



DISTRICT HISTORIAN REPORT – SPRING 2026

Since the last report, donations of materials have been made to the archives. They include the following:

Misc. Photos of Sterling-Rock Falls Chorus & Lyle Dirks Quartets by Ben Dirks

WestTowns history book by Tom Toftey

1940s Chicago #1 Membership Directory by Mike Schnitzler

Ben Williams (Four Renegades) Brown Derby hat & 1965 ASCAP trophy by Williams Family

Federal Reserve Notes 50th Anniversary Booklet by Mike Mueller

Misc. IDAH & District historical materials by Syl Wetle

Misc. District & Society historical materials by Gerry Conner

I have organized the Bloomington Chapter materials that were given to me by Jim Stahly over the summer. I plan on obtaining both the Decatur and Coles County Chapters' historical materials in the near future.

Because of the untimely death of photographer Bob Summit, I received only digital images of the Fall 2025 contestants from Jill Wakefield. I purchased hard copies of each from Walgreens so that the archives had a record and turned in receipts to Leif Wildman for reimbursement.

I have been looking into the possibility of restoring "Big Bertha" – the original QCA trophy that was in use from 1960-2009 in order to add to the annual QCA display at the convention. The top cup needs recoloring and the two side pieces are broken and need replaced. Fortunately, I have replacement parts for those.

I posted the fall and winter issues of "From the Vault" in November and February, respectively.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Hansen

Illinois District Historian (2019-present) & Past District President (2015-2016)