**HEAD’S UP**

The Federal Way Performance and Events Center has very strict rules about food and drink on the premises. Basically, do not want to have illegal substances there and insist upon selling all food and beverages themselves. They will allow everyone to bring empty water bottles into the venue and there are several water stations for filling them. They will sell full water bottles, snacks, sodas, wine, beer and spirits during the contest, assuming we will go along with it. (I see no reason not to do so, but that is up to someone else in the district leadership to decide.)

**LODGING AVAILABILITY**

The district made the decision to have the fall Evergreen District Contest and Convention as a Barbershop Reunion of Friends allowing every chorus and quartet to participate in some fashion without any prior qualification. This was successful in attracting the membership, but it resulted in more people coming to area than anticipated. La Quinta, the headquarters hotel, filled up rapidly and the other hotels that had agreed to a special rate closed their program more than a month before the event, leaving many people without a nearby room. We have tried to negotiate with other hotels with no luck. The best we can suggest is to do an online search of the hotels in Federal Way and the surrounding area and settle upon one.

I have not been able to find a good spot for those of you with campers or RV’s as Dash Point State Park seems to be reserved well in advance and I don’t know of any other campgrounds nearby. Wall Mart is across the street from the PAEC, but they have said they will not welcome overnighters in their parking lot. There is another lot across the street from the PAEC just south of 314th and north of a Korean restaurant that apparently will allow camping at your own risk. As there is a homeless problem all over King County, I would feel more comfortable if everyone found a hotel room with a comfortable bed.

Jim Burbidge, Local Event Chairman