

Officer Installation Ceremonies

A handy compilation of installation ceremonies. Click on a bookmark below to move quickly to each.

[Formal Installation 1](#)

[Formal Installation 2](#)

[Formal Installation 3](#)

[Formal Installation 4](#)

[The Trial By Jury Installation](#)

[The Musical Theme Song Installation](#)

[The Monopoly Game Installation](#)

[The Barbershop Game Installation](#)

[Car Installation 1](#)

[Car Installation 2](#)

[A Wedding Installation](#)

[“SINGING IS LIFE...the rest is just details” Installation](#)

[“Music Man” Installation](#)

And finally, some

[“Create Your Own” Ceremony Ideas](#)

FORMAL INSTALLATION 1

INSTALLING OFFICER:

Gentlemen:

Our Society was founded as a singing Society, but wherever there is a number of persons grouped together, whether large or small, there must be leaders who will orient the group and determine its goals.

You men have been chosen by members of this chapter as worthy leaders, capable of carrying out in their name the responsibilities and ideals which they entrust to you and which our Society upholds. Your loyalty to this trust will make it possible for this chapter to strengthen itself, to build on these strengths and to move toward the greater promotion of harmony, both musically and in your relationship with each other, in a spirit of true enjoyment.

Among you, there is a man who has been specifically chosen as the one leader, the chief executive, who will see that the programs planned are carried out. He will, with your cooperation, map the road that you will follow for the coming year. He will, with your individual input and support, strive in every way to make your chapter an outstanding example of efficiency in administration. He will lead you, a group of singing men who will not be daunted by the daily problems that often beset Barbershoppers.

Repeat after me, Mr. President:

I, _____, president of _____ Chapter / pledge myself to do my utmost / to uphold the ideals of our Society / and this chapter / to assure my unconditional efforts / toward the promotion of fellowship and musical harmony / and with the cooperation of my fellow officers / to maintain a spirit of happiness for each and every Barbershopper.

Now repeat after me, officers of the chapter board:

I, officer of the _____ Chapter / pledge my support to my president; / to seek with him, / in accordance with my understanding of the Society regulations, / the achievement of the goals / which he lays before me / for the good of the Society / and of its members here and world over / I will give of my time, knowledge and energy / to help in the development of a chapter / that is worthy of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

FORMAL INSTALLATION 2

INSTALLING OFFICER:

Brother Barbershoppers, it is my privilege to install the officers of the _____ Chapter, of the Barbershop Harmony Society. It is a distinct privilege, because in acting as your installing officer, I am assuming the office of our late Founder and Permanent Third Assistant Temporary Vice-Chairman, the eminent Brother Barbershopper, O.C. Cash, and that of our current international president.

The following persons, who have been elected to their respective offices, will please come forward and take the seats, which have been provided for them . . . Rise for pledge.

“To the cherished purposes for which this Society has been founded, and to the faithful observance of its Code of Ethics; to the strengthening and building of this chapter and the promotion of harmony among its members; to the realization that a singing nation is a happy nation; to the conviction that the growth and prosperity of our organization shall be beneficial to the welfare of our country; and to the preservation and encouragement of barbershop quartet singing in America, do you here and now pledge your most earnest efforts?

To you, the members of this chapter, I express the hope that this healthy association of men in harmony will long continue, and may you thrill to the caress of a barbershop chord so long as your senses have the power of perception. I charge you with the responsibility of sincere and faithful participation in the activities of your chapter, district, and society. Your personal enthusiasm and cooperation with your elected officials will largely determine the strength and usefulness of your chapter and the entire barbershop movement.

INSTALLING OFFICER: In the name of the International Board of Directors of the Barbershop Harmony Society., I proclaim the officers of _____ Chapter, to be duly installed.

FORMAL INSTALLATION 3

Installer calls the new officers to the dais naming each and identifying his office. With the officers facing the membership, the installer asks of them:

1. Do you promise to perform all the duties and responsibilities of the office to which you have been elected? Response: I do.
2. Do you promise to maintain open communication with the membership, accepting constructive criticism and suggestions with respect to the business and programs of the _____ chapter (district)? Response.
3. Do you promise to be active in the chapter, to attend board meetings and to support the programs and projects developed by the board? Response.

To the membership, the Installer poses the following:

1. Members, do you promise to actively participate in and support the chapter's programs? Response: I do.
2. Do you promise to volunteer for and actively serve in appointed jobs, committees, etc., to the limit of your time availability? Response.
3. Do you promise to provide constructive input to the board of directors and to support the officers in their efforts to conduct the business of the chapter? Response.

To all: Members, you have heard the pledges of your officers. Officers, you have heard the pledges of your members. On these pledges, we believe a strong program can be developed and carried out in 20__, and that these efforts will result in a stronger, better chapter to the satisfaction and pleasure of the leadership team and the entire membership.

Therefore, as the representative of our international president, _____, I declare the officers of the chapter for 20__ duly installed. Best wishes for a very successful year.

FORMAL INSTALLATION 4

(Have all of the incoming officers and board members come to the front of the room and face the audience).

INSTALLING OFFICER:

Fellow Barbershoppers . . . it is my distinct privilege as your _____ to install the officers of the _____ Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. In doing so . . . I am representing our international president . . . Mr. _____.

To the cherished purposes for which this Society has been founded . . . to the strengthening and up-building of this chapter . . . and the promotion of harmony among its members . . . to the realization that a singing nation . . . is a happy nation . . . to the conviction that the growth . . . and prosperity of our organization shall be beneficial to the welfare of our country . . . and to the preservation and encouragement of barbershop singing in America . . . if you here and now . . . pledge your most earnest efforts to these precepts . . . answer “I do.”

To you . . . the members of this chapter . . . I express the hope that this healthy association of men in harmony . . . will long continue . . . and may you thrill to the caress of a barbershop chord . . . so long as your senses have the power of perception. I charge you . . . with the responsibility of sincere and faithful participation . . . in the activities of your chapter . . . the activities of your district and the activities of your Society. Your personal enthusiasm and cooperation with your elected officials . . . will largely determine the strength and usefulness . . . of your chapter and the entire barbershop movement.

(At this point have the officers face each other and place their left hand in the center like a wheel).

Gentlemen . . . as you can see . . . when you stand in this position, you resemble a wheel. The rim . . . or that part that does the work . . . can function only so long as the spokes . . . or in this case . . . you men . . . each does his part and works along with the others. The wheel will continue to turn . . . even though one spoke falls away. But I'm sure you will agree . . . that its operation will be considerably impaired. And . . . if several fall away . . . the wheel will collapse.

This is true of a barbershop chapter. You men must work together as a team . . . helping each other . . . and that way you cannot help but succeed.

Now . . . will you gentlemen form a semi-circle . . . and join hands . . . and you ladies and gentlemen in the audience . . . please stand and join your hands, too . . . and those of you who are up here near the new officers . . . take their hands. We have here . . . a circle . . . or a ring, if you prefer.

As you know . . . a circle or ring is the strongest formation known to man. This is why chains are made the way they are. And you all have heard the story of the weakest link . . . I'm sure. Well . . . all of you here are part of this circle. All of you have “a say” in whether it will be strong . . . or weak. Let's do all that we can to make it the strongest “circle” in the Society.

And now . . . in the name of the International Board of Directors . . . of the Barbershop Harmony Society . . . I hereby proclaim the officers of the chapter to be duly installed.

THE TRIAL BY JURY INSTALLATION

EMCEE announces: You will all stand . . . this installation is now in session. His honor _____ (name of installer), presiding.

INSTALLING OFFICER says: "Be seated."

EMCEE says: "As your name is called, come forward and stand facing the jury."

President _____. You are accused of being the godfather of a despicable group known as _____ (chorus name). You have been seen crossing state lines with your gang to defeat your enemies from other areas. Even at this moment, you stand here filled with wisdom and enthusiasm and you intend to inflict every member of your gang with that. We also know that your men have pledged you their full support in reaching your goal of once again subduing those who stand between this chapter and additional notoriety.

MVP _____. You are charged with being the number one enforcer for the godfather. You have plans to recruit even more members and, if necessary, to shanghai them. You are further charged with exposing your pitch-pipe in public places.

PVP _____. Your job in the gang is to keep the members in line. We know you recently attended a meeting to gather even more ideas on how to do your nasty job . . . ideas such as woodshedding, inter-chapter relations and quartetting.

Secretary _____. You are considered by those who don't know you to be a nice person. You try to make everyone happy. Little do they know that the reason you wanted to be secretary is because the records of this organization are so screwed up that you don't want the godfather to know what you have done. There is currently a committee of men and a large computer in Nashville, Tennessee, trying to find out what you did last year.

Treasurer _____. You are the financial officer of this gang. You are prepared to guide them into whatever activities necessary to insure financial solvency. We have traced your past and learned that you are a fugitive from another gang in another part of the country. In your car or home, at this moment, you have items of torture such as pens and pencils, an adding machine and/or calculator with which you plan to take over . . . by force if necessary . . . an overdraft at the First National Bank & Trust Co. You also have forms "one and two", which you plan to use in confusing the Internal Revenue Service.

INSTALLER says:

You, the accused, are making plans to take over the _____ Chapter, making it an even greater chapter than it already is. We have information that you have attended a meeting at which you were instructed by experts in their fields to inflict upon your chapter greatly larger membership . . . a financial program that will enhance the chapter's bank account . . . records that not only the IRS, but each and every member of your gang can understand . . . programs that will entice members to attend every meeting of the gang . . . a gang to be led by you _____ (president elect).

We can prove that your plans include singing at every opportunity for your community and at such a level of proficiency that you will be in demand by your citizens, but feared by your competition.

Chapter members, you have heard the charges . . . do you find them guilty or innocent?
(*Guilty*)

With the power given to me by the supreme court in Nashville, I sentence you to one year of hard labor of love and wish you great success in your efforts. This court is adjourned.

THE MUSICAL THEME SONG INSTALLATION

INSTALLATION OFFICER:

Brother Barbershoppers and friends, throughout our Society's history, we have had many themes to keep us on pitch, as we sought to preserve and encourage barbershop harmony.

Even though our administrative leaders' themes change from year to year, our Society's theme – MUSICAL THEME – has remained steadfast for many years. Join me in our Society's theme song – “The Old Songs.”

(Group sing)

“Good Close Harmony” – each officer is charged with the responsibility of promoting “Good Close Harmony”; and to help them do so, in their own particular way, each should have his own special musical theme song.

Our Society's library of old songs has such a song for each officer, and I would like to present each officer with his appropriate song. Although we may have many themes, we have but one purpose – to “Keep the Whole World Singing.” As I call on each officer, will he please come forward.

Chapter version

(Comment on titles-offices)

Board of Directors Member – “Sing Out, Sing Out”

Music Director(s) – “I'd Like To Teach The World To Sing”

Treasurer – “If All My Dreams Were Made of Gold”

Secretary – “Get Out Those Old Records”

MVP – “It's Good To Know I'm Welcome”

PVP – “Ain't We Got Fun”

Past President – “Somebody Else is Taking My Place”

President – “It All Belongs To Me”

District version

(Comment on titles-offices)

P.R./Communications – “Sing Out, Sing Out”

District Music Educator – “Give Me That Barbershop Style”

Treasurer – “If All My Dreams Were Made of Gold”

Secretary – “Get Out Those Old Records”

Area Counselors – “It's Good To Know I'm Welcome”

District VP's – "Marching Along Together"

Executive VP – "Just Around the Corner"

IBM – "Help Me To Help My Neighbor"

Past President – "Somebody Else is Taking My Place"

President – "It All Belongs To Me"

Each note of each theme – and of every song we sing – represents an opportunity to share the enthusiasm and spread the job we all cherish as Barbershoppers. Fellow Barbershoppers and friends, it is a personal privilege and honor, as representative of our 20__ International President, _____, to install the officers of the Chapter/District. In so doing, I offer you a challenge, and ask of you a pledge:

(Turn to officers)

To the cherished purposes for which this Society was founded, to the strengthening and up-building of this chapter/district, and to the promotion of harmony among its members. To the realization that a singing nation is a happy nation, to the conviction that the growth and prosperity of our organization will be beneficial to the welfare of our country, and to the preservation and encouragement of barbershop singing in America, if you here and now pledge your most earnest efforts to these precepts, answer "I do."

(Turn to audience)

To you, the members of this chapter/district, I express the hope that this healthy association of men in harmony will long continue, and may you thrill to the caress of a barbershop chord so long as your senses have the power of perception. I charge you with the responsibility of sincere and faithful participation in the activities of your chapter, your division, your district, and your Society. Your personal enthusiasm and cooperation with your elected officers will largely determine the strength and usefulness of your chapter/district in the coming year.

Will you pledge your enthusiasm and support to these officers in the coming year?
Answer . . . "We will."

On behalf of our International Board of Directors of the Barbershop Harmony Society, I hereby proclaim the 19 officers of the _____ Chapter/District to be duly installed. Congratulations to each of you.

THE MONOPOLY GAME INSTALLATION

Assembled here are the duly elected officers for 20__ of the _____ Chapter of our Society. For the next year, these men will have a monopoly on the barbershopping program. Like the game of Monopoly itself, the administration of a successful chapter is a series of advances and setbacks, but if there is a sense of direction and purpose, if there is planning ahead . . . the opportunity to succeed is always present. If these men play their game well, everyone will be a winner. Their monopoly can produce a great year for barbershopping in 20__.

PRESIDENT (Playing Board & Dice)

As the administrative head of the chapter, the president will work to keep his players all moving in the same direction toward a common goal. In Monopoly, this is achieved by virtue of the playing board and dice . . . a fitting symbol of the president's purpose.

MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT (Playing pieces)

The game is nothing without players and a barbershop chapter must have players in order to exist. We call them members. As the officer responsible for keeping members on the risers, his symbol is that which represents players in the game . . . the playing pieces.

PROGRAM VICE PRESIDENT (Community Chest and Chance Cards)

A good chapter provides its members with opportunities other than singing in which to have fun together. These extra activities are planned by the program vice president. In Monopoly, the extra opportunities to have fun are provided by the "Chance" and "Community Chest" cards. These, then, are suitable symbols of the PVP's office.

SECRETARY (Property cards)

A chapter's written records are important and it's the secretary who keeps these records in order. He keeps track of the chapter's property and activity and is a key man in a healthy chapter. In Monopoly, the properties are represented by "property cards" . . . the symbol of this vital office in any barbershop chapter.

TREASURER (Money)

This is the most appropriate of all. To the man who keeps track of the money that comes in and the money that goes out, Monopoly has a suitable symbol of his office . . . the "Money."

BOARD MEMBERS (Houses & Hotels)

Because there is always a need for additional opportunities to succeed, the officers are complemented by other players called board members. Their contributions to chapter administration can increase the effectiveness of the Board. In Monopoly, we increase our success by adding hotels and houses . . . so these become the symbols for the office of board member.

CHORUS DIRECTOR (The Box)

If all the pieces of the game are present, the game can be played and everyone will have fun. All together, they form a neat little package. A sturdy box keeps the pieces from getting lost along the way. A good music program will keep officers from getting lost

along the way. The quality of the music program keeps it all together . . . like the box does in Monopoly. The symbol of the chorus director's role is the package the customer sees . . . the box.

DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT (Rules)

It's quite possible that throughout the year, there may be questions as to how things work in chapter administration. A handy source of answers to those questions will be the division vice-president, for he has been schooled in these areas. The symbol of his office is the book that has all the answers . . . the "Rule Book." The only way this game can be played is for all the pieces to stay together. If just one is missing, the entire game is affected. All together, it's a great game of fun and accomplishment.

Acting on behalf of our International President _____, I pronounce the officers and board of the _____ Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society for 20__ duly installed.

THE BARBERSHOP GAME INSTALLATION

INSTALLATION OFFICER:

It is an honor for me to be invited here to install the officers of the _____ Chapter. Many times, I'm asked what is so appealing about being a member of this Society. There are many answers to this question: I like the music, I enjoy the shows; it's an opportunity to meet new people and make new friends, I do a little more traveling than I might do otherwise. All of these reasons can be condensed into one word, it's FUN. And that's what I want to talk about tonight, having fun in your chapter activities.

I am going to ask each of your incoming officers to commit yourself to making the _____ Chapter a fun chapter in 20___. As I introduce each officer, will you please come and stand on either side of me. (*Introduce the officers at this point*).

There are many definitions of fun for a barbershop chapter. Some think competing is fun. Some work all year toward their annual show. Another chapter will tell you that community service performances is the greatest reward. I won't attempt to define what is fun for you, it's your job to determine the members' desires and work toward that goal.

I've brought a barbershop game with me tonight, and I'm going to give each of you a part of the game as a reminder to have fun in 20___. I'm giving you only one piece for two reasons. First, I've selected the piece that best depicts your responsibilities to the chapter. Second, and probably most important, by each of you having only one key part, you'll have to play together.

To the program vice president goes the most important piece, the game board. It is up to you to lay out a plan of fun activities for the year. Your schedule will be the foundation for the other officers to plan around.

The membership vice president gets these little pieces that are sometimes referred to as "men." What more can be said? Without enough men to play, the game will not be as much fun. The secretary gets the Chance cards to remind him that each month he must submit to the international office, an activity-reporting card, listing all the fun activities of the chapter so they can be entered on the giant scoreboard in Nashville.

Of course, the treasurer gets the money, but you must handle it wisely. It's all you'll have for the entire year. And with all the fun activities coming up, you must budget it prudently.

All of the administrative efforts are contained in the music program. So to the music vice president (or the chorus director) goes the box the game comes in. Audiences will love you all the more when your music is presented in a neat package.

What's left for the president? We have a fun schedule of activities, we have a sufficient number of members, we have money, on-time reports, and a neat music package. What else is left but the dice, for you to get things rolling.

(Use this portion for yourself or the A/C, or the DVP if in attendance). Occasionally, there may be a dispute, or the game will bog down and cease to be fun. I want to remind you that you have help. I am keeping the rule book (or presenting it to the AC/DVD) and will be on call to give you a hand any time you need me (him).

(If time permits and the chapter membership is small enough, the property cards can be quickly handed out to the chapter membership in attendance to remind them that they, too, own a piece of the action and are vital to the success of the game.)

CAR INSTALLATION 1

INSTALLATION OFFICER:

By installing the officers of the _____ Chapter, I would like to draw a comparison of your chapter board members to the parts of an automobile. Now I'm sure you've never thought that a car and a barbershop chapter had anything in common, but let's find out. I would like to officers to come forward one at a time as I introduce them.

Note to installing officer: Ad-lib about each part of the car as you introduce the respective part of the car and officer.

MAIN FRAME - Board Member

(We need a solid frame or foundation to build our car on.)

CAR BODY - Board Member

(We need a place for our members to sit – a place to meet.)

RUNNING GEAR - Board Member

(Obviously, we need wheels under our car.)

REAR VIEW MIRROR - Past President

(To see where we've been, we need to know what's behind us.)

TIMING MECHANISM - Secretary

(To get reports in on time – keep membership renewals current.)

DISTRIBUTOR - Treasurer

(To distribute funds/money for things we need.)

ALTERNATOR - Membership Vice President

(To provide a constant source of power - members.)

FUEL (SUSTENANCE) – Program Vice President

(Fuel in the form of programs, singouts, and shows keep us fed.)

STEERING MECHANISM - President

(Make sure we steer straight down the highway – keep us on track.)

As you can see, we have here an automobile that will really move down the highway. We've got plenty of power and everything is really running well.

As we head down the highway, our speed is building up. Then we hear our members cry out, "WHOA!", "SLOW DOWN!", "IT'S WINDY BACK HERE"! We need something up front to shield us from the wind and representing that "windy shield" is your assistant chorus director.

As we think of the finer automobiles available today, (Cadillac, Lincoln, Rolls Royce), they all have one thing in common up front, where everyone can see, a bright, shiny hood ornament. I think your chorus director fills that spot pretty well.

Fellow Barbershoppers, it is my distinct privilege as your _____ to install the officers of the _____ Barbershop Chapter. In doing so, I am representing our 20__ International President _____.

To the cherished purposes for which this Society was founded; to the strengthening and up-building of this chapter and the promotion of harmony among its members; to the realization that a singing nation is a happy nation; to the conviction that the growth and prosperity of our organization shall be beneficial to the welfare of our country; and to the preservation and encouragement of barbershop singing in America; if you here and now pledge your most earnest efforts to these precepts, answer, "I do."

To you, the members of this chapter, I express the hope that this healthy association of men in harmony will long continue and may you thrill to the caress of a barbershop chord so long as your senses have the power of perception. I charge you with the responsibility of sincere and faithful participation in the activities of your chapter, your division, your district and your Society. Your personal enthusiasm and cooperation with your elected officers will largely determine the strength and usefulness of your chapter in the coming year.

(Ask officers to form a circle and put their left hands in the center like a wheel of a car).

Gentlemen, as you can see, when you stand in this position you resemble a wheel. The rim, or that part does the work, can function only so long as the spokes, or in this case, you men, each does his part and works along with the others. The wheel will continue to turn, even though one spoke falls away, but I'm sure you will all agree that its operation will be considerably impaired.

And, if several fall away, the wheel will collapse. This is true of a barbershop chapter. You men must work together as a team, helping each other. And that way, you cannot help but succeed in the coming year.

And now, in the name of the International Board of Directors of the Barbershop Harmony Society, I hereby proclaim the officers of the _____ Chapter to be duly installed.

Congratulations to each of you!

CAR INSTALLATION 2

INSTALLING OFFICER:

You probably don't know the car situation around my house, but if you did, you'd know that I have two "clunkers" in my driveway – and there's always something wrong with one of them! You have to understand that my knowledge of automobiles is limited to adding gas, oil and air – and that's it!

Anyway, for Christmas, my wife gave me a book entitled "Auto Repair for Dummies" so that maybe I'd be able to at least change an air filter. While reading Chapter 3, "What Makes It Go?", I was amazed at how similar a well-tuned car is to a well-tuned chorus. For example, did you know that a car has five basic systems by which it runs, just as a chapter has five basic officers by which it runs?

Would _____, the incoming president please come forward. The first is the electrical system. This system includes the ignition, battery, and alternator, and once the car is running, the spark plugs cause the fuel to burn. Like a good president in the chapter, it is necessary to make the whole thing start.

Would _____, the incoming MVP, please come forward. Second is the fuel system.

Gasoline is moved through the fuel lines and mixes with air in the cylinders. A piston in each cylinder moves up and down, turning the crankshaft, which leads, eventually, to the rear wheels. Like the membership vice president, the fuel system provides the ingredients to make the car move.

Would _____, the incoming PVP, please come forward? Next is the exhaust system.

The burnt fuel/air mixture passes through the exhaust pipe to the tail pipe at the end of the car. Along the way, anti-smog, pollution-control devices remove some harmful substances and the muffler controls the noise – just like a program vice president controls the boredom by providing fun at each rehearsal.

Would _____, the incoming secretary, please come forward? The cooling system

circulates water and coolant from the radiator to keep the engine cool, and the lubrication system circulates oil to keep its parts lubricated. In this way, the secretary maintains a cool, clean report of his chapter's activities to international.

Would _____, the incoming treasurer, please come forward? Now, the brake system. To stop your car, you step on the brake pedal. Brake fluid then enters the brake lines, flows to the wheels, and eventually causes the brake shoes to push against the brake drum, causing the wheel to stop. It is necessary for the treasurer to put the brake on unnecessary spending so that the chapter can operate most efficiently.

Would _____, director, please come forward? I would certainly be remiss if I didn't mention the importance of a good set of tires. Without proper balance and alignment, and accurate pressure, no car can function at 100%. Likewise, the director must balance chords, align voice parts, and handle pressure.

A WEDDING INSTALLATION

Call up officers to be installed.

INSTALLING OFFICER:

In keeping with the importance of this occasion, I have tried to choose the proper words that will enhance the dignity of this installation.

Dearly Beloved . . . *(pause)*

We are gathered together to join in holy union this group of untried and untested officers . . .and the _____ Chapter,

(to the officers) Do you, the officers, take this chapter to be your sole responsibility in 20__ . . . to love, honor, cherish and promote the _____ Chapter . . . in sickness and in health, for richer or poorer, with or without _____ (chorus director) for as long as your term requires? If so, say "I do."

(To members) And do you, the members of the _____ Chapter, take these questionable officers to more or less cherish, accepting good as well as bad decisions, in good times or bad, and will you support them with adequate funds regardless of embezzlement . . . so long as ye both can sing? Say, "I do."

Who giveth this chapter away? *(Immediate past president is cued to sound off loud and clear ... "I do")*

.

If there is anyone here who has reasons to believe we should not join these officers and chapter together, let him speak now or we'll make him the chorus director.

With this ceremony, I now declare the 20__ officers of the _____ Chapter to be duly installed.

What the International Office hath joined together . . . let no contest judge put us under.

“MUSIC MAN” INSTALLATION

(Originally written by Roger Lewis in honor of the Society's 2007 “Year of the Music Man” theme..)

Would the following members of the Board and leadership of the chapter please come up front?

(Announce the names of the chapter officers to be installed)

You see, I'm going to ask them to sing, so the more the merrier.

Do you remember a musical about a small town in Iowa that was visited by a con man who wanted to start a boys' band? The characters in that show seem to fit every chapter in our Society. So for 2007, the Barbershop Harmony Society has chosen a theme that celebrates that musical.... It opened on Broadway on December 19, 1957 and the play and the movie are still thrilling audiences across North America and around the world.

Tonight, we will challenge your Board and your chapter to become “music men” – to spread the joy of singing throughout your territory. So let's look at _____ (city) _____ through the filter of River City, Iowa.

Gentlemen, are you ready to start a band of singers in your territory in 2007? *(Should get a hearty “yes”)*

Let's begin with Mayor Shinn ... the president of the community.... And to play him, let's invite president _____ (name) _____ to be the Mayor of _____ (chapter) _____ in 2007. Mr. President/Mayor, your challenge is to make your musical community grow and prosper in 2007 by bringing this entire team together. With Harold Hill's help, you can get the School Board to work in harmony, and get the entire town to join in the big celebration.

Just as a boys band needs a leader, so does a band of barbershop singers... and we look to the Harold Hill of _____ (chapter) _____, director (name of director). You are the Harold Hill of your chapter. Your goal is to get everyone in the territory singing, sometimes using cunning and sly tactics. The “think system” will be your friend.

Someone has to be in charge of getting people to the band rehearsals, just like Jacey Squires, the livery stable owner provided transportation for the community. So let's ask chapter development VP _____ (name) _____ to play this part. “I'll pick you up” has been one of the most successful recruiting methods that get a guest to his first meeting – probably the way many members here started their barbershopping. To increase the size of the band, you'll need to work together with the Mayor, Harold Hill and the rest of the School Board.

Ewart Dunlop was the grocery store owner. Let's ask music and performance VP _____ (name) _____ to play that part. Just like Ewart, you must provide the product to keep the entire operation healthy – good music, good singing, participation in local and barbershop events -- always being mindful of the quality of product that you produce and sell to the community.

Just like Olin Britt, the newspaper editor promoted River City, so must marketing & public relations VP _____ (name) _____ market and sell the product produced by Ewart, by Jacey, and by Harold Hill. Following the lead of Mayor Shinn is your challenge and

opportunity. Just as River City became a musical community, your goal is to make ___ (city) _____ a singing community.

Marcellus, a friend of Harold Hill, handled all the details, and to play that part, let's ask chapter secretary _____ (name) _____. Providing information and keeping records for Harold Hill, the Mayor, and for the townspeople is your task.

Oliver Hix, the banker, played an important part in River City, and who better to play that part than treasurer _____ (name) _____. Harold Hill's reason for coming to River City was money, wasn't it? As a banker, you must strike a balance between the needs of the chapter, the community, the wishes of the Mayor; the salesmanship of Harold Hill; and the occasional reluctance of the Board. Your prudent wisdom and guidance will help your "River City" rise to new growth and prosperity.

Playing the part of the constable will be immediate past president _____ (name) _____. Someone has to watch over the community -- make sure the rules and laws are followed -- keep the "band" members in line, and share your experience and knowledge with the new leaders of the _____ (city) _____ River City men's chorus.

Building a band costs money. In the case of Harold Hill, most of the money went in his pocket. In barbershop, raising funds so that harmony foundation can continue to support Director's College and Youth in Harmony programs is crucial, and that's the job of the Harmony Foundation chair, _____ (name) _____.

But to make the band grow and thrive, it needs the support of the townspeople -- Board members and music team. Apprehensive at first, then part of the huge parade. Along the way, you gather up all the members of the chapter and their families -- people who are gathered here this evening -- and fall into line behind Harold and the band.

All this can't happen unless there is harmony in the chapter. So... let's get harmony started just the way that Harold Hill did when he first met the School Board.

(Hand out the tags.)

(Teach/sing the tag)

Finally, a red-letter date for all of you in the audience to put on your calendar is Wednesday, December 19! That day in 1957 marked the opening of music man on Broadway.

- plan a guest night
- a "try-out" night
- an inter-chapter night
- a community night!
- invite other singing groups, Sweet Adelines, Harmony, Inc. high school drama clubs and choirs!
- plan for the chorus/quartets to do "Lida Rose" with a soloist to cap off the evening.

And now, by the authority vested in me by Society President (name) , and district president (name) , I now declare the Board of the (chapter) chapter installed.

Now think, men, think!

“SINGING IS LIFE...the rest is just details” INSTALLATION

(Call the names of each officer and board member, by name and title, and ask them to come to the front and face the audience. Note: if they line up, starting beside you, they'll be in proper order for you to address each one.)

Fellow Barbershoppers, wives, and friends, it is my privilege to install the Officers of the _____ Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

(if you wish, you may mention your position/title, and doing the installation as representative of Society President)

SINGING IS LIFE... the rest is just details..... is the motto of our past Society President, Roger Lewis. It suggests an overview of the many things we enjoy in barbershopping - our regular chapter meetings; our public performances, and gatherings like this.

Imagine, if you will, a book entitled "**SINGING IS LIFE... the rest is just details**", it would have many chapters: some of which would deal with "Singing", and certainly, some that would address the "details".

In the next few moments, let's examine the various chapters in the book, and how they describe the responsibilities of the chapter officers that you see in front of you this evening.

(Note: you could also put the President last.)

President _____ (name)

Your responsibility is the entire book. **SINGING IS LIFE... the rest is just details** is the challenge and opportunity of your year. First, to insure that **SINGING** is the key part of every chapter activity — a focus and a vision that you must always keep in sight. Second, to see that the “details” are taken care of in a timely, efficient manner.

You will also be the writer of the forward to the book — an overview of the enjoyment and education the reader will enjoy. In addition, you have the responsibility to edit each chapter to be certain that each operation falls under the guidelines of your chapter goals.

VP of Chapter Development _____ (name)

Your chapter is titled, "**MEMBERSHIP IS LIFE... the rest is just details.**". The life of the chapter depends on membership, both recruiting new members and retention of the current members. To accomplish that, you need to work with the Marketing and PR officer to get the word out to men who love to sing; you must assure that each guest is made to feel welcome, introduced to a "buddy", and invited back; you must make certain that each guest, and each member, has the opportunity to hear his own voice in a quartet if he so chooses; and you must guarantee that each new member has a proper orientation to the chapter, and to barbershopping. It's a big job, and you'll also need lots of help... not just from those standing up front with you, but from each member out in the audience. Membership is everybody's business.

VP of Music _____ (name)

"MUSIC IS LIFE... the rest is just details" is your chapter in the book. Music is the reason each of us came to our first barbershop meeting. Music is what makes us feel good

on our way home at the end of a great evening. The music of your chapter is in your hands. The quantity of songs you sing; the quality of performance, the variety of music, and the predominance of "Barbershop" music -- the reason for our very existence, all are in your chapter of the book.

Program VP _____ (name)

"ENTERTAINMENT IS LIFE...the rest is just details". Your contribution goes beyond singing, although that is the underlying principle behind your activities. Your mission is to guarantee that each member and guest goes home from every meeting feeling not just "satisfied", but joyously happy with his evening's experience. Providing a balance of quartet singing, group singing, chorus singing, gang singing, tag singing, education, and FUN is your challenge. Somehow, you get the impression that it revolves around singing, don't you?

Chorus director _____ (name)

"QUALITY IS LIFE... the rest is just details". The quality of barbershop music this chorus presents to the public is in your chapter of the book. You are the single most important factor in the life and the growth of a chapter. Educational opportunities abound within the Society that will help you be on a path of continuous improvement. Directors College, Chorus Director's Workshop Intensive, chorus coaching opportunities, and most important, the contest experience will help you and the chorus improve.

Youth In Harmony chairman _____ (name)

"YOUTH IS LIFE... the rest is just details". The average member of our Society is over 58 years of age, and according to current life expectancy tables, over half of our Society will be singing in the heavenly chorus just 15 years from now. The Society and District YIH committees have created excellent plans to help your chapter be a leader in "encouraging vocal music in our schools and communities" — which is a part of the Society vision statement.

Treasurer _____ (name)

"MONEY IS LIFE...the rest is just details". Yes, our hobby takes money. Your chapter in the book must insure that we receive, spend and report our funds in accordance with the vision of the Society, the goals of your chapter, and the rules of the IRS. Your performance not only makes the jobs of the other officers easier... it makes them "possible". Good things can happen when we have the funds to support them.

Secretary _____ (name)

"DETAILS ARE LIFE...the rest is just singing". As the author of this chapter of the book, you must be certain that records are kept — not only of the meetings, but records of members, plus additional records assigned to you by the President. You are also the "expert" that all the members will come to for information about dues, the District, the Society, and probably about what to wear on the next performance.

Quartet activity chairman _____ (name)

"QUARTETING IS LIFE...the rest is just details". Enlarging the "Q" in SPEBSQSA is your responsibility. Make it a BIG part of your chapter's life. Singing Valentines is the second best thing that's ever happened to the Barbershop Quartet ("The Music Man" was

#1). Create new programs that will allow all your members to participate in the most rewarding part of our hobby B singing in a quartet!

Bulletin editor/PR officer _____ (name)

"COMMUNICATION IS LIFE...the rest is just details". Communication is the key to all else that happens within the book, isn't it? Keeping members informed. Making the public aware of the chapter and quartet activities. Building enthusiasm. Supporting all of the other Officers' projects. Your attention to each of these can build a better, stronger chapter.

All board members-at-large & officers

"SINGING IS LIFE.... the rest is just invisible".

Now that all of you have considered your contribution to the book, it is your duty to make the entire book INVISIBLE to your members and guests. The "DETAILS" are for YOU to see, and to deal with as a part of your responsibility as an officer. These same details should never burden the rest of the group B your challenge is to do them quietly, efficiently, and "behind the scenes". Short business meetings, good communications that quickly inform, maintaining a balance and a variety to every meeting that give each member and guest a fun, satisfying experience is your challenge for 2002.

If you will promise to do your best to fill each member's "LIFE with SINGING", please answer, "I will".

The final chapter: members, wives, friends:

"SINGING IS LIFE....". Your board has promised you a "Life filled with Singing" They owe it to you. But, you must support them in their efforts. Will you promise to work diligently to support them, to volunteer when asked, to sing to the best of your ability, and to do your part to make the chapter the best in the Society?

If you will, please answer "I will."

By the authority vested in me by Society President Roger Lewis, I declare the officers of the chapter of the district installed.

Finally, if **"SINGING IS LIFE..., then let's sing.**

(Song chosen by installing officer..... if this is the end of the evening, "Teach the Children to Sing" and "Keep the Whole World Singing" are appropriate.)

SOME “CREATE YOUR OWN” CEREMONY IDEAS:

Football game:

- Head coach - board or chapter president
- Quarterback - music director/chapter president
- Lineman - support officers/committee chairmen
- Center - music director
- Football - music program
- Receivers - any office
- Ticket takers - secretary
- Concession stands - treasurer

Corporate sales meeting:

- President of sales - chapter president
- VP for recruiting salesman - MVP
- VP for Recreation and Happiness - PVP
- Treasurer of the budget - treasurer
- Secretary of the Orders - secretary
- Director of Promotion - music director

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