



President's Report

Fall 2015

In the eight months since assuming the office of district president, I've had the pleasure of visiting with several chapters, including Northbrook, Coles County, Decatur, Peoria, Danville, Macomb, Springfield, Champaign, Belleville and of course – Bloomington (they get to see me every week!). In July, I attended a wonderful celebration hosted by the Decatur Chapter on the occasion of their 70th anniversary! Before the end of this year, I look forward to visiting with even more chapters around the district. And if I don't see you in 2015 – rest assured I will visit throughout 2016.

These chapter visits have not only opened my eyes to the wonderful things that are going on within our district and the successes that each chapter can look to, but they have also confirmed the need to foster more communication between the district and the chapters, and provide assistance where needed. To address the latter two points, I applaud the efforts begun by two of our district officers – VP of Marketing Kevin McClelland, and our VP of Chapter Support and Leadership Training (CSLT) Mike Savard. Both men are very enthusiastic about assisting chapters and just in the past six months, a lot of work has been accomplished. Our district website includes more information and of course, Attacks and Releases is back!

Mike is working to build a network between the chapters and the district by reviving the Chapter Mentor (formerly Chapter Counselor) program. With the assistance of our Mentors in the coming months, it is my hope to not only bridge the gap between the district and the chapters, but also rekindle interest in upcoming district events.

Speaking of upcoming events – you will not want to miss our next spring convention. I look forward to our first-ever Spring Harmony Jamboree, which will take place April 15-17 in East Peoria/Washington, IL. Combining the best elements of past conventions, festivals, and IDAH, this will be an enjoyable weekend not to be missed including IDAH classes, an ILL District Youth Chorus, and a Harmony Platoon. The weekend will conclude with a spectacular Saturday evening show featuring the popular quartet *Boardwalk*, Sweet Adelines Queens of Harmony *The Four Bettys*, as well as other guests and youth performers. More details are to come, so stay tuned.

I am privileged to be your president and look forward to visiting with all of you, either at conventions or your chapter meetings. Here's to a great rest of 2015!

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Hansen