

The Pitch Piper

74 YEARS OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY

OVER 714,089 SQUARE MILES

Volume 74, Number 1

A Bulletin for Barbershoppers in the LO'L District

January – February 2022

Was the “Glass Half Empty” or was the “Glass Half Full?”

Submitted by Bill Fricke - Pitch Piper Co-Editor



As the plane left the runway of sunny California on Sunday, January 16th, the excitement of the 2022 Midwinter Convention was still fresh on my mind. It was my first real trip in over two years and I didn't want to take anything for granted. This was my second Midwinter, the first being in San Antonio a few year's back. For a family that has been barbershopping for six decades, the convention in San Antonio was the first International event of any kind for my father and me. We talked of the upcoming International Conventions, looked at the dates and started to scheme our next Barbershop adventure!

I am sure a lot of you know my father, Bob Fricke. He is co-editor of the Pitch Piper with me, has been the LO'L Barbershopper of the Year and is a LO'L Hall of Fame member. He has been a member of the Manitowoc, Wisconsin chapter for 60 years and also had dual membership with the Green Bay, Wisconsin chapter when my brother Mike was living in Green Bay and was a member of that chapter. I always say I learned Barbershop at my grandmother's knee . . . or some other old joint (and if you know me and my family, the “Barbershop humor” has been a mainstay in our lives). The Barbershop journey for me has always been a family affair. I cannot think of a Barbershop related event where my father was not present. Many times I was also blessed with the presence of my brother and a few times my children got swept into the Barbershop wake to be on or help with a Chapter show.

The journey to Pasadena started back in the fall of 2019. But the original destination wasn't the “City of Roses”, it was Los Angeles. The pieces were starting to fall into place for a great Barbershop adventure. The 2020 International Convention was slated for Los Angeles. It was the Society's 75th Anniversary. It promised to be a spectacular event! Bob and I could fit the convention into our schedule. My brother Mike (a current member of the West Allis, Wisconsin chapter) informed us at Thanksgiving that he would be able to attend. The final piece of the puzzle was my son Spencer. He was living and working in San Jose, CA. At Christmas he told us he could make it work and would make the journey down to LA. Flights were booked, hotel rooms reserved, convention event tickets purchased. Excitement pursued!!!

And then Covid-19.

Covid-19 has been exceptionally rough for the Barbershop community. This hobby is truly a brotherhood. We are united in song and stories, in humor and tears. I'm sure my loss at the Barbershop level is no different from many of you reading this. It wasn't about the trip or vacation, but the fellowship and the “family” that Barbershop is.

Continued on page 4. . .



Pitch Piper

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Land O' Lakes Chapters are situated in the states of Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and the Provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario.

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Happy New Year and Welcome to 2022!

Submitted by Jay Althof - LOL District President



I'm sure most of us thought that by now the pandemic would be over and we'd all be back to a more normal situation. But with the recent outbreak of the omicron variant, it appears that we will need to continue to manage with the pandemic a bit longer.

On a positive note, all across the District our chapters have learned to adapt to the pandemic. And in some ways, we've utilized our creativity to learn new approaches and grown even stronger. Here is a partial list of 2021 accomplishments at the District level, and I know there are many, many more at the Chapter level.

We held our first Virtual Leadership Academy last January
We had a successful Fall District Convention with many "firsts" (quartet clinic, showcase banquet, Fun Squad Activities, Youth Participation, etc.)

The Board voted to eliminate District dues for 50+ members
We delivered 12 Monthly Audio Messages to help keep all members up to date with key happenings

We developed and continue to implement a rolling 2 year business plan

Many of our chapters implemented Roar Back initiatives with support from the District

We launched a New District Website

We made improvements on the District Facebook page

The District President participated on 3 Society Level task force teams to help guide the long-term future of the Society

We developed the Digital PitchPiper approach with an option to continue print versions for those who desire to continue to receive it in the mail.

We modified our contest categories and plateau sizes as needed for our current demographics

We implement a bulk e-mail distribution process

We held our House of Delegates meetings (in a virtual manner)

We created the Joe Liles Lifetime Achievement Award

And we maintained a solid financial status for the District

So many people contributed to these accomplishments, and more.

You can be very proud of all the leaders across our District. Now we will take the positive momentum we built in 2021, even during the pandemic, and leverage that to have an even better 2022.

Hopefully this current wave of Covid will pass and we will be able to travel out to visit many of our chapters in person. Our goal is to learn a few key specific items that we can support in order to help your chapter be even more successful. Together we will continue to Roar Back!



Vocality – 15 Year Anniversary

Submitted by Jay Althof



On February 4th, 2007, David, Tony, Bob and Jay got together for the first time to sing a little and determine if the four voices and personalities would be a good fit. Once we sang “Shine On Me” and heard the ringing chords there was no doubt that something very special was happening. We named ourselves Vocality and started learning songs. Much to our surprise we qualified for International at the Prelims contest in May and won the District Quartet contest in October of 2007. Over the next few years, we continued to improve our singing with the help of many coaches. This led to placing in the Top 20 at International and gave us the opportunity to perform on many Chapter shows. And we recorded our 1st Album – Vocality.

In 2011 Bob needed to leave Vocality due to work commitments and Tom joined the quartet. We continued a busy show schedule and also recorded our 2nd Album – Alleluia in 2011. Also starting in 2011 we started singing songs arranged for Vocality by Jay, often with input from everyone in Vocality.

We continued to look for ways to improve our performances through coaching and finding special songs that our audiences could relate too. In 2013 we released our 3rd Album – Midnight Clear. And in 2016 we released our 4th Album – Carry On. All during this time we continued to very much enjoy each other's company and the opportunity to do shows all across the District and beyond.

Also, in 2016 we were humbled to be inducted to the LO'L District Hall of Fame. It was a huge honor to be recognized for our contributions helping with Youth-In-Harmony events, Contest Emcees, Coaching and our many performance and contest appearances.

Now here in 2022 Vocality is still going strong. We have done over 175 performances and just love getting together to make music and spend social time together. Like many groups, we needed to find creative ways to rehearse during the pandemic. And we have continued to work on the songs that will be in our 5th Album – Never Enough. We just need the pandemic to subside so we can get in the studio and record them!

As you can gather from this note, one of the best parts of our long tenure is that we have many very entertaining songs that we can

perform. We know some Chapters are wondering if their chorus is ready to put on a show since they haven't been able to rehearse as much as they would like to have enough quality songs to share with their audiences. If your chorus is in that situation, an option to consider would be to have Vocality perform two sets on your show and reduce the number of songs your chorus would need to perform. There would be no extra charge for the extended performance by Vocality and it will help keep your audiences engaged with your Chapter shows.

Individually we are so very thankful to be part of Vocality and we hope to continue for many more years to come. We look forward to seeing many of you at shows and conventions in the future!

Jay, David, Tony & Tom
2007 LO'L District Champions
2016 LO'L District Hall Of Fame



Congratulations

2021 Chapter - B.O.T.Y. Winners

Manitowoc County, WI - Bob Brey
Greater St. Paul Area, MN - Tom Foster
Stevens Point, WI - Jack Edgerton

Digital Distribution of The Pitch Piper

Over the past few years, we have been considering the option of providing the PitchPiper in a digital format. In conversations with many of you it is clear that it is time to pursue that approach.

We also know, that some members desire to continue to receive a printed version of the PitchPiper mailed to their homes. And a few of our members don't have e-mail addresses. The good news is, that with today's technology, we are able to offer both options.

Each time we publish a new PitchPiper we will send an e-mail to all members with a link to the digital version. What we need to know, and maintain, is the distribution list for those who want to continue to get the print version. If you haven't already done so, and you desire to continue to get the print version of the PitchPiper, send an e-mail to: President@LOLDistrict.org with your name and mailing address.

For those who don't have e-mail addresses, don't worry, we already have you on the “print and mail” distribution list.

Continued on page 4 . . .

Like so many of the songs we sing and the stories we tell, we must look for the good in life. And that good for me was the trip to Pasadena in January. One could say the glass was half empty. The numbers where smaller. The line-up was shuffled for the contests and the shows. The youth festival was cancelled. We had to wear masks. But the glass could be looked upon as half full. We had Barbershop again! There was a contest. There were youth choirs who still attended. There were tags and of course there were smiles, jokes and many tears.

The fact that we had a glass to even call empty or full was a blessing. So, once again, but this time cautiously, we started looking at dates. And again the four of us could make the journey. A journey that had special meaning. A vibe that we can not ever take our Barbershop “family” for granted. The convention in Pasadena may not have been the big splashy affair that LA promised in 2020, but in many ways it was just as good, if not better. The four of us may never again be together for an event like this. I will always cherish the memories, attending with my son, a tag workshop by David Wright or the excitement of Bob and Mike as they returned from a “Chorus Warmup Session” with the Westminster Chorus.

I am thankful that the Barbershop journey has restarted.



Spencer, Bill, Mike and Bob Fricke enjoying the warmth and the pier in Santa Monica



2018 International Senior Quartet Champs “St. Croix Crossing” joined by the 2020 Champs, “Heresay”



One of the many tag breakout sessions during the convention.



Enjoying family, Barbershopping and food



Joe Liles Lifetime Achievement Award

Submitted by Jay Althof, District President

Your Board of Directors approved the creation of a new District Award to recognize those individuals who have made very significant positive contributions to our District over a long-period of time.

We named the Award in honor a long-time member of our District, who passed away last year, Joe Liles. For those who may not have known Joe, there are no words to encompass his breadth of influence on the Barbershop Harmony Society, and on the barbershop art form. In addition to hundreds of original songs, and hundreds of arrangements, his fingerprints are on untold more works that he brought to print as Music Publications Editor, as a teacher, mentor, and colleague to other arrangers. A member of the BHS Hall of Fame, a seniors quartet champ, a past Society Executive Director— any list of accomplishments falls woefully short of describing the man.

A few details of the award:

- Award Candidate Criteria
 - o A person with at least 25 years of membership in the LO'L District
 - o A person who has held multiple District leadership roles over a period of several years
 - o A person whose leadership had a sustained positive impact on the well-being and on-going success of the District
 - o Other considerations may include:
 - Significant musical impact through directing, quarteting, arranging or composing
 - On-going participation on District Committees and other administrative duties
 - Informal leadership via evangelism for the District, the chapters and members

Award presented at the Fall District Convention

Candidates may be nominated by any one, but must include justification in concert with award criteria and nominations must be made no later than Sept 1st each year.

This award is separate and differentiated from the BOTY or Hall of Fame by being reserved only for those individuals who have truly provided leadership and support for an extended period of time, measured in decades.

If you want to nominate candidates for this award, send the names and justifications to Jay Althof, District President, and the award committee will evaluate all candidates prior to the Fall Convention.



2022 Wisconsin Youth Harmony Festival

Submitted by Jim Rasmus

The 7th Annual Wisconsin Youth Harmony Festival (WYHF) will be held on Saturday, May 21st at Pacelli High School in Stevens Point. After cancelling in 2020, and doing a Virtual WYHF in 2021, we are really looking forward to being back In-Person in 2022!

Here are the basics:

- ◆ The registration deadline is April 22. We have waived our previous requirement of participation in State Solo and Ensemble Festivals, so ALL HIGH SCHOOL QUARTETS ARE INVITED to participate!
- ◆ This year, quartets will arrive mid-morning for warm-ups, tag-singing, and guest quartet performance.
- ◆ The contest begins at 1 pm! Each quartet will have A & R's with judges.
- ◆ The top three barbershop (men's) and treble (women's, mixed) quartets receive a trophy and their school's music program receives a cash donation.
- ◆ For details go to: <http://youthharmonyfest.org/>.

There are four ways you can help!

1. Wisconsin Chapters: contact your local music educators to encourage and support the development of quartets within their schools!
2. Financial support is greatly appreciated! Send checks to: WYHF; c/o Bill Jenkins, Treasurer; P.O. Box 482; Stevens Point, WI 54481.
3. If you are anywhere within driving distance, plan now to attend!
4. Do you like to sing tags? We are looking for Tag Teachers to work with our quartets!

Contact any one of the WYHF Board members: Ken Bester & Jim Rasmus (Co-Chairs), Bill Jenkins (Treasurer), Bill Schmitt, Bob Brey, Tim Kunze, Penny Yanke, and John White.





Great Plains Harmony Opens for Foreigner

Submitted by Gordon Moe

After a year of distanced rehearsals, members of Great Plains Harmony (Fargo, ND - Moorhead, MN chapter) were growing tired of staring at a screen. This isn't news as many chapters were having the same experience.

Between the waves of the pandemic, a stroke of good fortune was presented to our chorus in the form of a unique performance invitation.

The popular 80's rock band Foreigner has a long tradition of featuring an amateur vocal ensemble on their concert stage. They are passionate about promoting singing and support it by sharing the excitement of a massive rock-and-roll venue stage performance. Typically, a high school pop-choir is invited (or competes) for the opportunity to perform.

Our good luck was the timing of their fall tour. With a September 9th performance in Grand Forks, North Dakota, their concert manager was unable to find a high school or college choir with any repertoire prepared at this early date. The Foreigner manager then approached Shirley Derrick of the Twin Forks Sweet Adeline Chorus. Unable to perform, Shirley forwarded the opportunity to Great Plains Harmony and our chorus immediately jumped into action!

Our board approved in person rehearsals beginning in July for singers who were fully vaccinated. We had repertoire we could polish up for the performance including; Africa by Toto (arr. A. Morris), Sweet Caroline by Neil Diamond (arr. D. Oxford), and Pretty Woman by Roy Orbison (arr. S. Delehanty). The band thought our repertoire was perfect!

Leading up to the big performance, our membership renewed their energy and focus on rehearsing well. We booked a tour bus for the 70-mile drive and even created custom 'GPH World Tour' performance t-shirts.

But then, another wave of Covid-19 began to spread across the United States and we got a call from Foreigner's management team. Unfortunate news. If we still wanted to perform, everyone performing and traveling with the chorus would need to show a negative Covid-19 test result within 72 hours of performing. We tapped the resources of the chorus and luckily one of our members had access to Rapid tests and the nurses to administer them!

With the performance at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks occurring on our usual rehearsal night (Thursday), our schedule was tight. After an hour-long motor coach ride, a smooth on-stage sound check, and a quick bite to eat, we were ready to perform!

"I was so pleased with the focus and energy that the chorus members brought to the stage," said director Sheila Childs. "We knew singing in such a large venue would be a challenge, however, the guys demonstrated their professionalism by listening carefully and performing the musical plan we crafted."

The satisfaction of singing live for a large audience after such a long absence was palpable. As members left the stage, they were bubbling from the excitement of simply performing again.

We stayed for the remainder of the Foreigner concert and thoroughly enjoyed their repertoire to which many of us grew up listening.



Harmony Junction, Albert Lea voted to disband because of lack of membership and has some risers for sale. They have 5 sections of Wenger risers for sale and a trailer that goes with them and are asking \$2500 for the package.

If interested, please contact:
Randy Rogers
Email: rjrogers601@gmail.com
Phone: 507.350.1002



Loose Change Senior Quartet Represents the Land O' Lakes District at Mid Winter!

Submitted by Steve Zorn

This was the headline for this Pitch Piper until two of the quartet members and one spouse became infected by the COVID virus. Less than 24 hours before departing for Anaheim, the quartet had to abandon its plans.

The Greater St Paul Area Chapter was very thrilled that Grant Warning, Tenor, Tony Kelzer, Lead, Keith Holtan, Bass, and Louie Gottwalt, Bari, won the Senior Quartet contest last October at the LO'L Convention. We watched as they rehearsed regularly so they could do their best at Mid Winter. They worked with several local coaches. They took a trip to Florida to sing with each other and perform for their friends in the Sunshine state. They were literally packed and ready to go!

I trust that you will join the St Paul Chapter and share your best wishes with Loose Change. At this time the three infected people have either recovered or are slowly recuperating and improving. Like true barbershoppers, their spirits are high and they look forward to "sing another day!"



JAY TONY DAVID TOM

www.vocalityquartet.com 651-206-2686

Leadership Academy

On January 8th we had our Leadership Academy and again held virtual this year. There were 105 participating in the classes including Secretary, Treasurer and a general session for all others. Bob Cox's class on "Rebuilding your Chapter after the Pandemic" had 75 participating in which he stressed the need for everyone to work together as a team.

These sessions were recorded so if you missed you can still see them by going on the District web site at loldistrict.org



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Internet: <http://loldistrict.org>*



*LO'L has a Facebook Page at
www.facebook.com/LOLDistrictBHS/*



Calendar

NOTE: Dates shown on this page are for those activities that have proper clearance through the District Secretary. Please DO NOT send show registrations to the editor, DO notify:

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2022

April

- 23 Appleton, WI
Tenacious
- 23 Dunn County, WI
- 29-30 Fergus Falls, MN
- 30 Manitowoc County, WI
Kordal Kombat
- 30 Mankato, MN

May

- 14 St. Croix Valley, MN
- 14 Minneapolis, MN

October

- 14-15 Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport
Fall Convention

2023

February

- 7-12 Daytona Beach, FL
Midwinter Convention



The updated 2022
District Directory digital
pdf is available by
request via email at
districtdirectory@frickeprinting.com

