

## **CREATING NEW DIRECTORS**

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So where are our future chorus directors coming from? Several of us have been talking about just this topic and have decided that we should have an answer to that question. We could sit back and let nature take its course. But how does that help the district?

Our answer is very simple. Our future directors are now singing in our choruses. They are the men who are section leaders or are active in quartets or, just maybe, he's that guy in the second row who's eyes light up when the song begins or, even, when he walks in the door.

So how do we get him interested in this vital role in every chapter? We want to start a recruiting campaign that reaches into every chapter to find their best and brightest and send them to school. Make sense?

Here's what we'd like to happen. At your next chapter board meeting, make an agenda item to nominate one man from the chapter and send him to Beginning Directors class at the Harmony Pilgrimage or the Homecoming this August. Better still; don't even wait until the board meeting. Look over the roster and get it done now! There is at least one man in every chapter who fits the criteria above.

Will this work? The numbers seem to be in our favor. There are 63 chapters in NED. If we bat .500 we will have 30+ men beginning training to become directors. Then, given that some won't find directing to be their cup of tea, we'll lose a few but still should come away with a dozen or so men ready to tackle more training.

And we're going to sweeten the pot because the Northeastern District Chorus Director's Assoc. (NEDCDA) will be featuring a class at their December Seminar with Nashua's own Steve Tramack and aimed at beginning directors. So our new guys will have two terrific events in the next six months to help them plant their feet firmly in the director's stable.

Is this important? You bet! If you take inventory of any chapter's assets you'll find that the most important is the chorus director. Chapters rise and fall on the skills of their director and we've seen that for years. The major area of failure of many chapters is their inability to recruit a talented director. The men we hope to train will not only contribute more positively to their own chorus but will join the pool of directors we need to help other chapters. This is nothing but WIN-WIN!

Will you help us? Will you reach out to your chapter leadership to take part in this program? Will you consider volunteering yourself to be a new director-in-training? The benefits are staggering for all of us and, especially, our beloved hobby.

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