

Pioneer District
CDD
Jim Ryan - Director
March, 2009
RP1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the past year, the Pioneer District has experienced turnover in the Chorus Director ranks. Several new directors are leading Pioneer District Choruses. We have some Directors in temporary positions and there are several who are considering a change. **CDWI** is a great tool for District Chapters to give their Directors some Positive Reinforcement for the many things they are doing well and offer a self-coaching video review of the directing experience to see first-hand how the chorus members react to every nuance of direction. We need to kindle the fire of potential Future Directors to gain confidence and experience in directing. New ideas and suggestions are welcome.

DISTRICT GOALS

1. The District will hold two CDWI's
 - ***A CDWI will be shared with JAD in July-August, 2009 timeframe. An invitation for two seats will be extended to Pioneer District***
 - ***A CDWI for the newer Directors is in the works with Lansing identified as a possible host***
2. The District will hold a minimum of one Director of the Future event. Other possibilities for Director of the Future events may be at conventions, COTS or other regularly scheduled District events.
 - ***Direct or the Future is a key event for growing new directors. Time needs to be allotted in COTS or at convention for this program . . .***
3. The District will implement Jack Slamka's Curtain to Curtain program
 - ***Initial discussions have begun to understand more about the planning of a great show for choruses and chapters rather than a great critique of a one-time show package that is rarely repeated. Focus will be placed on helping chapters tighten up the show and reduce the number of distractions to the audience in creating a Standing ovation performance.***
4. The District will continue to track chorus progress in raising the level of singing in the Pioneer District.

- ***Year over Year Scores will be compared for improvement in performance for Choruses.***

Pioneer District Chapter Support
and Leadership Training Status Report
April, 2009

An analysis of the surveys from the 2009 COTS/LA is attached. A point value to the survey was established to measure the effectiveness of the presenters. 100 points is a perfect score.

- One category falls short of an acceptable score. An effort to upgrade that category for the next LA will be undertaken. The majority of the presenters received excellent ratings.
- Comments about the food served were written in as they were not part of the survey. All of those comments were negative. Food service for LA 2010 will be reviewed. The Board made it clear at the January meeting that the Saturday morning breakfast was not necessary and could be eliminated.

The same venue is booked for 2010.

Larry Parker has agreed to stay on for 2010.

The date is the second weekend of January. The 8th and the 9th.

Efforts to schedule faculty will be getting under way.

In response to conversations regarding site visits of chapters in January, I have completed and circulated a simple survey. The focus of the survey has to do with members perceptions of a experiences with their home chapter. The survey was sent to random members of each chorus the week of March 23rd. About 200 surveys were sent by email and returns continue to come back. I estimate that 30 or so have come in to date. I expect to have a report available in Traverse City. A copy of the survey is attached. I can see a scenario where I get a representative response from some chapters and not from others.

I have been contacted by other board members who have expressed willingness to help in the chapter support area once a direction is determined.

**Pioneer District
Youth In Harmony
Jeffrey L Pierson - Director
March 30, 2009**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The YIH goal for the short term has been the successful execution of a District harmony camp this summer. To date, everything is in place except the campers! Three chapters have committed Sponsorships totaling approximately \$2400. The website is functioning and current. Visits to schools have begun in Muskegon (my home zone), and Traverse has contacted schools in their region. Enthusiasm is high, but only one camper has registered as of today. April and May will represent vital months for registrations. Our \$2000 deposit with Interlochen Center for the Arts is partly refundable up to May 1(3/4) and July 1(1/2) if we cancel camp. The only other risk is our advertising costs.

I desperately need to get the budget formally approved, and I would like to amend it to raise publicity costs.

DISTRICT GOALS

1. Make Rockin' Barbershop Camp a success.

I think we will know by July 1 if camp will get sufficient campers. The risk on that date is our promotion costs, plus half our deposit to Interlochen. Camp is Aug 27-29.

2. Raise the BHS and PIO profile in the awareness of people under 26 in Michigan.

So far, we have represented ourselves well at Michigan Music Conference, but only with an exhibit in the vendor hall. There is the potential to run a forum/class at future MMC. This venue is limited to High School and Middle School teachers, not collegiate, nor non-school vocal programs. We have joined the Michigan School Vocal Music Association.

3. Teach Barbershop style to youth.

By holding camp, and promoting it with school visits, this is happening. Again, this is currently limited to HS age and schools. Our penetration is limited to date. Using our MSVMA membership, we will promote BHS YIH programs to distribute music and teacher kits. We also will award a Harmony University scholarship from BHS. Our chapter shows could be promoted in schools also.

4. Enthuse current PIO-BHS members to reach out to youth.

I frankly have spent little effort on this yet, and would welcome ideas. We have asked members to sponsor family members and acquaintances to camp. For members who interact with youth (our definition is "to age 26", remember) in the workplace or otherwise, getting them to a contest or collegiate concert would be a boon.

Pioneer District
George Doyle - Director of Membership
RP1 - March 2009

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I intend on attacking chapter development from another direction in 2009. Instead of overwhelming most of our chapters with programs, guidance and examples of initiatives usually from the large, resource-laden chapters, I want each of our chapters to have a successful, basic chapter development program and then build upon that foundation if resources permit. Each chapter should have a written plan addressing recruiting new members, and retaining current members and visitors. Recruiting will succeed through opportunities or sourcing identified by the chapter. Retaining current members will succeed by satisfying basic needs of belonging, recognition and appreciation. Visitors will return if made to feel welcome and included in activities immediately and acknowledged through follow-up. These basics must be achieved by all chapters. Success will be measured by growth, or a marked reduction in declining numbers, not by the size and weight of the chapter development plan.

DISTRICT OBJECTIVES

- 1. Finish 2009 with a positive trend in membership. This may be an increase in overall membership or a decrease in the rate of decline from previous years. (PIO experienced a 9% decline in memberships in 2008.)**

RP1 - As of March 31, 2009, Pioneer District had a year-to-date loss of 25 members (2% decline) from 2008 year end totals. However, contact with several chapters suggests a positive outlook and optimism. We'll continue our efforts with a determination to grow in 2009.

- 2. Every chapter will have a written plan addressing at least the basic**

task areas outlined in the VP for Chapter Development job description. Chapters with the ability and resources should expand and increase the scope of its chapter development plan accordingly.

RP1 - So far, 20% of chapters have responded in the affirmative to having some sort of written plan, outline, or guide to follow.

- 3. Visit at least four chapters during the year to evaluate the chapter development program and provide on-site assistance where able.**

RP1 - I visited the Grand Rapids and Holland chapters this quarter. I experienced their chapter rehearsal and meeting as a visitor and felt quite welcome and included in all activities. I spoke to the chapter members about the importance of perpetuating our style of vocal music through recruiting new members and retaining existing members. I was able to assist by answering some questions and solving some problem areas. I was honored to install the Holland Board of Director officers for 2009.

- 4. Update the Pioneer District membership section of the website and keep current.**

RP1 - I have successfully updated the Chapter Development webpage on the District website to my satisfaction. I will continually monitor changes at Society and District levels to ensure the data on the webpage reflects current material and guidance. Webmaster Steve Sutherland provided timely and patient support.

OTHER INITIATIVES FOR 2009:

- 1. Recognize those chapters that have viable recruiting and retention programs and have followed District guidance, participated in District and Society programs, and/or gone the extra mile to create a strong chapter membership. The District Director will evaluate chapters continuously and provide recognition when warranted. Status: In Development.**
- 2. Seek standardization of guidance contained in The Chapter Management Guide, The Secretary's Manual (the 2009 Exhibits Manual is already out of date), and The Society Operations Manual (Job Description in particular). Status: Made contact with Society concerning this issue. My understanding is that updating the Society Operations Manual**

has been tasked to a committee but they had not yet identified nor tasked a source to update the Management Guide. I will continue to monitor this item.

3. Establish a Pioneer group email address for Chapter Development VPs.

Status: I developed a group email address for all Chapter Development VPs and contacts. I will continue to pursue development of a PIO Yahoo group address so that everyone can interact with each other.

**Pioneer District
Contest & Judging - Ron Eubank
2009 Objectives**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I will be learning my position as Director of Contest and Judging while on the job this year. Former Director Al Fisk has given me much information and will continue to be an asset that I rely on as the year progresses.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1. Identify the requirements for record keeping, acquire and organize existing historical data and maintain those files

RP1. I have reviewed and reorganized the data from Al Fisk. Most records for current judges and candidates are maintained in Nashville. I expect clarification after the current contest season.

- 2 Establish working relationships with and support the convention team, judging community and our contestants

RP1. Al supplied me with an excellent system of a dated checklist and supporting documents for the convention responsibilities of this position. I am in contact with and on good terms with everyone involved, going into the spring convention.

- 3 Actively recruit qualified men into the Society judging program

RP1. No activity except to monitor current candidates.

