

Fort Lauderdale Chapter



Membership Brochure

Current as of January 2009

WELCOME!

We are happy to have you visit with us and hope you will enjoy your experience singing barbershop harmony as much as we do. Personally, I think it is a thrill unlike any other that you can experience each and every time you blend your voice with others and create that beautiful sound of four-part, a cappella, harmony, called Barbershop. One of our members expressed his opinion about barbershop singing and its value to him when he said, "When I come to rehearsal each Monday evening after a hard day's work, I am tired and my spirits are often dragging. But when I leave, I almost always feel refreshed, my spirits lifted, and I'm glad that I came." That's the feeling and spirit that keeps us coming year after year singing harmony with our barbershop brothers.

WHO ARE WE?

We are the Fort Lauderdale Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society and the Sunshine Chordsmen barbershop chorus. Our members are a diverse group of men from all walks of life who have come together because of our love of singing that unique American art form called barbershop harmony. Musical training is not required but is highly valued and a welcomed asset that some of our members have acquired. However, all you really need is a love of music and the ability to carry a tune to become a productive member of our chorus. Members learn the art and craft of barbershop singing "on the job" through weekly instruction and practice at rehearsals and diligent work at home learning their part and honing their craft.

Our chapter's mission statement clearly proclaims our overall goal: *"to be the best barbershop singing organization we can be, striving always for musical and performance excellence while maintaining an atmosphere of fraternity and fun in all we do."*

In 1999, when Alex and Dan Rubin became our directors, this chorus came from finishing near the bottom in its first chorus contest to winning our very first championship in the Spring 2008 contest. It was a gradual process of growth in membership, from 12 singers on stage in 1999 to 43 singers in 2008, as well as steady growth in musical and performance knowledge, skills and experience. This is a process we will continue regardless of any previous achievements as we *"strive always for musical and performance excellence."* Much of the credit for the rapid rise of this chorus to the top can be attributed to the talent, skill, dedica-

tion, energy and patience of our young directors, the hard work of all our members and the excellent learning tools we give each of them.

Our learning tools are among the best in all the Barbershop Harmony Society. Once you become a member you will be given your own music notebook containing all the music in our repertoire. In addition you will have access, via your personal password to the members only section of our website, "barbershopchorus.com," where you can log on and download the sheet music and audio recordings of any new music as soon as it comes out, as well as all the songs on our website.

Our goals for this year are: 1) continue performing for audiences throughout South Florida, 2) continue educating and promoting Barbershop singing to the public, 3) having 65 members on contest stage, and 4) scoring 1,000 points or higher in the Sunshine District Contest that will qualify us to compete in the International Convention in 2010. You could be an important part of our quest to achieve these challenging and important goals.

WHAT DO WE DO? PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

We sing not only for our own enjoyment, but to thrill and entertain our audiences as well. We want our listeners to have that goose-bump, spine-tingling, hair-raising experience we get when we lock and ring those wonderful barbershop chords and hear those incredible overtones.

We produce two shows each year open to the public: an annual show, usually in the spring, and a holiday show around Christmas time. In addition, we often have paid performances for any group that wants us to entertain their members, such as schools, churches, clubs, civic organizations, condos, companies, etc. We also give free performances for nursing homes, malls, and other groups.

Chapter quartets, octets, or mini-choruses (VLQ's – Very Large Quartets) often perform with or without fee for individuals or small groups for special occasions.

One of our most notable, enjoyable and profitable performances

is our annual Singing Valentines Program. This program is performed by as many quality chorus quartets as we can put together to sing for individuals who retain our services, for a fee, to sing a couple of love songs to a sweetheart, loved one, friend or relative or even an office staff on Valentine's Day.

Finally, there are chorus and quartet competitions twice a year at our Florida Sunshine District's Convention. The Fall convention is usually held in October and the Spring Convention in either April or May, both in Jacksonville.

MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

(Follow the Guest's Guide to Membership in the back of this brochure.)

1. One of the music team members will listen to you sing and help you choose a voice part with which you feel most comfortable and that fits you vocal range (lead, tenor, baritone or bass). Then you will be given the sheet music and a CD to our audition song. You will be asked to take it home and learn your part so that you can sing it in a quartet with 100% accuracy on words and notes. This is a requirement for all members. If you make mistakes the first time, as many members do, you can always try again.

2. After passing the audition, the rest is easy. The board must approve your application for membership, which is normally a formality.

3. Then there is the paper work to be filled out and the financial requirements to be met. Please see the Financial Expenses in the next section of this brochure to see what your dues will be each year.

4. Regular attendance at Monday evening's chorus rehearsal and for performances are expected. Of course we all know that there are times when illness, family issues, and work will keep us away, but regular attendance and strong commitment from all our members are what make us a stronger, more cohesive, better singing and performing chorus.

5. The chapter is more than just the chorus. It is also the officers, board of directors, and every member who do all the necessary and mundane tasks that keep the chorus and the chapter running smoothly. There are plenty of jobs to go around and we encourage and expect each member to help out whenever and wherever help is needed. The list of officers and board members can be found in the back of this brochure.

FINANCIAL EXPENSES

1. Dues: There are four classifications of membership that pertain to new members.

A. Regular member: an adult who does not qualify as a youth, senior or life member: Society - \$97; District - \$25; Chapter - \$70;

Total Dues: \$192

B. Youth 1 member: one who is 25 years of age or younger who has never been a member before: Society - \$10; District - \$12.50;

Chapter - \$0; **Total Dues: \$22.50**

C. Youth 2 member: one who is 25 years of age or younger and has been a member before: Society - \$48.50; District - \$12.50;

Chapter - \$35; **Total Dues: \$96**

D. Senior Member: a member who is 70 years old and has been a member for 10 years: Society - \$48.50; District - \$15; Chapter -

\$35; **Total Dues: \$98.50**

Dues are paid each year but there are various ways to pay them besides paying them in one lump sum each year. Please talk to our Secretary, **Art Tinney**, or our Treasurer, **David Fendrick**, for the details of these plans.

2. Uniforms:

A. The formal uniform - requires a \$100 deposit for a white dinner jacket, black tux pants, and white satin dress shirt, bow tie, four-in-hand tie, and handkerchief. Black dress shoes and black socks are the member's responsibility. If the member leaves and returns the uniform in good condition his \$100 deposit will be refunded.

B. Casual uniform - includes black dress pants (not khaki), black belt, black shoes and socks, and a \$30 beige shirt, all of which is the member's responsibility. Contact the chapter uniform manager who will order the casual shirt for you.

C. New members will be issued a non-performance polo shirt with our logo on it at no charge.

Please contact **Marty Schneider**, our uniform manager upon completing the application process, paying your dues, passing the audition, and being approved by the board. He will make sure you have each part of our uniforms that the chapter provides.

3. Contest Expenses: There are two conventions/contests per year

that are held in Jacksonville: one in the Spring and one in the Fall. The contests begin on Friday evening and end on Saturday evening and will require hotel or motel accommodations for those two nights. In addition, there are transportation expenses and meals for this trip.

The Florida Sunshine District's convention and contests give us a chance to judge our musical and performance skills against the best choruses in our district and compare our results with past performances. In addition, it is a chance to hear the best choruses and quartets in our district as well as getting acquainted with barbershoppers throughout the state. It is both a fun and challenging time that we look forward to twice a year.

CLOSING WORDS

We hope this gives you a better idea of who we are, what we do, and what you can expect if you join this singing band of brothers. If you have any questions or need further information, please speak to any one of the officers or Board members listed in the back of this brochure. If singing with the Sunshine Chordsmen is something that interests and excites you, we cordially invite you to join us. Please let one of our officers know of your interests and follow the *Guest's Guide to Membership* in the following section.

Chapter Information

Chorus Website: <http://barbershopchorus.com>

Chorus Hotline: 954-678-4188

Chorus Email Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/chordnet/>
To join send an email to: chordnet-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

District Website: <http://sunshinedistrict.org>

Society Website: <http://barbershop.org>

Harmony Foundation: <http://harmonyfoundation.org>

GUEST'S GUIDE TO MEMBERSHIP

WEEK #1

Receive a voice placement by a member of the music team. Sing with the chorus and get to know the guys!

We have an afterglow each Monday night after rehearsal at **T.G.I. Fridays** at 80 SW 84th Ave in Plantation, FL 33324 (*On the South side of Broward Blvd just west of Univeristy Drive*).

WEEK #2

Come enjoy the camaraderie, stand on the risers with the guys and make some music!

If you're ready to join in, speak with **Rex Partlow** (*VP Chapter Development*) to receive a copy of our chorus audition song.

WEEK #3

Start rehearsing with three other members for your audition

Learn your part the best you are able, and be ready to privately audition the piece in a quartet monitored by the music team. Most can do this in 3 weeks, and this should be your goal.

As soon as you're ready to audition, speak with **Rich Restaino** (*VP Music & Performance*) to schedule an audition with the music team.

Once you have passed the vocal audition you need to start the application process. The *Chapter Secretary*, **Art Tinney**, who will help you complete the application process.

After completing application please return it to **Art Tinney** along with a check for your membership dues.

After your check and membership application are received, your application will be submitted for approval of the Chapter Board of Directors. This process can take from 1 to 3 weeks, as the Board meets once per month.

After being approved by the Board of Directors you are entitled to all the rights and privileges of a chapter member.

You will be notified promptly when your application has been approved!

Board of Directors

President: Riley Cothran

e: rcothran@barbershopchorus.com
ph: 954-452-9129

Secretary: Art Tinney

e: atinney@barbershopchorus.com
ph: 954-791-4354

Treasurer:

David Fendrick

e: dfendrick@barbershopchorus.com
ph: 561-865-0090

VP Music & Performance:

Rich Restaino

e: rrestaino@barbershopchorus.com
ph: 954-463-8958

VP Chapter Development:

Rex Partlow

e: rpartlow@barbershopchorus.com
ph: 954-916-3414

VP Marketing & Public Relations:

Marty Schneider

e: mschneider@barbershopchorus.com
ph: 786-514-4252

Immediate Past President:

Bruce Moore

e: bmoore@barbershopchorus.com
ph: 954-410-9870

Chorus Manager:

David Hanser

e: dhanser@barbershopchorus.com
ph: 954-536-3900

Member at Large: Elliot Swartz

e: eswartz@barbershopchorus.com
ph: 561-638-8584

Member at Large: Joe LaCorte

e: jlacorte@barbershopchorus.com
ph: 561-495-6899

Yearly Events

Valentine's Day Quartetting (Feb 13th-15th)

Sunshine District's Spring Convention (First weekend in April)

Chorus's Annual Spring Concert (End of April to mid May)

Sunshine SIZZLE (Father's Day weekend)

Society's International Convention (The week of July 4th)

Labor Day Jamboree (Labor Day weekend)

Sunshine District's Fall Convention (Early October)

Chorus's Annual Holiday Concert (Early December)