**Program VP Report**

I will issue an instruction sheet for the Holiday Chorus and Chapter   
activities for the rest of the year. I'm planning for the Holiday party   
on Dec 17.  
  
2. I wish to bring an issue to the Board. I believe our Cabaret   
preparations got seriously off track on Tuesday (Nov 12). Bottom line:   
we are not properly prepared for  
our major performances because of last minute performance changes.  
  
We should have at least one stable rehearsal immediately prior to any   
major performance (cabaret, shows and contests) - no changes in the   
program, no changes in interpretation/moves, no changes to riser   
position, complete performance end-to-end, and only minor tweaks (at   
most one correction per song) to singing problems. And absolutely NO   
changes the day of a performance - only reminders/encouragement about   
the emotions of the songs.  
  
We failed to stabilize our Cabaret performance at the last minute:  
  
1. Tuesday Oct 29, third week before the cabaret. We sang through the   
entire performance, no stopping. Then Sherman and Torrance provided   
corrections and we worked on parts of songs that were needed. I think   
this happened on Oct 22 also.  
  
2. Tuesday Nov 5. I missed this rehearsal so can not comment on what   
happened.  
  
3. Tuesday Nov 12, last rehearsal. We did not even make it through a   
complete run through before the music team was making multiple   
corrections on singing techniques. The break point was not even a   
logical point in the program like the intermission. Men were being moved   
around the risers in the bass section so the section sound I heard was   
different. Then the order of the performance was changed, moving the   
intermission up in the schedule. Finally the music team did not   
follow-up on Sherman's single correction - sing the songs. Rather than   
all the turmoil and minute corrections (which we had heard before   
anyway) someone could have pointed out where in a song we should have   
provided what kind of emotion rather than the shape of our OHs.  
  
The cabaret was not an isolated case. In Bakersfield while actually   
warming up for the contest there were similarly many corrections   
including an entirely new way of singing.  
  
Why can't the Peninsulaires have a stable rehearsal prior to a   
performance? Why can't the music team arrange risers and create and   
work a plan with no changes at the last minute? Last minute changes sap   
chorus morale and steal our confidence that we are performance ready.   
How much can we really learn in the last rehearsal?  
  
I will bring my concerns to the next Music Committee meeting. Feel free   
to forward my concerns to non-Board members of the Music Committee or   
even to the entire chapter.  
  
Bert Laurence

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