



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

JANUARY 2018

Happy New Year, and welcome to the next great year in Pioneer! Last year saw some really exciting things happen in Pioneer. Sending three quartets to Las Vegas and the International contest was just the start of the great musical things that are happening and are going to happen here in Pioneer. We are looking to equal what happened last year, and work to surpass that!

A big thank you to Mike Hansen for his leadership as District President over the last two years. Mike now moves on to the much sought after position of Immediate Past President! I appreciate all the work Mike did in his two years as District President. He leaves a very healthy and vibrant District in my hands, and I plan to work with all of you to maintain that.

We are also looking forward to the contributions that Joe McDonald will be making to the District over the next two years as Executive Vice-President. Joe and I have already been in discussions about what his role will be with the District. Look for Joe to be integral in his role as a liaison between the District Board and the Chapters.

New programs we will be looking at include the establishment of a District Senior Chorus that is currently scheduled to participate in the Senior Chorus Festival at Mid-Winter in 2020. We are just getting started on the organization of that project, and we will keep you posted on it as we develop the details. The initial ideas are very exciting, but I will hold off on those until we actually begin the organization process!

The District Music Team event that was run in Lansing by Jamie Cary and Paul Ellinger will be an ongoing project. The initial meeting was well attended, and received. I hope that the subsequent events will provide additional information that each Chapter can use going forward. We are also looking forward to additional Leadership education events in the next few months. Joe McDonald is already working on those as well.

The Music Team is also looking at ways to continue the Quartet Bootcamp and the Quartet Factory and to possibly include the Bush League Contest with those events. As you may know, after 2016 the Gaylord Chapter ended its relationship with the Bush

League Contest. The Traverse City Chorus stepped in to take over the Contest in 2017. We are looking at ways to continue this great Pioneer tradition.

Those of you that read your Harmonizer for November/December 2017 saw the cover story regarding the Grand Central Red Caps, and the Society initiated program aimed at enhancing our inclusion of underrepresented people. The story of the Red Caps was told at the Society Board Meeting in July in Las Vegas. Immediately after the Society Board Meeting Mike Hansen and I agreed that Pioneer should look at what can be done in the District to improve and enhance our inclusion process.

While in Las Vegas I got in touch with members of the Detroit Sound Machine, and asked them if they would be interested, as a quartet, in stepping into a leadership role and spearhead the Pioneer District Red Caps program efforts. After they had an opportunity to discuss it, they have agreed to take on that role. We look forward to what they will put together to further this Society/District goal.

The last thing I want to address in this first Monthly Update is the Service Project program we have undertaken in Pioneer. This program is what I reported to the Society as the Pioneer "Gold Medal Moment". Pioneer has excelled in its participation in the first three Service Projects. We know that will continue. Other Districts are in awe of what we have done, and continue to do.

One thing about the Service Project program is the emphasis on SERVICE. It is relatively easy for many of us to simply reach into our pockets and put up a few dollars to some charity. However, with these projects, we have asked our members to invest time, money and effort in participation. You have stepped up to plate as Pioneer always does. You have done the shopping to help these organizations with the goods they need, and have established a connection with these organizations. That is why we SERVE. Thank you for that.

In next month's Update Letter I will report back on the results of discussions with other District Leaders at our District President's Council meeting, as well as a report on the activities and discussions and decisions at the Society Board Meeting which will take place in Costa Mesa, California at the Mid-Winter Convention. 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