

I have spoken with Phil Rolfs and he is in agreement with this report and with me, is very anxious to produce the necessary documentation to consider expanding the scope and direction of the District to include workshops, academies, continuing education opportunities for music educators, professional director's schools, workshops and trainings, etc., all with a view to becoming a viable leader in the music education field in Illinois and beyond. Through our grant project we expect to be able to actualize our District programs and see them funded generously by the companies and institutions that are supportive and financially able to assist us in our goals to become the leading music education district in the Barbershop Harmony Society.

This kind of thinking takes people who are willing to think outside the parameters already in place and to bring fresh ideas and dreams to fruition within the lifetime of most of us, God willing and the creeks don't rise. My committee is committed to this project and I am sure there will be much more to present as this project gets in motion in the next few days and weeks.

#### FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1. Phil Rolfs will continue to work with me on the grant proposals for the Illinois District programs.
2. We are looking for two or three more people to work with us on the idea side of grant proposals that companies in Illinois would favor.
3. We will be having a "bainstorming" session as soon as we receive the grant information we are requesting through websites, facebook, emails, etc.
4. A letter, facebook notice, and email piece is being written to request information from all companies in Illinois who may be in a position to grant money to non-profit organizations like ours.
5. We are looking to see if by expanding the work of the District to meet the general population's needs in most of its programs companies (grantors) would be more amenable to offer grants for our work.
6. In short, our work needs to be more inclusive (as is the YIH festival and contest program) so as to attract more grantors to look favorably on our work and grant us the funding we need.

This is the progress so far with just two of us working on the grant projects. We will be doing more as the days and weeks allow.

Respectfully submitted with renewed enthusiasm,

Bill Ward, Financial Development Chair