

**VP C & J
BARRY TOWNER**



Want To Be a Judge?

I periodically receive enquiries about the judging program, such as: "How does one become a judge? What training do judge candidates go through? May I be one?" etc.. I thought it would be appropriate to write about the program to answer some of these questions.

Quite a bit has been written about the program. All is available in the SPEBSQSA Contest and Judging Handbook which can be purchased from the Society. Every quartet and chorus should have one. You can also go to the Society web page at www.spebsqsa.org and go to the C&J page.

Why should a chorus or quartet promote potential judge candidates? Because there is talent within each group to be considered for the judging program. And, that can significantly enhance the group's growth and enjoyment.

The program has four steps: 1) application process, 2) Applicant School, 3) practice judging, and 4) Category School.

One of the first requirements is to fill out an application and send it with letters of support from two certified judges in the category to which you are applying along with a list of five Barbershoppers (not necessarily judges) who can speak as to your musical and leadership skills.

You send it to me, the district vice president for C&J. If you are having difficulty finding two certified judges for letters, contact me and I will do whatever I can to help you through the process.

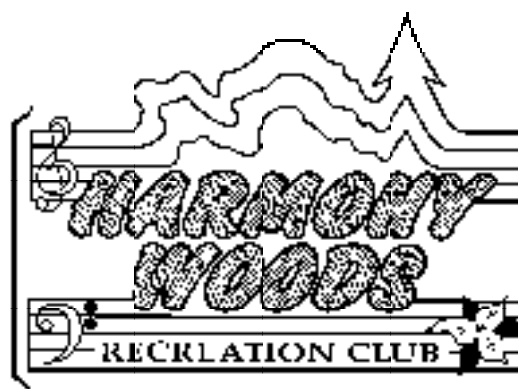
Timing is an important consideration as the program is only open for enrollment for about six months every three years. The next open enrollment will be during the last half of 2001. Upon acceptance, applicants are invited to Applicant School which is held the weekend before Harmony College in St. Joe, MO. With successful completion of Applicant School, applicants will begin a 31-month training program culminating in Category School in late July 2004 at which time they may be certified.

During a candidate's training, a mentor is assigned to assist, to answer any questions or concerns, and to report to the category specialist regarding progress. Until then, candidates are encouraged to ask any other judge or myself any questions about the program.

Training includes self-study done at home with tapes, videos, and books as well as practice scoring and evaluations at contests under the tutelage of certified panel members. Note that expenses incurred prior to certification are typically born by the candidate although the district does try to provide some small subsidy support.

The materials particularly appropriate to interested individuals include the following.

- & - Applicant and Candidate Regulations
- & - Application Form for Music, Presentation, and Singing Categories



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- & - Application Form for Contest Administrator Category
- & - Appraisal Form to be used by your references
- & - Definition of the Barbershop Style
- & - Official SPEBSQSA Contest Rules
- & - Music Category
- & - Presentation Category
- & - Singing Category
- & - Contest Administrator Category

These materials are all available in the above mentioned C&J Handbook or on the Web page.

I truly believe the C&J Program enhances the breadth of your hobby and you'll enjoy the scope and brotherhood the organization brings to your barbershop life.

If you are interested in the program or know of someone who may be interested, please contact me at

Barry Towner
P.O. Box 209,
Zephyr, Ontario L0E 1T0.

Telephone 905-473-2424
FAX 905-473-3419

E-mail at

Let's talk about it. Perhaps in a future issue, I or one of the other Ontario judges, will describe some of the highlights in a judge's life. 