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To: "'PeninsulairesBOD' (PAMVBD@yahoogroups.com)" <PAMVBD@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 11:34 PM
Subject: [PAMVBD] Writeup of Expectations

Terry, Bert and I met for an hour before chorus tonight and word-smithed the following. (I hope I got their input right.)

The expectations part is quite similar to what the Bay Area Showcase Chorus (international award winning local Sweet Adelines) expectations are.

Feel free to suggest additional word-smithing, but try to keep the strategy in mind: (a) Expectations are short and addressed to adults (b) FAQs have lots of detail in a friendly manner. I believe we covered all the points in the MUSIC document.

I am off to Spain for 4 weeks, so you guys can feel free to finish this while I am gone.

Bill Faught

Chapter Expectations

The chapter has certain expectations for members:

1. Abide by the Barbershop Harmony Society Code of Ethics.
2. Support the chapter vision, mission, and objectives.
3. Become performance ready on repertoire.
4. Attend rehearsals regularly.
5. Attend retreats and coaching sessions.
6. Participate in competitions.
7. Participate in shows and other performances.
8. Communicate expected absence from chorus events.
9. Obtain chorus uniforms and maintain them in good condition and with proper fit.
10. Participate in chorus fund-raising activities, including the sale of show tickets.
11. Keep current on financial obligations.

In addition there are some informal guidelines in the Frequently Asked Questions document.

Frequently Asked Questions

A. What do we do in our chapter?

1. Sing well together.
2. Laugh together.

B. Can I just come on Tuesday nights and sing on the risers, and that's it?

No, you really can't. We try hard to sing well together, and that means you need to spend time at home learning the notes, words, and choreography. The first year is tough - you have 15-20 songs to learn, and there's no way around it. But there are frequent before-meeting opportunities to work on the songs with other guys.

C. What drives other guys on the risers crazy?

When you don't sing the right notes, at the right time, blending with other chorus members. It's really hard to sing well if the guy on your right is singing wrong notes, and it's no fun because you can't feel the joy of having your voice blend into a ringing chord.

Also, talking on the risers. It's really hard to hear the director when the guy behind you is talking.

Also, trying to act like a director if you are not. If you think someone is off notes, you can tell your section leader and he can work with it.

D. What makes a good chorus?

When guys are individually good singers, and spend enough time practicing together as a chorus.

E. How do you become a good singer?

Keep practicing. A reasonable goal is 20 minutes of singing a day. 20 minutes in the shower, 20 minutes commuting, whatever.

F. And the chorus rehearsals?

We need you on the risers to rehearse with the other guys. A reasonable goal is attending 70% of the chapter meetings a year. There are lots of reasons why guys can't make meetings, but the more you are with us, the better we sound. Whether or not you show up affects other guys on the risers.

G. What drives the director crazy?

When guys are talking on the risers or otherwise not paying attention and he is trying to give direction.

H. What drives the music team crazy?

When a song is first introduced, and the chorus sings it, and a bunch of guys say "It's too hard" or "It will never work" or "I don't like it". Some of these songs grow on you, so give them a chance. If you are concerned about our music, feel free to talk to the music team about what music you like and how we can make better choices.

I. Is there a schedule of events?

Yes, there is a website called Groupanizer. It has a schedule of rehearsals, performances, etc. Better yet, you can (and should) indicate whether or not you can participate in each event.

J. How can I help the chorus?

Volunteer for a job. There are lots of official jobs like being a board member or a chapter officer. But there are lots of other jobs that make the chorus run, like putting risers up, bringing snacks, being ticket master for events, being show chairman. There's lots of ways you can help.

K. What if I don't know the notes?

We want our performances to be the best we can do. If you don't know a few notes, try to learn them. If you don't know a lot of the notes, the director may ask you not to sing in performances. Other choruses have strict procedures for each member passing each song by recording or performing the song individually. Our chorus isn't large enough to have the manpower for such a program, so instead we rely on how well you sing on the risers. You can always demonstrate your song proficiency by individually singing it to a director or coach.

L. Anything else?

Yes. Try to be one of the guys that adds to the happiness quotient of the chorus. Smile. Greet each other warmly. Kid around. Be one of the (many) up-beat guys in the organization, and we will all have a better time.