



LASTING FRIENDSHIPS – ENDURING MUSIC

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

January 2019

Happy New Year and welcome to 2019! What this year will bring to our world of Barbershop is almost anyone's guess. Life is an adventure, and we are living that in the Barbershop community as well.

As you know, in June, 2018 the BHS changed its By-laws to allow women to become full members of the Barbershop Harmony Society. They did not change the By-Laws of the Districts or the Chapters regarding membership, and as such, both those organizations have been in a holding pattern regarding women members. We have been told that the By-Laws should be ready for Districts and Chapters sometime in January, and we anxiously await those documents to help us determine how we can proceed.

For those Chapters that have begun the process of reviewing their policies, and determining how you want to proceed in 2019 congratulations! To those Chapters that have not begun to review that – no problem! There is no requirement that any Chapter take any action regarding women members at any point in time. At this point, pending the new By-Laws, we are operating under the information we have been receiving from BHS that Chapters will be free to remain all male, become a mixed gender organization, or have multiple choruses within the Chapter. So no action by the Chapter just allows you to continue as an all-male organization, which is supposed to be permitted under any new By-Laws to be put out by the BHS.

For those of you heading down to Nashville later this month – I hope to see you there. I will be there for meetings with the District Presidents Council, as well as for the Society Board of Directors Meeting. I will not be staying for the entire weekend, and will likely miss the contests. I will try to get to all of the competitors before I leave to let you know that Pioneer is proud of your accomplishments, and we are all behind you! Our three quartets that will be competing in the Senior Quartet Contest are MonTAJJ, Station Break and CHECKMATE. I am sure they will enjoy their time on stage at the Grand Old Opry Theater.

Also available at the Convention will be some Harmony University classes. I know there will be classes on inclusion. If you are interested in those classes, avail yourself of the opportunity to learn more about where the Society is heading based on Everyone in Harmony (EiH). There will be other classes, as well as singing opportunities for everyone. If you are there, enjoy those opportunities.

On the District level, we are working on putting together another Leadership Summit. We hope that we will be able to have Society trained facilitators with us at that Summit to help us work with Chapters to investigate and approach changes, and organization under everyone in Harmony. More information will be forthcoming on that. Our District Executive Vice-President, Joe McDonald, has been working on that event. Joe has already sent out a "Save the Date" notice to Chapter leaders:

Please alert your chapter leadership teams with a Save the Date notice for a Leadership Academy coming up on February 23, 2019. The event will be scheduled to allow same day travel for most people and be located in Mt. Pleasant.

Mark your calendars and plan to be in attendance at this event. We will be covering a number of Leadership issues, not just EiH. This will be an event to allow our Chapter leaders to get together for something more than just an operations training session. It will give all Chapter leaders an opportunity to meet, interact, and share ideas with other Chapter leaders from around the District. I hope to see many of you there.

One last thing to bring to your attention. After many years of service to the District, Brian Duncel has asked to step down from the Board, where he has most recently served as our Contest and Judging Director. Losing someone from the Board who has the breadth of experience that Brian brings to the table is a big blow to our leadership team. We certainly appreciate everything Brian has done over the years for the Pioneer District. His induction into the District Hall of Fame, which is based upon all he has done for the District over his years of service was well deserved. We all wish him, and his wife Pat, the best as they begin to enjoy Barbershop at a very different level! We also want to welcome Zach Schroeder to the District Board as our new Director of Contest and Judging. He has big shoes to fill, but with Brian willing and able to assist Zach, I look forward to another new face on the Board, and all Zach can bring to the table.

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
2019 President – Pioneer District