

Subject: **L.A. Regional Food "Dinner (on the Grounds) Committee"**

In the Sacred Harp Rudiments# 9: "Where circumstances permit, dinner on the grounds is from 12 noon to 1 p.m. There is a blessing by the chaplain or another, after which all help themselves from a long table. Usually, the food is provided by local people, often by members of the host church or community."

Seems so simple, doesn't it! And, **if it weren't for the peculiar context of Building H at Angels Gate** (see **Footnote "B"**), a one-day Dinner on the Grounds (DOGs) could practically organize itself -- not unlike a small community pot luck picnic or a church social, where minimal setup and cleanup is needed and everyone knows what to do to simply pitch in and share dinner -- er, "fellowship."

If -- and when -- L.A.'s regional singing were to be held someplace else with kitchen-like amenities and janitorial support, then **here's the basic list** of supplies the DOGs committee would need to carry:

For Dinner tables: Large plates, napkins, forks, knives and spoons, up to 100 each, plus more forks.

For Dessert/miscellany tables: Little plates, napkins, forks and spoons, up to 100 each.

And that's it. Throw in a roll of paper towels and you're good to go.

(Details and how to estimate numbers are under **Footnote "A"** at bottom.)

However: Building H at Angels Gate has limited amenities, no sink, minimal trash cans, and no janitorial service except for us.

Therefore, coordinating a 60-minute dinner on the grounds presents a challenge more similar to wilderness backpacking than to a church supper.

Shared lessons: Ron & Karen Huss

Karen and Ron Huss have devotedly served as L.A. dinner coordinators (and elsewhere) in years past for both regionals and conventions. From experience they've worked out a successful system from what does and doesn't work within the limitations of Angels Gate, specific to one-day singings. I believe Karen would include at least the following when listing Dinner Coordinator details:

WHAT TO BRING for one-day singing in Bldg. H in addition to plates, etc. (necessary):

- disposable table covers for six 6-foot-long tables, scissors/ tape if needed
- cleaning supplies & paper towels/cloths specific to dinner area
- signs to designate what goes where on tables, if desired
- organizer/tray for plastic forks/spoons, if desired
- extra foil sheets or other covering to share
- small/medium trash receptacles for dinner area

Some things may be available to borrow ahead of time from other singers -- ask!

THE HUSS TOUCH (optional, but hospitable):

- extra serving utensils -- large spoons, spatulas, knives (cheap or disposable) plus bag to hold them after use
- power strip and extension cord for possible crock pots
- cutting board for breads; bread knife
- knife for people to cut up their own whole rotisserie chicken (not your job to cut it or find a dish!)
- cards for people to identify their dish (nuts, gluten-free, what is it)

Committee Tasks:

- Set up tables first thing in morning (house manager can direct you to tables and provide printed room layout) and cover them. Ask for help carrying and placing tables. Direct singers bearing food to proper tables or to beneath tables to stash coolers. Answer questions about where to stash potluck dishes, where on tables to put what kind of dish, location of working electrical outlet. Many singers, if not most, will be familiar with all this. Set out extra trash receptacles as needed.
- Arranging committee or Chairman will call on dinner coordinator to make announcements as necessary (such as procedure & time to uncover food, line up, where to find utensils on the tables)
- Assist singers to lay out, unwrap potluck contributions to be mixed/prepped, offer serving utensils, and generally facilitate. After grace, dinner is served, finished, and food covered up and cleanup begun, with singers back to the square -- all within the 60-minute dinner recess.

- Ensure all dinner contributions and trash are off the tables by the end of final afternoon recess, tables stripped and ready to take down. Cleanup should be largely finished by then.
- Do take charge of utensils and containers left behind. (They may wind up in your “extra utensils.”) Send a lost-and-found message to Rick to post to local singing reminder list. But you are not responsible to wrap or take home unwanted leftovers (this happens with desserts sometimes). No food is allowed to be left in building.

Footnote A

Plates: More than enough sturdy dinner-size plates for estimated maximum diners, plus more than enough smaller dessert table plates.

Napkins: More than enough dinner-size napkins (expect to run out) plus more than enough little napkins (dessert tables).

Plasticware or nondisposable ware: More than enough sturdy forks (especially), spoons and knives for dinner tables (the more forks, the better). Plus plenty of forks (can be the littler, weaker forks), spoons for dessert tables.

Not cups! Beverage committee will handle those.

How many should I carry? Los Angeles Regional attendance has ranged from 35 to 85 persons. A convenient default would be to bring 100 of everything plus extra forks.

Footnote B

“Building H, the Challenge: Things to be aware of”:

- There is no janitorial staff for after our event. We are responsible to leave the room, restrooms and floor the way we found it or risk losing deposit.
- Spills, crumbs require immediate attention so as not to track elsewhere on floor.
- Self-sufficiency regarding paper goods: none are provided by Angels Gate beyond what’s in the restrooms.
- There is no kitchen and no indoor running water except in restrooms.
- Self-sufficiency regarding trash receptacles, trash bags: Generally just one large trash can is available on-site and won’t be

close to dinner tables. A separate can for recycling hasn't been provided in the past

- Folding plastic tables on-site measure 30" x 72".
- Nothing is allowed to be placed, stored, or plugged in in the rear hallway behind the big room.
- Pass it along: We're no longer allowed to use restrooms in adjacent buildings F and G, even if artists say they don't mind.
- Trash must be emptied into large metal bins outside which are serviced by Parks Dept.