



Land O' Lakes District Association of
Chapters of SPEBSQSA Inc.
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71 YEARS OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY

OVER 714,089 SQUARE MILES

Volume 71, Number 2

A Bulletin for Barbershoppers in the LO'L District

March - April 2019

LOL District Board Review Committee Proposal

Submitted by Larry Lewis

It was recommended at the 2018 Fall District Convention that a committee be appointed by the President to review the responsibilities of the District Board and all committees to determine an optimum structure and committee member composition. The committee was asked to share these findings with the Board and make a recommendation for any changes at the 2019 Spring District Convention.

The members appointed to this review committee: Larry Lewis (Chairman), Dan True, Gordon Billows, Steve Zorn and Arv Zenk. The review committee met at 8:00 a.m. on January 12, 2019 at the Leadership Training Academy - Steve Zorn was unable to attend. The following are the findings of this committee and it is recommended that the Board adopt these changes.

The LOL Board needs to be restructured and some responsibilities need to be realigned to working committees which will more effectively support our chapters and the District. It is recommended that the Board membership be reduced from 14 positions to 8 with the following structure:

- President
- Executive Vice President
- Immediate Past President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Vice President West Division (Currently Northern Plains - 8 chapters)
- Vice President Central Division (Southwest and 10,000 Lakes - 19 chapters)
- Vice President East Division (Packerland and Division One - 19 chapters)

This Board structure would change the Divisions as we know them eliminating 2 division vice president positions, but the committee felt that 3 vice presidents could manage the chapter advocates for the 46 chapters more effectively. Division contests for these areas have been combined for a number of years and the committee felt that this structure would streamline management and actually improve communications.

This Board structure eliminates the following Board positions with the responsibilities shifting to committees:

- Vice President District Events
- Vice President Contest and Judging
- Vice President Education and Leadership Development
- Vice President Chapter Support and Development

The activities and all of the responsibilities for District Events and Contest and Judging have been very effectively handled by the committees associated with these functions. In the future, the chairman of each of these committees will report directly to the District President to coordinate all events and contests. The review committee does not feel that this is a significant change or will detract from overall operation.

The review committee recommends combining the current responsibilities and functions of the Education and Leadership Development and Chapter Support and Development areas into a single committee. This would be a new committee responsible for all of the functions outlined in the current job descriptions for the eliminated vice president roles. The review committee suggested that the title for this committee might be "Chapter Engagement and Support" and

...continued on page 3



Calendar

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

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

2019

April

- 6 Minneapolis, MN
- 6 Windom, MN
- 6 Oshkosh, WI
- 7 LaCrosse, WI
- 13 Dunn County, WI
- Stormfront and St. Croix Crossing
- 13 St. Croix Valley, MN
- 13 Manitowoc County, WI
- Shoptimus Prime
- 13 Wilmar, MN
- 14 LeRoy, MN

- 26 Fargo, ND in Fargo
- 26 Plymouth, WI
- 26 Fergus Falls, MN at Fergus Falls
- Kordal Kombat
- 27 Fergus Falls, MN at Detroit Lakes
- Kordal Kombat
- 27 St. Cloud, MN
- 27 Winnipeg, MB
- 27 Fargo, ND in Moorhead
- 27 Mankato, MN
- 27 Appleton, WI
- 75th Anniversary Show
- featuring Signature

May

- 3-4 LO'L Convention & International
- Contest - Stillwater, MN
- 3-4 Stillwater, MN
- Southwest/10,000 Lakes Div. Contest
- 11 Packerland Contest
- 11 Division One Contest
- 11 Northern Plains Festival
- 18 Hilltop, MN

June/July

- 1 Green Bay Chapter, WI
- 22 Minocqua/Woodruff, WI
- 6/30-7/7 Salt Lake City, UT
- International Convention

October

- 5 Delta County, MI
- St. Croix Crossing & Frontier
- 5 Stevens Point, WI
- 12 Polk County, WI
- Harvest of Harmony with Signature
- & Vocality
- 25-26 Rochester, MN
- Fall Convention

December

- 7 St. Croix Valley, MN
- Christmas Show
- 14 West Allis, WI
- Christmas Show
- 14 Manitowoc County, WI
- Christmas Show

2020

January

- 7-12 Jacksonville, FL
- Midwinter Convention
- 10-11 LO'L Leadership Academy
- at UW-River Falls

March

- 28 St. Cloud, MN
- Southwest/10,000 Lakes Div. Contest



Land O'Lakes
2019 Spring Convention
Stillwater, MN - May 2-4, 2019



10,000 LAKES DIVISION & SOUTHWEST DIVISION
CHORUS & QUARTET CONTESTS/LO'L QUARTET PRELIMS



Pitch Piper

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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/

I Have a Song to Sing!

Submitted by Gordon Billows
LO'L District President



We do hope that you enjoyed reading the January February Pitch Piper newsletter (also on the LOL website)! It featured a few reviews about our Leadership Training Academy, information about the upcoming Spring Convention and several District programs - like the Achievement, Standing Ovation, Marketing, and Youth in Harmony. Steve Johnson's article mentions that MIXED choruses can register for contest. We encourage you to complete the Spring Convention application and send it along (also on the LOL website). Another great opportunity to "get away from it all" and enjoy a weekend of BARBERSHOP. It will be worth the trip!

LOL is still very interested in finding someone that has GRANT WRITING experience. He/she would serve as a resource to LOL chapters and identify private corporate, or government grant opportunities. There are grants available out there for Arts groups like ours. In writing the grants, we can document that our LOL choruses and quartets perform for numerous Seniors Homes, at community events, etc. and donate to Harmony Foundation, Sing Canada Harmony, Youth in Harmony, your Chapter and/or District, it indicates to the grant providers that LOL members are doing their share to support the District and our involvement in our

communities. Contact me or Arv Zenk if you are even remotely interested.

The District Presidents' Council (representatives from all 17 Districts) is in talks with the Society Board of Directors to regain voting status on new SBOD members. Society has received and will be responding to the DPC's document that was prepared since the Midwinter meetings. Society has asked Districts to be more involved in the SBOD election process by identifying, grooming and nominating candidates for Society positions that come open annually. Society Board positions that require candidates include: Society President, Society Executive Vice-President and Society Treasurer (serve for a one-year term) and Board Members-at-Large (serve for a three-year term). There are LOL members who might just like a challenge! If you know of a viable candidate, speak to them first, and if they would like further information, have them contact me or Arv Zenk.

LOL Judges - We currently have 6 judges in LOL - Contest Administrators David Bowen and Peter Maddeaux, Music Judges Steve Johnson and Paul Wigley, and Performance Judges Michael Letke and Jim Emery. LOL would like to start looking for two or three viable candidates to support for Candidate School in 2020. We will need to budget accordingly. Having judges in our District is very important as they represent a cadre of coaches we can count on for help with our quartets and choruses. Interested members should contact Contest & Judging VP Steve Johnson for further information.

LO'L Youth in Harmony Update!

Submitted by Jim Rasmus, Chairman, LO'L YIH Committee

Looking back, it's clear the LO'L District has much to be proud of in our Youth in Harmony efforts thus far in 2019!

The \$10,000 we sent to the Harmony Foundation lent support to some of the more than 800 students who participated in the Midwinter Convention in Nashville! Not only that, but **Vintage Mix** (a mixed quartet from Waukesha, WI) finished 1 point behind the winner and tied for 2nd in the Junior Quartet Contest, while **Best Sellers** (a treble quartet from Onalaska, WI) finished 5th. The **Here Comes Treble** (a treble chorus from Burlington, WI) and **Prairie Chords** (a mixed chorus from Saskatoon) participated in the Next Generation Chorus Invitational receiving an Outstanding and Good rating, respectively!

There were five successful Youth in Harmony Festivals that took place in January and early February in Oshkosh, Windom, Fargo, Stevens Point and Willmar. The one scheduled in West Allis was postponed to March 30th due to a snowstorm. (Imagine that!)

Looking ahead, there are even more encouraging things brewing! The 5th Annual Wisconsin Youth Harmony Festival (WYHF) will be held on Saturday, May 18th in Stevens Point. That will again bring quartets from across the state to learn more about barbershop harmony and crown the best barbershop and treble quartets in Wisconsin.

There are also exciting plans to engage music educators at their state-wide conferences in the coming months:

- Justin McCollough (jumccull@gmail.com) is coordinating efforts to have barbershoppers present with resources at the North Dakota Music Educators Association Conference March 21-23.
- Scott Zoellner (shzdad@yahoo.com) is exploring ways of establishing a barbershop presence at the Minnesota Music Teachers Association Conference June 9-11.
- Rich Kirwin (rich.kirwin@gmail.com) has coordinated a WYHF grant effort to provide a session entitled "Building a Barbershop Program at the High School Level" at the Wisconsin Music Educators Association Conference October 23-25. WYHF will once again have a booth complete with resources and a high school quartet.

If you would like to help these guys in their efforts, drop them an email!

Youth in Harmony is getting new life in the Land O'Lakes District! Isn't it time to appoint someone - maybe that someone is YOU!? - to give direction to your Chapter's YIH efforts? When that happens, let me know (pjras20@gmail.com).

Has your chapter developed a means to encourage Chapter members to provide financial support for LO'L YIH, Harmony Foundation and/or Sing Canada! through the annual Parade of Checks? Don't wait until fall! Our youth deserve our support and encouragement throughout the year!!

Honor Well Deserved!

Submitted by Mark Bergland



The Croix Chordsmen are pleased and honored to recognize Jay Althof for his contributions to our chorus, by presenting him with the 2018 Spirit Award



Dan Valentine presenting Jay Althof with Spirit Award

and also the 2018 Barbershopper of the Year Award. Jay has worked tirelessly to improve and promote our chorus, and his enthusiasm and coaching skills help make each rehearsal fun and help to make us better singers. Tyler Stromquist-LeVoir has been most appreciative of Jay's advice and counsel during Tyler's

very successful first year as director of our chorus. Together, Tyler and Jay came up with a competition package that resulted in our highest score at the fall District competition. Jay's

craft sessions at the beginning of the rehearsals, and social gatherings at the end, are helping our chorus to gain membership - when guests come to our rehearsals, more often than not they come back the next week. Thanks Jay for everything you have done for the St Croix Valley Chapter!



Ron House presenting Jay Althof with BOTY award





Clipper City Chordsmen Receive Service Award

...Continued from page 3

Dave Buss, Chordsmen Music Director stated on receiving the award; "Being recognized with this award is a tremendous honor for us. The Clipper City Chordsmen have been singing in the Manitowoc area for almost three quarters of a century. Some of our members have been active for over 50 years. We try very hard to live up to our mission statement which includes supporting and encouraging music education in our schools. When young people are encouraged to use their voice in singing, it helps to give them the confidence to sing throughout their lives."

The Chordsmen donate both time and money to deserving organizations and charities. In addition to direct grants to local schools to help support music education, the members also contribute to the Harmony Foundation which provides financial support for vocal music education in schools and communities. Chapter quartets perform regularly in local schools and their director coaches several youth quartets each year to prepare them for solo and ensemble competition as well as for the Wisconsin Youth Harmony Festival held annually in May.



THANKS FROM SASKATCHEWAN PRAIRIE CHORDS!

Members of Prairie Chords youth chorus would like to thank Jim Rasmus and the LOL YIH Committee as well as those individuals who supported us in attending this past Mid-Winter convention. We appreciate your support and thank you for making this opportunity possible.

Dave Pearce, Mgr. Prairie Chords.

Vocality is going "Digital"!

Submitted by Jay Althof

Many of us are old enough to have experienced the changes in how music is distributed from LP Records, to 8 track and cassette tapes and for many years, CDs. But now, many newer cars don't even have CD players and finding computers and sound systems with CD players is challenging as well. Music is being distributed from digital platforms on streaming services like iTunes and Spotify. But many people in our audiences still enjoy the opportunity to purchase a whole album, not just try to find one song at a time. What to do?

We worked with the firm that produced our four albums to find a solution. And that solution is that each of our albums are now available to download from a company called SoundTrax. When someone purchases our album, they get a unique code, then just go to the SoundTrax website, enter the code and download all the songs from that album to their computer or phone or other digital music device.

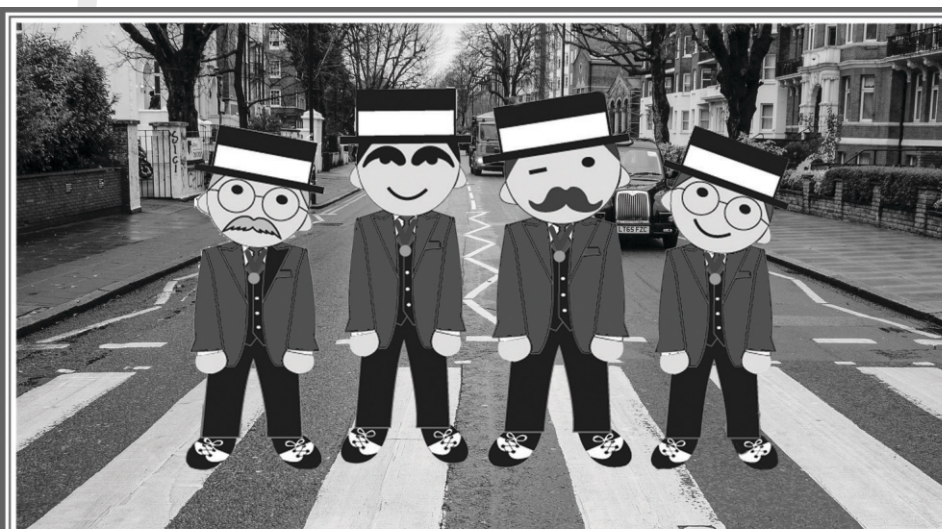
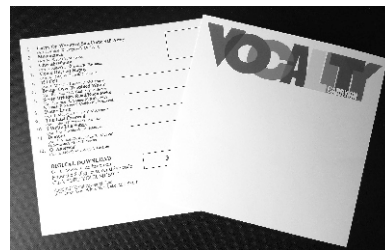
Of course, for those that would still like the physical CD, we have those, but now we have another option as well. If you'd like to learn more about how this process works for your quartet or chorus, feel free to reach out to us, and we'll share our experience.

We have several shows lined up for this year and are excited to be part of those chapter shows. And we still have a few open weekends that are available in 2019 for us to perform for your audiences. We continue to add new songs to our show packages and would love to share them with you! Connect soon so we can get your show on our schedule.

Hope to see you soon!

Vocality

2007 LOL District Quartet Champions
2016 LOL Hall Of Fame Member



ST. CROIX CROSSING

Contact Dan Heike
dan@prettygoodquartet.com
715-495-4523



LOL District Board Review Committee

...Continued from cover

in the future could possibly be combined with the "Take Coaching to the Chapter" and "Standing Ovation" committees. It will probably take some time and energy to organize this new committee and recruit team members, but the review committee felt that it could actually improve the performance and improve the communications associated with these very important functions.

The chairman of each committee would report directly to the President and members of these committees would be appointed by the President. New job descriptions for the Board and outlines of committee responsibilities will need to be updated and a review of chapter policies and procedures will need to be completed.

The review committee recommends that these changes be adopted at the 2019 Spring District Convention and that implementation of this restructuring be completed before the nomination and election of Board officers for 2020.

Arv Zenk
LOL Executive Vice President



Thank you and congratulations on your great representation of the LO'L District to Mark McLaurin, Mark Diers, Rich Derrick, & Kevin Dean of **Fallcreek** who placed 17th in the International Seniors Quartet Contest.

Manitowoc's Clipper City Chordsmen Receive Prestigious Community Service Award

Submitted by Don Lewellen

The Clipper City Chordsmen were honored as recipients of the 2019 Wesley Tepy Community Service Award In the Arts. This award was established in 1999 by the Lakeshore Wind Ensemble Association to recognize individuals or groups who have substantially contributed to the arts in the greater Manitowoc area.

The 2019 Award was presented to the Clipper City Chordsmen during the Lakeshore Wind Ensemble's "Winds of March" concert on Saturday, March 2nd at the Capitol Civic Centre in Manitowoc. Representatives of the chorus were present to accept the award and to perform as part of the concert program. The chorus was presented with a plaque commemorating the award in addition to having their name permanently displayed on a plaque in the Music Department on the campus of the University of Wisconsin - Manitowoc.

David Bourgeois, a 20 year member of the Lakeshore Wind Ensemble presented the award to the Chordsmen. He stated "The Clipper City Chordsmen donate both time and money to serving organizations and charities, provide support to local music education using grants to area schools, and strive to improve the quality of life for their members and the community."

Bourgeois went on to say "On a personal note, my life and musical career was jump started by this outstanding organization in 1981. As a sophomore at Michicot High School, I was presented with a \$200 scholarship from the Clipper City Chordsmen to attend a summer music camp. I still remember going to one of their rehearsals to thank them and to listen to them practice. This is just an example of the thousands of lives this organization's music and generosity has touched.

The Clipper City Chordsmen was founded in 1945 by O. H. "King" Cole under the direction of Milt Detjen. They currently have forty members representing all ages and walks of life. The Clipper City Chordsmen perform locally including annual Spring, Summer and Christmas Shows as well as Singing Valentines in February and visitations to area assisted living/nursing homes and hospitals. They also perform with other choruses and for special events throughout the year.

Their mission states, "The Clipper City Chordsmen Chorus is an ever-growing, well-respected brotherhood of men who love to perform a cappella music in the barbershop style, preserving the heritage of the barbershop quartet. The Chordsmen strive to improve the quality of life for our members and our community through music education programs and family-friendly musical entertainment."

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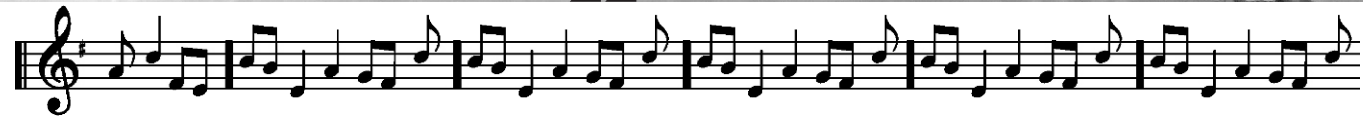
2019 Youth In Harmony

Submitted by Jay Imker

The Windom **Chordhustler** Chorus held our 15th annual Youth In Harmony Festival on January 19, 2019 at the BARC Center in Windom Minnesota. We had 46 enthusiastic students (26 girls and 20 boys) from 5 area schools (Windom, Red Rock Central, Westbrook Walnut Grove, Butterfield-Odin, Martin County West and 2 home school students.) attend this year. The students worked on music throughout the day with two excellent quartets, "**Fourte**", a Sweet Adeline's quartet from the Moorhead Minnesota area, and "**Vocality**" a men's barbershop quartet, (their 8th time helping us with this event.) from the Twin Cities. The day started at 9 AM with warmups. After warm ups we gathered on stage to practice the 8 part songs as a mass choir. Students then split up to work on their 4-part music with the clinicians until the noon break. After a noon lunch of pizza the

students returned to their practice rooms to continue working on music. After the afternoon break all groups joined on stage to practice the 8 part songs for the 4 PM concert.

The afternoon concert was at 4 PM with all groups performing. The **Chordhustlers** started the concert, with **Fourte** singing next followed by **Vocality**. The **Young Men in Harmony** then presented "Come Fly With Me" and "Can You Feel The Love Tonight". Then the **Young Women in Harmony** sang "One Fine Day" and "The 59th Street Bridge Song" (Feelin' Groovy). The finale of the day was all groups coming together on stage to present two 8 part songs "If There's Anybody Here From Out Of Town" and "Harmony". It is always a very rewarding feeling to offer this event to students and see them become excited about singing barbershop style music. We would like to thank the Robert and Helen Remick Charitable Foundation Trust for helping to sponsor this event.



The 2019 LO'L District Directory has an incorrect address for Fergus Falls M.D. Brent Gerber on page 22. The correct listing is:

M.D.....Brent Gerber,
1840 Spruce Grove Trail,
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
(701) 388-5909

Land O' Lakes District Trivia

Started with the Racine Chapter in 1943
Originally called Wisconsin Association of Chapters in 1945
Chartered as Land O' Lakes in 1947
Presently have 46 Chapters, 1347 members
LOL includes Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, Manitoba,
Saskatchewan and North Western Ontario
714,089 square miles of Harmony.
LOL includes 5 Canadian Chapters and 42 American Chapters



Changes are Coming to the LO'L Contest System

Laws, Regulation, Policies & Procedure

Submitted by Carl A. Grahn, Chairman

At the January 2019 LTA Board meeting your LO'L Board voted to restructure the current LO'L Contest system. Currently both Quartets and Choruses are required to qualify for the Fall District Contests at a Spring Division Contest. SCJC requires that Contests be scored on site by Society Certified Judges and with increasing traveling costs, along with declining membership and participation, this has become very expensive, especially with the size of the LO'L District requiring the need to hold Division Contests in three locations.

So what is the proposal to restructure the current contest system? Eliminate Current Division Contests qualification requirements. Replace with: all quartets and choruses singing 65.0 or better at the previous fall contest will be qualified to enter the next fall's District contests.

We sang 64.5 so how do we qualify for the fall contest? With the elimination of the Spring Division Contests, all other Land O'Lakes Men's Choruses and Men's Quartets (including Seniors and Novice) wishing to enter the Fall Land O'Lakes District Contests, will need to attend and be videoed, at an LO'L Regional School/Festival held the Spring prior to the Fall District Contests. These videos will be uploaded by Saturday night into a (Drop box/You Tube) to be scored by Certified Judges, with the scores returned to the District C&J within the week. All scores of 65.0 or better from the previous fall contest and the Spring Schools/Festivals video scores shall be combined and from this combined list the Men's Choruses and Men's Quartet will be invited to the Fall District Contest.

The plan is for the District to hold three (3) regional schools/festivals for Quartets and three (3) for Choruses.

The quartet school/festival will replace the quartet schools that are currently held and the chorus school/festival will replace the

current division contest. The schedule has not yet been finalized.

What about Mixed Choruses and Mixed Quartets? Currently LO'L is offering Mixed Quartet competition at the Spring Convention/Contest, but, has not addressed Mixed Choruses or the qualifications of Mixed Units for competition. This will be addressed as we gather information as to interest in this competition.

Will Schools/Festival reduce costs over the current Division Contests?

They may not, However, the main thrust of these Schools/Festivals will be Coaching with each unit attending receiving a couple of hours of coaching which will replace the 10 to 15 minute Judges evaluation received at contests. We have many qualified coaches within the District, and will be able secure a number of coaches for each school/festival for the cost of one airfare for a Certified Judge.

The exciting part at this time is there is no string attached to attend. Your unit has the option to enter for District Qualification/Coaching or attend just for the Coaching. The hope is that your unit will take advantage of both qualifying and coaching, however it remains your option, and regardless of the level you are singing, this is a great opportunity to receive Coaching, as there is an old saying "Better singing attracts better singers."

Will there be a cost to attend the Regional/School/Festival? Yes, the amount has yet to be determined. Anticipate it to be similar to the current Division Contest cost.

Will the Division Championship Awards be eliminated? This is under discussion, however, they should be able to award the division chorus and quartet championship at the fall district contests using those scores.

Will there be awards at the schools/festivals? None are in the plan at this time as the scores will not be known until the following week.

NOTE: The video qualification system is not completely new, as it is currently used

by International for qualification for the "Mid-Winter Junior Quartet Contest". LO'L, in agreement with the SCJC, will be using the video qualification at the Northern Plains Division Contest in May 2019.



The All Chapter Chorus is Back!

LO'L District Convention -
October 25-26, 2019

Submitted by Steve Zorn

The Northern Pines Harmony Brigade (NPHB) is ready to anchor the All Chapter Chorus. Over thirty Brigade members have committed to sing in the chorus.

NPHB will choose two songs from the ten songs in the 2019 Brigade to share with any singer who would like to sing in the All Chapter Chorus. The songs will be announced in the July-August issue of the Pitch Piper and earlier on the LO'L District website.

For only \$10, you will get the music with excellent learning tracks. You learn the song on your own. You will have two rehearsals during the District Convention and then perform the songs on Saturday night on the Convention stage!

I challenge you to join in. In 2017, 21 choruses were represented with 56 men participating. In 2018, 24 choruses with 83 men participated. With 48 chapters we can easily improve! I can also see 100 guys on stage! Can we get at least one member from each LO'L chapter and make it a true "All Chapter Chorus?"