



President's Report

Fall 2016

Where has the time gone? As I write this, I am entering my last quarter serving as your district president – and reflecting upon the last 18 months, I am very proud of what has been accomplished and excited for the direction in which our district is headed.

One of the biggest goals I had as president was increasing communication across the district between the district board and the chapters. To that end, I have spent nearly each month of my term visiting with various chapters across the district. With just a few more to go, I am confident that I will achieve this goal by the end of the year. These visits have provided me the opportunity to witness all the wonderful things that are going on within our district and the successes that each chapter can claim, however I am keenly aware of the work that still needs to be done – in actively supplying district support to our smaller and more struggling chapters, whether it be in the areas of directors, coaching, and/or outreach.

Recently, I was faced by a series of resignations in our Operations Team. Our VP of Marketing, Kevin McClelland, served the district well during his term, and was instrumental in bringing about a revised hard copy of our newsletter, "Attacks and Releases." I'm happy to report that Jim Bicek, longtime member of the Marketing Team and Director of Special Projects, has stepped up to the plate to fill Kevin's shoes regarding Marketing. Assisting him is Dan Garcia and Rob Siebert, who will be handling the Webmasters for the district. I welcome both of these men and am glad to see Dan back on the district board.

I also had to fill the vacancy left by Mike Savard over the summer. Because of a job transfer, Mike and Mary have moved to Costa Rica! Stepping up as his replacement, Bill Miller has agreed to serve as the new VP of CSLT. In addition to providing leadership training for our membership, Bill will also be overseeing the Chapter Advocate (formerly Mentor) Program. I also wish to welcome Bill back on the district board.

Tim Woodall has resigned the position of VP of CDD (Chorus Director Development). This is an area that I find needs a lot of attention in our district to assist front-line directors. While a replacement has not yet been chosen, the search is ongoing and I hope to have an announcement in this position soon.

I am very proud of what my team has accomplished over the past year and a half. From resurrecting Attacks and Releases to witnessing (and directing) the first ever District Youth Chorus at the Midwinter Convention to launching the new Spring Harmony Jamboree, it certainly has been an exciting time to be an Illinois District barbershopper! And speaking of the Jamboree – if you missed it, the first-ever Spring Harmony Jamboree was a huge success, with 27 out of 31 chapters taking part! Through a gracious donation by IDEA, registration was FREE for all participants. Plans are already in the works for next year's event, taking place once again in East Peoria, IL on March 31/April 1, 2017. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details on what promises to be an outstanding weekend.

As I pass the reins of command to my EVP, Jim Waldorf, I am reminded of how fortunate I have been to lead you all in this wonderful hobby of ours – I can't thank you enough for the hospitality you've shown me, whether it be at an installation banquet, chapter show, or rehearsal visit. I wish you the very best and look forward to continuing my service on the district board, both as a past president and continuing in the area of youth outreach.

Yours in harmony,

Rich Hansen