

# Judges Overview of Region 11

## *Region 11 Competition – March 23 and 24, 2007*

### **SOUND – Sharon Babb**

- Great to have so many quartets singing at B/B+ levels – kudos to coaches, faculty, RMT and singers!
- Region should be proud of quartet achievements in general accuracy and full, robust sound – congratulations!
- Major issues still to be conquered by quartets:
  - bass/lead match
  - matched, open resonance/space
  - identical vowel production
- Your region should be proud of its chorus work on vocal skills and the importance of accuracy. You had more choruses at B- and above than below.
- Choruses are modeling good skills of singing and understanding of the barbershop style.
- The efforts in vocal expression, styles, characterization and “heart” need extension – the categories of expression and showmanship need spotlighting
- Need to learn more about “part responsibility”, especially the bass/lead match
- More attention needed in the area of chord tuning/intonation
- Develop bigger walls of sound for full barbershop achievement

### **MUSIC – Marge Bailey**

- Overall, quartets are doing a fine job. Some really bright moments! Quartet education is working well in Region 11.
- There is a lack of consistency and stamina that is hindering many performances.
- There were a few low-scoring quartets in my category, but very few middle (C+) quartets in this contest. Lots of B- and B performances – and some glorious higher performances.
- Quartets need to be encouraged to TAKE A PITCH!
- It will add points to their scores for quartets to sing in tune more of the time.
- Only a few quartets with song and arrangement problems.
- Vocal skills pretty good in quartets.
- Some “fuzz” here and there in quartet harmony accuracy.
- Most arrangements suitable to the quartets.
- Choruses are doing a good job in choice of material.
- When interp-ing a song, directors have a tendency to stop too often on the weaker chords.
- The region is beginning to realize how important musical energy is in the barbershop style – keep it up!
- There is a definite drive for harmony accuracy – the region should be proud of that!
- Choruses should be encouraged to TAKE A PITCH!

## **EXPRESSION – Marcia Pinvidic**

- Such fine singers in this region!
- Artistic planning needs to come up a notch to showcase.
- Strengthen pulse in tempo songs – this will help to unify delivery AND create excitement overall.
- Directors need to choose music and artistic plans that their singers can perform with confidence.
- Scores in this category could be higher – take advantage of skills AND build more skill to allow more success in lower-scoring choruses and quartets. Great potential for growth in this area!

## **SHOWMANSHIP – Ruth Ann Parker**

- Quartets have a good grasp for costuming – it's up-to-date (that's a good thing!). Some fit on some quartets were too snug and tight, and I made comments on their sheets.
- A letter was sent out to all Showmanship Judges prior to the start of regional competitions about the "preparation" aspect of this category. Hairstyles, makeup and costuming are becoming too casual. However, hairstyles also should be up-to-date and age-appropriate. It is ok for younger women to have hairstyles that are longer and shoulder-length.
- Some makeup was too light, especially on the very fair-skinned ladies. Makeup needs to be much more intense than what you would wear for a special night out to dinner. Need to have "respect for the stage" when it comes to makeup and grooming.
- Serious Treble quartet did a wonderful job in the 30% portion of this category – they are a great example of good costuming, hair and makeup. They should present a class to the region on this area.
- Characterization needs some attention on many quartets.
- Eye contact with audience was a problem with the lower scoring quartets.
- Chorus costuming was quite up-to-date, and versatile throughout the contest.
- The biggest flaw for choruses is in the 30% (preparation) area – many choruses did not have enough dark foundation and blush for the stage lights. Lipstick was faded on some.
- Salesmanship and characterization are the next big things to focus on. Many were just performing notes and choreo without the meaning behind the lyrical messages.