2027 Land O' Lakes Harmony Academy Class Descriptions

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

- **President** – **Don Fuson** - 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.), Don will ask new presidents to focus on a vision for where their chapter is going and how to get their members involved in the future of the chapter/chorus. For returning presidents, Don will focus on their successes and possible failures and ask what they learned from them. He will also have them focus on their future chapter leadership plans/ideas.

- **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 should bring their computer to class as Tyler will walk you through the Member Center website & how to update information for your chapter. **Group will combine with Treasurer class the last 40-45 minutes.**

- **Treasurer** – **Dan True** - A 3-hour Treasurers class that covers chapter budgets, IRS tax returns, Society, State & Federal forms & reports. Dan will also cover changes in IRS laws that affect how funds can be used by chapters. **Group will combine with Secretary class the last 40-45 minutes.**

- **Membership & Marketing VPs – Bob Cox** - This 3-hour class will focus on how these positions support the chapter and provide internal & external communications. Bob will give an overview of Recruiting/Retention/Orientation & Community Outreach as the primary focus of these positions.

- **Music & Performance VPs** – **Nate Peplinski** - 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/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** – **Dan Wessler** - 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** - In this 3-hour class, Scott will cover everything you want to know about singing barbershop harmony. Most importantly, he will show you how to have more fun with your hobby**. This class is for anyone not taking an Office Specific Core Class.**

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

- **Leadership in Your Chapter – Don Fuson** – In this class, Don will focus on the type of leadership that your chapter currently has. He will use some of these questions:
  - How do you support the chapter leaders that are currently in those roles?
  - How do you identify the "informal" leaders in the chapter who are not in an official chapter role?
  - What are your key building blocks to get more members involved?
  - What types of tracking do you use in helping future leaders grow?

- **Engaging NextGen Singers in Your Chapter – Maddie Thompson** – Join other chapter leaders in learning how to engage the next generation of barbershoppers. This course will give you tools to recruit and maintain NextGen membership and keep your chorus and chapter thriving for generations to come.

- **A Unified Approach to Singing – Scott Kvigne** – Scott will explain how to use existing vocal skills to create a unified, consonant sound in your ensemble.

- **Sight Singing Made Easy** – **Bill Albrecht** – The easiest way to learn how to sight read simple music is by using a numbering system based on the major scale that we are all familiar with. You don't need to learn the nuances of solfege (do, re, mi, etc.) nor how to identify and sing intervals ranging from minor 2nds to major 7ths. You do not even need to be able to recognize what note is a "G" and what note is an "A". This simple system is very helpful to beginning and intermediate sight readers.

- **Tips for Successful Grant Writing – Rhonda Gould –** Learn about the basic components of grant writing, what funders look for in applications, and be prepared to apply for funding opportunities.

- **Tags: The Gateway to Barbershop – Justin La –** A first ringing chord can make a new singer ask, "What else can we sing?" We'll sing tags I've used with Next Gen singers, practice teaching them by ear and tuning them until they lock and look at how tag apps and a singer-led Tag Tuesday can turn a five-minute warm-up into an invitation to bring a friend.

- **District Mentors and Chapter Leaders – Brent Gerber/Mike Ziegler** – 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.

- **The Importance of Good Chapter Leadership – Don Fuson** – In this class, Don will emphasize the importance of good leadership planning to keep your chapter active and thriving. Here are some of the questions he will address:
  - What is the role that every chapter member should have in the overall scope of chapter leadership?
  - What is changing about the chapter culture that forces a new direction for future leaders?
  - How does the chapter discover & build upon your own & others' experiences outside of the chapter?
  - How do you propose to develop and educate "backups" for each chapter function that might result from travel, snowbirds, health, or other unexpected events?

- **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 & Marketing VP Core class.

- **Synchonization: It's Not a Problem – Scott Kvigne** – This class will look at the core issues that cause synchronization problems, and ways to develop skills to sing together as an ensemble.

- **Strategic Directing – Brent Gerber** – Being a director requires planning and coordinating with your chapter board and music team to create productive rehearsals. But beyond that you need to establish a strategy to move your chorus to produce a greater musical product each week. In this class, Brent will talk about doing an honest review of your chorus's musical strengths and weaknesses as well as a bit of self-evaluation. We will explore ways to incorporate improvement strategies into every element of the rehearsal and resources that may be available to assist you.

- **Out of the Filing Cabinet; Into the Cloud – Walt Ogburn** – For years, chapter operations relied on physical paper files—today, our data lives on computers. Join this session to learn how to transition your chapter's records to digital platforms, streamline officer handoffs, and ensure full compliance with BHS & IRS retention regulations.

- **Science of Singing: Estill – Jen Kasten – Estill Voice Training** is a science-based approach to understanding and developing the voice. Through the 13 Estill Figures, students learn to isolate and control the individual structures of the vocal mechanism, building greater vocal flexibility, consistency, and expressive freedom. These tools empower singers to make intentional vocal choices across a variety of styles and genres.

- **Care of the Aging Voice – Dan Wessler –** Many of our chapters are dealing with older members and aging voices. Dan will offer advice and suggestions for keeping these members involved and singing with your chorus.

- **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.

- **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.

- **Some Marketing Efforts in Our Chapters** – **Loring Harrop/Jim Otto** – Loring from the Northstar Chorus and Jim from the Croix Chordsmen will explain specific marketing and social media methods their choruses have recently implemented. They will also ask attendees to share examples from their chapters.

- **The Anatomy of Tone: What Makes a Chord Ring? – Justin La –** Sing the same chord two ways and hear what changes when four parts match resonance. Drawing on The Anatomy of Tone and my experience directing Next Gen and mixed choruses and coaching mixed quartets, we'll try practical ways to balance brightness and warmth and bring out the ring.

- **Quartet Rehearsal Techniques – Dan Wessler –** Dan will offer two 40-minute sessions on techniques that can help quartets make their rehearsal times more enjoyable and productive. If you register for this session, you will be assigned to one of the two 40-minute time periods.

- **Community Outreach for Success & Growth – Bob Cox –** Discover proven, easy-to-implement outreach ideas that can boost membership, increase fundraising success, and elevate your chorus visibility and impact in your community.

- **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.

- **<u>Friday NextGen Performances – (No need to register – Just show up!)</u>**
  Come watch, enjoy and support the youth who participated in Harmony on the River!

- **<u>Friday Eve General Session – (No need to register – Just show up!)</u>**
  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 over the weekend.