

## **PAMV Chapter BHS**

### **Music VP Report for June 18, 2011 Board Meeting**

The Music Team met on June 8.

The Nail Down the Notes sessions have been beneficial to those who attended. Bass attendance has been good, with eager participation. Lead attendance has been spotty, although two non-section-leader leads have attended regularly. Chris Phoenix (lead) and Dave Skurnick (bass) are willing to continue the sessions, and the MT encourages them to do so. Many in the lead section are not at the 90%-learned level that these sessions assume, so can't benefit from them; listening to and singing with the learning recordings would probably be helpful for them.

We discussed the problem of chorus members stumbling with the words and notes. Some of this is due to lack of confidence, manifested when strong section members are absent and the weaker ones must hold the section together; this has been partially addressed in sectional rehearsals and seems fixable. The large number of new songs has also made learning more difficult, but the pace will slow substantially after the show.

A more serious cause is members actually not knowing the correct words and notes. Some members believe they know the music adequately, but really don't. Others are satisfied with leaning on a stronger member to fill in their knowledge gaps rather than being self-sufficient. The MT will be focusing on raising the standard for learning the music, beginning after the 6/25 show. Paul Eastman will hold five VLQ sessions during July chapter meetings including (eventually) every chorus member, to help members assess how well they know the music. Starting in August, there will be a program to allow every member to demonstrate proficiency in the contest songs. Help will be available for those members who need it. We hope that every member will have demonstrated such proficiency by October. We won't announce any of this until after the 6/25 show.

The CACM program will resume after the show, without fanfare. With less show pressure, we believe we can do a better job than before.

Skill-building will be a main focus during the summer.

**Requested Board Actions:** None

Terry Moore, VP of Music

Upcoming musical dates:

6/19 Palo Alto World Music Day

6/25 USO Show

7/4 Sunnyvale

8/18-19 Harmony College West

9/10 Peninsulaires College

10/14-15 FWD Convention