



Illinois District Association of Chapters

HOD Meeting September 27th, 2019

President's Report

In my report for the Spring HOD meeting I wrote about three main goals. Those goals remain the same but I'd like to update the HOD on the progress of those goals.

I have a couple main goals for my two years as President:

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

Adding Fun

We have 12 choruses competing in the Fall District Convention. In 2018 we had 8 which is a 50% increase. This is a great start to making the convention more fun for our membership. The QCA/Presidents reception have been combined and will be held in the basement of the BCPA immediately following the chorus contest Saturday night. We then can head over to the DoubleTree hotel to visit the three hospitality rooms.

Tim Beutel and Dan Wessler have done a lot of work building energy for what used to be known as IDAH. They rebranded it to be called Harmony College Midwest to be held in Bloomington in February 14th and 15th, 2020. With the help of our marketing person Joe Gurreri they built a Social Media presence and will presenting several times during the convention to attract members to come to the event.

Terry Ludwig and Tim Pashon are directing the second adaptation of the Illinois District Seniors Chorus at this convention. It has been confirmed this chorus will compete at the Midwinter Convention in Jacksonville, FL in January if they score a qualifying score of 61. This chorus has been rehearsing a few times a month and should have over 50 on the risers!!!

Expand Information on the District Website

By now you all should have noticed how much work Joe Gurreri has been doing on the district website and social media awareness. Joe has worked with the web designer to create a site to be more member-centric. If any chorus or quartet wants information to share with the district they need to email Joe at marketing@illinoisdistrict.com

Lead the Everyone In Harmony Initiative

The Illinois District will have the first mixed chorus competing in this convention. That is just the beginning of what could be an even more fun convention. To help identify the opportunities of attracting other singing communities, I have asked Michelle Adams to create an EiH (Everyone in Harmony) committee. This committee will research ways to attract men and women to what the Illinois District has to offer them.



District Presidents Council Meeting

I attended the DPC meeting in Salt Lake in July. This group is a great resource of knowledge and a networking opportunity during these changing times within the BHS.

“The Proposal” from the board of directors was a discussed at length. From my point of view, the biggest issue with the proposal as District Presidents was; It seems the SBOD are looking at making the districts irrelevant. The proposal was taking away the opportunity of the highest scoring chorus within a district to compete at international. It was strictly about scoring an 81 or higher. They also proposed a chorus or quartet didn’t need to compete within their own district. Our views were shared with the SBOD and I see they have modified this proposal to include the highest scoring chorus from each district as long as they score the minimum score.

BHS has asked each district to supply them with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining our goals for 2020. By detailing our goals The MOU’s can be seen and used as a tool to make the districts relevant. It will also help the districts be more relevant to our members, People Interested in Barbershop (PIB), our chapters and the BHS. It takes the place of a business plan.

I sent in my MOU, the below is a part of the MOU outlining the goals

In support of the Purposes of the Society, the subsidiary/entity will embark upon the following activities during the following time frame: January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 (the “Activities”):

- Illinois District Academy of Harmony (IDAH) on February 14-15, 2020
- Fall Convention on September 27-28, 2020
- Youth in Harmony Festivals (5)

The intended outcomes of the projects above include

- Successfully managing project budget by increasing income and reducing expenses
- Increasing self-assessed value of our singing communities* (sing with the champs, shows, afterglows)
- Increasing the health & sustainability of singing communities - more int’l qualifying quartets, can we correlate to IDAH?
- Growing the number of singing communities - IDAH chorus

**A singing community of the Barbershop Harmony Society is any group of 4 or more voices in our sphere of influence that enjoys harmonizing. A singing community may or may not require the legal benefits or additional resources provided in becoming a recognized BHS Chapter or quartet.*

BHS has responded to our goals and are now asking for details so they can help us accomplish them.

Brett Mulford, Proud President of the Illinois District