

# 2025 LOL Leadership Training Academy (LTA)

## Class Descriptions

### Office Specific Core Classes - (Sat 8:30 -11:45 am)

- **President – Jay Althof** - We will discuss the importance of both leadership and management and key attributes of each aspect as Presidents of our chapters. In addition, we will use the Presidents manual to understand the details of chapter operations and the responsibilities of all board members. The objective is to help all our chapter presidents be more comfortable and effective in their important role.
- **Secretary – Tyler Hall** - This class will focus on the duties of the chapter secretary, including BMI SESAC, ASCAP or SOCAN (Canada) license requirements, show clearance, board meeting minutes, legal files, membership records, and 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 show you how to update information for your chapter.
- **Treasurer – Matt Nagel/Brian Schultz** - This class for chapter treasurers will focus on two important resources, The Business of Barbershop and the updated Treasurer’s Manual. There will be time for new and experienced treasurers to share successes & challenges from their chapters.
- **Membership/Chapter Development VP – Jim Rasmus** - This class is designed for Chapter VPs charged with the responsibility of recruiting new – and retaining existing – Chapter members. We will review the Chapter VP job description, explore a wide range of membership development tools, and share ideas within the assembled group as well as across the BHS on how to attract more members for your Chapter.
- **Music & Performance VP – Donny Rose** – This class will investigate the possibilities of the musical aspirations of the local chapter through effective organization and support for the music team/directors. Here’s the chance to ask, share, dream as well as be encouraged for the musical well-being of your chapter and community.

**Please Note:** The Music VPs and Chorus Directors will meet together for 30-40 minutes. Since these two roles don't always work together effectively, it would be beneficial for the directors to see the music VP side of things, and for the music VP to understand the challenges of their role.

- **Chorus Directors & Assistant Directors – Scott Perau** - This 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 – Steve Scott/Nate Peplinski** - In this class, Steve and Nate will share their extensive knowledge of Barbershopping. They will cover everything you want to know about singing barbershop harmony. Most importantly, Steve and Nate will show you how to have more fun with your hobby. **This class is for anyone who is not taking the Office Specific Classes.**

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

- **You've Been Singing Barbershop Incorrectly? -Steve Scott** - 21st Century Barbershop shares many characteristics with other vocal styles but singing stylistically requires several key vocal configurations and one important pedagogical approach to high notes. This class will explain all the differences and give you experience making stylistic choices that compliment your barbershop singing efforts.
- **Directing 101: For the Novice – Scott Perau** – Have you ever wondered what it would be like to stand in front of your chorus and lead them through a song? You'll get some great tips from an experienced director.
- **Swing Concepts for Barbershoppers – Donny Rose** – Jazz syncopation and swing are a huge part of our music world, but barbershoppers often struggle with swing rhythms. Let's learn basic tools to make your music come alive and learn about backbeat, drum loops vs metronomes, dotted quarters and triplet based eighth notes.
- **Reaching Out to New Members – Jim Rasmus/Larry Lewis** – Drawing on the successful experiences of LOL Chapters and creative ideas gleaned from across the Barbershop Harmony Society, we will explore new, time-tested and creative ways to reach out to new members.
- **A NextGen Playbook – Justin La/Jay Fahl** – Description available soon.
- **How to Grab an Audience/Show Themes – Bill Fricke** – A chance to delve into the creative process of writing a show script. Everything from theme to chorus placement and everything in between.
- **Lost Singers – What You Can Do About It – Steve Scott** – We have evidence to suggest that more people are singing barbershop than who are members of the various barbershop organizations, including the BHS. Further, high schools and colleges graduate thousands of people every year who participated in their school music programs in one form or another who, in most instances, don't continue to make music. The Lost Singers Project serves as an attempt to engage with three specific demographics: 1) middle & high school-aged music students, 2) middling age (25–50) musicians, and 3) senior singers. This class offers advice on how to engage each of these populations better.
- **Basic Vocal Pedagogy – Scott Perau** – We will cover the anatomy of the voice, common misconceptions, etc., and discuss how we may apply this to chorus/quartet rehearsals.
- **Effective Chorus Rehearsal Strategies – Donny Rose** – Directors sometimes "sing through " our music and wait for the next error to pounce on. Let's learn some rehearsal best practices including having a plan, and then catching them doing what you want... and pounce on THAT.
- **The Barbershop Paradox – Nate Peplinski** – The paradox for our chapters is how do we balance “fun” and “good singing”? 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. To help balance this out, the class will have an interactive discussion on topics such as the following:
  - How to balance “fun” and “good singing”
  - Contests vs. conventions
  - Tips on how to grow membership
  - 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

- Other topics from class participants
- **Unlock the Power of Communication: Lead, Inspire and Engage – Justin La** – Imagine rehearsals that flow effortlessly, where every member is engaged, inspired, and in sync regardless of age. In this exciting class, you'll discover the secrets of using both verbal and non-verbal communication to transform your rehearsals into dynamic, focused sessions that maximize every minute. Join Justin to uncover how the power of communication can elevate your leadership, captivate your chorus, and turn every rehearsal into a moment of growth and harmony.
- **The Truth About Social Media – Amy Rose** – “Only young people know how to use Facebook!” “We can sell out our show by posting every day the week before!” “Just email the show flyer!” If you or your marketing team members have said any of these things... you need this class! Join Amy for a discussion about what social media can and can't do for you and how to leverage your chorus marketing.
- **Supporting Senior Singers – Steve Scott/Jay Althof** – It is well known that music, and especially singing, provides improved mental and physical health benefits. In this class, we will share early results from a BHS taskforce that has researched and identified approaches that will enable our aging singers to continue to participate in those choruses who choose to embrace them, and recruit new aging singers to our choruses. We will also use a portion of the time to share best practices from the class participants related to aging singers.
- **Warmups and Vocal Technique – Scott Perau** – What are some warmup tools you can use to get your singers ready for good vocal production?
- **Develop Your Awareness of Tonal Center – Donny Rose** – All instrumentalists have a unifying element: a subdivided metronome clicking in their mind. Barbershoppers must have a tonal center playing in THEIR mind, and each barbershop part has slightly different roles to keep our pitch. Let's learn using melody with drone, harmony against melody, just tuning vs. equal temperament, and perfect intervals.
- **Successful Visioning for Your Chapter – Jim Rasmus/Larry Lewis** – Jim and Larry have developed a retreat to assist Chapters to reflect on their challenges and establish a new vision for their chorus. They will share the survey they've developed, a visioning process and fresh ideas for reaching out to prospective members.
- **Staying Connected: How Technology Can Improve Chorus Culture – Amy Rose** – Remember all of those Zoom rehearsals? While we're happy to be done with them, there are some lessons we can take and tools we can use to strengthen our connections in person. In this class, Amy will lead you through using internal social media and digital tools to enhance chorus life and build a culture of connection.
- **Performance 101: What They're Looking For – Tim Milbrandt/Mike Lietke** – Have you ever watched a barbershop contest and wondered how a number comes to represent the art in front of you? Judging Candidate Tim Milbrandt and Judge Mike Lietke will attempt to answer those questions for you through the lens of the Performance Category.
- **Friday Eve General Session & Mass Sing – (No need to register)**
  - **The Barbershop Belt – Sarah Wigley**
  - **Tags and More Singing Fun – LTA Faculty**