

PAMV Chapter Expectations (5/3/13 version)

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.

Frequently Asked Questions

A. What do we do in our chapter?

1. We enjoy singing together, ever striving to improve our musical and performance skills.
2. We enjoy singing for audiences.
3. We support the Chapter by volunteering for jobs when asked, or when we notice that something needs to be done.
4. We enjoy the company of our fellow chapter members.

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

No. We work hard to sing well together, and that means you need to spend time at home learning the notes, words, and choreography. The other men on the risers, as well as the Director, expect you to know your part and contribute to the overall sound, not to lean on them for hints about the next word or note. When you're new, this can be challenging, but we have sheet music, part-learning recordings, and suggested learning methods; ask your Section Leader for help. Yes, you'll need to devote some time at home to learning the music. The Director may ask you to step off the risers for one or more songs if you don't know the music.

C. How should I behave on the risers?

Give your attention to the Director. Keep your mind on the music. Think about what emotions are appropriate at each point in a song. Stand with singer's posture. Breathe correctly. Move your body to bring the song alive. Feel proud of your performance. Give your all, all the time. The Director works hard to blend several dozen individual singers into a single chorus, and expects you to contribute by knowing your part and following his instructions.

D. May I ask questions if I don't understand something?

Yes, ask the Director questions if necessary, but don't monopolize his time. If the Director pauses to discuss something privately with his assistants, address questions to your Section Leader. Don't hold private conversations with your neighbors.

E. What if I get tired of standing?

You may step off the risers to sit, but still give your attention to the Director. The Director schedules breaks to give your legs a rest. (Hint: If you move on the risers to animate the song, your legs won't get so tired.)

F. How do I become a better singer?

Learn and practice songs at home. Join a quartet. Sing with others before or after chapter meetings or during breaks. Ask someone to coach you. Attend various educational events sponsored by the Society. Listen to other choruses and quartets at conventions.

G. How many chapter meetings / chorus rehearsals may I miss?

If you miss more than a quarter of the meetings, you'll find it harder to contribute to the chorus's performance. For the month preceding a major show or contest, it's best to be at all meetings, including any special rehearsals. Talk with the Director if you find that you have trouble attending regularly.

H. Is there a schedule of events?

Yes, there is a website peninsulaires.groupanizer.com which contains a calendar of all chapter activities, as well as documents and recordings to help you learn. By indicating your expected participation at each rehearsal and performance, you'll help the chapter leadership to plan better. The Far Western District, to which we belong, also has a web site, www.barbershopfwd.org which tells of activities involving other chapters.

I. What are the chapter vision, mission, and objectives?

See the Groupanizer web site mentioned above. *[Note to Board; these aren't easily findable.]*

J. What about quartets?

Find three other guys to sing with you, one on each part. You'll quickly learn how your part contributes to the whole, and how each part depends on the others. You'll become a better chorus singer. Rehearse with your quartet outside of chapter meetings to polish your sound. Ask for coaching assistance. Sing Valentine greetings in February; perform on shows or at chapter singouts. Have a great time!

K. Anything else?

Enjoy yourself. Bring a positive attitude every week. Live up to the expectations that you have for other members.