

The Pitch Piper

74 YEARS OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY

OVER 714,089 SQUARE MILES

Volume 74, Number 3

A Bulletin for Barbershoppers in the LO'L District

May – June 2022

“ROAR BACK - Even Louder!” at the Fall District Convention

Submitted by Arv Zenk, District Events Director

LOL Convention Web Page – If you haven't done so already, check out the updated on the LOL Website – 2022 Fall Convention page. This will be the single best place to get all of the information that you need to prepare for the weekend.

1. This is where you can register for everything – for yourself or your group.
2. You can register for the convention using your credit card.
3. You will also find a copy of the mail-in registration form.
4. It's the best place to make your hotel reservations for just \$95/night!
5. Register for the All-Chapter Chorus
6. Register for the free quartet clinic.

It's all right there along with the schedule for the weekend and much more. Thanks to Todd Smith for designing and building this website. He made it attractive and so easy to use and it's such an asset to our barbershop family. Finally, the BHS has not opened their contest registration website just yet, but when they do we will let you know.

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Pitch Piper

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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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Positive Momentum Continues to Build Submitted by Jay Althof - LOL District President



All across our District positive momentum continues to build for our Barbershop Harmony hobby. Many of our chapters have already held shows this Spring, and many more are lining up performances for this Summer and Fall. As we have reached out to many of our chapters, it is clear that the number one priority of all is to increase participation and membership. As I've mentioned in the past, those of us who are fortunate to participate in this wonderful hobby need to share our passion with others so that they too may experience the joy of singing, fellowship and extended family that we all get to enjoy every week. Hosting guest nights, implementing your own version of the "Ready, Set, Sing" program, and many other options are available to encourage more people to join us. Let's just do it!

The Northern Pines Harmony Brigade had a very successful rally on May 6-8 at the Crown Plaza hotel in Plymouth, MN. 60 men gathered for a weekend of singing and fun. It is a great way to learn fun songs and also find other guys who are interested in singing in quartets. And the show on Saturday night was very

enjoyable. Be sure to look for future opportunities to participate!

As you all know, we will have our Fall Convention at the Minneapolis Airport Hilton hotel on October 13-15. The event kicks off with the Harmony Platoon on Thursday evening and then starting Friday we will have coaching sessions, youth groups, our contests, Fun Squad activities and hospitality rooms. On Saturday evening we'll once again have our Showcase banquet and show. This year we are very fortunate to have Main Street Quartet, our 2017 International Champion, with us for the weekend to provide coaching, sing tags with us and headline our Showcase extravaganza! Also, on our District Website we have the sheet music and learning tracks for the song we will use for our mass sing, "Hope". Check it out at: <https://loldistrict.org/> The planning continues and I'm confident that this year's event will be even more fun than the great time we had last year. We are Roaring Back – Even Louder!

Coming soon is the International Convention and Competition on July 5-9 in Charlotte, NC. Two of our quartets, Coulee Classic and St. Croix Crossing, and the Midwest Vocal Express chorus will represent our District at the Convention. I know they will do a great job and be wonderful ambassadors for our District.

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2022 Wisconsin Youth Harmony Festival Results

Submitted by Jim Rasmus



After the annual Wisconsin Youth Harmony Festival (WYHF) had to be done virtually last year, everyone was happy to be back in-person on Saturday, May 21st at Pacelli High School in Stevens Point. It was a great day of singing and competition,

Chordination, a barbershop quartet from Arrowhead High School in Hartland, WI sang their way to first place in the Bass-Clef Division. Second place was awarded to **Four Guys, One Beard**, from Shell Lake High School, while third place went to **MetaFour** from Arrowhead.

In the Treble Division, **The Harmonistics**, four young women from Solon Springs High School, took first place. Second place was awarded to **Big Time Rush** from Arrowhead High School, while Arrowhead's **The Melodic Misses** took third place.

These six quartets are automatic qualifiers for the newly established Next Generation Quartet Contest at the LOL District Convention in Minneapolis, October 14-15, 2022.

This year the WYHF day started with students participating in warm-ups, followed by sectionals to teach the Star-Spangled Banner. The young women were provided with the Joni Bescos arrangement and learning tracks by Sweet Adelines and the young men got the Val Hicks chart and learning tracks from the Barbershop Harmony Society.

We had two guest quartets who performed and were active teaching tags to our young quartets: **It's About Time**, Members of Sweet Adelines Int'l and Harmony Inc.; and **Coulee Classic**, our 2021 Land O' Lakes District Champions. Before lunch the BHS judging model was

briefly described to the participants. This year's judges/coaches were: Paul Wigley and Roger Williams (Music); Mike Lietke and Matt Hall (Performance); Brad Charles and Dan Heike (Singing). Our Administrative Judges were Peter Maddeaux and Doug Miller.

Jim Rasmus, Co-chair of the WYHF Board of Directors observed: "We were delighted to welcome 15 quartets from across the state to our 2022 Festival. It was so inspiring to hear these fine quartets representing eight Wisconsin High Schools and to share our passion for barbershop harmony with them."

Co-founder Bill Schmitt reminds everyone: "The Schmitt Brothers Traveling Trophy goes to the school of the winning quartet in each division, along with cash prizes for the music departments of the schools they represent. We also give plaques to the members of the top three quartets in each category."

Co-chair Ken Bester, commented: "The facilities and support people at Pacelli High School performed admirably, and the Stevens Point barbershoppers outdid themselves with seeing to the details of keeping the activities running smoothly."

"Once again we received good support from barbershop choruses and individuals throughout the state," reported Bill Jenkins, WYHF treasurer. "We're thankful to the following chapters for their financial support: Appleton, Dunn County, Greendale, Manitowoc County, Oshkosh, Ripon, St. Croix Valley, and Stevens Point. If you would like to support this event, send your check to Wisconsin Youth Harmony Festival; PO Box 482; Stevens Point, WI 54481."

The Wisconsin Youth Harmony Festival Board of Directors is: Bill Schmitt (Founder), Ken Bester & Jim Rasmus (Co-Chairmen), Bill Jenkins (Treasurer), Bob Brey, Tim Kunze, John White, and Penny Yanke. Go to our website: <http://youthharmonyfest.org/> for more information.



What!!! You aren't having St. Croix Crossing?

ST. CROIX CROSSING

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



Vocality Concert From The Porch!

Submitted by Jay Althof

As we continue to enjoy our 15th year together as a quartet, we are happy to announce that we will host our 7th Annual Free Concert From The Porch on July 16th. And we are very pleased that Spice will once again join us. We'd love to have many of you join us overlooking White Bear Lake, chatting with friends, old and new, and enjoying an afternoon with some fun a cappella harmony!

Jay, David, Tom and Tony

VOCALITY: 7th ANNUAL CONCERT FROM THE PORCH



SATURDAY, JULY 16TH, 2022
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

4671 Lake Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN

Bring Your Own Lawn Chair
And Beverage!

Parking on Banning Street

Donations help fund Vocality's
5th album: Never Enough

www.VocalityQuartet.com

With
special
guests:

Spice

facebook.com
/QuartetSpice



Positive Momentum Continues to Build

...Continued from page 2

And, as District President, I will attend some administrative meetings held in conjunction with the convention as well.

Just a reminder that we need your help to nominate special people for our District Level awards. If you know of individuals that deserve recognition as the District Barbershopper Of The Year, Hall Of Fame Inductee or the new Joe Liles Life-time Achievement Award, please submit your nomination to me (President@LOLDistrict.org) and I'll send it to our evaluation committees for consideration. More details regarding each award can be found on our District Website: <https://loldistrict.org/document-center>

I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the year. Until then, keep singing and continue to enjoy this wonderful hobby.



Winnipeg Chapter – Oseredok

Submitted Gordon Billows

On Saturday May 14th, the River City Sound chorus and quartets presented two performances for our Winnipeg audiences. Our show's theme ("Remember that Summer"), story line and song selection definitely brought many fond memories back to our patrons.

A Winnipeg Chapter annual show tradition is making a donation to a local charity. This year it was unanimously agreed that we should show our support for Ukraine. We invited representatives of the Oseredok Ukrainian Cultural and Education Centre to each performance to receive our donation of \$2000.00 from the proceeds of the shows. Those funds will help the Oseredok organization prepare to welcome the Ukrainian refugees arriving in Winnipeg shortly and to assist the families with their resettlement in our community. The audience's response to our support of Oseredok was very enthusiastic. This was certainly the right charity for us to support this year.



It is Winnipeg Chapter's hope that those Ukrainian families will soon have their own very fond memories of their first summer in Canada, where they are safe, supported and welcomed.



“ROAR BACK” at the District Convention

...Continued from cover

Contests – While getting together and having fun is the cornerstone of our weekend, we will have our Male, Mixed, and Female competitors crossing the stage to be evaluated in the same contest sessions. District awards for top performance will be presented in each category and overall winners will also be awarded. And, those contestants with qualifying scores will be identified for the International competition. It's time to begin preparing for contest.

Festivals – For choruses and quartets that want to be evaluated and only get a critique, and do not want a published score we are again offering the festival option. Your chorus or quartet will be in the program along with all others crossing the stage and, if you choose, judges will critique your performance. You can get the evaluation and feedback, but not be in competition nor will your scores be posted.

A number of choruses and quartets decided to enter the festival in 2021 and discovered the thrill of singing before an energetic barbershop audience. They did not have an interest in competing and enjoyed singing songs from their favorite repertoire. If you'd rather sing something that you know well, can perform to the best of your ability, and get some great coaching, the festival is for you. And, by the way, you can sing anything you like – religious, patriotic, maybe even non-barbershop – as long as it's in good taste. Sing a couple of songs you like the best and entertain the audience – it's fun!

Quartet Clinics/Youth – The District Youth In Harmony committee made significant strides in contacting key educators to foster a youth development program that will mesh with our convention schedule. If their plans come together it appears that we could have a youth chorus or two and possibly a number of youth quartets. Mike Lietke, District Executive VP, will again be working with members of the Association of District Champions (ADC) and Main Street Quartet to provide coaching for all quartets on Friday. A number of chapter quartets can also take advantage of the clinic.

The COVID pandemic helped us focus on how important it is for us to sing together again and to personally reach out to barbershop friends. The 2021 Roar Back Convention was a turning point for many LOL barbershoppers to come out and enjoy our hobby in a safe environment. The 2022 LOL Fall Convention is designed to be a weekend that will bring barbershop friends even closer together with a combination of memorable events, gatherings, and guests. Come early and enjoy the Northern Plains Harmony Brigade show Thursday evening and stay with us for the Showcase Dinner featuring International Champions – Main Street. We are so excited they decided to help us Roar Back – Even Louder in 2022!

Watch the LOL Website in the coming weeks for registration details, dining options, schedules, and much more. See you at the Hilton!

Northern Pines Harmony Brigade 2022 Recap

Submitted David Speidel

It has been a struggle to get our Barbershop community back in full force, but the NPHB Rally on May 5-8 was just the beginning of things yet to come. 54 guys from over 25 states came together and rally around to commemorate our 9th official Harmony Brigade weekend. As singers came in on Thursday night, the singing began spontaneously and into the evening, but voices had to be spared as the 6:30 AM School singout program would pull us out of the trenches early in the morn. With 40 guys aboard the Coach bus, we headed out to visit 3 schools choral programs and one assisted living facility to spread the joy of barbershop harmony. Once we returned to the hotel, everyone commenced singing with the newcomers and from that point on it was continuous quartetting. The usual Friday night random draw quartet contest brought lots of fun and laughs, with some fun antics by our guest quartet New Fangled 4. On Saturday, the group rallied for a general session meeting with guest Perry White from HFI. This was followed by a quick show rehearsal followed by the 'Finalist' quartet contest in the afternoon. The Saturday evening show (MC'd by Jay Althof), featured our 54 man chorus, 7 different directors, Step Out Quartets, Just One More and the New Fangled Four. If you've never seen NF4 do a show, you'll have to hire them for your next chapter show. They are not only phenomenal singers but they put on a fun filled show with lots of laughs.

It doesn't end here. A great Pizza Party afterglow with singing into the wee hours of the night ensued. I must admit that I couldn't hang in there like I used to. I heard rumors that singing continued until 4 AM. One of the highlights for me was seeing the number of new guys who came this year. We had approximately 10 singers - new to the Brigade experience. We were thrilled to see and hear how prepared they were to sing all of the 12 songs featured for the weekend. We had approximately 8-9 guys from Iowa including 2 from the Central States District championship quartet. All participants expressed sincerest thanks for allowing all of us to be 'Back In the Saddle Again'. If anyone has had reservations about trying a weekend with us, please give it a try in 2023. We've already reserved the first weekend in May (5-6) at the same great venue. I guarantee you that once you've tried it, you'll be hooked.

Anyone looking to get a 'Taste of Brigade' at the LO'L Convention this fall, our songs will be Make Em laugh, Hold on to Hope, Route 66, and one more. The All Chapter chorus will do Laugh and Hope. We'll keep you posted and have a harmonious summer!





Stevens Point Invades the Harmony Brigade

Submitted Joe Larson

Seven members from the Stevens Point Wisconsin chapter came to the Northern Pines Harmony Brigade rally weekend in Plymouth Minnesota, May 6-7, 2022. This was the first time at NPHB for four of us, and it was an eye-opening over-the-top fun experience. We sang great songs all weekend with new and old friends, including the guys from New-Fangled Four, our featured guest quartet. We sang in countless quartets all weekend, and in the sixty-voice combined chorus on the Saturday evening show. What an experience! Some of us earned the coveted Quartet Tramp award for singing in quartets with every other guy there who wasn't singing our own part.

Stevens Point chapter president, Chris Wendt, had this to say:

“The value this brought to our chapter is immense. The guys that came saw the power of knowing the songs and getting right to making music. They came back to the chapter full of enthusiasm that will run through the chorus like wildfire and hopefully result in the chorus being more productive and giving our audiences better barbershop!”

Other comments from the guys included: “The experience recharged my battery for competitive quartetting. It had been nearly a decade since I had been in any kind of serious quartet.”

“The strong showing by Stevens Point ought to put the district on notice that we're serious about bringing quality barbershop back to north central Wisconsin.”

“Northern Pines Harmony Brigade lit the barbershop fire that COVID extinguished. I'm even thinking about flying to other Brigades next year.”

“It was a great weekend to gather for several reasons. First, it was my first chance to gather with a group like that since the big C took everything down. Second, it was exciting to have so many of our own chapter together in one spot sharing in some quality singing. Third, I was rather proud to be a part of a brotherhood that accepted everyone no matter what their skill level might have been or where one might have been in the learning process.”

It seems a good bet that Stevens Point will be back at NPHB next year. Hope to see you there.

The All Chapter Chorus Is Back!

Submitted Steve Zorn

How can you add to your Convention experience and do what you love to do? SING WITH THE ALL CHAPTER CHORUS. The Northern Pines Harmony Brigade (NPHB) is again sponsoring the All Chapter Chorus in 2022. Maybe we can reach the goal of having at least one member of every Land O' Lakes chapter sing with us on the risers!

NPHB has chosen two songs to share with any singer who would like to sing in the All Chapter Chorus. The first is Make 'Em Laugh. A funky arrangement with great harmonies. The second is the theme song for the Convention, Hold On To Hope. Both of these songs are among the songs selected for the Platoon held on Oct. 13.

For only \$5, you can sing these great songs with other guys who love to sing in quartets and then perform them as a chorus for our LO'L District Convention during the Saturday evening banquet.

You can sign up on or after July 1 and the music with learning tracks will be shared with you. Information will be shared with you on the LO'L website and with your Chapter Presidents. I challenge you to join in. Can we get at least one member from each LO'L chapter and make it a true “All Chapter Chorus?”



Pictured, left to right: Joe Larson, Chris Wendt, John Gethers, John White, Nathan Willbur, Norm Barnard, Joel Bourgeois. Picture credit: John White



FREE should have everyone's attention. It was decided, moving forward, that any LOL chapter can advertise their “show clearance show” with a quarter or half page display ad free of charge.

This is being implemented to help chapters as we “Roar Back... even louder” in our passion for barbershop singing. All you need to do is forward pdf artwork and we'll take care of the rest. “It's Great to be a Barbershopper!”



Land O' Lakes District Roar Back Weekend MSP Hilton Hotel October 13 – 15, 2022

Harmony Platoon

Thursday – October 13

- 3:00 – 8:30 Registration
- 3:00 – 5:00 Platoon Sign In - mingle and sing
- 5:00 - 6:30 Platoon group dinner
- 6:30 - 7:30 Meeting -- assign Platoon quartets
- 8:30 - 9:30 Quartet Show – Everyone invited**
- 9:30 - 12:30 Hospitality/Pickup Quartets

- 2nd Floor - Foyer
- 2nd Floor - Foyer
- Restaurant
- Ballroom
- Ballroom**
- Meeting Rooms

Friday – October 14

- 9:00 – 8:00 pm Registration
- 9:30 – 12:00 Quartet Clinic
- 12:00 – 1:30 Lunch
- 1:30 – 3:00 Performance (non-contest)
- 2:00 – 2:30 ADC Board Meeting
- 2:30 – 3:00 ADC Membership Meeting
- 3:30 – 5:00 All Chapter Chorus rehearsal
- 4:30 – 5:30 Quartets – on stage checks
- 6:30 – 9:00 Quartet Prelim Contest**
- 9:00 – 10:30 ADC Champions Show**
- 9:30– 10:30 Quartet Evaluations

- 2nd Floor – Foyer
- Meeting Rooms
- Ballroom
- VII White Pelican Bay
- VII White Pelican Bay
- VIII Wood Duck Pond
- Ballroom
- Ballroom**
- Ballroom**
- Judges Rooms

Saturday – October 15

- 7:00 – 2:00 pm Registration
- 8:00 – 9:00 House of Delegates Meeting
- 8:00 – 12:00 Chorus rehearsals/dressing
- 8:30 – 10:00 Stage open for inspection
- 10:15 – 12:00 Chorus Contest**
- 12:00 – 1:30 Lunch Break
- 1:30 – 3:00 Quartet Finals**
- 3:30 – 6:00 Chorus/Quartet Evaluations
- 6:00 – 7:30 Next Gen – Pizza Party
- 6:00 – 10:00 Showcase/Dinner and Show**
- 10:00 – 1:00 am Afterglow/Hospitality

- 2nd Floor - Foyer
- Ballroom I
- Meeting Rooms
- Ballroom
- Ballroom**
- Ballroom I
- Ballroom**
- Meeting Rooms
- Riverside Room
- Ballroom**
- Meeting Rooms

Registration for Events Badges/Lunch/Dinner Land O' Lakes Fall Convention October 14-15, 2022

Name (Last/First) _____
2nd Attendee _____
(if applicable)

Tel () _____ Email _____

Name - Chapter/Chorus/Quartet _____
Registrations are transferable, but not refundable within 30 days of the Convention.
Figures are shown in US Funds.

	Qty	Amount
Complete Convention Registration Package	@	\$120.00
Includes: All Contest Events, Box Lunch, Showcase Dinner & Show		
All Contest Events Registration	@	\$60.00
Saturday Showcase Dinner and Show	@	\$45.00
(Presale only - Oct 1 cutoff)		
Saturday Noon Box lunch	@	\$15.00
(Presale only - Oct 1 cutoff)		
Saturday Showcase Show (Without Dinner)	@	\$10.00
Jr. Contest Events Registration (12 & under)	@	\$30.00
Jr. Events Registration, Showcase Dinner and Show	@	\$75.00
(Presale only - Oct 1 cutoff)		
Total enclosed (US Funds)		\$ _____

Individual Contest tickets go on sale 30 days prior to Convention and may be purchased at the Registration Desk for Friday Quartet, Saturday Chorus, or Saturday Quartet Finals.
Individual Contest Tickets \$25.00

Registrations/Badges will be held at the Barbershop Convention desk at the Hilton Hotel.
If handicap seating is required or there are special dietary needs, please provide specifics:

Make check payable to: **Land O' Lakes District**

Mail to: Arv Zenk
1706 Mary Lane
North Mankato, MN 56003

Any questions: Please call Arv at 507-388-7509

5/20/2022



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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/

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

2022

October

- 1 Ripon, WI
Chord Smash
- 8 West Allis, WI
St. Croix Crossing
- 8 Polk County, WI

14-15 Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport
Fall Convention

2023

February

7-12 Daytona Beach, FL
Midwinter Convention



The updated 2022
District Directory digital
pdf is available by
request via email at
districtdirectory@frickeprinting.com

