

The RMT recently had the opportunity to discuss the following with those who attended the RAVEs. We also want to share the same information with those of you who were unable to attend. Our intent is to be very transparent regarding how COVID has affected our regional budget.

Regional Event planning takes place 2 to 3 years in advance of the actual event due to the calendars of the clinicians and educators we bring in.

The largest event we have each year is our Regional Competition. Contracts on hotels and the competition performance venue are 3-year contracts as it gives us the best leverage for pricing. We have these contracts in place at least a year before they go into effect. We guarantee a specific number of hotel nights for each hotel contracted which gives us the extra space we need in the hotel for the RAMM Meeting, Bazaar, flat floor warmup rooms, etc.

The years 2020 – 2022 that were contracted in Wichita contained a worldwide event no one could have predicted and shut down all competitions for Sweet Adelines. There were signed contracts that had to be negotiated, cancelled, etc. This was something our regions (and the hotel industry) had not dealt with before. Regions had to become creative in working our way through the 2 years of a 3-year contract that held no competitions. Sweet Adelines International headquarters staff provided advice and the regions across our organization collaborated in hopes of helping each other work through this new challenge.

Our region was able to do a work-around and the contracts for 2020 and 2021 were forgiven. The real challenge was the downsizing of our attendance expectations in 2022 as we held our first Regional Competition in 3 years. We had fewer choruses and quartets compete, meaning we needed to cancel one of the two hotels we had contracted for our 2022 Regional Competition. This cancellation came at a very HEFTY price tag (to the tune of \$66,000!) for Region 25.

Your RMT went to work looking for creative ways to soften the financial blow. The result of this hard work saved Region 25 a large sum of money (to the tune of \$50,000!!) by agreeing to host our 2023 Quartet Retreat and 2023 Fall Retreat in Wichita. Both events will be held in Wichita at the Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview in Wichita. We are hopeful that by sharing this information, all choruses and quartets and chapter-at-large members will make plans to attend these events and book your hotel rooms at the Drury for both weekends. If we are unable to meet our hotel

requirements for both events, the Region will be stuck with that hefty price tag we discussed earlier.

We need your help in supporting these two events to avoid this hefty penalty. Please watch your email and Region 25 Facebook posts for upcoming announcements concerning the opening of registration and link for reserving your hotel room(s) for Quartet Retreat.

If you have questions please let us know.

Your Regional Management Team,

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