

#5 - 8 points to having more fun



Yep, this is a page out of the old VP of Program's manual and you know what? It used to work. Why? Because the Program ensured FUN. That's why I think every Chapter needs a Secret Agent of FUN that facilitates some of the ideas I've shared today and also ensures that there is some kind of balanced program in your chapter. Fulfilling everyone's needs!



Plan and organize chapter meetings so that all members enjoy the widest variety of activities that will result in a congenial, fraternal and educational experience. The type of activities provided will depend on your chapter's mission and goals. Below are the basic elements recommended that can contribute to the overall enjoyment and quality of a chapter meeting. Experiment and learn what works best for your chapter.

1. Vocal warm up. Open the meeting and prepare each man physically and mentally to sing. It should last no longer than 15 minutes and should be led by the most capable vocal technician in the group.
 2. Gang singing. Barberpole Cat songs, old repertoire, tags: just "fun" singing.
 3. Craft. Basic musical information, special lessons to be learned or barbershop history and lore to be investigated. Craft also is a constant thread during the rehearsal segment.
 4. Break. Important as a period of relaxation and social interaction. Also a good time to try a tag or sing with a guest.
 5. Quartet activity. A vital part of every meeting. Informal quartetting, registered quartets, intra-or inter-chapter competition. Just get the guys singing with three other men. Having experienced men sing with those of lesser experience can benefit the quality of chorus singing.
 6. Woodshedding. Great ear training. Music and tapes are available to get this activity started if you don't have an experienced woodshedder to lead the segment.
 7. Business meeting. Keep it short. Introduce guests and make only necessary announcements of late-breaking changes in plans or upcoming events. Print an information sheet to eliminate lengthy discussions.
 8. Chorus rehearsal. The major portion of the chapter meeting. Learning new songs, section rehearsals, polishing the repertoire and other musical activities. A substantial part of the rehearsal should be held on the risers, practicing performance.
- Vary the order of chapter meeting segments to avoid boredom. During the rehearsal, vary the type of learning activities. Alternate intense rehearsal segments with more relaxed, lighthearted segments. Make every chapter meeting a new, exciting experience. Maximize the amount of time singing. That's what your member came to do! Some successful chapters have a goal of singing through 12 to 15 entire songs during a chapter meeting.