

May 2009

To Our Volunteers:

In these difficult economic times, major changes have had to take place in order for RFB&D to survive as an organization. With our students' success in mind, we want you to know that our national headquarters Regionalization Taskforce under the direction of the National Board of Directors has made some very difficult decisions. We regret to announce that, while maintaining our studios in Hollywood and Upland, our Reseda, Redondo Beach, and Santa Ana recording studios have been closed.

RFB&D nationally has moved forward with their regional restructuring plan, to "...streamline staff and emphasize effective member service and support." Please know that RFB&D's National Board and President and CEO, John Kelly, have not made any of these decisions lightly. As CEO Kelly says, "This is not a short-term problem with a short-term solution. This is an accelerated organizational transformation that will secure the future of RFB&D, ensuring that our service will be available to those in need for years to come." In no way is the closing of these studios a reflection on the production quality, quantity, or effectiveness of their staff and volunteers. While the closures do factor into the organization's long term consolidation plan, the immediate necessity to close the studios is to reduce costs.

While we are very saddened by this significant impact on RFB&D-SoCal, we are being assured that these decisions will make it possible for RFB&D to continue to serve our current members and the hundreds of thousands of students whom we have yet to engage.

We will be holding open houses at these studios over the next several weeks to thank our treasured volunteers, answer their questions, and to present to them a variety of new opportunities to serve even more student members in our community.

Please join me and the other Southern California Board Members in thanking your fellow volunteers in Reseda, Redondo Beach, and Santa Ana along with our stellar staff, for their exceptional service to RFB&D. And please feel free to contact either myself or Interim Executive Director Mike Davis (323 664-5525 x109 or 800 732-8398) if you have any questions. In closing, the Board also sincerely thanks you for your continued commitment to provide a future to those who might not otherwise succeed without your personal service. Our mission is clear, and with your help we can ensure that RFB&D continues to evolve and progress.

Most sincerely,

Mary Ellen

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