



North Carolina Harmony Brigade

Membership, Guest and Attendance Policies & Timelines

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. NCHB Membership is based first and foremost on *fully prepared participation*.
2. Membership requires Barbershop Harmony Society (“BHS”) membership, and any BHS member may be considered for NCHB Membership regardless of his home chapter affiliation.
3. NCHB Membership may be awarded no earlier than the close of a participant’s second consecutive rally.
 - a. The term “Guest” refers to participants who are attending their first complete rally.
 - b. The term “Candidate” refers to participants attending their second consecutive rally who are eligible for Membership.
4. 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 chorus activity limits and a written warning, 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.
5. 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. Once a member requests or is designated as an Associate Brigader, his status for the upcoming brigade will not change. Those having Associate Brigader status will be welcomed to attend all brigade functions, but will be excluded from the random draw Friday night quartet contest and will not perform on the Saturday evening show.
 - 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. A team of Associate Brigader Performance Checkers (PC’s) will be used to verify that level of preparation.
6. On an annual basis, the number of participating members and guests (non-Associate Brigaders) will be targeted at 140 with 35 participants per voice part. Official invitations to attend the annual rally will be issued so as to overbook by an estimated amount based on cancellation experience in prior years. No waiting list will be maintained.
7. Guest Invitations

- a. Only the Membership Committee may extend Invitations for Guest and Candidate participation in the NCHB.
- b. Guest Nomination Forms must be submitted to be considered for invitation.
- c. First-time guests will be informed soon after the completion of their first rally if they will be invited back as a Candidate the following year.
- d. Only NCHB Members may submit Guest nominations, and a nomination does not guarantee an invitation. As a guideline, the Membership Committee 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 invitation list is solely determined by the Membership Committee.