

District Governance

Background

In 2003 the Society Board established the Governance Management Task Force to review the governance structure and recommend changes that would positively impact the society=s efforts to Amaterially improve the value of the member=s barbershop experience.@ Without presenting or rewriting the entire report, allow me to quote several concepts and changes that were proposed and accepted and which lead to a need to realign the district governance structure. These are:

1. The districts are the delivery system, tasked to deliver the services and resources that will ensure that chapters and events are more successful in adding value to the member=s barbershop experience.
2. Society committees, staff, and districts have primary responsibility for writing their own work plans based on the strategic guidance and goals established by the Society Board.
3. Districts should be given maximum organizational flexibility to accomplish the two distinct roles required for success: (1) Leadership and governance, and (2) Operations.

To implement this structure and these concepts the Society Board asks the districts to do the following:

1. By 2005, each district must have an elected board that consists of a president, executive vice president, immediate past president, secretary and any number of members at large.
2. By 2005, each district should have an appointed Management Team whose composition is left to each district.

Pioneer Implementation Plan: At its February meeting the Pioneer board approved the concept of creating a district board and district Management Team. These entities would be constituted and function as follows:

1. The Pioneer Board would consist of the District President, Executive Vice President, Immediate Past President, Secretary, and Vice President of Finance. These individual would be nominated by the district nominating committee and approved by the District House of Delegates at the fall meeting. The board will deal with governance and leadership issues to include:
 - A) Developing, approving, and implementing district policies, procedures, and rules.
 - B) Developing, approving, and overseeing the district budget and financial operations.
 - C) Appointing district committees.
 - D) Overseeing the development of district plans and performance targets and monitoring their implementation.
2. The Management Team would be composed of members proposed by the nominating committee and appointed by the President. While there is no maximum number of members, at a minimum individuals should be appointed to provide plans and services in the areas of Chorus Director Development, Contest and Judging, Events, Marketing and Public Relations, Membership Development, Music and Performance, Chapter Support and Leadership, and Young Men In Harmony.

The responsibility of this team is to plan, deliver, and evaluate the districts events, programs, and services that seek to:

- A) Support chapters in their efforts to have more effective chapter meetings and experiences.
- B) Sponsor and produce stimulating events.
- C) Support and enable more and better performances by member ensembles.
- D) Support and enable quartet activities by all members who seek this outlet.
- E) Support music in our schools and communities.
- F) Promote the Barbershop hobby and image to both internal and external audiences.

How will this structural change benefit the district and its selected officers?

The primary advantages relate to the clearer differentiation of duties and authority. Currently, regardless of the agenda topic all functional vice presidents must attend and sit through board meetings in order to have a quorum and conduct votes. This change would permit more focused agendas for both board and operational team meetings, permit greater flexibility in scheduling of meetings and permit better more frequent use of conference call meetings.

Another advantage arises from the opportunity to maintain program continuity by rapidly appointing individuals to operating positions while maintaining the assurance of unbiased selection by use of a nominating committee to find and get candidates.