

# The Pitch Piper

76 YEARS OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY

OVER 714,089 SQUARE MILES

Volume 77, Number 3

A Bulletin for Barbershoppers in the LO'L District

July-August 2024

## HARMONY EXPRESS

HONOR OUR PAST, BUILD OUR FUTURE



**LAND O' LAKES DISTRICT CONVENTION**  
**OCTOBER 11-12, 2024**



**Honoring**  
**Dean Haagenson**





## 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



Gonna go in a couple of different areas here, but that is one of the things that is so cool about being president of a district that is doing so many great things.

First - those that are signing up for district contest (please do, even if just for feedback sessions without scores published), you may have noticed a change: no longer is a performing group needing to choose among Men's, Women's, or All Voices choruses or quartets.

What does this mean? Not much, really, for most people. BHS already runs international contests without gender designations, and many to most

districts are already in that mode. Why did the district board move in this direction? A mix of reasons, most prominent in the discussion around it that there were some chapters caught betwixt and between in terms of what to choose as a category as well as a notice that by my count, there were 32 geography, plateau and gender categories announced at last year's fall convention.

It's a lot, folks.

I need to state here that this DOES NOT mean that all chapters or quartets are coerced or forced in any way to be composed of anything that does not conform to their best idea of participating in this glorious hobby. For instance, my beloved 35 years singing with my brothers in the Midwest Vocal Express is not influenced by my friends (*continued on page 3*)



(cont. from p2) within our own chapter in Forward Harmony, an all voices group. MVE is male, FH is all voices.



Singing only with MVE makes sense in my life, and we have a dozen members that are in both to double their fun in this hobby. More power to anybody finding ways to enjoy the hobby in their own way.

Any questions? Hit me or Contest and Judging VP James Estes up and we are happy to engage!

~~~~~  
Call out to all groups that have had Youth in Harmony to send their stories to me and YIH chair for the district, Justin La. In the MVE, we have Membership and Music VP's that came back to find the hobby after college because of the Music VP's engagement with the MVE as a high schooler getting coached by some of us for solo and ensemble competitions. We have two current members who sang in the Wisconsin State High School Quartet competition (Wisconsin Youth in Harmony Festival).

We have an ardent and talented new member whose HS teacher introduced his kids to Tags and Youtube of barbershop. They are all under 30 and will be the ones to sing at my funeral some day.

We have successes out there. What are they? Let's hear the stories, and let's get a call together to dissect (with their voices) what we can do to repeat them and get the kids that are singing with us once per year in events on the risers with us for years to come.

~~~~~  
District Leadership Call on August 18. It was stated by me that the Vikings have everything they need but a team. It was reminded that this will be a donation of mine to the pot at the House of Delegates meeting during the District Convention. This pot is a donation by any wise person defending the world's greatest football team who proudly makes an oral confirmation of that singular position... or anybody silly enough to root against them that wear purple that does the same.



Please send somebody authorized to represent your chapter to the House of Delegates meeting at the district convention. -Mike



## 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.

All you need to do is contact me (juddorff3108@msn.com or 651-262-9843) 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***

*Jim Rasmus, VP of Chapter Support (pjas@gmail.com)*



This is a great time to schedule coaching for your chorus! With that in mind, don't forget about our District's **Take Coaching to the Chapter (TCTC)** program!

The goal of TCTC is to provide coaching to choruses who want to improve their performance package for your basic performance repertoire and/or District Convention. It is meant to share the rich music education resource people we have in the District.

The LOL pays for the coach's mileage at the standard rate of 40 cents per mile. The District does not pay a stipend or a meal for the coach – that is left up to the Chapter's discretion. Bear in mind there is a limit of TWO coaching sessions per Chapter per calendar year.

The usual steps to request a TCTC Session are:

1. **Decide** what type of coaching will be most beneficial for your chorus. Consider the areas of contest adjudication: **Musicality, Performance and Singing**, or perhaps your chorus is best served by general coaching.
2. **Consider** more than one date, so identify several available dates.
3. **Contact** the TCTC Chairman (Judd Orff – [juddorff3108@msn.com](mailto:juddorff3108@msn.com)) who will assist you in identifying a coach and arranging a coaching session for your chorus.

Part of the conversation about selecting a coach involves finding one who might be familiar with your chorus and director. If your chorus is interested in working with a specific coach, discuss that with Judd to determine if those arrangements can be made under the TCTC program.

Permit me to remind you again of the **LOL Grants and Programs** that are available:

- ♪ **Chapter Show Grants** support up to \$750 for District Quartets to perform at your show.
- ♪ **Chapter Development Grants** provide up to \$1,000 to help your Chapter promote yourselves through advertising or public relations or any creative projects to grow your membership. We just one received an intriguing one to engage a consultant specializing in non-profit organizations to assist them in engaging more senior men in their chorus!
- ♪ **Visioning Retreats** offers Chapters a process to engage their members in a three-hour group conversation about the state of their Chapter and ways to increase participation.

Information about those programs and other resources can be found under the redesigned the **Chapter Development Resources** tab on the LOL website: <https://loldistrict.org/chapter-development>. For example:

- Files to guide you in your **Chapter Development** efforts – e.g., Guest Welcome Process, Christmas Show Chorus and Winnipeg's Learn to Sing Better program, Chapter/Chorus Evaluation Surveys, Greeters-Riser Buddies....
- Job descriptions and useful ideas for **Chapter Officers**.

As we continue to discover resources from around the LOL and BHS, more will be added!  
**Please reach out to me if you have ideas to share or questions we can explore together!**





# **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

## **ATTENTION QUARTETS**

Do you sing with a quartet?  
Have you been wishing for ways to get excellent coaching at a low cost?  
If so we have a deal for you!

### **What you get:**

- Top-notch coaching
- A chance to hobnob with other up-and-coming quartets
- An opportunity to sing one song on the district stage Friday afternoon prior to the start of the contest.

### **What you need to do:**

- Contact Tim Milbrandt at: [tjmilbrandt@gmail.com](mailto:tjmilbrandt@gmail.com)
- Show up ready to sing Friday morning October 11 (final times are being sorted out but it will be somewhere in the 8 am - 12 noon range)

### ***There is no cost for this activity.***

Don't delay in reaching out if you want this opportunity as spots are filling up quickly!

## **QUARTET. SCHOOL. FREE.**

***(Friday of district convention)***

***contact Tim at [tjmilbrandt@gmail.com](mailto:tjmilbrandt@gmail.com)***

**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](mailto:pitchpiper@loldistrict.org)**



### “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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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





## Get Ready for Convention Fun, Fun, Fun

Don't worry no one is taking the T-bird away, rather the LOL Fun Squad has a lot of great activities planned that will amp up your 2024 Convention experience.

1 - **The Convention Schedule** - is on the LOL convention page <https://loldistrict.org/2024-fall-convention> you will see several Fun Squad activities shown for Friday and Saturday.

2 - **Fun Squad Information Table** – Set up right across the Registration desk you will get your voice part dot sticker(s) for your nametag, Pole Cat Dance Cards I and II, Tagatorium instructions, and learn how to download the Tagpole tag app on you cell phone. The Fun Squad table will be set up to self-serve Convention attendees, but we will have a Fun Squad member or two at the table during prime times to explain the activities and encourage attendee participation.

3 - **Tagatorium** - Will be located in the room behind the Fun Squad info desk. Potentially Donny Rose from the Harmony Foundation will be a guest Tagmeister throughout the weekend – he is a dynamo.

4 - **Tags and more Tags** - - We have tag books and Tagpole mobile app instructions in the Tagatorium. We are hoping to get everyone off paper and onto their phone to make it easy to tag anywhere at any time.

5 - **NEW! - LOL Polecat Alley** - we will designate the Lobby overlook hallway as the place to sing Polecats and earn pins using Polecat Books I and II. Look for the two new banners to indicate this area.

8 - **Sing with the Champs** - is Saturday 4:00 - 5:30 in the new LOL Pole Cat Alley hallway. We will set up the champs in the larger hallway area by the elevators. If we have enough Champion Quartet participation, we may also set up by the Tagatorium as well.

7 - **Pole Cat Dance Card I** - Same as last year. LOL purchased Pole Cat I books are in the Alley. Check off all 10 songs to get your Polecat pin from a Fun Squad member.

8 - **Pole Cat Dance Card II** - 6 songs were selected from Pole Cat book II and a new exclusive LOL Barbershop pole pin will be given to those who complete this 6-song card at the Convention.

9 - **Pole Cat Pin text number** - In years past, it has been sometimes difficult to get Pole Cat Pins to those who qualify. This year you can text a phone number when you qualify, and we will tell you how to get your pins before you leave the Convention site.

10 - **Social Media** - we will post Fun Squad info on the LOL Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/LOLDistrictBHS> or and the hashtag to use on your own page when posting.

11 - **Food Truck** - for quick Saturday breakfast, coffee, and lunch - We have contracted the Sizzlin' Wagon again (rave reviews) on Saturday from 6:30 am to 2:00 pm.

The Fun Squad looks forward to having fun singing with all our Convention attendees. See You There!!





## 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
8:00 - 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	House of Delegates Meeting	Riverside Rm
2:00 - 3:00	BHS Listening Session	Mtg Rm VIII
3:00 - 5:00	Stage Check – Quartet/Chorus	Ballroom Stage
3:00 - 4:30	ADC Meeting/Rehearsal	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 <sup>nd</sup> 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
5:30 - 6:30	ADC Chorus Rehearsal	Riverside RM
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		
<b>Total enclosed (US Funds)</b>			

\*\* 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](mailto: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.**



# ADC at District

Greetings fellow barbershoppers! In a matter of weeks the annual convention will be here and if you're not there, you're going to miss a good one. There'll be plenty of great chorus and quartet singing as well as the *All Chapter chorus*, quartet coaching and *Sing With The Champs*!

This year we're embarking on what we hope will become an annual tradition. We're celebrating our 25 year champion, TRADEMARK, and giving them special recognition. Our plan is to have them arrive in a stretch limo painted like a pitchpipe with an entourage consisting of the Society president, the board of directors and our current international champs! I can't hardly wait! It truly will be a site to behold if we can get the idea past Mike and Jay.

Anyway, the remarkably awesome ADC chorus will be presenting two of the songs done by our honorees as well as giving you the opportunity to enjoy as many past champs as we can muster for the Saturday Showcase.

Registration is open so don't delay! Be in the first 200 to sign up and receive a free unsolicited welcome at the door!

Keep 'em Ringin'

Dan Heike  
ADC President

**QUARTET. SCHOOL. FREE.**  
**(Friday of district convention)**  
**contact Tim at [tjmilbrandt@gmail.com](mailto:tjmilbrandt@gmail.com)**

## LEADERSHIP WITH LARRY

Leadership inspires a shared vision and then follows up by holding people accountable.





# 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:

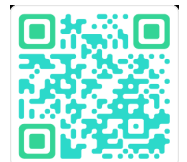
**Initial Rehearsals:** October 9-11, 2024, at the Land O' Lakes District Convention in Bloomington, Minnesota (just minutes from the Mall of America and near Minneapolis).

**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](mailto:justinLa92@hotmail.com) or **Penny Yanke:** [pennyyanke5678@gmail.com](mailto:pennyyanke5678@gmail.com)





# Association of District Champions (ADC)

Rick Anderson, ADC Secretary

You see the ADC chorus at the Fall Convention every year but you don't know who they are or what they do? The ADC membership is made up of Land O' Lakes Quartet Champions.

The ADC meets annually at the Fall Convention but is also active in supporting several activities around the district throughout the year.

We fund Harmony University and Harmony Brigade scholarships.

You also don't have to look far to find ADC members giving back in Leadership positions. Mike Lietke (Jackpot!) and Jay Althof (Vocality, Quest, Grandad's Bluff) are the current and immediate-past LOL Presidents. Nate Peplinski (Coulee Classic) is our new PitchPiper Editor and current Executive VP. Bryan Ziegler (Expedition, After Hours (Int'l Champions)) directs two choruses from Greendale, WI and also the Madison Chorus! These are just a few of the many LOL Quartet Champions that give back every week.

Look for the maroon ADC name badges at the fall convention and ask a champ to sing a song with you or tell you a story of their glory days.

## SAVE THE DATE

Leadership Training Academy (LTA)

January 10 – 11, 2025

University of Wisconsin – River Falls

*Core classes for chapter officers and elective classes for ALL BARBERSHOPPERS who enjoy this GREAT hobby and want new ideas on how to make it even better.*

Our faculty will include:

***Donny Rose – Harmony Foundation International***

***Steve Scott – Barbershop Harmony Society***

***Sarah Wigley – Associate Professor of Voice University of Illinois  
Champaign-Urbana*** (and daughter of the LOL District's own Paul Wigley)

***More details in the next Pitch Piper.***



## unlabeled editor's notes

- Sorry for the delay in getting this issue out. It might happen again.
- Angie Williams is the new directory editor, and she's awesome. More on that next time.
- Parallel lines have so much in common. It's a shame they'll never meet.
- If you think someone would be deserving of a feature in this publication, contact [pitchpiper@loldistrict.org](mailto:pitchpiper@loldistrict.org) or Tim Milbrandt at [tjmilbrandt@gmail.com](mailto:tjmilbrandt@gmail.com).
- A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kickboxing.
- Many thanks to the Pitch Piper staff: Tim Milbrandt, Brian Plehn, Brent Frankenhoff, Angie Williams, Tom Arneberg, as well as Todd Smith, and Bob and Bill Fricke.
- Money is not everything, but make sure you make enough before you think such nonsense.
- If you need learning tracks, check out [www.choraltracks.com](http://www.choraltracks.com). They're super cheap and high quality and I do a ton of this composition, editing, and formatting during work time. Don't tell Matt.
- I've learned so much from my mistakes that I'm thinking of making a few more.
- Get involved. Even if it's only thirty minutes every six months, that's still helping. Kathryn I'm talking to you.

## Hello Barbershoppers!

I want to thank all the chapters that have send the correct BMI/SESAC show clearance forms when you schedule your shows. That helps to keep us all compliant in paying fees to song writers and the copyright holders of the music that we sing.

For chapter leaders that deal with the completion of these forms just a reminder to visit the Society website, log into the Members Only section and do a search for BMI/SESAC show clearance form. That will enable you to download to your computer the most current form for use. This will also show the current fee for each performance you have. Two shows, even on the same date means two times the amount shown. Complete the form, print, sign, then send one copy along with the check. I will sign and forward the paperwork to Society. If you wish to email the form without printing, please type your name in the chapter member space. A few years ago, Society updated policy and now ALL shows, even freewill shows need a show clearance form and payment of fees.

See you at convention for the HOD meeting Friday, October 11, 2PM in the Riverside room. Remember that the insult glasses for comments will be set up. All donations go to the Next Generation fund to help informing youth about our hobby. Our District President, Mike already has made two insults about the Vikings at our working session and owes \$10. Let's make a few more discreet comments and grow the donation!

In Harmony,

Robert Brey

Land O' Lakes District Secretary

- Email for submissions is [pitchpiper@loldistrict.org](mailto:pitchpiper@loldistrict.org)
- Reminder Choruses get show posters in for free!
- Reminder to quartets that ad space is available!

- Check out the website! [www.loldistrict.org](http://www.loldistrict.org)
- Special note of sponsorship to Matt Curtis and [www.choraltracks.com](http://www.choraltracks.com)



# Choral Tracks

Practice Made Simple





## Honoring Dean Haagenson

*submitted by Brent Haagenson*

“Honoring our Heroes” is a recurring series of essays which includes interviews with living members of our society who have had a lasting impact on the district, as well as memorials of those heroes who are no longer with us. If you have a “hero” you’d like honored, please contact the editor.

When I introduce myself at a barbershop event, it’s not uncommon to hear “oh, you must be Dean’s kid!” as a reply. I must admit I was initially taken aback by this quick association... his quartet stopped regularly performing when I was 10, and I didn’t join the society until I was 27. However, over the years I have come to understand why his name has certainly been worthy of remembering in our dedicated musical community.

In this edition, I interview Dean Haagenson, Lead of LOL District Hall of Fame Quartet HarmonyWorks, and one of the founding members and early conductors of the Great Northern Union Chorus.

Dean’s earliest memories of music were his mom playing the “very old upright” piano at their home in Crystal, Minnesota, just west of Minneapolis. “When Grandpa passed away the piano needed to be moved. Somehow, my dad conned his bowling team over to our house after league one night by offering dessert, as long as they were there, why not move the 1000 lbs piano down the stairs?”

After that, mom taught the kids how to harmonize. He learned to play piano and guitar, participating in church groups and choirs. Dean’s first experiences in barbershop came from his choir



director at Armstrong High School. “Mr. Edstrom put four of us together and we competed in the high school competition... we had no idea what we were doing but the harmony was fun.”



Dean attended Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. This is where the original HarmonyWorks quartet was formed. “The Fargo/Moorhead chapter hosted a contest at our college. Bill Wigg, Jerry Torrison, Eric Lockrem and I signed up for the contest and actually won...”



(again) we had no idea what we were doing but had a blast.” Dean graduated in 1980 with a Music Education degree and became a choir director before transitioning into a career as a realtor.

In 1984, HarmonyWorks was freshly motivated after attending Harmony College in Saint Joseph, MO. They decided to compete at their first District Convention, only to miss the finals. All the more motivated, they returned the next year and became LOL District Champions (1985) and made their first Top 20 at International in the process.

In those early years, Dean recalls looking up to many of the greats in our district. “HarmonyWorks had so much support from so many people. Judd Orff connected us with Rod Johnson who connected us with Don Clause. Such incredible coaches and friends.”



The HarmonyWorks early lineup would welcome Dave Nyberg on baritone (early 80s), and see original champion bass Jerry Torrison replaced by already accomplished Central States District Champion

Mel Eliason (1990).

Dean recalls numerous favorite barbershop experiences including singing at the Minnesota State Fair and being featured in a Kemp's Milk Commercial. "We were fortunate to sing many shows all over the country and Canada and competed in 12 consecutive International Conventions."

HarmonyWorks was known as a great show quartet and for excellent musicianship, having ranked in the top 20 of the society on 6 of their 12 international appearances. In fact, Gold medalist Mike Slamka (PowerPlay, Crossroads), once remarked "we couldn't believe it, we finally beat HarmonyWorks!" when PowerPlay passed them on their medal run. HarmonyWorks 12 appearances at International remains a record for LOL District Quartets.

Other memorable barbershop experiences for Dean included membership in the Minneapolis Commodores and eventually helping to form the Great Northern Union Chorus. Dean

would become the second conductor of the GNU, leading the group to International 4th place medals in New Orleans ('92) and Calgary ('93).

HarmonyWorks was also known for hosting the "HarmonyWorks Open for 17 years", a charity golf tournament. "Thanks to all the hard work by so many volunteers and friends we raised quite a lot of money for Make-A-Wish of Minnesota."

Like many of us, barbershop becomes a family hobby. "My son Brent is now also a District Champion with his own quartet, First Ave. It's been fun to watch his quartet grow and to see how much he enjoys the Barbershop Bug."

"Barbershopping has had such an impact on my life... the music, the friends, the audiences" says Dean. Its why we do what we do. Dean now spends his time partially retired, sharing time between Minnesota and Arizona with his wife, Debbie. He keeps plenty busy playing guitar, barbequing, golfing, and chasing after his granddaughters.

As for me, I'm proud to be known as "Dean's kid" in honor of the wonderful music making and community impact he and HarmonyWorks have had on our district.

Thanks for the music, Dad.

Brent Haagenon

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

## **The All Chapter Chorus needs you!**

*Submitted by Steve Zorn*

The Northern Pines Harmony Brigade (NPHB) is ready to anchor the 2024 All Chapter Chorus. Six weeks left to learn two songs! **If I Only Had A Brain** and **I'm Beginning To See The Light**  
Sign up [here](#) and the music will be shared with you.

In addition to performing with other Chapter singers you will have a great time singing for **Donny Rose!** He is a master at directing the chorus. Don't miss out on the experience.





# 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



## Leland Fels Obituary (abridged) July 29th, 2024

I was born on August 31st, 1939 in Shirley, WI. I attended Morrison Lutheran School and was able to complete 5th and 6th grade in the same year, as I was the only student in those grades. I graduated from East De Pere High School in 1956.

I married Neva, the love of my life, on June 17, 1961. We have enjoyed many wonderful adventures over the years with our sons, and our grandchildren who give us so much joy.

As a teenager, I chose to serve in the US Navy. While in Washington DC, I was assigned to the honor guard for President Eisenhower and Queen Elizabeth's motorcade parade down Constitution Avenue, near the Capitol. I flew to Athens, Greece and started my travels aboard the aircraft carrier, the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt. With my training from NWTC as a machinist, I was put in charge of men who were all older than me. I enjoyed photography and took many photographs while at sea, which I loved sharing with my family. I entertained my family with slideshows and recalling stories that included beautiful ports of call, flight operations, refueling in rough seas, and occasionally putting out fires on the hanger deck, and other spaces onboard (My shipboard responsibilities included fireman). As a Petty Officer, I often piloted tenders to shore, to visit Mediterranean cities and see the sights with my shipmates.

After leaving the Navy, I was employed as a machinist supervisor at Green Bay Drop Forge. I later went into business for myself as a home construction contractor and subcontractor, before moving with Neva to Utah, where I worked at Butterfield Lumber as a construction materials estimator.

The world map I framed and hung at home is decorated with pins marking the many places we have traveled. Retirement gave us more time to enjoy traveling by car, plane, cruise, and riding vintage steam trains. Through the years, we enjoyed skiing on water and snow, hot air balloon and glider plane rides, and earned our skydiving license after 80+ jumps. My parents started my love of model trains with a set I received as a child, and Neva and I loved working together on a model train room in our local senior center. We also loved to attend bluegrass festivals and cowboy music and poetry shows.

My love of barbershop singing spanned 50+ years. I held various positions including the Land O'Lakes District President and Assistant Director for the Green Bay Baylander Chorus. Neva and I enjoyed the international singing events, performing at Green Bay Packer's games and the many cherished friendships we made over the years.

I was so happy to return to Wisconsin in early July and visit with my brother Lon (Lori) Fels, and sister Karen (Dan) Smet; sister-in-law, Pamela (Stephen) Mathis, and our many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

*\*Editor's note: Lee was also Land O' Lakes District BOTY, 1996\**







# Thank you from Coulee Classic

Nate Peplinski, Executive Vice President



I forget where I heard it first. Perhaps some sales training, perhaps a leadership conference speaking about influence, perhaps on a cereal box? But most of us have probably, at some point, also heard an iteration of the aphorism ***“People will remember 10% of what you tell them, 20% of what you show them, and 100% of how you make them feel.”***

Our take-home from the International Convention in Cleveland, OH this past July left us overwhelmed with gratitude from the outpouring of support from across the district!

The Coulee Classic t-shirts we saw all week, the myriad of messages we received, the sincere and genuine handshakes and hugs and feedback from our friends and coaches (Tim Milbrandt, Mike Lietke, Bryan Ziegler, Drew Wheaton, Dan Wessler, Paul Wigley). The incredible financial support from the District board and the Lacrosse Coulee Chordsmen chapter. We are just so incredibly humbled. Thank you. Thank you for that feeling and let's sing a polecat together this fall!!!



## **QUARTET. SCHOOL. FREE.**

***(Friday of district convention)***

**contact Tim at [tjmilbrandt@gmail.com](mailto:tjmilbrandt@gmail.com)**

### **New District Directory Editor: Angie Williams**

Angie Williams started barbershopping in 1996, but started singing harmony with her sisters and cousins at a very young age. Walking into her first Yahara River Chorus rehearsal was like coming home.

She's loving the challenge of singing in Forward Harmony Chorus, and also sings in By Request Quartet. She's married, has one son, plays piano, bakes, knits, and makes the best turtles and peanut brittle you've ever tasted.





# **2024 Christmas Show**



**Saturday - December 7th**

Trinity Lutheran Church  
115 4th Street | Stillwater, Minnesota 55082

## **SPECIAL GUESTS**

Stillwater Area High School  
Vagabonds & Chamber Choir

***[www.croixchordsmen.org](http://www.croixchordsmen.org)***





The Delta County MI Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society presents

# Harvest of Harmony '24



The Remnants Chorus



Just One More!



Vintage Mix



Coulee Classic

Saturday, Oct 5<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.

William Oliver Auditorium, Old Escanaba Junior High

General Admission: \$20.00

Afterglow: \$5.00

Tickets available at the **Delta County Chamber of Commerce** and **Elmer's County Market**

Tickets are available from all the members of the Remnants Chorus.



The concert is supported in part by the Michigan Arts and Culture Council  
and the National Endowment for the Arts.





# STEVENS POINT BARBERSHOPPERS

P R E S E N T



*71st Annual Show*

**SATURDAY 9/28 | 3:00PM**

*Sentry Theater*

## FEATURED QUARTETS

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MEDALIST

### COULEE CLASSIC

2021 LOL DISTRICT  
CHAMPION

SCAN ME



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MINNEAPOLIS  
COMMODORES

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Annual Show

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



September 7, 2024 3:00 pm  
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With Special Guest Quartet  
**Happiness Emporium**







# CLASS REUNION

East Angler High  
Home of the Fighting Leeches

\$20 Admission for each show

Tickets sold separately

Concert at 3:00

Chorus, quartets & comedy  
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Arden Hills, MN

Cabaret at 5:30

Quartets and pizza!  
VFW Roseville  
1145 Woodhill Drive  
Roseville, MN



Saturday, Oct 5

Hosted by the North Star Chorus  
Featuring Chord Smash!



Call (612) 399-6761 or scan the QR code above to order online



# Hope in Harmony

Free Admission Benefit Show

**Saturday, Sept 21 3:00pm**

**River Valley Church, 722 Ravine St., Faribault**



**70th Anniversary Show**

**2023 LOL District Small Chorus Champs**

**Lakelanders Chorus and Local Quartets**

**A Cappella Music in the Barbershop Style**

**Also Featuring Minneapolis Quartet Just One More**

**Free Admission**

**A Free Will Offering Will Be Taken To Support**

**Hope Center**

**Ruth's House of Hope**





## **CLOSE HARMONY WAS PRETTY SWELL**

*Tom Arneberg*

I said goodbye to my quartet tenor Jerry O'Brien at his house in Eau Claire a couple of weeks ago. The moving truck had already left, and he was just packing up the small things into his vehicle. I was actually there to buy his kayak dolly – he won't be needing that in southern Arizona.

We reminisced about singing together for almost thirty years in the CHIPS Quartet. Three decades! How do you summarize a quartet lifespan like that? When we first got together in the fall of 1994, Jerry and I and our bass Rod Bailey and lead Randy Knaack already had years of quartet experience in the states we had moved from (New Mexico, Oregon, Iowa).



Three of us had young kids at home, so we wanted a "low key" quartet where family always comes first. We sometimes went weeks or even months without singing, but we did manage to register for three contests, where our best showing was tenth place at District.

But there's more to preserving and encouraging barbershop quartet singing than winning contests.

We performed on dozens of chapter shows in four different states, and sang for many local audiences in western Wisconsin. Most people around town knew us from the 20-40 singing valentines we delivered each year to schools, businesses, and restaurants. We always made a point to stop by high school choirs and assisted living facilities whenever

we had a gap in the schedule, and usually got to sing live on the air at a local TV station and a Christian radio station. Our singing valentines were even featured in a two-page photo spread in the January 2009 *Harmonizer*!



When Rod's health issues forced him to retire from the quartet in 2011, I recruited a friend from church, Steve Hein, to step in on bass. Steve had never sung barbershop before, but his natural resonance provided a great foundation for building chords. I think we got him hooked!



None of my five kids remember a life before CHIPS Quartet. But all good things must come to an end eventually. We'd like to thank all the chapters who invited us to sing, and all the great coaches we've had over the years.

I've been quartetting since high school in the 1970s, so I sure hope I'm not done yet. But it looks like we'll be closing this chapter in the book. To quote the song *That Old Quartet of Mine*, "I hope and pray we'll meet again somewhere, some day, some time." Close Harmony Is Pretty Swell!

-Tom Arneberg, barbershop baritone since 1978

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*Submitted by Steve Zorn*

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## Incoming District Secretary Tyler Hall

Tyler T. Hall has been the Chapter Secretary for Bismarck-Mandan Chapter in Bismarck, North Dakota, since 2022; and added the role of VP of Marketing and Public Relations in 2024. Singing Tenor with Northern Lights Chorus since the annual Christmas Chorus for the 2019 Christmas Season, he became a Barbershop member since February 2020.



Tyler holds a Civil Engineering degree from University of Nebraska-Lincoln and works as a Construction Material Testing Engineer for American Engineering Testing running their Bismarck office. His part-Time job includes Technical Coordinator for McCabe United Methodist Church in Bismarck with past church volunteer & work in HR committees,

singing tenor or bass in choirs, playing percussion (congas) and singing background harmony in praise bands, playing in handbell choirs, and helping with Youth Groups.

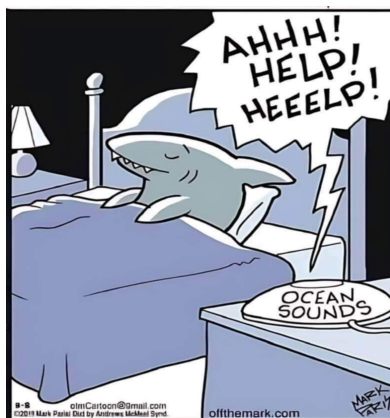
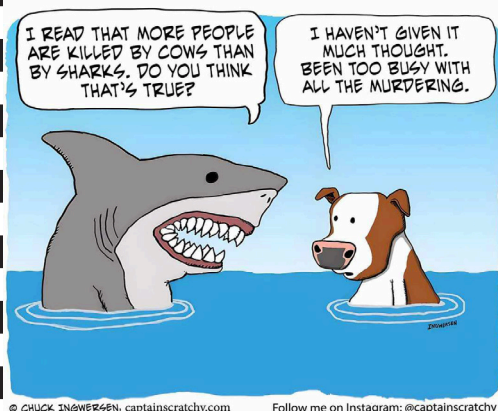
He serves as Secretary for multiple (6) fraternal organizations beginning in 2017, elected for a 5-year term on a North Dakota state jurisdiction's Policies and General Purposes Committee, Vice President of Board of Directors for Scottish Rite Speech Therapy Center for Children (RiteCare in Bismarck, ND), Shrine Circus Mommy & Daddy Program Chair (through donations/sponsorships providing Circus tickets to those who can't afford admission).

With the LO'L District, Tyler hopes to connect the Chapter Secretaries with a network of communication between each Chapter of the District. We have a wide range of resources not only at the District and Society level, but also through the experiences, ideas, best practices (and things to avoid) locally at each Chapter.

## CONTEST CORNER

with James Estes, DVP for Contest and Judging

James missed the deadline for publication, so James gets placeholder text. If you have any contest questions, contact James at [jamesrestes@gmail.com](mailto:jamesrestes@gmail.com) and let him know that you noticed his submission to the Pitch Piper seemed like garbled nonsense. Otatibus apictam que rem verfera pos dolut ad quam quis asincit quatur mo et eos esto voloraeror re quis exeratatur, quia plitate ex et enimolo repudan ihicium, sed quo blaborunt.







## ST CROIX CROSSING AT THE CROSSROADS

What makes quartet singing so extraordinarily enjoyable and even spiritually uplifting? At its heart, it's the ensemble itself. When the vowels match, the pitches agree and the chords lock, the singers can experience a strikingly emotional and physical communion. For that moment we are not alone, but united in a profound way that raises the hair on your forearms. There's nothing else quite like it.

But it doesn't come easily. The singers of St Croix Crossing have many decades of experience, have sung together since 2010 and in other ensembles long before that, and know firsthand how hard it can be to reach that communion. It also doesn't come quickly; at least, not for us. Years of agonizingly slow improvement and half a dozen trips to Mid-winter International (and many months of weekly rehearsals to prepare for each one) were required to finally win the International Seniors 2018.

Such honors are thrilling to earn, but there are many more benefits to active quartetting. There's the warm approval and affection we seem to have unexpectedly acquired over the years, culminating in being inducted in the Land O Lakes Hall of Fame. When that award was announced to the convention audience and we were rewarded with such extended and warm applause, I was in tears.

Best of all, however, may be the sharing of the unique delight and pure fun of barbershop harmony with an attentive and appreciative audience. Those good people expect and deserve our best, and when "the planets align" and we're able to give it, their joy and applause becomes a shared culmination that is the sweetest prize of all.

Whatever the future may hold, St Croix Crossing extends profound thanks to all our good friends of the Land O Lakes district. Really and truly, we could not have done it without you.

Jared Hoke - Bass







Jeff Paul  
Ken Ryan

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Allen  
Colin  
Matt  
Nate

**COULEE CLASSIC**

Facebook: Coulee Classic Quartet

LO'L home page: <http://loldistrict.org>

Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/LOLDistrictBHS](https://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**

### September

- 7 Windom, MN
- 7 Minneapolis, MN - Happiness Emporium
- 14 Lake Geneva, WI
- 21 Faribault, MN - Just One More!
- 28 Stevens Point, WI - Newfangled Four, Coulee Classic

### October

- 5 Escanaba, MI - Coulee Classic, Vintage Mix, Just One More
- 5 Amery, WI (Polk County) - Newfangled Four, Vocality
- 5 St. Paul, MN - Chord SMASH!
- 11-12 DISTRICT CONVENTION - Minneapolis, MN

### November

- 1=2 Fargo, ND - Coulee Classic

### December

- 7 St. Croix Valley, MN
- 21 Greendale, WI - Coulee Classic

**2025**

### January

- 10-11 Leadership Training Academy - UW River Falls
- 28-Feb2 BHS Midwinter Convention - San Antonio, TX

### March

- 21-22 Harmony College Midwest - Bloomington, ILL

### April

- 5 Bismarck-Mandan, ND
- 11-12 Manitowoc, WI - Three and a Half Men