

The Pitch Piper

73 YEARS OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY

OVER 714,089 SQUARE MILES

Volume 73, Number 1

A Bulletin for Barbershoppers in the LO'L District

January – February 2021

***Virtual LOL LTA classes prove to be a success!!
See related article in this issue.***

LTA Gallery View courtesy of instructor Joe Cerutti (BHS HQ)



LTA Gallery View courtesy of instructor Lowell Bennes





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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Our Barbershop Life – The Roaring '20's!

Submitted by Jay Althof - LOL District President



First, it is my honor to have the opportunity to serve all of you as your District President! As I pondered what theme or tag-line I could use for these articles during my term, I wanted something that would both build on our heritage and also provide a focus for our future.

Given that our number one priority is to help our chapters grow, even as we navigate through the pandemic, it came to my mind that we are 100 years post the last "Roaring '20's." That was an era of change, energy and fun; coming out of the dark days of WWI and the following influenza pandemic. Now it is our time to "roar back" in our '20's". Bringing our Barbershop experience to many more people so they too can enjoy this amazing hobby that all of us get to do each week. We have a strong team of dedicated leaders on our district board and committees that are ready, willing and able to help our chapters be even more successful as we continue our journey together.

Following are just some of the highlights of the actions at the district level.

Board Meeting and HOD Meeting – Election Results

Over our last two official Board of Directors and House of Delegates meetings we have discussed and approved several key items. We have a few key personnel changes. Ken Mettler was elected our new Central Region Vice President. Steve Zorn who had been in that role will continue to lead and be part of other District Committees. Mike Lietke was elected Executive Vice President. Gordon Billows will be our Immediate Past President and Dan True, who had been in that role will also continue participation in District committees. I know all of us thank Gordon, Dan and Steve for all they have done, and will continue to do for our District.

Virtual Christmas Show – December 2020

A team led by Judd Orff, Steve Zorn, Jeff Knight and Walt Ogburn put together a very entertaining virtual Christmas show. We had material from 14 chapters and 9 quartets/small groups resulting in 28 songs. There were some very special performances from the Happiness Emporium, The Benson Family Singers and Vintage Mix. The show was broadcast on YouTube on December 12th. We've had over 3,000 views and raised over \$1,000 for the District and BHS. And the show is still available to view at: <http://www.lolchristmasshow.com/>

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Thank You from the Rochester Chapter
Submitted by Del Ryberg

You might ask, what's the scoop, what is happening as many have attended and enjoyed the many Conventions at Rochester? After the \$90 Million expansion of the Mayo Civic Center the facility was not paying its way and was costing the city about \$1 Million a year. At the same time the General Manager retired and the City Council made the decision to bring in an outside management firm to run the operation and make it profitable.

On January 1, 2020 the new management firm took over and I wondered what would happen and if rents would go up. It was early February when I got my answer as the new contract arrived for the Fall Convention in October. WOW, the contract which now is for ASM Global was 15 pages long with an additional 4 pages just on food service. Prices of everything went up amounting to over \$4,000.00 more cost for us, plus they cut out all local Rochester food service companies and gave an exclusive food contract to an out of State company.

After reading the contract I submitted my objections to 19 separate items as well as I insisted that a Force Majeure clause be added as protection for us. Several months went by and no response and then came a revised version of the contract which in my books is a "complete disaster". Just one sentence had 232 words in it and there were multiple subjects with no punctuation between different subjects. Rediculous!

At this time I got Arv Zenk and Jay Althof involved and we asked a consultant regarding the contract. I'll give you just two examples: "Licensee hereby authorizes ASM Global to bill any remaining service charges, at ASM's option, in the amounts as required, to a valid credit card for any incidentals that may occur". (NOTE : charge us without our authorizing it!) Or this: Licensee shall indemnify and defend with counsel selected by ASM.... Who stop! we can't even have our own Attorney!!) There are dozens more and needless to say I refused to sign the contract and notified them of such. The COVID-19 pandemic hit us during this same time and all events were put on hold or cancelled for 2020 but we started looking for a site for the 2021 fall convention. A big problem has been trying to get information or answers to our questions as many were now working from home and some key people had been furloughed or laid off. One of the sights we checked is the new Hilton Hotel in Rochester as it has convention facilities including a ballroom that would be large enough for our needs but trying to have the convention between two hotels created problems along with a \$40,000.00 cancellation clause told us we had to look elsewhere.

For the past many months Arv Zenk, Jay Althof and I have checked out several sites in the Twin Cities area and have a couple more sites in mind that may have potential. We are looking for the site that would best serve our needs as well as be financially acceptable for the District. Yes, there is a backup plan but continue to look for that best potential site.

The Rochester Chapter has hosted 19 Conventions, 17 of those were Fall Conventions. The largest was in 1993 for the District 50th Anniversary when we had about 2,500 attend the closing session on Saturday night and is when we put over 200 on the stage with Joe Liles directing sang "From The First Hello To The Last Goodbye". I recall there was not a dry in the house. It has been a good run and we have many wonderful memories and to all who attended a Convention in Rochester we **Thank You**.

The Business of Barbershop
Submitted by Gary Schmidt

I attended the Leadership Training Academy held in River Falls, Wisconsin for the first time in 2020. I then attended the "Virtual" Leadership Training Academy this past January 2021. Both experiences were EXCELLENT!

Both times I sat in the Training for Presidents class conducted by Larry Lewis. Larry did an excellent job of presenting materials and leading group discussions. He provided key elements needed to be an effective chapter leader. Larry strongly promotes using the "Business of Barbershop Manual". It provides a simple step by step approach to managing our chapter business with ease. A great Road Map!

As a relatively new BarberShopper (5 years) I had very limited knowledge of the BHS and LOL organizations and what goes on behind the scenes. The Leadership Training Academy is designed to help individuals such as myself in navigating the duties of their particular office.

I highly recommend you consider volunteering for a leadership position in your Chapter. Then attend the Leadership Academy. It is an absolutely wonderful resource and a really fun time! You also get to share ideas with leaders from other Chapters!

Thank you Larry Lewis and all the instructors and other individuals in LOL who make this wonderful resource available.

IN MEMORIAM



Doran McTaggart passed away on January 24, 2021 at the age of 87. Many of our senior Land O' Lakes members will remember Doran McTaggart. He served as Master of Ceremonies for many District conventions and Barbershop Harmony Society (SPEBSQSA) international contests. He was past president of the Windsor Chapter and the Pioneer District and a member of the Barbershop Hall of Fame. He was a lifetime barbershopper who spent 56 years in the Barbershop Harmony Society. He was a member of the Merrimadics and Desperate Measures quartets as well as the Sun Parlour Chorus. Doran was also a founding member of Sing Canada Harmony.

BHS members of Heart O' Lakes Harmony Chorus, Fergus Falls, MN:

James Kovala passed away on March 25, 2020. Jim was a fellow Chapter Member & Officer.

John Koepcke passed away on October 6, 2020. John was a fellow Chapter Member.



New Year...New Technology!

Submitted by Justin McCullough
and Jay Althof

With this new year, we are seeing a lot of technology changes from our Society Headquarters. A Virtual Mid-Winter, a new Members Site, additional archived videos and more. Your District Technology Committee is looking at the new Members Site and other resources from the Society to help improve our communication to our District Membership. We'll detail that more in a future article.

And now, as a District, we are excited to announce that our new website will be released very soon! We have a "beta version" up and running and are currently populating the site with our content.

One of the goals is to update the site to a more modern look. The other, bigger goal, is to make it more efficient to find up-to-date information and resources easily. The menu structure has been significantly changed and there will be more information there than ever before. But it will be even easier to find! We're also adding a history menu that highlights our rich past! It will feature our Chapters and quartets that have won District Contests as well as competed in, and in some cases, won International Contests.

We believe it's important to highlight and honor our past as we continue to build our future and get ready to 'Roar Back' after the pandemic subsides.

Keep an eye on our District Facebook page at www.facebook.com/LOLDistrictBHS and the PitchPiper. We'll announce there when the new site is published. We are also posting some collaborative videos of a few choruses and quartets from around the District. It's pretty cool how these groups used the technology available to continue to perform for the public!

If you have a collaboration video, or are planning to do one, please let us know. We'd love to share your performance on our sites!

2020 Chapter - B.O.T.Y. Winners

Manitowoc County, WI - Jim Rasmus



Greater St. Paul Area, MN - Del Brandt

The Greater St Paul Area Chapter selected Del Brandt as the Barbershopper of the Year (BOTY) in 2020. St Paul selects the annual recipient from men who have been



in the Chapter for five years and have contributed to the Chapter's success. Del has been involved with Chapter duties since the day he joined us. He is always available and willing to help, arriving at Chapter meetings early, serving on the Board, and promoting the chorus with the local media. He also sings with a quartet that he formed performing for many patrons, especially on Valentine's Day. Being a humble guy, we did not know that Del was collecting his fourth BOTY award. His first was in the Algona Chapter in 1976, then in 1992 the Faribault Chapter, then in 1999 the Fort Dodge Chapter, and finally in 2020 the Greater St Paul Area Chapter. Congratulations to Del who epitomizes the work and commitment that makes Barbershop singing great.



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Our Barbershop Life The Roaring '20's!

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Virtual Leadership Academy – January 2021

On January 16th we held our Leadership Academy for the core administrative roles within our Chapters, via Zoom. We had 130 attendees and overall, it was very successful. The recordings and material from the sessions will be available soon on the new District Website that we are launching in early February. Thanks to all who participated and special thanks to Del Ryberg, Arv Zenk, Dave Sylte, Judd Orff and to our instructors: Larry Lewis, Larry Monson, Joe Cerutti, Brian Lynch, Carrie Marcotte, Tim Schubbe and Lowell Bennes.

Fall Convention – October 2021

We continue to plan our Fall convention on October 15-16, 2021. Arv Zenk, Del Ryberg and I have explored several options for venues and schedules. Of course, the key challenge is how quickly we will all be able to get back together in person as the pandemic subsides. While it is likely that it may be into the summer before our choruses and quartets will be gathering in person, I hope that everyone will consider coming to the convention and sharing a couple of songs on the stage – even if they are show songs! We can let the judges know which groups are actually competing and which are there to have fun, share their performances with other Barbershoppers and get a little coaching. Having our Barbershop Family Reunion in a fun environment with lots of tag singing, hospitality rooms, re-connecting with friends will be a not-to-be-missed event!

Closing Thoughts

As I have mentioned in the past, one small silver lining of the pandemic is that many of us recognize how much we appreciate our Barbershop experience. Now is the time for our District and all our chapters to put plans in place so that when the pandemic subsides, we can take this passion to our communities and grow our membership and participation in this wonderful hobby. And not in a quiet and subtle manner, but to “Roar Back” with enthusiasm!

Please reach out to those Barbershop friends you haven't heard from in a while and stay connected. I look forward to providing more updates in the next PitchPiper and our monthly audio messages as we continue to embrace our Roaring '20's!



Contests 2021

Submitted by Steve Johnson



For the International Chorus Contest in Cleveland the 2019 District Champion, Hilltop, was invited but they turned down the invitation. Any other male, female or mixed chorus that would like to compete in the championship stream can compete in the chorus festival in Cleveland and try to achieve an A score (81 or higher) to advance into the chorus finals of the championship stream. Greendale will be competing in the chorus festival.

For quartets (male, female or mixed) that wish to qualify for International can do so in person at the few Districts that are holding Spring Prelims or video submission. The qualifying score for International has been raised to 78. If no quartet from the LO'L scores a 78, the highest quartet scoring 74 or better will qualify. If no quartet scores 74, then there will be no quartet from the LO'L. Quartets must register by Apr 17, videos can be submitted between Apr 24-May 1

Quartets that wish to compete live need to contact me ASAP. Currently 4 Districts are planning on holding live contests, probably just a Saturday only contest. This is a fluid situation and these contests could be cancelled. It is best for quartets to submit videos.

Complete rules can be found at:
<https://files.barbershop.org/PDFs/Events/Cleveland-2021-Contest-and-Festival-Rules.pdf>



Greetings From The Heart O' Lakes Harmony Cappella Chorus from Fergus Falls, MN

Submitted by Bront Frazier

Although our singing has been mostly absent, the communication is alive and well for most of our chorus members. Not all of our members have a computer, cell phone or emailing capabilities, thus we find it challenging not to let some member get left behind.

We emphasize that our members sing along with videos that are emailed to them from time to time from our Director or other chorus member.

The President sends out emails twice a week as done before the pandemic. A morning word or quote of encouragement is texted to members who have a cell phone. Daily light-hearted stories or jokes are emailed out to our members by our Past President.

Chorus member's birthdays are recognized by emails that are sent to the group as a whole. Membership is observed on the BHS website by the President, whereas a member does not get an expired membership. Our section leaders have been asked to call their fellow section members on a regular basis to keep in touch.

Our Leadership Team Meetings have recently been reinstated by Zoom technology to conduct any business that may arise for our chapter. With all optimism and hope, we plan to get together to harmonize as a chorus around the month of March 2021.



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Land O' Lakes Pitch Piper
If your membership has lapsed, you are receiving this issue to see that we are going to "roar back" when it is safe. We miss you as members and hope you continue to stay safe.



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



LO'L has a Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/LOLDistrictBHS/



Calendar

October
15-16 LOL Fall Convention

NOTE: Dates shown on this page are for those activities that have proper clearance through the District Secretary. Please DO NOT send show registrations to the editor, DO notify:

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2021

June/July
28-4 Cleveland, OH
International Convention



SECRETARY NOTE
This information is current as of 2/1/21. Please watch for updates on the LO'L website between Pitch Piper issues. Some chapters may have postponed or cancelled shows and not informed the District Secretary of such.



The 2021 District Directory (hard copy booklet or digital pdf) is available by request via email at districtdirectory@frickeprinting.com

