



Illinois District Association of Chapters
HOD Meeting October 5, 2018

President's Report

It is hard to believe how quickly the two years of my term as your president have flown by. It has been an exciting time in the Illinois District although I would be lying if I said accomplished all I hoped. I do feel we, with the support of our board, HOD and a good portion of our membership have made progress toward improving in the three areas of concern pointed out as my goals.

Communication:

District communication, from the top down, became more difficult early on with the introduction of the Member Center Database at Nashville HQ. With the demise of our previous system that allowed much simpler access to membership data we had to come up with different methods of reaching out. I got off to a slow start because I am a black hole when it comes to technological skills. With our Secretary Mike Isely's help and the excellent work of Ken Ota (SOI) we have greatly increased the level of communication from the top down, passing on information on our Raffle fundraiser each time a new prize was announced, getting the convention schedule out to the entire membership in a more timely fashion and helping get the word out for the Arlington's director search.

Communication is a two way street though. As for communication from the membership back to leadership, I can assure you that is working even better as evidenced by the volume of email responses received immediately following the Arlington Director search message. Seems in trying to add some color and interest to the email, I approved the wrong chorus photo from the Arlington, VA chapter. Apologies to both chapters of course.

But I learned two things. Our membership does open their email in a timely fashion. And they respond in a timely fashion as well....especially if you make a mistake!

It does prove the lines of communication are open and flowing in both directions and that is a goal I pledged to work on. It will continue to get better from here when the new, mobile friendly website comes online (should be up prior to you receiving this report if all goes according to plan).

Financials:

At this time we are coming to the end of our first cycle of the new dues structure put in place last year at the Fall 2017 HOD. As you can see in the Treasurer's Report, things overall have improved somewhat but not enough to say we are truly stable. We are moving in the right direction. At the Spring 2018 HOD I presented a fundraising opportunity that was risk free to the district. All expenses, prizes, printing, advertising, etc. were



donated or paid for with donated monies. As stated, the fundraiser was without cost or risk to the district. The request to the entire district membership was not overly burdensome; Sell or purchase 4 (four) raffle tickets at \$10 apiece. The members of the HOD present at the meeting agreed, as did the district board, that the fundraiser provided the opportunity to raise capital with little exertion and as previously stated, no risk. We had 6 months to complete the goal. That capital (approximately \$20,000.00) would allow many existing district programs to improve, old programs to be reinstated and new programs to be put in place. At this time I am sorry to say many of the tickets remain unsold. As of this writing I am disappointed to report that had we purchased the prizes and paid for the printing with district funds, we would not cover the costs. I am hopeful there are many sold tickets and monies yet to be turned in. Which brings me to the third goal of my presidency, Commitment.

COMMITMENT

Commitment is something the District was struggling with when my presidency began and is something we continue to struggle with as I move on to the Immediate Past President position. I did not expect our membership's commitment level to suddenly go up to 100% but I hoped for improvement because only with increased commitment can we expect greater success. I feel we succeeded, mildly, in increasing commitment, even though it was not up to the level I had hoped.

Commitment is a component that is absolutely critical to our success as a district and we must strive to increase each of ours even further. Ask any member of After Hours what commitment can bring to your group. Or ours.

That's not to say there is no commitment in the district. After Hours is but one example. I can see other areas where there has been improvement:

Illinois had 2 choruses and 6 quartets participate in the International Competitions.

The Danville chorus is a shining example of what increased commitment and dedication to a cause can create. Kudos and congratulations to them on their many successes over the last two or three years.

The West Town's Chorus, Sound of Illinois and Northbrook New Tradition committed to a Three Chorus Concert on a weekend earlier this summer. One concert in Bloomington, one in Chicagoland. It was a fabulous event and there is discussion in keeping the event an annual thing. It could not have happened without the commitment of those three chapters. What a thrill it was to be onstage with a chorus of that caliber and size!

But we still have room to grow our level of commitment. It was after discussion and agreement with the board and HOD that we decided we needed to have the raffle fundraiser. Thanks to hard work and commitment from numerous members, we were able to bring the fundraiser to life with no use of district funds. All that was asked, as stated above, was that each member sell or buy 4 tickets. Unfortunately, I must report there are members of the HOD and the District board of directors currently serving, that have not fulfilled that commitment.

I use the fundraiser as an example because it is a tangible event that is measurable. It is not the only commitment issue we face. Convention attendance and participation is another tangible measure that could use some improvement.



CONCLUSION

I have faith that we will continue to improve on the things we need to work on. I believe the steps we have taken so far are steps in the right direction.

I started my two year presidency with the goal to improve the three areas discussed in this report. Communication has been given a good beginning, with the new website launch coming up and the use of district wide email for items mentioned above, such as director searches, After Hours' fantastic, record setting success in bringing the gold home to Illinois (not as quick to get that out as I would have liked though) and convention registration and schedule announcements.

We, as an organization will continue to repair our finances through our new dues structure and through careful cost controls for future events. Hopefully through doing more of what we love to do and do best, SINGING!

Commitment will always be a two way street. You can't expect more unless each of us, individually as members and chapter and district leaders, commit to give more. And I don't mean only money. I mean give more of your time and talent to making the Illinois District as well as your individual chapter a great place to be a barbershopper. That's what we're here for.

It has been my pleasure to serve each of you. Thank you for all your help these last two years.

I look forward to helping our next District President and his board succeed in the goals they will set out. I hope each of you do too!

Jim Waldorf, President

Illinois District