



Fellow Barbershoppers,

It is an absolute honor to stand before you today as the President of the Illinois District. As a third-generation member of this district, I have had the privilege of witnessing both the highs and the challenges we've faced over the years. I have seen the power of this organization to bring people together, create lifelong friendships, and make a lasting impact through the music we love. That history is what makes me so passionate about serving in this role and ensuring a bright future for our district.

As your president, I want to make one thing very clear: I am here to listen. The success of our district depends on understanding the needs of our members, and I promise to keep an open line of communication with all of you. Our 2025-2026 district board is committed to strengthening and growing our district while ensuring that we uphold the traditions and values that have made Illinois such a strong barbershop community.

You will hear me say this time and time again—if we don't know, we can't do anything about it. That's why we will be actively reaching out to you, our members, for your feedback and opinions on the improvements we are considering. Whether it's enhancing our events, increasing membership engagement, or finding new ways to support our chapters, your input will be the driving force behind the decisions we make.

Our goal is simple: to make this district better for everyone, whether you've been a member for decades or just joined last week. Together, we will find ways to grow, adapt, and ensure that barbershop in Illinois thrives for years to come.

Thank you for your time, your dedication, and your passion for this great district. I look forward to working alongside all of you to make the next two years a success.

In Harmony,

Ben Dirks

Illinois District President