

# The Pitch Piper

72 YEARS OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY

OVER 714,089 SQUARE MILES

Volume 72, Number 2

A Bulletin for Barbershoppers in the LO'L District

March – April 2020



## Quartet Festival and International Prelims Cancelled

The LOL District Board decided to cancel the Quartet Festival and International Prelims scheduled for May 2, 2020 in the Twin Cities. This decision was based on the concerns and recommendations provided in a message from Harmony Hall last Friday, March 13th (see below).

The Society Contest and Judging Committee has been working on a contingency plan for quartets that will utilize video submissions to qualify for International. We already use video qualifying for other BHS contests, so there is a tested and familiar process in place. If you are planning to compete at International you must register using Barberscore to qualify. If you have any questions regarding registration please contact Steve Johnson at [steve.johnson61@gmail.com](mailto:steve.johnson61@gmail.com). Qualification details will be released to all registered competitors next week.

Arv Zenk  
LOL Events Chairman  
507-995-1655

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### COVID-19 Update from Harmony Hall

#### Message to all members

Over the last 48 hours, the pace of information about Coronavirus (COVID-19) and its impact in North America has escalated rapidly. BHS staff has been conducting daily meetings with representatives from district leadership and the Society Contest and Judging Committee over the past week to gather information and make recommendations about how best to manage the BHS response and decisions about our upcoming local and BHS events.

After much careful consideration, discussions with the Society Board of Directors, and ongoing information gathering, and in order to protect the safety of our members, committed volunteers, and attendees, **we strongly recommend that all spring chapter shows, district events, and International prelim contests be postponed or cancelled immediately.**

This is a decision we do not make lightly. We recognize the important role that these events play in the lives of our members. But barbershop is a voluntary activity and is not worth jeopardizing the health and well-being of our communities, both large and small.

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# 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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LO'L has a Facebook Page at  
[www.facebook.com/LOLDistrictBHS/](http://www.facebook.com/LOLDistrictBHS/)

## I Have a Song to Sing!

Submitted by Gordon Billows - LO'L District President



At the January LOL Board meeting, some major policy changes relating to conventions, contests, and membership were approved. The LOL Events, Contest & Judging and Policy Committees have done most of the necessary follow up. LOL has gone away from the traditional Division and Spring District

Convention and instead will be hosting the necessary Quartet Prelim contest in Minneapolis for May 2nd. In lieu of the regular LOL Board and House of Delegate meetings, we will be having a Zoom teleconference (presently scheduled for May 17th). Details will be sent to Chapter Presidents and all LOL Board members and Committee Chairs. Change was necessary and we move forward!

A Membership Task Force has been established and will be working with a number of Chapters and their Chapter Advocates to develop strategies to recruit new members. We can expect this endeavor to continue and improve in the future. Membership recruitment and retention is a priority of every Chapter. Many strategies have been presented and tried over the years and some have been successful! If you have any ideas on this topic, send them to me so I can share them with Chapter Presidents when I prepare my responses to their Spring Chapter Reports. All

recruitment programs take a lot of dedication and effort, but it is all so worth it when the guests find their place on the risers!

As we are all aware, the Coronavirus threat has led to many event cancellations throughout the world. In our Barbershop world, Spring is a very busy time with District Conventions and Chapter shows. With most of our members being Matures and Boomers, there is added concern. Society has communicated with all District Presidents on this issue and we are all monitoring the virus situation in our respective areas. Society's big concern, of course is for the International Convention and Harmony University. So far, only the Evergreen District on the west coast has cancelled their convention. All other Districts, that have reported, are continuing with their conventions. The LOL Quartet Prelim contest in May is still a go! We encourage everyone to take the necessary health care precautions as advised on the media. We look forward to your involvement in our District's Fall Convention.

On the back page of the Pitch Piper is a listing of chapter shows in our LOL District. If some of shows are near you, do support them and enjoy the Barbershop harmony their members have prepared. Each of those Chapters have received **Show Clearance** from the LOL District Secretary. **Getting Show Clearance is an important and necessary step BEFORE securing a show venue or booking outside talent.**

...continued on page 7



## Show Clearance Issues

Submitted by Robert Brey

There is a very important job that chapter secretaries do. That is filing the show clearance documents for their chapter. Barbershop Harmony Society does us a favor by contracting lower fees for use of copyright songs. BMI/SESAC, ASCAP and SOCAN have agreements with society so that each chapter does not have to negotiate fees independently.

The Land O' Lakes District has a policy that no chapters within 40 miles of each other hold a show on the same date. This is basically a gentlemen's agreement, so the chapters do not have their local followers decide which show to attend. This is the reason that it is very important to contact the DS by phone, or email when you first choose a date and before any contracts are signed for talent or venues. The DS controls a master calendar for shows with proper clearance. This calendar appears on the District website under "Events". The calendar also appears in every issue of the Pitchpiper. Because the Pitchpiper is mailed every other month and has a deadline time of 4-5 weeks before being

mailed it is important to get your dates cleared as early as possible.

For Canadian chapters the SOCAN form is completed and either emailed or postal mailed to the District Secretary for their signature. The chapter then completes the form after the show and sends to the Canadian address shown on the form. Chapters in the United States have two forms to complete. The ASCAP form and fee payment is done once each calendar year after the chapter's last show. There is a minimum fee due unless your chapter has a very large total ticket sale. This form along with the check is sent directly to BHS at the address on the form. The BMI/SESAC Show Clearance form is completed before each show the chapter does. There is a table on the form that shows the fee due for each performance. If the chapter does one performance, there is the minimum fee due. If two or more shows are done, you multiply the performance fee by the number of performances done. This form and the check for the fees are mailed to your District Secretary who signs and returns one copy of the form. The DS then forwards a copy of the form and check to BHS.

The forms needed to gain show clearance are found on the BHS website document center. Your chapter secretary logs in and is able to download and save to their desktop a fillable PDF form. From this point on it is important to read the description under the fillable section as what information is to be typed in. I often see the CHORUS name in the blank for the CHAPTER name. There is also a blank for the chapter number. When the form is completely filled out save to your desktop and print one copy and send along with a check for the fees due to the District Secretary. I will sign the copy and make copies for my records and the BHS office. Canadian chapters just email one copy to the District Secretary. I will sign the form and return via email.

The Chapter Secretary's Manual shows this information along with instances when show clearances cannot be issued. Please read the manual for that information. This manual is available on the BHS website document center.

Whenever you have questions, need assistance or just want to talk about issues give me a call or send an email. My contact information is in the District Directory, on the website and listed twice in every issue of the Pitchpiper. I'm always ready to assist with any of your questions. If I don't know the answer, I will contact Society and get back to you. If you have suggestions for future articles let me know, otherwise I may see you at Fall Convention, but more importantly at Leadership Training Academy in January of 2021.



**The Missing Piece**

**For Your Show**

**ST. CROIX CROSSING**

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

*Heart to Heart*  
Mixed A Capella Quartet

Contact: Nancy Charles  
414-614-1894  
H2HQuartet@yahoo.com

*Brad & Nancy Charles  
Kirk & Barb Hyder*



## Valentine's Day Was Amazine!

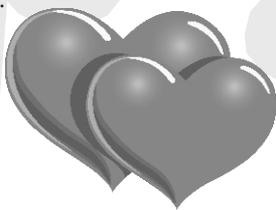
Submitted by Ken Mettler

Early on February 14th four quartets with members of the Indianhead Barbershop Chorus met in four places to begin a day that changed many lives. In fact, over 400 people heard songs that day from the quartets. Among the places the men sang were, five schools, five nursing homes, three restaurants, over 20 businesses and many, many private homes. Hundreds of Happy tears, hugs and photos were a part of the day. Lifetime memories were made! We make it a point to arrive when they are having lunch or afternoon coffee break. In both cases, Valentines parties were going on and the mood was festive. We sang a few extra songs there because we were the "entertainment" for the day! At Ecumen we sang for a lady who was 102 years young. The pictured quartet started out as they do every year at the Information Center in St Croix Falls and headed out to sing, beginning in Dresser, then going to Milltown, Cushing, St Croix Falls, Taylors Falls, Lindstrom, Chisago City, Wyoming and finally ending up in Osceola. As the quartet sat down to have lunch at the Northern, the large Valentines Day crowd was enjoying their meal when, all of a sudden, the quartet began to sing, "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." The whole noisy place immediately quieted down and people gazed and listen in wrapped fascination to the fellows in formal black tuxes croon their tune. At the end of the

\$30 as a "thank-you" for singing our song. She said, "When you were singing I thought it was meant just for me." Yes, most of our appointments were paid "gigs," but, as we drove by Interfaith Caregivers, who do a wonderful service for our communities, we said, "Lets stop and sing for them." They couldn't figure out who had sent us, and we said, "You serve so many people and we just want to pay you back with a little music." Their reaction was one of emotional thanksgiving. It was like they had won the Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes.

Singing in this quartet were Bryan Shobe on bass, Dan Smith on lead, Karl Wicklund on baritone, and Alan Salmela on tenor. Ken Mettler had he role of making the appointments, being the navigator, and taking the photos. He also helped with some of the singing. Our driver was Dan Smith. If we could only tell half of the stories from just this one quartet that went out, it would be a book of tremendous joy and fulfillment. We all think that singing with in the Indianhead Barbershop Chorus is one of the worlds greatest privileges.

"It takes a lot of work and planning, but it is worth it to bring a little joy to people's lives... not just on Valentine's Day, but all year long."



## COVID-19 Update

...Continued from cover

**We want to thank all of the volunteer leaders serving our districts and chapters** - this has been an incredibly stressful week and we all appreciate the time and energy you have devoted to managing these decisions and the impact they have on members and the greater BHS community at-large.

## International Quartet Prelims for 2020

The District events obviously have an impact on International qualification for the 2020 International Convention in Los Angeles. Though we are still assessing the likelihood of hosting an in-person International Convention, we will provide details next week about alternate plans for qualification for all quartets who wish to participate.

## Stay Healthy, Stay Connected Thank you for your care and concern for each other and our community.

We will be sharing more updates and information as things develop. We encourage you to stay healthy, observe the local recommendations around gathering and social distancing for your community, and connect with your fellow barbershoppers virtually, online, or by phone. We can still keep singing... even if we're not able to gather in the usual ways.

song the whole place began cheering and clapping. One lady walked up to the singers and asked, "Where are you singing today?" We explained that people hire us for \$30 to sing for any friends that they want have a love message sent in the form of a Singing Valentine. Before we could sing another song, she dug in her purse and pulled out



Left to Right: Bryan Shobe on bass, Dan Smith on lead, Karl Wicklund on baritone, and Alan Salmela on tenor.





**Individual All Contest Events Registration/Badge  
Land O Lakes Fall Convention  
Rochester, MN - Oct 23-24, 2020**

Name (Last/First) \_\_\_\_\_  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Attendee (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tel (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Chorus/Quartet \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Registrations are transferable but not refundable within 30 days of Convention.  
*Figures are shown in US Funds.*

<b>Name Badge &amp; All Events Registration</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Convention Package - Registration/All Events & Saturday Showcase Dinner.. @ \$90.00	_____	\$ _____
All Contest Events Registration . . . @ \$55.00	_____	\$ _____
Jr. All Events & Showcase Dinner . @ \$62.50	_____	\$ _____
Jr. All Contest Events (12 & under) @ \$27.50	_____	\$ _____
Showcase Dinner only . . . . . @ \$35.00	_____	\$ _____
(Presale only - Oct 15 cutoff)		
Total enclosed (US Funds)	\$ _____	

Individual Event tickets go on sale 30 days prior to Convention and are General Admission Balcony seating. Individual Contest Events priced at \$20.00 each for Fri Night Quartet, Sat Chorus & Sat Quartet Finals.

- Make check payable to: **Rochester Barbershop Chapter**
- Registrations/Badges will be held at Barbershop desk at Mayo Civic Ctr
- If handicap seating is required, please give specifics \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Del Ryberg  
 13354 Postier Dr NW  
 Oronoco, MN 55960-2311

**Individual Housing  
Land O Lakes District F all Convention  
Rochester, MN - Oct 23-24, 2020**

Individuals should book their own Hotel rooms  
 Prices indicated DO NOT include local taxes.  
 Confirmation will be given by the selected Hotel  
 Choruses are requested to use the Group Housing form

**Information needed when calling to book a room**

- Ask for Barbershop Convention rate
- Names of those sharing the room
- Credit Card to guarantee the room
- Arrival and departure dates

**Hotel Preference -**

- DoubleTree (Hdqtrs) . . . . . 507-281-8000 . . . . . \$ 119.00  
 (1 block to auditorium)
- Hotel Indigo (former Holiday Inn) 507-252-8200 . . . . . \$ 139.00  
 (1 block to auditorium)
- Hilton Garden Inn Hotel . . . . . 507-285-1234 . . . . . \$ 109.00  
 (3 blocks to auditorium)
- Centerstone Plaza Hotel . . . . . 507-288-2677 . . . . . \$ 94.00  
 (6 blocks - free shuttle service)
- Kahler Grand Hotel . . . . . 800-533-1655 . . . . . \$ 124.00  
 (5 blocks to auditorium)

Rev 2/11/20



**“LOST” in the shuffle, but never too late to be newsworthy... “It’s great to be a barbershopper”**

**Northeast Wisconsin Chapters Pay Surprise Flash Mob Visit to Manitowoc Chapter**

**Submitted by Donald Lewellen, Jr.**

The Tuesday night rehearsal for the Clipper City Chordsmen of Manitowoc was rocked when a mob of barbershoppers from all over northeast Wisconsin barged in on their rehearsal on August 13th. A full night of singing and fellowship resulted for all 89 barbershoppers present.

Manitowoc's planned rehearsal was also to be a test run of their new risers, lights and sound system upgrades with Phil Henrickson Sound present to help with the setup and sound. Their director Dave Buss and President David Rabe used this as an excuse to get the guys there for photos in preparation for an upcoming performance. The rehearsal took place at Twin Fountains Banquet Hall in Manitowoc, as that is to be the venue for their Cabaret Dinner and Show on September 29th. The owners of the banquet hall were not charging for the use of their space that night and were happy to be in on the surprise.

Although the members of the Clipper City Chordsmen came dressed in their uniforms, none of them were aware that 30 minutes into the rehearsal, cars and a bus filled with singers from the Appleton, Oshkosh, Plymouth, and Ripon Chapters would pour into their rehearsal all singing a polecat together.

With an open cash bar and popcorn snacks, the groups had a chance to greet and to chat for a bit before taking their turns on the risers to sing 3 song sets for each other. In between the sets, gang singing of tags or polecats was led by the various directors. At the end, all 89 barbershoppers were on the risers at the same time. Their number even included a guest barbershopper from Virginia who was in the area and was planning on visiting Manitowoc's rehearsal.

The group finished with a finale of the Star Spangled Banner, You'll Never Walk Alone, the Beer Barrel Polka, and Keep the Whole World Singing.

As with any gathering of barbershoppers, the guys and gals were glad to have a chance to chat and sing with each other. Roger Gottschalk of Manitowoc said “When I first started as a barbershopper in my teens, I sang in a quartet in Shawano with Norm Berg. Now nearly 70 years later, I am singing with his son Ray. Barbershoppers are really like a family to me.”

Mike Keys, of the Fox Valleyaires was able to sing a couple of songs with his son, Mike Jr. He noted “Everyone's so damn friendly. It really is an amazing thing.” He also pointed out the number of other father and son pairings there that night including Manitowoc's Roger and Ken Gottschalk, Dennis and Derek Luckow, and others.

Dave Buss pointed out “The words of the tag we sang together that night really say it all.” “That a lifetime's not too long to live as friends.”



*Directors of the choruses present: Dave Buss - Manitowoc, Bob Kelm - Ripon, Bill Albrecht - Appleton, Kathleen Albrecht - Appleton, Chris Vander Pas - Oshkosh*

**Fall Convention - Rochester  
NEW!! NEW!! NEW!!**

At the Convention last fall we added a new segment on Saturday night called Showcase and brought in some performers for everyone to enjoy. This fall we are making some more changes to the convention schedule as well as adding a separate Showcase/Dinner on Saturday night. We have moved the quartet finals contest earlier and showcase/dinner will be at 7:00 pm in the Ballroom of the Doubletree Hotel.

The cost is \$35.00 inclusive, and will be a plated served dinner along with performances by numerous Quartets and Choruses and well as other special recognitions. This will be Pre-sale only as we have to commit and guarantee the count 7 days prior. Check the District Web site and page 8 of this issue for information on registration and housing.



**LOOKING FOR QUARTET OPPORTUNITY**

An Appleton Fox Valleyaires lead is looking to sing in a quartet. A Society member since 1978, has 25-years singing experience. Lives in Berlin WI and is willing to travel.

Contact Joe Lenz, 145 W Moore St., Berlin, WI 54923 / 920.290.6152



## LO'L Youth In Harmony Update!

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



Congratulations to Penny Yanke and her students who sing in the youth choruses from Burlington, WI. Both the “**Reigning Men**” and “**Here Comes Treble**” have been invited to participate in the 2021 Junior Chorus Invitational at Midwinter in New York City next January!

“Best Sellers” – the 2020 Midwinter 2nd Place treble quartet from Onalaska, WI – plan to compete again at the Junior Quartet Contest. If you know other quartets who should be considered, all they need to do is record ONE contestable barbershop song to qualify. All videos must be submitted by YouTube link within the registration form no later than October 1, 2019. Details are at: <https://www.barbershop.org/next-gen/junior-quartets-choruses/junior-quartets>

The **6th Annual Wisconsin Youth Harmony Festival is Saturday, May 16 at 1:00 pm** at Pacelli High School in Stevens Point, WI. Please encourage high school quartets who have been invited to State Solo and Ensemble Festivals to register. Plan now to drive over to listen! For details go to: <http://youthharmonyfest.org/>. Also, look for word about a WYHF Golf Outing next August...

Plans are under way for a **Provincial Youth Quartet Championship in Regina in May!** Quartets will compete for \$1000 in prizes. See: <https://harmony-2-go.constantcontactsites.com/quartet-comp-2020>

As of March 9th, there were still **19 music educator's scholarships** for Harmony University available. Applications are open until May 1st. ME's can also receive CEU's and graduate credits.

Go to: <https://www.barbershop.org/events/harmony-university/scholarships#music-educators>

Don't forget to tell the music educators you know about the new **Barbershop Club** opportunity that allows SCHOOLS to establish a limited membership presence with BHS. It provides access to free music, recruitment resources, group discounts on events and club-related items from BHS, and more! For more information, go to: <https://www.barbershop.org/landing-pages/start-a-bhs-club>.

Finally, we've updated the Youth in Harmony pages on the LO'L District website. Take a look!

## I Have a Song to Sing

...Continued from page 2

Show Clearance information and forms can be found on the Society's website:

<https://www.barbershop.org/docs/music/copyright-and-legal/show-clearance-forms>.

**Chapters in close proximity to each other (40 miles) should coordinate their show dates.** Is your Chapter planning a Fall and/or Christmas show?

If your Chapter prepares a newsletter, please consider adding your Chapter Advocate to your email list. He is your Chapter's main link to the District Board. If you have any concerns or opinions on District or Society items, contact your Advocate. He is there to serve your Chapter and our District.



## 2019 Chapter B.O.T.Y. Winners

Milwaukee, WI - Murl Schmitz

Stevens Point, WI - Mark Barnard

West Allis, WI - Michael Hanson

## IN MEMORIAM

**Steve Rantala**, age 80, passed away November 4, 2019 in Duluth. Steve shared his passion for music as an elementary and secondary music teacher, starting his career in Port Wing, Wisconsin and ending in Cloquet, Minnesota. He also enjoyed his time with the Duluth-Superior Harbormasters Barbershop Chorus, Kanteleen Soittajat and the Järvenpää Singers. Whether large or small, these groups allowed Steve to share his passion while building lifelong friendships along the way. Music touched his soul... “*You and I have learned the song of love.*”



Land O' Lakes District Association of  
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Email: starzr@frontiernet.net www.soundimagequartet.com

## 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:

BOB BREY, Secretary  
Land O' Lakes District  
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Manitowoc, WI 54220  
rbwrey1950@gmail.com

2020

March  
21

Oshkosh, WI (POSTPONED)

### April

4 Dunn County, WI (POSTPONED)  
4 St. Cloud, MN (POSTPONED)  
4 St. Croix Valley, MN (POSTPONED)  
17-18 Fergus Falls, MN (POSTPONED)  
18 Manitowoc County, WI (POSTPONED)  
Instant Classic  
18 Appleton, WI (POSTPONED)  
After Hours  
18 Mankato, MN (POSTPONED)  
18 Windom, MN  
18 Willmar, MN (POSTPONED)  
25 Minneapolis, MN (POSTPONED)  
25 Hilltop, MN (POSTPONED)

### May

2 International Prelims (CANCELLED)  
9 Madison, WI  
Barbershop Fun Day  
16 Green Bay, WI

### June

20 Minocqua-Woodruff, WI  
International Convention

### June/July

28-5 Los Angeles, CA  
International Convention

### September

19 Lake Geneva, WI

### October

3 Stevens Point, WI  
Main Street  
10 Ripon, WI  
Vocality  
10 Polk County, WI  
23-24 Rochester, MN  
LO'L Fall Convention

### December

12 West Allis, WI