



LASTING FRIENDSHIPS – ENDURING MUSIC

PRESIDENT’S UPDATE

November 2018

Welcome to winter in Michigan! Yes, it isn’t even Thanksgiving and already we have had multiple inches of snow... As Tim Allen says - - Pure Michigan!!!

We had a great Convention in Battle Creek – as long as you don’t consider that there was only one elevator working at the hotel – there was no restaurant open at the hotel on Friday – and several other minor inconveniences. Rest assured that Roger Lewis and Doug Weaver are addressing those issues with the hotel and its staff. We plan that things will be much better the next time we are in Battle Creek.

Given all that, we still had a fantastic weekend of competition. Congratulations to Remix for winning the 2018 Pioneer District Quartet contest. A job well done gentlemen. It has been a great ride watching you move up the ranks, finally to cap it off with a District Championship. Great job as well by Detroit Sound Machine which took second place, and to Station Break for placing third! It was a great contest.

The Senior Quartet qualifier contest was no less exciting. Pioneer has qualified three quartets to sing at the Mid-Winter Convention Senior Quartet Championship contest. Congratulations to MonTAJJ, Station Break and CHECKMATE for qualifying to sing on stage at the Grand Old Opry Theater.

Your District Board has been busy planning for the future of the Pioneer District as well. Along with our Board Meeting in Battle Creek, the Board also participated in a workshop in November. In that workshop we spent a great deal of time going over the Business Plan that had been developed and approved for 2018. We discussed where we had met our goals and expectations, where we fell short, what we need to review, revise and address for 2019, and drafted a Business Plan for 2019.

We then spent the remainder of our time together discussing the impact of Everyone In Harmony (EiH). As we are all aware, the EiH initiative was announced by the Society Board in June, 2018. While the announcement was made, and the Society By-Laws were amended to be gender neutral, there has been no further development of the vision announced. That will come in January sometime, we believe.

The District Board, in an attempt to “get ahead of the game” decided that a workshop would be a good way for us to begin our discussions on what the District can do to facilitate the vision of EiH, and to help Chapters as they undertake the process of evaluating where they stand now, what their own Chapter vision is now, and where it may want to be in the future, and what we can do to help each other as every implements EiH in their own way. We are not certain how this will happen for each chapter, and we are not sure what it means for the District either at this point. What we do know is that there is a new vision for the Society, and we will all have to review that vision as it becomes clearer, and see what we can do to properly implement that vision.

As we move into the holiday seasons, I hope that each of you, and each chapter has the opportunity to spread holiday cheer through the medium of song. For as long as I have been singing with the Oakland County Chapter, and now the Detroit-Oakland Chapter, we have spent our holidays going into the community to sing and bring smiles on the faces of the general populations that would not generally hear barbershop music. We sing at Greenfield Village; we sing at the Detroit Zoo; we sing at Providence and Beaumont Hospitals; we sing with the Royal Oak Symphony; in short – we sing all the time in December. There is nothing like the smiles and applause you get from an appreciative audience that is in the mood for holiday cheer! I hope your Chapter gets to enjoy the holidays that way as well.

I will be out of the country for most of December. My wife Sally and I are “officially” retiring around Thanksgiving. We will be leaving for our retirement vacation to Australia and New Zealand. So, the likelihood is that I will not be writing a December President’s letter. So, I want to wish all of you the happiest Thanksgiving and the Merriest Christmas. I will see you all again at the beginning of 2019!

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. 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