



LASTING FRIENDSHIPS – ENDURING MUSIC

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

May 2018

The month of April once again was a great month for Pioneer! We had a great Convention in Grand Rapids. Much thanks goes to Roger Lewis for all the hard work he puts in getting these conventions put together. Those of you who have not been involved in the planning of a District Convention would be amazed at the amount of pre-planning that goes into pulling off the Convention. Thanks to Roger's assistant, Doug Weaver for his work as well.

The convention was Co-Hosted (for the first time in memory) by the Detroit-Oakland and Pontiac-Waterford Chapters. 73 men and women were involved from those Chapters in manning the various tasks that are necessary to keep a convention running. Thanks to all of those people for all the work you put in over the weekend!

Did you go to the Blue Moose on Thursday night, before the Convention? What a great night! Lots of singing from quartets, pick-up groups, Mercenaries, and almost everyone that was there. Great food (the poor waitress who was working her first shift at the restaurant that night! – we wonder if she came back for her next shift!). These are the kind of events that make a convention a convention, and not just a series of contests. Thanks to all who showed up, and to those who helped to organize the event.

The contests offered some great singing as well. Once again we have 3 quartets representing Pioneer at the International Convention in Orlando. Congratulations to The Hemidemisemiquaver 4 (qualifying score of 76.3%); Upper Deck (qualifying score of 76.7%) and Frontier (qualifying score of 80.8%). Congratulations to all the other competing quartets for making both Friday night and Saturday night enjoyable!

The Chorus contest on Saturday featured 10 competing choruses. The Huron Valley Harmonizers rose to the top, collecting Plateau 2 Trophy and the District Championship! Mountaintown placed second overall, and took home the Plateau 1 Trophy.

There was much singing with an AHSOW Room, a Harmony Platoon (with 17 quartets participating), and hospitality rooms on Saturday night. Thanks to all the groups that appeared and sang for us all weekend long! That is why Pioneer Rocks!!!

May will have much going on as well. DOC has already hosted a Jug Night event. There were almost 200 people there to help raise money for our competing quartets. All three competing International competitors showed up to help entertain. On May 22, Battle Creek will host its 3rd

Annual Jug Night at the First Congregational Church in Battle Creek (145 Capital Ave. NE, Battle Creek). We hope you will try and make it out to that event and again support our International competitor quartets. All proceeds go to the Jug Fund to be distributed equally to the 3 International Quartets and the Senior Quartet qualifier to Mid-winter in Nashville in 2019.

On May 19 the second Pioneer District Music Team Summit will be held from 9:00 – 4:00 at Paul Ellinger’s home located at 6640 Earhart Rd., Ann Arbor. The event is open for registration. Check out the District Website for additional details (http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/District_Events/MusicTeamSummit/CDD%20Poster%20for%20Bi%20Screen%20-%20Spring%202018.pdf)

On May 20, your District Board will be participating in a multi-district meeting with the Boards for the Johnny Appleseed and Cardinal Districts. This is a first, and comes as a result of discussions that took place at the Society Leadership Summit last July, and the District President’s Council Meeting in January at the Mid-Winter Convention. The Leadership for the Districts hope to leverage the experience of all of the various Board Members from the three Districts. We will be discussing joint efforts to host Mixed Harmony and Youth Contests/Festivals; possible joint Conventions/Contests, and the potential for establishing “Brother Chapters” between the Districts similar to “Sister City” concepts. We are looking forward to seeing where this new program takes all three Districts!

The important thing to take away from this letter is to remember that, while we have often talked about Barbershop being a “hobby” it is really a “lifestyle”! There is always something to do in our organization. Barbershop is what YOU make of it. The Chapters, District and Society do everything they can to provide opportunities for you to enjoy Barbershopping. How much you participate, and what you participate in in your choice. If you think there are things we can do that you don’t see being offered, your District Board wants to know about it, so we can look into it, and address your concerns. Never be afraid to speak up.

Finally, I want to thank the District Board for the hard work they put in over the convention weekend. Business meetings are a necessary evil for any organization. Your Board participated in a Board Meeting where many issues were discussed, and matters were taken up for the betterment of the District. Those who attended the House of Delegates Meeting saw the results of the Board’s commitment as we have a very efficient meeting.

We were also, as a Board concerned about succession planning for our District Board members and officers. To help address those concerns we have three people who have agreed to “shadow” the Board. They are not full members of the Board at this point, but are being looked at as “future leaders” and are being incorporated into the Board. Welcome to Craig Roney (DOC), Zach Schroeder (Pontiac-Waterford and Motor-City Metro) and Brandon Smith (Motor City Metro) for showing an interest in being District leaders, and for agreeing to step up. We look forward to seeing how you contribute to the District!

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