



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2018

Greetings from the Great White North! I am writing this update before the "Big Game". The snow is falling hard and fast here. That is all part of the thrill of life in our mitten state (and those of you next door in Canada as well!

Since I last wrote to you, the Mid-Winter Convention took place in Costa Mesa, California. While the weather was nice, I spent most of my time in meetings. On Wednesday, January 17, members of the District President's Council met. Present at that meeting were representatives (District Presidents and/or District Executive Vice-Presidents) of 16 of the 17 Districts of the Society. At that meeting we were able to discuss a number of issues of importance to our members.

The Council has set up a task force to research and review practices for holding Leadership Academies. We have several Districts that are very successful at holding these events, and some that are not so successful. We assigned members to that task force from Districts that are very successful, and some from those Districts not so successful so that they can research the matter, and report back to the Council in July when we next meet face-to-face.

The Council also provided the Society staff with recommendations for topics to be included in the Leadership Summit to be held the weekend before Harmony University at Belmont University in Nashville. We hope to provide presentations at the Summit on the following topics (among others):

- Membership – innovative recruitment, retention and activities
- Convention, Events, Education
- Communications internal and external including issues of social media, marketing and contracts

We also had an opportunity to break out into smaller groups by region. Pioneer is grouped with Johnny Appleseed and Cardinal Districts, which border us to the south. Our representatives discussed the possibility of joining together to create festivals and

educational opportunities. We are in discussions right now to hold a joint Board Meeting with the three districts to discuss opportunities.

There are a couple of things you should all be aware of locally:

- First, the time for nomination to the Pioneer District Hall of Fame is fast approaching. I will be sending out a letter to the Chapter Presidents this week, but I wanted to give you all a heads up regarding this Award. Please look at the Rules and Application on our District Website here: http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/business/Business_frame.htm
- The Spring Convention will be held in Grand Rapids at the Crowne Plaza Hotel from April 20 – 22. We will be selecting the Quartet representative(s) to the International Convention in Orlando as well as crowning the new 2018 Pioneer District Chorus Champion. Please check the District website for information regarding Hotel Reservations: <http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/nextconvention/Barbershop%20Harmony%20Spring%202018%20Reservation%20Info.pdf> . At this time the registration link is being finalized. You should see that active in the next few days as well.
- The contests will be held at the DeVos Center for Arts and Worship: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/2300+Plymouth+Ave+SE,+Grand+Rapids,+MI+49506/@42.9101989,-85.6349834,15z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x8819b2be029a1029:0xb2a33f7693d87d36!8m2!3d42.9213173!4d-85.6222633>

Stay warm! Stay Safe! Enjoy the game! Ring a few chords! 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. 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