72 YEARS OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY

OVER 714,089 SQUARE MILES

Volume 72, Number 6

A Bulletin for Barbershoppers in the LO'L District

November - December 2020

Virtual Leadership Training Academy – Final Details

Submitted by Dave Sylte - District Education Committee

We are finishing the details for a virtual version of the Leadership Training Academy – Lakes Chord College (LTA-LCC) on **Saturday January 16th**. This is based on a shortened half day schedule using Zoom communications focusing on Chapter Officer Core classes. Each class will be one hour, but with an extra 30 minutes factored in for any classes that might run over the one-hour time slot. **More information on page 5 for logging in to these classes.** Here is the line-up of the instructors for each of the classes:

President – Larry Lewis
Secretary – Tim Schubbe
Treasurer – Lowell Bennes
VP - Music & Performance – Larry Monson
VP – Chapter Development – Bob Cox
VP – Marketing & PR – Brian Lynch
Music Director – Carrie Marcotte

What else do you need to know?

Travel costs? – Not this year!
Tuition costs? – Nope!
Worry about the weather? – No way!

That's everything you need to know. What a deal!







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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Editors: Bob/Bill Fricke 2011 S. 14th Street Manitowoc, WI 54220 920-684-6866

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Any and all correspondence or copy should be sent to the editor.

DISTRICT OFFICERS



President:
GORDON BILLOWS
73 Haverstock Cres.
Winnipeg, MB R3P 2M7
(C): (204) 881-6125
billows@shaw.ca



Executive Vice President:

JAY ALTHOF

4671 Lake Ave

White Bear Lake, MN 55110

(C): (651) 206-2686

althof@aol.com



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



Immediate Past President:

DANIEL TRUE

8091 Stone Creek Drive
Chanhassen, MN 55317-7419
(C): (952) 210-5156
dtruesings@gmail.com



Secretary:
BOB BREY
1411 S 31st Street
Manitowoc, WI 54220
(C): (920) 973-4472
rwbrey1950@gmail.com

Treasurer:



JACK EDGERTON 1804 Conant Street Stevens Point, WI 54481-5819 (H): (715) 344-5746 • (C): (715) 340-3221 ragtime75bbs@gmail.com



District VP - East Region: SCOTT FINLEY 2801 South Lance Ave Appleton, WI 54915 (C): (920) 475-4348 finleys@ameritech.net



District VP - Central Region: STEVE ZORN 3036 N Snelling Roseville, MN 55113 (C): (651) 242-6864 zorn.stephen@gmail.com



District VP - West Region: JUSTIN McCULLOUGH 1939 50th St S Fargo, ND 58103 (701) 640-3224 jumccull@gmail.com



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



There are only a few new Presidents and officers leading our Chapters in 2021. We welcome them! This will make it easier for our Chapters to plan for the

upcoming year. The Land O' Lakes Administrative Team thanks both the incoming and outgoing Chapter officers for their service and leadership. We look forward to working with the you to achieve a "better and more familiar normal".

Our sincere appreciation to the District Officers who are stepping down from their positions at the end of 2020 – Jim Rasmus (YIH), Del Ryberg (BOTY), Duane Hutton (HOF) and Steve Zorn (VP Central Region). Thank you for preparing the way for your successors – Justin La (YIH), Bob Fricke (BOTY), Larry Lewis (HOF) and

Ken Mettler (VP Central Region). In spite of the Pandemic, the District's Administration Team has been faithfully continuing their work preparing for 2021. President Elect Jay Althof will be leading the Administration Team. You can look forward to many innovative and constructive changes!

Our Chapter and District leaders are a diverse, talented, knowledgeable and skilled group of volunteers that accept the challenges of office and strive to achieve the best possible outcome for the many issues encountered. For the last two years, it has been my honour to serve as your District President. I have learned a lot about LOL geography, met and communicated with so many very dedicated LOL members and participated in District and Society meetings in person and virtually. I am looking forward to continuing my involvement as LOL's Immediate Past President. There is always more work to be done, eh!

This Pandemic has certainly curtailed most

of the actual activities, but we are fortunate to be able to keep involved in our "hobby" VIRTUALLY. It is really amazing what your creative and determined minds have prepared for members VIRTUALLY inspiring and productive rehearsals with guest and/or video presentations, coaching sessions, producing music videos, interchapter visitations, "tag parties", even Chapter BOTY Award events and soon some virtual Christmas shows. Barbershop Harmony Society and Harmony Foundation also continue to keep us involved and entertained with major productions that we can all access with just a click of a mouse! Although not quite like the real thing, we have adapted to this current norm. We continue to prepare for a better future together in song!

You would have read about the 2021 LOL VIRTUAL Leadership Training Academy on January 16th. This will be an opportunity for all Chapter officers and interested members to participate in a

continued on page 4



Sing Canada Harmony Submitted by Gordon Billows



Barbershoppers are very aware of the situation between Barbershop Harmony Society and Harmony Foundation and the turmoil that the split has caused. Sing Canada Harmony has not been affected by the split in any way. Our donors continue to support Sing Canada Harmony's charitable purpose and continue to benefit from Canada's tax laws and charity regulations.

Sing Canada Harmony is a registered Canadian charity that was established in 2008 specifically for Barbershoppers wanting to support vocal music education in Canada. Our charity derives most of our funds via donations from Canadian members and Chapters of the three Barbershopping organizations (Barbershop Harmony Society, Sweet Adelines International, and Harmony, Incorporated) and provides vocal music education scholarships to deserving Canadian individuals, schools, community groups and to Chapters and members of the three organizations. Our volunteer board is comprised of 14 people (4 female and 10 male) who are members of Barbershopping organizations in Canada. Sing Canada Harmony does not have any paid staff. It can be said that Sing Canada Harmony is basically a money in - money out operation, where nearly every dollar donated goes into scholarships that support our mission to support vocal music.

Belief in Sing Canada Harmony and our mission continues to grow in the Canadian singing community. Together we are enriching lives, encouraging healthier communities, and building a better Canada through singing....so someone will sing tomorrow. Visit the Sing Canada Harmony website for more information about our scholarship, donor and legacy programs.



LEADERSHIP ACADEMY - (VIRTUAL) Saturday - January 16, 2021

Attn: All Elected Chapter Officers for 2021

This is an opportunity for you to learn about your role as a chapter leader in the coming year. And to make it easy to attend we are holding the classes via Zoom.

And it is FREE!

When you log into the meeting shown below you will be greeted by Jay Althof, District President, who will assign you to the break out room for your class.

The class schedule is as follows:

Presidents - 8:30 am start - log in time is 8:25-8:30 am Sec and Treas - 8:45 start - log in time is 8:40-8:45 am Membership & Mktg - 9:00 start - log in time 8:55-9:00 am Music VP/Chorus Director - 9:15 start - log in time 9:10-9:15 am

Here is the information to log in:

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86439609585?pwd = TE52d1JsZFRUcFQ1VVR1S2Ricker = TE52d1JsZFRUcFQ1

VOc5QT09

Meeting ID: 864 3960 9585

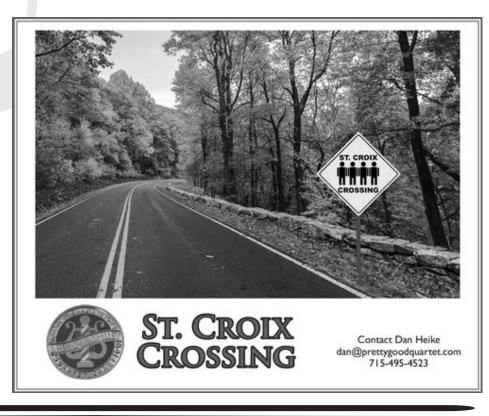
Passcode: LTA

Dial in:

312 626 6799 (Chicago) Meeting ID: 864 3960 9585

Passcode: 345141

Yes, we know it may take a bit longer for you to log in to the zoom site but keep trying and if nothing else use your phone and call the number shown and we'll getyou to your class.





Carbershop Brings Regina Men Together for 'Harmonic Euphoria' Through Radio Dial

Submitted by Gord Moker Taken from article published on the CBC Radio-Canada wesite

A Regina barbershop chorus is tuning their car radios along with their voices to sing safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Living Skies Chorus members meet at the parking lot of Thom Collegiate for carbershop rehearsals. (Samanda Brace/CBC News)

The Living Skies Chorus has been doing drive-in rehearsals in the parking lot of Thom Collegiate.

They sing in their cars through wireless mics that feed into a mixer and are aired through a FM transmitter to their vehicles. "For the first time in eight months, we're able to sing together," said Al Neufeld, the director of the chorus.

In March the barbershop chorus, an a cappella singing group, went silent when recreational activities were cancelled due to the pandemic. They tried rehearsing online through Zoom, but it didn't allow them to harmonize.

While the group could have moved back to singing at the Knox-Metropolitan United Church in August, Neufeld said they decided it wasn't worth the risk, given that some member are older than 50. But the idea of singing over Zoom for a year or more wasn't appealing either.

Carbershop conception

Neufeld came across a group in New Jersey rehearsing in what they dubbed a "carbershop." "I just I stopped everything and I just asked them the question, 'How badly do you want to sing together?' And most everyone said, 'Yeah, badly.' So I pitched the idea. They liked it and we ran

with it," said Neufeld.

After a few test runs, the men of Living Skies Chorus are singing in harmony once again. Each singer pulls up to the parking lot in their vehicle, turns on their wireless mic, tunes their radios to 106.5 FM, and watches Neufeld from a window of Thom Collegiate, where he directs and adjusts and the levels of the 24 mics.

"It was phenomenal because the sound was immediate. There was no lag time," said Gord Moker, president of the Living Skies Chorus.

"Reminded me the first time that I sang with the chorus back in 2007 and chills went up my back and my neck because the harmonies were just so wonderful. I call it harmonic euphoria. It's like nothing else when you when you sing in a choir or a choral group, when you're singing in harmony and everybody's doing their part and staying on their pitch."

In between warmups and songs, the men catch up and joke over the FM station. "We're really a brotherhood. We get together once a week and we enjoy each other's company," said Moker.



This is how Al Neufeld, director of Living Skies Chorus, is able to transmit each singers voice through FM. (Living Skies Chorus/Facebook)

"This whole carbershop is something that brings us together. We're able to sing together. We were able to do a little bit of fellowship among ourselves while we're in vehicles. We're safe."

The group is still figuring out how it might perform and do community outreach. In other years, the men would visit long-term care homes in the winter, perform for seniors then stay to visit with them. "We love to perform. We love to entertain. We love to make sure that we can put smiles on people's faces," said Wayne Hellquist, a member of the chorus.

Neufeld said he would like to be able to make the "carbershop" portable and find a way for them to pull up to a parking lot and ask the audience to tune their radios to listen.

"The human soul, the human body is built for harmony," he said, "In this world of ours today, with everything going on, we all need a little bit of harmony."

Harmony Foundation Donor Choice Submitted by Gordon Billows

Recently, our District received a check from Harmony Foundation for \$3,986.62. This represented the Land O' Lakes District's Donor Choice distribution amount resulting from donations made by 45 members. We thank those members for supporting Harmony Foundation in the past and choosing to have a portion of their donation paid back to Land O' Lakes District.

I Have a Song to Sing

...Continued from page 2

variety of administration sessions with no registration costs or travel expenses. It will definitely be worth their time and attention. Watch for more information in the Pitch Piper, on the LOL website and Facebook. Prepare your Chapter for 2021 and beyond – "attend" LTA!

Two weeks later (Jan. 28–31), our Society will be hosting their first ever VIRTUAL MIDWINTER CONVENTION. Jay and I have had a preview of this event and it is really AMAZING! Do go to the Society's website to get a good understanding on what will be happening. Our District, Chapters and members can all participate in the convention for a fraction of the usual cost. More information will be coming out shortly.

The tag to my final song as President - Mask, social distance, and sanitize so we can all sing together again. Best wishes for a SAFE and HEALTHY 2021!



Chapter Rehearsal Updates Submitted by Gordon Billows

Many LOL Chapters are having regular virtual (Zoom) rehearsals and are finding the experience serves the purpose fairly well. Members are still Barbershopping - learning new songs, keeping up their repertoire, having educational sessions, meeting almost face to face, producing song videos, etc. Other Chapters have decided to cancel rehearsals altogether and will probably not be getting back to live rehearsals until later in 2021, if all goes well with "defeating" this Pandemic.

Recommendation: On your Chapter website, Facebook, and Society information page, update and indicate your rehearsal details and give a contact's phone number or email address. If a prospective member wishes to participate in your Chapter' virtual rehearsal, the contact person can forward the Zoom link. If there is no virtual or live rehearsal, the prospect can at least talk to the contact person to find out more about the Chapter and its plans for the future. Let's keep the doors open!



SHARE THE JOY OF THE HOLIDAYS WITH THE COMMODORES



LOL Virtual Parade of Checks Submitted by Gordon Billows

For many years, Chapters have participated in the LOL Fall Parade of Checks. This was an opportunity for Chapters to support our singing youth by donating to the Land O' Lakes or Wisconsin Youth in Harmony programs. This year, most Chapter shows and performances, youth singing workshops and contests, etc have been cancelled. Accumulated funds from previous Parades are largely unspent and there is no urgency to collect more funds at this time.

Chapters that have funds to comfortably cover their expenses in 2020 and 2021 and still wish to participate in the virtual Parade of Checks should:

- Make their check payable to Land O' Lakes
- Indicate in the check's "memo" section LOL YIH or Wisconsin YIH
- Send the check to LOL Treasurer, Jack Edgerton by Saturday, October 10th and he will account for them and forward the check accordingly.

Canadian Chapters, who wish to participate, would make their cheque payable to Sing Canada Harmony and send it to SCH representative Gordon Billows.

Chapters wishing to donate to the Barbershop Harmony Society and/or Harmony Foundation should research each charitable organization, indicate their "donor choice" option and send a check **directly to the organization**, (not to Jack Edgerton).

The LOL singing youth appreciate your support! Keep a Melody Ringing!



Parade of Checks - The Way We Were (last time we met)





LO'L Next Generation Barbershop Update Submitted by Justin La



Hello, my name is Justin La and I am thrilled to be the incoming chairman for Youth in Harmony

in the Land O' Lakes district! I am excited to be working with a group of vibrant and enthusiastic people in the committee. A few things about me; first off, I am from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. I am one of two Canadians on the committee andI am looking forward to learning and working and facilitating youth in harmony in both countries. I currently direct a youth barbershop/a cappella group in Saskatoon called **Acoustic Theory** and we are currently rehearsing with strict COVID 19 guidelines and protocols outlined in our province. Barbershop is one of the hobbies in my life that had a great impact and I want the youth in LO'L district to have the same experience. My former collegiate quartet **The Sharp Flats**, previously had competed in the Northern Plains division. I am a lead voice but secretly want to be a bass (don't we all?). I am looking forward to the experiences that our committee will be providing and facilitating to the youth in our district!

Events to take note of:

- The Barbershop Harmony Society 2021 Virtual Midwinter Convention will be like nothing you've ever experienced before! This virtual event will capture your imagination and bring everything you love about Midwinter -- the connection, the camaraderie and the harmony -- into the safety of your own home. For more information please visit: https://www.barbershop.org/events/midwinter-convention
- Put your barbershop knowledge to use this fall! The **2021 Virtual Junior Quartet Challenge** offers a safe and free way for young singers to sharpen their close-harmony skills. Entries close on December 15th. The quartet with the most Audience Favorite votes will have their video featured at the Barbershop Harmony Society Virtual Midwinter Show in January 2021!For more details please visit: https://www.barbershop.org/next-gen/junior-quartets-choruses/junior-quartets
- The Saskatchewan Quartet Competition committee recently had a meeting and will be going forward to holding the event virtually in May. Updates to the website will follow. Dates and information to come on a later date. Contact Dave Pearce for more information at pearces@myaccess.ca.

Our **2020 Committee Members** in your area are below, to learn more reach out to a member in your area:

- Jon Buss (Amery, WI) > allegrobusss@gmail.com
- Adam Helgeson (Willmar, MN) > helge120@gmail.com
- Justin McCollogh (Fargo, ND) > jumcull@gmail.com
- Steve Osero (Turtle Lake, WI) Sosero@AmeryTec.com
- Dave Pearce (Regina, SK) > pearces@myaccess.ca
- Scott Zoeller (Brooklyn Park, MN) > shzdad@yahoo.com
- Chmn Justin La(Saskaton, SK)>justin.la@acoustictheory.com

Winnipeg's Virtual BOTY Award Night Submitted by Paul Bullock

Normally, the Winnipeg Chapter (LOL District) holds an annual BOTY Awards Night at a local restaurant where we visit, dine, make presentations, celebrate and sing. We knew it would not be possible in this "Year of the Pandemic" so we decided to hold a virtual version of the event. This challenged the organizers to create an interesting program with virtual presentations and entertaining activities. The evening turned out to be an outstanding success!

At 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28th, our computer screens lit up via Zoom as River City Sound Chorus members, their "cheerleaders", alumni, and guests were welcomed in from the "waiting room". This was an excellent opportunity for the \sim 65 attendees, especially former and newer members, to connect, albeit virtually. At 7:00 p.m. the scheduled program began with toasts to our "cheerleaders" and members and our President's address. A "BOTY Bonanza" contest tested our familiarity with details from member's autobiographies submitted to our "Getting to Know You" newsletter series. This was followed by virtual award presentations to deserving Chapter members. Two very special guests attended to see the awarding of the Dorothy Casselman Lifetime Achievement Award - named in honour of their mother. It was very touching to have Jewel and Lynn join us as we acknowledged the chorus' loss of its longest-serving member, their father, Harold "Cass" Casselman.

The climax of the evening was the announcing of the 2020 BOTY award winner, Les Creek. The BOTY Award first originated for the Winnipeg Chapter in 1955 and has been adopted internationally. Featured during the interludes were short videos demonstrating some member's talents. This culminated with the showcasing of our latest music video "Bridge Over Troubled Water". The formal part of the evening ended at 9:00 p.m. with "Irish Blessing", but many attendees lingered afterwards to talk some more and share in the incredibly warm feelings that the evening had evoked in everyone.

This 2020 Awards event was so successful, that Winnipeg Chapter is planning a virtual Christmas gathering to substitute for the inperson event we usually hold at the end of our Christmas performances. We have learned the importance of our camaraderie and truly appreciate every opportunity to share in it, whether in-person or virtual.





Croix Chordsmen Virtual Christmas Show

Submitted by Duane Hall

As with all Barbershop Harmony Society Chapters, Croix Chordsmen in-person rehearsals were terminated in mid-March 2020. Thanks to the efforts of Jeff Knight, Jay Althof and Tyler Stromquist-Levoir, virtual meetings were begun via the Zoom Meeting App on March 24th and have been conducted weekly since. They are well planned and attended and have helped us to learn new songs, maintain familiarity of old songs and ensure that we maintain the atmosphere of being a close knit musical family.

In the May-June timeframe, it became obvious that our long established Christmas Show was not going to materialize for December 2020. Thanks to Cliff Turnbull during a midnight awakening, the idea of producing a virtual Christmas Show emerged. Following discussions with several Chordsmen members and an outside acquaintance of Cliff, a plan was developed to produce a virtual show.

A show team consisting of Jeff, Jay, Tyler, Cliff, Walt Ogburn and show co-chairs Tyler Smith and Duane Hall was formed. Based on the findings of the team, it was determined that it would be possible to produce virtual recordings. However it was also learned that it would be too daunting a task to do all the songs using the virtual chorus technique for a 75 minute show. Fortunately, past Christmas Shows have been recorded and produced by our local TV company resulting in professional quality DVD's. The show team reviewed all the DVD's from 2005 on and narrowed down favorite songs to 30-40 picks. Final songs were then selected to arrive at a mix of song styles sung by the Chordsmen, guest choral groups and quartets. These songs were then clipped from the DVD's and sequenced on video software.

Team members, Walt and Jay, volunteered to develop a plan to have all Chordsmen individually video and audio record two Christmas songs, one to open the show and one to end the show. A make-shift video recording studio was established with provisions made to prevent anyone's health to be put at risk. Thirty-two members were recorded at home or in the make-shift studio. Walt, who also volunteered to learn video editing with Davince Resolve software, then combined all the individual video tracks with the audio tracks to produce the two virtual chorus songs.

Our long-time emcee, Charlie Payne, then produced introductions for all the show songs and invited Chordsmen members and friends to record introductory videos for some of the songs.

In the Chordsmen's mission to support youth choral groups, arrangements are being finalized to include song selections from the local VocalEssence youth chorus. Walt is in the process of putting all the pieces together to end up with the final virtual

show. The Barbershop Harmony Society has graciously offered to host the show on their YouTube site and to promote the show through their marketing channels. Chordsmen are also promoting the show to their friends around the world so it is expected that the show will be viewed by a much wider audience than any show we have done.

The show is free to watch and will air at 2pm Central Time on Saturday, December 5th. The link to the show is www.croixchordsmen.com. Currently this link takes you to a site that has information about the show and on the 5th it will take you to the virtual show. If you wish donations can be made to the Chordsmen.

We would far prefer performing this show in public and we know that our traditional audience would prefer to be watching in person. However, we are excited to be able to produce a fun, high quality show that will be available to people all over the world, both live on the 5th and recorded for future enjoyment.



Barbershopper of the Year (BOTY) Submitted by Gordon Billows

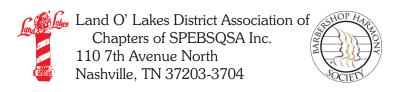


The "Barbershopper of the Year" Award was first originated for the Winnipeg Chapter in 1955, when Director Vern Leatherdale offered to the executive of that year to provide a suitable trophy for annual presentation (on a similar basis to the Land O' Lakes District) to a member of the Winnipeg Chapter.

They produced a set of rules and policies so the award would be recognized and established as a real tribute each year, to the man selected as having done the most to promote, preserve and encourage Barbershopping in Winnipeg for that year.

In addition to having the recipient's name inscribed on the BOTY trophy, the Chapter provided the winner with a silver, engraved lapel button as a permanent sign of recognition of the wearer's achievement. The BOTY pin was to be worn by all winners at all Chapter functions.

Today the tradition of recognizing the Barbershopper of the Year continues throughout the Society in many of the Chapters and Districts. In the Land O' Lakes District, the Barbershopper of the Year receives a LOL BOTY pin and has their picture, name and specific District achievements displayed on the permanent BOTY display board.



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Land O' Lakes Pitch Piper

Have you missed copies of the Pitch Piper? **Current** and archived copies of your District newsletters are stored conveniently on our website. Any missed copies can be downloaded directly to your computer or printed.

http://www.loldistrict.org/aboutus/pitichpiper.html

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 1411 S 31st Street Manitowoc, WI 54220 rwbrey1950@gmail.com

2020

October

3 Stevens Point, WI (POSTPONED)
Main Street
10 Ripon, WI (POSTPONED)

10 Polk County, WI (CANCELLED) 23-24 Rochester, MN (CANCELLED) LO'L Fall Convention

November

7 Mankato, MN

December

12 West Allis, WI (POSTPONED) 12-13 Hilltop, MN (possible 3rd show)

2021

April

 10
 Appleton, WI Tenacious

 10
 Dunn County, WI

 17
 Manitowoc County, WI

 24
 Mankato, MN

SECRETARY NOTE

This information is current as of 12/01/20. 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.