

# The Pitch Piper

78 Years of Barbershop Harmony

Over 714,089 Square Miles

Volume 79 Number 3

A Bulletin for Barbershoppers in the LO'L District

May-June 2026



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**John "Jack" Edgerton**  
**March 15, 1939 - May 2, 2026**

[Jack's Obituary](#)

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# Land O' Lakes District Officers



## President

### Nate Peplinski

127 Rose St. N,  
West Salem, WI 54669  
(715) 498-1198  
starquarterback14@yahoo.com



## Treasurer

### Daniel True

8091 Stone Creek Dr  
Chanhassen, MN 55317  
952-210-5156  
dtruesings@gmail.com



## Vice President, West Division

### Brent Gerber

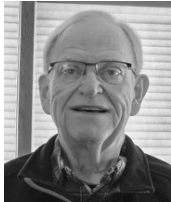
1840 Spruce Grove Trail  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
(701) 388-5909  
bgngerber@juno.com



## Immediate Past President

### Mike Lietke

3953 S. Camrose Ave.  
New Berlin, WI 53151  
(262) 893-0001  
mikelielke@hotmail.com



## Vice President, District Events

### Grant Warning Sr.

9350 281st Ave NW  
Zimmerman, MN 55398  
(763) 226-1447  
gawwolf@yahoo.com



## Vice President, Central Division

### Arv Zenk

1706 Mary Lane  
N Mankato, MN 56003  
(507) 995-1655  
arvjane@hickorytech.net



## Executive Vice President

### Rhonda Gould

1818 E. Webster Pl.  
Milwaukee, WI 53211  
(414) 351-3504  
rhondakgould@gmail.com



## Vice President, Contest & Judging

### James Estes

107 5th St  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935  
(650) 686-1080  
dir-cj@loldistrict.org



## Vice President, East Division

### Mike Ziegler

438 Sunset Dr.  
Plymouth, WI 53073  
(920) 892-2736  
mikeanddenise@live.com



## Secretary

### Tyler Hall

603 6th St NE  
Mandan, ND 58554  
(701) 213-7636  
secretary@loldistrict.org



## Vice President, Chapter Support & Development

### Jim Rasmus

1446 Gunnell Ln  
Manitowoc, WI 54220  
(920) 973-0010  
pjras20@gmail.com



## Vice President, Next Generation

### Justin La

107 5th St  
102 Stechishin Terr, Saskatoon,  
SK S7K 5P8  
(306) 920-0212  
justinla92@hotmail.com



## Pitch Piper

The Pitch Piper is published bi-monthly by the Land O' Lakes District Association of Chapters of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Land O' Lakes Chapters are in North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Western Michigan Upper Peninsula, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Western Ontario, Canada.

## Office of Publication

Editors: Tony & Angela Blackwood  
(651) 307-7248  
pitchpiper@loldistrict.org

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# State of the District: Remembering Jack Edgerton

Submitted by Nate Peplinski, District President

Hey gang.

Getting over the writer's block of another boring "State of the District" article, because yesterday I was at the funeral of one of my core long-term Barbershop mentors, and good friend, Jack Edgerton. Jack was the Land O' Lakes Lifetime Achievement Award winner last year, and a Stevens Point chapter BOTY winner every ten years like clockwork, and someone "I've known since before I was born."

Growing up in the Stevens Point chapter (my dad started two years before I was born) I was the proverbial Barbershop Brat, always at the picnics and camping trips and shows and glows...and who was one of the two guys who made me feel like family from as early I can remember? The crotchety Irishman and tenor of Ragtime quartet with my cousin David. (the other was the late Eric Konkol, for those of you who may remember the old Point gang.)

So a two-hour drive each way from my new home in the Coulee region back home, as well as a couple hours at the tavern with Colin, allowed for some good reflection on the legacy and impact of not only Jack, but all of our barbershop "heroes" who, like Jack, have that impact affect more than just our barbershop lives. And what an opportunity we have, if we fully take advantage of this vast network of great people!

Jack was a finisher. A doer. A man of...opinions. (He's smiling right now reading that, true to his Irish heritage.) Jack was a man to whom friendship was incredibly important. Integrity, honor, follow-through. Credit. Detail. Organization. My late band teacher Mr. (George) Bures used to say, "If you want something done, give it to someone who doesn't have time to do it." Jack was the epitome of that. (And unsurprisingly was good friends with Mr. Bures, who also famously taught us all "Lombardi Time.")

Jack was my first exposure to the district board. He was a constant at COTS and we shared many an after-session where I learned and honed most of my most practical leadership skills as well as Chapter Operations (thanks Del). He was on something of a pedestal, even reaching the District Presidency and winning District BOTY. As if that (and every possible chapter board position) wasn't enough, he went on to put his elite organizational skills to use as a Contest Administrator.

Through it all, Jack was a friend and a peer, as I eventually replaced him as section leader of "god's chosen few" the tenor section. Years later when Coulee Classic won the district championship, no one was prouder than Jack, who while an excellent singer in his day had never made it to the peak. The pride and humility he showed made it clear that he was happier for us than if he had won it himself at 82 years old. The genuine humility and care from the same guy who raved about my football days against his Pacelli Cardinals! (it was easy to be supportive because they whipped us pretty good I suppose. ;)

SO that was Jack. And that was my little tribute. But what good is a tribute without applying it forward? (another lesson learned from my friend.) How many of us have our own Jacks that we've met through this wonderful hobby? How many of us have developed our leadership skills, or our follow-through, or our social skills, or musical skills, or service of the community, BECAUSE of our interaction with BHS and with Barbershoppers? The Jacks of all our lives. And they're all over the world!

Find your Jack, BE your Jack. Lean into it. Follow through when you say you will. Keep a detailed list of what needs to be done. Have the confidence to volunteer! Know that even if you only have thirty minutes a week, that's still helpful. That's part of giving back. And BHS (and the district) has the resources to help you "be a little better every day."

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# Chapter Support Report

Submitted by Jim Rasmus, District VP of Chapter Support

Email: [pjras20@gmail.com](mailto:pjras20@gmail.com); Phone/Text: (920) 973-0010

- Are you new to singing barbershop harmony?
- Are there more things you can learn to develop as a singer?
- Would you like to deepen your understanding of this hobby you love so much?

If so, check out a helpful resource on the BHS website called 12 Months of Barbershop! Go to:

<https://www.barbershop.org/news/blog/categories/12-months-of-barbershop>.

Your Division VP's have completed their spring meetings with your District Mentors. There's a lot of good things happening in our Chapters! We have begun to pull together a list of Best Practices for Chapters that have been effectively utilized by one or more Chapters to improve their singing, membership recruiting, chorus marketing and social interactions. These ideas, programs and resources will soon be shared with Chapter leaders by their District Mentor. At some point they will also be available on the LOL website. Here are two ideas:

♪ Chapters with a college/university in their area have found ways to leverage the resources available in those institutions. The possibilities are endless: welcoming singers, gaining useful social media and sound technician expertise, assistance with music direction duties....

♪ Chapters are encouraging their members to consider donating their "required minimum distribution" from their retirement accounts. This is a real WIN-WIN: the Chapter receives needed funds, and the member gifts funds they may not need as a tax-deductible donation!

The best resource to help a chorus improve their singing is **Take Coaching to the Chapter**. TCTC assists you in bringing a coach to your chorus rehearsal, up to two times a year, to help you work on your performance package or basic repertoire. It shares the rich music education resources we have in the LO'L directly with our Chapters. The focus areas are: Vocal Production, Presentation, General Coaching. Chapters may request a specific coach from active members of the Land O'Lakes District, subject to availability. Arrangements are coordinated by the TCC Team of Judd Orff, Mike Leitdke, and Paul Wigley. Go to <https://loldistrict.org/lol-grants-and-programs> for more details.

And while you're there, check out the full descriptions of the LOL Grants and Programs, including Visioning Retreats.

**It's GREAT to be a Barbershopper in the Land O'Lakes District!**

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# BHS–LOL Membership Benefits

Submitted by Jim Rasmus, VP of Chapter Support  
Email: [pjras20@gmail.com](mailto:pjras20@gmail.com); Phone/Text: (920) 973-0010

A question is often raised relating to what we receive in return for the barbershop dues we pay. The following summary, though not definitive, helps answer that question.

## **BHS Membership Benefits:**

<https://www.barbershop.org/>

- Connect and sing with a like-minded community of artists and singers dedicated to preserving an original American art form—barbershop harmony.
- Discounted pricing on barbershop merchandise, music and learning tracks.
- Receive latest news and trends in the world of barbershop harmony via **The Harmonizer** magazine (6 issues per year) and weekly **Livewire** newsletter.
- Access to the Harmony University Library and a monthly orientation program to what it means to be a barbershopper.
- Early access and discounts at BHS annual conventions: i.e., International Convention (early July), Harmony University (late July), Mid-Winter Convention (January).
- Provide ASCAP/BMI clearances in conjunction with each District.
- Provide liability insurance for Chapters.
- Access useful information related to supporting senior singers.
- BHS facilitates the judging program that supports District and International quartet and chorus competitions.
- For quartets: Reserve Quartet Name, Contest Opportunities and Marketing Material.
- Membership Costs: Annual = \$180 (\$20/month), Senior (over 75) = \$135 (\$15/month), Youth (25 & under) = \$90 (\$10/month)

## **Land O’Lakes District Membership Benefits:**

<https://loldistrict.org/>

- Access Grants Programs: Chapter Show Support (up to \$750 a year) and Chapter Development (up to \$1,000 a year).
- Availability to Take Coaching to the Chapter and Visioning Retreat programs.
- Receive the news, marketing and resource updates from around the LO’L District via the PitchPiper (published six times a year).
- Support the programs and resources provided by the LO’L District: e.g., the LO’L District website and Mentor Program.
- Attend annual District Convention (October) and District Harmony Academy (January).
- Membership Costs: Annual = \$24.

## **Chapter Level Benefits**

- Be part of weekly, fun-filled sessions with life-long friends.
- Receive weekly instruction and coaching in singing and performance techniques.
- Be part of a singing “service club” – providing social engagement, entertainment and outreach services to our communities as part of who we are and what we do.
- Membership cost is set by each Chapter.

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# Land O' Lakes 2026 Fall Convention

Submitted by Grant Warning Sr., District VP Events

With Spring upon us, we are putting plans together for our LO'L Fall Convention – **“People Connecting Through Harmony”** Our theme recognizes that we have many positive relationships happening across our District and our Fall Convention is a special time for all of us to get together and enjoy our friends, music and fun activities we have planned, connecting through harmony.

Here are some details to help you get ready to join in the fun. We'll open our convention registration early this summer, but we wanted to share this information for your own planning purposes.

**Dates:** October 16-17, 2026

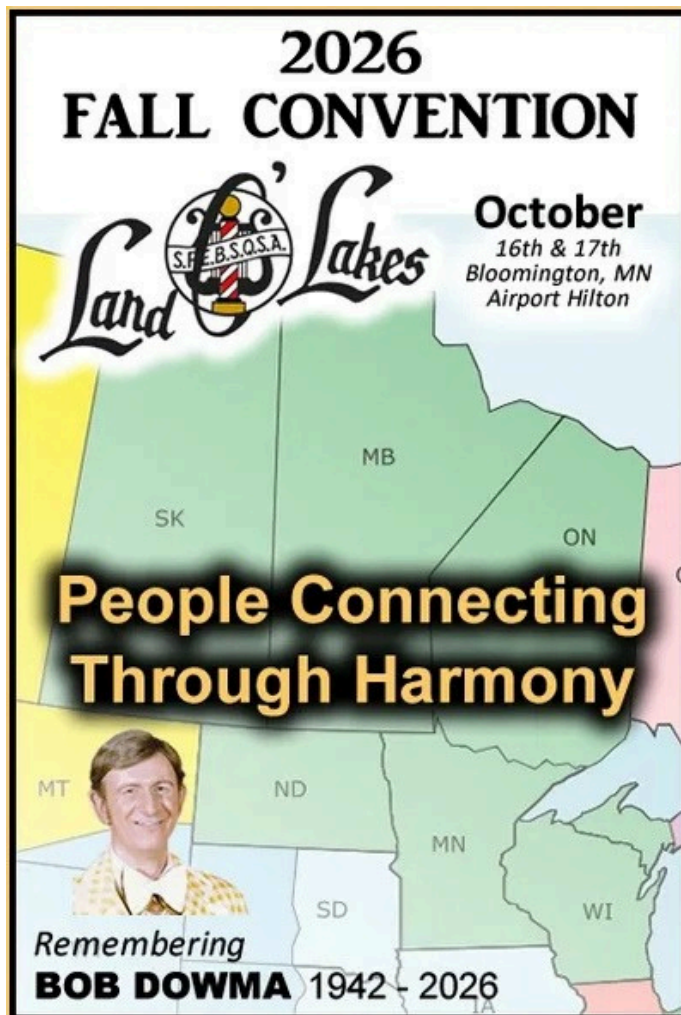
**Location:** Minneapolis Airport Hilton Hotel - 3800 American Blvd E., Bloomington, MN 55425 (**Same as 2025**)

**Room Rates:** \$115/night plus taxes

**Convention Registration Fees:** (Note all participants in the contests or festivals must purchase, at minimum, the “All Contest Events registration”)

- Complete Package (All Contest Events, Lunch, Banquet and Showcase): \$140
- All Contest Events: \$75
- Single Contest Event: \$30
- Junior (12 years and under) All Contest Events: \$30
- Showcase Performance Only: \$20
- Saturday Lunch: \$20
- Saturday Banquet and Showcase: \$45

In addition to the contests, we'll once again offer free quartet coaching, for those quartets not participating in the contests, on Friday morning. And we'll have Fun Squad activities, the All-Chapter Chorus and our Saturday Night afterglow. It truly will be a super fun convention!



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# New Land O' Lakes District Email List

Submitted by Tom Arneberg, Baritone, Northwoods Quartet

We have a new email list for our district! By the time you read this, “**LOL-Notes**” should be fully orchestrated.

District President **Nate Peplinski** joined my quartet for dinner at Midwinter in Pasadena last January, where one of our topics of conversation was about improving communications for members in the district. (Yes, we are a wild bunch.) We already have a great LOL web page, which is the gold standard for all information about our district. But occasionally some of us need an additional “push” notification, especially for news about upcoming chapter shows, contests, and other events.

One example that was in my immediate memory at the time was the January 9-10 LOL Leadership Academy. It was on my calendar, but when I went to register for it after a busy Christmas season, I realized that I had missed the December 30 deadline to sign up. Had I received an email reminder a couple of days beforehand, I would've registered and gone to that great event as I did the previous two years.

Some of you may recall that we did have a district email list for a few decades. I started “BBSLOL” in the early 1990s, and then started and ran “LOLnet” from the mid-1990s until 2019. At that time, YahooGroups went out of business, and everyone seemed to be moving to Facebook, so the district email list just faded out.

However, we have noticed that many people no longer use social media, and many others never started. So we think there is a need for mass email communications.

Google has come up with a way to manage email lists in Yahoo's absence, called GoogleGroups. I was surprised that LOLnet@googlegroups.com is already taken, apparently by some “squatter” who claimed high-volume email list names from Yahoogroups when Google first launched the service. So we came up with a new name: **LOL-Notes**. I figured it was worth using the word “notes” for its double meaning of messages and musical notations.

The difference this time is that we are starting with the BHS database and adding the email addresses of everyone in the district to launch the list.

Of course, if you absolutely do not want to get any emails from the district, you are free to unsubscribe at any time. But please give it a chance – we plan to tightly moderate the email list to prevent any spam or idle chit-chat from drowning your inbox. (It is for announcements, not discussions.)

The main purpose of LOL-Notes is for district personnel to send out the Pitchpiper, and to announce details of contests and conventions and schools. (And timely reminders, of course, for people like me.)

A secondary purpose is to allow anyone to send an email to LOL-Notes to announce their chapter show or other messages that meet certain criteria. When you sign up for the list, you will get a link to an FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) with details about the filter criteria that will be applied to determine whether a message is approved. This will be an evolving document as we get more experience with the new list, but I expect that we will average only one or two emails per week on LOL-Notes.

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# New Land O' Lakes District Email List

(continued)

While we are starting off this list with all LOL members from the database, anyone else interested, whether family or friends or just fans of barbershop, are welcome to join the list, too. You can find more details about how to join at the FAQ, which I put here for now: [www.arneberg.com/lol-notes](http://www.arneberg.com/lol-notes).

I should note that as I was populating the list with the 943 currently active members, I noticed that 10-20% of the email addresses could not be directly added. This is usually because people have a setting that disallows direct additions. For those people, I sent out "invitations," which require a reply to become activated. There are also some people whose settings don't even allow invitations.

Bottom line: If you haven't received any email in the last week or two from "LOL-Notes," then you might need to subscribe yourself, using the procedures described in the FAQ. You might also need to check your email spam filter or other categories of email. (For example, users of Google's Gmail may find that their incoming messages from a mailing list could be categorized as Promotions, Social, or Updates, until you tell it to put those future emails in your Primary inbox.) If you are still stuck, you can always email me at [Tom@Arneberg.com](mailto:Tom@Arneberg.com) and I will be happy to help you figure out how to join LOL-Notes.

Now I'll have no excuse to ever miss an LOL Leadership Academy event again!



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# Bachelor of Barbershop Harmony

Submitted by Jay Althof

## Are You Qualified to Receive the Bachelor of Barbershop Harmony Degree?

Have you spent time learning tags, ringing chords, volunteering for chapter duties, attending rehearsals, serving in leadership, or generally finding new ways to fall deeper into this wonderfully addictive hobby we call barbershop harmony? If so... you might already be working toward a degree — no student loans required!

The **Bachelor of Barbershop Harmony Degree (BBHD)** is an honorary recognition awarded to Land O' Lakes District Barbershoppers who have shown dedication to improving themselves, helping others, and strengthening our Society. It celebrates members who have enthusiastically jumped into the many areas of barbershopping — singing, learning, teaching, organizing, supporting, and occasionally helping carry risers or stack chairs.

Recipients of this prestigious (and completely tuition-free) degree demonstrate a commitment to growing their musical knowledge, expanding their skills, and helping make barbershop harmony more enjoyable for everyone. Even better, their efforts help bring the joy of our craft to audiences and communities throughout our district.

## So... How Do You Earn This Coveted (and Frame-Worthy) Degree?

No finals. No term papers. No dorm life. Just barbershop!

Using the application form below as your roadmap, calculate your total points based on your involvement in barbershop activities over the years. If your grand total reaches 300 points or more, congratulations! You are eligible to receive the Bachelor of Barbershop Harmony Degree and an official certificate signed by the current Land O' Lakes District President — suitable for framing, bragging rights, or displaying prominently near your pitch pipe collection.

## Here's What To Do Next

1. Complete the application form (on the next page – or on our District Website)
2. Have it verified by your Chapter President or a District Officer
3. Send it to Todd Smith who will work with the Dean of Admissions, John Plazek and his team to confirm your application:

## Todd Smith

✉ Email: [tgsemail@gmail.com](mailto:tgsemail@gmail.com)

✉ Mail: 611 S Holcombe St., Stillwater, MN 55082

☎ Questions? Call Todd at (651) 202-6056





# Bachelor of Barbershop Harmony Degree



Congratulations! You've done REALLY WELL. You are applying for the LO'L District Bachelor of Barbershop Harmony Degree. Complete this form once you have reached a score of 300 or higher. The completed form MUST be authenticated and forwarded by the chapter president or a district officer. Submit form to Todd Smith: EMAIL - tgsemail@gmail.com or DIRECT MAIL - 611 So. Holcombe St. Stillwater, MN 55082

### ACHIEVEMENT

### POINTS

#### Personal Involvement:

Years of Society Membership – 5 per year (max 50)	_____
Registered Quartet Member – 25 (max 25)	_____
Quartet Contestant – 10 each (max 30)	_____
Pole Cat Songs Learned – 2 each (max 50)	_____
Chorus or Quartet Coach – 20 each (max 20)	_____
Man-of-Note – 2 per each member brought in (max 20)	_____
Attendance at District Harmony Education Schools (COTS, LTA, Harmony Academy, Mini-Hep – 20 each (max 60)	_____
Attendance at International Harmony Education Schools – 25 each (max 75)	_____

#### Chapter Involvement:

Chapter BOTY – 30 (max 30)	_____
Chapter Officer – 20 per office held (max 60)	_____
Chorus Director – 50 (max 50)	_____
Chorus Assistant Director or Section Leader – 20 (max 20)	_____
Chorus Contestant – 10 each (max 30)	_____
Committee Chair, Show Committee, Bulletin Editor – 10 per year (max 30)	_____

#### District Involvement:

District BOTY – 40 (max 40)	_____
District Mentor, Liaison, Area Counselor – 20 (max 20)	_____
District Officer or District Committee Member – 30 (max 30)	_____

#### International Involvement:

International Board or Committee Member – 20 each (max 40)	_____
Candidate judge – 25 (max 25)	_____
Certified Judge – 50 (max 50)	_____

TOTAL POINTS (300 or above required)

AUTHETICATION (by Chapter President or District Officer) | Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Member (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Authenticator's Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Land O' Lakes District Harmony Academy

Submitted by Mike Lietke, District Immediate Past President

The District Harmony Academy took place once again at the University of Wisconsin River Falls campus. It is simply the Land O' Lakes District's premiere opportunity to immerse in barbershop as well as train chapter officers and committee members to do the work of the chapter better.

Previous versions have seen the class offerings change and grow to their current state, and had been known as the Chapter Officers Training School (COTS) from when I joined BHS, to the Leadership Training Academy title used up until 2025. Regardless of title, it keeps striving to become better so that we all can become better and enjoy this hobby a little more every year.

The 2025 Board made an effort to get even more chapters and people attending and developed a means for two chapter officers to attend tuition free. This was coupled further by using the LOL Chapter Development Grants to bring up to four additional attendees to the event and provide up to \$250 for travel expenses per Chapter.

In an effort to help their chapters thrive, the development grant was designed to give preference to those operating with strapped budgets and many were served.

The final totals included 49 registrations through the one-time tuition benefit as well as 17 more through Chapter Development Grant funding.

At the April Board meeting, we started diving more deeply into the effectiveness of this program to see, among other things, if it made a significant step forward in encouraging those chapters who have not previously been present to attend. Registration reports show one person net difference between the two years, but that is only one angle to look at before moving forward with recommendations.

Based on that review, the Board will take this subject up again to decide if the program moves forward, is changed, or if district funds may benefit our chapters directed to other efforts. If you or your chapter attended as a result of these programs and would not otherwise likely have done so, please let your board know, along with any suggestions you may have going forward.

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# 75 Years of Harmony with the Schmitt Brothers

Submitted by William Schmitt

Celebrate 75 Years of Harmony with the Schmitt Brothers Saturday, July 18  
Family-friendly event features FREE  
barbershop concert in Two Rivers Central Park

**Two Rivers, Wis. – May 5, 2026** – In 1951, the Schmitt Brothers took the barbershop world by storm when they came out of nowhere to win the international Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA) title 75 years ago. To celebrate the milestone anniversary, the community is invited to attend the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of HARMONY LIVES ON THE SCHMITT BROTHERS STAGE, a family-friendly event featuring a free barbershop concert from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 18, 2026, in Two Rivers Central Park.

It was in this park that Two Rivers welcomed their hometown heroes – the Schmitt Brothers quartet. Jim, Joe, Paul and Fran Schmitt worked hard to spread harmony everywhere they performed during their 35-year career. In 2023, the Schmitt Brothers Stage was dedicated in their honor. It is the first and only stage in the country named after a barbershop quartet.

Hosted by the local barbershop chapter Clipper City Chordsmen, Harmony Lives On the Schmitt Brothers Stage will feature barbershop quartets and choruses, including the three-time international Bronze Medalist Midwest Vocal Express Chorus, 2024 Land O'Lakes District Champion Forward Harmony Chorus, 2021 Land O'Lakes District Champion Coulee Classic quartet, What's New quartet from the University of Wisconsin - Madison, and 2025 Wisconsin Youth Harmony Festival High School Champion Quad Aces quartet.

A number of community organizations and businesses will help celebrate the milestone anniversary. The Two Rivers Rotary Club will sell food and beverages during the show. The Washington House Museum, part of the Two Rivers Historical Society, will offer the Schmitt Brothers Signature Sundae topped with strawberries, nuts, hot fudge, whipped cream, and a cherry on top from noon until 6:00 p.m. at 1622 Jefferson Street. In addition, the Cool City Brewing Company at 1718 West Park Street will offer Schmitt Brothers Barbershop Brew in commemorative crowlers. Port Cities Screen Printing will also be producing custom shirts for the event. Online orders will be available soon.

This event is presented by generous donations from the Association of District Barbershop Champions, CT Nails, Explore Two Rivers, Shoreline Credit Union, Skylight Wealth Management, and the William and Nancy Webster family. Community partners include Architectural Forest Products LLC, Cool City Brewing Company, Hawkins Ash CPAs, Paczkowski Family Dental, Lighthouse Inn, Schmitt Brothers Eleven, Schroeder's Department Store, Schwartz Manufacturing Company, and Shelley Vogel at Weichert Realty.



Crowds gathered to dedicate the new Schmitt Brothers Stage in Two Rivers Central Park in July 2023.

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# 75 Years of Harmony with the Schmitt Brothers

(continued)

## About the Schmitt Family

The Schmitt Brothers Quartet—Jim, Joe, Paul and Fran—grew up in a family of 17 just down the street from the park. Among the 11 brothers and six sisters, three became Catholic priests, one earned her doctorate in nursing, and the others supported local businesses. All actively supported church, military, and community organizations in their beloved hometown. The Schmitt family tree boasts over 1,500 members.

The Schmitt Brothers first victory was not in front of a crowd of 8,000 at the international barbershop convention in Toledo, but on WOMT radio in Manitowoc when the youngest was just four years old. They learned to sing in the St. Luke's church choir and won the SPEBSQSA title after singing barbershop for only 18 months. 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. In the meantime, they raised 35 children, ran successful local businesses, and participated in and led civic organizations from the Elks and Lions Clubs to the local chamber of commerce, school and church boards.

## More Information

- Visit [schmittbrothersquartet.com](http://schmittbrothersquartet.com)
- Read/listen to “The Schmitt Brothers” book available at local booksellers and [schmittbrothersbooks.com](http://schmittbrothersbooks.com)
- Follow [The Schmitt Brothers Quartet](#) on Facebook
- Listen to The Schmitt Brothers Greatest Hits on Apple Music and Spotify
- Visit the Washington House Museum to see the display dedicated to the quartet



The Schmitt Brothers quartet posed with the SPEBSQSA trophy following their victory in 1951.

(Back: Fran and Joe. Front: Jim and Paul.)

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# Greendale Chapter

Submitted by Laurel Peterson, Chapter Marketing VP

Happy spring, LOL! The Greendalers put on our annual spring show on April 18, and we had a blast entertaining the crowd at Pewaukee High School. In addition to showcasing our contest sets for St. Louis, some highlights included:

- Our 2023 LOL District Quartet Champs Chill Factor (featuring Dylan Keegan for one night only subbing in on lead)
- Two LOL District NextGen Quartets They Must Be Mad and What's New
- Six more chapter quartets
- A beautiful quilt made by our own Mary Rapp which was sold to the highest bidder
- Several other raffle baskets and silent auction items
- Singing for the late night crowd at the bar where we afterglowed
- And last but certainly not least, the stage debut of Bryan Ziegler's baby daughter Callie



Now it's full steam ahead to St. Louis in July. We are so excited that our choruses will literally be starting and ending the international chorus competition this year with Forward Harmony as mic testers on Friday, July 3rd and Midwest Vocal Express as the final competitor on Saturday, July 4th. In addition, we have FOUR quartets who will be in St. Louis: They Must Be Mad and What's New in the NextGen contest; and Triple Threat and Chill Factor who both qualified for the Sing-In Contest, all on Tuesday, June 30th. So come early (or tune in on the webcast early) for all the action in St. Louis and stick around all week long for some fantastic performances by Barbershoppers around the world!

Keep an eye out on our social media pages for schedules, webcast links and more news as we prepare for St. Louis as we prepare to represent the best district in BHS...LOL, of course!

[facebook.com/ForwardHarmony](https://facebook.com/ForwardHarmony)  
[facebook.com/MidwestVocalExpress](https://facebook.com/MidwestVocalExpress)  
[instagram.com/forwardharmonybhs](https://instagram.com/forwardharmonybhs)  
[instagram.com/midwestvocal](https://instagram.com/midwestvocal)



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# River City Sound Delivers a Ringing Celebration of “Something Old, Something New”

Submitted by Justin La, District VP Next Generation

On Saturday, May 2, I had the privilege of visiting River City Sound, the Winnipeg Chapter’s all voices chorus, for their show *Something Old, Something New* at Prairie Spirit Church.

From the moment I arrived, I felt welcomed. There was a real sense of warmth in the room, not just from the chorus, but from the full house of audience members who were clearly excited to be there. The church itself had spectacular acoustics, the kind of space where barbershop can truly bloom, ring, and surround you.

The theme of the show was simple and effective. Something older, followed by something newer. But through the witty and educational work of MCs Charlie Siegel and MaryAnne Debartolo, the audience was not just entertained. They were invited to understand barbershop a little more deeply.

River City Sound gave a performance to be proud of. Some of my personal highlights included the Spring Medley, Ed Sheeran’s *Perfect*, *Sing* by Pentatonix, and the finale, *Royal Garden Blues*. That closing number was the most electric moment of the afternoon. The chorus absolutely nailed it. It had that lift, that confidence, and that unmistakable barbershop energy that makes you sit up a little taller.

The show also featured three excellent quartets. Mondays @ 7 brought charm, humour, and creativity with songs like *Hello Mary Lou*, *Java Jive*, *Jeepers Creepers*, *Under the Boardwalk*, and a barbershop arrangement of *I Want It That Way*. Their carousel choreography with wooden stick horses was a wonderful touch.



Harlequin brought a beautiful TTBB sound with *That Old Quartet of Mine* and *Good Old A Cappella*, a song many will remember from The Nylons. Later, at the afterglow, hearing them sing *Blue Velvet* became my true “this is barbershop” moment of the day. It was intimate, heartfelt, and full of that magic we all chase when four voices lock in together.

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# River City Sound Delivers a Ringing Celebration of “Something Old, Something New” (continued)

Leather & Lace also brought style and polish with classics like *It's a Good Day*, adding even more variety and personality to the program.



A show like this does not happen by accident. Special thanks and congratulations go to Show Producer Sharon Snkar, Show Chair Paull Bullock, choreographers Gale Wharton and Donna Boyle, and the many people who helped bring the afternoon to life. The afterglow, beautifully organized and catered by Debbie Nightingale, was a perfect continuation of the spirit of the day.

I also want to thank Brian Blakely and his wife Joan for welcoming me into their home for the night. Brian's marketing work clearly paid off, as River City Sound surpassed their projected ticket sales. That kind of success says a lot about both the quality of the chorus and the strength of the community supporting it.

One of the most meaningful moments for me happened after the show, when I had the privilege of teaching a tag to Robert Smith's grandchildren and some of Michael Rochon's children, two of whom are also Robert's grandchildren. They learned it so quickly.

Their talent was obvious, but even more moving was their excitement. When the chord rang, their faces lit up. Some immediately asked to sing it again.

As VP of Next Gen, that moment stayed with me. It reminded me that the future of barbershop is not some distant idea. Sometimes it is standing right in front of us, eager, capable, and waiting for an invitation.

I left Winnipeg deeply impressed by River City Sound, by Larry Hunter and Jewel Casselman's leadership, by the energy of the chorus as they learned the Aquarius tag, by the fun of singing *Down Our Way* at the afterglow, and by the exciting beginnings of a new quartet, Loaded Basses.



River City Sound is doing something special in Winnipeg. They are singing well, welcoming generously, and creating space for the next generation to find their voice.

If you live nearby, go hear them. Even if you need to cross the border, it is worth the trip.

And mark your calendars for their winter show on November 28, 2026.

# Barbershop Harmony Open

Submitted by Dave Roesler

**18TH ANNUAL BARBERSHOP HARMONY OPEN**

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- On-course direct networking opportunity at a dedicated tee box

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- Arts for All Wisconsin
- Giving Voice Initiative
- FMC Endowment Fund of ACDA Minnesota

**CONTACT US TODAY!**

**Dave Roesler: 952-426-2143**

[bigd82413@gmail.com](mailto:bigd82413@gmail.com)

**Dan Schroeder: 612-801-8008**

[dschrades@msn.com](mailto:dschrades@msn.com)

[www.journeymenchorus.org/bhopen](http://www.journeymenchorus.org/bhopen)

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# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Land O' Lakes District Barbershop Spring Sing

Submitted by Brent Gerber, Vice President, West Division

Land O' Lakes District Barbershop Spring Sing will be held on Saturday, May 30, 2026, at Valley City State University in Valley City, North Dakota.

This full-day event will bring together singers from across the region for an exciting day of vocal coaching, group singing, and music development, culminating in an evening concert where participants perform for one another.

- Group singing, musical education and information about what's going on in the District and Society
- Instruction from top level coaches and directors
- Tag singing, pole cats, and more
- Lunch included—all for just \$25!!!

The event is open to members throughout the district and will feature a variety of coaches from the District with wide ranging skills and backgrounds.

Only \$25.00 Per Person  
10 am through 6 pm

Valley City State University  
101 College Street SE  
Valley City, ND 58072

More details:

<https://loldistrict.org/west-region-spring-sing>



# AIC Show

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# 2027 International Contest Mic Tester Chorus

Submitted by Jamye Casperson

The Minneapolis Commodores are sponsoring an opportunity for men to sing at International 2027 in Minneapolis. As Mic Testers. And ON MAIN STAGE!

Paul Wigley will be the director of this chorus. We are singing a Prince Medley and a Bob Dylan medley to celebrate the music of Minnesota! Men from all over the LOL district and other interested barbershoppers will combine to make a unified chorus called North Country Harmony.

This is not a competition chorus so you can continue to participate in your home chorus as usual. This is an additional opportunity. Tracks and music will be provided with a \$20 registration fee. You will be asked to attend a small number of rehearsals in the Twin Cities area. You do not need to make every rehearsal.

Contact Jamye Casperson at [jkcasperson@gmail.com](mailto:jkcasperson@gmail.com) for more information or to sign up.

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## Barbershop Harmony Open

Submitted by Dave Roesler

18TH ANNUAL

**Barbershop  
Harmony  
Open**

**August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**

Presented by



THE  
JOURNEYMEN  
CHORUS

## SAVE THE DATE!!

The Barbershop Harmony Open  
is back again in August 2026

**Elk River Golf Club**

August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 | 11:30 am

Pre-registration required at

[www.journeymenchorus.org/bhopen](http://www.journeymenchorus.org/bhopen)

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# Quartets



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[Facebook.com/CheckmateQuartet96](https://www.facebook.com/CheckmateQuartet96)

**CHORD SMASH!**

Sam Sather, Erik Eliason, James Estes, Scott Perau

[info@chordsmash.com](mailto:info@chordsmash.com)  
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## ADC Scholarships Available

Did you know that the Association of District Champions has scholarships available for quartets or individuals?

Scholarships for what, you ask?  
Contact Dave Baxter  
([dbaxter9@att.net](mailto:dbaxter9@att.net))

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# Calendar

## May

30 Madison | Capitol Chordsmen  
Oakwood Village, Madison, WI

## September

12 Minneapolis | Commodores, MCX  
Minnehaha Academy, Minneapolis, MN

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Manitowoc | Clipper City Chordsmen  
19 Franciscan Center for Music Education and  
Performance, Manitowoc, WI

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19 Stevens Point | Northern Gateway  
Pacelli Catholic High School, Stevens Point, WI

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Greater St. Paul | North Star Chorus  
26 3 p.m. Show: Northern Heights Church, Arden Hills, MN  
6:30 p.m. Cabaret: VFW Roseville, MN

## November

7 The Journeymen Chorus  
Location TBD

## December

Manitowoc | Clipper City Chordsmen  
19 Franciscan Center for Music Education and  
Performance, Manitowoc, WI

For more Information on Chapter Shows, visit:

<https://loldistrict.org/chapter-shows>

### **Send show registrations to:**

District Secretary, Tyler Hall  
603 6th St NE  
Mandan, ND 58554  
(701) 213-7636  
[secretary@loldistrict.org](mailto:secretary@loldistrict.org)

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## Future District & BHS Conventions

2026	June 28 - July 5	International Convention, St. Louis, MO
2026	October 15-18	LOL District Convention, Minneapolis Airport Hilton
2027	February 3-7	Midwinter, Virginia Beach, VA
2027	July 4-11	International Convention, Minneapolis, MN
2027	October 14-17	LOL District Convention, Location TBD
2028	July 2- 9	International Convention, Chicago, IL
2028	October 12-15	LOL District Convention, Location TBD