First and foremost, you are the most important link to the new member! When we all think about when we first became a member of the organization, we remember how overwhelming it could be at times, for example:

* So many new songs to learn - What do I learn first & how/when am I eligible to perform?
* New people's names to learn - Who are all these people?
* Who do I go to for what? Costume, Music, Dues, Choreography, etc.
* What's convention/contest all about?

You can probably think of many additional questions you had over the course of the first year.

Chorus Big Sisters are assigned as soon as a prospective member becomes voted in as a new member. Your "Little Sister" will need your interest and guidance for a least a year to assist in all aspects of assimilating into the chorus.

* The most important rule of being a good Big Sister is to **be proactive.** Don't wait for her to come to you but think ahead about things that are coming up that she should know about and touch base with her about it beforehand.
* The 2nd most important rule is not to assume she knows everything she should be doing.

Some examples of things you can help your Little Sister with are.

* Introducing yourself to her for the first time and staying with her as much as possible at rehearsals, gradually introducing her to the other key committee people in the chorus with which she will need to interact.
* Regular phone calls and emails will help her feel comfortable and allow her to ask questions as they arise.
* Offer to connect with someone in her area to carpool with, if she is interested.
* During the business portion of the evening, sit next to her - both for support and in case she has questions about any of the subject matter.
* Make sure she is aware, well in advance, of future chorus events (social events, performances, coaching sessions, contest, educational events, Installation Banquet, social events, etc.) and gets them on her calendar.
* Offer to room with her at retreat and/or contest so she feels comfortable and welcomed.
* For upcoming performances, ask if she needs help learning the repertoire and help her get the appropriate musical assistance, costume, make-up, a ride to the performance, etc.
* When we start speaking in acronyms ("take it from the edge", "tag", etc.), be sensitive that a new member may not know what these terms.
* After rehearsal or performances, invite her to join those who may be going for a snack/drink.
* Make sure she has all chorus materials, such as a Roster, New Member Handbook, etc.
* Ensure she understands that, since we are a sisterhood, we worry about members when they do not come to rehearsal. Let her know to contact her Section Leader and you if she must be absent.
* If she misses rehearsals, make sure you are in contact with her to let her know she was missed and to show support.
* If you notice she is having trouble with choreography, offer to meet with her to go over it together, or otherwise get her the help she needs.

Thank you for agreeing to take on this very important responsibility. You are the key to membership retention: Your Little Sister remaining a happy, productive member of the chorus has a lot to do with you. We appreciate your support!

Your Little Sister's Name is:

Email is: Phone is: