, plans to attend at her own expense. Consequently the following direction was sought from chapter Presidents:

Do we want to send these two director's \$200 each to help with their expenses? This would leave \$62.36 in this fund.

OR

Do we want to send a smaller amount to these directors because they did not apply for or receive scholarships from Harmony this year?

OR

Do we just want the remaining balance (\$462.36) to stay in a fund for future director support?

The following responses were received:

**Jacquie Jensen – Agrees** with \$250 sent to HI for Directors First campaign; **agrees** with \$726 being given to Sound of Illinois and \$500 being put in next year's AC&C budget for this purpose; **agrees** with \$200 each being given to Maria and Janet. Believes we should keep track of who has received these funds.

**Barb Ries – Agrees** with \$250 donation for Directors First campaign; **Agrees** with donation of \$726 to Sound of Illinois Youth Camp; **Agrees** with \$200 being given to Maria and Janet.

**Annette Draper – Agrees** with Jacquie.

**Denise Thede - Agrees** with \$250 to Harmony Inc.'s Director's First campaign; **Agrees** with \$726 to Sound of Illinois' Youth Camp; **Agrees** with giving \$200 each to Maria and Janet.

**June Hahn – Agrees** with Jacquie.

**Valinda Petri – Agrees** with Jacquie.



**Kerry Wilson – Agrees** with \$200 each to Maria and Janet. Has concerns regarding donation to Sound of Illinois. Believes that should be an expense of the Area 4 Convention, and if convention doesn't have the funds, perhaps the Area 4 treasury should cover it rather than raffle money, which was earmarked for Directors. Also concerned that if SOI gets \$726 this year and \$500 next, they may be disappointed and lessen their services. Betty explained that the motion called for \$200 from AC&C Moonglow charitable endeavors to be sent to Harmony for the Directors First Program, and the balance saved to support travel by an Area 4 designee chosen to attend Harmony University. Aside from the mistake (\$250 being sent to Harmony), this motion was followed. The funds from the second fundraiser (directors going around collecting money) were not earmarked for anything by Council. It was an oversight that nothing was designated for SOI in the 2016 convention budget. SOI has never asked for anything in return for their services, and they are already aware that \$500 has been budgeted for them for next year.

**Patti Goesch - Agrees** with \$250 for Directors First; **agrees** with \$726 to the men's chorus youth camp; **agrees** with \$200 each to Janet and Maria.

Betty sent Mary Ross addresses for Maria Kolano and Janet Foster, along with permission to send them each a \$200 check towards their expenses for Harmony University.

Denise Struve  
Area 4 Secretary

## Appendix B

### Mixed Voice Quartets at Area Contests

#### Ad Hoc Committee Minutes

July 20, 2017

#### Background:

#### **Page 19. 2017 Mid-Year Minutes (#25 - HS 2020):**

#### **Mixed-Voice Contest or Event:**

*Though the IC&C 2016 schedule changes prevented us from considering a mixed-voice contest or event in 2016, we are open to this idea in 2017 and beyond. We will prioritize researching options for this type of event. Area Directors will be included in discussion.*

**Assigned:** *IPC to evaluate and design a plan for 2018 contest cycle. Due: Ongoing*

Although this item was originally assigned to the IC&C Planning Committee (IPC), our plan involves the possibility of doing this initially at the Area level. On June 28, the Executive Committee determined that an ad hoc committee should be appointed in order to develop next steps and submit a report at Annual Meeting in November.

#### **Ad Hoc Committee Members are:**

- Kathy Greason, Incoming ICJ Chairman
- Jacquie Jensen, Current ICJ Chairman
- Donna McKay, VP Convention & Contests
- Roxanne Powell, VP Education and MBHA Board Member
- Janine Schindler, Area 3 Director
- Diane Zanetti, Area 2 Director

The Ad Hoc committee met via Zoom Video Conference on July 20. We discussed the possibility of including mixed voice quartets in our 2018 AC&C's as a test or pilot program. Several questions were answered in the meeting, which are included here. After our meeting, additional questions were answered or clarification done, which is also included in these minutes.

#### ***What are the benefits of allowing Mixed Harmony Quartets to compete at our Area contests?***

- This may introduce Harmony, Inc. to those not familiar with our organization
- We may attract new members, both male and female
- Mixed Voice Quartets are attractive to younger singers
- Mixed Harmony is the "new thing"
- This may increase the size of our contests at AC&C's
- There may be larger attendance at AC&C's and, therefore, a financial benefit to the Areas.

#### ***What are the challenges?***

- Although this committee has many questions, we did not identify any challenges that could not be resolved (no "stoppers").

#### ***Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations:***

- This committee recommends that Harmony, Inc. Areas consider opening their 2018 quartet contests to MBHA mixed voice quartets.
- This committee feels that it should be up to each Area to decide if they will open their contest to mixed voice quartets.
- This committee asks that the Area Directors discuss this report and at their upcoming Area Council Meetings and then report back to this committee with questions/concerns from their Area Councils.
- This committee will then present a final report and recommendation to the IBOD at the 2017 Annual Meeting. **UPDATE: At the July 26 Executive Committee meeting, the EC requested that the Ad Hoc Committee schedule a Zoom video conference with the Area Directors as soon as possible after Area Council Meetings are completed. The Ad Hoc committee is asked to prepare a recommendation for the IBOD as soon as possible in order to keep this initiative moving forward.**

**Q & A from the Ad Hoc Committee:**

Q. Will Harmony, Inc. judges have concerns about judging mixed voice quartets for fear that judging may be difficult/different?

A. This has not been an issue for the BHS judges, according to Jacquie's discussion with Barry Towner. Jacquie will collect some contest DVD's from mixed voice quartets for category school training to ensure that our judges are comfortable judging mixed voice quartets.

Q. Are we planning to open up our Area contests to mixed voice choruses as well as quartets?

A. The plan is to include quartets only at this point.

Q. At BHS District contests, are the mixed quartets included in the mix with the BHS quartets, or are they judged in a separate contest?

A. Mixed voice quartets are included in the draw along with the BHS quartets and are interspersed in the contest. However, the mixed quartets are not competing with the BHS quartets; their scores are recorded on a separate score sheet.

Q. Will having mixed voice quartets interspersed pose a problem for the COJ for scoring and award purposes?

A. No. The software can accommodate "sub-sessions" to allow for separation of scores and awards.

Q. Do the mixed quartets receive evals at BHS District conventions?

A. Yes

Q. Does BHS mandate that all Districts allow mixed voice quartets in their contest?

A. No

Q. How many BHS Districts are open to allowing mixed voice competitors?

A. We don't know how many Districts are open to allowing mixed voice competitors; however, we do know is that 7 Districts and 2 divisions of Evergreen District had mixed voice competitors in 2017.

Q. How many registered quartets does MBHA currently have?

A. 18

Q. What is the highest number of mixed quartets that have participated in one BHS District contest?

A. 4

Q. Should each Area in Harmony, Inc. decide whether they want to include mixed quartets in their Area contests?

A. Yes. We do not feel that all Areas should be required to open their contests to mixed quartets.

Q. Should we limit our contests to a maximum number of mixed voice quartets?

A. This committee feels that we should leave that up to the Areas.

Q. If we allow mixed voice quartets, might that then require that some Areas have a triple panel?

A. Currently, a triple panel is required on a case-by-case basis. There is nothing currently in the contest rules that mandates when a triple panel is required.

Q. If 2018 is a pilot year, should Areas set a limit to the number of mixed voice quartets that can enter their contest?

A. This should be up to the Area.

Q. Should we suggest that the Areas have two deadlines for contest entry? One for HI quartets and a later one for mixed voice quartets if there is room? Or, should we let mixed voice quartets submit their entry and let them know after the HI deadline whether there is room for them in the contest?

A. This should be up to the Area to determine, if there is concern that the Area contest may get too large.

Q. Will the scores posted in 2018 be accepted for consideration for BinG World in 2020?

A. Yes, scores posted in both 2018 and up until Nov. 1, 2019 are viable.

Q. Can a quartet enter several District/Area contests and then send their best score for consideration to BinG World?

A. They can enter more than one contest; however, the last score they receive is the score used for qualification. MBHA wants to encourage each quartet to improve through working on the concepts provided at the contest evals.

Q. Do we think there will be fewer mixed voice quartets requesting to compete in 2018 because it will be an "off" year for mixed quartets to qualify for BinG?

A. The mixed quartets like to compete for the trophy (donated to MBHA by individuals) and not simply to qualify to compete at the BinG World contest.

Q. Under the MBHA Contest Rules, C. 1. Reporting Violations, if a violation of Article 1 is suspected, would the Harmony, Inc. COJ, or any panelist or Harmony official with a concern, have reporting responsibility?

A. This responsibility falls on MBHA, not Harmony, Inc. or any of its officials.

Q. Does MBHA require that mixed voice quartets compete in their BHS home district?

A. No. They can compete in any district in their home country.

Q. Does BHS require that all mixed voice quartet members also be BHS members in order to compete in the District contest?

A. No

Q. Harmony, Inc. contest rules specify that each member of a quartet must be a member in good standing of Harmony, Inc. and that the quartet must be registered with Harmony, Inc. Should we require that all mixed voice competitors be members of Harmony, Inc?

A. If we move forward with a pilot program in 2018, the Ad Hoc committee recommends that the ICJ Committee consider making an exception for the 2018 AC&C season and not require all mixed voice competitors to be members of Harmony, Inc. If we decide to continue the program in future years, we may want to consider amending the rule at that time.

Q. Can Harmony, Inc. use the sample contest entry form submitted to us by Barry Towner for mixed quartet entries, or do we need to create our own form?

A. We can use this as a template. It includes everything we need – contest entry, song registration info, assurance that the quartet members are all members of MBHA and that the quartet is registered with MBHA. We may want to ask that a copy also be sent to ICJC, ACJC or Executive Secretary (this can be determined later). The MBHA quartets should not need to fill out our existing Harmony, Inc. forms.

Q. What is the registration deadline for quartets to register with MBHA?

A. Per MBHA, they need to register two weeks before the contest (with a grace for 2018). MBHA currently requires that they be registered before they walk on the contest stage.

Q. Would MBHA's website list the Harmony, Inc. Areas that are opening up their AC&C's to mixed voice competitors?

A. Yes