

FAIRFAX JUBIL-AIRES 2007 CHAPTER EVALUATION SURVEY

26 forms as of 4-1-07

1. Your age:

<50	50s	60s	<70
1	6	10	8

How long have you been a Barbershopper? _____

1	2	3	4	5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	25-30	31-40	> 40
3		1	4	1	4	4		1	2	1	2

How long in this chapter? _____

1	2	3	4	5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	25-30	31-40	> 40
3		2	4	1	5	2		2	1	2	1

2. Circle the 5 works that best outline why you are involved in the Fairfax chapter:

Harmony	12	Quartetting	10	To sing better	8
Afterglows	11	Teaching	1	Friend invited me	2
Friends	8	Tags		Good workout	1
Music	1	Win Division		Win District	1
Community service		Learn to sing	2	Woodshedding	
Night out		Enjoyment	8	Competition	3
Singing	11	Sing at international		Fellowship	8
Chorus	4	New music	2	Attend International	
Harmony University	1	Harmony College East		Coaching sessions	
Love it	1	To perform	4	Just fun	4
To entertain	5	Challenge	3	Improvement	2
Laughs		Goose bumps		Goals	

Old Music - 1

3. How many chapter meeting nights do you miss attending a year? _____

0	1	2	3	4	5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-30	31-51	all
	3	1	3	3	3	7	6	2			

4. Could we affect this by changing the program?

Yes	0
No	24

How?

- “I’ve reached a point where I love the Chapter, but not the chorus work.”

5. How many minutes do you spend on “Barbershop” besides chapter meetings during the week?

0	1-15	15-30	30-60	1-2 hr	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	> 8
1	1		3	6	5	3	1			2	1

6. Please evaluate the effectiveness of the following people/positions on the board/administration during the last year.

Position	Don't Know	Needs Improvement	Good Job	Made a Real Difference	Very Effective
President		3	11	8	3
Corresponding Secretary	8		9	4	3
Treasurer	2		7	7	8
VP Music & Program	1		8	8	1
VP Marketing	7	5	7	1	
Music Director			5	7	13
Assistant Directors		2	9	10	5
Show Team	2		5	8	8
FARBs	4		4	7	11
Program Director	4	5	6	5	2
Chorus Manager	2		10	5	8
Bulletin Editor			3	9	12
Membership Chairman	2	6	9	6	1

What would you ask these individuals (or their successors) to do to make our chapter a better, stronger, and more enjoyable organization?

- Organize random quartets
- More visibility of leaders
- Empower members, make them more aware of decisions/more engagement with chapter on operations, program development, music selection, and goals for chapter progress (2)
- Recruit more members (2)
- Program needs dynamic leadership and planning – lay out a program of objectives & activities for the year & share with members (2)
- Encourage and support new members

- Get feedback from members on new songs, before we invest time in them
- Arrange more performances

If asked, would you assist these men with a specific project?

Yes	20
No	1
Maybe	2

One “no” is already committed to substantial chapter work.

7. Please rate your overall enjoyment of our current repertoire.

Song	Lousy	I don't like it	OK - I never thought about it	About right	Couldn't be better
A Wink and a Smile		1	3	14	8
Amazing Grace		2	8	15	1
America			7	12	7
America the Beautiful			1	15	9
ABT Overlay		7	6	8	2
Battle Hymn of the Republic	1	2	6	14	2
Coney Island Washboard		4	10	12	
Dear Hearts and Gentle People		1	2	17	4
Don't Blame Me			2	10	14
End of a Perfect Day	1	4	2	13	6
Flying Machine			6	16	3
Glory of Love		2	4	15	5
God Bless America			3	11	11
Heart			3	10	14
High Hopes		2	3	14	7
I'll Fly Away			1	11	15
If There'd Never Been an Ireland		1	3	14	7
I'm Sitting on Top of the World		1	3	16	6
Jubil-Aires Welcome Song (Auld Lang Syne)	1	4	6	10	4
Sound Celebration				11	15
Star Spangled Banner		1	1	15	9
There's A Rainbow Round My Shoulder		1	8	13	4
There'll Be No New Tunes		3	6	12	4
When I'm 64			2	14	6

What suggestions would you offer for music that you would enjoy?

- If guys, in general, don't like a song, they won't perform it well.
- The music we're singing now is dynamite!
- Ballads for us/up tunes for the audience
- Tunes that entertain
- Show tunes (2)
- Modern and musically interesting
- Old songs
- More contemporary, unusual arrangements
- "Heart of My Heart, I Love that Melody"
- "When We Were Kids, on the Corner of the Street"
- "Beautiful Dreamer"
- Tunes that promote development of good vocal technique
- Country/western
- Show tunes (11)
- Love songs

8. By category, what would be your perfect blend of music?

	0%	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	40%	50%	>60%
Old Standards	1		1	1	7	6	2		3	4
New Barbershop			4	2	3	7	5	1	1	2
Show Tunes	1	5	7	3	5	4	3			
Swing	3	3	10	1	3	3	1		1	
Non-Barbershop	5	3	12	1	2	2				

9. Overall, please evaluate the accomplishments of our last Music Team.

- Good new songs (4)
- ADs good work adds interest
- 3 new songs is about right
- Members had no say in possible selections
- CD support is helpful (2)
- Good progress (2)

What could be improved?

- Finding great songs
- Work on tonal center singing
- Fresh coaching
- Active section leaders
- More sectionals on craft, vice songs (2)
- Visibility to chorus
- Duetting with parts

- Break projects into small pieces that can be delegated
- Practice between meetings
- Dialogue with members on music selection and goals
- More structured choreography

10. Per year, how many of the following activities should we be involved in?

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	>7	More
Summer Choir?							1		
Annual show	2	22	1						
Christmas show	2	13	1	4					
Community performances (free)				1	3	5	3	2	7
½ Hour paid shows	2	1	2	1		3	2	1	3
1 Hour paid shows	4	2	2	1	2	2	2		5
Inter-Chapter Visits		6	4	2					4
Family events	1	4	5	2					7
Men-only events	5	1	1						
Fund raising events	2	4	2	1					

- Atleast one performance per month
- Fund raiser suggestions: spaghetti dinner, art auction, raffle (3)
- Men only suggestions: chorus retreat (2); softball or bowling (1)
- Only do a fund raiser if it involves singing
- TV/radio spots or appearances
- Raise dues rather than have non-singing fund raisers
- Charity appearances

11. Do you enjoy competing in divisional/district contests?

Yes	13
No	4

Question:	Low 1	2	3	4	High 5
How important is contest to you?	3	4	8	5	4
How important is it to judging chapter improvement?	1	1	8	9	4
How important is it to understanding what to work on over the next year?	3	3	5	7	5

12. Do you attend conventions when not performing?

Yes	3
No	16
Sometimes	6

Why?

- Yes – barbershop extends to more than just our chapter
- No – I’d rather sing
- Yes – I like barbershop
- No – too far away
- Yes – Hear “good” choruses/quartets and enjoyment

13. Do you understand how the contest system works?

Yes	21
No	5

14. Would you like a chance to represent our District at International?

Yes	14
No	10

Why?

- If you had ever competed at International, as I have, you wouldn’t need to ask.
- Only if venue is close
- Don’t need the pressure
- Not willing to make investment in time to do it
- Pride of accomplishment/peer validation (4)
- Would go if we qualified
- Exciting & fun
- Great goal!
- I’m not ready to perform
- Too much work on 2 songs
- Concentrate on basic techniques first

15. Should we compete at our next Divisional contest?

Yes	23
No	1

Comments:

- Force us to improve

16. What would it take for us to go to District this year?

- Serious voice placement work; some leads should sing harmony parts
- A miracle (2)
- Auditions
- 61%
- Tell guys who are not making it not to sing
- Qualifications (12)
- Mandatory practices (four of them)
- Voice coaching (2)
- Learn to read music
- Commitment (2)
- Focus on tuning
- Focus & commitment

- Good music, package, dedication = WIN
- Pick two songs and work hard
- Two songs that historically score well
- Has to be a continuous thing, not just implemented for contest
- Sing better
- Know the music better
- Practice, practice, practice (6)
- Practice with sound/video recordings
- Retreats

What would you, personally be willing to do that would improve our chances?

- Better mastery of repertoire
- Anything asked of me by the Music Team (2)
- Almost anything (6)
- Practice more/learn my music (3)
- Attend extra rehearsals (2)
- Voice lessons (1)
- Devote more time to achieve perfection

One implication of increased personal accountability and responsibility for the chorus' growth in musical excellence is that the individuals will have to grow in individual skills. This requires hard work, meeting a higher standard of personal performance, and improved singing skills. How does this fit in your own set of priorities?

Very well	Somewhat	Not sure	Somewhat poorly	Poorly
16	7	1		

17. What do you enjoy most on Chapter night?

- Singing (7)
- Quartetting (3)
- Fellowship/camaraderie (4)
- Harmony (3)
- Chorus rehearsal (2)
- Riser time
- Afterglow
- When new things happen and light bulbs go off
- New Songs
- When we do songs right
- Singing songs that have punch & Harmony Travel Working to improve performance
- When we have quality not quantity in getting through the repertoire

18 What annoys you?

Too much training		
Chatting and cutting up on the risers	14	Only when disrupting discussion or performance (2)
Certain songs in our repertoire	4	
Our Director		
Too much time on the risers	4	
Not enough time on the risers	4	Could do some work in chairs.
Certain officers	1	
Never singing a song all the way through during training/rehearsal	4	
Poor singing	1	
Singing same songs in same bad way	1	
Too much training		

- “Half-assed choreography”
- People singing instead of listening, when the Director is demonstrating something
- Singing a song through regardless of how well

19. Is “Funtime” best at the end of the evening, as we do it now at 9:30 pm, or would it work better as a break from our work on the risers? 9:30 Mid-session

9:30	16
Mid-session	3
Vary, depending on plan	5

- I like it at the end, but can see using it to exercise a new skill in mid-rehearsal

20. Just what is “fun?”

Performing better	23	
Gang singing lots of songs	5	
Woodshedding	7	
Chatting/hanging out	3	
Scoring well at contest	8	
Signing in a quartet	16	
Trying new songs	20	
Working up and performing a scripted show	9	At least try it (1)

What sort of activities would you like to see in our chapter night?

- More quartetting (3)
- Outside quartet (3)
- Planned craft sessions (2)
- Sectionals (2)
- Variety
- We do enough cutting up during rehearsal; we don't need a fun time
- Start on time
- Warm up and sing until we get it right

21. What would be your perfect "blend" on the evening?

	0%	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	>30%
Warm up		10	7	1				
Repertoire	1	1		2	1	1	2	11
New music		1	5	2	4	2	1	3
Sectionals	1	3	6	2	2	1	1	
Choreography	2	7	4	1		1		

- Quartetting 1 1

	0%	5%	10%	15%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	>60%
Risers			1		3			2	3	4
Seats			2	2	1	3	1	1		1
Break	1	4	10							
Program		1	2	2	5					
Wood-shedding	1	3			1					

- Not the same every night
- Don't like sitting, unless just to learn (1st night) words, breathing, etc.

22.

	Low 1	2	3	4	High 5
Overall, how would you rate your enjoyment of our current chapter night?		1	5	15	6

23. What one thing, if changed tomorrow, would increase your level of enjoyment?

- More quartetting (4)
- Guys come prepared so we can move faster (2)

- Higher quality learning materials
- My own skill
- More improvement
- Bigger chorus
- Break into sectionals to work on craft
- More member involvement in chapter decisions
- Increased group focus
- More voice coaching
- Level of professionalism

24. Do you enjoy sessions with outside coaches?

Yes	23
No	1
Sometimes	1

What do you enjoy most about these sessions?

- New ideas/fresh perspective (12)
- Same thing said by different people, in slightly different way is effective (3)
- New perspective on our chorus (2)
- Learning (2)
- Performance tips (2)
- When the chorus responds well (2)
- They see areas needing improvement & focus on them
- Concentrated instruction that gets the most out of us
- The experience
- New teaching techniques
- New interpretation of song
- Some coaches take us to new highs

What do you enjoy least?

- Doing the same thing over and expecting a different result
- Lack of variety
- “Full of themselves” coaches
- Sectionals
- Our inattention to their instruction
- I don’t think everyone comes prepared
- Too much talking
- Too complicated choreography
- Too many interruptions of songs without singing through
- Standing all day...but it’s worth it

Do they help improve morale and motivation?

Yes	20
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No	1
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How?

- Inspire us by pulling out our better efforts and not letting us believe we can't achieve (3)
- We do better afterwards. It gets every participant in the same direction. After a coaching session, there is a lot of enthusiasm, optimism, etc. Then it dries out. (2)
- People get new ideas from sessions.
- Can't rely on Director to remember everything. Need a team to enact new stuff.
- We actually improve.
- When used to review notes and words, they are a waste.
- We're on our best behavior and work harder.
- Constructive criticism
- Identifies specific things for improvement
- New chemistry

Do you find that coaching sessions compliment regular training with our directors or interfere with our normal work?

Compliment	17
Interfere	

Please explain.

- Compliment if Director coordinates with coach (3) They help. An outsider is refreshing. (2)
- Directors learn from coaches too
- Reinforces what Director tells us
- Compliment – coaches are specialists

How often should we have coaches help us?

	Times per year					
	0	1	2	3	4-8	8-12
Chapter night: Performance coaches		1	5	4	3	2
Vocal coaches		1	5	2	5	1
All day Saturday Sessions: Performance coaching	1	7	4			
Vocal coaching	1	5	1	1	2	
Combined	1	9	4		3	

- As often as we can afford

- Prior to show/competition
- Performance coach, only if they are going to choreograph the song and then teach it to us

Are there particular coaches we have used who stand out in your mind?

Harlan	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good, but don't need expense • has taken us to new highs
Sally	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective • She's awesome • Reinforces what we do and brings sparkle to the chorus • Works us hard & we respond • "No prisoners" on goofing off, but she does it with a smile → motivating • Makes us work too hard
Bobby Gray	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gave us life and sound
Bill Colisomo	1	
John Hohl	1	
Bob Caldwell	2	
Scott Brannor	1	Helpful to both chorus & director
HCE	1	
Craig O'Dell	1	
Dave Calland	1	
Ev Nau	1	
Bill James	1	

- I like variety

25. What could the chapter do to help you improve your singing and performance?

- More training/coaching (5)
- More quartetting (3)
- Sectionals (3)
- Sectional craft sessions (2)
- More feedback
- Videos/mirrors
- Film/tape rehearsals so we can see & hear ourselves
- Assist to lose weight
- Stage presence (5% on choreo)
- Learn music quickly
- Higher quality learning materials
- Availability

What could you do, personally?

- Practice more at home (5)
- Singing lessons (4)
- Form a quartet/sing in a quartet (2)

- Continue working on/learning chapter music (3)
- Lose weight
- Work more on staying in performance mode
- More structured in my off-site practice
- Improve skills
- Challenge others to improve skills

26. How long, on average, does it take you to learn a new song well enough to sing it “off the paper?” ___ weeks

1	2	3	4	Other
7	7	8	3	5-10 weeks 6 weeks (2)

- Depends on song and type
- Note: the man who takes 5-10 weeks does not use learning tracks

27. How could this be improved?

- Work harder (2)
- Attend as often as possible
- Continue buying quality learning tracks
- Sing songs in quartets
- Provide learning tracks, not Noteworthy! (2)
- Select music we like
- I don’t know; I have trouble with words

28. Do you regularly use your “learning tape” to learn new songs?

Yes	22
No	2

- I am lost without them

Have there been particular learning tracks that were of more help than others or does it vary song-by-song (does it depend more on the song or the track)?

- Newer, high quality tracks help a lot, especially Tim Waurick’s; easy to hear notes and vowel shapes (12)
- Both, but track is most important
- Need way to get at individual cuts (CDs & MP3 better than tapes)
- Minus 1 are best
- Noteworthy doesn’t help me

29. To catch interpretation and changes in songs we are learning, would you be prepared to bring a small hand held or pocket voice recorder to tape learning sessions?

Yes	22
No	

30. What suggestions/techniques would aid us in learning our choreography?

- Practice with good coaches (9)
- Keep it simple, but effective (3)

- Experiences members (2)
- Video (2)
- Qualify individually as we do for contest
- Decide early on moves. Devote chunks of an evening to it.
- Choreo better matched to song
- Don't get to sing it until choreo known!
- Watch videos of VM, Alexandria, etc.
- Teach it to new members
- Permanent riser positions would help, especially a stable front row
- First, start with good choreography

31. How many members should we set as a goal for our chapter and hence any performance we do?

As is	15	35	40	50	75	>76
2	1	1	4	5	1	As many as possible

Why?

- 40 covers individual voices that stick out (2)
- There is a minimum number that seems to facilitate taking mediocre singers and doing quality singing. I think it starts at about 50.
- 25 is minimum needed
- 50 active assures 20-25 for all performances
- 75 is reasonable to populate the riser and create a strong sound without logistics problems of 100⁺
- 50 so that 40 will show up
- 50-60 *young* members
- 45 – good sound, looks good, more opportunity to form quartets, workable logistically

32. Would you like to sing in a quartet?

Yes	21
No	1

What is holding you back?

- I already do (9)
- Time (5)
- Confidence (2)
- Finding the right partners (2)
- Finding a bari
- Talent
- Summer absence

- Not ready
- Learning the music

33. Would you be willing to sing in an octet?

Yes	16
No	4

Would there be advantages for you?

- Better chance of getting it right (4)
- Sectional support
- Easier to learn songs
- Just for the fun of singing
- There is always strength I numbers – builds confidence
- No – two on a part really doesn't work
- No advantage, but I just like idea, especially if we mix with SA quartet for a show

34. Please rate our communications activities:

Please rate our communications activities	Poor	Too irregular	Provide more information	Good	Excellent
What's Happening?			1	6	17
Wednesday Morning Quarterback		2	1	12	9
Jubil-Aires Journal	1	9	1	5	3
Website postings	4	5	3	8	2

Comments:

- Need to “glam up” website to attract BBS browsers.
- Website not used to good advantage; not current/updated
- “What's Happening” is a big file

35. Do we have enough social activities? Yes-9 No-5 Too many

What kind of social events would you like to see?	None	Less than now	About right	More	How many per year?

					How many per year?			
					0	1	2	>2
Guest nights			6	12			5	3
Inter-chapter visits		1	6	14		3	2	2
Tag contests or just singing tags	4	2	3	8		2	1	2
Family events: dinners, picnics, parties			8	9		3	4	1
Woodshedding contests	4	1	5	4	2	1	1	

Comments:

- Parties
- Quartet contest

36. What is your view of our current and possible fund-raising activities?

Activity	Our best way to raise money; let's do more	About right now	Fewer than now	Eliminate/don't try	New idea; let's try it	It's OK, but I will not participate
Singing Valentines	10	13				1
Additional Singing Greetings	4	4		6	8	
Shows	7	12	1	1	1	
Paid performances	12	4		1	3	
Non-singing fundraisers like Bingo	2	3		10	1	2

Activity	Our best way to raise money; let's do more	About right now	Fewer than now	Eliminate/don't try	New idea; let's try it	It's OK, but I will not participate
Chapter dues (currently \$8)	9	10			1	
Flea markets	2	5	2	9		1
Easter egg hunt and similar community events	5	11		2	1	1
Do we support the district enough?		13	3	2	1	1

- Dues – 2 suggested \$20
- Flea Market every 5 years

37. Should we be involved more in community outreach?

Yes	22
No	1

How?

Youth in Harmony	11 – takes a lot of time and effort
Performances at community events	10
Performances at churches	7
Summer park concerts	2

Why?

It's a good thing to do	5
Maintain our non-profit status	4
Recruitment	13
More performances → better performances	2
Display skill	1
Visiility/recognition	2

38. Was this survey a good idea?

Yes	23
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No	
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- Too long

What should we have asked that we did not?

- What would be your objection to greater commitment to chorus/personal improvement?
- What should our goals be?
- How much more effort am I willing to exert?
- Commitment to chapter – what is each of us willing to do?

Please add any additional comments on the back.