

The Pitch Piper

75 YEARS OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY

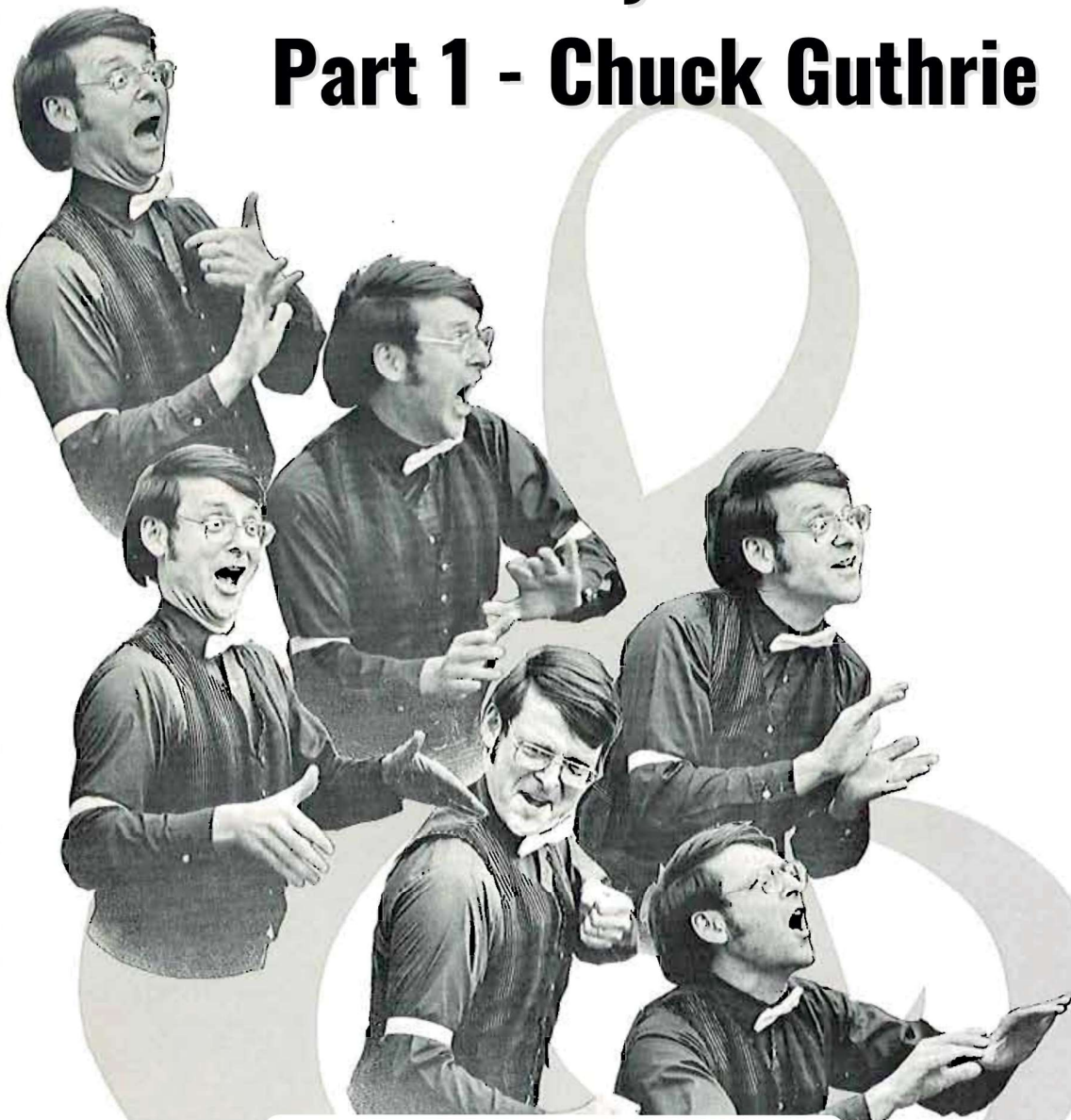
OVER 714,089 SQUARE MILES

Volume 75, Number 5

A Bulletin for Barbershoppers in the LO'L District

September - October 2023

Harmony Heroes: Part 1 - Chuck Guthrie



*Inspiring Barbershoppers
of the Land O' Lakes District*

Chuck Guthrie - Harmonizer October 1972



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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President's Message

Submitted by Jay Althof - LO'L District President



Hello LO'L Members! We continue to have lots of positive things happening all across our district. And now we are just a couple weeks away from our Fall Convention!

First, I want let you all know that we have officially welcomed a new chapter to the Land O' Lakes District: The Western Dakota chapter and N-Compass chorus from Dickinson, ND. This is our first all-female chapter and they are doing a great job bringing their barbershop sound to people on a portion of the north-western part of our District. It is great to have them be part of our barbershop family!

Next, I am very excited about our Fall Convention that will be held at the Minneapolis Airport Hilton. Our "Barbershop Family Reunion" on October 13th and 14th is an event you won't want to miss. A few highlights of what we have scheduled include:

- Friday, October 13th
- o Free quartet coaching

- o District Board of Directors and House of Delegates meeting that will elect next year's officers and we'll share the state of the District and important initiatives at the BHS level
 - o Rehearsals for the All-chapter Chorus and the Association of District Champs (ADC) Chorus
 - o First round of the quartet contest with 27 quartets
 - o "Sing with the Champs"
 - Saturday, October 14th
 - o Chorus contest with 15 choruses
 - o Quartet finals
 - o Banquet and Showcase – with the All-chapter and ADC Choruses plus 9 District Champ Quartets headlined by Happiness Emporium as they celebrate their 50th year, golden anniversary, of winning the District quartet championship
 - o Hospitality rooms
- And what the schedule doesn't show is all the informal gatherings and time for tags at the Tagatorium, fellowship, and just getting reacquainted with our barbershop family. It will be a very fun time! Our planning



2024 LO'L Leadership Academy & Lakes Chord College - January 5 & 6, 2024 University of Wisconsin - River Falls, WI

- Reasonable hotel rates
- Classes for every person in your chapter
- Guests are Welcome
- Tuition is just \$75.00 and includes 5 meals

Learn your Chapter Officer's job - Saturday AM - Office Core Classes

- President Class
- Secretary Class
- Treasurer Class
- Membership/Development VP Class
- Music & Performance VP Class
- Chorus Directors & Ass't Directors

- Joe Barbershop Smorgasbord for those not in a Chapter Office class

Develop your Leadership skills

- Planning for Successful Chapter Shows
- Membership Guest Night Idea's
- How to Welcome & Keep Your Guests
- Recruiting new Members & Retention
- The Barbershop Paradox
- Forming & Directing a Mixed Chorus
- Bring Barbershop To Your Community

Learn how to perform better

- Moving With Freedom In Performance
- Be The Best Performer You Can Be

Just plain fun stuff

- Joe Barbershop Smorgasbord
- General Session with New Songs



Learn some new skills - Sharpen some old ones

- Leadership in Volunteer Organizations
- Youth Barbershop In Schools
- Harnessing Social Media for Youth
- What Churches/Chapters have in Common
- Generating Grassroots Financial Support

Learn How to Sing Better

- Warmups & Vocal Techniques
- Bringing a Song to Life
- The Basics of Vocal Pedagogy

How to Register:

- Go to the District website at www.loldistrict.org and download the registration booklet OR
- Check with your chapter President or Secretary for the registration booklet mailings they received.
- Or Email to delryberg@gmail.com and will be sent to you.



Interview with Chuck Guthrie

September 17, 2023 by Tim Milbrandt

This is the first in a series of interview articles focusing on barbershoppers around the Land O' Lakes district who have made an impact on other barbershoppers and the hobby overall. If you know of someone who made an impact on barbershop and barbershoppers either as a quartet singer, director, administrator or in some other way that you feel has a valuable story to share, please suggest them to the editor by writing to Nate Peplinski at pitchpiper@olddistrict.com.

The inaugural subject in this series is Chuck Guthrie. You may know Chuck as the baritone in his district champion quartet Gemini Crickets, as longtime director of the Rochester Medicine/Music Men, or as just an all around great guy. What got you into music? I grew up in musical family; my mother was a piano player and played for silent movies. She had a baby grand. Dad worked for Minneapolis Tribune (grew up in Montana). I was born in Wisconsin, moved to Kentucky, Montana in 1936. I took piano lessons from mother and played drums.

When did you start singing barbershop?

We moved to Minneapolis when I was in 6th grade and I started trombone lessons. I sang in junior high and high school. In my junior year of high school I started a quartet called the "2x 4's". We got to see the "Four Teens" (1952 International Quartet Champions) perform at the Minneapolis show. Our quartet tried out for the Ted Mack Amateur hour, and there was a girls quartet, the "Harmony Honeys" right ahead of us from Jeffers Minnesota. More on this in a bit.

I visited the Minneapolis Commodores in 1952 and there I met Joel Kleschold who talked me into joining the chapter. We formed the "Four Flips" from within the Minneapolis chapter. We competed in 2 district contests with me singing lead. With veterinary school and getting married I dropped out of the quartet.

I went to college at University of Minnesota and worked that summer at a ranch in WY. One of my quartet mates started dating one of the gals in the Harmony Honeys, and soon I started dating another one. To make a long story short, we were eventually married. My wife Carol competed at Sweet Adeline International with her quartet and they finished 6th. This was back in the day when quartets were timed and if they didn't stay within the time parameters, were penalized. Well Carol's quartet were penalized for singing less than 4 minutes or would have finished higher.

We moved to South Dakota and started a barbershop chapter in Eureka SD. After a few years a classmate called and convinced me to take a job in Rochester, MN. I started as a large animal vet for 6 years and was working up to 90 hours per week. I loved working with large animals, and especially cows.

Eventually Del Ryberg and I started the Rochester Chapter in 1959/1960 and I was the initial director. Over the years others stepped in to direct here and there but I ended up doing most of it. Back in those days the quartet was king and ruled.

Share some more about your quartetting over the years.

I was in several quartets over the years including "The Other Brothers" and "The Vocal Quads" among others. Myron Snesrud was the bass of my quartets. Then, a fella name Rod Johnson moved to Rochester from Waseca, and we got into a quartet together called the "Gemini Crickets".

Rod worked for me for a bit doing accounting for my dog and cat veterinary business and then started working at IBM. The "Gemini Crickets" first district qualified for International in Los Angeles. The other three members of the quartet worked at IBM in Rochester so Chuck would go out to the plant 3-4 times a week and they would sing in a stairwell, plus meet in the evenings. Lloyd Steinkamp worked for the Barbershop Society and would come to

town occasionally and coach the quartet in the stairwell at IBM. He told us "you guys be ready, when they announce you, the applause will be deafening so be prepared for it". It turned out we were on immediately before intermission and the Nighthawks (one of the favorites for the contest) were just before us. All we saw were peoples backs headed toward the exits when we took the stage. Not quite what we expected. We never finished in Top 20 but were 28th, it seems like 5 years running. We won the LOL district quartet championship in the fall of 1967 and last competed at international in 1971.

We were asked to go on a USO tour to the far east for 17 days, but I couldn't leave my practice so the quartet found another baritone who worked at IBM and got paid leave from IBM to represent them on the tour.

Rod Johnson eventually moved to the Twin Cities and started a quartet called "Happiness Emporium" (1975 International Champions).

Tell us about your directing and other activities.

I directed the Sweet Adeline chorus in Rochester for 5 years and loved it. The gals would learn their music and make their own outfits. This activity was made extra sweet because my wife Carol sang with the group.

I directed the Rochester Barbershop chorus until 1992 when Merle Savage took over.

I started singing with the "Alley Cats" quartet, which included Myron Snesrud, Dale Massey, Ken Knapp and myself. The four couples were all good friends and had loads of fun together. We got a chance to sing with the Turkey River All Stars band. What a great time it was singing with a whole band!

My wife Carol died unexpectedly and I moved to Lakeville in 2011. I rejoined the Commodores and competed with them once.

I'm an active member of the lunch bunch in the Twin Cities that meets every Thursday. There are a lot of members including some long time barbershoppers like Judd Orff, Steve Zorn and Bob Dykstra.

I'm also a member of the BQPA (Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association) and attend activities twice a year.

I winter in Arizona now and meet occasionally with a local group. I would like to get a quartet going in Arizona. For me, quartets are where it is at! There is nothing like the sound of four voices blending together.

What are highlights of your barbershop career?

- #1 - Trying out for the Ted Mack amateur hour and meeting my bride.
- #2 - Winning the LOL district quartet championship.
- #3 - Seeing the lead I sang with for 6 years win the International quartet championship. I wasn't there when they won but I met them when they landed in Minneapolis upon their return to congratulate them.

One of Chucks great goals in life of barbershop was to get his picture on the front of the Harmonizer as a top 10 quartet member. In October 1972 on the face of the Harmonizer there is a collage of pictures of Chuck directing. He was directing the Rochester chapter at the Apache Mall in Rochester. Unbeknownst to Chuck, there was a photographer for the Rochester Post-Bulletin, taking pictures of Chuck directing. It was on front page of the paper the next day. SPEBSQSA used the collage on the cover of the harmonizer. In a way, he achieved his goal!

Chuck recently had a 90th birthday party with 180 people in attendance. There were 5 quartets singing including Gay 90's, Just One More (Minneapolis), Vocality, Happiness Emporium, and the Benson Family Singers.



President's Message (cont.)

Submitted by Jay Althof - LO'L District President

Our planning team has done a great job building off the success of our last couple of conventions to improve the staging, sound, lighting and meals to make this year's event even better. There is still time to register



for the convention, or even get single event tickets at the door.

Last, a reminder that our 2024 Leadership Academy will be held at the University of Wisconsin in River

Falls on January 5th and 6th. In addition to the administrative courses, we have lined up some great elective classes related to musical leadership and performances. *Everyone is welcome to attend* and we have some excellent faculty ready to help all of us improve our barbershop experience. So put the dates on your calendar and we'll share more details after the Fall Convention.

-Jay

2024 Land O' Lakes District Nominations

Brent Gerber

On behalf of the District Nominating Committee, I present to you the following slate of officers for consideration to serve the Land O' Lakes District in 2024.

President—Mike Lietke

Executive Vice President—Nathan Peplinski

Immediate Past President/VP of Events—Jay Althof

District Secretary—Bob Brey

District Treasurer—Jack Edgerton

District VP West—Justin "Eagle Eye" McCullough

District VP East—Mike Ziegler

District VP of Contest and Judging—James Estes

District VP of Chapter Development—Jim Rasmus

2023 HARMONY OPEN

Judd Orff

On August 8th, 2023, "The Friday Lunch Bunch That Meets on Thursday" staged their 14th annual golf scramble tournament. Forty-four golfers showed up on a warm, sunny day and had a great time.

We had a putting contest before tee off handled by Ken Slinde. The winner, Harvey Weiss, received a free entry into next years contest. The award was sponsored by Richard Riemenschneider.

The low score of the day was ten under par and was achieved by a two-some of Steve Zorn and Nate Schmidt. We had a tie for 2nd place at four under. Unfortunately there were no mixed or ladies-only foursomes, maybe next year.

Marilyn Jacobson donated a painting for our raffle; Grant Warning was the lucky name drawn. In all we netted \$3000. We donated the money to Keiki Cupboard in Maui, Giving Voice in Minneapolis, and Thunder Bay Chorus for Christmas show.

unlabeled editor's updates

deadline for submissions for the November-December issue is Nov. 20. Send in obits from the past year.

Have you thought about getting involved in district leadership, but are worried about getting in over your head? Email me. Or Mike. Or Jay. Or anyone really. There are many hats to wear and district leadership can look a lot of different ways.

I wanted to buy an ant farm, but I had no idea where to get a tractor that small.

Special thanks to Brian Plehn and Tim Milbrandt for joining the Pitch Piper team! (More on that upcoming)

An anion and a cation were walking down the street. The cation was giving directions on which way to go. The anion asked, are you sure? The cation replied, "I'm positive."



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

LAND O'LAKES DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION

October 13 - 14, 2023 – MSP Hilton, Bloomington, MN

Friday – October 13

8:00 - 8:00	Registration/Ticket desk	2nd Floor – Foyer
9:30 - 12:00	Coaching (non-contest Quartets)	Meeting Rooms I-VIII
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch break	
2:00 - 3:30	House of Delegates Meeting	Riverside
3:00 - 4:00	ADC Membership meeting	VII White Pelican Bay
3:30 - 4:30	All-Chapter Chorus Rehearsal	VIII Wood Duck
4:30 - 5:00	Stage Check- Chorus/Quartet	Ballroom
2:00 – 5:30	Quartet on-stage times	Ballroom
5:30 - 6:30	Performances (non-contest)	Ballroom
6:30 - 9:00	Quartet Prelim Contest	Ballroom
9:30 - 11:30	Quartet Evaluations	Judges Rooms
9:30 - 11:00	Sing with the Champs	VII White Pelican Bay
9:30 - 12:00	Cash Bar/Hospitality	Riverside

Saturday – October 14

7:00 - 2:00	Registration/Ticket desk	2nd Floor – Foyer
8:00 - 9:30	Risers/Stage Open for Inspection	
10:00 - 12:30	Chorus Contest	Ballroom
12:30 - 1:30	Lunch break	
1:30 - 3:30	Quartet Finals	Ballroom
3:30 - 3:45	Chorus and Quartet Contest Results	Ballroom
4:00 - 6:00	Chorus Evaluations	Meeting Rooms I-VIII
6:00 - 7:00	Quartet Evaluations	Judges Rooms
6:30 - 7:15	Dinner	Ballroom
7:15 - 9:00	Showcase	Ballroom
9:00 - 1:00	Open Bar - Afterglow/Hospitality	Meeting Rooms I-VIII

5/23/2023



Leadership with Larry Larry Lewis

What Followers Look for in a Leader:

- Feelings that they are significant
- A sense of community, group identity
- Providing a challenge or goal worth achieving

All Chapter Chorus LO'L District Convention October 13-14, 2023

Submitted by Steve Zorn

The All Chapter Chorus is waiting for you!

SING WITH THE ALL CHAPTER CHORUS. The Northern Pines Harmony Brigade (NPHB) is again sponsoring the All Chapter Chorus in 2023. Maybe we can reach the goal of having at least one member of every Land O' Lakes chapter sing with us on the risers!

A Little Street Where Old Friends Meet.. This is a classic ballad from the Suntones. Listen for those barbershop chords. And *Route 66*. This is a familiar song to everyone, especially those singing before the Interstate Highway system was established.

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 entertainment.

You can sign up now [here](#) or on the LOL website 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?"

STORYTIME WITH STEVE

"Hi Nate, here's our ad. It's an updated version of something we ran back in 2018, right after the huge welcome the district gave us at our first convention appearance after winning the senior championship. We came on the contest stage to compete, and they gave us a standing ovation none of us will forget ... before we'd even sung a note! I had to blow the pitch to get them to stop. One of the most overwhelming experiences of my life."

(Steve Hardy of SCX)

To All Our LOL Friends:

תודה
 Dankie Gracias شكراً
 Спасибо Merci Takk
 Köszönjük Terima kasih
 Grazie Dziękujemy Děkojame
 Ďakujeme Vielen Dank Paldies
 Kiitos Täname teid 谢谢
Thank You Tak
 感谢您 Obrigado Teşekkür Ederiz
 Σας ευχαριστούμε 감사합니다
 Bedankt Děkujeme vám
 ありがとうございます
 Tack



ST. CROIX CROSSING

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



Harmony College Midwest

February 17, 2024

DoubleTree Hotel, Bloomington, IL

Learn from our head clinician,

Debbie Cleveland

and our guest quartet,

Midtown

(2023 BHS International Quartet Champion)

Enjoy a full day of coaching (for individuals and for quartets) and classes,
taught by an esteemed faculty that includes

Debbie Cleveland, Midtown, David Wright, Erin Cook,

Bryan Ziegler, and Terry Ludwig

Individual registration: \$85

Quartet registration: \$325

(in addition to hotel cost)

More information available on Facebook

(search Harmony College Midwest)

Tickets available beginning September 22 on Eventbrite.com

(search for Harmony College Midwest)

EarlyBird pricing available from 9/22-9/29

(\$80 for individuals, \$300 for quartets)





Harlequin Quartet Marks Its 25th Anniversary

We were very pleased on September 9, 2023, to host family and friends at a celebration commemorating 25 years since we formed the quartet, Harlequin bsq. We planned and hosted the event because we wanted to celebrate this achievement and share it with others who have been part of our journey. We featured a powerpoint show highlighting memorable moments over the past quarter century plus displays of awards, trophies, quartet attire and various memorabilia. It was a real highlight to present the crowd with a unique show featuring 25 years of our history with stories and songs.

We started rehearsing together in the fall of 1998, came up with a quartet name and set a goal to dedicate every Tuesday evening to improving our harmonies and becoming good entertainers. It's hard to believe that 25 years later, we would all still be singing together and dedicated to our Tuesday night rehearsals. Even though there are other quartets who are or have been active for this length of time, we decided it was a relatively rare feat for the same 4 guys to stay together this long and certainly worth marking the occasion.

The evening program started by having each quartet member briefly describe their individual path that brought them all together. We appreciated the many positive comments from audience members about how much they enjoyed hearing that story. We also reminisced about being invited by Bruce O'Dell to be guest performers at a series of gospel shows for a fund-raising event in Winona, Minnesota more than 20 years ago. Fortunately, Bruce gave us sufficient notice that we were able to bolster our gospel repertoire for the show. Thanks to that experience, we recorded a gospel CD in later years and, to this day, we still include gospel numbers in our performances that date back to the Winona shows more than 2 decades ago. We've been very active over all of these years, winning the Winnipeg Chapter Quartet of the Year award 17 times. So, we knew that only a small sample of our quartet memories could be squeezed into a 1-hour show. Just our special guest and headline appearances alone span an area extending from Fort Frances, Ontario (east) to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan (west) and from Dauphin, Manitoba (north) to Galesburg, Illinois (south). But we made sure to perform a couple of songs that we had sung for two different performances with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. We also included a Joe Liles number in our program that we had used in a play in 2015 that was a re-enactment commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Manitoba Women's suffragette movement that led to their successful campaign giving Manitoba women the first in Canada to win the right to vote. We're proud of the fact that this re-enactment was recorded and used as a teaching aid in Manitoba schools.

We extend our thanks to Gordon Billows, Winnipeg Chapter historian, who will be archiving our September 9th powerpoint show and program script, to preserve the memory of the occasion, which just happened to occur in the same year that the chapter is marking its 75th anniversary. We give another big thank-you to everyone who attended and for all of your well wishes. You made it a very enjoyable evening for all of us.

Herold Driedger, Larry Hunter, Rob Smith, Paul Bullock Harlequin bsq

Labor Day Jamboree 2023

Tim Milbrandt

Have you heard of the Sunshine District's Labor Day Jamboree (LDJ)??? This is an event run by the Sunshine District that brings barbershoppers together for a long weekend of fun, fellowship and four-part harmony.

I had seen highlights of past LDJ gatherings and was always amazed at not only how much fun everyone seemed to be having, but also the stellar lineup of quartets that performed. So this summer when I saw an advertisement for the 2023 version, I decided to go.

This year's event was held at the Omni Championsgate in Orlando, Florida. The facilities were fantastic and included two regulation golf courses, a par 3 and mini golf course, a wave pool, lazy river, adults-only pool, and regular pool. The weather was fantastic minus some scattered thunderstorms here and there.

There was lots of time to lounge by the pools and golf, but the main events are the shows Saturday and Sunday nights. And what shows they were! Saturday night included a talented lineup of quartets including Riptide, Brouhaha, plus some local men's and women's groups that certainly held their own in this parade of talent. Sunday night's show was the headliner to be sure. Three of the five medalists from the 2023 BHS international competition in Louisville performed including 3 and a Half Men, First Take, and Midtown. There were other talented groups as well. Did I mention that Lunch Break appeared? (with Jeff Selano of Riptide and Storm Front filling in on tenor)

Does this sound like a pretty great weekend? Well it was. In addition, the shows were held in a very nice yet cozy hotel ballroom and my guess is that attendance was around 200. It was a treat to get to see all of these wonderful performances up close and personal.

From my perspective, I haven't shared the best part of the weekend yet: tag singing after the show Sunday night. Even after 35 years of singing barbershop I'm continually amazed at how approachable and gracious our top quartet singers are. Plus all of the other audience members who are happy to sing a tag with a couple of folks from Minnesota. My daughter Julia is 22 years old and attended this even with me. My new friend (who I met at the restaurant bar over dinner) Matt Bostick and his wife Ginger were the first to approach us to sing at the afterglow. Their friendliness overcame any apprehension my daughter had at singing tags and after that, she and I sang with countless others for the next several hours. Special thanks to Alex Corson and Drew Wheaton of First Take and Josh Szolomayer of 3 and a half men for graciously spending some of their highly sought after time singing with us.

If you have a chance to attend LDJ, I encourage you to do





GREAT PLAINS HARMONY *in Concert*



7:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 3

First Lutheran Church
619 Broadway N.
Fargo, ND

3:00 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 5

First Lutheran Church
619 Broadway N.
Fargo, ND

**General
Admission**
\$15 Adults
\$10 Students

Tickets available at
www.GreatPlainsHarmony.org

For more information about Great Plains Harmony
visit: www.GreatPlainsHarmony.org



*The Lake Country and North Star Choruses
Proudly Present*

Voices Of Christmas



**Roseville Lutheran Church
1215 Roselawn Avenue West
Roseville, MN 55113**

**Sunday November 26, 2023
4 P.M.**

**Zion Lutheran Church
1601 S. 4th Avenue
Anoka, MN 55303**

**Tuesday November 28, 2023
7:30 P.M.**

All Tickets General Admission: \$15.

**Children 6 years and under are free. Tickets are
available through your favorite chorus member, at the
door, or by contacting either chorus directly:**

**JoAnn Baldwin 612 804-3686 info@lakecountrychorus.org
Steve Zorn 612-399-6761 northstarchorus@gmail.com**



Fun Everywhere at Fall Convention

The Fun Squad is again planning lots of activities to maximize your singing fun at this year's convention. Here are some of the highlights you want to check out.

Fun Squad Welcome Desk - When you arrive to check in for Convention, stop by the FS Desk adjacent to the Check-in Desk. There you can get your part indicator dot(s), Polecat Dance Cards, activity info, and Tagpole download instructions.

Tagatorium - our dedicated room for ringing tags is back with tags you love and new tags too. Open throughout the weekend except during contests.

Tagpole Mobile Application - Download this tag app as it is the best one yet. Fast access to all the online tags, but you can download your favorites on your phone for instant access (no WiFi issues).

Sing with the Champs - On Friday night after the Quartet Prelims, come ring some serious chords with past LOL District champs in one of the meeting rooms. Sing any of the PoleCat I or II card songs or Tagatorium tags.

Polecat Dance Card I - A favorite every year is to sing 10 Polecat I songs with members from across the district. If you have your pin, sing with others to help them get the pin.

NEW! Polecat Dance Card II - Earn the exclusive LOL Polecat II pin by singing 6 favorites from the PoleCat book 2.

All Chapter Chorus - Sing in the Showcase Show with members from all over the district. There's still time to learn Route 66 and Just a Little Street and sing in a fun large chorus experience. Sign up on the LOL Convention webpage.

Support Chorus Contest Contestants - If your chorus is singing later in the contest, be part of an energetic audience to support the first set of choruses. (I know the North Star Chorus would love to have more than family and friends in the audience)

Presenting the Polk County Wisconsin Chapter (Indianhead Chorus) singing in the Parade at the Amery Fall Festival 2023 held on September 15, 2023.... Keep the Whole World Singing!

These barbershop singers are pictured singing in the Amery Fall Festival Parade to a throng of admiring fans. The chorus members were advertising their annual Harvest of Harmony, to be held on October 7th at Amery High School.

Director Karl Wicklund and singers gave a sample of the tunes that would be sung at the show.





CONTEST CORNER

with JAMES ESTES - DVP for Contest & Judging

FORTY-TWO!

FORTY-TWO! When the dust settled and all entries for the 2023 LOL Fall Quartet and Chorus contests were received a few weeks ago, that is how many total competitors registered for this year's convention in Bloomington! For perspective, our first convention in a post-COVID world (2021) had exactly half that number. Barbershop in Land O' Lakes is alive and growing!

For those attending the convention as audience members, THANK YOU in advance for your support of all groups crossing the stage. Each of these quartets and choruses puts in countless hours of time practicing, as well as money for sheet music, learning tracks, contest attire, and more. Your enthusiasm helps them continue to make music long after the last convention tag is sung, and that is what will help grow our artform even more.

For competitors, your quartet/chorus contact was mailed an information-filled packet from Events VP Arv Zenk. Please review this information so that your weekend in Bloomington is fun, fulfilling, and as stress-free as possible. Additionally, the groups' contact(s) should have received an email from the Barberscore system requesting your feedback session (formerly called "evaluations") preferences. Please complete this by October 5 so we can best accommodate your requests.

Like last year, we have quartets and choruses entered as "festival" groups, meaning their scores aren't published on the final scoresheets released post-contest. If you don't see scores for your favorite group, don't worry! Like last year, the Quartet Finals will feature the top 8 district quartets from the semi-finals, in addition to any International Preliminary quartets who average at least 75% in the semi-final round. The draw for order-of-appearance can be found on the District's convention page at <https://loldistrict.org/2023-fall-convention>

Finally, to all audience members and competitors: HAVE A BLAST! In this, my 25th year of barbershopping, I can say without hesitation that convention weekends are my favorites of the year. The excitement, camaraderie, applause from the audience, coaching from the judges, and tag-singing afterwards make each of these weekends energizing and unforgettable, further kindling my own enthusiasm to bring this artform to as many people as possible. See you there!!

Other notes from the editor:

- The email for Nov. submissions to the Pitch Piper is pitchpiper@loldistrict.org
- Reminder to choruses to send in your show posters!
- Reminder to quartets 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



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



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



<p>Calendar</p> <p>Please send show registrations to district secretary:</p> <p>BOB BREY, Secretary Land O' Lakes District 1411 S 31st Street Manitowoc, WI 54220 rwbrey1950@gmail.com</p> <p>2023</p> <p>October</p> <p>7 West Allis, WI - Lake Shore Drive 7 Escanaba, MI - St. Croix Crossing, Chill Factor 7 Amery, WI - Checkmate, Mixed Meter 13-14 Minneapolis, MN Annual Convention 28 Racine, WI - Annual Show</p>	<p>November</p> <p>3,5 Fargo, ND - Fargo/Moorhead 4 Lacrosse, WI - Journeymen chorus at Cappella PAC, feat. Mixed Company and Coulee Classic 25 Winnipeg</p> <p>December</p> <p>2 St. Croix Valley 3 Lake Geneva 9 Manitowoc 16 Greendale 16 St. Cloud area</p> <p>2024</p> <p>January</p> <p>5-6 Leadership Training Academy, UW-River Falls 9-14 Midwinter Convention - New York, NY</p> <p>February</p> <p>17 Harmony College Midwest, Bloomington, IL - Midtown</p>	<p>April</p> <p>6 Appleton, WI - Spitfire 13 Manitowoc, WI - Coulee Classic 20 Colfax, WI - Dunn County</p> <p>May</p> <p>3-5 Northern Pines Harmony Brigade/ADC Spring Sing 5 St. Cloud Area 11 Black River Falls 18 Wisconsin Youth Quartet Festival, Stevens Point, WI</p>
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