

the Illinois District

association of Chapters / Barbershop Harmony Society



a state of close harmony

Subject: CSLT & Chapter Mentor Report To IL District Board

Date: Feb 16, 2019

Board Members,

1. 2019 LOL Leadership Academy

I am pleased to inform the Illinois District BHS Board that **20** Illinois District members attended the two-day Land of Lakes Training Academy on Jan 11 & 12 in River Falls WI.

(Our goal was to send 30 of our District members and much effort expended in contacting most Chapters). Eleven Chapters designated one of their members to qualify for our IL District offer for free TA Registration and Housing for Friday and Saturday nights. Another nine District members paid for their own registration and housing which may or may not be reimbursed by their Chapters. (New Tradition Chorus had five of their members at this Academy.) Mileage expenses were declared to be individual or Chapter expense, not reimbursable by IL District.

At the end of the Academy second day, I hosted a social in my hotel room for all of our IL District students. They were all very satisfied with most classes and gained many new ideas that they intend to implement in their respective IL Chapters. We discussed how to proceed in the future with training of IL Chapter Officers. **A third of the guys intend to return to the 2020 LOL TA at their own expense. Two thirds of the guys feel that IL should hold a beefed up yearly Leadership Summit with better teachers.** Many thought that returning to central IL (Peoria or Bloomington) every other year might make sense. Some thought that connecting the Summit to IDAH may make sense, but conflicts must be considered. All attendees agreed to be a resource for future District Training discussions.

The IL District budgeted over \$5000 in 2019 for 30 students to attend LOL Training Academy. The total expenses for the 11 Chapter Designated Students was \$2224.21 which consisted of \$935.00 in registration expense and \$1,289.21 for two nights of housing.

On the positive side, we now have 20 IL District members who have been to a first rate Training Academy and will help us restart an IL District Leadership Summit in 2020. On a negative note, we couldn't get more than 11 of some 25 IL District Chapters to send at least one person to this Academy, even at little expense to the Chapter.

2. Chapter Advocates Program

Advocate activity is moribund with no mentor activity reported in second half of 2018. Bob Squires, our most active mentor in the past has resigned his position and that of

District Historian. Rich Hansen has agreed to be District Historian but resigned his mentor position. So we now have only 2 mentors left.

LOL District is having a lot of trouble getting their Chapter mentors to submit reports. Their program is quite demanding and has specific forms that must be filled out during each mentor visit to a Chapter. They limit the number of Chapters for each mentor to 4 where we expect our mentors to handle between 6 and 8 Chapters. **I think it is time to rethink the whole mentor program and restructure it to be more workable. I will devote some time to this review over the next three months.**

3 **Midwest Harmony Alliance (MHA)**

The Midwest Harmony Alliance has been on sabbatical in 2018 but has picked up the pace in 2019. On behalf of MHA, Syl Wetle responded to a call from BHS Nashville for Chapters to host the "BHS Everyone in Harmony Roadshow". This Roadshow is aimed at answering member questions about BHS mission changes and the myriad of subsequent Chapter, District and International ripple effects.

Syl has been working with Nashville staff for a month now and was instrumental in convincing **BHS to offer an International Convention Registration Ticket Drawing for each Roadshow event.** BHS has set a goal of 50 attendees for the Elgin event at First United Methodist Church on Feb 23, 2019.

MHA has also begun issuing a **monthly MHA Newsletter** aimed at stimulating discussion of good times past and possible MHA sponsored events going forward.

Bill Miller
VP Chapter Leadership Training and Chapter Advocates
President, Midwest Harmony Alliance



Midwest Harmony Alliance
A New Kind of A'cappella Massed Chorus

WHM
Feb 8, 2019