

November 20th, 2011

Hello Region 7!

Your Regional Management Team has just completed a weekend of meetings where we discussed the transition process that lies ahead as we migrate into Regions 25 and 5. We want to share with you the focus and results from those discussions.

First and foremost, we are still the fabulous Region 7 for the next 16 months! We will be continuing with our scheduled educational weekends and may be kicking them up a notch! Details will follow as soon as possible.

We also recognize that each of you have thoughts and feelings, both good and bad, about this announcement and change to our Sweet Adeline lives. We want to encourage you to feel free to email or write to our International Board to express your opinions. Kathy Carmody and our Board President, Cammi McKinlay are the best places to direct your comments. Regionally, LaDonna Cheatham our Director Coordinator has volunteered to receive any correspondence you wish to share with us.

In beginning our discussions about the regional changes, we began with what we believe are the priorities for our members. Those priorities included understanding the cost of participation and geographical challenges in participating in the new regions, keeping some aspect of our regional traditions and sharing our history.

Statistically speaking, there are approximately 140 of us moving into Region 25 and about 490 moving into Region 5.

We held conference calls with both regions this weekend. Here are the highlights of those discussions:

Region 5:

There is a regional transition taskforce being formed to identify the details for a smooth transition. There will be three members from Region 5, three members from Region 7, and two members from Region 22. Region 5 and 7 will have two RMT members as well as one chorus member. The RMT members from Region 7 will be Janet Davis, Team Coordinator and Kim Kraut, Education Coordinator. Pat Kies from the Kansas City Chorus will bring a chorus finance perspective to these meetings. There are also 2 choruses from Region 22 that are becoming part of the new region 5. Their current regions are choosing to let these choruses move without any regional support, therefore each will have a representative on the taskforce.

Items the taskforce will be addressing:

Both regions see benefit in possibly creating a new name for our new region. (Region 7 will make up about 50% of the new region) The taskforce will consider having a contest for our collective membership to name our new region.

Cost of participating- Regions will compare current fees for music schools and regional contest and create a new, agreed upon fee that will be fair to all and fiscally responsible for the health of the new region. Regional assessments will be compared and evaluated in the same fashion.

Geographical challenges- The taskforce will be identifying cities that are more central to the new membership for future music schools and contest events.

Traditions/culture- the task force will share traditions, regional recognition, etc to blend the best of each into the new as well as look for opportunities to create new traditions.

Region 5 RMT has been invited to join us for music schools in the coming months and we have been invited to join them. We want to provide every opportunity for us to begin forming these new friendships!

Region 25:

We asked for a transition taskforce, similar to what we are doing with Region 5, to be created and will be sending a recommended taskforce structure to their RMT in the next week.

Geographical challenges- Region 25 RMT met on the 5th of November via Skype and discussed moving events to Oklahoma City or Tulsa in an effort to be more centrally accessible to their new membership.

Cost of participating- Current Regional Assessment is \$20/ year. Regional contest All Events Pass is \$60.00. These are very comparable to Region 7 cost so there are no planned changes to these fees.

Region 25 RMT has talked about coming to our chorus shows in an effort to get to know us and begin forming new friendships.

We offered the idea of a joint regional event in 2012 in Branson MO. They will take this idea to the full RMT for discussion.

Region 25 has been invited to join us at our upcoming music schools and they have invited us to join them as well.

Your Regional Management Team is committed to making this transition as easy as possible for each of our members. We plan to communicate updates, even if nothing has changed, on a

monthly basis beginning in January 2012. We will do so via email, our regional newsletter and at regional events.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season,

Janet Davis

Team Coordinator