



March 16, 2017

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ILLINOIS DISTRICT HOD MEETING, PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Thank you all for joining us at the Spring 2017 Illinois District House of Delegate's Meeting.

As District President for the last 90 days, I have only a few items to report on at this time.

1. Midwinter Convention, San Antonio. I attended the Midwinter convention and participated in the District President's Council meetings, discussing the alignment of District goals with the four pillars approach taken on by Harmony Hall. We are doing well in this endeavor but there is work yet to be done. Also at Midwinter, the dates for the District President's Council meeting were confirmed to be later in July, after International and held in Nashville instead. This arrangement means there are no official meeting requirement for the President and EVP at the International convention but the (hopefully) less expensive trip to Nashville will replace it. The keynote speaker at Midwinter, Deke Sharon – the creative force behind much of the a cappella revolution we are currently experiencing, mentioned in his address one of our Society's major roadblocks to increasing membership is our historical insistence on all male, (TLBB) voicing. As the Society continues to explore mixed quarteting, we as a district are planning a mixed quartet contest for Fall of 2017.
2. Lack of attendance/involvement in District Spring Event. Last year we kicked off the first Spring Jamboree for the district here in Peoria. We received generous funding support from IDEA and covered the difference from district funds in order to draw participation from chapters who had been inactive or absent from events over the past several years. Because we put on the event at no cost for our members, attendance was in the range of 300 participants (roughly 150 Illinois District, and 150 Sweet Adelines). This year, again with support from IDEA and district funds plus a nominal \$30 registration, attendance is unfortunately low.
3. Several of our chapters remain in suspended status due to an insufficient number of registered members. This causes potential liability issues for the society and puts our entire tax exempt status at risk. Mentors are assigned and available to work with struggling chapters. District leadership stands ready to assist as well. Please reach out to your mentors or to me directly if your chapter has a need for assistance in any way. That is what we are here for, to help you succeed!

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve each chapter and individual member as we grow together through the next two years. Please know there have already been discussions to modify the Spring event to gather more participation. Your district team is working on a more IDAH like event, earlier in the year when more participants may be able to attend, lower cost venues are being researched. We can do this with your help. By supporting each other we can do wonders for the entire district! Attend chapter shows other than your own, contribute to IDEA, register in a quartet or a mixed quartet for the Fall contest and convention! Participate in the fun. Remember, we need each of you! There's no harmony if you are singing alone!

All the best,

Jim Waldorf