



President's Report – 2025 Fall HOD

It's an honor to be back with you after our last gathering in March. Since then, we celebrated an incredibly successful Harmony College Midwest, made all the more memorable by our home-district champs, After Hours. Their presence and support brought so much energy to the weekend—thank you again to them and to all of you who made the event such a success!

Now, we turn our attention to the 2025 Fall Convention and Competition. I cannot begin to tell you how excited I am to see our district family gathered together again. We have *more choruses participating than last year*—and many of them are hosting hospitality rooms on Saturday night. I encourage you to stop by, meet someone new, and sing a tag or two (or three!).

I'm also thrilled to share that we are bringing back the President's Reception on Friday night. It has been a number of years since we've had a dedicated social event to kick off the weekend, and I invite each of you to join us for fellowship, a libation or two, snacks, and of course... singing. After all, that's why we're here!

Another point I want to touch on: **We're hearing you.** Thank you to everyone who filled out our convention improvement survey. Your input has already started shaping the way we think about these weekends. We are working hard to create a convention experience that isn't just for competitors, but also engaging and rewarding for non-competitors. Your voices are helping us get there.

Finally, a word about chapter visits. While we haven't yet been able to make it to every chapter in person, we are committed to doing so before the year is over. Each chapter is the lifeblood of the Illinois District, and we want you to know that we see you, we value you, and we care deeply about the work you're doing in your communities.

I cannot wait to see where the rest of this year will take us. Thank you for all that you do for barbershop and for this district—it is truly a joy to serve alongside you.

In harmony,
Ben Dirks
Illinois District President