

The Pitch Piper

74 YEARS OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY

OVER 714,089 SQUARE MILES

Volume 74, Number 2

A Bulletin for Barbershoppers in the LO'L District

March – April 2022

“ROAR BACK - Even Louder!” at the Fall District Convention



Submitted by Arv Zenk, District Events Director

Let's plan to Roar Back – Even Louder at the 2022 Fall District Convention. We had a great time at our convention last fall and we will again meet at the MSP Airport Hilton Hotel in the Twin Cities October 13–15. Once again, we plan to have an expanded schedule of fun-filled events and activities. The pandemic helped us focus on the importance of singing together and we will do everything we can to help bring our barbershop friends even closer together with memorable events, gatherings, and just plain fun. Join us as we plan to Roar Back – Even Louder in 2022!



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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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Great to See So Many Chapters Hosting Their Annual Shows

Submitted by Jay Althof - LOL District President



As we move into Spring, it is great to see so many chapters hosting their annual shows. I know everyone; audiences, members and quartets, are excited to be able to perform and hear live barbershop music again!

And, we continue to have many positive activities, in addition to shows, happening all across our District.

The Northern Pines Harmony Brigade is scheduled for May 6-8 at the Crown Plaza hotel in Plymouth, MN. This will be a fun event and they have the Newfangled Four quartet lined up to participate this year. More information is available at: www.NPHG.org

Harmony University is being held July 24-31 at the Loyola University campus in New Orleans. Together, the District and Association of District Champs (ADC) combined resources to provide ten chapter Directors and Leaders grants of \$1,000 each to cover tuition to this fantastic educational opportunity. We are confident those individuals will return with new knowledge and

enthusiasm to help their chapters become even more successful. And I know they will be willing to share those learnings with other chapters as well. A special thank you to the ADC for their very generous contribution to this effort.

On October 13-15 we will have our Fall Convention at the Minneapolis Airport Hilton hotel. The event kicks off with the Harmony Platoon on Thursday evening and then starting Friday we will have coaching sessions, youth groups, our contests, Fun Squad activities and hospitality rooms. On Saturday evening we'll once again have our Showcase banquet and show. This year we are very fortunate to have Main Street Quartet, our 2017 International Champion, with us for the weekend to provide coaching, sing tags with us and headline our Showcase extravaganza! Many people are already hard at work to make this convention our best yet. We plan to Roar Back – Even Louder!

Just a reminder that we have initiated the Joe Liles Life-time Achievement Award for our District. If you know of someone who has made a positive impact on our District over many, many years please submit your nomination to me (President@LOLDistrict.org) and I'll send it to our evaluation committee for consideration.

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2022 "Roar Back"

... Continued from cover

Northern Pines Harmony Platoon

Northern Pines Harmony Brigade (NPHB) will again be sponsoring a Harmony Platoon-like function. The Platoon is a great opportunity for quartet enthusiasts to 'wet their whistle' on the fun of 'full throttle' quartet singing with guys from all over the District. This is a prelude to the full LOL Convention, starting late Thursday afternoon and into the evening with a fun Random Draw contest open to the public. If you are interested in the Harmony Platoon contact Dave Speidel for more details – a great pre-convention activity for everyone to enjoy!

Quartet Clinic

The quartet clinic was a first last year and we will again host the clinic at no additional charge for any quartet registered for the convention. You will be provided some great feedback from top quality coaches and perform on the non-competitive stage program. If you're in a quartet, prepare a couple of songs and get over an hour of coaching from the best. Whether you're a skilled quartet who has sung for years or just a pickup quartet who sings Valentines you will enjoy this clinic. Sign up early since we may have limited availability.

Quartet Contest and Festival

We will again be hosting a combined district quartet contest and festival. All quartets must register for one or more of the several contests/ festival performances. Your quartet may be evaluated as a male quartet, female quartet, or mixed quartet competing for a number of awards from Novice Quartet to District Champion, as well as, the opportunity to qualify for the International Competition. But, if you don't want to compete and have your score recorded, you may sign up for the festival and just get an evaluation.

Chorus Contest and Festival

We will again host the combined chorus contest and festival. Your chorus may compete as usual or any chorus that does not wish to compete may get on stage and sing for us. Festival choruses will sing a

couple of their best songs and get an evaluation without a published score. Coaching and evaluations by the judges is provided to all choruses and is designed to improve chorus performance. We encourage all choruses to come and enjoy singing with us this year!

All-Chapter Chorus

Some of us don't get the chance to sing on the risers with 100+ singers, but if you want that experience you can do it this weekend. Just sign up, in advance, with Steve Zorn who will send you the music and learning tracks. You must memorize the two songs and then you will practice with chorus members from throughout the District. This will be the fifth year for the All-Chapter Chorus which performs at the Showcase Dinner. If you've never sung with the All-Chapter Chorus, you really need to take advantage of this wonderful experience.

Showcase Dinner and Show

The Showcase Dinner and Show was a huge success and we plan to host another fantastic event to wrap up the weekend. We plan to have another top quality quartet join as our guests along with special performances by our own outstanding quartets. The Showcase Dinner was something new in 2021 and it proved to be a great time for us to meet fellow barbershoppers over a wonderful dinner and enjoy an evening of top notch entertainment. Make sure you register early for this event!

Fun Squad

The Fun Squad was all new in 2021 and became the focus of many Roar Back activities throughout the weekend. The Tagatorium, quartet games, gang singing in the halls and even a class on tags filled every nook and cranny at the Hilton. Steve Grady and his team will again be there to get everyone singing at the Convention. We ask that you get involved with the Fun Squad and volunteer to help plan events and become a part of the Fun Squad. Come to the convention and have some fun with everyone!

Youth

Burlington High School provided a whole

new dimension to our 2021 convention with their involvement in contests, performances, and tag singing in the hallways. We now have a good idea of what it takes to successfully sponsor youth activities at the convention and we look forward to doing it again this year. The enthusiasm of the youth was something so fresh and their performances brought down the house. We really want to make the 2022 Convention another memorable event for our youth – and for everyone who attends.

Registration

The LOL website will have everything you need to register for the convention. You will be able to register for the convention, reserve your room, and have all the information you need to register for the other activities. If you choose to register by mail, there is also an order form on the website.

Come to the 2022 Convention and Roar Back – Even Louder! Take advantage of the many activities designed to inspire every member of your chapter. Chorus/Quartet Festivals, Quartet Coaching, All-District Chorus, Harmony Platoon, Tagatorium, Polecat Dance Cards, Youth Quartets, Hospitality Events, and the Showcase Dinner/Program are all planned for you and your guests to have some great fun. The MSP Hilton is a good spot for us with all rooms priced at just \$95/night, plus tax. We have a ballroom that's just the right size and we have some great space to get together, sing tags, and enjoy each other's company. Bring a new member or a potential new member so they can experience this wonderful hobby we call barbershop.

You're gonna have a great time as we Roar Back – Even Louder! See you at the Hilton!

Arv Zenk – District Events Director

P.S. Registration details, schedule, and much more information will soon be available on the LOL website and more information is coming in the next Pitch Piper.



Great To See...

... Continued from page 2

As we continue through the year, your District Leaders are reaching out to the Chapters to better understand how everyone is doing and look for ways that the District or Harmony Hall can better support the Chapters. We fully recognize that our primary Barbershop experience happens at the local level. And we want that experience to be the best it can be, for everyone!

I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the year. Until then, keep singing and continue to enjoy this wonderful hobby.



Hello LO'L'ers

Submitted by Bob Brey, Secretary

I'm very happy to hear that many of you have returned to singing with your best buddies! I have been receiving requests for show clearances being held this spring.

Check the calendar on the LOL website or back page of this issue of the Pitchpiper. A reminder for chapter secretaries that the easiest way to initiate a show clearance request is to download the fillable pdf from Society's website. Save to your desktop and complete the form. Remember that the form asks for the chapter name and number, not the chorus's name. Email the completed form to me and follow up by having the treasurer send a check for the fees.

Shortly you will receive a link from Jay Althof for the updated online version of the District Directory. Remember to continue to send any changes in chapter name, location of rehearsals, officer changes and other things listed in the directory to me for quarterly updates.

Remember that it is an officer from the chapter's duties to update chapter information on Society's website in the Member's Only section. Each chapter individual should update changes in personal information for themselves. Anyone needing help on an issue should contact me and I will try to assist you or get the information needed

Barberpole Cat Certification Times Four

Submitted by Steve Plocher

Many of you know that the original Barberpole Cat book has a certification program where you can demonstrate that you know all twelve of the polecat songs for a particular voice part. Many barber shoppers have completed that certification for their voice part over the years. Cliff Turnbull recently took that process three steps further when he was certified for all four voice parts for the twelve songs. Very few barber shoppers have achieved that milestone. Cliff reports that learning all four parts has helped him sing lead better. And at the recent district convention, he had the advantage of being able to join many more informal quartets in the halls, because he knows all the voice parts.

This fall I had the honor of presenting Cliff with the four Barberpole Cat certificates at a Croix Chordsmen rehearsal. During the presentation, I noted that Cliff was one of my barbershop heroes. I admire him for this Polecat achievement, but I also greatly appreciate all the learning tracks that he has created for the Chordsmen over the years. I rely heavily on these learning tracks to learn my bari part. Cliff also sings lead in the "Summertime" quartet. They have great harmonies and sing songs ranging from serious spirituals to comic performances.

Cliff joined the Croix Chordsmen in 2001. In 2007 he was awarded the Barbershopper of the Year award. In 2010 he received the Swede Olson Award for his "sustained, longtime contribution to the St. Croix Valley Chapter". In 2013 he received the George Everitt Award for "bringing order out of chaos". Finally, in 2021 he received the Chordsmen award for his "outstanding level of participation in the chorus during the year". Thank you, Cliff, for all that you have done for the Croix Chordsmen.

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dan@prettygoodquartet.com
715-495-4523





A Tale of Two Contests

Submitted by Peter Maddeaux

As your new Director of Contest and Judging, I thought it would be helpful to share some of the specific elements of our Fall Contests...some that have caused confusion.

Some history and definition:

A District contest is comprised of three Sessions: The Quartet Semi-Finals, the Chorus Finals and the Quartet Finals

In the Quartet Semi-Finals and the Chorus Final Session, there is a multitude of subsessions (contests) ongoing at the same time.

As an example;

A Quartet may enter to compete for all or more than the following contests:

- The District championship;
- A Gender-Related quartet contest (Men's, Women's, Mixed);
- A Regional Championship (1 of the 3 Regions);
- The District Novice quartet championship;
- The District Seniors quartet Championship;
- The International Prelims to qualify for the next International contest:

In LOL, there are up to 14 contests ongoing at a time. All but the District Championship and the International Prelims are single round contests.

Choruses may compete for all or more than the following:

- The District Championship;
- The Regional Championship (1 of the 3 Regions)
- The District Most Improved Chorus (MIC);
- The Regional MIC contests (1 of 3 Regions);
- A Gender-related Chorus Championship (Men's, Women's or Mixed Chorus championship);
- A District Plateau championship (A, AA, AAA-based upon the number of men in the chorus as of 12/31 of the previous year);
- and
- The International Prelims to qualify for the next International contest.

In LOL, there are up to 15 contests going on at a time. All chorus contests are single round contests.

Chorus Contests: District Contest vs. Int'l Prelims

One area of our contest that sometimes causes confusion is the difference between winning the District Championship contest and qualifying for the International stage through the Preliminary Qualifying contest. Choruses can compete in both at the same time and both are adjudicated simultaneously during the contest.

Stated simply, The District Contest and the International Preliminaries are **two completely different contests**:

1. One to determine the District Championship; and
2. One to decide which chorus(es) will represent the District on the International stage the following July.

On most occasions, the chorus that scores the highest wins the District Championship and automatically represents the District at

the International Contest. However, this is where the confusion begins. The Society's Contest Rules state this is the case, **but there is a credentialing stipulation**. The winning chorus must "meet or exceed" the 'minimum score' to be eligible to perform at International. There is confusion here also; to be explained below.

There are 2 scoring levels that have an impact on eligibility for the International Chorus contest. A "Target Score" (automatic eligibility, regardless of District placement) of 81% and a "Minimum Score" of 74%. During the pandemic, the Society Contest and Judging Committee (SCJC) has temporarily lowered the Target Score to 78 to accommodate the lack of rehearsals, etc.

If any chorus's score "meets or exceeds" the "Target Score" of 81% (78%), they are automatically eligible for the International contest, whether they win the District contest or not. The "Target Score" for automatic eligibility is a recent credential (within the last 5-10 years). However, as far as anyone can remember, there has always been a "Minimum Score". Meaning, any chorus scoring under this level will not be invited to the International stage (regardless of District placement). In other words, if the highest scoring chorus in the contest (ie., the District Champion) does not meet the target score, but meets the "minimum score" of 74, they are the District Champion and are eligible for the International stage. If they **do not** "meet or exceed" the 74 level, they **will not** be eligible to compete on the International stage regardless of being the District Champion. The only deviation from this is in the event that fewer than the minimum number of Society Choruses qualify by the methods described above. The minimum number is 27 choruses.

This past contest season was an anomaly. Due to the pandemic over the past 2 years, most of the contests for all Districts were cancelled. The SCJC ruled that the scores of the 2019 contests could be used to qualify for the 2022 International competition. During the 2019 contest, two of our choruses met or exceeded the lowered Target Score and are automatically eligible (GNU-84.8% and Greendale-80.9%). Reference: BHS Rules, C&J Handbook, Article II.F.1.b and Art II.F.1.e.

2022 Minnesota Twins Singout Submitted by Ken Slinde

Mark your calendars for the return of this summer event. The date in 2022 will be August 28th on a Sunday and call time will be just before noon so we can properly rehearse and prepare. We will be singing the society versions of the National Anthem, God Bless America and Take Me Out to the Ballgame.
Ticket price: \$32/ticket

Any questions contact Ken Slinde
at gunionbass@gmail.com





Good News!

Submitted by Jay Althof

Just wanted to share the good news that Main Street Quartet is set to join us at our Fall Convention to provide coaching and headline this year's showcase extravaganza. We were once again fortunate to have received very significant support from the AIC/HFI out-reach grant to help cover Main Street's fee and travel expenses (\$7,000 grant.) I know their participation will help us Roar Back - Even Louder in 2022!



New Central Park Stage To Honor Schmitt Brothers Quartet

Reprinted from article by Brandon Reid, Manitowoc Herald Times Reporter

A new stage to be built as part of the Central Park West 365 project in Two Rivers will be named in honor of the Schmitt Brothers. The famous quartet is known for putting the city on the map when they won the 1951 Barbershop Harmony Society title.

With performances routinely booked years in advance, the quartet sang together for 35 years, spreading harmony from all the major stages in the country as well as the Ed Sullivan, Arthur Godfrey and Lawrence Welk shows.



The Schmitt Brothers quartet posed with the SPEBSQSA trophy following their victory in 1951 (Back: Fran and Joe. Front: Jim and Paul) reprinted from Manitowoc Herald Times Reporter

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Any Future Judges Out There in LOL Land??

Submitted by Peter Maddeaux

The BHS judging program continues to change and rejuvenate every three years. Candidates are selected from all over the world and the process is a rewarding one. There are 4 classifications to consider: Administrative Judge, and the 3 scoring Judges; Music, Performance and Singing.

Administrative Judge:

The Contest Administrators are now renamed "Administrative Judges" (ADM): Duties encompass every aspect of the contest except adjudicating a contestant's performance.

The chief ADM (Panel Chairman) is completely in charge of the operation of the contest. No one can override the decisions of the Panel Chair (PC), whose authority must be used wisely to make the contest run smoothly for the contestants.

After the contest starts, the PC's primary duty is to run the contest and be in charge of all activities. The ADM must make the environment as fair and consistent as possible for all contestants.

Music:

The Music judge evaluates the song and arrangement, as performed. The judge adjudicates the musical elements in the performance: melody, harmony, range and tessitura, tempo and rhythm and meter, construction and form, and embellishments. The judge judges how well the musical elements of the performance establish a theme and the degree to which the performance demonstrates an artistic sensitivity to that theme. The judge adjudicates the degree to which the musical elements of the song and arrangement display the hallmarks of the barbershop style.

Performance:

The Performance judge evaluates how effectively a performer brings the song to life; that is, the believability of the theme in its musical and visual setting. The judge responds to both the vocal and visual aspects of the performance, but the judge principally evaluates the interaction of those aspects as they work together to create the image of the song. The judge adjudicates the quality and appropriateness of the overall effect. The Performance judge evaluates everything about the performance that contributes to emotional impact upon the audience.

Singing:

The Singing judge evaluates the degree to which the performer achieves artistic singing in the barbershop style. Artistic singing is accomplished through precise intonation, a high degree of vocal skill and appropriate vocal expression, and a high level of unity

and consistency within the ensemble. Mastering these elements creates a fullness and expansion of sound, and when combined with expressive vocal skills will convey a feeling of genuine emotion to support the message of the song.

Please consider the possibility of becoming 1 of the ~160 Judges in this Society of ~20,000 members. Please contact me...Now is the time.

Peter Maddeaux

Certified BHS Administrative Judge
LOL District Representative for Contest and Judging
dr-cj@loldistrict.org
651-210-7659

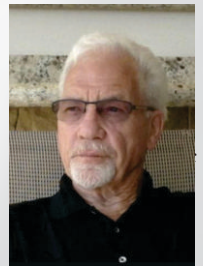


IN MEMORIAM

Submitted by Gord Moker

"Love is a friendship set to music" - Joseph Campbell

It is with heavy hearts that we've said our last goodbye to our dear friend and brother, Lynn Lowes. Lynn went into the hospital unexpectedly on or around January 3rd with complications from pneumonia and a stroke, and was unable to recover. Through the magic technology (Zoom) our members said our last goodbye to Lynn and few nights ago. It was a tough night but each of us felt privileged and grateful that we had the opportunity. We closed our conversation with Lynn with "From the First Hello to the Last Goodbye" by OC Times. It was a beautiful send off.



Of all our members, there is no doubt that Lynn was most instrumental in making a difference to our Chorus, its members, and the surrounding community(s) through his contributions to this 'thing we call Barbershop', over his 53+ years, as a member. There's a hole in hearts right now and there will be an empty spot on the risers, but we all know that Lynn will be with us in spirit, through every performance, meeting, and rehearsal to come.




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LO'L Home Page on the
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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- 30 Manitowoc County, WI
Kordal Kombat
- 30 Mankato, MN
- 30 Oshkosh, WI

- May
- 14 St. Croix Valley, MN
 - 14 Minneapolis, MN
 - 14 Winnipeg, MB

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



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

- 2022
- April
- 9 Willmar, MN
 - 23 Appleton, WI
Tenacious
 - 23 Dunn County, WI
 - 24 Appleton, WI
 - 24 Greater St. Paul Area, MN
 - 29-30 Fergus Falls, MN

- 2023
- February
- 7-12 Daytona Beach, FL
Midwinter Convention