

Another SWD Convention is coming up the first weekend in October and once again we are at the **DFW Airport Hyatt Regency Hotel**. I know we have been coming to the same place for many years now (since 2010), so I thought I should let you in on a little “inside Barbershop” as to why we keep coming back. Here are a few of the reasons:

- The hotel is centrally located within the district making it easier for more of your singing buddies to join you for a weekend of fun and lots of singing.
- Being at the airport makes it really easy for judges flying into the area to arrive and depart the hotel. I know you may not care too much about this. But it helps us get some of the best musical talent within the Society to judge our contests and offer coaching. They really are very talented folks.
- We can save a LOT of money feeding the judges by doing it ourselves in a VIP suite. And they REALLY appreciate the TLC the SWD dishes out (thanks, Mike Thompson).
- Because of our long history with the hotel, we have been able to negotiate some exceedingly competitive room rates. **Our current room rate is only \$121/night plus tax.** Non-convention reservations, if you just call the hotel directly to make a reservation on your own, are in the range of \$212 - \$255/night plus taxes depending on the type of bed desired. We really do have an excellent deal at the DFW Hyatt Regency.
- We have meeting rooms galore for our use as warm-up/rehearsal/evaluation rooms plus the Enterprise and Innovation ballrooms – all included in our contract. We essentially have the whole hotel at our disposal. There is plenty of space for you to find a corner and sing tags until the early morning hours without being shut down by hotel security.
- The hotel has worked with us to isolate Barbershopper sleeping rooms as much as possible, so our singing doesn't disturb other patrons. They know we are loud. So, be loud. Find a corner and sing your hearts out.
- We have the ability for chapters to host hospitality suites, the so-called “25” rooms (325, 425, 525, etc.) at the same rate as a regular sleeping room. Plenty of room to get your afterglow on!
- Dining has always been seen as expensive in the hotel's restaurants; I understand. And just so you know, we will NOT have a cash food option this fall (we would have to guarantee far too many takers for the number of people currently attending our conventions). But if your chapter were to set up in a “25” hospitality room, you can bring food and drink in throughout the convention and even offer some to others for a small “donation”, if you catch my drift. **Learn how to play the game.**
 - **Any food or drink consumed in a sleeping room is your business.** The hotel cannot control what you do in your sleeping room (and the “25” rooms are sleeping rooms).
 - **Any food or drink consumed in areas controlled by the hotel MUST be purchased through the hotel. NO EXCEPTIONS. But you see how this works, right?**
- **Parking is FREE** if you follow the instructions and take your validated airport entry ticket through the CASH ONLY lane when you exit.

Overall, for what we do and the numbers we bring, the DFW Hyatt Regency is an exceptional venue. But that doesn't mean we aren't looking at other places. It only means they better really bring their “A” Game if they want our business.

All my best,

Gary Hannah ChFC
Southwestern District BHS
Secretary
Convention Hotel Liaison
Past President, Hall of Fame, BOTY