



## LASTING FRIENDSHIPS – ENDURING MUSIC

### PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

February 2019

Well, it is now the middle of February, and I am finally getting to this letter. I apologize for the delay. Sometimes we just get caught up in things, and time gets away.

January was a very busy month for Pioneer, and there is much more to come yet in February. The Mid-Winter Convention saw our current Youth Barbershop Quartet International Champs, Frontier take the stage at the Grand Old Opry House in Nashville to entertain those in attendance at the Convention. As the old golf commercial said – THESE GUYS ARE GOOD! We are very proud of what Frontier has accomplished, and of how they represent Pioneer wherever they go.

Unfortunately, Pioneer was not represented in the Junior Quartet Contest, nor were they represented in the Next generation Chorus Contest. We are working on changing that! If you know of any High School or Middle School Chorus group that sings A Cappella and would be interested in participating in this event, let Aaron Pollard know. Aaron is our Pioneer Director of Youth Outreach, and he would be happy to help get any groups in touch with Nashville to see if we can get the group on stage. If they can get to Nashville (and we, as a District) have helped with that expense in the past, Harmony Foundation, Inc. picks up the rest of the cost, except for a few meals.

The Senior Chorus Festival was also held at Mid-Winter. Pioneer will be sending a chorus to Mid-Winter in 2020 in Jacksonville, FL to compete in this event. Choruses from Southwest District, Seneca Land District, Johnny Appleseed District, Dixie District, Ontario District and the Carolinas District.

Our new Senior Quartet Champions for 2019 are DoubleDouble from the Ontario District. Pioneer had two quartets in the contest. Station Break with Mike Hanson, Tom Conner, Steve Warnaar and Randy Maclaren place 15<sup>th</sup> out of 24 quartets with an overall score of 1270 points (70.6). Placing 17<sup>th</sup> was CHECKMATE with Bruce LaMarte, Craig Pollard, Brian Kaufman and Scott McNutt with a total score of 1255 (69.7). Congratulations to both of these quartets for excellent performances and for representing Pioneer so well.

A couple of things of interest that came out of meetings in Nashville during the Mid-Winter Convention that you might be interested in as well. For example, the Society Board is considering increasing the number of members of the Society Board. The Governance and By-laws

committee will be reporting back to the Board in July with its final recommendation for a vote on this issue. There are also ongoing discussions between the Society Board and the District Presidents Council (DPC) to change the voting process for Society Board Members. At the present time only the current Society Board votes to elect new Board Members and officers. There is a proposal being finalized between the Society Board and the DPC to allow each District to have one vote for each officer and for each Board Member. We hope to have that in place before the next election cycle in July.

Speaking of the Society Board, now is the time to get your name in the ring if you are interested in serving on the Society Board of Directors. If you have an interest in serving your Society by being a member of the Society Board of Directors, let Joe McDonald or I know, and we will make sure your name gets forwarded to the right people for consideration. It has been a long time since Pioneer has had a representative on the Society Board. We would like to see that change!

One last item to bring to your attention. Joe McDonald had worked very hard to put together a great Leadership Summit for the District. The event will be at the Morey education Center in Mt. Pleasant on February 23, 2019. If you are interested, please check out the information page at [http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/District\\_Events/LA/Leadershipsummit.htm](http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/District_Events/LA/Leadershipsummit.htm). You can register for the event from the information page. The presenters include former Society president Alan Lamson, Sherry Knight, the Associate Vice president of communications for Central Michigan University, Jim McMahan, Chris Berry and Paul Ellinger. The event starts at 8:45 for registration and ends at 6:30 that night.

We are beginning to gear up for our Spring Convention at the Grand Traverse Resort. Along with our usual District Chorus Championship Contest, and our International Quartet Qualifier Contest, we are pleased to announce that we will have, for score and evaluation purposes, spots open on Friday night for up to 4 quartets representing mixed gender and/or all female quartets. This is an opportunity for these groups (all of whom must have a membership in both the Society and the District) to appear on stage and receive a score and evaluation from our judges.

This is in keeping with the Society vision of Everyone in Harmony. It is also a precursor to what may, in the near future become a Pioneer District Mixed Harmony Quartet and, potentially, Chorus Champion, as well as a Pioneer District Women's Quartet and, potentially, Chorus Champion. There is a Task force made up of members of the Pioneer District Board addressing future inclusion issues, and this is something that is being considered for future incorporation into the District contest schedule.

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  
2019 President – Pioneer District