

The Pitch Piper

73 YEARS OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY

OVER 714,089 SQUARE MILES

Volume 73 Number 4

A Bulletin for Barbershoppers in the LO'L District

July–August 2021

LO'L District Fall Convention - Together Again!



Featuring: Storm Front – 2010 International Champion Quartet

We continue to plan for an outstanding Fall Convention at the Minneapolis Airport Hilton on October 14-16. We will be “Together Again” for Fun, Friends and our Barbershop Family. More details are shared by Arv Zenk, our Events Director later in this issue of the PitchPiper, but following are a few action items. We’ll see you at our convention!

Action Items

Review the convention information on our District Website: <https://loldistrict.org/2021-fall-convention>

If your chapter isn't sending in a group registration – register on your own.

- Reserve your hotel rooms
- Learn the song: “Together Wherever We Go”
- Review the Polecat songs
- Share your enthusiasm to attend with other members
- Get ready for lots of fun with your friends and Barbershop family!
- Harmony Platoon
- Tagatorium
- Polecat Dance Card
- Hospitality Rooms
- Showcase Extravaganza with Storm Front
- Quartet Clinic
- All Chapter Chorus
- Quartet Contest/Festival and Performances
- Chorus Contest/Festival and Performances
- Mass Sing – “Together, Wherever We Go”
- Group Lunch and Banquet . . . **And more!!**





Pitch Piper

The *Pitch Piper* is published bi-monthly by the Land O' Lakes District Association of Chapters of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartets Singing in America, Inc.

Land O' Lakes Chapters are situated in the states of Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and the Provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario.

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Barbershoppers are Family - The Smyrk 4

Submitted by Jay Althof - LO'L District President



During my 37 years as a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society I have witnessed many examples of how we are truly like an extended family. The following excerpts, taken from a few e-mails, is just the latest example of how we support each other and find that not only the person receiving

support, but those providing it experience joy. Special thanks to Rod, Gary, Ed and Chuck for giving Charlie this special musical treat!

.... My Dad, Charlie Smyrk, was admitted to a rehab center in Rochester following a fall just prior to his 93rd birthday (March 21, 2021). Sadly, he is not recovering as well as we had hoped and coupled with his dementia it seems he may remain in a skilled nursing facility for a while.

I don't know if you recall his past history with the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. but he was very active in his younger years singing and competing with the Gemini Crickets. They were quite good, and in 1971 the group spent 17 days entertaining

hospitalized service members as part of a USO tour in Japan, Guam, and the Philippines.

He loves music and seems to respond positively to live "shows" better than TV or radio. So, I wondered if you might forward my request for a guest appearance to anyone you know who might be able to help me with this. They recently had a cello performance during the dinner hour and my Dad has been singing "Blue Skies" every day since the performance.

Thank you, Lynn Lenz

Hi Jay,

The Smyrk 4 answered your call to do some singing for Charlie Smyrk. Ed Wirtz, Gary Rogness, Chuck Guthrie and I (Rod Johnson) answered the call and had a great time in the process!

To the best of my count, we sang about a dozen songs, some of which found Charlie Smyrk singing along with his best smile and bright eyes. His family was with him, including his wife, kids and grandkids. We shared stories and pictures about the memorable Gemini Crickets USO Tour of Far East military

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WISCONSIN NEXTGEN NEWS

Submitted by Jim Rasmus

The Wisconsin Youth Harmony Festival (WYHF) will return to the stage at Pacelli High School in Stevens Point on Saturday, May 21, 2022! **WISCONSIN CHAPTERS: mark your calendars and begin now to plan how you will reach out to your local music educators to assist them in promoting quartets to form in their schools!!** While you're at it, promote LOL plans to include high school quartets in our District Convention! At least one of our 2021 Virtual WYHF winners (JELI from Burlington High School) plans to attend.

We humbly ask you – individuals, quartets, and chapters – to consider financially supporting the work of the Wisconsin Youth Harmony Festival. Send your check to our treasurer (Bill Jenkins; 520 Old Wausau Rd; Stevens Point, WI 54481-9223). Or you can designate your donation to the annual **Parade of Checks** at the District Convention to go to the WYHF.

Real Men Sing! will again be presented at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on Sept. 17th from 8:00 am-Noon. This event, coordinated by Dr. Zack Durlam, may bring together **as many as 1000 high school and junior high boys and 60-65 music educators!!** The morning will primarily focus on choral music, but it will also feature a barbershop quartet.

As always, you can go to our website – <http://youthharmonyfest.org/> – to get the latest information.



Karl Wicklund leads the Polk County Chapter in getting back to the magic of barbershop harmony! They have been rotating their meeting place since they started meeting again on June 6th. The normal meeting place at the county courthouse is still restricting outside groups from gathering there. Most of the guys are back in attendance and a couple new ones have started coming as well.



ST. CROIX CROSSING

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



2021 BHS Virtual International Convention

Submitted by Gordon Billows



The 2021 BHS Virtual International Convention was definitely a success, in spite of the Covid restrictions. The performances by choruses and quartets, past and present, thoroughly entertained the “Avatar” audiences from around the world! LOL members Blake Doss, Kaleb Smith and I attended Midwinter and returned to the BHS Virtual World to enjoy the Virtual International. Kaleb and I volunteered as Convention Tour Guides.

In addition to the video and live shows arranged by Society and AIC, all the Districts and most of the BBS Alliance Groups had their hospitality buildings, just like at Midwinter. The Land O' Lakes building gave Avatars the opportunity to visit many of our chapter and quartet rooms plus they could view several special District displays. Visitors could visit: Winnipeg, Mankato, Minneapolis, Fargo, Greendale, St Croix River, and Hilltop. Then visit rooms featuring Vocality, Happiness Emporium, St Croix Crossing, Schmitt Brothers, First Avenue, District quartet and chorus champions, LOL Next Generation Barbershop, and the Hall of LOL International Champions. Bonus - Larry Lewis set up a room to explain Intergenerational Differences and their effect on our BHS chapters!

Whether the Avatars represented “seasoned” Barbershoppers, new BHS members or interested guests representing other singing organizations, touring these rooms and experiencing what was presented definitely stated that “IT'S GREAT TO BE A BARBERSHOPPER”!



Greetings from the Heart O' Lakes Harmony Capella Chorus of Fergus Falls, MN

Submitted by Brent E. Frazier

Although we are not at full strength chorus participation at this point, we move onward with enthusiasm, energy and the hope we will once again see all members return to our weekly Monday evening rehearsals.

Our 'Singing Masks' have been put on the shelf as we now gather to engage in warm-up voice and posture exercises before we then lift our voices in harmonious song.

We have recently been singing many of the selections in “The Barberpole Cat Program and Song Book” as well as some of our favorite gospel selections

Our plans for the summer are to sing in several Sunday Morning Church Worship Services throughout three communities within our immediate geographical area.

Also, there are current plans underway to gather with the Great Plains Harmony Chorus of Fargo, ND for an evening of picnic food, socializing and to combine all voices as one chorus and sing in 'After Glow' fashion.

As we seek to increase our Barbershop membership, a committee is in the process of reaching out by advertisement and word of mouth to many within our area who have not yet been asked to join our chorus.

And finally, with the Land O' Lakes District Roar Back Weekend at the MSP Hilton approaching, we are encouraging all our chorus members to attend this long weekend of music education, song and comradery.

BAYLANDERS CHORUS DIRECTOR

The Baylanders Barber Shop chorus of Green Bay is looking for a new director . Our former director of 55+ years has retired in March 2019. He has been the reason that the Baylanders is still in operation and we need to find a new director to continue his legacy.

If you are interested in directing our chorus starting August 2021 please call our president at 715 853 9324, or e-mail jwhiteho@frontiernet.net

Got to keep on singing!
John Whitehouse, Baylanders president



Registration for Events Badges/Lunch/Dinner Land O'Lakes Fall Convention October 15-16, 2021

Land O' Lakes District Roar Back Weekend MSP Hilton Hotel October 14 – 16, 2021

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.

Pre-Convention "Platoon"

Thursday - October 14	Lobby
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
7:30 - 8:30	Break out for Platoon rehearsals
8:30 - 9:30	Platoon Quartet Contest – Everyone invited
9:30 - 12:30	Tags/Pickup Quartets/Hospitality – Everyone

District Contest and Convention

Friday – October 15	Lobby	Conference Rooms
9:00 – 8:00 pm	Registration	
9:30 – 12:00	Coaching (non-contest)	
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch	
1:30 – 3:00	Performance (non-contest)	
2:00 – 2:30	ADC Board Meeting	Ballroom
2:30 – 3:00	ADC Membership Meeting	White Pelican Bay
3:00 – 4:30	All Chapter Chorus rehearsal	White Pelican Bay
4:00 – 6:00	Quartets – on stage checks	Wood Duck Pond
6:30 – 9:00	Quartet Prelim Contest	Ballroom
9:00 – 10:30	ADC Champions Show	Ballroom
9:30 – 11:30	Quartet Evaluations	Judges Rooms

Saturday – October 16

7:30 – 2:00 pm	Lobby	Ballroom I
8:00 – 9:30	District Board/HOD meeting	Meeting Rooms
8:30 – 12:00	Chorus rehearsals/dressing	Ballroom
10:30 – 12:00	Chorus Contest	Ballroom I
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch Break	Ballroom
1:30 – 3:00	Quartet Finals	Meeting Rooms
3:30 – 6:00	Chorus/Quartet Evaluations	Ballroom
6:00 – 10:00	Showcase/Dinner and Show	Ballroom I/Mtg Rooms
10:00 – 12:30	Afterglow/Hospitality	

Complete Convention Registration Package @ \$110.00	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Includes: All Events, Saturday Lunch, and Showcase Dinner		
All Events Registration @ \$60.00		
Jr. Events Registration (12 & under) @ \$30.00		
Jr. Events Registration & Showcase Dinner @ \$70.00		
Saturday Noon Box lunch @ \$13.00		
(Presale only - Oct 10 cutoff)		
Saturday Showcase Dinner only @ \$40.00		
(Presale only - Oct 10 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 507-995-1655

As of: May 31, 2021



Barbershoppers are Family - The Smyrk 4

...Continued from page 2

hospitals during the Viet Nam war years, when Charlie stepped in for Chuck.

I also want to commend our fearless leader, Chuck Guthrie, who despite having to perform with a cranky back, was the quartet matchmaker, repertoire planner, and logistics coordinator for the event.

We absolutely lifted the spirits of Charlie Smyrk and his group of Smyrks, but as usual in events such as this, we were the ones who benefited most. It was a very rewarding and fun day for the Smyrk 4.

Thanks, Rod

Gemini Crickets - 1967 District Champion



2021 Contest Registration

Submitted by Steve Johnson

Yay! I hope all of you are as ready to Roar Back as I am this fall in Bloomington, MN. The Convention is shaping up to be a great one to renew District friendships and listen to and sing barbershop music. The contest is going to be fun as well.

Registering for the contest is new and hopefully a little less confusing. Over the past year, BHS has been hard at work making registration easier. Over the last 2 months all 17 DRCJ's have been testing out the process and we all feel it works well. Here are the instructions for registering.

Beginning August 15th, you may log into the BHS Member Center to register. We will put a link to it on the LO'L Website as well. For quartets, only the Quartet Administrator will be able to register for the contest. For choruses only the President, Secretary or Chorus Director may register. The deadline for registering is September 15th.

If you have competed before, your repertoire will still be listed. If a song (or songs) that you will be competing with isn't listed, please add it. Quartets, please make sure you have the correct part listed for each quartet member. All competing members of a quartet or chorus need to be paid in full 1 week before the contest.

If you are a new quartet you must register as a quartet with BHS before you can register for the contest. It may take up to a week for your quartet to show up in the registration link. So register your quartet ASAP. When registering, you may notice that your group is still in a Division, not a Region. BHS most likely will not have changed that designation for this fall, but will for next fall. There will be no Regional winners this year, but for choruses there will be Plateau winners, so please make sure you register in the correct Plateau. Also in the notes section, choruses please enter the number of risers you wish to sing on, 5, 7 or 9.

If you have and questions or need help with registration, please contact me at steve.johnson61@gmail.com

2021 YOUTH QUARTETS

If you are a Youth Quartet and wish to sing for the judges for a score (that will be unpublished) and receive an in person evaluation from them please contact me directly.

Youth Quartets (male, female or mixed) do not need to be paid members of BHS but need to register through the new registration process in the Members Only Center. To do this, you must contact me and I will get the process going. DO NOT contact BHS. You will need to pay the District Convention fee. Registration for the Convention is located on the LO'L Website.

Deadline for the contest registration is September 15th. My contact information is steve.johnson61@gmail.com



"ROAR BACK" at the District Convention

Submitted by Arv Zenk, District Events Director



Convention Registration – This year we are including the opportunity to register for a "Complete Convention Package" which includes a box

lunch at noon on Saturday and the Showcase Dinner featuring Storm Front Saturday evening. The entire weekend is packed with events and will be held at the Minneapolis and St. Paul Airport Hilton Hotel, 3800 American Blvd East, Bloomington, Minnesota. With easy access from Interstate 494 (Exit 1A or 1B) and free parking for everyone, the Hilton is a great place for us to gather. Check out detailed information for Convention registration, hotel reservations, the All-Chapter Chorus, quartet coaching registration, and even the Harmony Platoon at <https://loldistrict.org/2021-fall-convention>

Hotel Reservations – The MSP Hilton is our convention headquarters and all of the activities and events will be held at the Hilton. If possible, you'll want to stay there to take in all of the activities including tag singing with the Fun Squad and the hospitality suites. Make your Hilton reservation on-line using the LOL Webpage or call 952-854-2100. Just ask for the "Barbershop Convention Rate" of \$85. Other hotels in the area include:

- Embassy Suites – 952-884-4811- ask for Barbershop Convention rate of \$99 *Note: Embassy Suites now has a link on the LOL convention website*
- Fairfield Inn and Suites – 952-858-8475 – rates \$95 - \$105
- Hampton Inn and Suites – 952-905-2950 – rates \$110 - \$120
- Crowne Plaza Aire – 952-854-9000 – rates \$135 - \$140

Dining Options – Saturday will be a busy day and we encourage you to take advantage of the box lunch option (Cutoff date to order October 10th). There are so many good restaurants in the area. You can grab a bite at the Hilton Blue Water Grill, a smaller restaurant, which features a bar/lounge, or take advantage of their room service. Cooked-to-order breakfasts are served each day at the Blue Water Grill. There are so many dining options at the Mall of America (5 minutes away) from fast food cafes to five-star restaurants. For those who want to stay close to the action and fun, we are also planning to have food trucks available. And then, we have a wonderful banquet and show to wrap up your weekend.

Fun – We want you to enjoy your weekend at the Convention and that's why we have planned so many new things this fall. Steve Grady and his Fun Squad are planning activities to keep you

singing and involved throughout the weekend. They're planning a Tagatorium hospitality room with tags on the wall for everyone to sing. The Polecat Dance Card returns to get you involved in singing your favorite Polecat and so many more activities. If you must leave the hotel, the Mall of America is just a shuttle ride away with over 500 stores, Sea Life Aquarium, the 5D Extreme Attraction, Moose Mountain Adventure Golf and much more. You may want to take a morning hike at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (just across the street) or visit Minnehaha Falls or historic Fort Snelling. We want you and your family to really enjoy our time "Together Again". And that's why we are holding our first Convention Showcase Dinner.

Showcase Dinner – On Saturday night, we are going to have a plated dinner with a top quality barbershop show for just \$40 (Cutoff date to order – Oct 10th). This will be the time we will recognize our champions, celebrate Roaring Back again, and top it all off with a first class barbershop show. Jay will be our Master of Ceremonies and will lead us in that song we're all learning – "Together Wherever We Go". Showcase talent includes ADC quartets, the All Chapter Chorus, and featured guests which will be capped off with a guaranteed stellar performance by our own 2010 International Champion Quartet – Storm Front. Hope to see you there!

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

The All Chapter Chorus is Waiting For You!

Submitted by Steve Zorn

SING WITH THE ALL CHAPTER CHORUS. The Northern Pines Harmony Brigade (NPHB) is again sponsoring the All Chapter Chorus in 2021. Maybe we can reach the goal of having at least one member of every Land O' Lakes chapter sing with us on the risers!

Angel Eyes. A funky arrangement with great harmonies. And Blue Skies. An uptune to raise our spirits! Both of these songs were favorites last February at the Northern Pines Harmony Brigade.

For only \$10, 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 now (<https://loldistrict.org/conventions>) and the music with learning tracks will be shared with you. Can we get at least one member from each LO'L chapter and make it a true "All Chapter Chorus?"



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Board Members Wanted!

Steve Zorn, Nominating Committee Chair

The Land O' Lakes District is governed by volunteer board members and we depend on their skills to make our District great. Do you have skills that would help our district? Are you interested in joining a strong team? Do you know of another barbershopper who would be a great board member? Volunteer or make suggestions by contacting Steve Zorn at 651 242-6864 or zorn.stephen@gmail.com by August 10th. It's great to be a barbershopper as well as a leader!



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
rbvrey1950@gmail.com

2021
September

- 11 St. Croix Valley, MN
- 18 Minneapolis, MN
- 18 Ripon, WI
- St. Croix Crossing
- 25 Greater St. Paul Area, MN
- 26 Manitowoc County, WI Cabaret

October

- 8 Plymouth, WI
Fall Cabaret
- 9 Polk County, WI
Main Street & St. Croix Crossing
- 15-16 Minneapolis Area
LOL Fall Convention
Stormfront

November

- 4 Stevens Point, WI
- 24 Thunder Bay, ON
Singing for Sharing

December

- 4 St. Croix Valley, MN
- 11 Manitowoc County, WI
- 11 Minneapolis, MN

2022
January

- 7-8 UW-River Falls
LO'L Leadership Academy
- 11-16 Pasadena, CA
Midwinter Convention

April

- 23 Appleton, WI
Tenacious
- 29-30 Fergus Falls, MN
- 30 Manitowoc County, WI
Kordal Kombat

May

- 14 St. Croix Valley, MN
- 14 Minneapolis, MN



The updated 2021 District Directory digital pdf is available by request via email at districtdirectory@frickeprinting.com