

Men Of Independence

Guide To Membership

12/4/11

- Introduction

The Independence Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, Johnny Appleseed District was licensed for operation in March of 2001. The mission statement reads: *“The Independence Chapter of The Barbershop Harmony Society (SPEBSQSA), will be a fraternity of quartet men dedicated to quality quartet and chorus singing of barbershop harmony in an atmosphere of fun, fellowship, continuous learning and teamwork. Further, the chapter encourages and supports the entire North East Ohio Barbershop Community.”* The most important word in the statement is “quality”. Through highly competent leadership and personal efforts, we strive for excellence in all of our performances.

- Expectation of Membership

We “rehearse” at our chapter meetings; we “practice” at home. Members are expected to learn new music rapidly and be “off-paper” quickly so that “artistry” can begin at rehearsals. Members are expected to actively participate in all chapter activities, including rehearsal, sing-outs, and fund raisers. Use of personal skills will be encouraged for the betterment of the chapter and our society.

- Audition Process

- Prospective singers will be given a copy of the chart and learning tracks for our audition song, “Chattanooga Choo Choo”, to be learned at their own pace. Singers are encouraged to attend and participate in regular meeting activities, while learning the audition song.
- A potential member is required to learn and provide an “adequate” performance of our audition song in a quartet. The chapter will provide the other three voice parts to assist in your performance which will be critiqued by the Music Team and Director.
- Current members and former members, who have not attended rehearsals in six months or more, are also expected to prove they still are able to pass this audition process.

- Becoming a Member
 - Subsequent to approval of an audition by the Music Team, the potential member then will be given an application to the society and informed of the costs, listed below.
 - When the Chapter Secretary receives the completed application with the appropriate fees payment, the chapter will be asked to vote on accepting the new member. An affirmative vote is an immediate recognition by the Chapter, District and Society of membership.

- Costs
 - All applications require a \$10 Society Application Fee
 - Dues
 - A new member to the society under 26 years of age, pays no dues for the first year, and only half dues until he reaches 26.
 - Dual members pay only a portion of the chapter dues adjusted to their BHS anniversary date. However, we do not accept transfers, but expect dual members to continue supporting their other chapter(s) for at least a year.
 - Regular members pay the following dues annually:

\$ 110	– Barbershop Harmony Society (effective 1/1/12)
25	– Johnny Appleseed District
<u>50</u>	– Independence Chapter
\$ 185	– Total
 - Members are expected to purchase a tuxedo uniform package of our specification at a cost of about \$225. This costume is to be maintained by the member and be ready for use as deemed appropriate by the chapter.
 - Fees for competition are usually paid by the members.
 - Miscellaneous costume purchase, such as shirts, hats, etc. may also be requested.