

**Mgr C & J
Barry Towner**



**So you
want to be a judge**

Every three years the Society has a training weekend where previously certified and candidate judges go through an intensive five days of discussion, scoring, and evaluation activity which culminates in the certifying of judges for the next three years. Well, that school has just finished in St. Joseph, Missouri from July 28 to August 1 (immediately prior to Harmony College / Directors College). I am pleased to announce that the following Ontario men have been certified to July 2007:

- Contest Administrator * * * * * **Rob Arnold**
* * * * * **Mac Dallman**
- Music Category * * * * * **Chris Arnold**
* * * * * **Steve Armstrong**
* * * * * **Jeff Taylor**
- Presentation Category * * * * * **David McEachern**
* * * * * **Barry Towner**
- Singing Category * * * * * **Ken Fisher**

Now that the school has been completed, all of the categories (the three scoring categories and contest administrator) are open to receive applications. For those interested in applying or at least investigating applying, I would direct your attention to the Contest & Judging Manual which is available in PDF form on the Society Web Site in the DOCS section. In that manual are all of the steps necessary to become a judge in addition to the category descriptions, forms, and rules. To state the process as simply as possible:

1. An application is submitted to the District Vice President for Contest & Judging (DVP-C&J) for a particular category (send them to me at
2. Attached to or submitted with the application must be letters of recommendation from TWO currently certified judges *in the category to which you are applying*.
3. Also identified on the application are five individuals that are willing to support your application. They do not need to be judges from the category.
4. Upon receipt of the application and two supporting letters, I will contact the five other individuals with a brief questionnaire related to the capabilities of the applicant (this questionnaire is also in the C&J Manual).
5. Upon returned receipt of the completed questionnaire the DVP-C&J will then either accept the applicant or not, with a letter going to the applicant indicating the action taken.
6. If the applicant is accepted, all of the documents are forwarded to the category specialist with the note from the DVP attached.

7. The Category Specialist may request additional information prior to accepting the individual as an applicant or may rule on the information received.
8. The Category Specialist will either accept the individual as an applicant or not. A letter indicating the decision will be sent to the individual copying the Society Contest & Judging Chairman, the Society office, and the DVP-C&J.
9. If the person is accepted as an applicant, the Society office will send a note to the applicant with the appropriate training materials.
10. During the early part of 2005, various assignments and tests will be given to the applicant depending on the category. Upon successful completion of the tests and assignments, the applicant will be invited to Applicant School, held in conjunction with Harmony College in July 2005.
11. Upon successful completion of Applicant School, the individual will be deemed a candidate and allowed to practice at Divisional and District Schools under the direction of the certified panel for the next two years.
12. Upon successful practice sessions at official contests, the candidate will be invited to Category School in July 2007.
13. Upon successful completion of Category School in 2007, the individual will be a certified judge for a period of three years.

So, that's all there is to it. If you are interested in applying or know of someone who might make a good judge, please contact me. I will log the request and direct the individual to someone from his category to provide some specifics of what is involved in the category. The individuals you will meet by becoming part of the judging program are all terrific people and you will also get the opportunity to travel to other Districts and meet more terrific Barbershoppers. One thing I haven't mentioned is that **steps 1-9** are to be **completed by the end of December of 2004**, so don't waste time. In January the categories will again be closed for accepting applications for this three year contest period.

Ontario District has been blessed with a fine group of men who have committed themselves over the years to the Society as judges. If you are interested in this commitment, then drop me a note and start the process.

In closing, I would like to thank **Bill Duncan** for his service to the district and the Society as a certified Singing Judge this past three years. I'm sure he has a wealth of memories of his time in the judging program. ✻

