



LASTING FRIENDSHIPS – ENDURING MUSIC

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

October 2019

IT'S ALL ABOUT FAMILY FUN!!!

This is the month where we all get together for our Fall Convention. Notice I did not say we are getting together for Contests. We are having a convention. While part of that convention includes contests that is just our way of showing each other how much better we have become over the past 6 months.

For me, the fun of a convention weekend includes seeing friends from across the District that I don't get to see every week. I mentioned last month that I consider my Chapter to be like family. My many friends from around the District are like an extended family...cousins' if you will. That makes these conventions like a family reunion every six months. We get to see the cousins and do what family does. We kid each other; we tease each other; we compete against each other as only family can do – "I'm gonna beat you – but I am going to cheer for you to do the best you can".

The fellowship, friendship and feeling of family that we obtain from our relationship with all our "cousins" is something most people would never understand. In this day and age of constant mobility, when few people live, as adults, in the same community in which they grew up, few of us has that connection with our blood siblings and cousins. Instead, we are left to our own to find a suitable substitute for that family. For us...it is our Barbershop family.

It is here that we share that family spirit and common background. Can you think of any other activity in which you participate where you can meet up with other people with whom you have no direct relationship, and suddenly start enjoying that activity that keeps a smile on your face, and a lift to your heart? You just automatically start to sing together.

Singing a song, be it a Polecat, a Brigade or Platoon song, a tag, woodshedding or singing intricate arrangements, we do what comes naturally to us. We open our hearts to other people who have a similar obsession, and just sing. There is no questioning of your motivation, your politics, your upbringing, your economic status or educational background. All we ask is that you want to join in a song.

The commonality of our membership is that love of song. Some are more motivated to excel than others, but all are motivated to participate for their own reasons. Additionally, we are motivated to share that love of song with others that we don't know. We sing with and to each other. We sing to the clerk behind the hotel desk. We sing to the wait staff at the restaurant we go to for breakfast, lunch or dinner. We sing to no one in particular. We just sing.

Think of us as an interesting extension of other family singing groups. The Von Trapp's; The King Family Singers; The Osmond's; The Jackson's; the Lennon Sisters. Even in the age of rock and roll they understood the strength of the family tie (think: Sly and the Family Stone). Nothing can take that away from us, and we can only grow as a family. Everything we do enhances the family bond, and nothing takes away from it. Adding 5 more people into the group does not diminish the love and feeling of family we have for each other. That simply grows exponentially.

So, while you attend our convention in Muskegon this month, greet people as you know they are – your family. Enjoy the love and pure joy you get (and give) simply by singing. Share that joy. Share that feeling of family. And by the way, if you are looking for a way to bring others into our hobby how about inviting them to come with you some night to “meet the family”. That might be a little less intimidating than asking them to come out and sing with your chorus. If you make it seem non-threatening, you will have a greater likelihood of success in getting people to come with you. And we all know - once they hear us, and once they ring a chord...they are hooked. What could be easier?

If you see me at the venues in Muskegon convention weekend stop by, and greet me like family. I will do likewise, because, in the long run, that is what we are, and what we are all about.

If, at any time, you have anything you want to ask me, or have the Board review or address, feel free to contact me by email at pio.district.pres@gmail.com. I will do my best to get back to you in an appropriate amount of time, or put you in contact with the appropriate member of the District Board.

Dave Montera
2019 President – Pioneer District