

North Carolina Harmony Brigade Membership, Guest and Attendance Policies & Timelines

(Revised 6/15/2022 v2) In support of and in accordance with the ideals set forth in the North Carolina Harmony Brigade (NCHB) Founding Resolution, the following policies are in effect.

- 1. One of the purposes of the NCHB is to promote men's quartet singing. Thus, at this time, participation and membership are for men.
- 2. NCHB Membership is based first and foremost on *fully prepared participation*.
- 3. Membership requires Barbershop Harmony Society ("BHS") membership, and any man who is over 18 and a BHS member may be considered for NCHB Membership regardless of his home chapter affiliation or BHS Subsidiary (SNOBS, BABS, etc.)
- 4. NCHB Membership may be awarded no earlier than the close of a participant's second consecutive rally.
 - a. The term "Guest" refers to non-Scholarship participants who are attending their first complete rally.
 - b. The term "Candidate" refers to non-Scholarship participants attending their second consecutive rally who are eligible for Membership.
- 5. Retention of NCHB Membership is dependent on both *consistent attendance* and *fully prepared* participation.
 - a. An NCHB Member who misses two consecutive annual NCHB rallies automatically forfeits membership, but may be invited, as a guest participant, to subsequent NCHB rallies.
 - b. A less than fully prepared NCHB Member, who attempts NCHB rally participation, may be subject in the first instance to activity limits and an advisory, and in the second instance to membership forfeiture. An attendee whose membership is forfeited in this manner is unlikely to be invited as a guest participant to subsequent NCHB rallies.
 - c. Any cancelled Brigade, such as what happened in 2021 and 2022, will not be counted as a missed rally.

6. Associate Brigaders

- a. When a member's age or other issues impacts vocal capability (range and/or quality) and/or the ability to memorize the music packet, the member may voluntarily request Associate Brigader status. A member will be required to make this designation on or before the deadline indicated in the member registration/renewal materials.
- b. The membership committee has the authority to designate a member as an Associate Brigader, based on the advice of the Music Committee, if the member's vocal quality and range has been impacted or if his ability to memorize the music packet has been lessened.

- c. Those having Associate Brigader status will be welcomed to attend all brigade functions, but will be excluded from the random draw-quartet contest and the Saturday evening show. The Music Committee may make exceptions to these rules as they deem appropriate. The Music Committee will handle any request by an Associate Brigader to return to regular status for the subsequent rally.
- d. Participation in the fun random Quartetting is not just a part of the rally it is really the essence of the rally. With that in mind, a subset of the song list (4 or 5 songs each year) will be designated as Associate Brigader Songs. Associate Brigaders will be expected to learn these songs and enjoy singing them with everyone, along with any others that they are able to learn. The team of Brigader Performance Checkers (PC's) might be used to verify that level of preparation.
- 6. For each rally, the number of participating members and guests (non-Associate Brigaders) will be targeted at a maximum of 120 with 30 participants per voice part. Official Acceptances to attend the annual rally will be issued so as to overbook by an estimated amount based on cancellation experience in prior years. To ensure a balance across all parts, Acceptances will be sent out in an order to maintain a balance with a balance tolerance acceptable to the Music Committee. Thus, some applications, perhaps even from Members, might be kept on hold for a while. No application will be kept on hold beyond September 1. No other waiting list will be maintained.

7. Guest Acceptances

- a. Only the Membership Committee may extend Acceptances for Guest and Candidate participation in the NCHB.
- b. First-time guests and Scholarship candidates will be informed soon after the completion of their first rally if they will be invited back as a Candidate the following year.
- c. Only NCHB Members may submit Guest nominations, and a nomination does not guarantee an Acceptance. As a guideline, the Membership and Music Committees will give deference to Guest Nominations on the basis of documented and/or perceived quartetting ability, vocal part slots available, North Carolina denizenship, and nomination submission date in that order. Finalization of each year's acceptance list is solely determined by the Membership Committee.