

# Know Before You Go!

AC&C 2022 Back to Normal... Illinois

To all Chorus and Quartet contestants, and Associate/Chapter Member AC&C attendees,

If you've been out to the **CONVENTION CORNER** page recently, you'll see that we have lots more info out there! To highlight some important things you'll need to know, please read through this carefully. We realize this is long, but there was much to share. ☺ If you have any questions, please contact Sara Stone (Area Convention Manager) at [sestonemsu@gmail.com](mailto:sestonemsu@gmail.com) or me.

Several new things are happening this year so while many things are 'as usual', there are also some changes.

- **There will be no printed program.** You have the option to print one from home ("Quartet Contest Print" or "Chorus Contest Print") or you can utilize your cell phone/tablet to use the digital versions while there in person. They include places where you can digitally 'write in' items you want to remember like song names etc. All 4 options are available in the bullets above the table on the website.
- **Two forms/checks each contestant group needs to bring to Chorus/Quartet Briefing:** Make sure you bring your completed Photo form and check, and DVD/CD form and check with you to the Briefing as they will be collected at that time.
- **Photos are from stage.** As you can see on the photo form, photographs will be 'action shots' while you're on stage singing. By paying just \$15/group you'll get access to the 6-8 photos he'll take of you, without copyright limitations. This means you can use Shutterfly to print them for yourself if you like (average for 8x10 is around \$4), use another print service, and/or use them digitally for social media etc. What a low cost deal!
- **Photos part 2 – posed.** If you also want a posed photo in addition to the action shots, check the box on the form. Then follow the instructions on the form - after the second song applause return to the center and pose. We will let you know when the photo is complete and you can exit.
- **DVD/CD form changed.** If you printed the DVD/CD form and it has a name other than Bob Scornavacco, please print the updated one on the site - sorry. All checks must be written to Bob.
- **Quartet and Chorus Contest Schedules are posted** so be sure to print it out or bookmark it on your phone so you know your group's timing.
- **Chorus Rehearsal Schedule is also posted.** Please note for the official chorus rehearsal Saturday morning, you have 25 minutes on the stage risers, in order of appearance.
- **Quartet assigned classrooms:** Because of having 19 quartets, we will have 2 quartets sharing a pre-pattern assigned classroom (e.g. contestant 1 and 11 will share). There will be plenty of time between groups for the later quartets to arrive ahead of their pattern time to fix any hair/makeup, etc. No one should leave anything in the rooms because they aren't locked – bring your items with you and we'll watch over them. As usual, please keep the 'stuff' to a minimum though.
- **Chorus assigned classrooms:** Assigned classrooms are open when you come for stage rehearsal so if you want to stay after it is complete to change there, that is your choice. This will also be where your evaluations will be after contest. As noted above, the rooms are not locked however so we are not responsible for anything left in a room that 'disappears'. As with quartets, there will also be someone watching over items backstage while you're singing.
- **AEP Included Meals:** As a treat this year, there are TWO meals included in your All-Events Pass (AEP), Saturday morning there is a catered full breakfast, as well as the Moonglow buffet. Just have your AEP with you!

- **Reminders for non-AEP visitors/non-members:**
  - If you purchased additional single session tickets and/or banquet tickets with the registration, you will pick them up with your AEP at Registration.
  - There will be single session tickets available at the contest door for fully vaccinated individuals 5+ (must show a vaccine card with payment). As per the COVID protocols (below), for any children under 5, ticket may be purchased for them as long as they are with a fully vaccinated adult.
  - Reminder: there are no banquet tickets available on site so no late additions.
- **Hotel reminder: bring hangers.** Hopefully you read through the details about our wonderful new hotel (SO much closer to the school!). One thing that is a little odd is that in the recent renovations they got rid of closets and just have hooks on the wall. So if you have things to hang, you need to bring hangers with you.
- **Moonglow buffet:**
  - Since we don't have a hostess chapter this year, we also don't have a specific theme so come dressed comfortably, however you like! Don't forget the mask, too (see COVID reminders below).
  - We added in the Area 4 Membership meeting just before dinner instead of another time during the convention. Susan promises to keep it short since she knows she's between singers and dinner, but make sure to get there by 6:30 to hear the latest news!
  - For the singing portion, all 5 chapters are invited to sing one song with 1<sup>st</sup> place singing two, and the top five quartets are invited to sing one song (1<sup>st</sup> place singing two as well).
- **COVID reminders** (yes we have to cover the boring yucky details too – please keep reading even though it's not fun singing stuff ☺):
  - We recommend you refresh on the **Harmony, Inc COVID protocols** [here](#). All members are expected to comply and chapters/quartets to police their own members.
  - **Masks:** Everyone needs to remember to bring and wear your masks (over the nose and mouth) in all Harmony, Inc event locations. This includes
    - All parts of Normal HS except optional on stage for vaccinated members (non-vaccinated need to remain masked on stage)
    - The conference space at the hotel for the Moonglow buffet dinner Saturday evening, with the exception when you're seated at your table eating/drinking
  - **Recommended testing:** To avoid accidentally spreading COVID while asymptomatic, please take a COVID test within 24 hours of traveling to Normal, no matter your vaccination status. A couple other Areas were close in timing to other conventions and folks found out at/after the event that they had unintentionally 'shared'. This is not a requirement, and we won't ask whether you did test, but for the sake of all attending, we ask all to test, even if you feel fine. They're free and available to all so please just do it. If the worst happens, please read through the protocols about what to do if you're positive.
  - **Exempted members:** For those members who have completed their exemption paperwork requirements, we'll be in touch directly regarding the daily testing requirement in the protocols.
  - Per the protocols above, **if you find out you are COVID positive within 14 days of AC&C**, please contact me via email immediately ([susanarea4dir@gmail.com](mailto:susanarea4dir@gmail.com)). I need to notify the convention members so they can self-test. It will be done in a confidential way, no name/identifying specifics will be given.

Your Area Director and Convention Team are excited to welcome you Back to Normal (IL) for a safe, fun convention and contest in just a few days!

Susan, Sara, Ria, Ann, Libby, Linda