

# BARBERSHOP BASICS #5

## Standing Rules

You've been handed a copy of your chorus' Standing Rules and you're probably thinking, what am I supposed to do with this? What are standing rules anyway?

First, you should read, or preferably own a copy of the **Chapter Guide**, which is available through Sweet Adelines International. Chapter 3 is entitled "Guidelines for Standing Rules," and probably can answer any or all of your questions.

### WHAT ARE STANDING RULES?

According to *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*: "Standing rules are motions or resolutions governing actions of an organization. They are adopted from time to time as needed to support the bylaws."

In other words, standing rules are the rules your chapter has adopted which support the bylaws of your chapter, your region, and the international organization.

### HOW ARE THEY ADOPTED?

Standing rules may be adopted at any meeting of the chapter without previous notice by a majority vote of the members present who are in good standing.

### HOW ARE THEY RESCINDED OR AMENDED?

Standing rules can be rescinded or amended. As time goes by, your chapter may find that a rule no longer fits how they are now choosing to "do business." They can make an adjustment to the rule when the majority of the members in good standing vote to make a change.

### HOW ARE THEY SUSPENDED (WAIVED)?

Standing rules may be suspended (waived) for one meeting only by a majority vote of the members in good standing present at any meeting of the chapter.

### DO CHAPTER STANDING RULES REQUIRE INTERNATIONAL APPROVAL?

No, but a chapter's standing rules cannot be adopted if they conflict with any provisions of the *Standard Form Chapter Bylaws*, *Standard Form Regional Bylaws*, *Corporate Bylaws* or international policy. Should such a conflict occur, the standing rules in question are null and void and the bylaws take precedence.

Part of your region's standing rules require that a chapter's standing rules must be reviewed periodically by the regional bylaws and rules chair. Amendments to your chapter's standing rules are submitted to your regional bylaws and rules chair for approval.

If you have specific questions about your chapter's standing rules, please ask a member of your chapter's management team/board of directors. You may also refer to Section III of the **Chapter Guide**.

It's a good thing to keep a copy of your chapter's standing rules because your chorus can function at its best when each member is fully aware of the chapter's governance structure and is committed to the harmonious handling of chapter business.