



Illinois District Association of Chapters

HOD Meeting September 27th, 2020

## President's Report

In my report for the Spring 2019 HOD meeting I wrote about three main goals..

1. Add Fun to District Functions!!
2. Expand the information on the District Website
3. Lead the Everyone In Harmony initiative

## Adding Fun

My message has always been to add fun to our functions. If we can bring fun to our conventions, no one will ever want to miss a district event. The fall of 2019 was incredible as all the numbers were up in participation and registrations! In February of 2020 Harmony College Midwest was a huge success and built even more momentum for our 2020 Spring Convention.

Then as you all know, COVID 19 affected all of us. Everything was cancelled. We were all thinking it would be a few weeks and we'd be back to normal. Here we are now in the fall of 2020 with another District convention cancelled.

The good news is: the board is planning on events for 2021. Harmony College Midwest is scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The featured quartet is the 2008 International Champions OC Time. I'm sure Tim and Dan will soon be giving us details on how to sign up!!

The 2021 Spring Convention is scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. This event will be all under one roof. Jeff Bowyer has worked extremely hard with the DoubleTree Hotel to not only have great prices on rooms but to give us all the ballrooms to hold the convention. This will be both a district championship contest and a prelim contest for International 2021 in Cleveland. Mark your calendars!!!!

## Expand Information on the District Website

Joe Gurreri has done an outstanding job with this project. I'm sure you'll see in his report we are better today than we were just a year or so ago.

## Lead the Everyone In Harmony Initiative

This initiative has stalled a bit. My vision was to have a team of men and women from our district to develop a marketing strategy for attracting all singing communities to barbershop. I am still in search of a team to do this work. I'm sure the incoming President Jeff Lathom will continue to search for ways to expand this initiative.



## District Presidents Council

This year has been interesting in the DPC. Due to the wealth of experience, I find this group of men to be a fantastic resource for ideas and camaraderie. We met via Zoom to discuss all our district events, International and the BHS/HFI debacle.

We all were going through the same issues with district conventions and how to keep members motivated. We were able to discuss as a group, our options and come up with unified decisions.

We had more Zoom calls than I can count for discussing the BHS/HFI issue. We did not just sit back and take the news of their split lightly. Although it may have seemed like it because of a lack of communication to our districts. We were gathering information (and continue to do so) and wanted to remain neutral. However, we did not accept the split and were all in agreement the two sides needed to work it out. We formed a committee of 5 DP's to facilitate a meeting with BHS/HFI board leaders to work this out. Apparently, it was going well until BHS decided to back out of the discussions and move forward with their own fund-raising arm. It was disappointing to say the least. But that is where we are, with two different fundraising organizations to support our passion.

Brett Mulford, Proud President of the Illinois District