

To the Illinois district House of Delegates, September 2012

Our District, while having a expansive web site, appears to have a definite communication problem between the District and the men in the seats (or on the risers). In our day of mass electronic communication, it is so easy to say "It's on the web site", just click. But that does not seem to be working. In no way would I suggest to diminish ANYTHING that is currently part of the web site. However, I feel there is a strong need to get back to the face to face communication benefits of the past.

A LITTLE HISTORY

(Courtesy of Bob Squires, District Historian)

The following comes from the minutes of the annual meeting of the Illinois District Board, held in Quincy on November 23, 1947. The text follows:

"At this point Pres. McKinney announced a new plan for closer contact between the District Association and its member chapters. The State of Illinois is too large an area to be properly covered by the regular officers and additional help is needed. McKinney has divided the area into eight sections, each section being made up of neighboring chapters. To represent the District Association in these sections, McKinney appointed a group of men to be known as Members of the President's Executive Committee. They will be responsible for giving aid and advice where needed, and will promote extension work of the Society. The appointed executive members with the chapters in their section are as follows;"

Many years ago, we had *Area Counselors*. Some good, some not so good. They made the rounds of their chapters and filed massive copies of reports to the District and even the Society. Many chapters felt they were merely spies for the District and the Society. For some reason they "went away".

Then we had *Chapter Coaches*, a mis-understood title if there ever was one. The chapters thought they were all experts in the judging categories and were there to coach them to success on the contest stage.....so

We called them *Chapter Counselors*. Perhaps the thought was that every chapter needed some kind of mental help in moving along. This group for some unknown reason, also "went away".

One of the real benefits of the *Area Counselors* was the ability to locate talent and move this talent to better serve the District. Usually our Divisional Vice Presidents were chosen by those Area Counselors that were doing great work in the field. We've lost that side benefit as well.

I-D-M's Illinois District Mentors

I am suggesting that the District re-instate a cadre of personal contact men and we call them I-D-M's. This will fill a much needed communication gap between the Society, District and chapter members. Personal contact will make a huge difference.

Suggested procedure

The number of men shall be determined as to adequately serve the 32 Chapters, PLUS Frank Thorne members.

They shall be appointed by and report to the Executive Vice President

Their prime function shall be a communication link between the District and the members. They must stress that they are NOT SPIES.

They should **visit** their representative chapters AT LEAST once each quarter and file a report, written or electronically to the EVP. They shall communicate electronically to their chapters on a regular basis.

They shall urge participation in:

- Inter-chapter events
- Spring and Fall Conventions
- Contests, District and International
- IDAH
- Harmony University/Director's College
- DIWS
- CLTS
- IDEA

Requirements

Must have served as a Chapter President and/or District Officer

Must have broad knowledge of Barbershopping, Chapter functions, Conventions, Contests, District and the Society.

Must give freely of their time, without compensation.