

The Pitch Piper

76 YEARS OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY

OVER 714,089 SQUARE MILES

Volume 77, Number 1

A Bulletin for Barbershoppers in the LO'L District

Jan-Feb-Mar 2024



In this issue:

NAFME Educator of the year

PENNY YANKE



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Honoring:

ED BOEHM





Pitch Piper

The *Pitch Piper* is published bi-monthly by the Land O' Lakes District Association of Chapters of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



LO'L District Singing Family,
During our last district call, I laid out some thoughts on go-forward goals to hopefully move forward on in 2024.

A lot of it has to do with seeing what we can do to move into a growth mode in the LO'L after some years of necessary stabilization. We are seeing some signs of life in that regard, and I'd like your help in moving more in that direction.

Enumerated, here are my thoughts for the board:

1. Continue to stabilize and increasingly energize existing chapters.

• The chapters have survived to this point through thick and thin, but just like the rest of us, they

must adopt new strategies to survive.

• We can provide the energy and ideas for these chapters.

2. Establish more gatherings of singers.

Encourage chapter collaborations or those of chapters with their local choir peers. Singing for the sake of singing.

• I had challenged the board to think of something not contest related that we could do in the late spring.

• Del Ryberg's assertion to bring back divisions has not been lost. These are by their nature somewhat local and opportunities to sing. We cannot go forward with anything in 2024, but is there interest in 2025?

3. We need materials for recruitment in the hands of the chapters. I am speaking of pdfs for those who will print and distribute them...video clips of invites that can



be used on Instagram and FB and (pres message cont.) TikTok that show people what we are about (It does not need to be the group being featured).

- We must embrace tech to attract the next generation.

4. *Identify the population areas without active chapters and prioritize those we believe may be viable.*

- Need “pins” in digital map to show where current chapters are. This has been provided to me, and I am taking a close look.

- We may need to think more in terms of singing communities than our traditional chapter structure, but where aren’t they as opposed to where should they be?

- What can we do as a district to act as an incubator to new singing communities (chapters)?

5. *Get more members helping in more ways.* Do not suffer in silence. If you arrive heading a committee and overloaded or would like a person to take just one piece of the load off your lift, let us know and we will work to get that person involved.

- Make every person feel responsible for the success of their district.

There are a number of continuing questions having to do with new dues structures, “chapters” with only half of members holding Society cards, and all the rest. We will continue to have those discussions, and work toward some answers.

Mike

The **Fox Valleyaires** Men’s Barbershop Chorus in *Appleton, Wisconsin* is looking for a **full-time Director** to lead weekly rehearsals and prepare the Chorus for our spring show, other public performances, and contests.

The Director has input on matters of music selection, arrangement, and stage presence.

We currently rehearse on Tuesday nights from 7pm to 9:30pm at First English Lutheran Church downtown site.

There is a family atmosphere in our chorus. Rehearsals are focused on learning music, but fun and laughter are always abundant.

Interested persons can obtain more information and/or apply by contacting:

Jerry Ader 920-735-3663 or jdader812@gmail.com

Responses appreciated by

- Email for submissions is pitchpiper@loldistrict.org
- Reminder Choruses get show posters in for free!
- Reminder to quartets that ad space is available!

- Check out the website! www.loldistrict.org
- Special note of sponsorship to Matt Curtis and www.choraltracks.com



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2024 Leadership Training Academy

A Huge Success



It's been 4 years since our last in-person Leadership Training Academy and it seems like everyone was ready to get together again. With \$75 tuition and good class selections it seems like everyone was highly motivated to attend another memorable leadership training weekend. We had more students than we expected and based on critiques it seems like everyone had a very good time.

Based on historical data we expected about 98 students from the chapters, but final attendance including faculty and administrative staff was 134, which was a substantial percentage of total district membership increase from previous years. The core classes for all the key leadership positions were well attended and class reviews praised the instructor's preparation and presentations.

Here are just a few highlights:

Joe Cerutti from Alexandria, Virginia, is the Director of Leadership Engagement at the Barbershop Harmony Society and provided superb support for the entire weekend. Joe taught a broad spectrum of classes from music and performance to classes on chapter management including how to generate financial support. Joe is the Director of the International Champion Alexandria Harmonizers and demonstrated his exceptional directing skill when he taught us a couple of challenging songs in record time. That general session was probably the most memorable highlight of my entire weekend. He taught two very challenging songs in less than an hour and provided a little-known piece of barbershop history. Smokey Robinson and Neil Diamond are, indeed, a couple of great barbershop composers! Thank you, Joe, for another great weekend with us in Land O' Lakes.

We are so blessed to have talented instructors right here from Land O' Lakes and many have been with us for years. Tim Schubbe teaches the Secretary class and has been on staff for years doing an excellent job, garnering rave reviews from all his students. And then we've got guys like Scott Perau and Scott Kvigne who teach in every classroom session bringing tremendous knowledge and enthusiasm to each session. But this year we had an emergency situation when Scott Kvigne called on Thursday to let us know that he had laryngitis and couldn't speak. That's when we tapped Dan Heike, Judd Orff, and Jay Althof to take over some of Scott's classes. Dan and Judd stepped right in and did not disappoint us. Jay Althof jumped in to take Scott's 4-hour Barbershop Smorgasbord class along with the other 3 classes he was teaching. The talent and flexibility of these 3 guys is unmatched. Justin La was one of our new instructors this year who provided a wealth of information to those interested in youth development and how to expand your social media outreach. To all of those who've taught at LTA for years and to several first-time instructors who provided 40 superb class sessions – Thank you so much!

We need to give a special thank you to Del Ryberg chairman of the 2024 LTA who has been involved with the Leadership Training Academy and Chord College for over 30 years. Del has consistently helped plan, organize, and execute every one of these annual schools from the earliest Chapter Officer Training School (COTS) to the latest version of the LTA he has done them all. Del knows how to do it and depends on help from his skilled team of barbershop pros – Judd Orff, Dave Sylte, Lowell Bennes. Thanks to you and your team, Del!

Arv Zenk

Land O' Lakes – VP Events



Chapter Support Report

By Jim Rasmus, VP Membership Development



As we enter 2024, there have been some changes in the Land O'Lakes District.

Formerly, we were divided into three Regions: the East Region had 15 Chapters, Central had 18 Chapters and West was 6 Chapters. Now there are **TWO Regions**: the East Region is comprised of 19 Chapters in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, with Mike Ziegler as VP. Justin McCullough is the VP of the West Region that is composed of 18 Chapters in Minnesota, North Dakota, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan.

The Western Dakota Chapter – “N-Compass Chorus” – an all-women’s Chorus in Dickinson, ND have joined us! They were formerly a member of Sweet Adelines.

At LTA, Larry Lewis again shared the results of his continued **Generational Research**. It shows:

- 10 Chapters have folded since the Pandemic.
- 11 Chapters have 10 members or less...some of them may not make it through 2024....
 - 8 Chapters have 11-20 members...they are doing their best to hang on.
 - 16 Chapters have 21 or more members...they are basically healthy and growing.

While this could be very discouraging, we are choosing to use it as a springboard to develop a Chapter Visioning Retreat to provide Chapters with an opportunity to incorporate ways to reverse the course of their downward spiral by changing their culture to involve younger members. Stay tuned for details.

The LOL Grants offered in 2023 will *continue AT THE SAME LEVELS in 2024!*

The **Chapter Show Financial Assistance Program** provides up to \$750 to Chapters to subsidize the cost for LOL District Quartets to appear on their Chapter Show.

The **Chapter Development Grants** offer up to \$1,000 to Chapters for membership promotion including: advertising and promotional materials, director development, Chapter Officer Training....

Don't forget the availability of **Take Coaching to the Chapter (TCTC)** which financially supports up to two coaching sessions per year for choruses who want to improve their performance package or basic repertoire.

All Chapters have received the 2024 grant application forms. The information about grants and TCTC are also available on the LOL website: [Grant Forms \(www.loldistrict.org\)](http://www.loldistrict.org).



Two District Stars in Our Chapter

submitted by Brian Schultz (St. Croix Valley Chapter)

Having just completed a two-year term as President of the St. Croix Valley Chapter, I find myself reflecting on my good fortune for being a member of an active and vibrant barbershop chapter. As many of you know, this doesn't happen by accident. Our chapter is blessed with many good singers who want to share their love of four-part harmony with family, friends, and neighbors. More importantly, we have a great group of guys who enjoy each other's company and want to give back to our communities. Board members and many others in the chapter step up to plan and coordinate activities throughout the year. These include our annual Spring Show, a Christmas Show, Singing Valentines, singing at local Memorial Day programs, summer church sing outs, and other performances.

I would be remiss if I didn't say more about two members who are not only very important to our chapter, but also volunteer their time to keep the Land O' Lakes District running smoothly. Of course, I'm referring to Judd Orff, 2023 Joe Liles Lifetime Achievement Award winner, and Jay Althof, 2023 LOL Barbershopper of the Year.

Judd has been a member of BHS and the St. Croix



Valley Chapter for 54 years. Over that time, he has served in almost every officer/committee role within the chapter. He has received many chapter awards, including BOTY three times (1974, 1984, and 2010).

Judd's involvement in LOL District activities started in the 1980s and continues to this day. Here are just a few of his many past and present district duties: Music Committee Chairperson (1986-87), District President/Past President (1989-1992), District Education Team (2010-2020), VP Chapter Support and Development (2020-

2023), and a member of the Leadership Academy Committee for 13 years. Not surprisingly, Judd has received several district awards over the years. These include District BOTY (1987), District Hall of Fame inductee (1996), District Quartet Champion (1976 – Talk of The Town), and District Senior Quartet Champion (1996 & 1997 – Seasoned Sound).

For most barbershoppers, this would be more than sufficient involvement, but not for Judd Orff. He also served in several capacities for our International Barbershop Harmony Society. Judd served two terms on the Society Board (1991-94) and (2007-2008). He was a BHS certified contest judge for 30 years, starting in the Interpretation category and switching to Presentation when the category changed in 1994. Judd also volunteered as a COTS instructor for many years. Initially, he taught courses for chapter Presidents and Membership VPs, but eventually moved into the Dean's role. Judd's outgoing personality and sense of humor were key factors in his selection for the Dave LaBar Emcee Award presented at the 2012 BHS International Convention. Judd has shown a true commitment to our "hobby" for many years and is well deserving of the Joe Liles Lifetime Achievement Award.

Jay's exposure to four-part harmony goes back to



his childhood, since his mother and grandfather both sang barbershop when Jay was a young boy. The Althofs were a family of singers. This continues today, as Jay's dad, Allen, joined the Croix Chordsmen chorus

in 2020 after moving from Arkansas to White Bear Lake.

Jay began his BHS experience 40 years ago with the Denver Mile-Hi Chapter, then moved and joined the LOL LaCrosse Chapter in 1986. Jay quickly got involved in quartet singing and was a member of Grandad's Bluff, the 1988 District



Quartet Champs. He repeated this feat with two other LOL Quartets, Quest in 2004 and Vocality in 2007. His current quartet, Vocality, was inducted into the LOL Hall of Fame in 2016. Jay joined the St. Croix Valley Chapter in 2018 and immediately got very involved. He mentored our new Music Director, Tyler Stromquist-LeVoi, and served as Artistic Director for several years. Jay also arranged many new songs for the chorus. In fact, our 2023 Spring Show, The Magic Jukebox, featured songs from the 50s and 60s that were all Jay's arrangements. The audience really enjoyed this show.

Jay has played a key role in LOL District administration over the past four years. During the Covid period, Jay transitioned from Executive VP to District President. He served in this position from 2021-2023. His leadership, along with a strong district board, kept things running through the pandemic. Jay's organizational talents and positive attitude were just what the district needed through these challenging times. He was the right person at the right time and was definitely the right selection for 2023 LOL Barbershopper of the Year. - Brian



Croix Chordsmen Chorus

ONE DAY, 2 GREAT SHOWS

Spring Show
 April 6th | 3:00pm | \$15.00
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 Stillwater, MN

Warm & Fuzzy Quartet

Vocality Quartet

Just 4 Fun Quartet

Harmony on the High Seas

Cabaret Show

Saturday, April 6th
 5pm (approx.) | \$15.00

SPECIAL GUEST
 Vocality Quartet
 (2007 L'OL District Quartet Champions)



GRAND BANQUET HALL

301 2nd Street So, Stillwater, MN 55082

Pizza Provided & Cash Bar

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LEADERSHIP WITH LARRY

Being a good leader requires integrity, work ethic, willingness to listen and engage, attention to detail, and ability to synthesize input into the big picture.



Del Ryberg Legacy

“Mr. Leadership Training”

by Arv Zenk

Del Ryberg received the highest honor bestowed in the LO'L when he received his Lifetime Achievement Award in 2022. That honor was given to Del because he has literally spent his lifetime contributing to this wonderful hobby we all enjoy because of people like him. Del decided that the 2024 Leadership Training Academy and Chord College would be one his last major contributions in providing training for chapter leaders. Considering his many years providing this important training, I thought that it would be good if we take a moment to recognize what he's done over the past 40 years in just this one area – leadership training.

Our Leadership Academy (LTA) formerly known as COTS (Chapter Officer Training School) was a first in the Society. The first school in SPEBSQSA was held in 1965 and put on by Society staff members in Eau Claire, WI. Land O'Lakes was the first District that Society tried this “new idea” of having a school for Chapter leaders and in 1974 our District began having Board meetings as part of the weekend.

In the early years BHS was in charge and assigned

faculty to schools in each of the 16 Districts (now 17). In 1977, Del was asked to be part of the international faculty and for 23 years he taught at 3 or 4 schools every fall. At that time, all schools were held in late November or December and he was kept very busy. One year he taught a school in Orlando, FL, the next weekend in Seattle, WA, and the next weekend in Truro, Nova Scotia.

Land O'Lakes continued to grow and in about 1980 we moved to the Thunderbird Motel in Bloomington where we had the largest school in Society with 383 students attending. The faculty were blown away as they had never taught a class with 50 or 60 students. Del became the District President 1981-82 and he remembers that the classes were huge (standing room only) with students and the general sessions were huge.

We held the Chapter Officer Training



**Doggone
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dan@prettygoodquartet.com
715-495-4523



Schools at the Thunderbird in Bloomington, MN for many years. For a few years there were 2 schools, one in Grand Forks and the other in Wisconsin. Then we moved the school to the Holiday Inn in Eau Claire, WI, and from there to UW Stout in Menomonie, WI and then to UW River Falls. During this time, we also had classes as part of the Clear Lake Mini-Hep. One time there was a school in church in Virden, Manitoba in January (it was 30 below zero). It was a Saturday and the church was ice cold since the thermostat had been turned down since the previous Sunday. The furnace never quit running that day.

We have been told by visiting faculty and BHS staff that we have the best leadership school in the Society. Over the years, Del has brought in faculty to supplement the great faculty that we have in the Land O' Lakes and he's always trying to put together the best classes and faculty for students.

After about 40 years of his involvement with leadership training and his recent chairmanship of our Leadership Training Academy Del says he's ready to "pass the torch". In his own words, "It's been a good run!" We agree....

Thank you, Del!

Arv Zenk

Land O' Lakes

VP Events

Calling all Qtet Enthusiasts for NPHB May 3-5 Rally

Submitted by Dave Speidel, Pres. NPHB

The Northern Pines Harmony Brigade is seeking more singers to join us for a fun-filled weekend of non-stop quartetting, fun random draw contests, Saturday Show, great food and more. Great music charts with excellent voice predominant learning tracks. District Champs 'First Ave' will be there to be our guest judging panel and headliner quartet with 'Just One More' filling out the program.

*Come make life-long, new friendships with men from around the US. A great group of guys from Iowa are now regular attendees. Need an incentive? For first-timers there are many **scholarships** still available. Just register at www.nphb.org and inquire about a scholarship. Once you come you'll see just how much fun this event is.*

Questions? Call or email Dave Speidel at 612-812-9931 davidspeidel2019@gmail.com

If you or anyone you know would like to receive the *Pitch Piper* in good old-fashioned print form, contact any board member or email pitchpiper@loldistrict.org



Penny Yanke: From Golden Chord Award to NAFME National Music Educator of the Year

Justin La | Next Gen Barbershop Chair

It's a moment of immense pride and excitement for the Land O' Lakes District as one of our own, Penny Yanke from Burlington High School, has been named the BHS/NAFME 2024 Music Educator of the Year. This achievement is particularly remarkable considering her prior recognition with our district's Golden Chord Award. Her progression from a district-level accolade to a national honor is a testament to her exceptional dedication and talent in music education.

Penny has been a transformative figure in Burlington's music scene since 1987, turning a small choir program into a dynamic and diverse musical powerhouse. Her educational journey, combining a Music Education degree with a Master's in School Guidance and Counseling, has uniquely positioned her to excel as a teacher and mentor. Penny's impact extends beyond the walls of Burlington High School, making her a celebrated figure in Wisconsin's music education community.

Her career reached a pivotal moment when she attended the Barbershop Harmony Society's Harmony University in 2018. This experience was a turning point, inspiring her to introduce barbershop choruses to her students, leading to their participation in Midwinter conventions and the birth of the 2023 Junior Varsity Quartet Champions, YTBN.

Penny's leadership has seen music groups like 'Here Comes Treble', 'Vocal Motion', and the 'Triple AAAs' Junior Varsity quartet excel in competitions. These groups epitomize her commitment and expertise as an educator.

This national recognition is not only a monumental honor for Penny but also a moment of pride for the Land O' Lakes District. It underscores the exceptional work of our educators and their profound impact on future generations. Penny's journey from winning the Golden Chord Award to the national Music Educator award is nothing short of inspiring.

The nomination for this national award came from Jim Rasmus, a key figure in the barbershop community, and former Next Gen Barbershop

Committee Chair. His extensive work in the Next Gen program and his insight into the needs and potentials of young barbershoppers have been invaluable. Seeing Penny's passion and the growth of her programs through harmony, Jim recognized her extraordinary contributions, leading to this well-deserved recognition.

In the spirit of recognizing such outstanding contributions, we are excited to announce that nominations for the next Land O' Lakes Golden Chord Award are now open. We encourage everyone to acknowledge the music educators who make a difference by nominating them for this prestigious award. Nominations can be submitted through the document center under the Next Gen section on the Land O' Lakes District website.

Let us celebrate Penny Yanke's remarkable achievement and continue to support and recognize the incredible talents of music educators in our district.





There'll be some changes made!

That was one of the results of the Sing Canada Harmony board meeting held in Calgary in mid-November.

The meeting started with a full-day strategic planning session that soon extended into almost 2 full days as the engagement of the board led to a new mission and vision and new goals.



Back row: John Wilkie, Trinda Ernst, Fran Thorson, Patricia Cassidy, Cynthia Feltrin, John Simpson

Front row: Gordon Billows, Murray Phillips, Sean Huston, Bill Coulthard

What will not change is the reason Sing Canada Harmony exists. We will raise money to provide scholarships to legal residents of Canada to help them learn more about a cappella harmony.

We have board members from each Harmony, Incorporated Area, Sweet Adelines International Region Barbershop Harmony Society District from each province in Canada. Our Founding Chair, Digger MacDougall continues to serve and provides great historical context. We have Bill Coulthard as the BHS LOL representative for Saskatchewan. Gordon Billows is the BHS LOL representative for Manitoba and NW Ontario (BHS & SAI in Thunder Bay). Fran Thorson represents SAI Region #26.

Bill Coulthard, Living Skies, Regina SK 306-525-0129 billcoulthard@singcanadaharmony.ca

Fran Thorson, Rhythm of the Rockies, Calgary AB 403-589-3749 franthorson@singcanadaharmony.ca

Gordon Billows, River City Sound, Winnipeg MB 204-488-2009 gordonbillows@singcanadaharmony.ca

We have four scholarship application deadlines during the year. They are March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1. Forms and instructions can be found [HERE](#).

Scholarship amounts will be determined based on the amount of funds in the account and eligible applications received. We can't give more than we receive.

We accept donations any and every day. We believe the world is a better place when there is singing. Singing brings enjoyment for a lifetime, to both the singer and the listener. You can do a whole lot of good for only a few dollars a month. Singing can start young people in a lifetime activity that will give them, and others more than they could ever imagine. What a great way to recognise a friend. Make a donation to Sing Canada Harmony in their name!

[DONATE](#)

We have provided scholarships to Land O' Lakes District, SAI Region #26, and HI Expansion Area Canadian members to attend Harmony University and participate in other educational opportunities.

We publish a newsletter for people interested in Sing Canada Harmony and we would love to have you as a subscriber click the button .

[SUBSCRIBE](#)



JUST 22 GUYS?!?!

Nate Peplinski, Executive Vice President



When a fellow approached Joe Cerutti after “class” during the LTA, lamenting about the state of his chorus, one of the things he mentioned was that they had “only 22 guys.”

Cerutti stopped this gentleman immediately. ONLY 22 GUYS?!?!? Did you know that 22 is the average chapter size in the society?? What if we framed our perspective differently...what if we CELEBRATED that we’ve got 22 guys who love doing the same things we do, that we’ve got 22 friends in this fraternal organization that serves the community and enriches lives?

If you’re a prospective member, a guest for the evening, and the gang is lamenting about how they’re not doing well and really need new members and “only have xx number,” how excited are you going to be to commit your time and energy to that group? Whereas, what if those same people were excited about the fun and fulfillment they get from making music together every week and having social interaction with “xx number” other folks? What if the framing is that “we had 14 guys at XYZ assisted living last Thursday and the crowd was singing along to half the songs”?

I’ve been around the hobby all my life, a paying member for going on 27 years now. And every time there’s a LTA (or COTS as we old-timers used to call it) there’s always an epiphanal moment, something profound to take away. I paraphrased the story and response from Cerutti but what would the district (and our chapters, and BHS overall) look like if we fully embraced this paradigm shift?

ARE YOU MAD AT ME? **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

YOU'RE ACTING LIKE YOU ARE, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY.

IF YOU DON'T KNOW, I'M CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO TELL YOU.

JUST MY LUCK! I FLUNKED OUT OF MIND READING.

Look what I invented

That's the best thing since ripped up bread

Fundamentals of Ice Fishing:
 1. Bring *Hamms*
 2. Open *Hamms*
 3. Drink *Hamms*
 4. Burp
 5. Go back to step 2

“
 The audience, they're not professionals. They just love music. It isn't necessary to play over their heads to be admired.
”
 - Les Paul

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Midwinter Convention (Next Gen Barbershop)

Justin La | Next Gen Barbershop Chair



I had the pleasure of attending the recent Midwinter convention in New York City. The event was a vibrant showcase of youthful energy and barbershop talent.

On Thursday, we were captivated by the Junior Varsity competition, featuring 15 quartets. Notably, two quartets from our district, Sirena from Saskatoon, SK, and Triple AAA's from Burlington, WI, delivered outstanding performances. Sirena earned an "Outstanding" rating, while Triple AAA's received an "Excellent" rating, both reflecting their meticulous preparation and skill.

The following day, the Junior Chorus festival took center stage. Penny Yanke, an extraordinary director, led two choruses representing the Land O' Lakes district. The Treble Makers, her renowned treble chorus, and Vocal Motion, Burlington's newly formed mixed chorus, both debuted to great acclaim. Their performances were remarkable, resonating with perfectly tuned chords and captivating the audience.

Adding to the event's highlights, Penny Yanke was honored with the NAFME Music Educator of the Year award. This accolade was a testament to her exceptional dedication and impact in nurturing young musical talent.

A particularly memorable moment occurred when 500 participants united for a mass choir rehearsal. Under the guidance of Vince Sandroni, they performed Melody Hine's arrangement of "I'm Still Standing." This performance, featured in the Saturday Night Show, was nothing short of spectacular. It was a heartwarming display of unity and musical harmony, bringing together competitors in a shared love for barbershop singing.

Beyond the competitions and performances, the convention offered a platform for students to engage with seasoned barbershoppers from across the society. They exchanged stories, shared wisdom, and sung tags, immersing themselves in the rich tapestry of the barbershop community.

In conclusion, the Midwinter convention was not just an event; it was a celebration of music, camaraderie, and the enduring spirit of the barbershop community. The youth, with their enthusiasm and talent, were at the heart of this unforgettable experience. Observing their passion, skill, and unity, it is evident that the future of barbershop is in excellent hands. What I witnessed at Midwinter is a clear indication that our next generation of barbershoppers is poised to carry on this wonderful tradition with vigor and creativity. They are not just preserving a musical genre; they are enriching it, ensuring its vibrancy and relevance for years to come.

CONTEST CORNER

with James Estes, DVP for Contest and Judging



Happy Spring, everyone! It's been just over five months since our last district contests wrapped up in Bloomington. Since that time, we had excellent representation in the International Seniors Quartet Contest at the Midwinter Convention by 1996 District Quartet Champion Checkmate, who placed 13th out of 24 competing quartets. Congratulations, gentlemen, and thank you for making the Land O' Lakes district proud!

In just a few months, the best in barbershop will gather in Cleveland, Ohio, for the 2024 Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention. If you see or visit them over the next few months, be sure to give your best wishes to the Midwest Vocal Express, singing 23rd overall and 3rd on Saturday, July 6 in the chorus contest. Also from the Greendale Chapter will be Forward Harmony, who is mic-testing on Friday, July 5. We're also excited to cheer on 2021 District Quartet Champion Coulee Classic, and 2019 District Champ First Ave in the International Quartet Contest! All our best to all of you appearing on the stage in Cleveland!

As we look forward to our 2024 District Convention in Bloomington, I encourage all potential competitors to get a head start on making the most of your contest experience. Barbershop contests are wonderful learning opportunities, and the more prepared we are going into the contest, the more we can take away from the valuable judging feedback received after our time on-stage is over. Some things you can do now to get a jump on preparing for the contest: registering (or renewing) your quartet with the BHS, picking your music and acquiring learning tracks (if needed) for your songs, start coaching with a trusted "ear" in your area, start planning your performance of your music, perform your music for your chapter or other public audiences...the list goes on. If the district can help you with any advice or information about preparing for contest, you can contact dir-cj@olddistrict.org

Most importantly, HAVE FUN SINGING!!



53rd Annual Harmony Show 🎵

" Irish Spring "

Saturday, April 20, 2024 7:00 P.M.

Martin Anderson Gymnasium, 601 University Ave, Colfax, WI



Coulee Classic

2023 LOL District International Qualifier
2021 LOL District Quartet Champions



Just One More !!

2023 LOL District 3rd Place Quartet


Entertainment by...
Northern Lights Chorus
 Local Quartets.. Plus Much More!

**Afterglow at
the Whitetail
Golf Course**






 Lots of **Fun!**
Laughs!
Entertaining!!
High Energy!




Come to the Circus!

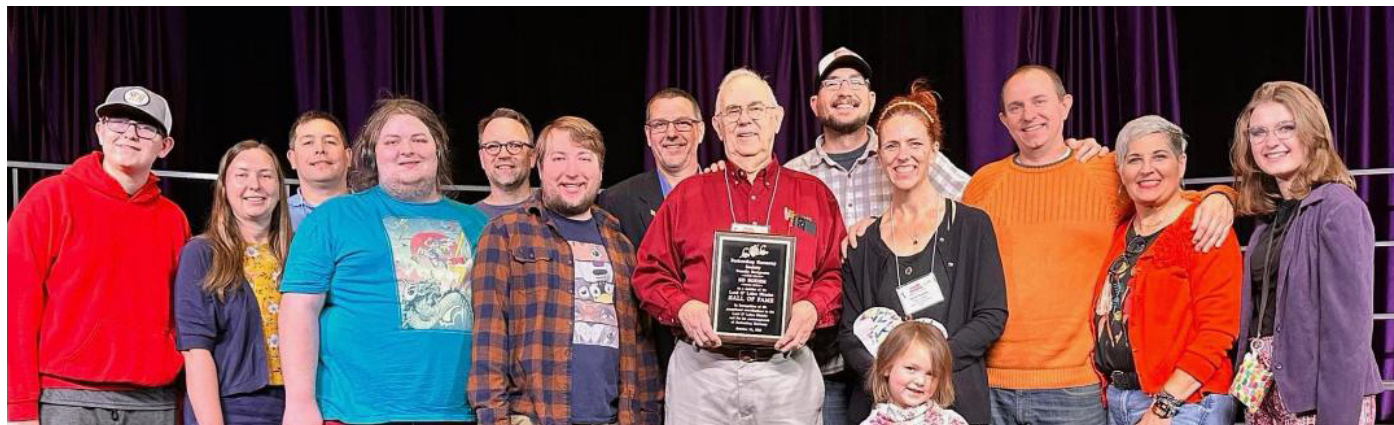
By Ken Bester

The Fox Valleyaires Barbershop Chorus in Appleton, WI will celebrate 80 years of harmony and present “**It’s a Three Ring Circus: Chaos Under the Big Top**”. The show will take place on **Saturday, April 6, 2024** at Xavier Fine Arts Theatre on the campus of Xavier High School in Appleton. The show features the acting talent of Michael Blair as our Ringmaster as the circus acts prepare for the big show. There will be feature performances by our headliner, **Spitfire Quartet**, the 2019 Central States District Quartet champion and by the 2023 LO’L District Champion quartet, **Chill Factor!** Showtime is at 3pm. You can get tickets from any member of the Fox Valleyaires or online at www.foxvalleyaires.com.



unlabeled editor’s notes

- Sorry for the delay in getting this issue out. It might happen again.
- The 2024 District Directory is available on the website.
- You know you’re living in 2024 when you try to enter your password on the microwave.
- If you think someone would be deserving of a feature in this publication, contact pitchpiper@loldistrict.org or Tim Milbrandt at tjmilbrandt@gmail.com.
- What’s a llama’s favorite movie? “Alpacalypse Now.”
- Many thanks to the Pitch Piper staff: Tim Milbrandt, Brian Plehn, Brent Frankenhoff, Tom Arneberg, as well as Todd Smith, and Bob and Bill Fricke.
- Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. Summer wasn’t bad either.
- If you need learning tracks, check out www.choraltracks.com. They’re super cheap and high quality and I do a ton of this composition, editing, and formatting during work time, but don’t tell Matt.
- I used to work in a fire hydrant factory. You couldn’t park anywhere near the place.
- Get involved. Even if it’s only thirty minutes every six months, that’s still helping.



Hall-of-Fame ED BOEHM – A Lifetime and Passion of Harmony, Education and Fun!

by Pat Boehm

The era was the mid-nineteen forties. A barbershop quartet known as the “Paper City Four” entertained around the Neenah/Menasha, Wisconsin area, and consisted of Tenor – Vic Fritz, Lead – Ed Boehm, Bari – John Pinkerton, and Bass – Pat Patterson. The Paper City Four would practice their four-part harmony in their tenor’s barbershop - irony at its finest- with Vic being an actual barber. A young boy would sit in the barber chair listening to the rich harmony of songs such as “I Met Her on Monday” and “Bread and Gravy.” The Paper City Four was my grandfather’s quartet and that young boy soaking up chords in the barber chair was my dad, Ed Boehm.

Barbershop Harmony has been ringing in my family for a very long time. My dad has not only helped maintain that legacy but has also helped preserve our society’s roots in several ways and for many years. He has done so as a music educator, chorus director, society arranger, chorus and quartet member, and a true advocate for preserving that four-part close a-cappella harmony sound. As a matter of fact, I wouldn’t exist today if it weren’t for barbershop harmony. My mom, Maureen, sang Baritone with the Sweet Adelines Regional Champion Quartet, “The Choral Bells,” and my dad had a thing for beautiful women who could harmonize. We lost Mom way too early in life, but dad married another incredible woman, Mary, who also was deeply involved in barbershop and a true believer in music just like dad.

Dad has always had a love for music and followed in his father’s footsteps by forming his first barbershop quartet in high school, “The Kord Kids.” Little did he know that four-part harmony would lead him to study music at Lawrence University Conservatory of Music where I am

sure many chords were rung in Shattuck Hall or in the Phi Delta Theta House during my dad’s fraternity days.

Shortly after dad graduated with his degree in music education, his focus was back on the barbershop sound as he put together two solid quartets, “The Harmon-Knights,” and “The Astro-Notes” who qualified for the 1961 International Competition. Dad also assembled and directed a Sweet Adeline chorus in Appleton, WI that included many family members: aunts, cousins, Grandma, and Mom.

Dad went on to accept a position as the choral director for the Peshtigo, Wisconsin School District where he taught elementary and high school music until his retirement. During his tenure at Peshtigo, there were times when those good old barbershop harmonies would surface. Many of his high school quartets received First ratings in state competition. Dad even helped coach my high school quartet to a one star at solo and ensemble. He simply has the passion for teaching and paying it forward.

Dad also represented the Land O’ Lakes District by competing nine times at the Seniors International Quartet Competitions with his quartets; “The Old-Tymers” from 2002 to 2004 and “Perfect Timing” 2005 to 2011. Dad also was one of the founding members of Pride of the Valley Chorus representing the Land O’ Lakes District from 2000 to 2010. He also directed the Appleton men’s barbershop chorus from 1963 to 1966 which is now The Fox Valleyaires.

Dad has also crafted many barbershop arrangements that have been performed by both choruses and quartets. It was a very proud moment for



the family when Dad won the **Lou Perry Arranger's Award** for his arrangement of "Beale Street Mama," which won him a free trip to Harmony University.

Thanks to my dad, music and harmony have continued in our family for generations. I hope to carry that tradition forward and maybe someday I too will be able to show off my Barbershop Harmony 50-year pin like dad. Congratulations, dad, on that milestone! As a family we have been blessed each time we can sing with dad, be it a chorus such as *Pride of the Valley*, or a quartet such as "Family A-Chord," "Four County Connection," or, most recently, "For The Record." Dad is 85 years young and is still highly active directing The Menominee River Women's Barbershop Chorus and The Escanaba Michigan men's barbershop chorus, *The Remnants*. Yes,

two choruses at 85...do you think this man has a love for our hobby? You bet he does!

Thank you, dad, for all you have done over the years to help highlight barbershop harmony to everyone you have crossed paths with and for soaking up the ringing chords of your dad's quartet at an early age. You have helped in many ways to carry our society's tradition forward and are a true advocate for our District and the Barbershop Harmony Society. -Pat

Congratulations, Ed Boehm, on being inducted into the Barbershop Harmony Society Land O' Lakes district Hall of Fame in 2023!

The Mankato Riverblenders

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50 Years of Harmony

1974 - 2024

Hosanna Lutheran Church Mankato

Featuring:
Newfangled Four



1980 Land O'Lakes District Champions
1981 International Contest, Detroit, Michigan

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AT 1 P.M.

ADULT TICKETS \$15 STUDENT \$5

at Cub Foods in Mankato
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Calendar

Please send show registrations to:
District Secretary Bob Brey, Land O' Lakes District
1411 S. 31st St.
Manitowoc, WI 54220
rwbrey1950@gmail.com

2024

- April**
- 6 Appleton, WI - Spitfire, Chill Factor
- 6 Stillwater, MN (St. Croix Valley) - Vocality
- 13 Manitowoc, WI - Coulee Classic
- 13 Willmar, MN - Newfangled Four
- 20 Colfax, WI (Dunn County) - Coulee Classic, Just One More
- 21 Lacrosse, WI - Coulee Classic
- 27 Mankato, MN - Newfangled Four
- May**
- 3-5 Northern Pines Harmony Brigade - First Ave, Just One More
- 4 St Cloud area
- 5 Oshkosh, WI - Chill Factor

May (cont)

- 11 Black River Falls - Vocality, St. Croix Crossing
- 18 Madison, WI
- 18 (City of Lakes) - First Ave
- 18 Wisconsin Youth Quartet Festival, Stevens Point, WI

July

- 1-7 International Convention - Cleveland, OH

August

- 3 Vocality Concert on the Porch - White Bear Lake, MN

September

- 28 Stevens Point, WI - Newfangled Four, Coulee Classic

October

- 5 West Allis, WI - Coulee Classic
- 5 Amery, WI (Polk County) - Newfangled Four, Vocality
- 11-12 DISTRICT CONVENTION - Minneapolis, MN

