

# Houston Tidelanders — Chorus —

Revised 05/15/13

**NEW MEMBER  
ORIENTATION  
MANUAL**

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## **The Society Mission Statement**

The Barbershop Harmony Society brings men together in harmony and fellowship to enrich lives through singing.

## **The Tidelanders Mission Statement**

The Houston Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, devoted to performing a cappella, four-part Barbershop harmony, will constantly strive to achieve the highest possible level of musical and entertainment excellence with all our quartets and the Tidelanders chorus.

We will actively contribute our efforts toward enhancing the overall lifestyle and cultural quality of our communities by providing wholesome entertainment, bonding diverse people through the joy of singing and supporting vocal music education with our youth outreach programs.

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## INTRODUCTION

Congratulations and welcome to the Houston Tidelanders!

We would love to have you standing there on the risers with us as a full fledge member.

This manual provides you with relevant information about the chorus. It outlines the steps which must be completed by everyone in order to become a part of the performing chorus. You can be sure that we'll do everything we can to help you. We look forward to getting to know one another better in the months ahead.

**The Houston Tidelanders**

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This document is to be given to every potential new member immediately after he has requested an audition. The Manual includes background information about our fantastic hobby and, in particular, the Tidelanders. Finally, it outlines how each new member can become a part of the performing chorus.

## **WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ALL TIDELANDERS?**

The Houston Tidelanders Chorus is the performing chorus of the 25,000-man Barbershop Harmony Society's Houston Chapter. We are an a cappella, i.e. unaccompanied, men's singing organization comprised of quartets and our large performing chorus. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, chartered in 1946. There are more than 825 BHS chapters in the United States alone and our peers consistently rank us among the Top 20 performing choruses at the Society's International Chorus Competition.

This New Member Orientation Manual has been prepared so that each prospective member will know what is expected of him once he joins the Tides. Please take a few minutes to read it. You'll have plenty of opportunities to ask questions about how and why we do things during your application process.

### **1.0 Participation at Rehearsals**

The Houston Tidelanders expect each member to attend all rehearsals on time and to participate attentively in the entire rehearsal schedule. There is no good substitute for personal participation, to experience music and choreography direction first-hand. Your riser-mates also need you there, so we practice and improve as an ensemble. If you know ahead of time that you will be absent from a rehearsal, please notify (e-mail) the Attendance secretary, the Director, your Section Leader and the Chapter Development (Membership) VP. Our current attendance secretary is John Watkins.

### **2.0 Memorization of Music and Performance Plans**

The Houston Tidelanders require each member to be able to follow the Musical Director or his/her Assistants and/or Coaches. Members are required to memorize the chorus music and to memorize and perform the visual plan's moods and motions. The Tidelanders do not expect this to be accomplished with the 3-hour format of the weekly chorus rehearsal. Therefore, it is expected that a member will spend time away from the rehearsal to accomplish these requirements. The Tidelanders "Members Only" section of the website has tools such as music and choreography descriptions to help the learning process.

### **3.0 Participation at Performances**

The Tidelanders have performances and contests an average of six to eight times a year. Members are expected to participate in all of the Tidelanders public performances and contests.

### **4.0 Payment of Dues**

Membership in the Houston Chapter requires payment of Society, District, and Chapter dues. The Chapter Secretary and Chapter Development (Membership) VP will assist you with information regarding transfers, dual membership, student discounts and seniors' discounts and our EZ Dues automatic monthly payment plan.

### **5.0 Costume Purchases**

The Tidelanders' formal costume is a one button notched tuxedo. Each man accepted for membership is required to purchase his own. Members are responsible for the proper maintenance of their costumes. The Chapter will supply accessories such as vests, bow ties, and pocket handkerchiefs. All Chapter-supplied items remain the property of the Chapter and must be returned when the member is no longer an active member of the chorus or when he leaves the Chapter. An informal costume used for less-formal performances and other occasions is also required. This costume primarily consists of a logo shirt, available for purchase from the Chapter Wardrobe Committee, and designated pants, shoes, socks and belt. The informal uniform is also worn before and after formal performances and at rehearsals for contest.

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## 6.0 Ethical Behavior

Each member is expected to abide by the Code of Ethics established by the Barbershop Harmony Society, SPEBSQSA, Inc. The code of Ethics is printed on the back of your BHS membership card.

## 7.0 Abide by Houston Chapter Policies and Regulations

Each member of the Houston Tidelanders is expected to read and abide by its By-Laws and Code of Regulations, available online, as well as the policies and procedures which may be enacted from time to time by the Chapter Board of Directors.

## 8.0 Participation in Ticket Sales

The Houston Tidelanders produce several shows each year which depend upon public ticket sales for their financial success. As the primary connection to our supporting community, each member is expected to sell tickets to these shows.

## 9.0 Administration of Chapter Life

The Houston chapter and Tidelanders chorus are led by several groups and individuals. The Board of Directors, an elected group of members, oversees the activities of the chapter. The Music Committee is in charge of the development of music and performance. The Director and Associate Directors run rehearsals. Detailed descriptions can be found in the Chapter's Code of Regulations.

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Shortly after you pass the audition, the Chapter Development VP will give you a set of application documents. Complete the BHS Application for Membership, and the Tidelanders Member Directory Information sheet. Submit these, together with the required Chapter and Society dues to the Chapter Development VP.

Purchase your tuxedo and components of the informal costume.

Assume your assigned place on the "Stack".

## HOW DO WE COMMUNICATE WITH ONE ANOTHER?

Most of the intra-chapter news and information distribution is accomplished electronically, either by the Tidelanders website, [www.houstontidelanders.org](http://www.houstontidelanders.org), or by e-mail, using Yahoo Groups and/or Groupanizer.

The Tidelanders' website contains sections which are accessible to the general public as well as a "Members Only" section which is password-protected and thus, only accessible to our members.

The "Members Only" webpage is administered by the Tidelanders webmaster. He will provide you with a link to a page where you will establish your own user ID and password.

The "Members Only" website contains information such as:

- Chapter Roster
- Member Picture Directory
- Music, Choreography and Learning Tracks
- New Member Orientation Manual
- Governing Documents
- Chapter By-Laws and Code of Regulations
- Chapter Organization Chart
- Chorus Philosophy
- Member Expectations
- Performance Standards

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The Society website address is: [www.barbershop.org](http://www.barbershop.org), which contains information about the Society in general, the various Districts, contest schedules and scores, and other information of interest to every Barbershopper. Become familiar with this valuable source.

You will be able to access the “Members” section of the Society’s website once your Membership Application is accepted. That will enable you to review personal information such as your address and telephone number(s) and to make changes whenever necessary.

The Southwest District webpage is [www.swd.org](http://www.swd.org). It has valuable information for the new member including District Convention and Contest information (location, registration link, performance order, scores), and other District events such as Harmony Ranch.



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## TIDELANDERS INTRA-CHAPTER E-MAIL

### YAHOO GROUPS

The Yahoo Groups provides us a service to maintain an e-mail distribution list of all active Tidelanders. We can also post files such as rosters, show flyers, contest information, attendance history, etc. that are of use to all members.

- Membership in the Tidelanders' Yahoo Group is limited to current Tidelanders members.
- Only Tidelanders who are already on the list may send e-mail messages to the list.
- Your e-mail address is not visible to anyone else on the list.
- You may have as many different e-mail addresses on the list as you wish.

#### 1.0 GETTING STARTED

Once your application has been approved by the Board, your email will be given to the Yahoo Groups Administrator. You will then start receiving chapter emails with [Tides] in the subject.

#### 2.0 REGISTER WITH YAHOO

If you would like to access the "web" features of the Yahoo group such as previously-sent messages, and files that are posted for reference, you will need a Yahoo ID and be approved to "Join" the group

If you already have a Yahoo ID, go to step 3.0

**2.1** Go to <http://www.groups.yahoo.com/>

**2.2** CLICK on the box entitled "NEW USERS" which appears on the upper left of the screen.

**2.3** Complete the menu which will prompt you to establish a "USER ID" and a "PASSWORD" for your account profile.

#### 3.0 JOIN OUR GROUP

**3.1** Browse to our site: (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tidelanders>). Notice that the list of "Members Only" features on the left side ("Home", "Messages", "Files", etc.) are grayed out, and not active links.

**3.2** If you already have a Yahoo ID, click the blue box that says "Join this group". If your e-mail address is not already a member of the Tidelanders group, the Tides' Yahoo administrator will have to approve your access.

**3.3** If your e-mail address is already a member of the group, confirm that you have been accepted. Do this by entering your ID and PASSWORD. Then go back to the Tidelanders Group's "Main" page, and notice that the links on the left side are now active links.

#### 4.0 BE COURTEOUS

**4.1** *Please remember that the YahooGroups e-mail distribution is only to be used for chorus business. It is not intended to provide a means of communicating jokes, personal opinions, business/financial opportunities, or other non-chorus mail.*

### GROUPANIZER

The Tidelanders have just started to use the website Groupanizer for communication and file sharing. Once your application has been approved by the Board, the Groupanizer administrator will email you with information on setting up a user ID and password.

Groupanizer tutorials can be found at <http://gclient.groupanizer.com/>

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## WARDROBE

- 1.0 The Houston Tidelanders have two basic wardrobe categories, the Performing Wardrobe and the Informal Wardrobe. Elements of each are:
  - 1.1. Performing Wardrobe
    - 1.1.1. Formal Tuxedo (Member-supplied)
      - 1.1.1.1. Black one button notch lapel tuxedo with white shirt, black bow tie, studs, cufflinks, and black patent leather shoes.
    - 1.1.2. Formal Costume Accessories (Chapter-supplied)
      - 1.1.2.1. Various vests and matching ties; alternate tux shirts; other accessories
  - 1.2. Informal Wardrobe (Member-supplied)
    - 1.2.1. Tide-logo shirt(s), khaki trousers, shoes, socks, belts
- 2.0 The Informal Wardrobe is used for traveling to and from Society events, informal chorus appearances or situations where being recognized as a member of the Houston Tidelanders is important. Although its elements are specified by the Music Committee, they are purchased by and become the property of each member.