

BTW, I don't know if you are familiar with how our Orange chapter program works, but it may be of interest.

We meet in a church kindergarten school, with one large room for the meeting and three classrooms for practice rooms, and can also practice in the meeting room, a storeroom, and the men's head (the rest room, if you're not a seagoing man).

At the beginning of the meeting, we warm up singing the traditional songs as a chorus, and perhaps work on a new song for the Chapter repertoire.

Meanwhile one of our members takes nametags for each member present and hangs the tags on a board to form quartets.

It is very unlikely that there will be equal numbers of people for each part, so if he has, say, some extra leads or whatever, he assigns them to already picked quartets. We might have then a group, for example with one tenor, two leads, one bari, and three basses. Each such group is assigned a practice room.

At the end of the warmup, the order is "Bring up the board!" and the board is brought forward, members find to which practice room they are assigned, and they proceed to their room, where they pick a song or songs and rehearse. Choice of song is entirely up to the group.

NOTE: All of the singing is QUARTET only (with rare exceptions for guests such as a New Zealander who visited us last week and didn't know any of our repertoire). So the example group I described above would sing three songs, one for each bass. The two leads will decide how to apportion the three songs between them, and the tenor and bari get to sing in all three songs.

After rehearsal, we go back to the meeting room, and each quartet sings its song for the group.

We then take a break for rest and refreshments. After the break, we come back in and check the board again. It usually has been changed somewhat. We then go to our rehearsal rooms, pick new songs, rehearse, come back to the meeting room, and sing again.

It is then time to Keep America Singing, take down and stow the chairs and tables, and head for afterglow at a Shakey's Pizza.

BTW, most of our members are dual members with the Masters of Harmony or the Fullerton, Westminster, or Irvine chapters, and probably a few others.

Paul Lewis