

Guide for New Members

**Palo Alto – Mountain View Chapter
Barbershop Harmony Society**

2012

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Note: Text *in bold italics* represents notes which must be expanded into a full exposition.

Welcome

We're glad you're interested in joining us as we have a great time every week singing in four-part harmony. This document is prepared by the Palo Alto – Mountain View chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society to give you some background information about us and to answer some questions you may have. If you have unanswered questions, just ask a chapter member; he'll either know the answer or point you to someone who does.

History of our Chapter

The Peninsula chapter was chartered in November 1948, just two years after the Far Western District (to which we belong) was created. We met in San Mateo for many years, and gradually moved southward to Palo Alto (where we changed our name to the Palo Alto – Mountain View chapter), and now to Sunnyvale. We've had several Directors, but are fortunate to have little turnover; our current Director, Steve Sammonds, has been with us for over 20 years.

Although we're currently performing at the low-to-mid-B level, we have attended International Conventions and in 1980 won the bronze medal (third place).

This section could be expanded by someone familiar with Chapter history.

Typical Expenses

Chapter/District/Society Dues: \$120?/year; reduced if younger than 26 years

Uniform (first year only): \$200 (=50% of cost; dress uniform must be returned when leaving the chapter)

Convention Registrations 2 x \$40/year

Installation Dinner \$32/year

Travel and Lodging for conventions: about \$200/year

Snacks \$1/week

Chapter Organization

The Chapter is governed by the Board of Directors, elected by the Chapter members each October and serving during the following calendar year. It meets monthly. Elected officers for 2012 are:

President (chair) [Chuck Mollett]

Secretary [Ian Marshall]

Treasurer [Dave Morley]

Vice President of Chapter Development

Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations [John Heather]

Vice President of Music and Performance [Terry Moore]

Vice President of Program [Gary Miller]

The Immediate Past President [Dave Kocharhook] is also an officer on the Board, but is not elected to that position, having been previously elected to the office of President.

Two members at large [Paul Eastman and Jeff Harris] are also elected to the board and have votes, although they are not Officers.

Board members and their responsibilities are outlined in the chapter bylaws, available on the BHS website and included at the end of this document.

The Chorus Director is officially an employee of the Chapter, and is subject to the Board. The Director determines which Chapter members may sing with the chorus (the Peninsulaires), both in non-competitive performances and in contests.

The Chapter is a non-profit corporation in the State of California, and is a not-for-profit corporation according to the Internal Revenue Service. The Chapter is classified as a non-profit educational institution by the Post Office, and thus qualifies for reduced postage rates.

The Music Team meets monthly to discuss musical aspects of the chapter. It consists of:

VP of Music and Performance (chair) [Terry Moore]

Director [Steve Sammonds]

Assistant Director [Mark Torrance]

Coach [Paul Eastman]

Section Leaders [Chuck Borrecco, Dave Kocharhook, Mark Torrance, Chuck Thompson]

Quartet Activities Coordinator [John Wooldridge]

Librarian [Dave Weatherford]

Board and Music Team meetings are generally open to all Chapter members.

The VP of Chapter Development has a team of assistants, but holds no regular meetings.

Volunteer Opportunities

Cabaret, Spring Show, Chorus Manager, Weekly Snacks, Booking Manager, Section Leader, Coach, Assistant Director, Youth in Harmony Coordinator, Bulk Mailing Coordinator, Show Chairman, Librarian

Society Organization

Nashville, FWD, FWD-NW, Chapter

History of the Society

Four-part close harmony has been popular since the middle of the nineteenth century, and some of the earliest (1891) musical recordings feature quartets. By the early twentieth century, recordings of quartets were big business, and a major inducement for people to purchase phonographs. With the advent of radio, quartets sang commercial jingles in addition to providing the entertainment they had done for decades in Vaudeville. Quartet contests became popular in New York.

In 1938, a small group of traveling salesmen gathered at a hotel in Kansas City to sing their favorite old-time songs. This was “ear-singing”, with no sheet music or recordings to assist, and the harmony was improvised on the spot. Enthusiasm spread, and within a few months resulted in the establishment of our Society.

The New Deal was in full swing, and government organizations all had impressive and long titles. In that style, the new singing organization founded in Tulsa, Oklahoma was named the Society for the Preservation and Propagation of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in the United States. It was soon renamed to the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA) to include Canadian members.

From its inception, the Society put on conventions in the U. S. heartland, with attendees from all over the country. The Society originally only encouraged singing in quartets, although within only a few years, choruses singing in the barbershop style started to become popular. Quartet competition at the international level started in 1939, and Chorus competition began in 1953.

Unfortunately, popular racist attitudes kept SPEBSQSA a whites-only society until 1963, although there were debates about it since the 1940's. Performing in blackface was only banned in 1970. Today, all male singers are welcome. (Women are excluded because mixed quartets sound different from all-male or all-female ones, as close harmony is more difficult to achieve.)

Over the decades, expectations about what constitutes good barbershop singing have changed. Every few years, the judging standards change, and judges need to be re-certified to the new standard. This is often driven by a quartet or chorus which dares to sing differently, and is welcomed by convention attendees. For more information about the development of the style, and a great time to boot, take David Wright's class "History of Barbershop" at Harmony College.

In recent years, the Society has renamed itself to the Barbershop Harmony Society, although SPEBSQSA is still its official name. Today the Society has about 25,000 members in the United States and Canada, with affiliated organizations supporting barbershop singing around the world.

Chapter Activities

Singouts, Holiday Chorus, Voice Lessons, Spring/Fall Shows, Conventions, Barbecue, Valentines, Quartet performances

Activities Outside the Chapter

Tsunami Relief, Regional Barbecue, Visiting other chapters, Conventions, Colleges

Nearby Chapters

There are a variety of chapter types. Some are focused on competition, some just sing for themselves, some do quartetting without a chorus, some like to perform for the community, some like to put on shows. All of these are represented near us. For details, go to the BHS web site (www.barbershop.org) and click on "Find Chorus/Chapter". Most chapters have a web site which describes themselves.

Bay Area (Voices in Harmony)
Carson City (Chorus of the Comstock)
Chico (Bidwell Generals)
Davis-Vacaville (West Valley Chorus)
Folsom (Folsom Harmony Express)
Fremont-Hayward (New Dimension Chorus)
Fresno (GNC A Cappella)

Marin (Marin Golden Gate Barbershop Chorus)
Monterey (Cypressaires)
Napa (Napa Valley Vintage Chorus)
Nevada-Placer (Sierranaders)
Placerville (Gold Rush Chorus)
Redding (Redding Riverside Chorus)

Reno (Silver Dollar Chorus)
Sacramento (Capitolaires)
Sacramento Delta (American River Chorus)
San Francisco (Cable Car Chorus)
San Francisco Bay Cities (Quartets only)
San Mateo (Golden Chordsmen)

Santa Cruz (Gold Standard Chorus)
Santa Rosa (Redwood Chordsmen)
Stockton (Stockton Portsmen)
Turlock (Golden Valley Chorus)
Visalia (Mighty Oak Chorus)
Walnut Creek (Devil Mountain Chorus)

Conventions

FWD, FWD-NW, Midwinter, International, Pan-Pacific

How conventions usually run (hotel, seminars, registration, competition, hospitality rooms, impromptu quartets)

Competition

Novice Quartet, Midwinter, Division, District, International, Judging

Quartets and Choruses

The Society was founded to encourage men to sing in quartets, and although this is still a focus, we've also sung in choruses since the 1940's.

Publications

National: Harmonizer, District: Westunes, Chapter: Board minutes

Email lists: Livewire, FWD, Directly Speaking

Special-Interest Groups

AHSOW, Harmony for Lunch, XQ

Education

Harmony University, Harmony College West, Youth Harmony Camp, Free Voice Lessons

Harmony Foundation

Charitable fund-raising group affiliated with the BHS.

Barbershop in Other Countries

Singing in the barbershop style is popular outside North America. In addition to informal groups in China, Israel, Japan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Wales, there are these organized societies, “affiliates” of the Barbershop Harmony Society:

- Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers (AAMBS)
- British Association of Barbershop Singers (BABS)
- Barbershop in Germany (BinG!)
- Dutch Association of Barbershop Singers (DABS)
- Finnish Association of Barbershop Singers (FABS)
- Irish Association of Barbershop Singers (IABS)
- New Zealand Association of Barbershop Singers (NZABS)
- Spanish Association of Barbershop Singers (SABS)
- Society of Nordic Barbershop Singers (SNOBS)
- Southern Part of Africa Tonsorial Singers (SPATS)

Women’s Barbershop

Very shortly after SPEBSQSA was organized, a comparable women’s organization, Sweet Adelines, Incorporated (SAI), was formed. In 1957, a number of chapters dropped out of the organization over issues of governance and membership restrictions and formed Harmony Incorporated in 1959.

Glossary

A cappella – singing without instrumental accompaniment

Accidental – in Sheet Music, a Sharp, Flat, or Natural sign adjusting the pitch of a note immediately following it and all similar notes within the same measure

Afterglow – cast party after a barbershop show, where quartets often perform informally

AFWDC (Association of Far Western District Champions) – an informal organization of anyone who has ever won First Place in the FWD quartet competition

AHSOW (Ancient and Harmonious Society of Woodshedders) – a group of singers in the BHS who enjoy inventing impromptu harmony to a melody; they meet at conventions

Arranger – someone who, starting with a composer's melody, adjusts the harmony, rhythm, and style to be suitable for performance by a particular group. A good arranger can produce a song which sounds better than what the composer created, while keeping the song recognizable as that of the composer.

Ballad – a usually-slow song amenable to rubato performance

Barbershopper of the Quarter/Year – an award given by the Board to a deserving chapter member

Breath Support – the degree to which an adequate reservoir of air is available for singing; see Chest Breathing and Diaphragmatic Breathing

Box – the stance of a quartet involving all four singers facing inward in a square; it allows them to hear each other well, but ignores any audience

CACM (Compellingly-Attractive Chapter Meetings) – a program designed to improve the quality of chapter meetings by inviting attendees into fuller participation and enjoyment

Cadence – a sequence of chords ending in a final-sounding chord

Category School – a training and evaluation session run by the BHS for Judges

Chapter Meeting – the weekly Tuesday-night meeting of the chapter at which we learn, rehearse, discuss, and fraternize

Chest Breathing – breathing involving the muscles around the chest and ribs, rather than those of the diaphragm and abdomen; it is characterized by less-than-full breaths and inadequate support

Clock System – a method of specifying the distance, in the Circle of Fifths, between two keys; since the Circle of Fifths involves 12 keys, the same as the number of hours on a clock face, a move of three fifths is called a move to “three o’clock”, or a move of six fifths would be “across the clock”

Circle of Fifths – a circular arrangement of the 12 keys of Western music so that adjacent keys are a fifth apart (C – G – D – A – E – B/Cflat – Fsharp/Gflat – Csharp/Dflat – Aflat – Eflat – Bflat – F – C)

Chord – a combination of pitches sounded together. Consonant chords sound good and dissonant chords don’t, but consonance depends on what the preceding and following chords are, as well as the style of the music. In barbershop music, some chords are considered dissonant even though they are perfectly acceptable in other styles of music.

Close Harmony – all the voices in a chord are within a single octave, thus close together in pitch

COTS (Chapter Officer Training Seminars) – see Leadership Academy

Diaphragmatic Breathing – breathing involving the muscles of the abdomen and diaphragm, rather than the chest; it is characterized by full breaths and good support for singing

Directors College – the part of Harmony University concentrating on techniques for Directors

Dirty – singing slightly below the expected pitch to tune better with the other notes in a chord

Divorced Harmony – the opposite of Close Harmony, with voices widely-spread in pitch

Do (pronounced “doe”) – the first pitch of a scale, and the pitch sounded on a Pitchpipe to indicate the key of a song; see Solfege

Ear Singing – the technique of learning melody and harmony without resort to sheet music

Evaluation Session – a private session between a judge and a chorus or quartet after performance at a contest, in which the judge explains the score and offers suggestions for improvement

Expanded Sound – the phenomenon whereby a well-tuned chord seems to involve many more voices than are actually singing

Extreme Quartetting – a program of learning and performing challenging quartet arrangements

Fifth – the pitch interval between the first note of a scale and the fifth note of that scale

Flat (symbol not available in Microsoft Word's fonts) – (1) an Accidental indicating that the note should be sung a half-step lower than written; (2) a similar mark in the Key Signature indicating that a note should always be sung a half-step lower than written, unless otherwise indicated; (3) a singing error in which the sung pitch is lower than it should be

Frank Thorne Chapter – a pseudo-chapter for BHS members who are not associated with a physical chapter

Full-step – a pitch interval twice the size of a Half-Step, e.g., from Do (1) to Re (2)

FWD (Far Western District) – the BHS district to which we belong, encompassing California, Hawaii, Arizona, and Nevada

Green Room – the room (which may be any color) in which a group such as a chorus assembles immediately before going on-stage

Half-Step – the smallest pitch interval commonly notated in Sheet Music, from Mi (3) to Fa (4) or Ti (7) to Do (8).

Harmonic – an Overtone

Harmony College – the part of Harmony University giving classes not limited to Directors or Quartet coaching

Harmony College West – an annual weekend series of classes organized by the FWD for chapter members; the location alternates between Hayward and Redlands

Harmony for Lunch – a program involving singing at lunchtime in a restaurant

Harmony Part – a part which is not singing the melody, i.e., usually Bass, Baritone, and Tenor, although Lead is a harmony part while another part sings the melody for short stretches

Harmony University – an intense week-long immersion in barbershop singing and directing techniques, history, theory, organization, show production, arranging, and anything remotely related to barbershop, held at a college in St. Joseph, Missouri each July/August

Hooty – the quality of having few overtones, like the voice of an owl or dove

Hospitality Room – room in a convention hotel, funded by a chapter, where quartets are invited to perform, with food and drink also offered

House of Delegates – a meeting of delegates from the various chapters in a district, at the district convention

International – the annual convention around July 4 which features the final competition of the best quartets and choruses from the various Districts and international affiliates. It is held in the United States or Canada; in 2012 it will be in Portland, Oregon.

Judge – one who has been trained and certified by the BHS to rate the quality of quartet and chorus performance at a convention; each judge is certified for a specific category, currently Music, Presentation, or Singing. For details, see the BHS web site.

Just Intonation – a system of tuning allowing perfectly-tuned chords, but practical only for voices or continuously-tunable instruments, not for keyboards nor instruments with frets or valves; barbershop singing employs just intonation to produce ringing chords

Kenosha (Wisconsin) – former location of the BHS headquarters

Key – the “home” scale of a song, in which most of the song’s melodic notes occur; in Sheet Music, it is indicated by the Key Signature; there are 12 keys, corresponding to the 12 possible starting pitches in an Octave

Key Signature – the default Sharps and Flats to be sung to achieve a major (or minor) scale, indicated at the left side of each line in a Score

Leadership Academy – an annual FWD educational offering for chapter officers, formerly named “COTS”

Learning Track – an audio recording of an individual part emphasized over other parts, intended to assist in learning a new song; the recording is for initial learning only, as interpretive adjustments are usually made after a chorus or quartet learns the song

Lyricist – the person who invents the words to a song

Man of Note – an award given to a BHS member who recruits a new member

Micro-Tuning – slight adjustment of the sung pitch to make a better-sounding chord

Mike Tester – a quartet or chorus which sings before a contest officially begins, to verify that the microphones are working appropriately

Milked Chord – a chord which is held longer than expected, to permit more enjoyment of its beauty

Mixed Quartet – a quartet consisting of both men and women

Modulation – changing Keys in an elegant way within a song

Nashville (Tennessee) – location of the BHS headquarters

Natural – in Sheet Music, a symbol (not available in Microsoft Word's fonts) which cancels the effect of Sharp or Flat

Note Value – the duration of a note, e.g., whole, half, quarter, or eighth

Novice Quartet – a quartet in which no more than two members have ever participated in a Division or higher-level quartet contest

Octave – a pitch interval between the start (first note) and end (eighth note) of a scale; the interval between two pitches with the same name (e.g., C to the C immediately above)

Overtone – a pure sound (sine wave) whose frequency is a multiple of the fundamental (lowest-pitch) component of a sound; the presence of overtones increases the richness of a sound and distinguishes different instruments or voices

Part – the sequence of notes and words sung by a section; in barbershop singing, there are four parts: Bass, Baritone, Lead, and Tenor

Ping – the quality of being rich in overtones

Pitch – the quality which changes when one sings a scale; frequency of a sound; pitches can be specified using letters A through G, with Accidentals (Sharps and Flats), or as cycles per second (Hertz)

Pitch Matching – singing exactly the same pitch as another

Pitchpipe – an instrument for sounding a standard pitch to allow singers to agree on the pitch of a song; there are mechanical (harmonica-like) and electronic pitchpipes

Pitchpipe Series – a specific series of lessons on the basics of barbershop singing

Plateau – a handicap system in the FWD to allow choruses to compete against similar choruses; see the FWD web site for details

Proscenium – the part of a stage in front of the curtain

Pythagorean Comma – a small but important pitch discrepancy encountered when modulating around the Circle of Fifths. Tempered tuning avoids this by distributing the discrepancy uniformly throughout the scale.

Quartet College – the part of Harmony University focused on coaching of Quartets

Resonators – the parts of the Vocal Tract which affect the Timbre of the voice

Rhythm – the recurring sequence of note durations and emphasis in a song

Ringed Chord – a chord which is well-tuned, with matching vowels, so that the chord sounds more powerful than one would expect from the loudness of the individual parts

Rubato – adjustment of the written durations of notes for artistic effect

SAI – Sweet Adelines, International, a female counterpart to the BHS

SATB (Soprano Alto Tenor Bass) – a common configuration of parts in groups incorporating both men and women (not barbershop)

Scale – an arrangement of half-step and whole-step intervals within an octave; two important scales are Major and Minor

Scorpionaires -- a chorus, made up of AFWDC members, which sings during the tabulation of scores at the end of the FWD chorus contest. They rehearse for 10 minutes, and then present the two weirdest and craziest songs of the contest.

Section – a group all singing the same part in unison

Senior Quartet – a quartet whose combined ages is at least 240 years and having no one younger than 55 years

Seventh – the chord (“barbershop seventh” or “dominant seventh” or “major-minor seventh”) which characterizes barbershop singing. To be classified as a barbershop arrangement, at least one-third of the chords in a song should be seventh chords.

Sharp (#) – (1) an Accidental indicating that the note should be sung a half-step higher than written; (2) a similar mark in the Key Signature indicating that a note should always be sung a half-step higher than written, unless otherwise indicated; (3) a singing error in which the sung pitch is higher than it should be

Sheet Music – printed music, with staves, key- and time-signatures, notes on the page, and other markings to facilitate similar performances by groups who have never performed together

Sine Wave – a single-pitch sound as produced by a tuning fork, named for the mathematical sine function

Solfege – a system of naming pitches in the major scale: Do (1), Re (2), Mi (3), Fa (4), So (5), La (6), Ti (7), Do (8). All 12 half-step pitches in an octave also have names: Do(1) Di/Ra(1.5) Re(2) Ri/Me(2.5) Mi(3) Fa(4) Fi/Se(4.5) So(5) Si/Le(5.5) La(6) Li/Te(6.5) Ti(7) Do(8).

SPEBSQSA (Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America) – the official name of the Barbershop Harmony Society, invented in 1938

St. Joseph (Missouri) – the location of Harmony University

Sync (Synchronization) Error – a singing error in which singers who should do something together in fact do it at different times

Tag – a coda or “kicker” at the end of a song which reprises a phrase with innovative harmony to provide an exciting finish; alternatively, a short such series of chords for which there is no preceding song

Tempered Scale – the scale to which a piano is tuned, a compromise to allow it to sound in tune in any key; as a compromise, it causes loss of some of the beauty of well-tuned chords; see Just Intonation

Timbre (pronounced “tamber”) – the quality distinguishing different instruments or voices sounding the same pitch; the relative loudness of the various Overtones

Tune-Up – the period at the beginning of song where singers listen to (and may sing) a pitch to ensure that they start in tune

Unison – singing of the same pitch

Uptune – a sprightly, rhythmic song

Vocal Folds – the part of the vocal cords which vibrate to produce the voice

Vocal Tract – the body parts which produce the human voice and affect its Pitch and Timbre

Vowel Chart – a chart showing the vowels commonly sung in barbershop songs, and their relationships

Vowel Matching – singing the same vowel as another; mismatched vowels can cause matched pitches to sound mismatched

Warm-Up – an exercise to get the ears, voice, breathing, and brain ready to sing well

Woodshed – to make up harmony for a song after hearing only the melody (see AHSOW)

References

Fifty Years of Harmony: A Singing Man's History of the Far Western District by Eliot "El" Wirt, FWD Historian, 1998, Westunes

Four Parts, No Waiting: A Social History of American Barbershop Harmony by Gage Averill, 2003, Oxford University Press

Web Sites:

Barbershop Harmony Society: <http://www.barbershop.org>

Far Western District: <http://spebsqsafwd.org>

Palo Alto – Mountain View Chapter: <http://www.barbershop-harmony.org>,
<http://www.peninsulaires.groupanizer.com>

Chapter Bylaws

The Palo Alto – Mountain View Chapter's Bylaws have a standard form determined by the Society and are not usually modified by the chapter; see Article XII below for details. The bylaws shown here were approved by the Society on March 3, 2011.

ARTICLE I: Name-Organization

1.01 Name; organization

The name of this organization shall be Palo Alto – Mountain View Chapter, SPEBSQSA, Inc. (hereinafter called the "chapter"). The chapter is organized and exists pursuant to the provisions of Article III of the bylaws of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Incorporated, a not-for-profit corporation (hereinafter called the "Society").

ARTICLE II: Purpose and Mission

2.01 Purpose

The purpose of this chapter shall be to perpetuate the old American institution, the barbershop quartet, and to promote and encourage vocal harmony and good fellowship among its members; to encourage and promote the education of its members and the public in music appreciation; to initiate, promote and participate in charitable projects; and to promote public appreciation of barbershop harmony.

The chapter activities shall be conducted without personal gain for its individual members and any profits or other inurements to the chapter shall be used in promoting the purposes of the Society, its districts or chapters.

2.02 Mission

Every chapter shall have a mission statement reflecting its own place in the community, and in the Barbershop Society.

Chapters shall strive to serve the musical needs of all current and potential members by providing and actively supporting a wide variety of barbershopping opportunities, which may include organized quartetting, pickup quartetting, chorus singing, and group or "gang" singing.

ARTICLE III: Membership

3.01 Qualifications for membership

Any male person of good character and reputation may be considered for membership or for transfer from another chapter, subject to the applicant's agreement to abide by the Society's governing documents and Code of Ethics and subject to such further and reasonable restrictions as may be adopted by the chapter and incorporated in its code of regulations or statements of policy.

A "member" is one whose chapter, district and Society dues are fully paid and who is not under suspension by his chapter or the Society Board of Directors ("Society Board"). A "former member" is one who has not paid his yearly dues by his membership expiration date.

3.02 Classification

There shall be but one membership classification, that of active membership. No honorary chapter memberships shall be allowed.

3.03 Manner of admission

Applications for membership, including applications for transfer from another chapter, shall be submitted in writing upon forms furnished by the Society and must be supported by one member in good standing. Such applications must be accompanied by the initiation fee and initial dues and must receive either (1) a majority favorable vote of the chapter board of directors or (2) a majority favorable vote of the members present (providing a quorum is present), using a written ballot, following a favorable report from the chapter membership committee. Following such approval, the applicant's admission to membership in the Society shall become effective upon receipt and approval at the Society office of a report of the chapter approval of the application, and his expiration date shall be set accordingly. A former member seeking to renew his membership shall be required to reapply for membership, which application shall be subject to the approval of the chapter board of directors or members as provided above. A former member who renews shall pay the fees and charges set forth in Section 4.02. The chapter may, for reasonable cause, refuse to accept renewal dues tendered by a member prior to the expiration of his current membership. Such refusal must be supported by either (1) a majority vote of the chapter board of directors or (2) a majority vote of the members present (providing a quorum is present), using a written ballot, following a recommendation from the chapter membership committee to refuse such renewal. Such refusal shall not be deemed to be the suspension or expulsion of the member, and he shall be eligible to renew his membership in any other chapter, including the Frank H. Thorne Chapter.

3.04 Suspension or expulsion

- (a) A demand to suspend or expel a member shall be in writing, shall state clearly the charge against such member and shall, except when initiated by the Society Board or the chapter executive committee or board of directors, be signed by the complainant.
- (b) A member may be suspended or expelled only for such acts or omissions as shall constitute conduct unbecoming a member or conduct detrimental to the best interests of the Society in the fulfillment of its objects and purposes, or for willful violation of the Code of Ethics of the Society or of the rules, regulations or statements of policy promulgated by the Society Board. Nonattendance at chapter meetings shall not be considered such conduct for the purpose of suspension or expulsion but may, at the discretion of the chapter board of directors, be considered reasonable cause for refusing to accept renewal dues tendered by the member, as permitted under Section 3.03 above. A member charged with wrongdoing, and facing suspension or expulsion by his chapter therefor, shall be informed of the charges in writing; shall be accorded a hearing upon demand therefor, and shall be suspended or expelled only following two weeks notice to chapter members of the pending proceedings and upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present and voting at a regular or special meeting of the chapter at which a quorum is present. Suspension or expulsion of a member may also be effected by the Society Board pursuant to Section 3.01(c) of the Society bylaws, and regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

- (c) Any member, having been suspended by the chapter, as provided in (b) above, shall lose all privileges of membership, except the receipt of *The Harmonizer* (unless the chapter shall qualify the conditions of the suspension with specific restrictions and not all privileges), during the period of his suspension, and shall be reinstated automatically at the end of such suspension, unless his actions warrant an extension or expulsion, which action shall be taken as above provided.

3.05 Appeal

Any person aggrieved by suspension or expulsion may appeal the same within 30 days to the Society Board whose decision in the matter shall be final.

3.06 Re-admittance of expelled members

- (a) No former Society member having been expelled for cause by the chapter, or having resigned to avoid expulsion for cause, shall be readmitted to membership except by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the chapter board of directors and confirmed by a majority affirmative vote of chapter members present and voting at a regular chapter meeting at which a quorum is present; provided, however, that a former Society member who has been expelled for cause by a chapter, or who has resigned to avoid such expulsion for cause, may be readmitted to Society membership in a chapter (including the Frank H. Thorne Chapter) other than the expelling chapter, by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Society Board as provided in Section 3.01(e) of the Society bylaws.
- (b) Re-admittance of members expelled by the Society Board shall be governed by the conditions of Section 3.01(e) of the Society bylaws, that is, by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Society Board.

ARTICLE IV: Dues, fees and fiscal year

4.01 Initiation fee

The initiation fee shall be set by the chapter board of directors, but in no case shall it be less than that required by the Society bylaws.

4.02 Service charge and reinstatement fee

Former members who renew their membership within six months of their expiration date must pay, in addition to the Society dues, the late renewal service charge set by the Society Board. Former members who renew their membership later than six months following their expiration date must pay, in addition to the Society dues, the reinstatement fee set by the Society Board.

4.03 Annual dues

The annual dues of this chapter shall be such amount as may be decided by the chapter board of directors, from time to time, and shall include Society dues, and district dues and shall be payable in advance. Dues are fully earned when paid, and there shall be no refund of any portion of the dues in the event of the resignation, death, suspension or expulsion of a member. Members holding membership in two or more chapters shall not be required to pay multiple Society dues, but members holding membership in chapters in two or more districts shall be obligated to pay dues to each of those districts.

4.04 Finances

All finances and monies collected by the chapter from dues, penalties, donations or payments for shows and performances shall be under the control of the chapter board of directors and shall only be used in promoting the purposes of the Society without personal gain to any individual members.

4.05 Fiscal year

The fiscal year of the chapter shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31.

ARTICLE V: Meetings

5.01 Membership meetings

- (a) Regular meetings of this chapter shall be held at such time and place as the chapter shall designate.

- (b) Special meetings may be called by a majority vote of the membership at any regular meeting or by the president, and notice of such special meeting shall be given to the members not less than ten days prior to the date of such meeting.
- (c) The annual meeting for the election of officers and directors shall be held prior to October 15 of each year and notice of the date of such meeting shall be given to the members at least two weeks prior to such date.

5.02 Board of directors

The board of directors shall meet at least once each month at a time and place determined by the president or fixed by resolution adopted by the board.

ARTICLE VI: Officers and directors

6.01 Officers

The officers of this chapter shall be president, chapter development vice president, music and performance vice president, marketing and public relations officer, secretary, treasurer, and such other officers as may be deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the chapter. The marketing and public relations officer is optional in chapters having 25 or fewer members. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be combined. Officers shall be elected to one-year terms and may succeed themselves. Officers shall take office on January 1 of the following year and serve until their successors are duly elected and take office. The officers shall perform the usual duties of their office and such other duties as the board of directors shall direct. Each officer shall be an active member of the chapter.

6.02 Directors

The board of directors shall consist of the officers, the immediate past president and two other active members of the chapter, called board members-at-large, who shall be elected in the same manner and at the same time as the officers. The board members-at-large may be elected annually, or they may be elected for terms of two or not more than three years in such combination groups that the chapter will be provided with staggered terms of office among this group of directors. In any event, the board members-at-large shall serve until their successors are duly elected and qualified; provided, however, that there shall be not less than that number of directors required by state law.

6.03 Removal of officers or directors

Any officer or director of this chapter may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular or special meeting when a quorum is present; provided, however, that notice of such meeting and the purpose of same has been given to the membership at least two weeks prior to the date of said meeting.

6.04 Vacancies

Vacancies among officers or directors shall be filled by the board of directors for any unexpired term. A vacancy in the office of the president may be filled automatically by any vice-president at the option of the chapter. In the event of a vacancy in the position of immediate past president, a successor may be elected from among those past presidents who are able and willing to serve. A president who resigns or is removed during his term of office does not thereby become the immediate past president.

In the event that any officer or director, after election at the annual meeting, shall be unable to take office and serve after January 1 of the following year, a vacancy shall be declared, the nominating committee shall propose another member for such office and a special election shall be held after a notice of not less than two weeks and such elected officer or director shall take office on January 1 following his election.

6.05 Delegates

Chapter delegates to the district house of delegates shall be elected at the annual chapter meeting and shall take office on January 1 of the following year and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected and installed. (It is recommended that one delegate be the chapter president.) Alternates may be appointed by the board of directors or as otherwise specified in a chapter code of

regulations, statement of policy or operations manual. Each delegate and alternates shall be a member in good standing of the chapter.

ARTICLE VII: Elections

7.01 Nominating Committee

The nominating committee shall consist of at least three members of the chapter. This committee shall select one nominee for each elective office and directorship and shall submit its report at a regular meeting or by mail and/or electronic transmission at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting. This shall constitute the placing of the names in nomination.

7.02 Opposing nominations

Opposing nominations may be submitted by any member, provided, however, that consent of any nominee must be first obtained, and provided further, that notice of such nomination shall be given at a meeting or by mail and/or electronic transmission at least one week prior to the annual meeting.

7.03 Voting

When there is more than one nominee for an office, voting shall be done by written ballot. Each member in good standing is entitled to cast one vote, and voting by proxy or absentee ballot is not permitted. A majority of votes cast is necessary for election.

ARTICLE VIII: Committees

8.01 Appointment

On or before January 1 of each year, the president-elect shall appoint the nominating committee and such committees and task forces as he deems necessary. During the year, the president may appoint such other committees and task forces as he shall deem necessary or which shall be approved by the board of directors. The president shall be ex officio member of all committees, except the nominating committee, and shall instruct them in their duties.

ARTICLE IX: Quorum

9.01 Chapter and Board meetings

- (a) Chapter meetings: Thirty percent of the membership of the chapter shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the chapter, except where (following the procedure authorized by Section 3.03(2) of the bylaws) the business being considered is the acceptance of new members. In the latter case, a majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum. Each member shall be entitled to one vote on all matters brought before the membership, and there shall be no voting by proxy or absentee ballot.
- (b) Board meetings: At board meetings, a simple majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE X: Affiliation

10.01 Affiliation

This chapter shall be affiliated with the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc., a nonstock, nonprofit corporation, incorporated under the laws of the State of Wisconsin, and shall be a member of the Far Western District of SPEBSQSA, Inc. (the "District")

10.02 Policy

This chapter shall be subject to all of the rules and regulations contained in the Society's charter, bylaws, and statements of policy adopted and promulgated from time to time, and shall adopt no rule or policy inconsistent therewith.

ARTICLE XI: Dissolution

11.01 Asset disposition

In the event of the dissolution or winding up of this chapter, voluntarily or otherwise, all of its assets remaining after payment, or provision for the payment, of all debts and liabilities of the chapter shall be distributed to the District if it is then existing and organized and operated exclusively for

charitable and/or educational purposes and exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. If the District is not then existing and so organized, operating and exempt, then such remaining assets shall be distributed to the Society if it is then existing and so organized, operating and exempt; but if neither the District or the Society is then existing and so organized, operating and exempt, then such remaining assets shall distributed to another existing organization that is organized and operating exclusively for one or more of the purposes for which the District and the Society were formed, and which is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. [Canadian chapters shall make distribution of such property to one or more registered Canadian charitable organizations.]

ARTICLE XII: Amendments

12.01 By Society Board

The Society Board may amend these bylaws under their power given in the Society bylaws, and any such amendments shall become binding upon this chapter.

12.02 By Chapter

- (a) Amendment by chapter: These bylaws may be amended by this chapter only as may be necessary to comply with the laws of any nation, state or province, or otherwise as approved by the Society Governance and Bylaws Committee, acting on behalf of the Society Board. Any such amendment shall not become effective until approved by the Society Governance and Bylaws Committee.
- (b) Notice and voting: Proposed amendments shall be in writing and shall be mailed and/or electronically transmitted, together with notice of the meeting, to each chapter member at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which they are to be voted on. Amendments may be considered at any regular or special meeting of the chapter at which a quorum is present, and shall be adopted upon two-thirds vote of the members present.