

**Sweet Adelines International  
What Makes A Champion?  
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**2010 Region 10  
Hand Out  
Page 1**

**CLASS TITLE:**

**What Makes A Champion?**

**OBJECTIVES:**

**To Share Any and All Ideas on the Topic!**

**TARGET LEARNERS:**

**General Membership**

1. What is Your Definition of Champion?

One that wins first prize or place in a contest.

One that is acknowledged to be better than all others.

2. Where Does It Begin?

3. What are the Technical Plans?

4. Which is More Important? Or Is It?

**SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT**

- A. Communicate to your Chorus/Director/Quartet your goals and aspirations. Determine Director's needs and how "you" fit in.
- B. Set up a plan that will work for "you" as well as the Director.
- C. Stick to the plan. Deviate only when necessary and communicate that to the Director prior to the change. Seek and receive approval to do so.
- D. Be honest, dependable, trustworthy, loyal, careful, sincere, flexible, organized, prepared, etc. Satisfy mutual needs.
- E. Readily accept feedback. Incorporate the feedback.
- F. Flexibility is paramount to success!!
- G. Exercise positive use of power and information. Never use power inappropriately with your Director or your chorus. Power involves the willingness to take reasonable risks. Allow yourself to be vulnerable.
- H. Motivate....Cause people to act!
- I. Always strive for the Win-Win approach!
- J. Continue to work at the relationship. What may have worked once, may not work again. Circumstances change. As do you.
- K. Be effective! Work in areas that require your talents and contributions! Do "it" so well, that we will wonder how we "ever did this without you before"!
- L. Focus on the singer, not the chorus member!
- M. Allow yourself to be challenged.

**COMMIT TO YOUR/THE GOALS! Be the role model at all times!**

**THE LEADER/MEMBER WHO COMMITS HIMSELF ON HIS ASSOCIATION'S BEHALF WILL RANK AS ONE OF THE GROUP'S MOST VALUABLE MEMBERS.**

**Our motivation should always be what is best for the Chorus/Quartet/Ensemble!**

**Once these assessments have been made, understood, and committed to, we can appropriately identify and evaluate what our strengths and contributions will be.**

**Assess the Needs of your *Director*.  
How?**

**Assess *YOUR* Needs/the Needs of the *Chorus*. *Take Chorus Inventory*.  
How? *Use Checklist*.**

- A. Vocal Production**
- B. PVIs**
- C. Director/Chorus Communication**
- D. Music Selection**
- E. Section Rehearsals**
- F. Section Leader Training/Support**
- G. Rehearsal Techniques**
- H. Performances**
- I. Riser Placement**
- J. Qualification Program**
- K. Administrative Liaison**
- L. Visual Performance**

**VOCAL PLACEMENT CHECKLIST**

**CHORUS  
Sweet Adelines International**

**MUSIC PROFILE  
(for use by Music Staff)**

**Name:**

**Voice Part:**

**-vocal range:**

**-intonation:**

**-ability to read music:**

**-overall musicality:**

**-other comments:**

**Evaluator:**

**Date:**

*-Take/Allow Personal Inventory.* In what area will you/they be the most valuable? Where do your/their strengths lie? But I'd rather be doing..... Even if you really want to be working in another area, think about where you can make the most impact. For the good of the chorus.....

**How can I/they grow and develop to become most effective?**

- A. **Start Small. Plan a mini-class** that YOU/THEY can teach comfortably, to present to a small group to establish rapport, comfort, yet to be valuable and impart much wanted and needed information to a smaller group of singers.
  - a. Coaching
  - b. Emcee Training
  - c. Show Production
  - d. Sight Singing
  - e. Visual Performance/Choreography
  - f. Section Leader Training
  - g. Arm Waving
  - h. Assertiveness Training
  - i. Tape Coaches
  - j. PVIs
  - k. Performance Packaging
  - l. Quartet Coaching/Projects/Promotion/Singing Valentines, etc.
  - m. Vocal Production/Warm Up Program
    - \*Importance of Warm Up Program
  - n. Membership Program/Liasion
- B. Think of it as “sharing knowledge” as opposed to Teaching a class.
- C. Focus on the Positive vs. The Negatives.
- D. Smile, Have Fun while doing the Job!
- E. Nurture, do not Criticize.
- F. Maintain Integrity and the Philosophy of Your Director, at all times!
- G. Learn from other Chorus Members/Directors/Assistant Directors/Teachers. Be open to different styles and techniques. Be creative. Try new things. Allow yourself to make mistakes. Read books. Practice.

**THE NEEDS OF THE CHORUS/QUARTET/ENSEMBLE ARE BEST MET  
WHEN YOU MEET THE NEEDS OF THE INDIVIDUAL.**

**Discussion**

**Question/Answer**

- A. Roles and Responsibilities
- B. Setting Goals and how they make a difference
- C. Your Motivation
- D. Assessing the needs of the Director
- E. Assessing Your Needs/the needs of the Chorus/Quartet/Ensemble
- F. Personal Inventory
- G. How do I make it happen?
- H. Now that I'm there, let's change it

**POWER**

Revisit Power, the positive use of resources to achieve worthwhile goals and affect people and events. The extent of one's power is largely determined by perception, both yours and others. If you think you have it, then you have it. If you think you don't have it (even if you do), then you don't have it. Take reasonable risks.

You must draw on every imaginable source for information, both internally and externally. This is especially important in your Chorus as information is coming from many areas and segments of your membership. This begins of course, with your Director, the specialist, the expert, the known facts and background of the current circumstances, the personality and sensitivity of your membership and You.

Pay attention to the Cues that are delivered at all times. These are sometimes the most difficult to recognize and interpret. If you truly pay attention to what your Director and Chorus are really saying from their Cues and induce them to verbalize underlying feelings, you will have a true understanding of the needs. Once you have this, you can package and deliver what you have to offer in such a way that will be unique and special.

You carry the responsibility of knowing how to use power ethically and effectively in order to promote your Chorus' programs and interests.

It is a large responsibility, not to be taken lightly or taken for granted.

*Develop a Musical Mentality*

*Correct Development/Control of the Voice/Instrument.*

*Listen for : Range, Texture, Color (Quality), Flexibility, Consistency*

*Assess Accuracy, Musicality, Strength of Performance*

*Define Outstanding Vocal Characteristics*

*Vibrato*

*Air in Tone*

*Resonance*

*Focus*

*Vocal Energy*

*Determine Vocal Problems*

*Identify Desirable Qualities.*

*Warmth*

*Rich*

*Round*

*Ring*

*Shimmer*

*Define Guidelines to get to the Next Level*

*Vocal Skills/Solid Vocal Foundation/Stamina*

*Musical Energy*

*Unity*

*Vowel Match*

*Free Tones*

*Wall of Sound*

*Energized Vocal Line*

*Musical Presentation*

*Forward Motion, Energy*

*Emotional Involvement*

*Strong Interpretive Plan*

*Personality Well Defined*

*Characterization Believable*

*Seamless Performance Flows Smoothly*

*Poise, Confidence Displayed*

*Cone Perfectly Balanced*

**Maintain Focus on the GOAL!**

***-Be willing to make the necessary decisions.*** You won't have trouble with the "easy" decisions. It is the "necessary" decisions-the ones with the most riding on them, the ones that have to be made by a certain date or time, and the ones that others are watching you make (to see how you do it or figure out whether or not to support you) that are the most difficult (and the most important) to make. Recognize which decisions are important and devote the lion's share of your time and energy to making them. It may be human nature to put off the big decisions for as long as you can and blame your indecisiveness on all other matters you had to attend to first. But you don't have to be superhuman to overcome that tendency.

***-Strive for a Calm Attitude.*** Not a macho or desperate "surrounded by the enemy" stance. Sometimes a crisis will be the factor that motivates you to make a decision, but even under those circumstances, a calm, in control presence is essential.

***-Gather facts and opinions from as many sources as possible to get as many varying points of view as possible.*** Read, consult experts, and try to look at the situation from the perspectives of everyone involved in it. Don't just guess. Go to the source and ask for input. Open-mindedly listen to those who disagree with you as well as those who support you. Probe, probe, probe.

***-Distill the information you've gathered.*** Consider as many alternatives as possible. Have Plan A, Plan B, Plan C, and so on. Know the potential risks and benefits of each.

***-Listen to your intuition.*** Not all decisions are made solely on the basis of fact. Sometimes a gut feeling or a hunch makes one option more appealing than another. If the facts, your intuition, or a combination of the two still do not point to a clear cut way to go, you're simply going to have to take a chance. Don't overwork the decision making process. Have a reasonable amount of fact, and then act.

***-When you can, reduce the pressure caused by deadlines or the need to make on the spot decisions.*** Normally time causes the most pressure. Worrying about missing a deadline can often push you into making premature decisions or faulty ones. If time constraints are so severe that you have to decide before you feel confident about your decision, the best decision is apt to be a "no". Generally you can change your mind later.

*-If time permits and it is appropriate, set the decision aside for later consideration. Sometimes time or changing circumstances alleviates the need for a decision. Sometimes no decision is a decision (by refusing to side with either party, you are deciding to let them work out their differences on their own).*

*-Or turn it over to your subconscious. Think about the problem before falling asleep or engaging in an unrelated activity. Even though your conscious mind is not focused on it, your subconscious is still working on the problem, mulling it over, and factoring data you've either buried or forgotten. When you consciously come back to the subject, you will have a fresh perspective on it and , in some instances, know exactly which decision to make.*

*-Make the decision. If you encounter a stumbling block, talk with the necessary people, but don't talk to them as if you are asking for their approval or permission. Keep in mind that no matter what the decision some won't like the outcome.*

*-If the decision is wrong, say "oops" and take corrective action. Authority and responsibility must wear the same pair of shoes. If the decision doesn't work, a good leader takes the responsibility. If it does work, a good leader passes the credit around.*

***FOLLOW YOUR DREAM***

**Visualize the Goal**

**Hard work is not its own reward.**

**You need a direction for your goal. A plan. Focus on one thing at a time.**

***BLOCK OUT THE TIME***

**Regular, Rigorous, Rewarding.**

***TAKE ONE STEP AT A TIME***

**Can't reach the top in one jump.**

**X% per year.**

***MANAGE YOUR WEAK POINTS***

**Instead of repeating things you enjoy, concentrate on things that need improvement and attention.**

***HOLD OUT A CARROT***

**DO NOT plan one rehearsal after another with no break.**

**DO reward yourself with fun.**

**Celebrate, Recognize, Reward.**

***LOOK BACK***

**Remember and Review.**

**What have I accomplished?**

**What needs more work?**

**What should I prepare for tomorrow?**

***HAVE A SIESTA***

**Hard work does not mean non stop work.**

**When you are tired, you make mistakes.**

**Build rest into your schedule.**

***DEVELOP A CHEERING SECTION***

**Support pays off. Guests and family should know of your goals and participate.**

***KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE DONUT, NOT THE HOLE***

**Work is not a punishment.**

**Turn every drawback into an opportunity.**

**Hard work does have its drawbacks, it's difficult and painful moments.**

***But it is the road to the end of the rainbow.***

Oftentimes, we can compare our roles as Chorus Directors, to that of Managers. As we all can glean from our own experiences, every Manager has their own Management Style. We respond better or worse to each different style. We all have one thing in common, though. And that is to be a successful Manager, or Chorus Director. I would like to share my beliefs of what the personality traits of a successful Chorus Director are, with you today.

**-Product Knowledge - Know your stuff. Be prepared. Don't try to "wing" it.**

**-Assertiveness - that is, knowing how and when to get tough and assert your authority as a Chorus Director.**

**-Ego Drive - meaning the desire to persuade. If you're not thrilled at getting to "yes", you probably shouldn't be out front directing.**

**-Ego Strength - that which allows you to stay optimistic and bounce back from rejections, disappointments, and judgement errors, as well as coach your chorus and staff to do the same.**

**-A sense of urgency, which is the drive to get things done now and the ability to communicate that to your staff, without making all tasks equally urgent, which only results in burnout.**

**-Empathy - meaning that when you manage people, you have to have "as much compassion as competitive fire".**

**Add to all this the ability to step back and take some time to plan. Planning is as important a function as setting your goals, and managing your people. You must realize that there are several very important areas of concentration for you, the Director, in order to make your rehearsals as effective as you want and need them to be.**

**Goals must be established and they must be written. The act of writing brings more accountability into the picture. Goals must be differentiated into short term and long term goals. They must all be kept in mind during the planning process. Short Term Goals are to be used when planning from week to week, and event to event. Long Term Goals are to be used when evaluating, analyzing, and deciding direction, as part of your original plan, or as part of a plan deviation due to circumstances and bench mark events.**

**BE FLEXIBLE.**

**SHORTCUTS ARE NEVER TO BE TAKEN.**

**ALWAYS KNOW YOUR SUBJECT.**

**Be Authentic. - Act your integrity. Be predictable. Make amends when you foul up.**

**Earn Trust Through Investment. - Use your authority to build the organizations' trust in you.**

**Use Your Mission. - Define the goal. Use the goal.**

**Create a Shared Vision. - "We can do it better" is a good place to start.**

**Align Your Values. - Bring values into congruence with practices!**

**Know Your Stuff! - When the times comes, show you know it!**

**Generate Confidence. - Set the stage psychologically, and give people the tools they need.**

**Chase Perfection. - Settle for excellence along the way.**

**Live What You Teach. - And live what you coach. And sell what you teach and coach.**

**Strike the Balance. - Be as close as you can be-and as far away as you have to be.**

**Demand Autonomy. - What do you absolutely have to control to make your job possible? If you can't get that degree of autonomy, you can't succeed.**

**Respect Authority. - If you're going to ask people to respect your authority, you'll need to lead by example.**

**Delegate the Second-Tier Stuff. - Look for existing competence in the organization, and take full advantage of that competence.**

**Check Your Hat. - Is your position evolving? Your successes should let you give things up.**

**Be Brilliant - But Don't Be Stubborn About It. - Your job is to bring new insights and turn things around. But forcing a square peg into a round hole doesn't get either job done.**

**Import. - If there's someone out there that knows your systems and can help you survive the building or rebuilding, grab them!**

**Build Skills. - Define and provide the needed skills.**

**Let them see you sweat. - Why should they kill themselves for the organization if you don't?**

**Build Team Spirit. - Common goals, complementary skills and abilities, and mutual accountability.**

**Innovate Without Complicating. - Innovations must reflect people's limited capacities to learn and change. Be fair and realistic.**

**Offer People Meaning. - If you don't, someone else will.**

**Keep Enormous Pressure On. - Stay within the individual and organizational breaking points.**

**Motivate The Group. - Find ways to move people en masse.**

**Counter Expectations. - Sometimes the least expected motivational device is the best.**

**Motivate the Individual. - Nothing, after all, is more personal.**

**Win Respect, Affection May Follow. - Respect motivates. Win respect first.**

**Motivate By Inches. - Small Victories!**

**Go Where The Wisdom Is. - People want to help you and the organization succeed. It motivates them!**

**Embrace Paradox. - A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds.**

**Treasure Your Legacy! - Appreciate what's been given to you. Give as much to someone else.**

### **WHAT I KNOW FOR SURE**

**You cannot be successful in any organization unless you have people who bend to your personality. They must bend or already be molded to your personality. Character is the direct result of mental attitude. You cannot copy someone else's particular qualifications, but must develop your own character qualifications according to your own personality. Never tell an organization anything you don't absolutely believe yourself. Tell them the truth. You cannot deceive them, they will know. The ego destroys the humility in a person. Ego is what we think we are. Be proud and humble. Show compassion. Everybody can like somebody's strengths. But can you like their weaknesses? Can you accept him for his inabilities? That's what Leaders have to do. It's not just the good things. Embrace your passion! Jump into your passion with both feet - and bring others along with you! I think you've got to pay a price for anything that's worthwhile, and success is paying the price. Every endeavor worthwhile calls for sacrifices of time, energy, mind, and body.**

**Most important of all, to be successful in life demands that a man make a personal commitment to excellence and to victory, even though the ultimate victory can never be completely won. Yet that victory might be pursued and wooed with every fiber of our body, with every bit of our might and all our effort. And each week, there is a new encounter; each day, there is a new challenge.**

## **Bibliography**

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