



LASTING FRIENDSHIPS – ENDURING MUSIC  
PRESIDENT’S UPDATE  
March 2019  
**IT’S ALL ABOUT SERVICE**

I have mentioned before that I had been asked to be a part of a study group set up by BHS in Nashville. The original name of the group was the **Service Delivery Through Leadership** team. The group has since been renamed the **Impact Alignment Team**. The group consists of members of Harmony Hall Staff, Harmony Foundation International Staff, the Contest and Judging Team, the LOPT (Leadership and Operations Planning Team) the Women’s Impact Group, and the District President’s Council. What I want to talk about in this letter is about the word **SERVICE**, what it means, how it is interpreted, and how we, as BHS members, can be “of service”.

First you need to be able to focus on what part of service we are discussing – we can receive services, and we can provide services. Services can be anything from something tangible such as sheet music, to something intangible such as the moral support we receive from our friends in our chapter, and in the District. We can receive those services, and we can provide them. Neither is more important than the other, but both receiving and providing are what provide the well-rounded, full enjoyment of the hobby in which we join.

For example, the District provided a service just last month when it hosted the 2019 Leadership Summit for the District. Our members (and some non-members as well) joined together to receive valuable information regarding the hobby, how we can help our chapters grow, how we can individually improve our barbershop experience, and how we, as Chapter and District leaders can be of service to our members and others who are interested in barbershop.

Next month the District will provide another service by hosting the Spring Convention in Traverse City. That Convention provides invaluable services to our members by providing a venue where we can, as friends, gather, sing, enjoy each other’s company, sing, enjoy the hobby we love, sing, receive education, sing, conduct some business, sing, and...by the way...we can sing in contests, we can sing as chorus members, as quartet members, we can sing in pick-up groups in the hotel lobby and in hospitality suites, in Platoon Activities, in an AHSOW room, with other men and women from our own chapters, from other chapters and even from other Districts. Did I mention we can SING!

Providing opportunities to sing is one of the greatest services we can provide (and receive). We are a singing Society, and so, at all times, our emphasis should be on singing. As Roger Lewis is want to say....Singing is life...the rest is just details! So help us all by providing that service, and help yourself by receiving that service as often and in such quality and quantity as you can

stand, not just at the convention, but at your rehearsal nights, and whenever 4 or more of you gather!

We also provide a service with our financial support. Financially, this District helps support multiple quartets that will be attending the International Convention Salt Lake City in July. So when you hear that there is a Jug Night Event coming to your area, be of service – help support those quartets. All money received at a Jug Fund Event gets divided equally between the District's qualifying quartets to International and Mid-Winter.

We provide financial support for our District Chorus competitor as well. So when someone from the Windsor Chapter asks you to come over to support the Windsor Send-Off Show remember that you will get a great meal, fantastic entertainment, and all the profits go to the chorus representative to the International Convention. This is another great opportunity to receive services, and to serve.

We can't end this discussion without talking about services we provide to people and organizations outside of our Barbershop circle. For the past 3 years at each convention this District has selected, in conjunction with the Convention Host Chapter, a charity to support. Battered women's Centers, Homeless Shelters, orphanages have all received our services. The host chapter finds a charity, seeks out the tangible things that our recipient needs, and Pioneer members step up to the plate and donate goods for these organizations. We, as a District, are in the vanguard when it comes to services to outside organizations. We are the envy of other Districts, and our program is now being mimicked in other Districts. This is something of which we can all truly be proud.

I want to take the time to specifically acknowledge one Chapter in our District. It is a Chapter that most of us rarely see at events. The Saulte Ste. Marie Chapter is an organization that strives to serve. In April, when the Chapter hosts its Annual Show, the proceeds from that show will once again be donated to the Saulte Area Hospital's Speech Pathology unit. As a result of the anticipated profits from the April Show, the Soo Chapter anticipates that the total contribution they will have made since 1995 in this regard will top \$100,000.

This Chapter was just recognized with a story on the BHS LiveWire (March 14 edition). In the article written in the Saulte Star ([https://www.saultstar.com/news/local-news/barbershoppers-celebrate-donation-milestone?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=The%20Sault%20Star&utm\\_campaign=%20%20%20](https://www.saultstar.com/news/local-news/barbershoppers-celebrate-donation-milestone?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=The%20Sault%20Star&utm_campaign=%20%20%20)), the chorus Director, Bob Shami stated "Singing is our passion. We enjoy not only sharing what we love, but helping others find their voice. As the plaque on the door of the unit states "We sing that they shall speak". Many of us who go back many years recognize the old motto for our support of the Institute for Logaoedics (Heartsprings). This kind of continued service to the local community is what we know Barbershoppers are all about. Well done Northland Barbershop Chorus and the Saulte Ste. Marie Chapter.

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