

BARBERSHOP BASICS #6

Chapter Communication

In order to have a sense of belonging (or bonding) in a group, there must be good communication. The most successful choruses have communication that is open and feedback that is clear and valued.

The following are some effective ways that they successfully communicate:

- Weekly bulletins or hotsheets (also sent to inactive members and those on leave).
- Membership roster that is regularly updated for all members.
- Current chorus calendar given to all members.
- Cards sent to those who are ill, have had recent deaths in the family or something to celebrate such as marriage, a new baby, a new home, or other milestones.
- Birthday cards sent.
- Active calling (or e-mail) committee to contact absent members and let them know that they are missed.
- Riser buddies who maintain regular contact with guests and new members.
- An occasional questionnaire to get feedback from members. If problems or dissatisfactions are detected, steps are taken to fix the problems.
- A chorus recognition program. Awards may be presented to new members after completion of their first year, present longevity (five, ten, fifteen years etc.) or service awards, or give "unique talent" awards or "member of the month" awards.
- Active volunteers. The next time your chorus asks for volunteers for a committee or special project, consider saying yes! Work spread among many members prevents burn-out, presents new member opportunities and leads to better personal and public recognition.
- Catch the enthusiasm and pass it on! Believe in yourself. Your chorus. Your product. Your talent. You are what you think you are!
- Keep in touch through invitations to social events. Have a social gathering for all members who have joined your chorus within the past 12 months. It's an opportunity for newer members to ask questions, share experiences, and get to know each other on a more personal basis.