

Historical Highlights

- 1943 We start with Racine (Chapter # 1)
- 1945 Wisconsin Association of Chapters formed at Milwaukee following meeting at Appleton. First District Quartet contest held at Milwaukee.
- 1946 First District Chorus contest of entire Society held at Oshkosh, WI
- 1947 Name of District changed to Land O'Lakes District Assn of Chapters and later enlarged to include MN and Upper Peninsula of MI. Int'l Convention held at Milwaukee. Milwaukee Chorus introduces Willis Diekema's "Keep America Singing".
- 1948 O.H.King Cole of Manitowoc and Sheboygan chapters elected International President. International Home Building Fund started with contribution by Sheboygan chapter. Manitoba added to LO'L Assn.
- 1949 Achievement Awards to chapters inaugurated. O.H.King Cole reelected Int'l President. First District Directory published.
- 1950 *Harmony News*, first district monthly publication of entire Society published with Hans Beyer as editor. North Dakota, Saskatchewan and counties of Kenora, Thunder Bay and Rainy River in Ontario added to L O'L.
- 1951 Schmitt Brothers crowned International Champs at Toledo. LO'L District Incorporated.
- 1952 Four Teens, members of Eau Claire chapter, while in military service crowned International Champs at Kansas City.
- 1953 John Z Means of Manitowoc chapter elected International President.
- 1954 Int'l Mid-Winter convention held in Minneapolis. LO'L largest district with 2669.
- 1955 Janesville, WI chorus crowned International Champs. LOL BOTY award inaugurated.
- 1956 International Convention held in Minneapolis.
- 1957 International Headquarters moves to Kenosha, WI.
- 1958 District reorganized into 5 regions, each supervised by a Vice President.
- 1959 Hans Beyer retires as Editor of *Harmony News* after 10 years. Floyd Olson takes over.
- 1960 Harmony train to Winnipeg for convention and contest. *Pitch Piper* new name for the District publication.
- 1961 District President Leo Fobart appointed associate editor of *Harmonizer*. Int'l Mid-winter Convention held in Milwaukee.
- 1962 Dan Waselchuk, Green Bay, elected First Vice President of Society and Calmer Browy of Madison is historian. Minneapolis Commodores Chorus wins fifth at Kansas City.
- 1963 Dan Waselchuk, Green Bay, elected International President. Hugh Ingraham, Winnipeg, appointed Society Public Relations Director.
- 1964 LO'L second in Society membership. Floyd Olson retires as editor of *Pitch Piper*. Les Gurr, Winnipeg, takes over as editor.
- 1965 New Int'l Champs, the Four Renegades, head Faculty at LOL Quartet Workshop at Stevens Point. Winnipeg logs 54,000 man-miles to attend Appleton Convention.
- 1966 Les Gurr, Winnipeg, retires as editor of *Pitch Piper*, Doug Huntington, Stevens Point takes over. First LO'L COTS held at Eau Claire. Harmony train to Grand Forks Convention.
- 1967 Fred Seegert, First Vice President Int'l Board. Frank Hermsen and Jay Austin elected Int'l Board members.
- 1968 Doug Huntington retires editor of *Pitch Piper*, Roger Sorenson, Grand Forks takes over.
- 1969 District reorganized into six Divisions, each supervised by a Vice President. Gay Nineties Quartet on U.S.O. tour.
- 1970 Hut-Four on second Far East U.S.O. Tour.
- 1971 Night Howls, Gemini Crickets & Gay 90's on Far East U.S.O. tour.

- 1972 LO'L membership reaches high of 3,223.
- 1973 Twin Cities area hosts first LO'L Logopedics Spectacular. (Minneapolis, St Paul, Bloomington, Minnetonka, St Croix Valley and Chisago Lakes involved).
- 1974 District Small Chapter Chorus added. Divisions receive names. Schmitt Brothers honored for 25 years of quarteting.
- 1975 Happiness Emporium Crowned International Champs at Indianapolis. Division numbers changed to names: Division One, Packerland, Southwest, 10,000 Lakes, Red Carpet and Northwest. 21 Area Counselors named.
- 1976 Sibley High School (W. St Paul) Young Men in Harmony cuts learning tapes for International. Minneapolis chapter represented in District Champion Quartet for 6th consecutive year.
- 1977 LO'L has 1st Mini-Harmony College at Bemidji. Jim Bennett, Madison, retires as editor of *Pitch Piper*. Dave Olson, Manitowoc, takes over as editor.
- 1978 Oshkosh, WI chapter wins Logopedics Award for 2nd year. Dave Olson, Manitowoc, is Int'l Bulletin Editor of the Year. Minneapolis Commodores place 5th in Int'l Chorus contest at Cincinnati.
- 1979 Twin Cities chapters host 42nd International Convention in Minneapolis. Minneapolis Commodores place 3rd in chorus contest.
- 1980 Minneapolis Commodores place 4th in Int'l Chorus contest in Salt Lake City.
- 1981 Seven new Chapters licensed and 5 Chapters chartered. Over 200 Quartets compete in Wisconsin Young Men in Harmony program. LO'L membership at 3,365.
- 1982 Dick Teeters, St Paul, is Int'l Bulletin Editor of the Year. Three new Chapters chartered. LO'L host to Societies largest COTS with 383 men. LO'L in 3rd place in Society with 3,458 members in 81 Chapters.
- 1983 Four Chapters chartered. Minneapolis Commodores represent LO'L in Chorus contest in Seattle, WA. LO'L membership reaches 3,511.
- 1984 First Comedy Quartet contest introduced at Appleton in May. Young Men in Harmony and COTS projects continue to be largest in the Society.
- 1985 Death of Joe Schmitt ends 35 years of the Schmitt Brothers Quartet. Minneapolis area chapters hosted 48th International Convention. Logopedics contributions reach \$47,221 or \$14.18 per man in District. LO'L now has 84 Chapters with 3,238 members.
- 1986 The Windom Chorus sang in 29 Churches on only 3 Sundays in June-July. Racine's Church Singers capped 17 years singing under Bob Gall's direction with 29 appearances in churches of 5 different denominations.
- 1987 Carmen Lane concludes a record 29 years as chorus director at Stevens Point. LO'L COTS outgrows its quarters and moves to Bloomington. Dick Teeters, St Paul, is Int'l Bulletin Editor of the Year.
- 1988 Twenty year Historian Harry Purinton finishes and publishes LO'L - "The Early Years" 1943-1980. LO'L Assn of Quartet Champions christened in Racine in October. LO'L Hall of Fame becomes reality at Fall Convention.
- 1989 Dick Teeters, St Paul, becomes 8th Editor of the *Pitch Piper*. Three new Plateaus used in Fall District scoring for chorus competition in St Paul. Jim Richards, Minneapolis elected as 46th International President, the 5th from LO'L to be so distinguished.
- 1990 Grandma's Beaus (Miller, Stump, Griffith & Richards) win Senior Int'l Quartet "Gold" at Mid-winter in Tucson. No LO'L BOTY named this year. Green Bay Fall Convention features 1st "Seniors Quartet Contest" and visit by Betty Cash, daughter of Society Co-founder O C Cash. Rock Valley Chapter formed. First Russian Quartet, The Silent Don, appears on "On To Fame" Show in June.
- 1991 Great Northern Union Chorus scores 3rd place finish in Louisville. Three LO'L Quartets

- finish in top 20. Twelve dollar Int'l dues increase somewhat controversial. ADC (Assn of District Quartet Champions) recognized as affiliate of the LO'L District at Fall Convention held in LaCrosse.
- 1992 Harold Ebel, 1988 District BOTY, dies in tragic house fire on Feb 1st. Little Falls Chapter receives charter at Spring Convention in LaCrosse. GNU's Chorus places 4th in New Orleans & LO'L's 4 Quartets collectively finish highest ever. LO'L membership declines to 2,471.
- 1993 LO'L is 50 years young and celebrates "Golden Anniversary" in Rochester in October with gala ADC Show & introduction of revitalized contest scoring system. Racines Dairy Statesmen reach same milestone of 50 years. Prelims held in Winnipeg and Albert Lea places 1st in Int'l Achievement Program out of 187 Chapters in Plateau 3. Popular Show Quartets Night Howls, Roadrunners and Happiness Emporium hang up the pitchpipe.
- 1994 Appleton, Green Bay, Milwaukee and Minneapolis Chapters observe 50th anniversaries. First "John Foster Friendship Award" presented to Dave Nyberg. District Achievement winners include: AAA Minneapolis, AA Rochester, A Thunder Bay.
- 1995 LO'L membership now at 2,422 but still 5th largest of 16 Districts. Midwest Vocal Express sweeps Chorus competition at 7th Buckeye Invitational. Top Gun program inaugurated, Hilltop 5th and Excalibur 10th at New Orleans. Oshkosh, Manitowoc, Madison and Kenosha Chapters observe 50th. Hancock, MI and Belle Plain, MN are newest licensed Chapters.
- 1996 Society reorganizes. Russ Seeley, Pioneer District, represents LO'L on Society Board. Are Counselor program replaced with Chapter Coaches. Chapter Officers revised. Wausau, Wisconsin Rapids celebrate 50 yrs. GNU 6th at Salt Lake City. Email net grows.
- 1997 Midwest Vocal Express again sweeps chorus honors at Buckeye Invitational. Four Clips, 1960 Champs, retire after 42 years. LaCrosse celebrates 50 yrs. GNU and Excalibur both place 7th at Indy. Lawrence University's *Free Fall* are College Quartet Champs. LO'Lers help Red River flood victims.
- 1998 Winnipeg celebrates 50th. Excalibur 6th in Atlanta, GNU 8th. ADC produces cassette recording of past LO'L quartet champions. Fall quartet finals contest in Fargo experiments with 14 minute "show package" format. Midwest Vocal Express Chorus secures "wild card" spot for International contest in Anaheim.
- 1999 Hilltop and Greendale Choruses finish 7th and 9th respectively at Anaheim. Both also qualify for 2000 International contest. Fall Quartet Finals again experiment with "show package" format. Dick Teeters elected to Society Probe Hall of Fame Honor. Society establishes goal of 100 chapters by year end of 2000.
- 2000 For the 2nd straight year both Greendale and Hilltop Choruses qualify for International chorus contest. Hilltop finishes 4th, Greendale 8th. Five LO'L quartets compete in Kansas City and Excalibur finalist for the 4th consecutive year. Gay Nineties quartet celebrates fifty years as a registered quartet.
- 2001 Hilltop and Greendale both finish in the top 10 at Nashville chorus contest. Hilltop was 6th and Greendale just 20 points behind them in 7th. Quartets competing were Excalibur finishing 9th and Breakpoint finishing 28th. A record 41 Quartets and 22 Choruses qualified to compete at the Fall District contest in Rochester.
- 2002 The Greendale Midwest Vocal Express Chorus takes 5th place medalist honors at Portland. Hilltop Great Northern Union is right behind in 6th place. Excalibur tops the LO'L quartets in Portland followed by Breakpoint and Innovation. Downstate Express, 1982 District Champs retire after 25 years.
- 2003 The Greendale Midwest Vocal Express Chorus "Green Army" routine takes 5th place medalist honors in Montreal. Hilltop is again in the top 10. Quartets Excalibur and

- Breakpoint sing their swan song in Rochester. Stevens Point celebrates 50 years.
- 2004 Downstate Express comes out of retirement to win the Senior Quartet Contest in Biloxi. Bravo finishes as a Quarter finalist in Louisville. Hilltop tops Greendale, both are in the top 10 again in the Int'l contest. Dick Teeters retires after 15 years as *Pitch Piper* editor.
- 2005 Hilltop "Great Northern Union" chorus won 5th place medalist honors in Salt Lake. The Greendale "Midwest Vocal Express" placed 10th. Quest made the semi-finals at 20th and "After Midnight" finished 37th. Bob and Bill Fricke become the first LO'L father-son *Pitch Piper* co-editors.
- 2006 Greendale Midwest Vocal Express chorus medals in Indy. Minneapolis and Mason City combine to put 150 on stage in Rochester. Quest reaches the top 20 in the Indy quartet competition.
- 2007 Greendale and Minneapolis represent District at Denver. Hilltop qualifies but declined. Voices Only reach top 20 in Quartet contest. Jim Lee elected Society Treasurer effective Jan 2008. Perfect Timing and Aarps-a-Chord represent District at Mid Winter.
- 2008 Greendale represents the District at Nashville. Vocality reaches top 20 in Quartet contest. Perfect Timing and Easy Days represent District at Mid-Winter.
- 2009 Three Choruses, Hilltop, Greendale and Minneapolis represent District at Anaheim with Hilltop placing 3rd. Vocality and Voce reach top 20 with Voce the Saturday night mic tester. Perfect Timing was our representative at Mid-Winter. Downstate Express Quartet inducted into LO'L Hall of Fame. Membership at 1,854 in 51 Chapters.
- 2010 Cross Canada Chorus competed at Mid-Winter Youth Harmony Festival in Tampa and Perfect Timing Quartet represents LO'L at Mid-Winter Seniors contest. Greendale MVE Chorus represents District at Philadelphia and places 8th. Expedition, Main Street Station, Voce and Vocality Quarters represent District and Voce reaches 9th place. Counterpoint & Expedition compete in the Collegiate contest and Expedition places 5th. LO'L membership at 1,860 in 49 Chapters.
- 2011 Great Northern Union Chorus places 2nd in International contest at Kansas City. Six Quartets represent LO'L at Kansas City including: Voce, GQ, Expedition, Main Street Station, Grand Design, Rooftop Rhythm. Perfect Timing Quartet in Seniors contest at Mid-Winter contest in Las Vegas. Leadership Academy (COTS) combines with Chord College and moves to UW-River Falls, WI.
- 2012 Fall Convention at Rochester hosts 1st LO'L District Youth In Harmony Explosion Camp held as part of the convention with 46 boys participating. Hilltop and Greendale choruses compete at Int'l in Portland, OR and Great Northern Union Chorus places 2nd in contest. Vocality, Expedition and Grand Design Quartets compete at Int'l Quartet contest held in Portland. Marty Monson from the Hilltop Chapter selected as the new Society Executive Director. Expedition Quartet retires. Red Carpet & Northwest Divisions combined into new Northern Plains Division. Membership at 1,813 in 49 Chapters.
- 2013 Highpoint and St Croix Crossing Quartets compete at Mid-Winter Seniors contest in Orlando, FL. Fargo-Moorhead chorus and Vocality, GQ, Kordal Kombat quartets represent LO'L at International contests at Toronto, ONT. Spring Convention schedule at Hilltop hosts 1st Saturday night show as part of the convention. Fall Convention at LaCrosse has 80 boys in the Youth In Harmony Chorus. Kordal Kombat quartet from Willmar wins both the Novice Quartet and District Quartet Championship trophies. Happiness Emporium Quartet hang up the pitch pipe after 41 years.
- 2014 St Croix Crossing capture Silver Medals at Mid-Winter Seniors contest. Kordal Kombat competes in Collegiate contest at Las Vegas. Great Northern Union Chorus places 3rd in

International Chorus contest at Las Vegas. GNU director Pete Benson resigns as director. Spring Convention at Stevens Point hosts six out of District Quartets in International Prelims contest. Midwest Vocal Express is new District Chorus Champion. Midnight Croon captures District Quartet Championship. Cranial Cabbage is the District Seniors Champion, Swype is the District Novice Champion.

- 2015 Vocality and Midnight Croon represent LOL at International Contest in Pittsburgh. Kordal Kombat competed in Collegiate Contest and Midwest Vocal Express in Chorus Contest. Thunder Bay Chapter receives its Charter. Spring Convention held at Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen MN. Fall Convention held at Oshkosh, WI. CHORD SMASH Quartet wins both Novice and District Quartet Champion awards. Midwest Vocal Express captures Chorus Championship. Membership at 1581 in 49 Chapters.
- 2016 Chord Smash, Midnight Croon and The Underground represent LOL at International contest in Nashville and Midwest Vocal Express in the Chorus contest. Committee recommends smaller Board size starting 2017. Spring Convention at Mankato and Fall Convention at Appleton. Membership at 1574 in 49 Chapters. RUCKUS Quartet wins District Championship. Great Northern Union capture Chorus championship.
- 2017 Midnight Croon, CHORD SMASH, Kordal Kombat and The Underground represent LOL at International. Great Northern Union and Midwest Vocal Express in the chorus contest. Spring Convention was in Stevens Point and Fall Convention in Rochester. Membership at 1519 in 49 Chapters. The Border Project captures Quartet championship, Midwest Vocal Express captures District Chorus championship.
- 2018 St Croix Crossing Quartet captures Int'l Seniors Championship. Fargo-Moohead Chorus in Int'l Chorus contest. Midnight Croon, Vocality, Chord Smash and St Croix Crossing represent LO'L at Orlando. Spring Convention in Greendale and Fall Convention at Rochester. Leadership Academy/Chord College attendance reaches new high of 217. Hi-Mark Quartet captures both Novice and District Champion awards. Membership at 1458 in 47 chapters.
- 2019 Restructure reduces District Board size to 8 members and establishes 3 Regions along with 3 new Director positions. Midwest Vocal Express represents LO'L in the chorus contest and Hi-Mark in the quartet contest. Great Northern Union captures district chorus championship and First Avenue is the quartet champion. Fall Convention at Rochester adds a Showcase show as part of the Saturday night event, and the All Chapter Chorus has 72 on stage.
- 2020 The COVID 19 Virus hit the world and virtually brought Barbershop activities to a stand still. Both the Spring and Fall District Conventions were cancelled including all Chorus and Quartet contests. District Board and House of Delegates meetings were held via Zoom tele conferencing. All activities stopped & District membership at 1,000.
- 2021 Leadership Academy was cancelled due to the COVID Virus and instead the Chapter Office classes were held virtual via Zoom. District Board mtgs continue to held virtual via Zoom throughout the year. Fall Convention held at the Hilton Hotel in Bloomington with 449 attending. 13 Quartets and 9 Choruses in contest. Saturday night Showcase Dinner was held with 202 people attending. Great Plains Harmony Chorus captures District Championship. Coulee Classic is District Quartet Champion as well as District Mens Champion. Loose Change is District Novice Champion as well as District Seniors Champion. The mixed quartet contest was held for the first time with Double Dutch from Fargo-Fergus Falls capturing the championship. District membership 940 in 46 Chapters.

- 2022 Leadership Academy held via Zoom. Midwest Vocal Express represents LO'L to Int'l Contest. Coulee Classic and St Croix Crossing Quartets at Int'l contest. Fall Convention held in Bloomington with over 600 attending held at Airport Hilton in Bloomington. 15 Choruses and 23 Quartets including 5 YIH in contest. Forward Harmony from Greendale Chapter captures District Chorus Championship. Midwest Vocal Express is Mens Chorus Champion, Forward Harmony is Mixed Chorus Champion. St Croix Crossing wins District Quartet contest. District initiates Joe Liles Lifetime Achievement Award - first recipients are Del Ryberg and Jim Richards (posthumously). Eight Chapters folded during the year including: Dauphin, MB; Wausau, WI; Kenosha, WI; Minot, ND; Minnetonka, MN; Albert Lea, MN; Minocqua-Woodruff, WI and Saskatoon, SK.. District membership now at 940 in 38 Chapters.
- 2023 Leadership Academy held via Zoom. Forward Harmony, Midwest Vocal Express and Coulee Classic represent LO'L at Int'l contests. Fall Convention held at Hilton Hotel in Bloomington with 680 attending. Total of 27 Quartets and 15 Choruses in contests. Midwest Vocal Express captures championship and Forward Harmony captures Mixed Harmony Chorus champion. Chill Factor is District Quartet champion. Judd Orff receives Lifetime Achievement Award. Penny Yange awarded the Golden Chord Award. District welcomes a new chapter, Dickenson, ND. Two more chapters fold: Ripon, WI and Rochester, MN. District membership now at 960 in 37 Chapters.
- 2024 Leadership Academy held live at UW River Falls, WI. Coulee Classic, Forward Harmony represent LO'L District at Int'l contests in Cleveland, OH. Fall Convention held at Hilton Hotel in Bloomington with over 700 attending. 28 Quartets and 17 Choruses enter the contests held. SPICE Quartet captures District Champions, Forward Harmony captures Chorus championship. Northwoods captures Seniors contest, Late Night is the Novice champion. Carl Grahn receives Joe Liles Lifetime Achievement award. District membership now at 953 in 36 Chapters.
- 2025 Leadership Academy attended by 140 held at UW River Falls, WI. Spring Sing held in Valley City, ND. Forward Harmony chorus and Coulee Classic quartet represent LO'L at Denver International contests. Scott Perau receives Golden Chord Award. Jack Edgerton and Dick Staedt receive Lifetime Achievement Award. District BOTY for 2025 is Justin McCullough, Fargo, ND James Estes, Mike Lietke & Frank Marzocco inducted in Hall of Fame. 34 quartets & 15 choruses enter fall contests at Hilton Hotel in Bloomington, MN. Jukebox captures District Quartet championship, Nightcap is Seniors champion, Frostbite is Next Gen champion, What's New is Novice champion, District membership 940 in 35 Chapters.