

The Pitch Piper

74 YEARS OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY

OVER 714,089 SQUARE MILES

Volume 74, Number 6

A Bulletin for Barbershoppers in the LO'L District

November – December 2022

LOL District Champions/International Qualifiers



2022 LOL District Chorus Champion - Forward Harmony - Greendale, WI - Bryan Ziegler, Director



2022 District Quartet Champion - St. Croix Crossing
Randy Lieble, Steve Hardy, Dan Heike, Jared Hoke



Coulee Classic

Colin Stevenson, Matt Curtis, Nate Peplinski, Allen Pruitt



First Ave

Eric Renz, Brent Haagenon, Charles Barrett, Paul Tabone

International Prelim Quartet Qualifiers

(Both Forward Harmony and the MVE will be representing the LO'L District at Int'l. as MVE picked up a wild card spot)

This issue photo credits: Pitch Piper staff, Christopher Hoven (thanks, Chris) or as submitted



Pitch Piper

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President's Message

Submitted by Jay Althof - LOL District President



District Convention

We had a fantastic District convention October 13th through the 15th. Over 650 of us gathered to enjoy the comradery, singing and performances. And we had many winners of the various contests. These include St. Croix Crossing winning the Men's and overall Quartet Contest, Forward Harmony winning the Chorus contest and being our representative at the International chorus contest, Checkmate winning the Seniors Contest and being our representative at the International Senior's contest, Mixed Meter winning the Novice and Mixed Voices quartet contest and Whistle Junction winning the Women's quartet contest. And both Coulee Classic and First Ave qualified to represent our District at the International quartet contest next summer. Beyond the contests we had fun shows presented by the Association of District Champs and the Showcase extravaganza with many quartets, the All-Chapter chorus and headlined by Main Street. And it was great to see so many people enjoying tags and polecats all weekend, especially at all of the hospitality rooms. From a financial perspective, the convention was just a little better than break-even

for the District. A huge thank you to Arv Zenk, our Director of Events, and so many, many people who helped make this a very successful convention!

2023 Board of Directors

We also held our Board of Directors and House of Delegates meeting at our convention. The key order of business was to elect next year's board of directors. We are fortunate that with the exception of our East Region VP position, all other directors remain the same as last year. Thanks to Dennis Haight for being our East Region VP this last year and to Jim Rasmus for accepting this role as we move into 2023.

PitchPiper Editor/Publisher

After 17 years, Bob Fricke and co-editor Bill Fricke are stepping down from editing and publishing the PitchPiper. They have done an outstanding job and I know we all thank them for what they have contributed over all those years. This PitchPiper will be their last. Nate Peplinski has agreed to lead this effort going forward and Nate has already put a team together to help him. As with any change, this is an opportunity to engage new people and take a fresh look at how we could improve the digital aspects of this very important District communication vehicle. Thanks to Nate for accepting this new challenge!

continued on page 10



ADC CHAMPIONS SHOW QUARTETS PERFORMING



Downstate Express - 1982



The Border Project - 2017



First Ave - 2019



Checkmate - 1996



GQ (Now the Gentlemen) - 2011



Grand Design - 2012



Chord Smash - 2015



Vivaldi - 2007



Coullee Classic - 2021

2022 District Hall of Fame Induction

Larry Lewis, Committee Chairman, presents HOF awards



Jim Rasmus



Dan True



Dave McNaughton



Dauphin Chapter - Keystone Chorus Farewell

Submitted by Gordon Billows

The town of Dauphin, Manitoba, established in 1901, is a town and grain farming community populated largely by Ukrainian and British families. The Dauphin Chapter was chartered in 1972 and their Keystone Chorus enjoyed singing Barbershop in their town and surrounding communities for almost 50 years. However, after almost three years with no chorus rehearsals due to Covid and having an aging and declining membership, the Dauphin Chapter members made the hard decision to give up their charter and to dissolve.



The Keystone Chorus's Annual, Christmas and other shows were always very popular and the chapter earned an excellent reputation for providing great entertainment. The chapter also had excellent support from the local businesses. Many of their annual show programs included business ads that netted the chapter between \$2000 and \$3000! The Chapter recently posted an article in the local newspaper thanking the Dauphin community for their support over the years. Many LOL quartets headlined the Dauphin annual shows and often commented, to me, how welcoming the members were and that it was always a real pleasure to be featured on the shows.

The Dauphin Chapter has almost completed the dissolution process and dispersed most of its assets to local community groups and charities. They also collected Dauphin Chapter—Keystone Chorus memorabilia and will be preparing it for a permanent display in the town's museum. President Dale Friesen has documented the chapter's 50 year history and will be incorporating it into that display.

On September 12th, 12 former and the few current members gathered at President Dale Friesen's home for a dinner and final "farewell" to the chapter. As mentioned, they had not sung together for almost 3 years, so this was a nice reunion, in spite of the underlining reason. They enjoyed catching up on each other's lives and eventually sang a few Pole Cat songs and, of course, Keep the Whole World Singing. Several members commented that it was very nice to be singing together again. As their Chapter Advocate/Counselor since 2007, I visited their chapter regularly, attended several of their shows and really appreciated the excellent communication and cooperation with their administration. President Dale invited me to attend that evening event to celebrate the reunion, retrieve the chapter's charter, complete some paperwork and then address the group on behalf of Land O' Lakes. We completed the evening by singing God Save the King!

A glowing ember – At the end of the evening, their Director announced that a community group had asked if the Keystone Chorus would sing at their Christmas event!



Co-editors Bill and Bob Fricke

"From the First Hello to the Last Good Bye" seems to be an appropriate song to describe our exit from being Pitch Piper father/son co-editors for the past seventeen years. The input from the District leaders, chapters and individuals over the years has been overwhelming and we are most appreciative.

We wish the new editor Nate Peplinski and his staff all the best in continuing this important means of communication. So, as they say in our journalism business, this is a -30-

Croix Chordsmen Chorus Christmas Show



"HE IS BORN"
SPECIAL GUEST CHORUSES
Vallee de Croix and
St. Croix Preparatory Academy

Saturday, December 3, 2022 - 3:00pm
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 115 4th Street N., Stillwater, Minnesota

GENERAL ADMISSION \$15.00 | SENIORS \$12 (65 or older) | CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER FREE

GET SHOW TICKETS HERE
www.croixchordsmen.org or Call (715) 441-9948



LOL Convention Survey Results

Submitted by Arv Zenk

We've compiled the results of your 2022 Fall Convention Survey. We are glad that so many of you thoroughly enjoyed our time together and thank you for providing feedback for future conventions. The following is a brief summary of the weekend and what you told us about your experience:

- There were 655 registrations/tickets for the convention (440 for 2021) with 304 people attending the Showcase Dinner. We had 21 quartets and 15 choruses with a total of 351 contestants crossing the contest stage.
- The survey was sent to 452 e-mail addresses (only a single address was available for most couples and some quartets). We had 191 responses (42% response rate) to the survey.
- Convention Location, Hotel, and Communication received very positive reviews.
- The Showcase Dinner and Fun Squad activities also received many positive reviews
- Many would recommend others attend future conventions.
- Take a look at the attached charts/graphs which summarize your inputs.

We also collected 111 comments covering a variety of topics, compliments, and concerns. Some comments went into great detail and provided specific recommendations which will be very helpful in planning our next convention. The Fall Convention Committee will share all of the results and work with the District Board to improve future conventions. If you have any questions about the survey or would like to follow up on your input, please contact me.

For those who completed the survey, thank you for your feedback. And, for everyone who attended – thank you for sharing your weekend with us!

Let's continue our Roar Back in 2023!



To the Land O' Lakes District

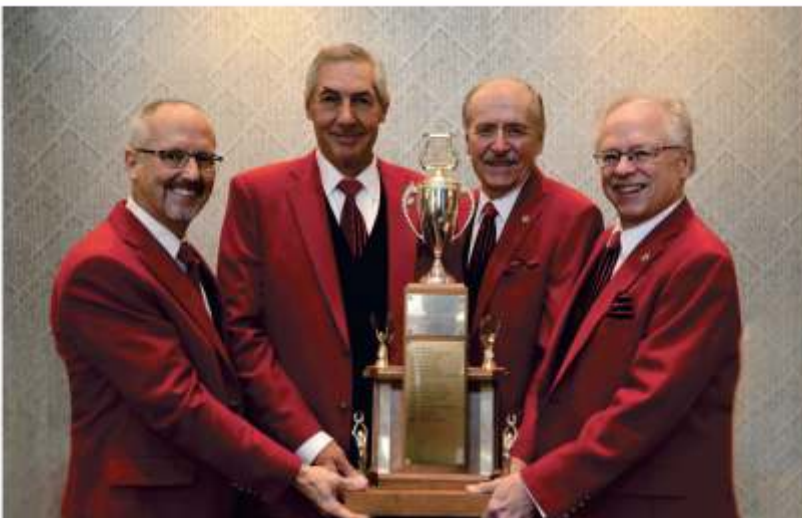
After 10 years of attempts, including 6 somewhat close calls (i.e. second place), we are thrilled to be awarded the 2022 Land O' Lakes District Quartet Championship. Feelings of joy, pride, honor, privilege, and relief run through our veins as we cherish this accomplishment. If the truth be told, St. Croix Crossing struggled at times with the competition aspect of our hobby, but always viewed it as exposure to enable us to do what we love most.....being a part of your Chapter Shows!

First sincere thanks are warranted to all the coaches and judges who provided us with much valuable instruction and feedback. We tried to follow their sage advice.....we really tried..... But ultimately we concluded we are "low slerners"!

We must also thank our families and more specifically our lovely wives (Jane, Lisa, Melinda, MaryLou) for their unwavering support over the years. (Side note: we are still trying to figure out why we won in the only year in which none of our wives were in attendance.....hmmm?)

Lastly, our sincere thanks to all of you! Being able to enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie of our friends in this great lifelong hobby may be the most valuable prize of all!

Warmest Personal Regards
2022 Land O' Lakes District Champions
St. Croix Crossing



ST. CROIX CROSSING

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



2022 LO'L DISTRICT SEMI-FINAL QUARTET CONTEST COMPETITORS



Main Street
2017 Int'l Quartet Champion
Mic Testers & Showcase Headliners



Canakak - Staples-Motley High School
(Nathan Ritter, Cy Johnson, Keegan Bestland,
Keegan Harvey)



Acoolsticks - Univ of Saskatchewan,
Saskatchewan SK (Rachel Kay,
Erick Witt, Seth Baker, Keinan Kendall)



"Just Two Brain Sells" - Burlington, WI
High School (Thomas Fitch, Julian Ivkovich,
Samuel Wallace, Benjamin Stork)



Vibe Check - Univ Saskatchewan,
Saskatoon, SK (Bryden Szejvolt, Riel Fidler,
Forrest Hiebert, Jaywynn Clemente)



YTBN - Burlington WI High School
(Madeline Thompson, Zoe Lipor,
Genevieve Hauser, Megan Fitch)



Pour Four More - Greendale, Madison
(Jeffrey Meyer, Matthew Record,
Todd Friske, Dennis Haight)



Chill Factor - Appleton
(Michael Blair, James- Estes,
Chris VanderPas, Jeremy Pues)



Lakefront - Greendale
(Matt Post, Dylan Keegan, Brian Plehn,
Derek Balke)



Triple A - Greendale, Madison
(Gerard Potvin, Matthew Record,
John Dahlen, Dennis Haight)



Vocality - Stillwater, Frank Thorne
(Jay Althof, Tony Blackwood,
Tom Matchinsky, David Boyd)



St. Croix Crossing - Dunn Cty, St Paul,
LaCrosse, Fr Thorne (Randy Lieble,
Dan Heike, Steve Hardy, Jared Joke)



2022 LO'L DISTRICT SEMI-FINAL QUARTET CONTEST COMPETITORS



Movin On - Lake Geneva, Dubuque,
Frank Thorne (Pamela Mumm, Eric Winsor,
Jim McAuliffe, James Moris)



Ransom Notes - Fargo
(Ryan Brehmer, Jeff Olson, Kenneth Frank,
Paul Sandbek)



Whistle Junction - Lake Geneva,
Dubuque, Frank Thorne (Susan Neuls, JoAnn
Coehoorn, Mary Suprenant, Cathie Zimmerman)



Checkmate - MVE, Frank Thorne
(Dave Baxter, Brad Charles,
Harry Hanson, Jim Franklin)



Loose Change - Greater St Paul, Cape
Coral, FL (Grant Warning, Toney Keizer,
Louis Gottwait, Keith Holtan)



Brigadoons - Albert Lea, Houston TX,
Northbrook (Randy Rogers, Joe Gurreri,
Pete Hasbrook, David Morris)



Mixed Meter - Greater St Paul, Hilltop, St
Croix Valley (Annalie Nelson, Tom Pepin,
Tyler Stromquist-LeVoi, Brandon Galbraith)



First Ave - Hilltop, Frank Thorne,
Westminster (Eric Renz, Brent Haagenson,
Charles Barrett, Paul Tabone)



Lake Effect - Green Bay, Manitowoc,
Frank Thorne (Paul Blair, Anthony Scheiter,
Don Lewellen, Jr., Bruce Schlei)



Coulee Classic - Stevens Pt, LaCrosse,
Frank Thorne (Colin Stevenson, Matt Curtis,
Nate Peplinski, Allen Pruitt)



By Request - Greendale
(Angela Williams, Mary Fitzgerald,
Jennifer Johnson, Jane Richard)





Music Scholarships from the “Come Back Chorus”

The “Comeback Chorus” of Janesville WI (formerly the Badger Chordhawks) has for many years given scholarships to high school seniors going to college with a potential vocal/music major.

To that end we have an annual fund raiser at the Rock County Threshere. We sell brats, sweet corn and beverages. Because of our low membership we need to partner with the Sweet Aldines Yahara River Chorus. Between the two groups we had enough man/woman power to raise over \$4,600 for each chorus. I would like to thank Judd Orff and the Land O’ Lakes district for their grant and support.

This year we decided to try something different. Over the summer we sponsored individual vocal lessons for six high school students who were motivated to sing, but would not otherwise be able to get individual lessons. To do this, we worked through the Parker Arts Academy of Janesville music director, Matt Knutson. Their vocal committee identified the student recipients, a qualified instructor, and arranged for the lessons (10 to 12 lessons for each student).

We’re happy to report that it was very successful. The Music Director reported, “In the first month of this school year, these students all are showing even more leadership in choir and musical rehearsals and a greater passion for the Arts.”

The Vocal Committee selected students who were:

- Interested/motivated to study private voice
- Involved in our Parker HS Choir, Musical Theatre Program, and Parker Arts Academy program
- Needed financial support to study private voice lessons

Some comments from the students were:

“Lessons were fun. Definitely helped me prepare vocally”. “Without them [the lessons], I feel I would have not done

anywhere near as good in Grease as I feel I did.”

“My summer lessons were amazing! I really built my voice from the beginning of the summer to the end!”

“The voice lessons over the summer really helped me grow my range... With the summer voice lessons, I was also able to

work on audition songs and learn new songs that pushed my voice and helped me grow my voice.”

We hope to continue, and expand the program. For more information to book a quartet or the chorus to sing at your service club or organization contact Steve Kumlander at 608 785 727-4468 or email at raceccar67@gmail.com.

The Clipper City Chordsmen present



Rusty the Blue-Nosed Reindeer

Saturday, December 10, 2022
7pm Show

Endries Performance Hall
6751 Calumet Ave., Manitowoc
at the Franciscan Center for Music Education and Performance



Featuring The Clipper City Chordsmen, Chapter Quartets
Roncalli Singers




TICKET INFORMATION
GENERAL ADMISSION, Adult - \$20 • Students 18 & Under - \$10

Tickets available thru [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com), at Fricke Printing on 14th Street in Manitowoc, from a Chordsmen Member, by calling 920-973-SING (7464), or on our website at clippercitchordsmen.org/annual-christmas-show

Scan QR Code to order tickets on Eventbrite





Land O'Lakes District Lifetime Achievement Award 2022

I am very pleased that this year we have a new District Level Award - The Joe Liles Lifetime Achievement Award. This was created to recognize those individuals who have made very significant positive contributions to our District over a long-period of time. The award is named in honor a long-time member of our District, Joe Liles whose positive impact on the District and Society was tremendous.

In this inaugural year of the award, we have two recipients.



Jay Althof presenting Lifetime Achievement Award posthumously to Andy Richards who accepted for his father, Jim Richards

Our first is awarded posthumously to: Jim Richards. Jim joined the society in 1953. Was the 1971 District Quartet Champ with the Red Barons and the 1991 International Seniors Quartet Champ with Grandma's Beaus. The list of administrative positions Jim held is both long and impressive. He held all the chapter offices with the Minneapolis Commodores. Was an area counselor, division VP, District Secretary, District President, International Board Member and Society President. He was also the consummate coach and teacher, as a contest judge, category specialist and harmony college faculty. He clearly loved making music and helping others enjoy barbershop, teaching tags and also playing bass fiddle.

Andy Richards, please join me to accept this award on behalf of your father for all of the significant contributions he made to our District over so many years.

Our second recipient is: Del Ryberg. Del is a 64 year member of the society. Like Jim, Del has held every office with the Rochester chapter as well as several committee chairs. He has been an area counselor, Division VP, District Secretary, Executive VP, Events VP, and District President. Many of us will think of Del as the District Convention Chair and the person who developed the approach and templates we continue to use today. He has participated and chaired many, many District Committees. And he was also very active at the International Level leadership as a Board Member, International Planning Committee member, Chapter Officer Training School faculty and coordinator and several additional committees. One interesting item is that in 1985, as an International Board Member, Del voted "yea" when Joe Liles was hired as a Music Field Man. You may wonder who got Del started taking on all of these leadership roles – that person was, Jim Richards!



Jay Althof presenting Lifetime Achievement Award to Del Ryberg

Please join me in congratulating one of my mentors, Del Ryberg!

IN MEMORIAM

Frederick Lee Street passed away peacefully on



October 20, 2022 at the age of 95. He was born on January 28, 1927 in Long Beach, California. He enlisted in the Navy in 1944, completed electronic technical

school, and during the war was assigned to teach the new technologies of sonar and radar for Fire Control Radar at Treasure Island. After leaving the service in 1947, he attended Heald Engineering College in San Francisco where he received a degree in Electrical Engineering. Fred joined a crew that hand - constructed San Francisco's KRON television station.

Fred began his barbershop career in Minnesota in the early 1960's by helping to start a new chapter in Roseville. Fred directed the new chorus for many years. He led them to a district small chorus championship. The chapter eventually merged with the Saint Paul Chapter and became the Greater St Paul Area Chapter. Fred continued his directing duties for many years. Primarily, he put his education and experience to work by coordinating sound and lighting for annual shows and other events. He also performed this duty at the district level. For over 25 years he served on the faculty of Harmony College utilizing and teaching lighting, sound and video. Fred was honored by his chapter and the district by being named BOTY (Barbershopper of the Year).

Fred loved quartetting and sang in several quartets over the years. Most 'notable' were Stanley Steemers and more recently Vintage Years for almost 20 years. Vintage Years represented the LOL District three times in the International Seniors contest. The quartet performed hundreds of times mostly for senior groups. However, it was most proud of presenting barbershop to over 7,000 school kids.

Fred was preceded in death by his wife Barbara (Bobbie) and is survived by four children, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



Barbershop Church Singers Perform in Bloomer Area Churches

Submitted by Pat Mulheron

The 2022 Church Singers Chorus from the Dunn County Chapter sang their arrangement of Spiritual/Gospel music for the worshipping congregations of nine (9) area churches throughout Bloomer on Sunday morning, August 14. The Bloomer visit by the Church Singers Chorus was the second performance that was scheduled in the summer of 2022, the Mondovi area was held on July 24. A big thank you to the Kobussen Bus Service and driver Curt Harrison for transportation to all of the Bloomer churches.



President's Message

...Continued from page 6

Chapter Activities

I know many of our chapters are preparing for their holiday performances. This is a great opportunity to not only share our music, but also recruit more people to join our fun! I look forward to hearing the reports from all these shows. And all of our chapters should be in the process of electing their 2023 leaders and preparing for their installation.

Wrap-up

As we approach the end of 2022, I know that positive momentum continues to build in many of our chapters. Know that your District Leadership is ready, willing and able to help out chapters continue to be successful. That help could come through coaching, financial support, best practice sharing and more. Don't hesitate to ask!

I wish all of you a safe and very enjoyable holiday season and I know that together, we'll have a great 2023!

Yes, Virginia, We Will Have LTA This Year

Submitted by Mike Lietke

One of the things that went "right" during the worst of the pandemic was that the LOL District discovered one of the best uses for the Zoom meetings we were forced into was the Leadership Training Academy. The 2022 version from January was well-attended and very cost-and-time-effective.

We are happy to announce we will be doing it virtually once again, and we have added to the class offerings! **Saturday, January 7**, starting at 9:00, we will fire up the old gray matter and meet to be taught and discuss the hot topics we need to understand in order to grow our hobby.

In addition to the President's, Secretary, and Treasurers classes that those chapter officers must take, we will be offering two electives:

The Pain and Gain of Grant Writing by Harmony Foundation International's Dennis Castiglione and **The Barbershop Belt** by Sarah Francys Wigley, MM,

In this class, she will teach you what she teaches her Musical Performance students and the University of Illinois - and how you may use it in your barbershop life. The electives will take place after the officers' classes so that those attending the officers' classes may also take part.

Online Registration is being set up, and the zoom links will be returned to those who have registered. Watch LOL communication channels like your officer communications, district email, and the LOL District Page on Facebook for further information.

Any questions before then? Email me at MikeLietke@hotmail.com



2022 LOL DISTRICT B.O.T.Y. WINNER



Bob Fricke, BOTY Committee chairman presenting the 2022 BOTY to winner Paul Wigley



Here Comes Treble!

Submitted by Jim Rasmus



You heard them sing as one of the first two high school barbershop choruses to grace our District Convention stage in 2021. Now *Here Comes Treble!* from Burlington High School has broken the glass ceiling at the Wisconsin State Music Conference. They were the first barbershop chorus to ever sing at the annual assembly of music educators in Madison on October 27, 2022!

Under the capable direction of Penny Yanke, the 28-member barbershop chorus performed seven (that's right, 7) barbershop arranged songs before leading the audience in "Keep the Whole World Singing" at the end! Three of the songs were written specifically for them as part of the BHS songwriting project (words/music by Dewey Longuski and arranged by Larry Triplett). They also taught the music educators a tag arranged by one of the students (you'll remember Megan Fitch as the bass in the YTBN quartet who delighted us at the 2022 LOL convention)!

Those who travel to Daytona Beach in February will have another opportunity to hear *Here Comes Treble!* and three quartets from Burlington High School (the afore-mentioned YTBN, *Just Two Brain Sells* and *Dynamixed*) as they compete at the 2023 BHS Midwinter Convention! Their fund-raising efforts would benefit greatly from donations offered by choruses, quartets or individuals! Make checks to BHS Koral Klub and contact them at:

Burlington Area School District
100 N. Kane St.
Burlington, WI 53105-1842
pyanke@bask.k12.wi.us

Really good things are happening for the Next Generation of barbershop in Wisconsin! Don't forget it's time to contact your local high school music educators to support them in developing barbershop quartets to sing at the 2023 Solo and Ensemble Festivals and compete at the Wisconsin Youth Harmony Festival scheduled on May 20, 2023 in Stevens Point!



The Western Division and Great Plains Harmony Wishes GPH Director, Childs, a Fond Farewell

Submitted by Justin McCullough

Saturday, Nov. 5th, marked Sheila Child's last concert with Great Plains Harmony. Sheila was the director of GPH for 10 years and led them to multiple top 3 chorus placings at District contest as well as 2 appearances at the International Chorus Contests in Toronto and Orlando. In 2021, coming out of Covid, Sheila led GPH to their only District Championship. Western Division VP and GPH VP of Music and Performance, Justin McCullough and District Immediate Past President, Gordon Billows, presented Sheila with a certificate commemorating all she had done for the Division and GPH.



McCullough, joined by music team member, Jim Puffe, presented Sheila with a crystal award and plaque commemorating Sheila's dedication and leadership. After telling the story how Sheila would always sneak fries from their

plates at music team meetings, Jim and Justin also presented Sheila with a 30lb box of frozen french fries. We all wish Sheila the best in retirement with her wonderful husband Brad.



All Chapter Chorus with Burlington High School directed by Dave Speidel



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Nashville, TN 37203-3704



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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

December

3 Minneapolis, MN
3 St. Croix Valley, MN
10 Manitowoc County, WI

2023

February

7-12 Daytona Beach, FL
Midwinter Convention

April

15 St. Croix Valley, MN
22 Manitowoc County, WI
22 Dunn County, WI
29 Mankato, Mn

October

13-14 Minneapolis, MN
Annual Convention

