



## *What about Finances & Time?*

We are **very** excited that you are singing with Oregon Spirit Chorus and hope you are enjoying yourself as you learn the music and get acquainted with the others in the chorus. In order for you to make an informed decision about joining the group, you should know the expectations of chorus membership in terms of time and financial commitment. This handout contains a general outline of expenses related to chorus activities. **We all feel strongly that we get way more than our money's worth!**

### FINANCES/DUES

Oregon Spirit Chorus (**OSC**) is a chapter of Sweet Adelines International (**SAI**) and affiliated with Pacific Shores Region 12 (**R12**). As described in *Your First Month*, following your successful audition, you will complete your Application for Membership and submit it along with \$170, which pays your initial dues. Thereafter, dues are just \$40/month, a portion of which is placed into an escrow savings account and applied to the next year's R12 and SAI dues. Once you have paid this initial \$170 and are voted on by the members, you will be granted full membership privileges to vote on chorus issues and perform (once you learn the songs). If you leave the organization before the annual dues are paid, the money in the escrow account will be returned to you. [Note: All dues must be paid in full by March of each year in order to perform in the regional competition.]

At the start of each new fiscal year on May 1<sup>st</sup>, the R12 and SAI dues are paid from the escrow account. Monthly OSC dues of \$40 are designated as follows:

Chapter	\$30.00
Region 12 – to escrow account	\$ 2.50
Sweet Adelines International – to escrow account	\$ 7.50
<b>Total monthly dues</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>

We offer the following payment options for the initial payment of \$170:

#### OPTION A: One payment of \$170

- Upon successful audition
  - \$100 – **SAI**
  - \$30 - **R12**
  - \$40 - **OSC**
- This option means you will become a member immediately (upon vote of the membership) and have full membership privileges.

#### OPTION B: Two payments

- Month 1: \$100 - **SAI**
- Month 2: \$70 - **R12 + OSC**
- Thereafter, only monthly OSC dues of \$40/month, a portion of which is put into an escrow account as noted above.
- You will become a member of OSC after the 2<sup>nd</sup> month (and vote of the membership).
- Full membership privileges will begin after the total of \$170 is paid.

### **OPTION C:** Three payments

- Month 1: \$100 - **SAI**
- Month 2: \$30 - **R12**
- Month 3: \$40 - **OSC**
- Thereafter, only monthly OSC dues of \$40/month, a portion of which is put into an escrow account as noted above.
- This option means you will become a member of OSC after the 2<sup>nd</sup> month (and subsequent vote of the membership).

These fees and assessments entitle you to weekly training in vocal and visual performance skills, greatly reduced rates at educational workshops and conventions; a quarterly newsletter from Sweet Adelines International, *The Pitchpipe*, and opportunities for personal growth that far exceed other similar organizations. They are also used to pay for various operating costs (supplies, music, learning tracks).

Following is an overview of the other miscellaneous expenses related to membership in OSC. Your Chorus Sister will review those with you in the coming weeks. Our fundraising projects enable us to subsidize some of those expenses. Following are general estimates:

- Costumes - \$100
  - Includes tunic, leggings, vest, shoes, jewelry
  - Costume Chair will review all items and timing
- Annual Overnight Coaching Weekend - \$75-100
  - This occurs in March
  - In Canby, so there is an option to travel back and forth (not stay overnight)
- Makeup Kit - \$40
  - Includes foundation, blush, eyeshadow, lipstick
  - Needed for contest weekend
- Annual Regional Convention & Competition Weekend - \$500
  - This occurs in early May
  - Registration starts in about February

### **TIME**

We know that many women have a busy life and we strive to provide a friendly and nourishing environment so that you're eager to attend rehearsals each week. In addition to weekly rehearsals, you will spend time learning music, and we know that as a new member you'll be playing "catch-up" for the first couple of months, and the amount of time needed to learn the material is different for each person, so be sure to talk with your Chorus Sister if you are having any problems or have questions.

Each member is expected to make the following time commitments over the course of a year:

- Regular Rehearsals – Tuesdays and at home
- Regional Competition – Reno in May
- Weekend Sessions (pre-contest season) – One Saturday per month (Jan-Apr) with guest coaches and one overnight "advance".
- Performances – About 5 per year; more during December
- Annual Show – Community concert / fundraiser
- Fundraising Projects and Committees – some ongoing, some specific

## **EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS**

These educational workshops have a small registration fee and travel/lodging expenses. These are not mandatory, but we do encourage attendance, so you'll get the full benefit of the incredible education you receive as one of the benefits of membership in OSC.

We're all cheering for you! Please let me or your Chorus Sister know if you have any questions.

In harmony,

Lynne Rice, Membership Coordinator, [lynne.rice@oregonspirit.org](mailto:lynne.rice@oregonspirit.org)