

# Assistant Directors

## Qualifications -

An Assistant Director should be selected on the basis of their proficiency in conducting, knowledge of barbershop basics, ability to communicate and general leadership qualities.

## Duties of Assistant Directors -

- ▶ Direct performances in the absence of the director.
- ▶ Conduct the weekly chorus rehearsal in the absence of the director.
- ▶ Fill in for the director during the rehearsal when he is engaged in other duties. Because of the need to substitute for the director in his absence, the assistant director should be able to direct all the songs in the repertoire. There may be several songs which are specifically theirs in the performance package, but they should have the opportunity to practice directing all of the music in case of an emergency.
- ▶ Attend all music team meetings and planning sessions. This implies that the assistant director should contribute input in any of the following areas:
  - ▶ Planning of long and short-term music goals for the chorus.
  - ▶ Selecting the repertoire for show and competition.
  - ▶ Determining acceptable standards for chorus performances.
  - ▶ Determining standards for membership in the performing chorus.
  - ▶ Determining teaching methods and techniques for rehearsals.

### *Help coordinate section leader work.*

- ▶ Assist the director in monitoring the progress of each section in terms of learning new music, developing good unit sound and correcting specific vocal patterns.

### *Supervise specific areas of the music program.*

Although each of the following areas are a necessary part of any chapter music program, larger chapters might consider dividing duties between several competent assistant directors.

- ▶ Evaluation and training of new members. This is a very important aspect of the chapter music program. How do we integrate these new members into the chorus? An assistant director can maintain quality control by doing all of the auditioning as well as running an “early-bird” fundamentals class and teaching new members the songs already in the chorus repertoire.
- ▶ New music learning program. An assistant director might be assigned to teach new music or to select or coach a teaching quartet. They might also supervise the evaluation tapes, if this is a requirement for the performing chorus.
- ▶ Vocal techniques. In lieu of a vocal coach, an assistant director might be in charge of all sound work for the chorus, including the warm-up portion of the meeting.
- ▶ Visual performance. If the chorus does not have visual performance specialist or coach, an assistant director might take over both the creative and teaching aspects of the chorus’ visual presentation.
- ▶ Craft session. “Craft” can mean a lot of things, but in this case refers to general information classes as a part of the chapter meeting. An assistant director could be placed in charge of this, and either conduct the sessions or assign various knowledgeable members to do a program each week.

### *Attend music leadership schools.*

Many educational opportunities are offered at the District and Society level. As with the director, the chapter may assume some financial support for the assistant director.