

When it rains, it pours!

And Southern CA has had so much rain that the drought is officially over (for now)!

But our 2019 Convention Committee has also had had some unexpected storms to deal with this year:

- We were told by the DoubleTree in January that the ballroom, the meeting rooms and the cafe will still be under renovation in early May. So we will have NO access to the places we typical use for registration, rehearsals, the briefing and Brunch.
- We found out in December that Mom and Dad Lilley decided to retire their photography business, so we had to scramble to secure a photographer.
- We found out late last year that our long-time audio/video guy, Bill, decided to retired after 11 years working with Region 11. So, another scramble to find a new A/V guy.

Members of the Region 11 Convention Committee sprang into action, and have made alternate plans, as you'll see outlined below. *(Be assured that the DoubleTree is paying for all expenses that we incur because of these new plans.)*

Registration and Thursday Night Briefing

Registration

Our Registration tables will be located in the DoubleTree lobby.

Thursday Night Briefing

The Briefing will be held in the DoubleTree Bar/Lounge. All competing Quartets, Chorus Directors and Chorus Team Coordinators/Presidents should plan to attend. Expect a LOT of important information to be explained and questions answered.

Sat. Morning Rehearsals

All chorus rehearsals will be held either in the DoubleTree Bar/Lounge or in one of the two ballrooms in the Courtyard Marriott. (Agoura Hills Harmony and Verdugo Hills will be rehearsing at their offsite breakfast location.)

Contest Start Times

Because the number of competitors is lower this year, we've delayed the start time for both Contests. The Quartet Contest will now start at 4:00pm instead of 3:00. The Chorus Contest will now start at 1:00pm instead of noon.

Harmony Bazaar

Our Harmony Bazaar has been relocated to the Rabobank Convention Center. Now you'll be able to shop on Friday and Saturday before each Contest and during intermissions! The Harmony Bazaar will not be open on Sunday.

Audio / Video Recordings

Our new A/V guy is looking forward to working at our Contest. We will do everything we can to ensure that your audio and video files are recorded effectively. Prices have not changed from last year.

Sunday Brunch

Our Sunday Brunch will be held at the Hodel's Restaurant, approx. 3 miles from the DoubleTree. The atmosphere will be nicer and the food should also be better. Best of all? The price per person is less than what the DoubleTree was charging for our breakfast buffet (\$17 vs. \$35)!

If you purchased a Brunch ticket when you registered for the Convention, DO NOT RE-REGISTER for Brunch. You will receive a refund of \$18.00 to your method of payment (PayPal or credit card). And if you wanted to attend the Brunch, but the price was too high, come and join in the fun! Go to the Region 11 website to register!

Contest Photography

When Mom and Dad at Lilley Photography retired, we contracted directly with our regular photographer, Wyeth Lilley (their son)!

However, there are big changes to the photography orders. One reason that the Lilleys decided to retire is because chorus and quartet sales of printed contest photos have sharply declined over the past 5 years. It wasn't cost-effective anymore. How many printed contest photos do YOU have stuck in a drawer or a box somewhere? Most people have started ordering only the CD, which contained a low-res digital file for online use.

So, now we've gone all DIGITAL all the way!

Choruses

- Choruses will be invoiced \$5 per person, based on the number of members you estimated to be on stage when you registered for the Chorus Contest. You may either collect \$5 from every member, or pay for it from your chorus treasury.
- Chorus photos will be taken on stage. There will be 3 flashes. You may stay in the same pose for all 3 or change your pose – very quickly – each time. The photographer will edit and color-correct just ONE pose of his choice.
- The really good news is that you'll also receive high-resolution (but not retouched) files of all your poses! Once you receive the files, you can distribute them to your members and upload them to social media! And members can take a file to a place near them to have it printed, if desired.

Quartets

- Quartets will be invoiced \$20.
- Quartets photos will be taken backstage as usual. You can have up to THREE (3) poses, as long as they're done quickly.
- You will get high-resolution files of all the photos he takes. However, the photographer will edit and color-correct just ONE pose of his choice.

Choruses & Quartets have the option of opting out. Refer to the new Photo Form.

The Committee, led by Tammy Ragsdale, has gone above and beyond to ensure that all competitors will have an unusual, but smooth weekend. We have tried to plan for every scenario in this strange year of change. But, of course, things will pop up that we hadn't anticipated. Feel free to have a respectful conversation with any member of the Convention Committee or the Assisting Chorus (Lady Luck Showtime) if you see something that we need to address. **The key with all of this is going to be FLEXIBILITY and PATIENCE!**

And when you see Convention Committee members and anyone from our Assisting Chorus, please thank them – or, better yet, buy them a glass of wine!!