

# The Pitch Piper

75 YEARS OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY

OVER 714,089 SQUARE MILES

Volume 75, Number 4

A Bulletin for Barbershoppers in the LO'L District

July - August 2023

ESTD *Land*  *Lakes* 1943



## A BARBERSHOP FAMILY REUNION



OCTOBER 13-14, 2023



# 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 Quartets 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 Provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario.

Office of Publication:

**Editor: Nate Peplinski**  
127 Rose St. N

West Salem, WI 54669 715.498.1198

Email: [pitchpiper@loldistrict.org](mailto:pitchpiper@loldistrict.org)

Send address changes to Pitch Piper c/o SPEBSQSA, Inc., 110 7th Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37203-3704. All correspondence or copy should be sent to the editor.

## DISTRICT OFFICERS



President:

**JAY ALTHOF**

4671 Lake Ave  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110  
(C): (651) 206-2686  
[althof@aol.com](mailto:althof@aol.com)



Executive Vice President:  
**MIKE LIETKE**

3953 S Camrose Ave  
New Berlin, WI 53151  
(C): (262) 893-0001  
[mikelietke@hotmail.com](mailto:mikelietke@hotmail.com)



Immediate Past President:  
**GORDON BILLOWS**

73 Haverstock Cres  
Winnipeg, MB R3P 2M7  
(C): (204) 881-6125  
[billows@shaw.ca](mailto:billows@shaw.ca)



Secretary:

**BOB BREY**

1411 S 31st Street  
Manitowoc, WI 54220  
(C): (920) 973-4472  
[rwbrey1950@gmail.com](mailto:rwbrey1950@gmail.com)



Treasurer:

**JACK EDGERTON**

1804 Conant Street  
Stevens Point, WI 54481-5819  
(H): (715) 344-5746 • (C): (715) 340-3221  
[ragtime75bbs@gmail.com](mailto:ragtime75bbs@gmail.com)



District VP - East Region:

**JIM RASMUS**

500 E Dean Ave  
Madison, WI 53716  
(C): (920) 973-0010  
[pjras20@gmail.com](mailto:pjras20@gmail.com)



District VP - Central Region:  
**KEN METTLER**

125 Blanding Woods Rd  
St Croix Falls, WI 54204  
(C): (715) 483-9202  
[kbmett@hotmail.com](mailto:kbmett@hotmail.com)



District VP - West Region:

**JUSTIN McCULLOUGH**

1939 50th St S  
Fargo, ND 58103  
(701) 640-3224  
[jumccull@gmail.com](mailto:jumccull@gmail.com)



Director Chapter Support & Development:  
**JUDD ORFF**

6375 St Croix Trail N #145  
Stillwater, MN 55082  
(C): (651) 262-9843  
[juddorff3108@msn.com](mailto:juddorff3108@msn.com)



Director Events:

**ARV ZENK**

1706 Mary Lane  
N Mankato, MN 56003  
(H): (507) 388-7509 • (C): (507) 995-1655  
[arvjane@hickorytech.net](mailto:arvjane@hickorytech.net)



Director Contest Judging:

**JAMES ESTES**

(C) (650) 686-1080  
[dir-cj@loldistrict.org](mailto:dir-cj@loldistrict.org)

## President's Message

Submitted by Jay Althof - LO'L District President



Hello LO'L Members! There are many great things happening all across our District. Here is a quick recap on several of those items.

- The Barbershop Harmony International Convention was held in Louisville, KY the week of July 2nd. We were very well represented in the contests by the

Coulee Classic quartet from LaCrosse and the Forward Harmony and Midwest Vocal Express choruses from the Greendale chapter. The level of performances continues to rise and there was great enthusiasm by those who attended to both watch and participate in the barbershop experience.

- Over the last couple of years, we've been working hard to make our barbershop hobby more sustainable into the future. This past February we brought together the Society Board of Directors, Harmony Hall Leaders and the District Presidents Council. We wanted to understand the main challenges with our current organization, how we raise funds, and what we offer our members. After that meeting, we formed six smaller groups, and each group set specific goals to improve different parts of our hobby. They looked at the problems we face and came up with ideas to make

things better. Then, at the International Convention, everyone got back together for more than 4 hours of workshops. We discussed and decided on four important things to work on. One of those things is to test new ways for people to join us and how we should be funded. Working with selected chapters, we will try these new ideas as pilot programs. Our hope is that these changes will make it easier and more exciting for many more people to join and enjoy the barbershop experience for many years to come. I'll keep you informed about our progress, so stay tuned!

- On July 15th Barbershoppers from all across the District came to Two Rivers, WI to join with 335 Schmitt family members to dedicate a new performance stage in honor of the Schmitt Brothers quartet. Starting with a ribbon cutting ceremony at Noon and wrapping up the afterglow about 9:00 PM (and after-afterglow at about 1:30am, right St. Croix Crossing and Coulee Classic?), the whole event was outstanding. In addition to several performances by members of the Schmitt family, 10 District quartets and choruses provided entertainment from the new stage. The Manitowoc host chapter did an outstanding job working with the Schmitt family to organize this successful event. Thanks to all who participated and made this such a memorable day!

...Continued on page 5



---

## “A Barbershop Family Reunion” – October 13 - 14

Join your Barbershop family for another great reunion at the Fall Convention. We look forward to our own Happiness Emporium - 1975 International Champs – being with us throughout the weekend. We will be celebrating the Golden Anniversary of Happiness Emporium winning the District Quartet Championship in 1973 with a special Showcase program. They will be around all weekend to sing a tag with you, and plan to host their own hospitality suite. Their classic original arrangements, and the antics they have perfected over the last 50 years will guarantee a great show. To make sure you won't miss any of the fun, go to the LOL convention webpage which provides everything you need to make it happen: [2023 Fall Convention \(oldistrict.org\)](http://2023FallConvention(Oldistrict.org))

1. REGISTER FOR THE CONVENTION – Register online with your credit card or download a mail-in registration order form and send it in with your check. You can also order a Saturday lunch, the Showcase dinner (chicken or pork), or get a ticket for the Saturday evening show. Once you register, your badges and meal and event tickets will be ready for you when you arrive.
2. RESERVE YOUR ROOM – Reserve a room at the Headquarters Hotel - MSP Airport Hilton Hotel, 3800 American Blvd E., Bloomington, MN 55425. You can register online, or you may call the front desk at (952) 854-2100. Press '0' and ask for the \$104 (plus tax) Barbershop Fall Convention Rate. There is a second link for the Embassy Suites (next door to the MSP Hilton) with a rate of \$154 (plus tax) per night.
3. CONTEST AND FESTIVAL REGISTRATION – There will be a link to Barberscore on the Contest and Festival section of the registration webpage which opens August 1<sup>st</sup>. You must click on this link to register your chorus or quartet in Barberscore if you plan to sing in the contest or festival. Everyone crossing the judges' stage must be registered. Remember that all members of your chorus or quartet must also purchase an All-Events registration badge (\$60) for the convention. Contest and Festival registrations must be completed in Barberscore no later than midnight September 13<sup>th</sup>!
4. QUARTET CLINICS - If your quartet would like coaching, the District is offering Quartet Clinics on Friday morning and a chance to perform in the afternoon. All you need is a quartet, two songs, and an All-Events registration badge – all at no extra cost. Sign up with Mike Lietke – either online or by mail.
5. ALL CHAPTER CHORUS - You may register for the All-Chapter Chorus online. For just \$10 Steve Zorn will get you the music and the learning tracks. Another great opportunity for you to sing with some of the best! Just click on the webpage link to sign up.

We look forward to seeing you at our Barbershop Family Reunion. We had over 600 in attendance last year and want to break that record. Hope to see you soon!

Arv Zenk – 2023 LOL Convention Chair



## THE EARLY DAYS OF THE LAND O'LAKES DISTRICT

by Bob Dykstra

In the last issue of the Pitch Piper, I chronicled the meteoric rise of the Eau Claire chapter's Four Teens Quartet, who joined as charter members of the chapter and brand new members of SPEBSQSA in September, 1949. A few months later they performed on the chapter's first Parade of Quartets, then took their first shot at competition at the 1950 LOL Regional Contest hosted by Appleton.

Just two years later they succeeded LOL's Schmitt Brothers as reigning International Barbershop Quartet champions.

It was the back-to-back international championships of LOL District quartets that I emphasized in my tribute to the 1952 champs from Eau Claire by way of the Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. I mentioned that the Teens in their gold medal performance became the youngest quartet to be awarded that honor (I think that record still stands). I also noted that the Teens' monumental achievement re-emphasized the competitive dominance of Wisconsin quartets in early

LOL district competition and the overall gigantic contributions of Wisconsin barbershoppers to the rapid growth of our magnificent hobby in the Land O'Lakes District and the greater Society. I'd like to expand on that a bit.

Let's look first at results of early LOL District Quartet competition. (I continue to argue that the Four Teens were indeed an LOL quartet and that their success adds to the dominance of Wisconsin quartets). The first LOL quartet championship was held in 1945 and was won by the Hi-Los from Milwaukee, who were to earn a medalist ranking at the following year's International Contest.

Wisconsin quartets, moreover, proceeded to win seventeen of the first twenty LOL quartet gold medals. Part of this early Wisconsin success was doubtless related to their getting an early start in Barbershopping.

The Wisconsin Association of Chapters was organized in 1945 so I assume that the 1945 contest included only Wisconsin quartets. The District was soon to grow, however. In 1947 it was renamed the Land O'Lakes District Association of Chapters and soon thereafter enlarged itself by adding Minnesota and Upper Michigan to its constituency.

The addition of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, certain other Canadian regions, and North Dakota in the next few years added competitive balance to LOL, but didn't immediately put an end to Badger quartet dominance. As mentioned earlier Badger foursomes brought home the gold medal in 17 of 20 LOL District contests from 1945 to 1964. Only the Atomic Bums (1949) and Hut Four (1958) from Minnesota, and the Gate City Four (1961) from North Dakota were able to avoid the Wisconsin quartet stranglehold. This changed, however, during the next twenty years. During that period (1965-1984) quartets from Minnesota earned thirteen gold medals, those from Wisconsin seven. The tide had definitely turned, doubtless aided in large measure by what I am about to report.

Without question the LOL District in general and Wisconsin chapters in particular played a most significant role in the growth of the Barbershop Society following its inception in 1938. For example, the first District chorus contest in the entire Society was held in Oshkosh in 1946. Eight years were to pass, however, before the first official Society-wide chorus contest took place in Washington, D.C.

Moreover, the Janesville chorus quickly took home the gold medal in the Society's second year of chorus competition in 1955. Our district also took the lead in the essential field of communication. The Society's first monthly publication, Harmony News, was edited by Sheboygan's Hans Beyer. And Leo Fobart from Stevens Point was named Associate Editor of the Society-wide publication, the Harmonizer, in 1961.

The Land O'Lakes district also provided the Society with high level administrative leadership. O.H. (King) Cole of Manitowoc served as Society President in 1948 and 1949, as did fellow Manitowoc Barbershopper, John Means, in 1953-54. Val Hicks in his "Heritage of Harmony" history of Barbershopping stated that no man had more missionary zeal in starting new chapters than Cole, who organized eight new chapters including both Sheboygan and Manitowoc, for whom he served as chapter president simultaneously.

Apparently, Cole's daughter, Ginny, shared his zeal and love of Barbershop harmony. She and three of her Sheboygan friends organized a popular women's Barbershop quartet named the Chordettes in 1946 which appeared on Barbershop shows throughout the United States, recorded a Barbershop album, won the Godfrey Talent Scouts competition, and subsequently earned a spot as regulars on Godfrey's radio and television shows. (This was long before they recorded "Mr. Sandman" and "Lollipop.") The Chordettes, Schmitt Brothers, Four Teens, Sing-copates (1951 LOL District Champs and 1953 Third-Place International Medalists) and a wealth of excellent LOL show quartets made planning for Chapter Parades of Quartets an enjoyable task.

This same plethora of talented quartets likely stimulated the growth and development of Barbershop chapters and quartets throughout the LOL District. I know that I couldn't wait to get in on the fun. I grew up in Sheboygan County, attending not only the Sheboygan Chapter's annual Parade of Quartets, but performances they did at the Hingham Hall, just a few miles from our farm. I am now enjoying my 71st year of Barbershop fun thanks to all of the Barbershoppers and Barbershop groups I've just cited.

And a lot of you readers, and more likely predecessors of you readers, joined me in the worship of seventh chords and wonderful camaraderie as well. By 1954 our Land O'Lakes District had become the Society's largest district in terms of membership and second largest in average members per chapter. Sheboygan led the way with 159 members, second in the Barbershop Society only to the Manhattan, New York chapter. (Not bad for a metropolis of about 42,000 souls). And one last important stat. St. Paul ranked first, Duluth fourth, and Marquette, Michigan fifth across all Society chapters in percentage of membership growth over a specified period of time.

I'd say that we 2023 LOL'ers should be mighty proud of and thankful for those who helped O.C. Cash build this wonderful organization. Now it's our turn to keep America and the whole world singing!!!

-Bob Dykstra







## President's Message (cont.)

Submitted by Jay Althof - LO'L District President

- I know that many of our chapters are having fun with many performances this summer. From picnics to fairs and other community events, sharing barbershop music just seems to be a natural fit. And each performance is an opportunity to engage with the audience and let them know how much fun we all have singing together and becoming an extended family. In today's world of social media and other technology-based communications, what we offer is a place for true human interaction that builds life-long relationships and helps with both physical and mental health. It is of great value. And we need to continue to invite more and more people to experience all of what barbershop has to offer!
- Our District-Chapter Liaison Program continues to be working well. Our next quarterly meeting will be held on August 19th. This connection between our Chapter Leaders and District Leaders continues to provide key input that is used to prioritize what actions and activities the District can provide to help our chapters be successful, as well as help needed from Harmony Hall.
- We are gearing up for our Fall Convention at the Minneapolis Airport Hilton. We have used the feedback from our last couple of conventions to make sure this year's convention is even better than before. You won't want to miss our "Barbershop Family Reunion" on October 13th and 14th. Information about the convention and registration is available on our District Website: <https://loldistrict.org/2023-fall-convention>.
- Also, at the Fall Convention we will have our House of Delegates meeting where we elect our Board of Directors for 2024. Our Nominating Committee is working to identify people who would be candidates to fill both Board and Committee positions. So, if



you, or someone you know, have interest in helping our District continue to be successful, please let Brent Gerber know. His e-mail address is:

brentgerber13@gmail.com

- After a few years of hosting a virtual Leadership Academy, we are excited that our next one will be in person! We will hold our 2024 Leadership Academy at the University of Wisconsin in River Falls on January 5th and 6th. In addition to the administrative courses, we are lining up some great elective classes related to our musical leadership and performances. Everyone is welcome to attend. So put the dates on your calendar and we'll share more details about registration and accommodations in the near future. Yes, we have lots of positive things happening and we continue to build our momentum for even better things to come. Thanks to everyone who continues to contribute to building their chapters and making a positive impact in their communities. After all, that is really what barbershop is all about, building the barbershop family at the local level. I look forward to seeing many of you at our Fall Convention!

Jay Althof, LO'L District President

**unlabeled editor's updates  
deadline for submissions for the  
Sept-Oct issue is Sept. 22.**

**Nominating committee will have  
their slate in the next issue.**

**I spilled spot remover on my dog;  
now he's gone.**

**Thanks to Brian (Jet) Plehn and  
Steve Hardy for your help!**



---

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## LAND O'LAKES DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION

October 13 - 14, 2023 – MSP Hilton, Bloomington, MN

### Friday – October 13

8:00 - 8:00	Registration/Ticket desk	2nd Floor – Foyer
9:30 - 12:00	Coaching (non-contest Quartets)	Meeting Rooms I-VIII
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch break	
<b>2:00 - 3:30</b>	<b>House of Delegates Meeting</b>	<b>Riverside</b>
3:00 - 4:00	ADC Membership meeting	VII White Pelican Bay
3:30 - 4:30	All-Chapter Chorus Rehearsal	VIII Wood Duck
4:30 - 5:00	Stage Check- Chorus/Quartet	Ballroom
2:00 – 5:30	Quartet on-stage times	Ballroom
5:30 - 6:30	Performances (non-contest)	Ballroom
<b>6:30 - 9:00</b>	<b>Quartet Prelim Contest</b>	<b>Ballroom</b>
9:30 - 11:30	Quartet Evaluations	Judges Rooms
9:30 - 11:00	Sing with the Champs	VII White Pelican Bay
9:30 - 12:00	Cash Bar/Hospitality	Riverside

### Saturday – October 14

7:00 - 2:00	Registration/Ticket desk	2nd Floor – Foyer
8:00 - 9:30	Risers/Stage Open for Inspection	
<b>10:00 - 12:30</b>	<b>Chorus Contest</b>	<b>Ballroom</b>
12:30 - 1:30	Lunch break	
<b>1:30 - 3:30</b>	<b>Quartet Finals</b>	<b>Ballroom</b>
<b>3:30 - 3:45</b>	<b>Chorus and Quartet Contest Results</b>	<b>Ballroom</b>
4:00 - 6:00	Chorus Evaluations	Meeting Rooms I-VIII
6:00 - 7:00	Quartet Evaluations	Judges Rooms
<b>6:30 - 7:15</b>	<b>Dinner</b>	<b>Ballroom</b>
<b>7:15 - 9:00</b>	<b>Showcase</b>	<b>Ballroom</b>
9:00 - 1:00	Open Bar - Afterglow/Hospitality	Meeting Rooms I-VIII

5/23/2023



## **Leadership with Larry** *Larry Lewis*

Leadership is not a mystery. Leadership is an observable, learnable set of practices. The three most common traits of exceptional leaders are:

1. Attention to detail
2. A *clear vision*
3. high energy

Pitch Piper Ad

### **Its Back! Leadership Academy/Chord College January 5-6, Univ of Wis - River Falls**

**The same school (*and meals*) you remember  
from before COVID. Details in the next issue.**

## **All Chapter Chorus LO'L District Convention October 13-14, 2023**

Submitted by Steve Zorn

The All Chapter Chorus is waiting for you!

SING WITH THE ALL CHAPTER CHORUS. The Northern Pines Harmony Brigade (NPHB) is again sponsoring the All Chapter Chorus in 2023. Maybe we can reach the goal of having at least one member of every Land O' Lakes chapter sing with us on the risers!

*A Little Street Where Old Friends Meet..* This is a classic ballad from the Suntones. Listen for those barbershop chords. And *Route 66*. This is a familiar song to everyone, especially those singing before the Interstate Highway system was established.

For only \$10, you can sing these great songs with other guys who love to sing in quartets and then perform them as a chorus for our LO'L District Convention during the Saturday evening entertainment.

You can sign up now [here](#) or on the LOL website and the music with learning tracks will be shared with you. Can we get at least one member from each LO'L chapter and make it a true "All Chapter Chorus?"

**Registration for Events Badges/Lunch/Dinner  
Land O'Lakes Fall Convention  
October 13-14, 2023**

Name (Last/First) \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Attendee  
(if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Tel (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name - Chapter/Chorus/Quartet \_\_\_\_\_

Registrations are transferable, but not refundable within 30 days of the Convention.

**Mail-In Registrations must be postmarked NLT October 1st.**

	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Amount</u>
All Contest Events Registration . . . . . @ \$60.00	_____	_____
Jr. Contest Events Registration (12 & under) . . . . . @ \$30.00	_____	_____
Complete Convention Registration Package . . . . . @ \$125.00	_____	_____
Includes: All Contest Events, Saturday Lunch, **Showcase Dinner and Show		
Saturday **Showcase Dinner and Show . . . . . @ \$45.00	_____	_____
Saturday Sandwich Lunch Buffet . . . . . @ \$20.00	_____	_____
Saturday Showcase Show (After Dinner) . . . . . @ \$10.00	_____	_____
Jr. Events Registration, **Showcase Dinner and Show . . . . @ \$75.00	_____	_____

Total enclosed (US Funds) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Menu Options: Showcase Dinner - Pork or Chicken

Pork	
Chicken	

If there are special dietary needs, please provide specifics:

Individual Contest tickets go on sale 30 days prior to Convention and may be purchased at the Registration Desk for Friday Quartet, Saturday Chorus, or Saturday Quartet Finals.

Individual Contest Tickets (purchase at the Convention). . . . \$25.00

Registrations/Badges will be held at the Barbershop Convention desk at the Hilton Hotel.

Make check payable to: **Land O'Lakes District**

Mail to: Arv Zenk  
1706 Mary Lane  
North Mankato, MN 56003

Any questions: Please call Arv at 507-388-7509



# LOL Convention Group Registration Form - 2023

## MSP Airport Hilton - Bloomington, MN

### October 13 - 14, 2023

Chorus or Quartet Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Include Spouse/Guest Names Member Name (First, Last)	All Events Badge \$60	Noon Lunch \$20	Showcase Dinner \$45	Complete Package* \$125	Chicken	Pork	Showcase Show** \$10	Total
<b>Group Total \$</b>								

Make check payable to Land O' Lakes District

\* Complete Registration Package includes: All Contest Events, Noon Lunch, Showcase Show & Dinner  
 Please check Pork or Chicken for Showcase dinner - For special dietary needs please contact Arv via e-mail

\*\* Showcase Show Only - Does not include dinner

Badges and meal tickets will be available at the convention registration desk.  
 Individuals must make their own arrangements/reservations for housing (See LOL website)

**Group Registration Form due NLT October 1 - No changes can be made after October 1st**  
 Payment may be made by mail with this form or paid at the registration desk NLT Oct 13  
 E-mail to: arviane@hickorytech.net or Mail to: Arv Zenk, 1706 Mary Lane, North Mankato, MN 56003



## Schmitt Brothers Stage Dedication Brings Harmony to Two Rivers

In the same park where the city of Two Rivers welcomed their hometown heroes after they won the 1951 International SPEBSQSA Championship on the first try, the new Schmitt Brothers Stage was dedicated to the harmonies of six quartets and four choruses. It was an incredible day for Barbershop Harmony in Wisconsin!

For the past 18 months, the city has been working with the extended Schmitt family to build a lasting memorial to honor the four brothers - Jim, Joe, Paul and Fran Schmitt - who put Two Rivers on the map. The extended Schmitt family along with their barbershop friends raised more than \$122,000 for the naming rights.

"If the quartet was alive today, they would be thrilled to hear the harmony of this wonderful celebration and see this city coming together to create and enjoy this beautiful park," said Jim Schmitt, son of the quartet's lead singer and former longtime mayor of Green Bay.

Jim emceed the official dedication, introducing City Manager Greg Buckley as well as the two surviving spouses of the quartet, Mary Ann (Jim) Schmitt and Toni (Joe) Schmitt Becker, who were feted with bouquets of roses. Toni reminisced about attending the original welcome home event where people packed the park, much like the audience at the dedication. Mary Ann sincerely thanked everyone involved with building the stage, from the excavators and construction workers to the high school students who fabricated the decorative screen for the back of the stage. More than 325 Schmitt family descendants from nearly 20 states attended the celebration and gathered on stage to sing a Schmitt Brothers favorite, "These will be the Good Old Days."

Hundreds of people were involved in building, funding and celebrating the stage's

dedication. Jim, Father Carl, Bill, Tom and Tony Schmitt (sons of lead singer Jim) spearheaded the fundraising efforts. Christine Beck (daughter of quartet baritone Paul) chaired the design committee responsible for the stone donor wall and huge bronze plaques that tell the stories of the Schmitt Brothers quartet and their family. John Gorski (nephew of the quartet) managed the efforts of the Schmitt Brothers Eleven, Inc., the family organization that not only helped fund the stage but plan the celebration.

Vice President of Chapter Development for the Clipper City Chordsmen Jim Rasmus and Bill Schmitt (son of lead singer Jim) coordinated the talented line up for the three-hour Harmony Show, emceed by 2004 International Senior Quartet Champion and Downstate Express lead singer Bruce Odell, Land O'Lakes District President Jay Althof, and Barbershop Harmony Society CEO Marty Monson.

Following the show, the Schmitt family invited their barbershop friends to dinner in the Community House with place settings for nearly 500. Of course, an afterglow ensued followed by an after-after glow at the Cool City Brewing Company, which offered a commemorative Schmitt Brothers Barbershop Brew for the occasion... and stayed open extra late to accommodate the enthusiastic songsters!

Throughout the day, the park was filled to capacity. Many took advantage of taking a photo while sitting on a park bench with a life-sized cut-out of the Schmitt Brothers or having their copy of "The Schmitt Brothers" book signed by the author.

"The Schmitt Brothers are still remembered today, and their legacy here will last for years and years," said Bill Schmitt. "Our sincere thanks to all the barbershoppers who made this historic day possible... and fun!"



# THE INDIANHEAD BARBERSHOP CHORUS

Presents Our 65th

## HARVEST OF HARMONY

## I'M ON MY WAY

### FEATURING

### THE INDIANHEAD BARBERSHOP CHORUS



Checkmate



Mixed Meter

For Tickets Contact:

The Indianhead Chorus

Ken Metler

(715) 483-9202

Tickets Also Available at

Chet's in Downtown Amery

Join Us at Amery Community Center

*After Glow following the last show.*

### SATURDAY OCTOBER 7th

2:00 PM & 7:00 PM

### Amery High School

Adults \$10 in Advance \$15 At the Door

Students and Younger FREE





— **MINNEAPOLIS COMMODORES** —  
PRESENTS

# EPIC

A Fantastical Journey of Intrigue,  
Redemption, and Barbershop Harmony



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23  
3:00 PM ~ TICKETS @  
[MINNEAPOLISCOMMODORES.ORG/EVENTS](http://MINNEAPOLISCOMMODORES.ORG/EVENTS)

BETHEL UNIVERSITY  
BENSON GREAT HALL  
3900 BETHEL DR, ST PAUL, MN 55112





# Traveling in Time

Sure to be a nostalgic time!



## STEVENS POINT BARBERSHOPPERS 70TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW!

**SATURDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 30TH**  
**3:00 PM**  
SENTRY THEATER

### FEATURED QUARTETS

COULEE CLASSIC  
&  
CHILL FACTOR

*Order online & save \$2!*



### TICKETS

ADULT - \$20  
STUDENT + SENIOR - \$15  
UNDER 5 - FREE

TICKETS AVAILABLE  
AT THE DOOR



OR Find us on



## Thank you from Coulee Classic!

*(message of gratitude from our week in Louisville)*

What a tremendous outpouring of support from our friends in the district! We received personal messages from Kordal Kombat, First Ave, CHORD SMASH!, Chill Factor, Checkmate, Vocality, St. Croix Crossing, and countless individuals (including the Manitowoc contingent who came to our room!). It was an amazing week and we're excited to continue our growth and continue to represent the district.

Special thanks go out to the LOL district and Lacrosse Coulee Chordsmen for phenomenal continued support as well. Also thanks to the chapters that have had us on their shows the past two years (and the Northern Pines Harmony Brigade). *You're the reason we do this.*

Thank you to our local coaches: Tim Milbrandt, Mike Lietke, Bryan Ziegler, Paul Tabone, and Sarah Wigley, and to good friend Jay Althof. Thanks also, and MOSTLY, to our families for putting up with the time we invest and are away, and to Mom and Dad and Char for all your support through the years.

-Coulee Classic







# CONTEST CORNER

with JAMES ESTES - DVP for Contest & Judging

What a summer it has been so far! First, a huge congratulations and thank you to our Land O' Lakes district representatives at the International Contests in Louisville, Kentucky! Both choruses from the Greendale, WI chapter (Midwest Vocal Express and Forward Harmony) did an awesome job in an increasingly competitive contest, and Coulee Classic had their highest score ever in the quartet contest, exceeding an 80% average (80.5) for the first time!

Second, a reminder for anyone interested in submitting an application for consideration in the BHS Contest & Judging program, applications with letters of recommendations are due December 15, 2023 to [dir-cj@loldistrict.org](mailto:dir-cj@loldistrict.org). This application window is only open once every three years, so if you feel you are ready to apply, send that application in! See my previous PitchPiper article for more details, and if you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [dir-cj@loldistrict.org](mailto:dir-cj@loldistrict.org)

Finally, we are NOW accepting entries for the Fall District Quartet/Chorus Contest and Festival in Bloomington!! Head over to <https://loldistrict.org/2023-fall-convention> for the entry link. Make sure to purchase your registration to the Fall Convention, as that is a BHS and District requirement to compete. In addition, make sure your BHS and District dues are current/paid as of October 13, 2023 so that your group (chorus or quartet) is not disqualified. Entries are due September 13, 2023 at 11:59pm, so be sure to get your entry in soon!

If you have not been to a Land O' Lakes convention in recent years, and are unsure if you want to compete (or you're sure you don't!), we encourage all of you – chorus and quartet – to walk across the same stage as the competitors, as part of the regular draw, singing for the same judges, but as a Festival participant. While your group will not be eligible for any awards, your scores do not appear on the scoresheets, and you still get to sing for the same, amazing Land O' Lakes district audience during our convention! In addition, you can have feedback sessions (formerly called "evaluations") with the judges, just like the competitors. It is a super fun and educational way to get in front of the best audience in barbershop and learn how your group can get even better afterwards in a low-to-no pressure, non-contest environment.

Give it a shot! I promise you you'll have a blast! Oh, and feedback sessions (evals) will be done before dinner on Saturday, so NO LATE NIGHTS worrying about your feedback session. You'll be free to party starting at the Saturday night dinner! Heckuva deal!

-James

Other notes from the editor:

- The email for Sep submissions to the Pitch Piper is [pitchpiper@loldistrict.org](mailto:pitchpiper@loldistrict.org)
- Reminder to choruses to send in your show posters!
- Reminder to quartets that ad space is available and affordable!
- Reminder to check out all the work that's gone into the website! [www.loldistrict.org](http://www.loldistrict.org)
- Also a special note of sponsorship to Matt Curtis and [www.choraltracks.com](http://www.choraltracks.com)



**Choral Tracks**  
Practice Made Simple



Land O' Lakes District Association of  
Chapters of SPEBSQSA Inc.  
110 7th Avenue North  
Nashville, TN 37203-3704



DATED MATERIAL ENCLOSED



# CHECKMATE

A Winning Combination of Music in the Barbershop Style!

Contact: Harry Hanson 2020 Grange Ave. Racine WI  
Phone: 262-498-0314 Email: [checkmatequartet96@gmail.com](mailto:checkmatequartet96@gmail.com)  
Facebook.com/CheckmateQuartet96




Jeff Paul  
Ken Ryan

# RANSOM NOTES

QUARTET

(701) 799-8665  
[ransomnotes@myyahoo.com](mailto:ransomnotes@myyahoo.com) Facebook: Ransom Notes Quartet

# CHORD SMASH!

Sam Sather, Erik Eliason, James Estes, Scott Perau

[info@chordsmash.com](mailto:info@chordsmash.com)  
715-461-0318

JAY TONY DAVID TOM

# VOCALITY

classic a cappella sound

[www.vocalityquartet.com](http://www.vocalityquartet.com) 651-206-2686

Allen  
Colin  
Matt  
Nate



# COULEE CLASSIC

715.498.1198  
[couleeclassicquartet.com](http://couleeclassicquartet.com)  
[couleeclassicquartet@gmail.com](mailto:couleeclassicquartet@gmail.com)  
Facebook: Coulee Classic quartet



LO'L Home Page on the  
Internet: <http://loldistrict.org>



LO'L has a Facebook Page at  
[www.facebook.com/LOLDistrictBHS/](http://www.facebook.com/LOLDistrictBHS/)



### Calendar

Please send show registrations to district secretary:

BOB BREY, Secretary  
Land O' Lakes District  
1411 S 31st Street  
Manitowoc, WI 54220  
[rbwrey1950@gmail.com](mailto:rbwrey1950@gmail.com)

2023



#### September

- 16 Faribault, MN - CHORD SMASH!
- 23 Minneapolis, MN - Coulee Classic
- 30 Stevens Point, WI - Coulee Classic, Chill Factor

#### October

- 7 West Allis, WI - Lake Shore Drive
- 7 Escanaba, MI - St. Croix Crossing
- 7 Amery, WI - Checkmate, Mixed Meter
- 13-14 Minneapolis, MN

#### Annual Convention

#### November

- 4 Lacrosse, WI - Journeymen chorus at Cappella PAC, feat. Mixed Company and Coulee Classic

#### December

- 2 St. Croix Valley
- 9 Manitowoc
- 16 Greendale

2024

#### January

- 5-6 Leadership Training Academy, UW-River Falls

#### February

- 17 Harmony College Midwest, Bloomington, IL - Midtown

#### May

- 3-5 Northern Pines Harmony Brigade/ADC Spring Sing
- 18 Wisconsin Youth Quartet Festival, Stevens Point, WI

