

2026 Land O' Lakes Harmony Academy (HA)

Class Descriptions

Office Specific Core Classes - (Saturday 8:30 – 11:30 AM)

- **President – Jay Althof** - A 3-hour class on how to be an effective president for your chapter. In addition to the basics needed for a chapter to function (chapter budget, board meeting structure, yearly planning, etc.), this class includes leadership transition strategies, community engagement, member development and more.
- **Secretary – Tyler Hall** - A 3-hour class on the duties of the chapter secretary, BMI SESAC, ASCAP or SOCAN (Canada) license requirements, show clearance, board meeting minutes, legal files, membership records, access to the Society website. Chapter Secretaries are asked to bring their computer to class as Tyler will walk you through the Member Center website and how to update information for your chapter.
- **Treasurer – Dan True** - A 3-hour class for chapter treasurers. It will cover chapter budgets, IRS tax returns, Society, State & Federal forms and reports. Dan will also cover changes in IRS laws that will affect how funds can be used by our chapters.
- **Membership/Chapter Development VP – Bob Cox** - This 3-hour class will focus on how this position relates to the other chapter leaders' positions and the importance of communications. Bob will also give an overview of Recruiting/Retention/Orientation as this position's primary charge.
- **Music & Performance VP Panel Discussion – Dave Casperson, Bill Albrecht, & Brent Gerber** - A 3-hour class designed to investigate the possible musical aspirations of the local chapter through effective organization and support for the music team/directors. Topics may include performance opportunities in the local community, music selections, director support, quartet organization and recruitment. You'll have the chance to ask, share, dream as well as be encouraged for the musical well-being of your members and chapter.
- **Chorus Directors & Assistant Directors – Peter Benson** - This 3-hour class is for the front-line Directors and Assistant Directors. It will deal with the principles of good directing, motivation, retention and mutual problems in small and large choruses.
- **Barbershop Smorgasbord – Scott Kvigne/Nate Peplinski** - In this 3-hour class, Scott and Nate will share their knowledge of Barbershopping. This class will cover everything you want to know about singing barbershop harmony. Most importantly, they will show you how to have more fun with your hobby. **This class is for anyone who is not taking an Office Specific Core Class.**

Elective Classes -

Offered Friday & Saturday – (These are all 80-minute classes)

- **Meeting Chapter Expectations/Development – Bob Cox** – In this class, Bob will focus on the importance of setting goals for your chapter. He will also focus on developing vision and mission statements to guide your chapter's path to success.

- **Authentic Physical Expression – Scott Kvigne** – Don't fret about trying to remember, and execute, a host of moves befitting the Rockettes. Sometimes, less is more! Learn how we use gestures and body language in everyday life, and how to incorporate those into our performances.
- **Making Rehearsals a Highlight of Your Week – Jay Althof** – Do all your chapter members look forward to rehearsals? Do they wake up on rehearsal mornings “chomping at the bit” to get there? Jay will share ideas that can help your members feel this way and make your rehearsals more enjoyable and rewarding.
- **Chorus Repertoire: Share Session – Nate Peplinski/Dave Buss** – Discussion on repertoire for various size choruses and how to select music that fits the number of members the chorus has. We will also discuss the district's role in helping chapters save money when buying music.
- **District Mentors and Chapter Leaders – Jim Rasmus** – The District has a mentor program to enhance communication between the District and Chapter leaders. District Mentors are paired with Chapters to share available resources and successful ideas being utilized within the LO'L. This session is primarily designed for District Mentors to interact with their Chapter Leaders. Others are welcome to attend.
- **Recruiting & Supporting NextGen Singers – Bob Cox** – For our great hobby to continue and flourish as members get older, we need ways to encourage young singers to appreciate and enjoy the four-part harmony we love. Bob will share ideas for recruiting and keeping NextGen singers.
- **Vocal Production & Ensemble Singing – Scott Kvigne** – Brush up on the basics of good vocal production, and work on techniques for building ensemble sound, using targeted vocal warmups, and familiar songs.
- **Fundraising for Local Music Education Programs – Bill Fricke/Don Lewellen** – The Manitowoc Chapter has been very successful in raising funds for their local music education programs (see article in the most recent Pitch Piper). Bill and Don will outline their chapter's process that led to this success and show how your chapter can support local music programs.
- **Identifying and Developing Chapter Leaders: A Workshop – Walt Ogburn/Jim Otto** – As volunteer organizations, most chapters struggle with the same challenge: a small handful of members do most of the work. Recruiting new leaders and volunteers feels harder every year. This interactive workshop brings chapter leaders together to identify practical, realistic ways to expand a chapter's leadership team—without overloading anyone. Walt and Jim will guide the group through a structured conversation to share what's working, what isn't, and what's possible. You'll leave with a list of proven ideas, common pitfalls to avoid, and simple tools for engaging members who might be hesitant to take on a role.
- **Telling the Story Using Vocal & Musical Skills – Scott Kvigne** – As a performer, we want our audience to understand the storyline of the songs we sing. In this class Scott will focus on the key vocal and musical skills that help convey the storyline to our audience. Together we will learn to become even better story tellers.
- **Supporting Senior Singers – Jay Althof** – It is well known that music, and especially singing, provides improved mental and physical health benefits. In this class, Jay will share results from a BHS taskforce that has researched and identified approaches to allow aging singers to continue to participate in those choruses that embrace them and also recruit new senior singers. Jay will also use a portion of the time to share best practices from the class participants related to aging singers.

- **Engaging with Music Educators – Steve Osero** – Having a good relationship with music educators in your local community can have many positive benefits. It can lead to connections that bring young singers and their families to your shows which may result in new members for your chapter. This class will focus on how to initiate and nurture these relationships.
- **Becoming a Ring Leader: Directing with Head, Heart & Hands – Jayme Casperson** – A course in the art—and the joyful chaos—of directing a barbershop chorus. This session explores the intellectual tools (head), emotional leadership (heart), and physical techniques (hands) needed to guide singers ages 20 to 80 with confidence and connection. Participants will leave with practical tips, rehearsal strategies, and a deeper understanding of what it truly means to lead from the front of the risers.
- **Recruiting/Retention and Orientation – Bob Cox** – This class will focus on the basics of chapter Recruiting/Retention/Orientation. These activities are essential for a chapter to remain healthy. It will go more in depth than the Membership/Chapter Development VP Core class.
- **Connecting Emotionally to a Song – Scott Kvigne** – Some of our greatest joy is helping our audiences experience genuine emotion from the songs we sing. In this class Scott will explore the key elements that take a song from being just words and notes to truly making music that can touch the hearts of ourselves and our audience.
- **The Barbershop Trifecta – Nate Peplinski** – The challenge for most chapters is how can we balance three goals: 1. Singing well; 2. Having fun with friends; and 3. Impacting our communities. Most of us want to get together to sing, have fun and build friendships. But when we get too wrapped up in contest scores or “driving for success,” we likely lose members because we lose the fun. Yet we want to make a positive impact on our communities. This class will have an interactive discussion on topics such as:
 - How to balance “fun” and “good singing”
 - Contests vs. conventions
 - How to tell the story of what a great opportunity exists for others to join us
 - What type of community involvement results in positive experiences for our members
- **Friday NextGen Performances – (No need to register – Just show up!)**
 - Come watch, enjoy and support the youth groups who participated in a NextGen clinic all day on Friday!
- **Friday Eve General Session – (No need to register – Just show up!)**
- **Learn a New Song & Some Great Tags** - The Friday General Session will include a song you can take back to your chapters. Learning songs and tags with over 100 other voices should help send you home fired up to share everything you learned and experienced during the weekend.