Characteristics of a Successful Director

Be Highly Prepared – Be organized and prepared for each rehearsal. Plan weekly agendas that includes time for visual work. Communicate agenda to Choreographer.

Attend Rehearsals and Performances – Attendance is vital to the health and success of the chorus. Take leadership role seriously and respect members enough to be present whenever possible. If unable to be at chorus function, makes sure that a music staff member is able to step in.

Understand Need for Visual Rehearsal – Singing comes first and everything else is secondary, but appreciate that the visual product requires attention whenever possible. Help create an atmosphere where the music and visual are rehearsed as one product.

Develop Strong Communication Skills – Demonstrate consistent and strong communication skills in front of the chorus and with the Choreographer. Organize and hold necessary meetings that support the advancement of the musical and visual product of the chorus. Understand the need for all music staff members, including Choreographer, to picture the final product in the same way.

Demonstrate Ability to Delegate – Establish a team and use them. Train Assistant Director, Section Leaders and Visual staff to be able to fully participate in small group and full rehearsal leadership roles.

Display a Positive Attitude Towards Choreographer at Rehearsal – Display support for choreographer through a positive attitude and upbeat behavior at rehearsal. This example will be mirrored by chorus members, and can positively affect the outcome of a chorus rehearsal or performance.

Demonstrate a Flexible Attitude – Understand that weekly agenda must include designated visual rehearsal. Musical product will regress during the visual learning process, so work closely with your Choreographer to develop a clear plan for combining the vocal and visual as the visual plan improves.

Utilize the International Judging Category Book – This manual contains all the information pertaining to the categories. Use it to study the comments on yearly contest sheets. When possible, attend Sweet Adelines events to observe current performance techniques and styles. Incorporate new techniques into creative process and teaching style.