



LASTING FRIENDSHIPS – ENDURING MUSIC

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

March 2018

Well, for many of us, March came in like a lion. Let's see if it goes out like a lamb. This letter is later than the other two letters I have sent to you. The reason for that is, I wanted to dedicate this letter to the "to be developed" Pioneer District Senior Chorus. We have just finished an organizational meeting, and I want to bring some information to your attention.

First, some of you may not know about the Senior Chorus program, so let me start there. Several years ago the District Presidents Council began to explore an opportunity to put together a program for our senior members. They landed on a Senior Chorus program which would allow members of the Society an opportunity to compete on an International stage, which many of us will likely never have an opportunity to do.

What they came up with was a Senior Chorus contest to take place at the Mid-Winter convention. The program has been tweaked a little, but the way it works is 5 Districts send a chorus to Mid-Winter each year to compete against each other. The Senior Choruses are judged by a full panel of Society Certified judges. The choruses are interspersed in the program with the youth harmony festival.

The choruses are scored on a festival rating system, but there are numbers assigned as well, which means we have an official winner, and a trophy and medals. There have been two Senior Chorus festivals so far. Pioneer is scheduled to be a part of the festival in 2020. So, we have begun the process of organizing the chorus.

This is not going to be a Chapter. It is going to be made up of Pioneer members from across the District. You must meet the age criteria, which is to be 55 at the time of the contest (January 2020, dates and location to be determined), so you will need to have been born in or before 1965. If you meet that criteria, you have the potential to be a part of this chorus.

We plan to use this chorus as a means by which we can utilize the best teaching methods, the best coaching methods (and coaches) and teach the best possible techniques. In this way, we hope to put a great product out there for the 2020 Senior Chorus Contest. We also will provide our members, and therefore the chapters to which they belong, new skills meant to help raise the performance bar in the District.

We are currently in the organizational phase. We have a need for a number of people who are willing to help us in this endeavor by taking on administrative responsibilities. These can be

members who qualify to sing (being a member of the Society, the District and being 55 or older). It could also be someone who does not qualify under the age rules but who is interested in assisting the chorus, and can take on some administrative role.

We are currently looking for someone (or perhaps a couple) who would be willing to take on the responsibility of Chorus Manager. This administrative position would be responsible for controlling the “herd of cats” that we all know results from operating a chorus. This is a position akin to a Project Manager in the business world. You would maintain the timelines and task schedule. Make sure things are going forward according to plan, and keep other people with responsibilities on task.

We are also looking for a person or two who could act as the secretary of the chorus. Those responsibilities would include maintaining the communications with the chorus as well as other tasks similar to a Chapter Secretary, but without the reporting to Nashville responsibilities!

Our District Treasurer, Chris Berry has agreed to act as the treasurer for the chorus. We will need to raise money to help pay for rehearsal venues, music, learning tracks, coaches, and hopefully to have money, via fundraisers, to help defray the cost to our singing members of attending the 2020 Mid-Winter Convention wherever it may be.

We will also need a Communications team. They will be responsible for internal communications, with the singing members, and external communications in the way of publicity, etc.

As with any singing organization, we will need a music team. Initially, we are not looking to hire a Director, as we need to have the organization team in line and then discuss and agree on what we are looking for, and do a search for the appropriate person for that job. The music team will be there to assist in the structuring and organizing of a good music program.

I am hoping to get a Survey Monkey out to the District in the next week or so that will allow you to provide us with any comments or thoughts you might have, and to allow you to let us know if you have any interest in any of the positions I just described. Keep in mind, the people on this organizational team do not have to be people that qualify to sing with the group. They can be younger people, spouses, significant others or people who have an interest in helping us put this together. You can let us know your interest through the survey, or you can contact me directly (see contact information below). We want to make this a great experience, and show the rest of the Society the great things that are happening in Pioneer. We look forward to the good things this program can do for the District, and the fun it will generate. I look forward to hearing back from many of you.

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