



## LASTING FRIENDSHIPS – ENDURING MUSIC

### PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

July 2018

### EVERYONE IN HARMONY

By now you have all heard about the announcement made by BHS on June 19, 2018. Just so that you can see the video of the announcement, I am including the link to the YouTube video. (<https://youtu.be/uf5Jh-34FFU>) I ask you to watch it. It is less than 3 (three) minutes long. I am also including a link to the Web Page with our Society President, Skipp Kropp's prepared statement regarding Everyone in Harmony. (<http://www.barbershop.org/everyoneinharmony/>) I am also including the link to the Society FAQ's (frequently asked questions) so you can review that as well. (<http://www.barbershop.org/everyoneinharmony/faqs/>)

What does this mean to you, to your chapter and to the Society? Well, honestly, that is a good question, and the answer will likely depend on your outlook. There are more questions than answers right now. There are more things to be decided and implemented yet in the future. The best I can tell you is we need to wait and see...I feel like Nancy Pelosi when asked about the Affordable Care Act – We will have to pass it and then read it and see what it says – wow!!!

So, there are a lot of questions – we can work through those. There are a lot of concerns – we can address those. There are a lot of hard feelings over what and how – we can work through those. There are a lot of positive comments and results – we need those too.

The bottom line for me is this – I know I had no say in the decision. I don't appreciate that. I know that the decision was made when all the steps necessary were not yet developed and put into place. That concerns me. But the bottom line is – I need to decide for myself – as do you – if you want to be part of the problem or part of the solution. It has taken me this week to determine that I need to be a part of the solution, and not a part of the problem. So I choose to go forward without rancor in helping to implement the new rules.

I could grumble and complain – and that won't change the decision. I could walk away from a hobby that has been a part of me since I was 13 – and that won't change anything. I could, in my position as District President make bold statements against the decision of the Society Board of Directors, and pledge not to have my District follow that path – but that won't change anything. So, instead of stomping my foot, and taking my ball and going home – I choose to be the adult, accept what has been decided, and find the best way to work within the plans as I

can, and help provide the best District experience, and support my District Chapters as we in the Pioneer District can.

These next few months are not going to be easy. As you should know, the Pronouncement only changed the Society By-laws to be gender neutral. The Society Board of Directors has not yet taken the steps needed to change the District and Chapter By-Laws to do the same. As such, there is still a question regarding membership for women in the Districts and Chapters. Without those By-laws being changed (and only the Society Board of Directors can change them) there is still no mechanism for allowing women to become members of anything other than BHS (the Society). How this affects any or all of us is yet to be seen.

I can't tell you how to feel about this change in the By-laws. That is up to you to decide. There is no right or wrong answer to the many questions that still remain. All I can tell you is that I choose to be a part of the solution, not a part of the problem. I hope you will likewise consider how you can best assist all of us, the Society, District and your Chapter in making the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. the best organization it can be.

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 [pio.district.pres@gmail.com](mailto:pio.district.pres@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