

75 YEARS OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY

OVER 714,089 SQUARE MILES

Volume 75, Number 2

A Bulletin for Barbershoppers in the LO'L District

March - April 2023

Gearing up for a GOLDEN CELEBRATION!



HAPPINESS EMPORIUM QUARTET

Land O' Lakes District Champions, 1973 SPEBSQSA International Champions, 1975



🖁 Pitch Piper

The Pitch Pip er 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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President's Message Submitted by Jay Althof - LO'L District President



Hello LO'L Members! We continue to be off to a strong start in 2023. In February we held our quarterly meeting with our District Liaisons to learn more about the status of our chapters and identify areas the District can help them be more successful. We've already had several chapters request

financial support via our Grant Programs to help them with growing participation and membership. Some of our chapters have recently had success in this area, and as such, we have added a section to our District Website called: Chapter Development. This is an area to find information about recruitment, retention and in general, best practices used by other chapters. (https://loldistrict.org/chapter-development)

Our board of directors approved a new recognition award: The Golden Chord. This award aims to recognize and celebrate the outstanding contributions of music educators within the Land O'Lakes District who have demonstrated the highest values of professionalism, commitment, cooperation, and inspiration in instilling the virtues of lifelong singing, teamwork, and joy in the creation of vocal harmony in the barbershop style. More information about this award is posted on our website. (https://loldistrictorg/golden-chordaward)

During the week of February 6th the BHS Midwinter Convention was held in Dayton Beach, FL. There were several important administrative meetings held and lots of fun with both youth and senior group performances and competition. The LO'L District was well represented by Checkmate and Whistle Junction in the Seniors' competition and our Burlington High School ensembles had a clean sweep in the Youth contests. Here Comes Treble won the Chorus Competition, Reigning Men won the small chorus competition and YTBN won the overall Quartet Contest. Here is a link to YTBN's championship performance (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5268ZS7Uers) I know it makes us all proud to have these groups represent our District.

...Continued on page 5



MONEY - MONEY - MONEY

Judd Orff, DVP Chapter Development

Your District is in a position to give each chapter a chance to grow through our Financial Assistance Program.

We've already received and approved 18 requests from Chapters. This article is hoping to encourage your chapter to apply.

We have 2 types of grants available:

First, *Chapter Show Grant*. If your chapter will hire a District level quartet, we will offer up to \$750 to offset their fee.

Second, Chapter Development Grant. This is intended to assist chapters, in any number of ways including, but not limited to:

- -Funding for membership promotion, including advertising and promotional materials;
- -Funding for director development, chorus coaching, chapter officer training, and/or funds that would help a chapter grow its membership, etc.

This grant request is limited to \$1000 maximum. How do I apply? Go to our L.O.L. website and click on Grants. Fill out the form and email to me at: <u>JuddOrff3108@msn.com</u> ...our committee will do the rest.

This is a 2023 effort and has an end date of 12-31-2023. DON'T WAIT! Bring this up at your next board meeting and get the completed form to me.

We have granted over \$15,000 so far, and would like to double that.

-Judd



See the Greatest Barbershop Show at Schmitt Brothers Stage Dedication on July 15

Bill Schmitt

July 15, 2023, will be an incredible day for Barbershop Harmony in Wisconsin! A new stage is taking shape in Two Rivers City Park. The iron structure stands tall. Wooden slats cover the curved roof. And artists are preparing the bronze plaques that will tell the story of its namesake: The International Champion Schmitt Brothers quartet.

In this very park, the city of Two Rivers welcomed their hometown heroes after they won the 1951 International SPEBSQSA Championship on the first try. For the past year, the city has been working with the extended Schmitt family to build a lasting memorial to honor the four brothers that put Two Rivers on the map.

At 1 p.m., the stage will be formally dedicated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony by officials and family members.

At 2 p.m. the first performances begin! What better way to christen the venue than

with a great barbershop show?

The line up for the three-hour show presents: the Clipper City Chordsmen (from the Schmitt Brothers' home chapter in Manitowoc), Vintage Mix Quartet (the only two-time winner of the Schmitt Brothers Trophy), Fox Valleyaires Chorus from Appleton, 2023 International Junior Champion YTBN quartet, the Capitol Chordsmen Chorus from Madison, 2021 District Champion Coulee Classic Quartet, 2022 District Champion Forward Harmony Chorus from Greendale/Oconomowoc, the Winnebagoland Chorus from Oshkosh, District Champion Checkmate Quartet, HHT A-Capella Chorus from Plymouth, 2023 District and 2018 Senior Champion St. Croix Crossing Quartet, Northern Gateway Chorus from Stevens Point, and multi-year District Champion Midwest Vocal Express from Greendale.

In addition, the 1975 International Champion HAPPINESS EMPORIUM Quartet from Minneapolis (who performed many times with the Schmitt Brothers and are the only other international sharping in the Land O'll also District) will take the stage

other international champions in the Land O'Lakes District) will take the stage.

During the event, civic organizations will sponsor **food stands**. A local brewery will offer a **special edition brew** for the occasion. And, of course, the museum will serve **ice cream sundaes** since Two Rivers invented the sweet dairy treat. Don't miss your opportunity to sit in a convertible to have your photo taken with the Schmitt Brothers!

The show will be followed by an afterglow beginning at 7 p.m. at the J. E. Hamilton

Community House, across the street from the park.

This is an event for the history books. We'd like to fill the park with as many barbershoppers as possible. Make your plans today to attend this extraordinary harmonious event!



President's Message (cont.) Submitted by Jay Althof - LO'L District President

It was great fun to see on Facebook all the

different

groups across our District sharing Singing Valentines. Being able to share some close harmony live on that special day is not only fun for the quartets, but we know that it

bri

ghtens the day of the recipients. And for many chapters, it is a significant fund-raising event as well. A reminder that the Northern Pines Harmony Brigade Rally is scheduled for Friday, May 5th through Sunday,

May 7th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Plymouth, MN.

And now, the

Association of District Champion Quartets (ADC) is hosting a quartet coaching clinic starting at 10:00 AM on May 6th in conjunction with the Brigade Rally. They have a dynamite coaching staff lined up. So if your quartet is interested, reach out to Paul Tabone soon as space is limited. (paulyto5@gmail.com)

Yes, we are off to a very strong start in 2023 and there is so much more to come. Planning for our Fall Convention is ramping up and we are using comments so many of you provided after last year's event to make it even better. Together, let's build on this positive momentum and help more people enjoy the barbershop experience!

Jay Althof, LO'L District President



Litigation Between BHS And HFI Ceases

Jay Althof, LOL District President

As most of you are probably aware, as of February 16-, the on-going litigation between the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) and the Harmony Foundation (HFI) ceased.

Many details are included in the Settlement Agreement and you can read that document by clicking this link: Settlement Agreement

Some of key points in the agreement include:

- · HFI will resume raising funds on behalf of BHS
- BHS will cease all fundraising activities
- HFI will make a \$610,000 yearly payment to BHS, made in installments
- A \$1,000,000 Barbershop Harmony Society Endowment Fund shall be created, remain the asset of HFI, but distributions shall be made to BHS
- Donors may now clarify their unrestricted legacy gifts (estate gifts) to HFI, BHS, or some combination of the two
- HFI may continue to support programming like Power of Harmony, AIC Outreach, and Donor Choice to chapters and districts and engage in fundraising with other barbershop-related groups.
- HFI will not be allowed to actively fundraise for SPPBSQSUS in any capacity
- BHS will assign at least two BHS Fundraising Employees to begin working full time with HFI, with the BHS employees reporting directly to the HFI CEO. This situation has been troubling for many of us over the past few years.

As this point I recommend we all take a deep breath, come together as a barbershop family and focus on making our chapters, quartets and the overall barbershop experience the very best it can be.

If you have any questions, the HFI and BHS board members or Dr. Perry White at HFI are willing to answer them.

-Jay

Pitch Piper

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Great Plains Harmony Spreads Love and Song Submitted by Chris Haug



Great Plains Harmony Spreads Love and song throughout the FM area! After a two year break Great Plains Harmony was back to delivering in person singing valentines this year. Four quartets started the day with over 70 valentines to sing throughout the FM area, singing at schools, hospitals, prisons, homes and more! "We were both surprised and excited with the turnout we had this year." says Chris Haug, VP of Marketing with Great Plains Harmony, "It's great to see how much the community enjoys hearing us, and we always have so much fun making these deliveries."With the singers meeting around 7 a.m. the day was filled with quartets driving across town, singing to boyfriends, girlfriends, spouses, parents, giggling kindergartners, and embarrassed coworkers. Great Plains Harmony would like to thank everyone who helped make the event successful, hopefully the

next year will be even more sol

The Golden Chord Award: Music Educator of the Year

Attention all barbershoppers, it's time to get excited because the Land O' Lakes District is creating a new award that's sure to inspire and celebrate excellence in music education - The Golden Chord Award: Music Educator of the Year! As the chairman of the Youth In Harmony/NextGen Committee, I couldn't be more thrilled to announce this prestigious award that honors the best of the best in our district.

The Golden Chord Award aims to recognize music educators who have demonstrated excellence in their profession, commitment to their students, and a passion for the art of singing barbershop.

We're looking for an exceptional music educator who has made a positive impact in the lives of their students, community, and school. Someone who is passionate about music and has instilled that passion in their students. Someone who has dedicated their life to teaching music and has inspired the next generation of musicians in barbershop.

The recipient of the Golden Chord Award will be presented with a plaque designated as the Golden Chord Award, along with a check for \$500 to the school's music program. This award will be presented to the recipient at their school's Spring Music Concert, as well as at the Fall District Convention.

Nominations are now closed, and the YIH selection committee is deliberating on the winner for this year. Stay tuned for a future article that will reveal the name of the outstanding music educator who has won the 2023 Golden Chord Award!

If you want to learn more about the Golden Chord Award, including the selection process and how to nominate an outstanding music educator for the award in future years, please visit the Land O' Lakes District website. Let's celebrate the hard work and dedication of our music educators and honor those who have inspired the next generation of musicians.

Justin La Chairman - Youth In Harmony/Next Gen Committee



Celebrating!

(Gordon Billows-LOL Liaison Officer)



This year Winnipeg Chapter is Celebrating 75 Years of Harmony! They are also celebrating the induction of several new members, thanks to a very successful "Learn to Sing Better" program last Fall. About 15 guests attended those Fall rehearsals and prepared several chorus songs to perform on the Christmas show. Almost all guests continued to attend in January and are now preparing to sing on the Chapter's annual show, "Diamonds of Stage and Screen" on May 13th. Pictured here are four new "Barbershoppers" standing between Rosanne Labossiere-Gee (Membership VP) and Rob Smith (President) - Susan Altomare, Brad Trupp, Donna Boyle and Donna Strong—WELCOME!

There are several more "guests" preparing to audition in early April, to become BHS members and to perform with their "brothers and sisters" in the **River City Sound** chorus. Winnipeg Chapter has just cause to celebrate, they are growing and striving to "Keep a Melody Ringing"!

WANTED

VIDEO FOOTAGE OF PAST QUARTETS AND CHORUSES

Old contests, shows, afterglows, ANYTHING
ANY FORMAT

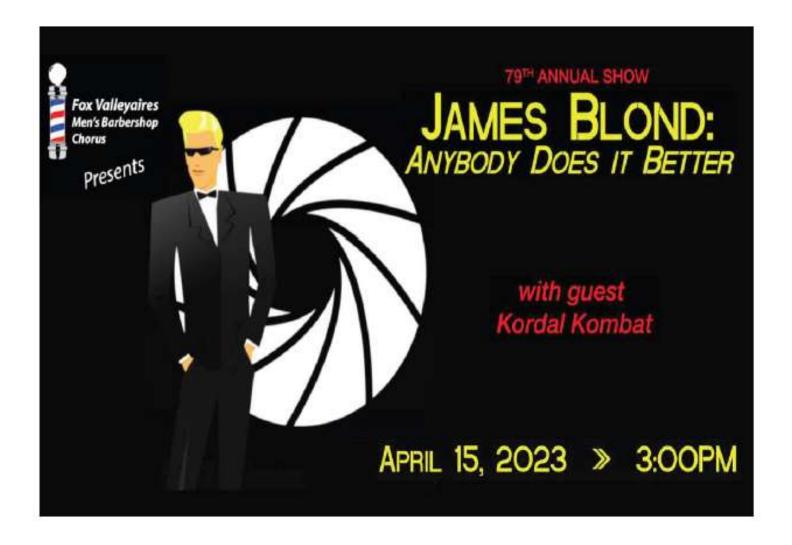
contact Justin McCullough, jumccull@gmail.com or Nate, pitchpiper@loldistrict.org

Leadership with Larry Larry Lewis

We all need to be better listeners. Listening is twice as hard as talking. That's why God gave us two ears and one mouth.

If you or anyone you know would like to receive the Pitch Piper in good oldfashioned print form, contact anyone in district leadership or email pitchpiper@loldistrict.org





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VIDEO FOOTAGE OF PAST QUARTETS AND CHORUSES

Old contests, shows, afterglows, ANYTHING
ANY FORMAT

contact Justin McCullough, <u>jumccull@gmail.com</u> or Nate Peplinski, <u>pitchpiper@loldistrict.org</u>



Coulee Kombat? or Kordal Classic?



Coulee Classic and Kordal Kombat pictured after the West Central Connection chorus show in Willmar, MN March 25. There was no shortage of alliteration.

WANTED

VIDEO FOOTAGE OF PAST QUARTETS AND CHORUSES

Old contests, shows, afterglows, ANYTHING ANY FORMAT

contact Justin McCullough, jumccull@gmail.com or Nate Peplinski, pitchpiper@loldistrict.org



"Family Reunion - 2023" at the Fall District Convention

Arv Zeni

Let's plan to have a good old Family Reunion at the 2023 Fall District Convention. We've had a great time at our conventions over the past two years and we again look forward to meeting you at the MSP Airport Hilton Hotel in the Twin Cities October 12–14. An expanded schedule of funfilled events and activities is planned and we will focus on singing together and having fun. Join us as we plan our Family Reunion at the 2023 Fall Convention!

Quartet Clinic

The quartet clinic is becoming a much larger event and we will again host the clinic at no additional charge for any quartet registered for the convention. You will be provided some great feedback from top quality coaches and perform on the non-competitive stage program. If you're in a quartet, prepare a couple of songs and get over an hour of coaching from the best. Whether you're a skilled quartet who has sung for years or just a pickup quartet who sings Valentines you will enjoy this clinic. Sign up early since we may have limited availability this year. Quartet

Contest and Festival

We will again be hosting a combined district quartet contest and festival. All quartets must register for one or more of the several contests/ festival performances. Your quartet may be evaluated as a male quartet, female quartet, or mixed quartet competing for a number of awards from Novice Quartet to District Champion, as well as, the opportunity to qualify for the International Competition. But, if you don't want to compete and have your score recorded, you may sign up

for the festival and just get an evaluation.

Chorus Contest and Festival

We will again host the combined chorus contest and festival. Your chorus may compete as usual and any chorus that does not wish to compete may get on stage and sing for us. Festival choruses will sing a couple of their best songs and get an evaluation without a published score. Coaching and evaluations by the judges is provided to all choruses and is designed to improve chorus performance. We encourage all choruses to come and give us another great Contest or Festival performance!

All-Chapter Chorus

If you want to sing on the risers with 100+ singers, you will want to sign up for the All-Chapter Chorus. When you register, just sign up with Steve Zorn who will send you the music and learning tracks. You must memorize the two songs and then you will practice with chorus members from throughout the District. This will be the sixth year for the All-Chapter Chorus which performs at the Showcase Dinner. If you've never sung with the All-Chapter Chorus, you really need to take advantage of this wonderful experience.



Showcase Dinner and ADC Show

The Showcase Dinner and Show has become a huge success and we plan to host another fantastic event to wrap up the weekend. We plan to have another top quality quartet join us along with special performances by our own outstanding quartets. The Showcase Dinner was something new for us in 2021 and it has grown to be one of the most popular events for the weekend. It's a great time for us to meet fellow barbershoppers over a wonderful dinner and enjoy an evening of top notch entertainment. Make sure you register early for this event as seating may be limited!

Fun Squad

The Fun Squad has become the focus of many Roar Back activities throughout the weekend. The Tagatorium, quartet games, and gang singing in the halls filled every nook and cranny at the Hilton. Steve Grady and his team will again be there to get everyone singing at the Convention. We ask that you get involved with the Fun Squad and volunteer to help plan events and become a part of the Fun Squad. Come early and stay late to enjoy all of the activities.

Youth

We had a number of youth quartets at the 2021 convention who were involved in the contests, many performances, and tag singing in the hallways. We now have a good idea of what it takes to successfully sponsor youth activities at the convention and we look forward to doing it again this year. The enthusiasm of the youth was something so fresh and their performances brought down the house. We really want to make the 2023 Convention another memorable event for our youth—and for everyone who attends.

Registration

The LOL website will have everything you need to register for the convention. You will be able to register for the convention, reserve your room, and have all the information you need to register for the other activities. If you choose to register by mail, there will also be a mail-in order form on the website. Take advantage of the many activities designed to inspire every member of your chapter. Chorus/Quartet Festivals, Quartet Coaching, All-District Chorus, Tagatorium, Polecat Dance Cards, Youth Quartets, Hospitality Events, and the Showcase Dinner/Program are all planned for you and your guests to have some great fun.

The MSP Hilton is a good spot for us with a limited number of rooms priced at just \$104/night, plus tax. Bring a new member or a potential new member so they can experience this wonderful hobby we call barbershop.

You're gonna have a great time at the Family Reunion - See you at the Hilton!

Ary Zenk - District Events Director

P.S. Registration details, schedule, and much more information will soon be available on the LOL website and even more information is coming in the next Pitch Piper.

Pitch Piper 11 March - April 2023



MEN SINGING GOSPEL

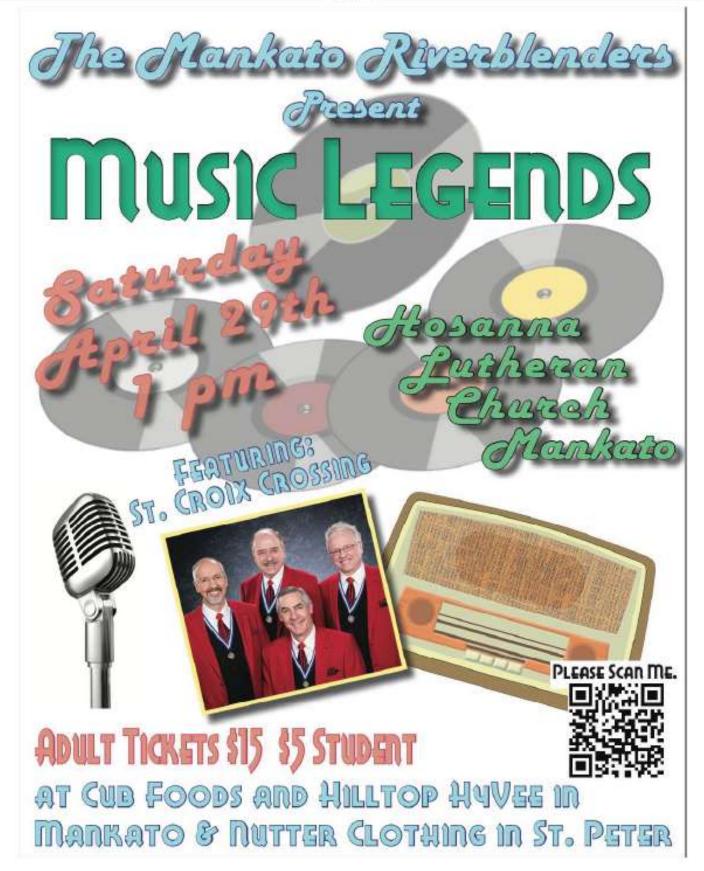


7:30 p.m. Friday, April 28

First Lutheran Church 619 Broadway N. Fargo, ND 4:00 p.m. Saturday, April 29

> First Lutheran Church 619 Broadway N. Fargo, ND





Pitch Piper 13 March - April 2023





Chapter quartets: SummerTime, Warm and Fuzzy Guest quartets: Vocality, Spice

Magic Jukebox Show at 3:00

Trinity Lutheran Church 115 4th Street N., Stillwater MN

Cabaret Show at 5:00 (approx.)

Grand Banquet Hall 301 2nd Street S., Stillwater MN

Magic Jukebox Show \$15.00 Children 10 and under free

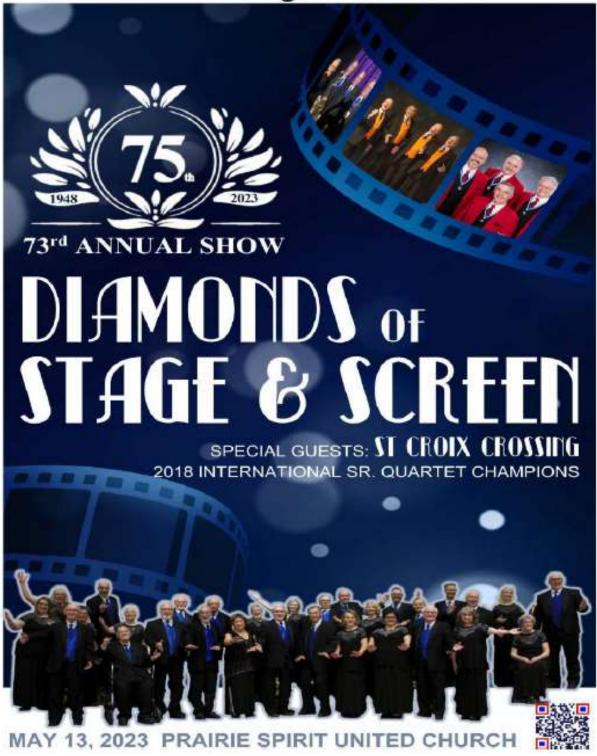
Cabaret Show \$15.00 Pizza provided + cash bar

Both Shows \$25.00 Magic Jukebox + Cabaret

Tickets at www.croixchordsmen.org or call (715) 441-9948 Seating is limited-get your tickets today!



River City Sound PRESENTS



Pitch Piper 15 March - April 2023







Dunn County Barbershoppers Proudly Present...

52nd Annual Harmony Show

'Strike Up The Band!'

Saturday, April 22, 2023

7:00 P.M.

Martin Anderson Gymnasium, 601 University Ave., Colfax, WI



The Gentlemen Quartet Land O'Lakes District Champions First Ave Quartet

Land O'Lakes District Champions



Northern Lights Chorus
Local Quartets.. Plus Much More!

Lots of Laughsi

Afterglow at the Whitetail Golf Course Colfax

Ticket Information

Wheelchair Accessible

Adult \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, Students (under 18) \$3

Advance Tickets Available at:

Colfax Pharmacy - Ed's Pharmacy Bloomer
Menomonie Speedway Stations - Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy, Menomonie
Security Bank of New Auburn, Sand Creek & Ridgeland/Dallas - Heike Pharmacy, Durand
Waumandee State Bank, Durand & Mondovi - Alliance Bank, Mondovi
More information: (715) 962-3038 kilnshedpottery@yahoo.com

Visit: www.dcbarbershop.org or Facebook: Dunn County Barbershoppers





Celebrating 10 Years

How Lucky We Are!



Coulee Classic 2021 District Champs

St. Croix Crossing 2018 Seniors Intl. Champs 2022 District Champs

Just One More





May 6, 2023 7:30 PM Crowne Plaza, 3131 Campus Dr., Plymouth, MN 55441 Free Admission For more information 612-812-9931



CONTEST CORNER

with JAMES ESTES - DVP for Contest & Judging

Thank you, mics, and FREE coaching!

It's hard to believe that our most recent district quartet and chorus contests were almost 6 months ago already! As we start thinking about our next contests in October, here are three quick items from your District Contest & Judging Committee.

First, THANK YOU for those of you who completed the post-convention/contest surveys following the 2022 Fall District Convention! Please know that we are taking your feedback seriously and are striving to make 2023 an even better experience for both competitors and audience members.

Second, for competing quartets, please know that the International Quartet contest has eliminated the two microphones on stage right and left (typically used as additional "solo" mics). Because of this, and in order to be consistent for all levels of competition, the Fall District Contest (which includes the International Preliminary Contest) will no longer have these microphones available on-stage. Only the typical center microphone will be available for quartet performances.

Finally, there is no better way to improve your contest scores than to work with a coach. On May 6 in Plymouth, MN, there will be FREE coaching sessions for district quartets, who will have the opportunity to work with experienced coaches/judges from the district! If your quartet is interested in participating, email Paulyt05@gmail.com and Matthewjhall08@yahoo.com for more information and to sign up!

WANTED

VIDEO FOOTAGE OF PAST QUARTETS AND CHORUSES

Old contests, shows, afterglows, ANYTHING
ANY FORMAT

contact Justin McCullough, <u>jumccull@gmail.com</u> or Nate Peplinski, <u>pitchpiper@loldistrict.org</u>

Other notes from the editor:

- -The email for submissions to the Pitch Piper is <u>pitchpiper@loldistrict.org</u>
- -Reminder to choruses to send in your show posters!
- -Reminder to guartets that ad space is available and affordable!
- -Reminder to check out all the work that's gone into the website! www.loldistrict.org
- -Also a special note of sponsorship to Matt Curtis and www.choraltracks.com





Land O' Lakes District Association of Chapters of SPEBSQSA Inc. 110 7th Avenue North Nashville, TN 37203-3704



DATED MATERIAL ENCLOSED





715-461-0318







LO'L Home Page on the Internet: http://loldistrict.org



LO'L has a Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/LOLDistrictBHS/





NOTE: Dates shown on this page are for those activities that have proper clearance through the District Secretary. Please DO NOT send show registrations to the editor, DO notify:

> BOB BREY, Secretary Land O' Lakes District 1411 S 31st Street Manitowoc, WI 54220 rwbrey1950@gmail.com

2023

April

- St. Croix Valley, MN Spice, Vocality 15
- 15 Madison, WI
- 15 Appleton, WI - Kordal Kombat
- 22 Manitowoc County, WI - CHORD SMASH!
- 22 Dunn County, WI - The Gentlemen, First Ave
- 23 Lacrosse, WI - Coulee Classic
- 28&29 Fargo-Moorhead, ND Oak Grove Chorus
- Mankato, Mn St. Croix Crossing

May

- 5-6 Northern Pines Harmony Brigade - Just One More, St. Croix Crossing, and Coulee Classic
- 13 Green Bay, WI
- 20 Wisconsin Youth Harmony Festival - Stevens Point

June

Greendale, WI - Midwest Vocal Express and Forward Harmony

July

2-9 International Convention - Louisville, KY

September

23 Minneapolis, MN - Coulee Classic 30 Stevens Point, WI - Coulee Classic

October

- West Allis, WI Lake Shore Drive
- 13-14 Minneapolis, MN Annual Convention