

The Pitch Piper

75 YEARS OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY

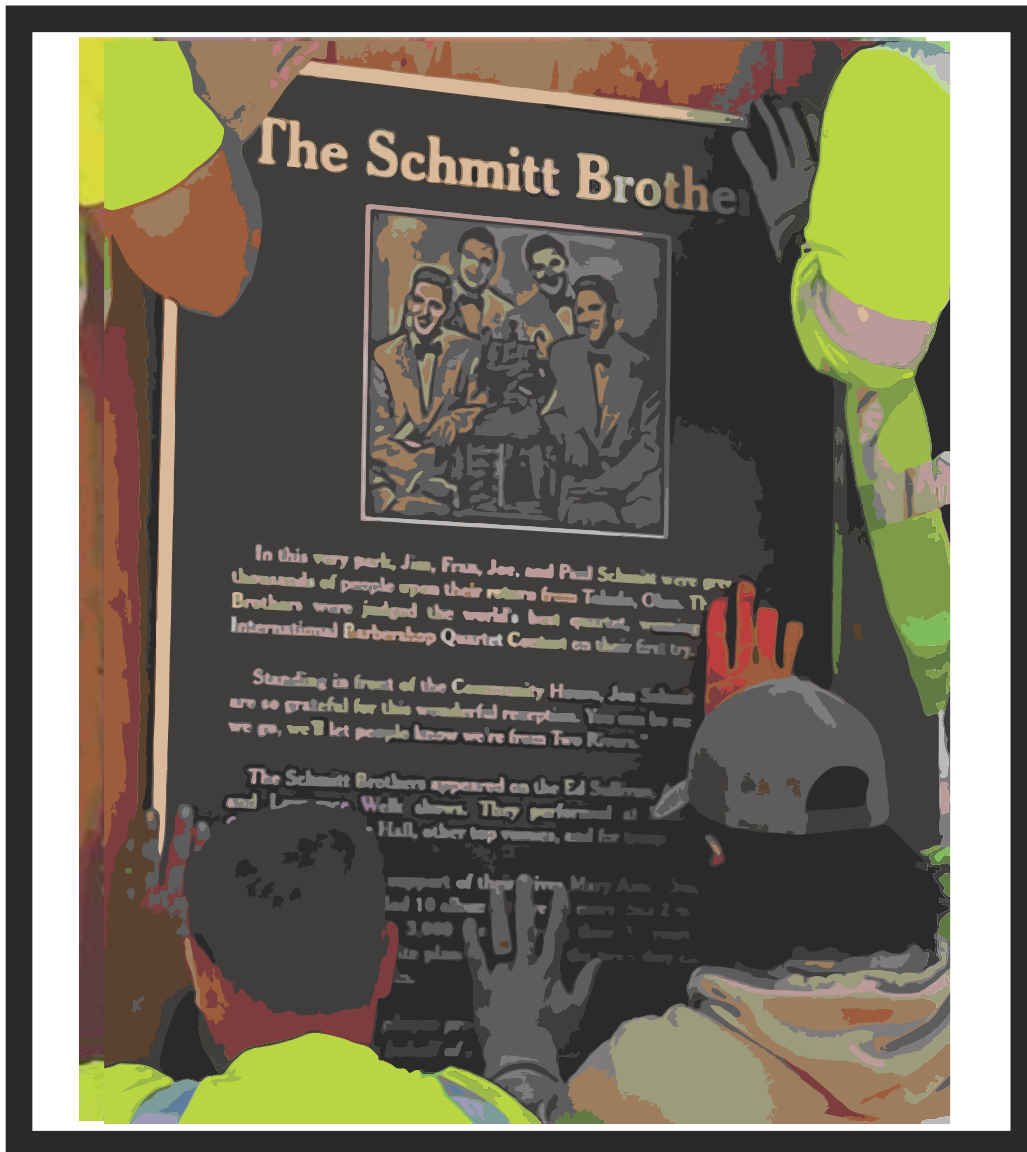
OVER 714,089 SQUARE MILES

Volume 75, Number 3

A Bulletin for Barbershoppers in the LO'L District

May - June 2023

SCHMITT BROTHERS STAGE DEDICATION



TWO RIVERS, WI

JULY 15, 2023

(also district registrations in this issue!)



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.

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President's Message

Submitted by Jay Althof - LO'L District President



Hello LO'L Members! We continue to have lots of positive things happening across our District. Following is a list of just some of the fun activities. I hope you all have a great summer!

- The Northern Pines Harmony Brigade was held on May 5-7th and was a great success.
- The Wisconsin Youth Festival, held in Stevens Point on May 20th, was also very successful. 17 youth quartets competed and the caliber of their singing continues to improve.
- We announced Penny Yanke as the winner of our Golden Chord Award which recognizes outstanding leadership of music educators who promote Barbershop Harmony. Penny is a music director at Burlington High School in Wisconsin. In addition to the recognition, her school receives \$500 from the District to help continue the fine work she is doing.
- Many of our chapters participated in Memorial Day services across the District. This is another great example of community outreach.

- Our District-Chapter Liaison Program continues to be successful. We held our 2nd quarter update meeting on May 27th. 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.
- Year-to-Date, our District Grant Program has provided over \$20,000 to many chapters. The District Quartet Subsidy Grants have been particularly effective. Not only does that financial support help chapters contract strong performing District Quartets, it also helps the District Quartets have opportunities to share their music with more audiences.
- Our District finances continue to be very solid. Year-to-date we have maintained a break-even revenue-cost balance, even with the special grant program disbursements.
- The International Convention will be held the week of July 2nd in Louisville. Coulee Classic quartet and the Midwest Vocal Express and Forward Harmony choruses will represent our District at the contests. I know we wish them the best of luck and hope they have a lot of fun as well.
- Coming up on July 15th,

...Continued on page 5



See the Greatest Barbershop Show at Schmitt Brothers Stage Dedication on July 15

Bill Schmitt

July 15, 2023, will be an incredible day for Barbershop Harmony in Wisconsin! A new stage is taking shape in Two Rivers City Park. The iron structure stands tall. Wooden slats cover the curved roof. And artists are preparing the bronze plaques that will tell the story of its namesake The International Champion Schmitt Brothers quartet. In this very park, the city of Two Rivers welcomed their hometown heroes after they won the 1951 International SPEBSQSA Championship on the first try. For the past year, the city has been working with the extended Schmitt family to build a lasting memorial to honor the four brothers that put Two Rivers on the map.

At 1 p.m., the stage will be formally dedicated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony by officials and family members.

At 2 p.m. the first performances begin! What better way to christen the venue than with a great barbershop show?

The line up for the three-hour show presents the **Clipper City Chordsmen** (from the Schmitt Brothers' home chapter in Manitowoc), **Vintage Mix** Quartet (the only two-time winner of the Schmitt Brothers Trophy), **Fox Valleyaires Chorus** from Appleton, 2023 International Junior Champion **YTBN** quartet, the **Capitol Chordsmen Chorus** from Madison, 2021 District Champion **Coulee Classic** Quartet, 2022 District Champion **Forward Harmony Chorus** from Greendale/Oconomowoc, the **Winnebagoland Chorus** from Oshkosh, District Champion **Checkmate** Quartet, **HHT A-Capella Chorus** from Plymouth, 2023 District and 2018 Senior Champion **St. Croix Crossing** Quartet, **Northern Gateway Chorus** from Stevens Point, and multi-year District Champion **Midwest Vocal Express** from Greendale.

In addition, the 1975 International Champion **HAPPINESS EMPORIUM** Quartet from Minneapolis (who performed many times with the Schmitt Brothers and fellow international champions from the Land O'Lakes District) will take the stage.

During the event, civic organizations will sponsor **food stands**. A local brewery will offer a **special edition brew** for the occasion. And, of course, the museum will serve **ice cream sundaes** since Two Rivers invented the sweet dairy treat. Don't miss your opportunity to sit in a convertible to have your photo taken with the Schmitt Brothers!

The show will be followed by an afterglow beginning at 7 p.m. at the J. E. Hamilton Community House, across the street from the park.

This is an event for the history books. We'd like to fill the park with as many barbershoppers as possible. Make your plans today to attend this extraordinary harmonious event!



RE-VISITING THE FOUR TEENS

BY BOB DYKSTRA

I read with interest Bill Schmitt's invitation in the March/April Pitch Piper to the July 15 dedication of the new Schmitt Brothers Stage in the Two Rivers, Wisconsin City Park. The entire day's festivities highlighted by a fantastic Barbershop concert sound like a great way to spend a summer day. And behind all of this, celebrants will have the satisfaction of realizing they are honoring one of our district's truly legendary quartets. (As an aside I was thrilled to share the quartet stage many times with the Schmitts during the first couple of decades of my 71-year involvement in Barbershoppingbut thankfully the Hut Four and I never had to follow their show performance).

As I read the invitation I was struck once again, however, by the tendency we have in the Land O'Lakes District to ignore the career and contributions of another of our International gold medalist quartets, the Four Teens. In my view the Four Teens deserve similar mention and adulation as the Schmitt Brothers and Happiness Emporium, as International Gold Medalist Quartets from our district...they were an LOL quartet from Eau Claire who happened to be stationed in the Central States District when they won the gold medal while serving our country. I'm happy to share them with the Central States District, but they're still one (or four) of us. Our district's powers-that-be appear to agree. (Hey.....I made a rhyme!). The Land O'Lakes District Web Page provides equal billing to all three superior quartets. Now it's time for old-timers like me who actually shared the stage with the Teens to tell their story to today's Barbershoppers, many of whom know little about them. Their story is one of a meteoric rise to Barbershopping prominence and is certainly worthy of retelling.

I met the Four Teens for the first time while I was singing with the Hut Four at Fort Riley, Kansas in either 1953 or 1954. Both quartets performed on the Abilene, Kansas show. We were just beginning our quartet career; the Four Teens were already International Champions. I'm sure we were overwhelmed. (I had a few recent phone conversations with Don Lamont, the bari of the Teens, who told me about this meeting, for which he still has the show program. Moreover, my account herein of the Teens' rise to Fame is based not only on my research, but on Don's sharp-as-a-tack memory. Any errors, I'm sure, are mine).

So here we go. In September 1949 John Steinmetz, Jim Chinnock, Don Lamont, and Gene Rehberg, a fledgling quartet, and their friend Mike Egan all became charter members of the Eau Claire Barbershop Chapter. A few months later that same quartet made their first appearance as the Four Teens on the new chapter's first Parade of Quartets. Less than a year later, in May 1950, the Teens competed for the first time at the LOL Regional Quartet Contest in Appleton, Wisconsin. Interestingly, the Schmitt Brothers competed in the same contest. It was their first official competition as well.

The quartet's next major move was to join the Air Force in January 1951. All four quartet members plus again friend, Mike Egan, enlisted with the hope, but not expectation, of being able to stay together in the service. I should add, however, that the Teens worked hard at their craft prior to leaving Eau Claire. An article in the June 1954 Harmonizer quotes a former Eau Claire Junior High School teacher, Roy Preston, who kept detailed notes of the Teens' activities "From the time the quartet organized until they joined the Air Force, they sang before 265 audiences. For most of the performances they received no compensation or travel expenses. More than anything else the quartet had a consuming desire to learn all the techniques of Barbershop quartetting." It sounds like they enjoyed performing as well. Once the Four Teens were in the Air Force assigned to Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, they progressed rapidly in their chosen hobby, but encountered early on what appeared at first to be a major obstacle. Bass Gene Rehberg was honorably discharged for medical reasons. Fortunately, the Teens quickly found an excellent replacement on bass, Don Cahall, a Barbershop bass from Cincinnati and the quartet

didn't miss a beat. They also came to the attention of Dr. Norman Rathert, a former president of the Barbershop Society, and Joe Wodicka, a Society veteran, who provided mentoring and coaching to the talented but "raw" young foursome. On October 21, 1951 they entered their second contest as a quartet, the Central States District Quartet Championship at Great Bend, Kansas, which they won. They were on their way.

In early 1952 the young quartet entered their third competition, the Central States Regional contest in St. Louis, where they qualified to compete in the 1952 International Quartet Contest in Kansas City. They completed their rapid rise to fame and fortune(?) by winning the gold medal!! To review, The Four Teens joined SPEBSQSA in September 1949 as charter members of the newly-organized Eau Claire chapter. Less than three years and only three contests later they joined the elite group of SPEBSQSA International Quartet Champions. You want a comparison? The Hut Four Quartet with whom I sang lead for nearly twenty years earned during that period a district championship and ten appearances at the International contest, the best of which led to an eleventh place finish. To obtain those results, we competed in 28 District, Regional, and International contests. Quite a difference!

Let's examine a bit more of the Four Teens phenomenal gold medal performance. They matched their predecessor, the Schmitt Brothers, in winning gold in their first appearance on the International Contest stage. Think about that! Two young quartets, both from the Land O'Lakes District, both from Wisconsin, coming out of nowhere to win back to back gold medals in SPEBSQSA International Quartet competition. Then too, at ages 19 (lead Jim Chinnock) and 20 (Tenor John Steinmetz, bari Don Lamont, and bass Don Cahall) the Four Teens became the youngest foursome to earn the gold medal. They also continued the dominance of Wisconsin quartets in LOL District competition.

Following their Gold Medal conquest in June 1952, they kept busy singing. There was a huge demand for their appearance on Barbershop shows so representatives of the Air Force and SPEBSQSA worked out an agreement by which the Teens could perform. Remember Mike Egan, who helped to charter the Eau Claire Chapter and who joined the Four Teens in enlisting in the Air Force? He now served his quartet buddies as their "agent" in booking quartet gigs all over the country.

The Four Teens also became active in the Air Force's "Tops in Blue" when it came upon the scene in 1953. "Tops in Blue" was created as the "Air Force's premier entertainment show-case for the entire family." It was designed to offer the best in music, dance, and comedy, all performed by men and women in blue. All members of the cast were selected by competitive auditions. The Four Teens' successful audition to provide the best in four-part harmony for audiences of "Tops in Blue" resulted in their spending many months away from their home base. They traveled more than 50,000 miles in 1953 and 1954 bringing "Tops in Blue" to military posts all over the world. Think of how many men and women they introduced to our wonderful hobby.

The Four Teens completed their military service in 1955. Don Lamont went home to Eau Claire to complete his teaching degree, the other three continued a career in "show business" for a time, replacing Don and entertaining under the name of The Classmen. Their meteoric rise to a SPEBSQSA International Gold Medal and their subsequent introduction of Barbershop harmony to tens of thousands through their involvement in "Tops in Blue" were unique, impressive, and noteworthy. Hail to the Four Teens, 1952 International Quartet Champions from the Land O'Lakes District!

-Bob Dykstra



President's Message (cont.)

Submitted by Jay Althof - LO'L District President

· Coming up on July 15th, there will be the dedication of the Schmitt Brothers Stage in Two Rivers, WI. This will be an amazing event with several quartets performing. Everyone is invited!

· Planning for our Fall Convention at the



Minneapolis Airport Hilton is well underway. Building off of very positive feedback from our last couple of conventions at the Hilton, we used the post-convention survey results to address some of the issues that

highlighted things we can improve. Our Barbershop Family Reunion on October 13th and 14th will be better than ever. See the details in this edition of the PitchPiper and get registered for this fun event!

Jay Althof, LO'L District President

unlabeled editor's updates
deadline for submissions for the July-August issue is July 22.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

RIP boiling water, you will be mist.



WANTED

VIDEO FOOTAGE OF PAST QUARTETS AND CHORUSES

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Nate, pitchpiper@loldistrict.org

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Promote our hobby whenever possible. I have two cars and here are the license plates. They are both great attention-getters and conversation pieces. I always need to explain the SINGBS plate and that is “sing bass” or “sing barbershop” and not...the other. -Larry

WANTED

VIDEO FOOTAGE OF PAST QUARTETS AND CHORUSES

Old contests, shows, afterglows, ANYTHING

ANY FORMAT

contact Justin McCullough, jumccull@gmail.com or

Nate, pitchpiper@loldistrict.org

If you or anyone you know would like to receive the Pitch Piper in good old-fashioned print form, contact anyone in district leadership or email

pitchpiper@loldistrict.org



“A Barbershop Family Reunion” – Come Join the Fun!

LOL Convention Web Page – If you haven't done so already, check out the updated LOL Website – 2023 Fall Convention page [2023 Fall Convention \(Ioldistrict.org\)](http://2023FallConvention(Ioldistrict.org)). This will be the single best place for you to get all of the information that you need to prepare for your Family Reunion weekend.

1. You can register for everything – for yourself or your group.
2. Register for the convention using your credit card or mail in the form.
3. Make hotel reservations at the Hilton Headquarters Hotel for just \$104/night!
4. Register for the All-Chapter Chorus
5. Register for the free quartet clinic.

It's all right there along with a schedule for the weekend and much more. I recommend that you register for the convention and get a room as soon as possible and become familiar with what's on the webpage. It is the place where you will find the latest updates to the schedule and we will provide a link for you to register your quartet or chorus in Barberscore when it opens this summer.

Contests – While getting together and having fun is the cornerstone of our weekend, we will have male, mixed, and female competitors crossing the stage to be evaluated in the contest sessions. District awards for top performance will be presented in each category and overall winners will be awarded. And, those competitors with the best qualifying scores will be identified for International competition. It's time to begin preparing for contest and watch for reminders to register in Barberscore.

Festivals – For choruses and quartets that want to be evaluated, get a critique of their performance, but do not want a published score, we are again offering the festival option. Many choruses and quartets have entered the new festival option and discovered the thrill of singing before an energetic barbershop audience. So, if you want to sing for a great audience and get some superb coaching, the festival is for you. Your chorus or quartet will be in the program along with all others crossing the stage and we will enjoy your performance. Just register for the “festival” in Barberscore.

Quartet Clinics/Youth – Mike Lietke, District Executive VP, will again be working with members of the Association of District Champions (ADC) to provide coaching for all quartets on Friday. All chapter quartets and Next Gen quartets registered for the convention will be able to take advantage of this clinic at no additional cost. This year we will highlight the non-competitive performances of these quartets in a special show on Friday – right before the Quartet Semi-Finals competition.

Showcase and ADC Show – Our featured quartet for the weekend will be *Happiness Emporium* celebrating their Golden Anniversary as 1973 Land O' Lakes District Champions and 1975 International Champions. We are blessed with so many great quartets from our own Association of District Champions that we've decided to incorporate their performances into the Showcase program.

We will again host the Showcase dinner and the program will have expanded seating for those who only want to attend the program. But, seating will again be limited so make your reservation early. Watch the LOL Website in the coming weeks for registration details, dining options, schedules, and much more.

See you at the Hilton!
Arv Zenk LOL District VP of Events



**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 (<i>12 & under</i>) @	\$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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chicken	<input type="checkbox"/>

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



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	
2:00 - 3:30	House of Delegates Meeting	Riverside
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
6:30 - 9:00	Quartet Prelim Contest	Ballroom
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	
10:00 - 12:30	Chorus Contest	Ballroom
12:30 - 1:30	Lunch break	
1:30 - 3:30	Quartet Finals	Ballroom
3:30 - 3:45	Chorus and Quartet Contest Results	Ballroom
4:00 - 6:00	Chorus Evaluations	Meeting Rooms I-VIII
6:00 - 7:00	Quartet Evaluations	Judges Rooms
6:30 - 7:15	Dinner	Ballroom
7:15 - 9:00	Showcase	Ballroom
9:00 - 1:00	Open Bar - Afterglow/Hospitality	Meeting Rooms I-VIII

5/23/2023



CHORUS TEAM BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING

Ken Mettler, Central Region, VP, Land O' Lakes District

The Key to all Growth is always Good Leadership.

The most effective leader is a Team Builder. So, our first goal is to start by helping every member to see themselves as a Team Builder.

The Team Builder works to enable, build and preserve cohesiveness through shared purpose and meaningful cooperation. The Team Builder Leads most effectively from alongside.

- By unifying
- By relating
- By including
- By bonding
- By bringing people together
- By valuing everyone's contributions
- By esteeming team members
- By strengthening cohesion among team members
- By camaraderie building
- By using a shared process
- By being openhearted and truly caring about others

I am confident that your chapter will grow if you focus on family-building roles. If a "We Are A Family" lifestyle is not dominant among the members, there will be a loss in shared power and purpose in the chorus. The encouragement and building that dominate true community may be seen as secondary and often nonexistent because there is so much focus on the strategic tasks to be completed. In other words, the chorus will not be acting like a family: growing, building, and extending itself in enjoyable service. It will be living piecemeal, here and there. The whole group will not have the synergy of working cooperatively like a family. Often, 50 per-cent of the cells in an organism are unavailable because they are off doing their own thing, and the other 50 percent not certain that they want to live together with the other cells. Organizations or organisms do not work when the cells are not functioning together as a sharing, life-giving group. Team Builders are the powerful connectors who encourage unity among those cells. They are the powerful supporting muscles that hold the body together so that each part can do its work. The abilities Team Builders commonly possess can be one or more of the following:

- Compassionate Leading -orchestrating people and their gifts together into a common vision, direction, and role, releasing many to their specialized parts
- Active Listening -listen with total attentiveness and with your whole being
- Purposeful Unifying -if we don't hang together, it will be the death of us
- Individualized and Group Equipping -take time to build skills on every level
- Team Building -every member is a leader of something or someone.
- Team building lived out in tandem with other chorus-family-building roles provides a safe place for singers to grow together.
- Vision Sharing -without a shared vision, the chorus is dead before it starts
- Values Keeping -guarding the standards, focusing on quality
- Positive Encouraging -building up, inspiring, challenging

Let me reinforce the first paragraph: Our goal is to make every member of the chapter a Team Builder.

Thus, we are equipping them to become a leader in some aspect of barbershopping. The next step is to become a Value Keeper.

Where are you on your chorus' team? Your goal is to first, be an active Team Builder, and then become a Value Keeper.

APPLICATION STEPS

1. Team Builders and Values Keepers have huge role in a chorus and in the expanding of our membership. Be both a Team Builder and Value Keeper.
2. Spend time creating a chart of what the outward focus (growth aspects) functions and inward focus(unity/fit aspects) functions are for each.
3. Study the characteristics of each Team Builder and Values Keeper. Create a small chorus project. Then act out how each may approach the situation uniquely. Debrief the experience, understanding each participants' unique contributions.
4. Divide into groups of three or four. Take five minutes and create a plan to share barbershop invitations. Share with the group, and decide what you feel are the strongest. If you feel daring, take pictures or record them.
5. Reflect on the above "We Are A Family" team principles and concepts.

With appropriate transparency, share with the group which of these is most significant to you and why.

-Ken



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Penny Yanke

The Golden Chord Award Celebrating Barbershop Excellence

By Justin La, Chair, NextGen/YIH

The Land O Lakes District is proud to announce the inaugural year of the Golden Chord Award, a prestigious recognition that celebrates outstanding music educators who inspire and foster a love for barbershop-style singing. We are delighted to reveal that the recipient of this esteemed award for 2023 is the phenomenal Penny Yanke.

Penny Yanke, a dedicated choral music teacher at Burlington High School, has left an indelible mark on her students and the district through her unwavering commitment to barbershop harmony. She has been a true inspiration, continually demonstrating the highest standards of musical education and nurturing a deep passion for vocal harmony within her students.

The impact of Penny's dedication and innovative teaching methods can be seen through her chorus, "Here Come's Treble." This exceptional group has captivated audiences with their mesmerizing performances at the Midwinter Convention, receiving rave reviews each time they grace the stage. Furthermore, Penny's quartet, "YTBN," achieved an astonishing victory at the 2022 Midwinter Convention by winning the entire Junior Varsity contest. This remarkable achievement is a testament to Penny's exceptional mentorship and guidance.

In recognition of Penny's outstanding contributions and relentless pursuit of musical excellence, she was presented with a plaque and a \$500 check as part of the Golden Chord Award. On May 23, during her year-end spring music concert, a heartwarming surprise awaited Penny as Jim Rasmus, with great honor, presented her with the well-deserved plaque and check. The moment was made even more special as the talented quartet, YTBN, who had recently claimed first place at the Wisconsin Youth Harmony Festival, took the stage to acknowledge Penny's profound impact on their musical journey.

The Golden Chord Award serves as a testament to the Land O Lakes District's commitment to recognizing and honoring music educators who go above and beyond to instill a love for barbershop harmony. Penny Yanke's extraordinary achievements and dedication to her students make her an exemplary role model in our district.

As we celebrate the inaugural year of the Golden Chord Award and honor Penny Yanke as the deserving recipient, we are inspired to continue supporting and promoting the growth of barbershop-style singing throughout our district. This award serves as a reminder of the power of music education and the transformative influence it can have on the lives of students.

The Land O Lakes District extends its heartfelt congratulations to Penny Yanke for her exceptional contributions and expresses gratitude for her unwavering commitment to the world of barbershop harmony. May her inspiring journey continue to shape the future of music education in our district and beyond. -JUSTIN



River City Sound Welcomes our Newest Members

Gordon Billows—LOL Liaison Officer

(This is an update to my “Celebrating” article in the March-April Pitch Piper.)

Unlike many Chapters in our Barbershop Harmony Society, River City Sound Chapter has just installed 6 more new members. This will make 10 new members joining the Chapter in 2023, so far! All 10 auditioned and qualified to be on our very successful 75th Anniversary’s annual show, “Songs from Stage & Screen” on May 13th.

It has been just over 6 months since the 10 new members participated in our Fall “Learn to Sing Better” program, learnt several River City Sound chorus songs were performed on our Christmas show, and continued into the new year to prepare for our annual show in May. Most of the show songs were familiar to chorus members already and these new Barbershoppers had to work EXTRA, EXTRA HARD to learn the 10 songs for the annual show plus some other repertoire. They accepted the challenge and performed extremely well. Congratulations!

These few months have given the new members a great introduction to our “hobby”. They learnt many Barbershop songs, applied information from the weekly craft sessions, learnt tags and sang them in quartets, participated in section rehearsals, performed with the chorus at a few community events, participated in our LOL coaching session with Mark McLaurin, performed on our 75th Anniversary annual show and were thrilled to be entertained by a GOLD medal quartet—St Croix Crossing at River City Sound’s annual show!

Below is a picture from the River City Sound installation ceremony. Between Membership VP Rosanne Labossiere-Gee and Chapter President Rob Smith are Lynn Langdon, Carol Seburn, Brian Blakley, Heather Lumsden, Michael Broadfoot and Dean Jenkinson.

Welcome Barbershoppers!





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CONTEST CORNER

with JAMES ESTES - DVP for Contest & Judging

So You Want To Be A Judge?

Are you an experienced chorus and quartet competitor? Do you have a love for coaching quartets and choruses, regardless of their level?

Alternatively, do you have a knack for and interest in organization and project management? If so, this may finally be your year to apply to the Contest and Judging (C&J) program!

Starting at the beginning of this August and going through December 15, the window will be open for anyone wishing to apply to become a judge.

As a scoring judge in either the Music, Performance, or Singing categories, you have the opportunity to adjudicate and evaluate chorus and quartet competitors from all over North America (and beyond!), assist your fellow panel members in determining the contest rankings, as well as assist the competitors in improving their knowledge and skills in this amazing barbershop artform.

For the "organizationally-inclined", the C&J program also welcomes anyone to apply to the Administrative Judge category, who are the folks down front who do far more than simply tally the scores. The Administrative Judges are the people who make sure everything (and I mean everything) runs smoothly in the months leading up to, and during a contest weekend. This includes communication with judges and district leadership well in advance of the contest, setup and tear-down of the scoring system, making sure the contest stage conditions are consistent and fair for all competitors, scheduling and running of competitor evaluations, and much, MUCH more.

Successful applicants will be assessed and eventually selected to be invited to "Candidate School", after which they will undergo two years of training as judge candidates. Successful candidates receive an invitation to "Category School", after which you receive your full certification!

So what do you need to do to apply? The most important thing for you to do right now is to start identifying potential references and currently-certified judges who can speak/write on your behalf. Specifically, you will need five references (ideally from a variety of barbershoppers beyond just your own chapter) and two letters of recommendation from currently-certified judges in the category you are applying to.

Once you have identified and secured your references, you can find the application on page 19-1 (for Music, Performance, and Singing judges) and page 19-3 (for Administrative Judges) of the Barbershop Contest & Judging Handbook (https://files.barbershop.org/PDFs/Contests-Judging/CJ_Handbook.ver_14.2_Jul_2022.pdf).

The application, with your list of references and letters of recommendation must be emailed to dir-cj@loldistrict.org by December 15, 2023. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at dir-cj@loldistrict.org. I would love to discuss your interest in the C&J program, and guide you through the application process!

-James

Other notes from the editor

- The email for July 22 submissions to the Pitch Piper is 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
- Also a special note of sponsorship to Matt Curtis and www.choraltracks.com



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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

Please send show registrations to district secretary:

BOB BREY, Secretary
Land O' Lakes District
1411 S 31st Street
Manitowoc, WI 54220
rwbrey1950@gmail.com

2023



July
2-9 Louisville, KY - **International Convention**
15 Two Rivers, WI - SCHMITT BROTHERS STAGE
DEDICATION - Happiness Emporium, St. Croix Crossing,
Coulee Classic, YTBN, Checkmate, Vintage Mix
20 Slayton, MN - Kordal Kombat Front Porch series



August
5 White Bear Lake, MN - Vocality free concert on the
porch - Vocality, Spice
8 Lacrosse, WI - Harmony Under the Stars

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 -
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

May

3-5 Northern Pines Harmony Brigade/ADC Spring Sing

