



Land O' Lakes District Association of
Chapters of SPEBSQSA Inc.
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The Pitch Piper

73 YEARS OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY

OVER 714,089 SQUARE MILES

Volume 73, Number 6

A Bulletin for Barbershoppers in the LO'L District

November - December 2021

Please reply to Sec. Brey's request for Chapter Officer updates for the District Directory

Calendar

2021

December

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

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
23 Mankato, MN

May

14 St. Croix Valley, MN
14 Minneapolis, MN

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
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Performing at the LO'L District Fall Convention Showcase Dinner & Awards Burlington High School Youth Ensembles (Directed by Penny Yanke) and JELI



District Convention Quartet Semi-Finalists -
JELI (Jacob Busch, Luke Zigler,
Izac Nienhaus, and Ethan Nienhaus)



Virtual Leadership Training Academy - Saturday, January 8, 2022

Submitted by Del Ryberg

For Chapter Elected Officers for 2022

This is an opportunity for you to learn about your role as a chapter leader in the coming year. And to make it easy to attend we are holding the classes via Zoom.

And it is FREE!

When you log into the meeting shown below you will be greeted by District President Jay Althof who will assign you to the break out room for your specific class.

The Secretaries and Treasurers classes will start at the times listed.

All others will attend a class - **"Rebuilding Your Chapter After the Pandemic"** with Bob Cox. This includes: Presidents, Music Vp's, Membership VP's, Marketing VP's, Program VP's, Board Members, Chorus Directors & Chapter Advocates which will run about 2 hours.

The Class schedule is as follows:

Sec & Treas - 8:45 am start - log in time is 8:40-8:45 am
All others - 9:00 am start - log in 8:50-8:59 am

Here is the information to log in:

Join Zoom meeting
<https://bit.ly/LTA2022>
(Meeting ID: 848 1933 7639 · Passcode: LTA)



Convention "Highlights" inside this issue!



Pitch Piper

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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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Together Again - And It Felt Great!

Submitted by Jay Althof - LO'L District President



All 450 of us who were able to participate in our 2021 Fall Convention had a great time. And very importantly, we had no known cases of Covid transmission from our event.

Congratulations to Double Dutch, winners of the mixed quartet division, Loose Change our novice and Seniors quartet champs and Coulee Classic the winner of the men's division and overall quartet champ. The Great Plains Harmony chorus from Fargo was the chorus champ and three of our quartets, Coulee Classic, St. Croix Crossing and NewQ qualified for the International Competition in 2022.

We also recognized the Barbershopper of the Year, Bob Bengsch, and Hall Of Fame inductees, Bob Brey, Steve Zorn and Bill and Kathleen Albrecht. All of these individuals have made such a positive impact on their chapters and our District.

To me, the best part of this convention was the overall relaxed, and fun, feeling we all had just being together again. Kicking off the event with the Northern Pines Platoon, all the activities sponsored

by the Fun Squad, the participation of the youth groups from Burlington, Wisconsin, an amazing showcase extravaganza featuring Storm Front, several hospitality rooms and staying up way to late into Sunday morning singing tags was all part of a great time. It just felt wonderful having our barbershop family back together enjoying each other's company!

As I'm sure you know, there was a large number of people who volunteered to help make the convention run so smoothly. And at the helm was Arv Zenk, our convention chair. Arv put in countless hours to ensure all the details were covered. Thank you, Arv! And now, with the input from our post-convention survey, we've already started planning next year's convention, with a few tweaks to make it even better!

Yes, the convention was a great success. And it also serves to remind all of us how important our barbershop hobby truly is. I've shared the following with several chapters over the past year. But it bears repeating.

Take a moment to think of what you love about your barbershop experience. Maybe just the top 2 or 3 things.

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NPHB Rally is Roaring Back

Submitted by David Speidel

The Northern Pines Harmony Brigade Rally is set to resume on May 6-7, 2022 at the Crowne Plaza Convention Center in Plymouth, MN. The NPHB Board has put together a great game plan with a great assortment of musical charts, fun contests, school outreach program, Saturday evening show, afterglow party and of course eXtreme quartetting throughout the weekend.

The NPHB Rally is a great way to expand your love of this hobby, renew friendships and sing with other barbershoppers within and beyond the LO'L border. For those who have never had the opportunity to sing with a larger group of 'well prepared' singers - then you do not want to miss this event. We frequently get responses from first time participants about the thrill they have when they step up on the risers and begin to sing with a large group of well-prepared singers.

Why not give yourself the same joy and experience that so many of our Brigade members get to enjoy every year at our Rally. If you had fun at the Fall LO'L Roar Back convention with all of the tag singing, Platoon event, polecat challenge and just general pick-up quartetting - then take it to another level.

Take the first step by going to www.nphb.org and get registered now! You can see the list of music and get more details about our Rally. The sooner you register, the faster you get immersed with the great music and high quality, voice specific learning tracks by singers like Tim Waurick. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to email or call me.



All Chapter Chorus

Submitted by Steve Zorn

The fifth annual All Chapter Chorus at the 2021 LO'L District Minneapolis Convention attracted 34 men and women from 14 chapters! If you weren't there, you missed the performance of Angel Eyes which is about a guy who has lost his love and is depressed. This reflects how many of us felt after "losing" over a year of singing together.



The second song was Blue Skies which explains how optimistic we all are as we roar back from the pandemic! It was a real bonus to have the high school students from Burlington, WI join us while singing this second song.



Each person was given the paper music and his part-specific learning track in plenty of time to learn the songs. Two rehearsals were held during the District Convention weekend before performing on stage. David Speidel, president of the NPHB, directed the chorus.

The participants all stated they enjoyed the event and look forward to next year. Be sure to sign up to join in!



Together Again - And It Felt Great!

... Continued from page 2

For many people those things sound like: "I love to sing and ring chords." But also, items like: "I truly have an extended family with my chorus" or, "My quartet mates are really like my brothers." Now, remember how it felt when the pandemic was taking that away from us. How did you feel? How hard are you working to get those back? For many of us, the singing actually becomes second in priority to the people aspect – the community we build through barbershop harmony.

We help each other through tough times, we celebrate our successes and most importantly we provide a safe environment where people from very diverse backgrounds can come, make music, share emotions and just feel better. Sometimes we think we are just singing – but in reality, we are sometimes saving lives by ensuring positive mental and physical health. When you think of how important the barbershop experience has become to you, it will likely drive a passion to share that experience with many others, so that they too can find that joy and a safe place in our turbulent society.

As we look forward to 2022, we are planning to have in-person visits from our District Leaders to our chapters with the purpose of building stronger personal connections and helping identify, and deliver, programs and services from the District and Harmony Hall that will help all the chapters grow and be even more successful. These will be our Roaring 20's!

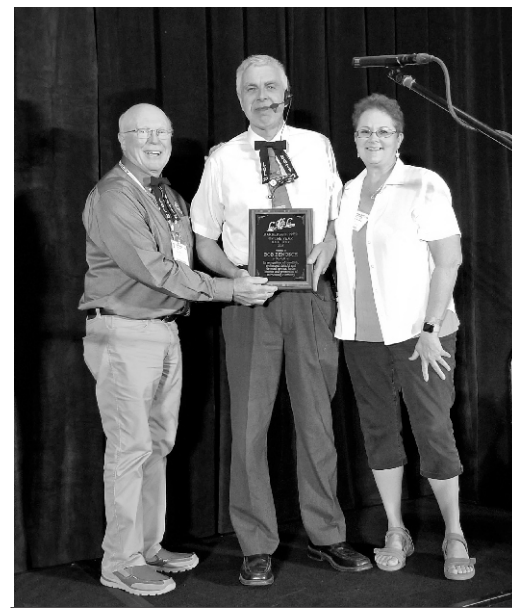


LO'L Fall Convention Showcase Dinner Headline Quartet



Storm Front - 2010 International Quartet Champion. Performance provided by AIC Outreach Fund Grant from Harmony Foundation!

2021 B.O.T.Y.



L to R: Bob Fricke, B.O.T.Y. Chairman, Bob Bengsch, 2021 B.O.T.Y., Sherry Bengsch



District Champions!



2021 LO'L District Men's Chorus Champion - Great Plains Harmony - Fargo-Moorhead, ND - Sheila Childs, Director



Justine McCullough - West Region VP, Sheila Childs - Director, and Jay Althof - District President



2021 District Novice Champion, Senior Champion, and qualifies to represent LO'L at International Seniors Quartet Contest - Loose Change (Grant Warning, Tony Kelzer, Louie Gottwalt, Keith Holtan)

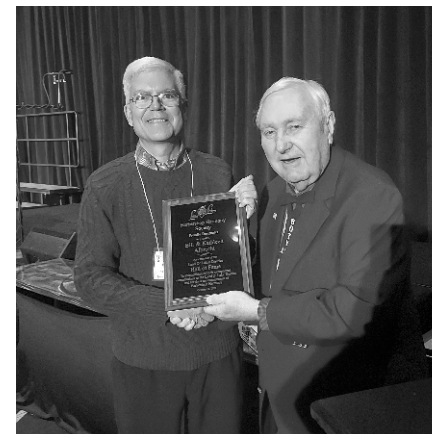


2021 District Quartet Champion and District Men's Quartet Champion - Coulee Classic Blend (Colin Stevenson, Matt Curtis, Nate Peplinski, Allen Pruitt)



2021 District Mixed Harmony Quartet Champion - Double Dutch (Sheila Childs, Megan Argall, Brent Gerber, Gordon Moe)

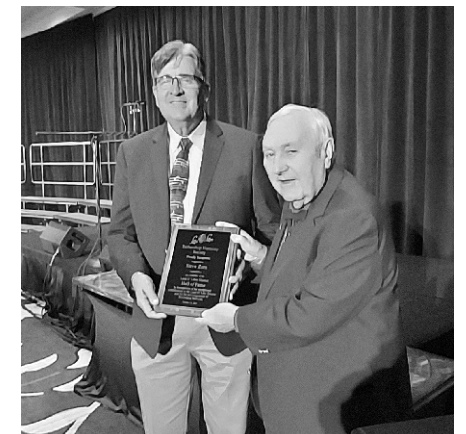
Class of 2021 Land O' Lakes District Hall of Fame Inductees



Bill and Kathleen Albrecht, Appleton, WI Chapter, presented by Larry Lewis



Bob Brey, Manitowoc, WI Chapter, presented by Larry Lewis



Steve Zorn, Greater St Paul, MN Chapter, presented by Larry Lewis



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2021 Roar Back Convention Survey Results Submitted by Arv Zenk

We've compiled the results of your survey from the 2021 Roar Back convention. The survey confirms that we had a weekend packed with great performances, fun activities, and a superb Showcase Dinner. We are so glad that so many of you thoroughly enjoyed our time together and thank you for providing feedback for future conventions. The following is a brief summary of the weekend and what you told us about your experience:

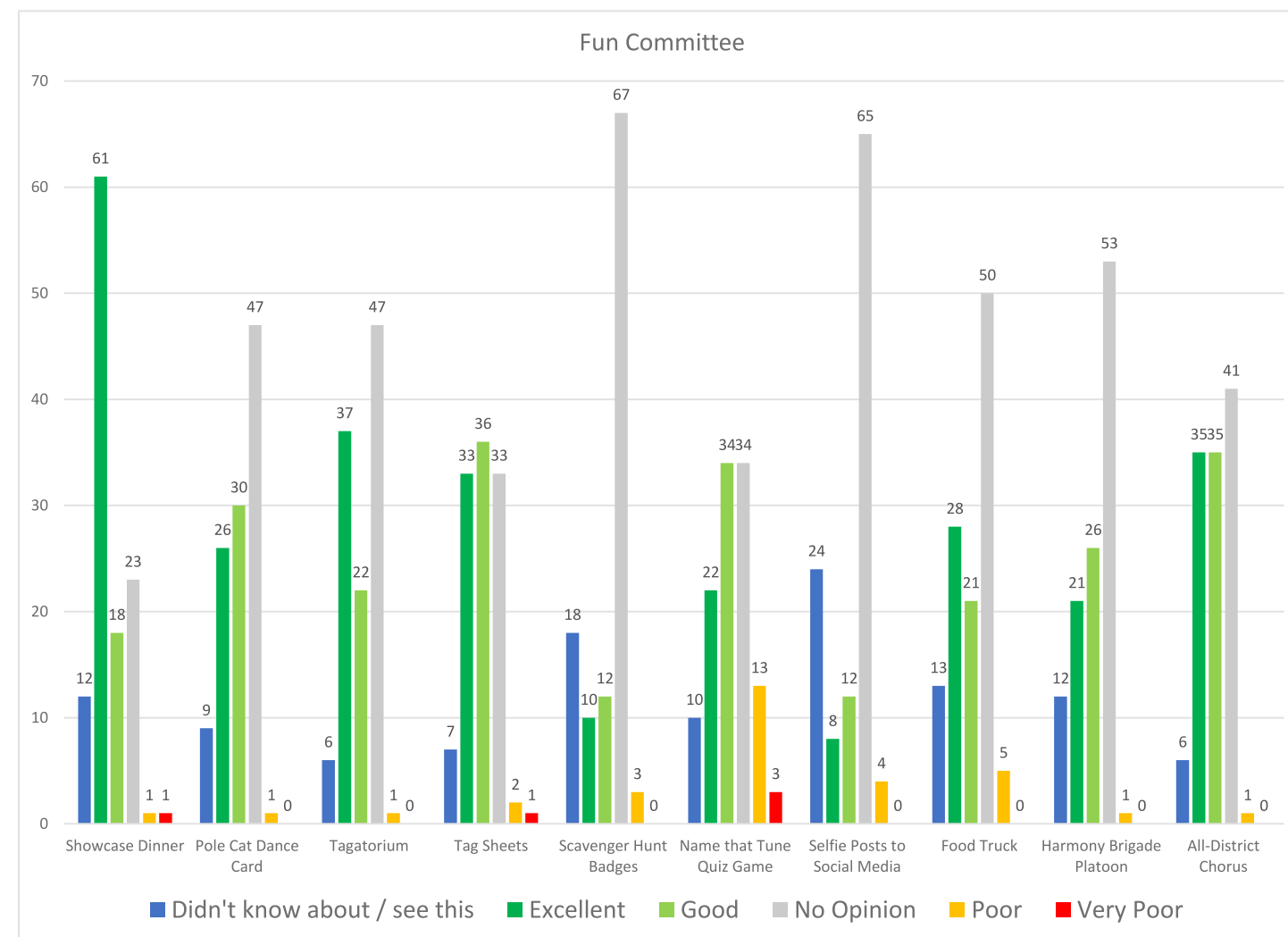
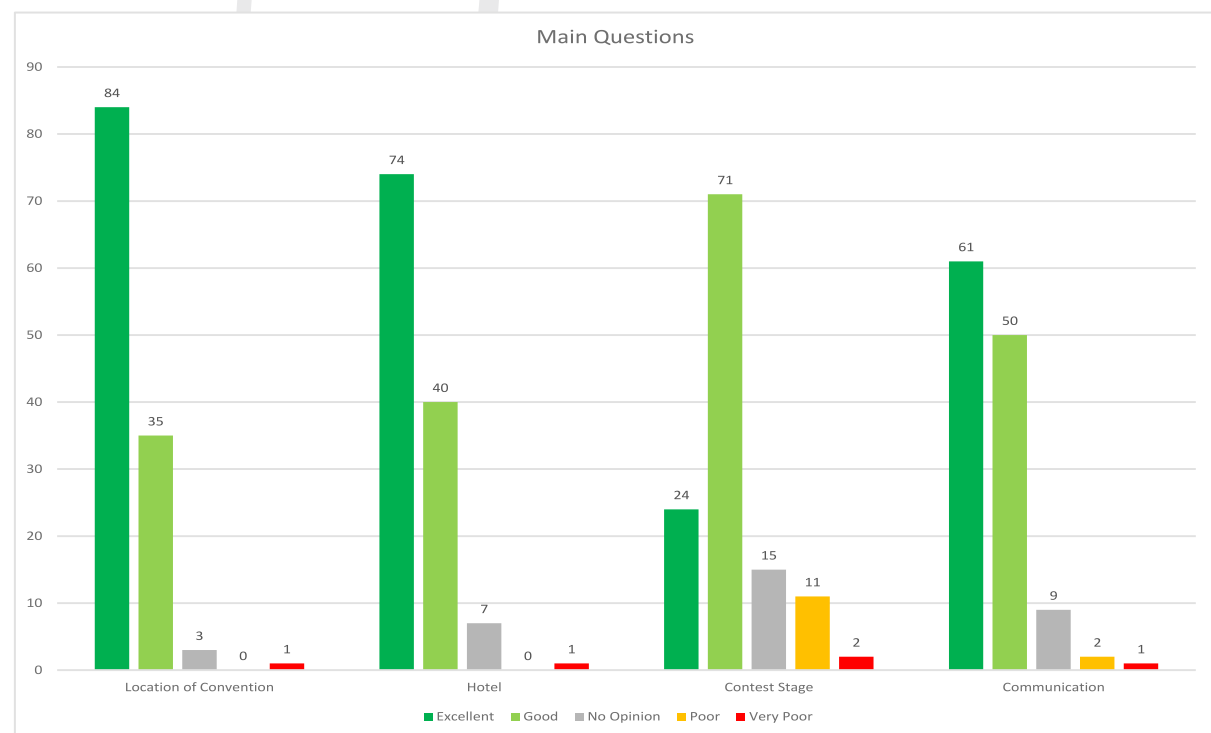
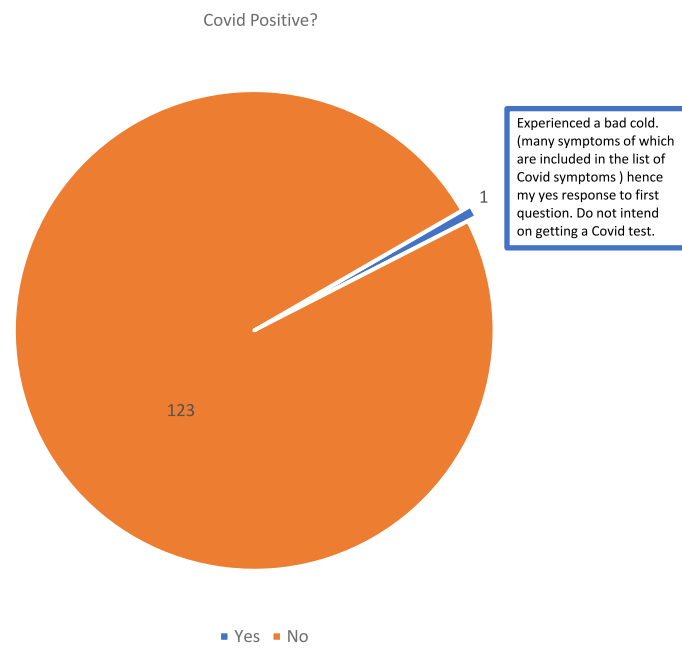
- There were 449 registrations/tickets for the convention with 202 people attending the Showcase Dinner. We had 13 quartets and 9 choruses with a total of 223 contestants crossing the contest stage.
- The survey was sent to 256 e-mail addresses (only a single address was available for most couples and some quartets). We had 124 responses (48% response rate) to the survey and only 1 possible COVID response from a person who had a bad cold.
- Convention Location, Hotel, and Communication received very positive reviews.
- The Showcase Dinner and Fun Squad activities also received many positive reviews
- Many would recommend that others attend future conventions.
- Take a look at the attached charts/graphs which summarize your inputs.

We also collected 56 comments in this survey covering a variety of topics, compliments, and concerns. Some comments went into great detail and provided specific recommendations which

will be very helpful in planning our next convention. The Future Convention Committee created this first-ever convention survey and we will share all of the results with the District Board to improve future conventions. If you have any questions about the survey or would like to follow up on your input, please contact me.

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

Let's continue our Roar Back in 2022!



How likely are you to recommend to someone that they attend Convention next year?

123 responses

