

The Pitch Piper

76 YEARS OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY

OVER 714,089 SQUARE MILES

Volume 77, Number 2

A Bulletin for Barbershoppers in the LO'L District

April-May-June 2024



Remembering Bob Dykstra



Fall Convention Registration!!!





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 Quartet 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 Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



In Me, your district has a very excited president right now! It seems that the year has just started, yet suddenly BOOM here we are in July. Just a few weeks ago, over the first week of July, some of our very own shone

their pitch pipes to sing at the 2024 BHS International Convention in Cleveland.

This is only the second time it has been held in Cleveland, which last hosted in 1946. The Garden State Quartet took home the gold at that one. (There was no chorus contest until 1953.) Cleveland is getting a "do-over" of sorts, because they were initially slated to host in 2021. And what a fantastic week it was!

Representing our LO'L district was 2021 quartet champions *Coulee Classic* (Colin Stevenson, Matt Curtis,

Nate Peplinski, and Allen Pruitt), singing Tuesday night in slot 4I--close to the end of the second session. They scored a new personal best with a score of 81.5 and JUST missed earning a second night of singing, coming in at 26th place of a very, very thrilling and tight contest.

Also, appearing on the chorus side was the LO'L first and second place choruses from last fall. Just as last year, both choruses come from the Greendale Chapter. *Forward Harmony*, Greendale's all voices ensemble, had the unique opportunity to excite two audiences.

On Thursday at roughly 10:30 am (central time), they performed at the 2024 International Chorus Festival. Then they brought up the curtain as mic heaters for the International Chorus Contest Friday morning at roughly 8:45 am. (cont. on page 3)...



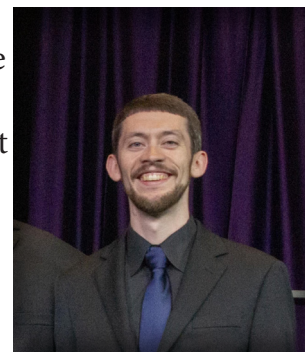
(cont.) The district's good news does not stop there. Greendale's *Midwest Vocal Express* marked their 20th performance on the International Stage. Singing 3rd on Saturday morning, at around 9:30 am, the chorus brought a big package to the stage in ways familiar to those who have seen the big performances of the past.

If you have never been to an International convention before and have the opportunity to come to Denver next year, DO IT! BHS contests continue to grow and bring thrilling performance after thrilling performance. Over 5300 people who attended the convention in Cleveland would concur, probably.

-Mike

The **Fox Valleyaires** Men's Barbershop Chorus in *Appleton, Wisconsin* is excited to announce Chris Vander Pas as new director!

Chris is the choir director at Winneconne Middle School and baritone of 2023 district champ quartet Chill Factor.



Congratulations Chris and Fox Valleyaires!!

TAKE THE COACH TO THE CHAPTER

Judd Orff



Have you ever wished you could get an outside opinion on how your chorus is doing, how the new songs are coming along or need a little polish on show songs? The District has provided a resource for you that will answer all your questions.

It will cost you \$0.00.

The ADC has given me a list of coaches, from their ranks, that are willing to come and coach your chorus. You need to pick a date and tell what your needs are. The coach will come to you and help answer questions about a single issue or more than one. The District will pay the coach's mileage and lodging if necessary.

If there is a fee for the coaching or meals, the chapter needs to pay that.

So far this year Thunder Bay, Delta County, and Minneapolis have taken advantage of this program. All you need to do is contact me and let me know what you would like as far as coaching and a date or two that works for your chorus. I will contact a coach and get it set up.

Don't be shy. Fill up my inbox!!

Juddorff3108@msn.com or text 651-262-9843



Chapter Support Report

By Jim Rasmus, VP Membership Development



With chapters in the thrush of their season of summer performances, let me highlight some resources to assist you in your chapter development efforts.

Check out the **Introduction to Barbershop** on the BHS website (<https://www.barbershop.org/intro-to-barbershop-what-is-barbershop>). It might be useful to help you provide new members with helpful information about barbershop harmony as they begin to get acquainted with our genre. You may also want to point new members to a series of blogs called **12 Months of Barbershop** (<https://www.barbershop.org/news/blog/categories/12-months-of-barbershop>)

In March, Larry Lewis and I worked with 16 members of the Stevens Point Chapter in our first **Visioning Retreat**. Combining information from Larry's generational research and a survey I designed, we led a three-hour conversation resulting in three goals to empower their Chapter development. They identified tasks necessary to improve their singing performance, focus on inviting guests, and begin efforts to re-brand their chorus. We are scheduled to work with the Windom Chapter on July 1st. Contact me if you have interest or questions.

Also in March, the Winnipeg Chapter (River City Sound) completed their second successful Learn To Sing Barbershop (LTSB) – also referred to as Learn to Sing Better – program, with support from a LOL grant. They had 24 participants and 19 received participation certificates! They have developed solid promotional materials and enthusiasm among their membership to invite singers to join them. One useful insight from their experience is they purchased two NEW charts to work on during the program, so current members were learning new songs along with their guests so newcomers felt more comfortable.

We recently redesigned the **Chapter Development Resources** tab on the LOL website: <https://loldistrict.org/chapter-development>. Here's a summary of what you will find there:

- Useful files with information for **Chapter Officers** – e.g., job descriptions and ideas.
- Information and applications for **LOL Grants and Programs** – e.g., Chapter Show and Chapter Development grants, Take Coaching to the Chapter and Visioning Retreats.
- Files to assist you in your **Chapter Development** efforts – e.g., Guest Welcome Process, Christmas Show Chorus, Chapter/Chorus Evaluation, Greeters-Riser Buddies, Winnipeg's LTSB... more will be added.

Please reach out to me if you have ideas to share or questions we can explore together!



“All Aboard The Harmony Express - Fall Convention”, October 11-12, 2024

It is time to book your tickets for the Harmony Express – our Fall Convention! Building off the successes of the past few years, we look forward to another super fun gathering of Barbershoppers from all over the District. To make sure you don't miss any of the fun, go to the LO'L convention webpage which provides everything you need to make it happen: www.loldistrict.org

1. REGISTER FOR THE CONVENTION — Register online with your credit card or download a mail-in registration order form and send it in with your check. You can also order a Saturday lunch, the Showcase dinner (chicken or pork), or get a ticket for the Saturday evening show. Once you register, your badges and meal and event tickets will be ready for you when you arrive.
2. RESERVE YOUR ROOM — Reserve a room at the Headquarters Hotel - MSP Airport Hilton Hotel, 3800 American Blvd E., Bloomington, MN 55425. You can register online, or you may call the front desk at (952) 854-2100. Press '0' and ask for the \$108 (plus tax) Barbershop Fall Convention Rate. Our Special Rate Code is: BARBER
3. CONTEST AND FESTIVAL REGISTRATION — There will be a link on the Contest and Festival section of the registration webpage which opens August 1st. You must click on this link to register your chorus or quartet if you plan to sing in the contest or festival. Remember that all members of your chorus or quartet must also purchase an All-Events registration badge (\$65) for the convention. Contest and Festival registrations must be completed no later than midnight September 10th!
4. QUARTET CLINICS - If your quartet would like coaching, the District is offering Quartet Clinics on Friday morning and a chance to perform in the afternoon. All you need is a quartet, two songs, and an All-Events registration badge —all at no extra cost. Sign up with Tim Milbrandt: tjmilbrandt@gmail.com
5. ALL CHAPTER CHORUS – Once again, the Northern Pines Harmony Brigade is helping sponsor the All-Chapter Chorus. For just \$10 Steve Zorn will get you the music and the learning tracks. Donny Rose will be directing I'm Beginning To See The Light and If I Only Had A Brain. This is another great opportunity for you to sing with some of the best! Just connect with Steve to let him know you are interested and to make your payment for the music. Steve Zorn: zorn.stephen@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you, and over 700 more barbershoppers, at our Harmony Express Fall Convention!

Jay Althof — 2024 LO'L Convention Chair





Land O' Lakes 2024 **Fall Convention,** **October 11th and 12th**

Once again, we are hosting our 2024 LO'L Fall Convention at the Minneapolis Airport Hilton. Our theme this year is: **Harmony Express, Honor Our Past and Build Our Future!** There is no doubt that since Covid we have continue to build positive momentum all across our District, and our Conventions have become a “not to be missed” fun event. And the feedback from many attendees from the past few years has helped us make each event better than the year before.

We are working through all the planning details for this year's event. There will be free quartet coaching for non-competitors, youth ensemble participation, the all-chapter chorus singing “If I Only Had A Brain” and “I'm Beginning To See The Light”, quartet and chorus contests and festivals, our banquet and showcase extravaganza featuring our active and anniversary champion quartets, hospitality rooms, the tagatorium and much more.

Let's all get on-board the LO'L Harmony Express!

Thanks,

Jay Althof, VP of Events, LO'L District

unlabeled editor's notes

- Sorry for the delay in getting this issue out. It might happen again.
- The 2024 District Directory is available on the website. Thanks Angie!!
- A skunk fell into a river and stank all the way to the bottom.
- If you think someone would be deserving of a feature in this publication, contact pitchpiper@loldistrict.org or Tim Milbrandt at tjmilbrandt@gmail.com.
- What do you call a hippie's wife? Mississippi.
- Many thanks to the Pitch Piper staff: Tim Milbrandt, Brian Plehn, Brent Frankenhoff, Angie Williams, as well as Todd Smith, and Bob and Bill Fricke.
- Before you marry a person, you should first make them use a computer with a slow Internet connection to see who they really are.
- If you need learning tracks, check out www.choraltracks.com. They're super cheap and high quality and I do a ton of this composition, editing, and formatting during work time, but don't tell Matt.
- My toddler has a great deal of willpower—and even more won't power.
- Get involved. Even if it's only thirty minutes every six months, that's still helping.

If you or anyone you know would like to receive the *Pitch Piper* in good old-fashioned print form, contact any board member or email pitchpiper@loldistrict.org

QUARTET. SCHOOL. FREE.
(Friday of district convention)
contact Tim at tjmilbrandt@gmail.com



AURORA CHOREALIS

NEW! LAND O' LAKES DISTRICT NEXTGEN CHORUS

Introducing Aurora Chorealis: Land O' Lakes NextGen Chorus

Calling All Young Singers!

We are thrilled to announce the formation of Aurora Chorealis, a new and dynamic chorus for young singers within the Land O' Lakes District. Aurora Chorealis aims to bring together talented singers aged 18-25 to create beautiful music, foster camaraderie, and provide opportunities for growth and performance at prestigious events.

Our Mission:



Aurora Chorealis is dedicated to promoting barbershop singing within our district. We strive to provide a safe and inclusive space where young singers can thrive, develop their skills, and share their love for music. Under the expert direction of Penny Yanke (National Association For Music Education Music Educator of the Year, 2024) and Justin La (Canadian Music Educators Association - Young Builders Award, 2019), our members will experience high-quality musical education and exciting performance opportunities.

Upcoming Events:

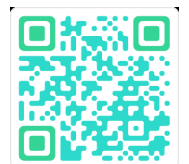
Initial Rehearsals: October 9-11, 2024, at the Land O' Lakes District Convention in Bloomington, Minnesota (just minutes from the Mall of America and near Minneapolis).

International Convention: June 29-July 6, 2025, in Denver, Colorado, where we aim to participate in the varsity festival.

Join Us:

We are seeking enthusiastic singers aged 18-25 who are passionate about music and looking to be part of a vibrant and supportive chorus. If you are interested in joining Aurora Chorealis, please fill out our Interest to Participate Form or reach out to us directly via email.

Contact Information: **Justin La:** justinLa92@hotmail.com or **Penny Yanke:** pennyanke5678@gmail.com





SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (Preliminary) **LAND O'LAKES DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION**

Oct 11-12, 2024 – Minneapolis Airport Hilton Hotel, Bloomington, MN

Friday - Oct 11

8:30 - 7:00	Registration/Ticket desk	2nd Floor - Foyer
9:30 - 12:00	Coaching (non-contest)	Mtg Rms I-VIII
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch Break	
1:00 – 2:00	Performances (non-contest Qtet)	Ballroom Stage
2:00 - 3:00	Coaching (non-contest)	Mtg Rms I-VIII
2:00 - 3:00	House of Delegates Meeting	Riverside Rm
3:00 – 5:00	Stage Check – Quartet/Chorus	Ballroom Stage
3:00 - 4:00	ADC Meetings	VII Pelican Bay
3:00 - 4:00	All Chapter Chorus Rehearsal	VIII Wood Duck
5:00 - 9:30	Quartet Prelim Contest	Ballroom Stage
10:00 -12:00	Quartet Feedback Sessions	Judges Rooms
9:30 -12:00	Hospitality - Cash Bar	2 nd Floor - Foyer

Saturday - Oct 12

8:00 – 1:30	Registration/Ticket desk	2nd Floor Foyer
8:00 - 9:15	Stage Open for Inspection	Ballroom Stage
9:30 -12:30	Chorus Contest	Ballroom Stage
12:30 - 1:30	Lunch break	
1:30 - 3:15	Quartet Finals contest	Ballroom Stage
3:15 - 3:30	Chorus/Quartet Contest Results	Ballroom Stage
4:00 - 7:00	Feedback Sessions Chorus/Qtet	Mtg Rms I-VIII
4:00 – 5:30	Sing with the Champs	2nd Floor - Foyer
7:00 - 7:45	Dinner	Ballroom
7:45 - 9:30	Showcase Show	Ballroom
9:30 - 1:00	Afterglow/Hospitality	Mtg Rms I-VIII



**Registration for Events Badges/Lunch/Dinner
Land O'Lakes Fall Convention
October 11-12, 2024**

Name (First/Last):

2nd Attendee (if applicable):

Phone:

Email:

Name - Chapter/Chorus/Quartet:

Event	Cost/Person	Quantity	Amount
All Contest Events Registration	\$65		
Saturday Showcase Dinner and Show	\$45		
Saturday Sandwich Lunch	\$20		
Complete Convention Registration Package **	\$130		
Jr. Contest Events Registration (12 and under)	\$30		
Jr. Complete Convention Registration Package** (12 and under)	\$80		
Total enclosed (US Funds)			

** Complete Convention Registration Package includes access to all contests, Saturday Lunch and Saturday Showcase Dinner and Show

Menu Options for Showcase Dinner

Entrée Choice	Quantity
Pork	
Chicken	

If there are special dietary needs, please provide specifics:

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. Cost: \$25/event

Registrations/Badges will be held at the Barbershop Convention desk at the Hilton Hotel.

Make check payable to: Land O'Lakes District

Mail to: Jay Althof

4671 Lake Avenue

White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Any questions: contact Jay at: JayAlthof@Gmail.com or 651-206-2686

Registrations are transferable, but not refundable within 30 days of the Convention.

Mail-In Registrations must be postmarked No Later Than September 27.



Remembering Bob Dykstra

submitted by Tim Milbrandt

He was formally addressed as Dr. Robert Dykstra, but to me and those who knew him, he was ever smiling and Mr. Positivity we called Bob.

Many around the Land O' Lakes district are familiar with Bob Dykstra. While we mourn the loss of another local barbershop hero, we can also take time to celebrate him and his life as a barbershopper. Bob's experiences and accomplishments in the barbershop world could fill a book. My intent with this article is to give a brief overview of who he was and where he came from, but mostly, to highlight his dynamic and fulfilling life singing in quartets. If you'll indulge me, I'd like to also share a personal connection I had with Bob that to me, illustrates the power he had to reach out and connect with the average chapter member.

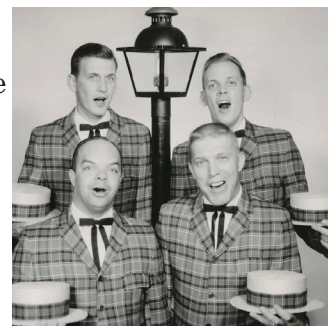
Involvement in the subculture that is Barbershop singing provides opportunities for all sorts of different experiences—from performing on stage with a quartet or chorus, to providing leadership at the chapter, district and international level, and perhaps most significantly, providing fertile ground for the genesis of lifelong connections and relationships that impact us in a myriad of ways. In Bob's words, "...most of those opportunities presented themselves because of my love for and commitment to close four-part barbershop harmony."

Bob was born in rural Wood County, Wisconsin, the sixth child out of ten. He grew up in a home with a pump organ and piano, and recounted singing harmony at a young age and listening to quartets on the family windup Victrola on which they played 78RPM records.

His first quartet was in between high



school graduation in 1948 and being drafted into the army in 1952. It was in the army that Bob met John Hansen and two others who formed a quartet and called themselves the "Hut Four". In different iterations, this quartet performed across the midwest and on national programs including the Godfrey Show and the Ed Sullivan show. Over time, their reach expanded across the country and included Canada as well. They won the district quartet championship in 1958 and competed at the International Competition multiple times with several top 20 finishes. After singing together



for almost 20 years with various members the Hut Four sang their last gig in last 1971/early 1972.

After a break from quartetting, Bob along with John Hansen, Wes Hatlestad and Ron Thomley joined forces in 1984 to create The Salty Dogs for a district comedy quartet contest. They sang together until retiring in 1999 doing shows across the midwest, in Florida, and they even took a couple of cruises together. The "Dawgs" were known for their special blend of harmony and humor as well as the guitar and double bass that were staples of the quartets performances.

My personal connection with Bob started while he was singing with the Salty Dogs. My chapter from Albert Lea, Minnesota hired the "Dawgs" to sing on the Harmony Junction Chorus' annual show in early/mid 90's. To say



we loved them would be a huge understatement. And it wasn't just their songs and schtick, but hanging out, chatting, singing tags...just a great group of guys. The chapter loved them enough to hire them sing on our show again the very next year. I remember chatting with Bob and he was dumbfounded as to why we hired them two years in a row and made mention of the fact that they had the same exact show and afterglow set from the previous year. I told him that's exactly what we were hoping for! Bob's natural warmth and humility made him such an easy person with whom to connect. The songs and jokes were just icing on the cake.

In preparation for writing this article I was fortunate to connect with Bob's daughter Kim DeVoss. She was generous with her time and sharing of memories of her dad. She also shared with me a lengthy summary of Bob's life as a barbershopper penned by the man himself. It is from this document and my conversation with Kim that I drew the historical information cited herewith.

Though we lost Bob on February 2, 2024, his memory lives on in we who were fortunate enough to know him. I can still hear the quartet roasting Bob in their show set..."Bob had a fire and it burned his entire library, which is a big deal for a university professor. He lost both books. And he hadn't even colored one of them yet."

Every effort has been made to share accurate information in this article. Any inaccuracies are the author's.

CONTEST CORNER

with James Estes, DVP for Contest and Judging

Hey there, LOLers! I hope your summer is full of fun, relaxation, and most importantly, BARBERSHOP! A big shout out and congratulations to our Land O' Lakes district representatives at the International Contests and Festivals in Cleveland, Ohio this past month! Both choruses from the Greendale, WI chapter (**Midwest Vocal Express** and **Forward Harmony**) put on awesome and memorable sets, and **Coulee Classic** (again) had their highest score ever in the quartet contest, exceeding an 81% average (an A-level score!) for the first time! We're all super proud of all our competitors' time and effort to prepare, compete, and perform at the highest levels of the Barbershop Harmony Society!



Very shortly, on August 1, we will begin accepting entries for the Fall District Quartet/Chorus Contests and Festivals in Bloomington!! Head over to <https://loldistrict.org/2024-fall-convention> for the entry link. Make sure to purchase your registration to the Fall Convention, as that is a BHS and District requirement to compete. In addition, make sure your BHS and District dues are current/paid as of October 12, 2024 so that your group (chorus or quartet) is not disqualified.

If you have any questions about the contests/festival, or have any trouble getting your groups registered, please reach out to me via email at dir-cj@loldistrict.org. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you - whether you're competing or not - in just a few short months! Enjoy that summer weather while it lasts!



What Does Your Board Do Between District Conventions?



Mike Lietke, President

You may have come up through the hobby in our district at the same time I did (or even dare I say, before?). When I joined in December of 1988, the district board seemed to meet three times per year: Leadership Training Academy in December (then Chapter Officer Training School or COTS); Spring Prelims convention the first weekend of May; and District Convention in October.

Knowing what I have learned from being on the board in the last 3.5 years, I am sure there were many additional phone calls from Committees, etc. to get the business of your District planned and executed. What do we do now? A LOT!

When Jay Althof took over as president, he pressed to meet more often and keep the district's business more forward in the mind of the officers and committee members. We have continued to do so, and the results indicate the extra time is bearing fruit.

Because of tools like Zoom and MS Teams, we can meet, share documents, and actually see each other while we work on business. I have planned 9 such, nearly monthly calls for 2024. These are in addition to the normal House of Delegates meeting in the fall and other ad hoc tasks.

What do we talk about? The itinerary from the March 17 meeting is below:

1	Agenda Check	7:00 – 7:05	Mike
2	Financial Review	7:05 – 7:10	Jack
3	Stevens Point Visioning Retreat	7:10– 7:15	Jim Rasmus
4	Highlights from BHS CEO quarterly Discussion	7:15-7:20	Mike/Nate
5	DPC meeting	7:20 – 7:30	Mike/Jay
6	Fargo Update	7:35 – 7:40	Justin Mc
7	Senior Singers Project	7:40 – 7:50	Jay
8	Value Exchange Update	7: 50– 7:55	Jay
9	Other	7:55-7:59	Group
10	Adjourn	8:00	Mike

That is not all, though. Your officers have additional meetings, like Jay working with the Events team to plan things like the 2024 district convention or Jim Rasmus adding some additional oomph into the Chap-

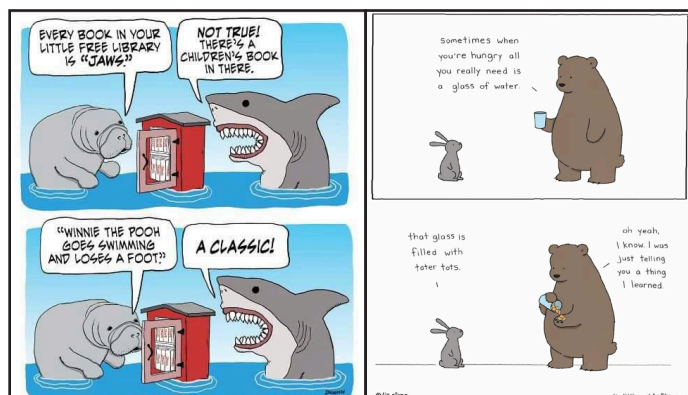
ter Liaison program with the Regional VPs or James Estes meeting with many of the above to plan the actual run of the contest portion of the convention.

To this, add meetings like one with EVP Nate Peplinski and me visiting with Interim BHS CEO Steve Denino to get the official skinny on BHS movements or the monthly calls into the District Presidents' Council, where the presidents and EVPs meet to share best practices and engage as a group with BHS.

Judd Orff has a great assignment in bringing coaching to the chapters and Del Ryberg keeps our operation running clean by opining on topics like Bylaws vs. Policies. The Justins, Kenny, Larry, Jack... So many other people contribute in ways large and small to take the mess away and let you enjoy your hobby.

So, What Does We Do Between District Conventions? A whole bunch, and we are happy it aids in promoting this wonderfully fulfilling Hobby.

Now then, blow the pitch and let's sing.





Stage Fright, You Say?



Nate Peplinski, Executive Vice President

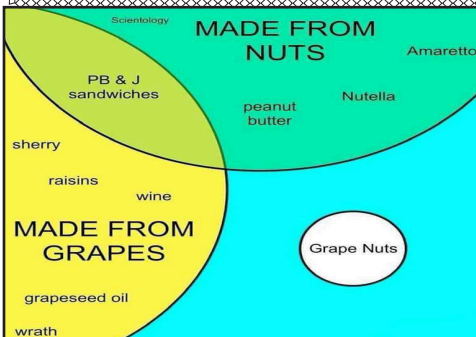
Certainly everyone has dealt with a degree of nerves on the contest or show stage. For some, it can be quite debilitating...your breath gets short, and notes don't come out easy, and that makes you more nervous, and then you start forgetting words, and that makes you more nervous, etc etc. I'd like to share with you a mindset that has helped me immensely in staying calm during performances. Sure, I still get the "pre-race jitters" of the adrenaline starting, but that just means I'm still alive.

A very successful salesman once said, "the easiest way to get people to trust you enough to buy from you is to convince them that you genuinely care about them. And the best way to convince them you genuinely care about them? GENUINELY CARE ABOUT THEM." *Store that on the shelf for now.*

Having sung countless birthday parties, anniversaries, holiday banquets, and more, I was able to notice that audiences aren't there hoping for some train wreck; they're there to be entertained--they want you to succeed. Then I realized, what if I apply this same mentality to contest weekend?

My goal was simply to change the paradigm of "trying to be a judge" to, "what am I going to compliment this performer on when I see him in the hall later?" You know, I was going to make a point to GENUINELY CARE ABOUT THEM. So when your entire mindset shifts to that world of positivity, the parallel is fully drawn that the audience is out there pulling for you, too!

QUARTET. SCHOOL. FREE.
(Friday of district convention)
contact Tim at tjmilbrandt@gmail.com



**ST. CROIX
CROSSING**

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



**MINNEAPOLIS
COMMODORES**

Present our 2024
Annual Show

**And The Beat
Goes On...**



September 7, 2024 3:00 pm
Minnehaha Academy
3100 West River Parkway
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406

With Special Guest Quartet
Happiness Emporium





SAVE THE DATE!!!!



Manitowoc County Chapter of Barbershoppers
80th Annual Show!

Two Shows:

Fri., April 11, 2025 @ 7pm

Sat., April 12, 2025 @ 2pm

*Tickets go on Sale
January, 2025*

Franciscan Center for
Music Education and Performance
6751 Calumet Ave., Manitowoc



QUARTET. SCHOOL. FREE.

(Friday of district convention)

contact Tim at tjmilbrandt@gmail.com

LEADERSHIP WITH LARRY

Leadership is not a mystery.
Leadership is an observable, learnable set of practices.



Greendale Gratitude!

Rhonda Gould

The Greendale Chapter was honored to represent the Land o'Lakes District in Cleveland! Both choruses busily prepared for International with extra rehearsals and costume checks. Midwest Vocal Express was Contestant #22 in the Chorus contest on Saturday, July 6. Forward Harmony was Contestant #3 in the Chorus Festival on Thursday, July 4. Forward also mic-tested for the first day of the Chorus contest on July 5. Some of the Forward members competed with the Dream choruses, both of which hit the stage immediately before MVE on Saturday.

We held a fantastic show "Broadway 'n' Barbershop" at New Berlin West High School on Saturday, June 1. The show featured several of our quartets and both choruses performed Broadway favorites and debuted contest packages.

We are the proud recipient of an AIC grant, which will allow us to do outreach to area students and bring in an AIC quartet for coaching and a show. This will be held on Saturday April 12 at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center in Brookfield. LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION IN THE COMING MONTHS.

Our holiday show is already scheduled and will be Saturday, December 21 at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center, featuring Coulee Classic! More information on this show will be forthcoming soon.

We are looking forward (see what I did there?) to being with all of you in Minneapolis this fall at District convention. Until then..... it's great to be a barbershopper!

QUARTET. SCHOOL. FREE.
(Friday of district convention)
contact Tim at tjmilbrandt@gmail.com

- | | |
|---|---|
| - Email for submissions is pitchpiper@loldistrict.org | - Check out the website! www.loldistrict.org |
| - Reminder Choruses get show posters in for free! | - Special note of sponsorship to Matt Curtis and |
| - Reminder to quartets that ad space is available! | www.choraltracks.com |



Choral Tracks
Practice Made Simple



Singing For the Saints: A Baseball Get-together, Saturday Aug. 10

Loring Harrop

At long last, we have details to give out. I have messages from a great many people and I thank you for your patience. If all goes well, we'll have this information well in advance for 2025. For now, here is most of the information needed:

Who: YOU (of course) . . . and any guest singers you bring along. Please direct your people to buy tickets using this link, if they want to sit with the rest of us. There is no restriction on buying tickets elsewhere in the park. Note that, since we're unsure how many will attend, the Saints reserved a smaller number of seats for us than usually set aside by the Twins, so act soon if you want to sit with the big group.

Tickets: <http://saints-groups.com/>

Password: nationalanthem

What: This year is anthem-only. If we impress, we can add Take Me Out to the Ballgame and possibly other music in the future. Of course, there's nothing to stop us from singing along and getting the crowd into the game when TMOTTBG comes up in the stretch! Note, for next year, if we continue to have robust participation from SAI (go region 6!), we'll consider moving to a more SATB-friendly arrangement, but only if we can decide well in advance and get learning tracks for everyone.

When: Saturday, August 10. The game against the Columbus Clippers begins at 6:37 PM. Singers' call time (ready to warm-up) is 5:30. Note that the Saints are having a promotion that evening where the first people to arrive get a bobble-head toy (extra fun for the kids) and family will be able to take their seats or wander the stadium while we warm up. The Saints are known for the family-friendly atmosphere, so come ready for fun. Front gates open at 5:00 PM, giving us plenty of time to arrive and find our seats before warm-up.

Where: CHS Field in St. Paul, MN. Once inside the ballpark, feel free to get your non-singing guests settled in their seats before making your way to the fan services table, located in Section 105 on the main concourse level which is down the first baseline.

While we're each on our own to buy tickets online, the Saints have asked us to estimate the number of singers likely to participate, so that they can decide just where to place us. They are tentatively thinking of putting us at home plate, front & center for the crowd!

There will also be video taken of the performance, which we'll share out on request. Last of all, I'm hoping some of you will be up for meeting ahead of time or afterwards for fellowship and more singing. Please let me know if this is something you want to be a part of so I can make arrangements in advance.

Questions to answer:

-Which organization do you represent? This is so I can ask for recognition - note that this year, they will most likely just attribute the anthem to the LOL District of BHS and to Region 6, SAI; however, my small press corps is working on publicity, so we'd really like to know who to recognize.

-How many singers do you expect to bring? For the Saints to know how much room we need for warm-ups and exactly how to position us on field.

-Are you interested in a get-together before or after the game? (And which one do you prefer)

Last thing: it should go without saying, but one of the best things barbershop has going for it are the super people (YOU) who participate. As we build more relationships in the community, it's important to put on our best face with the organizations we partner with and their fans. Please let your singers and guests know, if they have any special requests, accommodations or complaints, to see me first. You are welcome to hand out my email or phone as needed.

Thank you!

Loring

Greater St. Paul North Star Chorus



HARMONY LIVES ON THE SCHMITT BROTHERS STAGE Saturday, July 20

Family-friendly event features barbershop concert, food and fun

Two Rivers, Wis. – July 11, 2024 – The community is invited to attend HARMONY LIVES ON THE SCHMITT BROTHERS STAGE, a family-friendly event featuring barbershop singers, food and fun in Two Rivers Central Park.

It was in this park that Two Rivers welcomed their hometown heroes – the Schmitt Brothers quartet – after they won the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA) title in 1951.

Following the outstanding success of the barbershop show at the Schmitt Brothers Stage dedication last summer, organizers would like to make this an annual event dedicated to the spirit of harmony that Jim, Joe, Paul and Fran Schmitt worked so hard to nurture everywhere they performed during their 35-year career. The Schmitt Brothers Stage is the first and only stage in the country dedicated to a barbershop quartet.

What: HARMONY LIVES ON THE SCHMITT BROTHERS STAGE

When: Saturday, July 20, 2024

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Where: Schmitt Brothers Stage in Two Rivers Central Park, Two Rivers, WI

Performing: Free barbershop concert featuring the Clipper City Chordsmen Chorus plus the Harmony To Go, Barber Pops, Encore, and Pass Da Buck quartets

Food/Drink: During the event, community partners will offer food for purchase.

- Grow It Forward will sponsor a food stand with burgers, brats, hot dogs and beverages.
- The Washington House Museum, part of the Two Rivers Historical Society, will scoop ice cream.
- Cool City Brewing Company will offer the Schmitt Brothers Barbershop Brew on tap.

About: This event is made possible through an Explore Two Rivers Opportunity Grant. For more information about the quartet, visit schmittbrothersquartet.com.

Charles “Chuck” Schubbe Obituary

Charles “Chuck” Schubbe, age 89, a resident of The Pillars of Mankato, passed away on June 15, 2024. A Celebration of Life will be held on July 28, 2024, at Hosanna Lutheran Church of Mankato. Visitation will begin at 1:00 p.m., Service at 2:00 p.m. and a gathering with light refreshments, music, and conversation (The After Glow) will be held from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Burial will occur later. SUMMIT Funeral & Cremation of Inver Grove Heights oversees arrangements. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the Land O’ Lakes District of the Barbershop Harmony Society, St Croix Hospice, or American Cancer Society. To livestream the service use this link: <https://boxcast.tv/view/charles-schubbe-funeral-xd6zir2fsllyfbeniada>





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Ken Ryan

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Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/LOLDistrictBHS



Calendar

Please send show registrations to:
District Secretary Bob Brey, Land O' Lakes District
1411 S. 31st St.
Manitowoc, WI 54220
rwbrey1950@gmail.com

2024

- July**
- 1-7 International Convention - Cleveland, OH
- August**
- 3 Vocality Concert on the Porch - White Bear Lake, MN
- 10 St. Paul, MN - Singing for the Saints Baseball outing
- September**
- 7 Windom, MN
- 7 Minneapolis, MN - Happiness Emporium
- 14 Lake Geneva, WI
- 21 Faribault, MN
- 28 Stevens Point, WI - Newfangled Four, Coulee

Classic

- October**
- 5 Escanaba, MI - Coulee Classic
- 5 Amery, WI (Polk County) - Newfangled Four, Vocality
- 11-12 DISTRICT CONVENTION - Minneapolis, MN
- November**
- 1=2 Fargo, ND - Coulee Classic
- December**
- 21 Greendale, WI - Coulee Classic
- 2025**
- January**
- 10-11 Leadership Training Academy - UW River Falls
- 28-Feb2 BHS Midwinter Convention - San Antonio, TX
- April**
- 11-12 Manitowoc, WI - Three and a Half Men

