



## LASTING FRIENDSHIPS – ENDURING MUSIC

### PRESIDENT’S UPDATE

April 2018

April means Spring is here! Spring brings on our annual Spring Convention which features contests to determine the International Qualifier Quartet(s) and the chance to crown our 2018 District Chorus Champion and 2018 Senior Quartet Champion. That promises to be a jam packed weekend of great barbershop singing. I hope you are planning to join us in Grand Rapids at the Crowne Plaza Grand Rapids – Airport Hotel April 20-23 for this fun filled weekend.

The Spring Convention also provides the opportunity for social interaction between the members of our District. On Thursday, April 19, for those of you who are coming over early, we will have a Singfest at the Blue Moose Sports Pub (<http://thebluemoosesportspub.com/>). If you check out its website you will see they have a wide craft beers, and a great pub style menu. Roger Lewis has worked to set up an area for us to sing and entertain as well. We hope, if you are in Grand Rapids on Thursday you will come out to join us for this great social start to the weekend!

The Convention weekend officially starts on Friday, and we have many different activities for you to enjoy. For those of you who like business meetings (really?) we have the District Board of Directors Meeting scheduled for 10:30 in the morning. We hope each chapter will have a representative present for our House of Delegates Meeting, which will take place at 1:30 p.m. Each Chapter is entitled to at least one representative at the House of Delegates Meeting, and it is where we bring information and matters of concern to the Chapters, and seek their input and approval. It is important that every Chapter be there to participate, and help in the running of the District’s business.

Also on Friday, before the contests start we will have a couple of “classes” for you to attend if you are interested. One class, from 2:30 – 3:20 will be conducted by Jim Emery, one of the Singing Category Judges for the weekend. He will discuss and demonstrate the “8 Pillars of Better Singing”. Also of interest will be the session with our Harmony Hall representative, Marty Monson. Pioneer will be hosting the Society CEO at this convention, and Marty will be holding a “Listening” session from 3:30 – 5:00. Bring your questions for Marty. I have also asked him to address “Everyone In Harmony” and what it means for us as a District, as Chapters, and as members of the Society. I know that will be a great opportunity.

Also from 3:00 – 4:00 we will have a “Tag, Your It!” session. Come on down and join with other barbershoppers from around the District for your favorite tag! Also, for those interested, we will

have an AHSOW (Ancient and Harmonious Society of Woodshedders) room set up for those that love to woodshed, or want to learn what it is all about. This is always a great time!

Our Quartet Preliminary Contest, and Senior Quartet Contest will begin at the DeVos Center for Arts and Worship. It is my understanding that, along with our Pioneer District quartets trying to qualify for International we will have at least 3 other quartets from two other Districts that will be singing for us, trying to qualify for score.

After the Friday prelims, come on back to the Headquarters Hotel for a Show put on by our International Representative Chorus The Great Lakes Chorus. This show is a fundraiser for the chorus to help defray costs for the trip to Orlando. We hope you will come out in force to show your support for the Chapter and Chorus.

On Saturday morning we will be having the District Chorus Champion Contest. This will also take place at the DeVos Center. Just a point of information, those of you who have sung at the DeVos Center before know we do not have the use of very many "warm-up" rooms that would fit a chorus. As such, we are going to limit the number of chorus that will be warm-up singing at the venue to 3 chorus. There will be two rooms behind the stage (the Chorus room and the Band room) which will be used for the next two choruses that are on the program. The third chorus will be placed in the gym to wait for the chorus/band room to be vacant. All other choruses will be asked to take a seat in the auditorium until it is time for them to hit the gym!

From 4:00 – 5:30 on Saturday we will have our Harmony Platoon Contest. If you are interested in participating in this event, make sure you register for it. Music and tracks are included in the price of registration. Unlike other years, there will not be a meal included with this event. The buffet will be open at the Hotel restaurant for your eating pleasure.

The Saturday evening contest features the Quartet finals. Come and see who will represent Pioneer at International in Orlando in July. Will we have 3 quartets again that qualify? Will we have more than 3 quartets? Come to the contest and cheer on your favorites!

We will also have a presentation regarding our Service Project for this convention. The Detroit-Oakland Chapter has chosen the Methodist Boy's Home to support. They have asked us to help supply them with twin sheets, blankets, and duffle bags for the boys. These Service Projects have been so well supported by the District for the past 3 conventions and we know that Pioneer will once again show its support for this worthy cause.

After the Contest, we will return to the Hotel for an evening of Hospitality rooms sponsored by several chapters. Come down and enjoy more fellowship, food and drink.

Finally, on Sunday we will have our Worship Service at 9:00. Come to the Service and join us in giving thanks for the many blessings we have received over the weekend, and for the fellowship of our Barbershop family.

I hope to see you all there! I will be around all weekend come up and say hello and let's sing a tag!

If, at any time, you have anything you want to ask me, or have the Board review or address, feel free to contact me by email at [monteralaw@gmail.com](mailto:monteralaw@gmail.com). I will do my best to get back to you in an appropriate amount of time, or put you in contact with the appropriate member of the District Board.

Dave Montera  
2018 President – Pioneer District