

## Comments from judges after Region #34 Quartet Contest, 2008

### Sound Judge – Dixie Dahlke

Learn about energised posture, breathing and support for your voices.  
Solid accuracy must start with good vocal skills.

Keep listening.

Keep performing.

Barbershop Balance: Blend first, then balance.

Congratulations on the fabulous interest and enthusiasm quartetting receives in the region! We were thrilled to “write” to so many of you. Special applause for 1<sup>st</sup> timers!

Accuracy is much more than the right notes, although that’s where it must begin. More duetting will help you relate to your part in the chord. Improved listening for the chord will help you enhance harmonics – yes, that’s another seminar! Abilities are all there – they just need to develop. Take time to work slowly so your ears can learn what it is they are to help produce.

Thank you for the privilege of your music.

Dixie

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### Music Judge – Susan Kegley

Choose arrangements appropriate to the singing level. Be sure to choose songs that are good “barbershop” vehicles.

Most quartets had the right idea for interp plans. Need to improve the singing skills to support them.

I had a wonderful time listening to each and every quartet. I was so impressed by the enthusiasm for singing – each quartet brought their own individual style and interpretation to the stage. While the level and skill of the quartets may have varied, the passion for performing was shared by all. The common thread amongst all was display of vocal skill. The basics of vocal skill are essential to be in place in order for solid chords to lock and ring. Lower level quartets will have to work on this more diligently. Perhaps better song choices would help them accomplish singing more together and more in tune. Once basic singing skills are improved, the interpretive plans can become grander and be expanded to include higher level barbershop elements, tempo changes, key changes and fast tempo passages and the like.

Thank you for sharing your wonderful love and passion for barbershop singing.

Susan Kegley.

## **Expression Judge – Dale Syverson**

Artistic Lyrical Interpretation – These skills will develop once the vocal skill foundation is solidly in place.

Much of what is required in the expression category is based on a strong foundation of vocal skills – the most elemental of these being breath support. Synchronisation is the next step in building a foundation for expressive delivery of the musical product. There was very little said about pronunciation or enunciation on the quartet score sheets because I believe that focussing on the foundation skills of the sound category will do so much more for the quartet competitors in their efforts to get launched in the expression category.

It is every Sweet Adelines' right to express herself musically in a quartet. I'm very pleased for Region 34 that so many of your members took advantage of the opportunity that competition affords to hone their skills and gain performance experience.

Dale Syverson

## **Showmanship Judge – Peggy Gram**

Thanks for all your hard work in the preparation for this weekend's competition!

Costume – generally wonderful work in the preparation area – costuming was good overall – not many problems with make-up or grooming.

There were many different levels of quartets in the competition this weekend – some with higher level skills and more on-stage experience than others. It was wonderful to see so many brand new quartets “get their feet wet” on the regional stage. It takes a lot of courage to do that!

Faces were generally expressive, but in some cases, nerves got the best of it and we didn't see their best performances. Your higher achieving quartets showed extraordinary skill in this category. Master the basics first – vocal skills. Then you'll have a higher degree of success in the quartet stage.

Peggy Gram