

The Pitch Piper

77 YEARS OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY

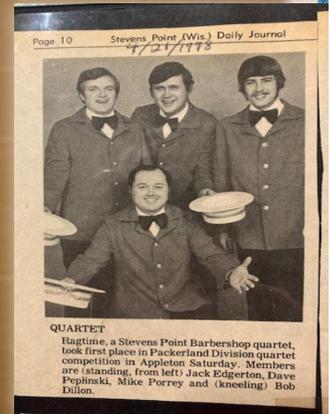
OVER 714,089 SQUARE MILES

Volume 78, Number 1

A Bulletin for Barbershoppers in the LO'L District

January-February 2025

Honoring our Heroes: Jack Edgerton



JACK EDGERTON . PRESIDENT

1978



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 Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario.

Office of Publication

Editor: Nate Peplinski

127 Rose St. N, West Salem, WI 54669
(715) 498-1198

Email: pitchpiper@loldistrict.org

Send address changes to: Pitch Piper, c/o SPEBSQSA Inc., 110 7th Avenue N., Nashville, TN 37203-3704. **All correspondence or copy should be sent to the editor.**

Land O' Lakes District Officers



President
Mike Lietke

3953 S. Camrose Ave.
New Berlin, WI 53151
(262) 893-0001
mikelietke@hotmail.com



Treasurer
Matt Nagel

4999 Sterling Dr.
Greendale, WI 53129
(414) 507-5187
nagelbshop2009@gmail.com



Director of Events
Jay Althof

4671 Lake Ave.
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
(651) 206-2686
jayalthof@gmail.com



Executive Vice President
Nate Peplinski

127 Rose St. N,
West Salem, WI 54669
(715) 498-1198
starquarterback14@yahoo.com



Director of Chapter Support & Development
Jim Rasmus

1446 Gunnell Ln
Manitowoc, WI 54220
(920) 973-0010
pjras20@gmail.com



Director of Contest & Judging
James Estes

(650) 686-1080
dir-cj@loldistrict.org



Immediate Past President
Jay Althof

4671 Lake Ave.
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
(651) 206-2686
jayalthof@gmail.com



District VP - East Region
Mike Ziegler

438 Sunset Dr.
Plymouth, WI 53073
(920) 918-7917
mikeanddenise@live.com



Secretary
Tyler Hall

603 6th St NE
Mandan, ND 58554
Cell 701-213-7636
secretary@loldistrict.org



District VP - West Region
Justin McCullough

1939 50th St. S.
Fargo, ND 58103
(701) 640-3224
jumccull@gmail.com



Land O' Lakes District – State of The District



Feb 22, 2025

Fellow lovers of harmony,

January 10 and 11 gave us all an incredible opportunity to grow in many directions. The Leadership Training Academy (LTA) at UW River Falls delivered all that was promised and more for the 140-ish attendees who were there!

Going back well before I joined SPEBSQSA 36 years ago, the district held the old Chapter

Officer Training School (COTS) each December. It did exactly that, trained our officers how to execute their duties, with a couple of classes on the artistic side of the hobby thrown in. It was a wonderful time to get together without the time crunch and pressure of competition.

Taking all of the benefit of that format, and adding to it even more concentration on the fun side of equation, Brian Schultz and the district Events team knocked it out of the park. Of course there were President, Treasurer and Secretary track courses. However, when your



chapter presidents were through with officer class commitments, they could walk down the hall and scratch whatever part of the Barbershop Hobby that itches.

Imagine bringing in Donny and Amy Rose, Steve Scott, and Sarah Wigley as clinicians and teachers for the weekend! Interested in Classes like “Lost Singers - What You Can Do About It”? “Supporting Senior Singers”? “Swing Concepts for Barbershoppers”? “Stay Connected: Tech Helps Chorus Culture”? “The Barbershop Belt”? “The Barbershop Paradox”?

Those teaching pros brought it in spades.

Add to those talents LOL Music Educators Justin La and Scott Perau lending theirs as class leaders! What of learning from LOL’s Jim Rasmus; Larry Lewis; Jay Fahl; Nate Peplinski; Jay Althof; Bill Fricke; Matt Nagel; Brian Schultz and Tyler Hall? Heck, they even got me into the act, as incredible resource Tim Milbrandt and I taught a class on what the Performance Category is judging.

The only thing that gets in the way of seeing all of this expertise and volunteering in my memory is worrying that I forgot to list somebody along the way.

Friday night capped off with a wonderful afterglow, filled with many tags and laughter. The planners saw to it that the planned events were done by dinnertime on Saturday, when we could all take what we had learned and spread the joy this hobby provides.



We will be doing it again in January of 2026, under the new branding of “Harmony Academy.” Look for more content outside “officer box” and also some exciting new components tied to NextGen. How’s THAT for a teaser??

The next question is - will you be there with us having all the fun? Here’s hoping you will!

Yer Prez, Mike

LEADERSHIP WITH LARRY

You may be disappointed if you fail, but you are doomed if you don't try.



CHAPTER SUPPORT REPORT

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



As a member of a Chapter in the Land O'Lakes District, I hope you can appreciate the lengths your District leadership is going to provide you with support, encouragement, and resources to help your chorus be everything it can be in your community!

I encourage you to take some time to sample the many items available under Chapter Resources tab on the LOL Website (<https://loldistrict.org>). There you can learn about:

- **Take Coaching to the Chapter**, which provides 2 free coaching sessions per year.
- **Visioning Retreats**, which provides a Chapter Survey and 3-hour retreat with your membership – also for free.
- We've begun uploading a page filled with **Chapter Show Themes and Scripts** you can use for inspiration for your next show. (We'd love to have you share your scripts too!)
- Details about successful projects employed by other Chapters and **Key Attributes of Successful Chapters**.
- You can download **position descriptions, manuals, workbooks and ideas** for Chapter officers, Music Director, Music Teams....
- A report from the **Supporting Senior Singers** task force in the St. Croix Valley Chapter and a resource for Choosing Chorus Music will be coming soon.

As the District has again adopted a deficit budget to share the surplus in our treasury, your Chapter Support Team will seek to strike a balance in the **LOL Grants Program** between supporting Chapters threatened with survival and providing funds for thriving Chapters seeking to grow. Thus in 2025, we will continue to provide:

- **Chapter Show Grants UP TO \$750** per Chapter per year to subsidize registered District Quartets to perform at your shows.
- **Chapter Development Grants UP TO \$1,000** per Chapter per year to help in your creative projects and Chapter development efforts.

The Chapter Support Team continues to encourage more communication between Chapters and the District. We hope to improve and expand the *District – Chapter Liaison Program*. We have made some assignment changes and the group continues to seek leaders willing to serve as District Liaisons for one or two of their neighboring Chapters. PLEASE reach out to me if you want to discuss getting involved, have ideas to share or questions we can explore together!

Be well!!

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



Kathryn's Korny



KATHRYN ZIEGLER, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Editor's note: Kathryn is going to be hosting a new segment in the Pitch Piper, related to her expertise as an occupational therapist. (She'll explain below.)

Hi everyone! Let me introduce myself, my name is Kathryn Ziegler, and I've known about barbershop for as long as I can remember; my grandfather was a member of the Narraganset Bay Chorus (Providence, RI), and my family and I joined him at two different internationals in Montreal (2003) and Kansas City (2011). My involvement in barbershop has grown substantially since then, and I am now a lead in Forward Harmony!

When not ringing chords with 49 of the most genuinely kind and welcoming individuals, I am a pediatric occupational therapist in Fitchburg, WI.

"Pediatrics? Occupational therapy? What does that have to do with barbershop?"

Well, as I like to tell the families and kids I treat, occupational therapy is all about helping people do what they need and want to do in their daily lives.

Our lives are filled with what we call "occupations," which fall into many different categories. Occupations include, but are not limited to, activities of daily living (brushing teeth, getting dressed, etc.), rest and sleep, work, social participation, and leisure. I would classify barbershop into two of those categories, social participation and leisure.

Social participation is defined as: "Activities that involve social interaction with others, including family, friends, peers, and community members, and that support social

interdependence" (Bedell, 2012; Khetani & Coster, 2019; Magasi & Hammel, 2004).

Leisure activities are defined as: "Nonobligatory activity that is intrinsically motivated and engaged in during discretionary time, that is, time not committed to obligatory occupations such as work, self-care, or sleep" (Parham & Fazio, 1997, p. 250).

Barbershop fits pretty perfectly within both of these, I would say!

A main focus of occupational therapists around the country (and world), is helping people get back to (or start) completing meaningful occupations. What is meaningful to one person, may not be meaningful to the next, and occupational therapists are masters at seeking out and finding what truly matters to our clients.

Barbershop, to me, is absolutely one of my personal meaningful occupations. Not only does it connect me to my grandfather, but my brother (Matt Record, sings with the Capital City Chordsmen and Pour Four More), and it was through connections made through this wonderful little hobby that I met my husband (Bryan Ziegler).

Music and singing have been a part of my life for as long as I can remember, but becoming an occupational therapist and learning more about occupations shed new light on my involvement with music. In a world with so many unknowns, going to rehearsal every other Sunday and singing alongside my friends is something I have come to cherish.

I know that once I step into that room, I am valued, respected, and loved. My voice gets to blend with those around me to not only make music, but tell stories of hope, acceptance, and light. It doesn't get much more meaningful than that. - Kathryn

Save The Date - 2025 Land O' Lakes Fall Convention – Up, Up and Away!

We are well into the planning process for our Fall Convention. The convention will once again be held at the Minneapolis Airport Hilton Hotel on October 10th and 11th. Put the date and location on your calendar.

You won't want to miss this event as we continue to build on the success of our past conventions. More details will come over the next couple of months!

Jay Althof, VP Events, LO'L District





Heart o' Lakes Harmony Enjoys Holiday Success

Brent Gerber, Director of Heart o' Lakes Harmony (Fergus Falls)

As a culmination of a year-long focus on inviting guests to sing with us, we chose to use our Christmas show as an opportunity to have guests join us in preparation and performance. And our results were really incredible. Throughout our 4 week preparation we had 17 different individuals join us at a rehearsal and of those 14 joined on-stage at one of our performances.

We've done these campaigns before with varying degrees of success—some very good, but honestly most with mediocre results. So why was this one different?

It started early in the year when we took a few minutes out of our rehearsals in January to do some self-analysis. We looked at our strengths and areas where we had opportunities to grow. We analyzed where our members were coming from as we cover a pretty wide footprint in Minnesota Lakes Country. We looked at our demographic, our average age, etc.

From this analysis, we set 2 clear objectives for the year. We needed to grow the chorus. We typically had between 15 and 20 members at practice and the average age of our members was creeping up there. We set a goal of 10 new members, but more than anything we wanted to just have some good guest activity.

Secondly, we made a goal to perform somewhere—paid or unpaid—every month. We knew that to generate interest in the chorus and support for our shows, we needed to be seen in public. It's not easy with three main "market areas"—Fergus Falls, Detroit Lakes, and Pelican Rapids areas of Minnesota.

We have previously done 2 church performance Sundays per summer where we go to multiple churches on a Sunday Morning and sing—usually 5-8 churches per Sunday. We get on a bus and zip around attempting to time things so we can just go in and sing and get onto the next church. It's a lot of fun. (And we miss the collection plate and the sermon!)

So this year we decided to do three—one in each of the market areas. And we did one per month.

That satisfied June, July and August in our pledge to sing publicly every month. All told I estimate that we sang for over 1,500 people in 19 churches plus a stop at the VA nursing home in Fergus Falls. That's really great exposure for the chorus.

Our planning process also told us that most all of our current members came to the group through a personal invitation to join. Others said that some local advertising during the Christmas Chorus push in prior years had piqued their interest.

The chorus members delivered! We had guests almost every week throughout the year. It was nice to see some new

faces; many of whom have stayed throughout the year. And that really was the secret to our success in November—the chorus members invited people to join us. And they came. And the members redoubled their efforts in November as they turned out those 17 interested singers.

Other important elements of our campaign:

- We supported our campaign with radio advertising to promote the rehearsals and shows. The District provided a grant to reimburse us for half the cost. Thank you!

- We selected a show repertoire of 7 songs with a good mix of moderately difficult to easy tunes AND provided top quality learning tracks from Choral Tracks. (They are exceptional with part-predominant, part-missing, and general mix. We have taken advantage of the annual "membership" and I would encourage every chorus to look into that.)

- We were prepared with music folders and materials to provide information about what was happening during the rehearsals and things leading up to the shows.

- We taught the members how to access the tracks in a members-only shared drive. Technology can be scary and we showed them how to overcome their fears. It took some valuable rehearsal time, but it was worth it.

- Our rehearsals were fast-moving and fun. I tried to keep things to about 1 ½ hours or less.

- We had coffee at the end of the rehearsal and just visited with our new friends. No pressure to join.

- We partnered with a local Sweet Adeline Chorus to present the show. They sang on our show in Pelican Rapids and we sang on theirs in Fargo. It created some variety and lightened the load on the chorus. Great experience for both groups!

But the most exciting part of this campaign is what is happening now. We have already had 6 of these guys sign up to be members and expect perhaps another 4-5 to also join.

They are having a great time! And what they've added to our group in terms of energy, part balance, skill and personality is absolutely priceless.

And the best part is that these new guys all have networks of potential audience members and singers of their own. So growth in your numbers really does position you for more growth.

There is no magic bullet here. This worked because all of the members pulled together to make it happen. Will it work for us again next year—maybe not. But I can assure you we will be doing it some form again.

-Brent



Northern Pines Harmony Brigade Alert!

Submitted by (HOF) David Speidel, NPHB President
May 2-4 2025

If you aren't busy with a quartet at this time, it is a great opportunity to build lasting friendships with singers from the LO'L District and beyond. We typically get 60-70 singers with many coming from all over the US. Even if you have a quartet, why not bring the whole gang up and get immersed in non-stop quartetting. You'll come away with a bunch of new music for your quartet's repertoire. It's like nothing you'll have experienced before. There won't be anyone shutting you down for singing until 3 or 4 in the morning.

In summary, the weekend includes a Friday School Music Education Program, great food, great musical charts, two random draw quartet contests, a full Saturday night show and more. If you're reluctant because of financial concerns, we have scholarships available to ease the burden. It's easy. Get 'On-Line' in early December at nphb.org and sign up for the time of your life!

Show Script Sharing Site Up and Running!

Over the past couple of years, the concept of gathering and sharing show themes and scripts between our chapters has been suggested and discussed. Clearly, this is *a service that the District can provide* and we are very happy to let you know that we now have on our District Website a place where your chapter can see what other chapters have put together and also post your favorite show scripts, so other chapters can get ideas for their own shows.

You can find this page on our Website under Chapter Resources:

<https://loldistrict.org/show-themes-and-scripts>

To share your scripts, just send them to Todd Smith at: tgsemail@gmail.com and he'll get them posted.

Thanks to the St. Croix, Manitowoc and Dunn County chapters for getting the sharing started!

Jay Althof,
Immediate Past President, LO'L District

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



Just Jack Being Jack

By Joe Larson

Jack Edgerton was my first boss straight out of school at the insurance company here in Stevens Point in 1974. We've been colleagues ever since. He taught me to be accurate and meticulous about computer programming, and accounting for every dollar from our customers.

By then he had been at this music thing for quite some time already.

Growing up in Madison, Wisconsin, his parents were friends with the Madison Cardinals, a District quartet that competed at International. He got familiar with the barbershop style at an early age. He started quartet singing as a high school freshman with "I Had a Dream Dear." He was in quartets all the way through high school and college.

Jack was a drummer with the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps, a national champion, from 1950-1958.

When he moved to Stevens Point in 1962 he joined the local chapter and was in a quartet within six weeks, competing right away and performing in chapter shows. He was elected chapter president in 1966 at age twenty-six.

"That was very intimidating. How could I tell these older guys what to do?"

He's been involved in the chapter management in one way or another ever since.

He won the first of his five Stevens Point Barbershopper of the Year awards in 1964 – there's a mandatory ten year wait after you win it before you can win it again.



You can tell he's been at this for a while, all right.

When the nominating committee asks Jack about serving in the board again, he always says Yes. Whatever way he can best help the chapter.



He helped form a quartet when the Stevens Point chapter toured Europe in 1981. The Suburbans thought they would compete at Division in the Spring just to get some practice, but were surprised to come in second. That quartet performed in Germany, Austria, France, Switzerland, and for a BABS chapter in the UK. When they competed that Fall at District they took fourth. They brought props on stage including a tennis racket, a charcoal grill, and a golf club. At the end of their last song they actually teed up and hit a golf ball into the judge's pit. It was a whiffle ball, but still.

His Ragtime quartet competed at International in 1978-1979. He's been in any number of quartets before and after that.

Later he grabbed a few newer guys and formed an off-the-cuff quartet to enter Division for fun and to get them involved in the contest environment. He did that again to form Regal Blend, my quartet for twenty-five years.



His first District contest was in Hopkins Minnesota in the Fall of 1963, and he's been to every one since. Over a hundred to date. The furthest one was in Saskatoon.

He held District board positions from 1991



“Music has been my life. I’ve gotten a lot out of Barbershop, I owe it to people to give back.”

The District is in good financial shape today, thanks in large part to Jack’s careful work as Treasurer. The care and precision he drilled into me is the same care and precision he brought to his District work, and indeed to singing.

Downtown Stevens Point has a large mural featuring the scene from the 1910 Stock Fair Day on the Market Square. Dozens of present-day citizens were added into the picture. Jack is immortalized there on the stone wall. He looks like he is about to break out in song.

Submitted by Joe Larson, January 2025

(Editor’s addition:)

I’ve known Jack as long as I can remember. I have vivid memories as a five-year old of sitting on the floor in the basement of the Stevens Point clubhouse at an after-afterglow listening to Ragtime sing “If I were a Rich Man,” and Jack interplaying with the audience, especially me.

I was 13 when I joined the chapter and Jack unequivocally and unsurprisingly took me under his wing, especially after I switched parts to sing tenor with “God’s chosen few.”

Jack followed all my sports in High School, even though my alma mater of Amherst was a rival of his kids’ Pacelli. As I grew threw college and after, we spent many late nights closing down the rehearsal afterglows, rinsing the beer pitchers, switching parts to fill holes as the crowds dwindled, then going out for breakfast at 3 or 4 am.

When Coulee Classic attended the chapter installation banquet and Christmas party the December after our 2021 win, who was the one telling stories til 3am? The man the myth the legend, Jack.

Care for a bit of wisdom from the man who has been the identity of the Stevens Point chapter for so long? “There’s no such thing as a bad potato salad, only varying degrees of good.”

No due is enough to represent everything you’ve put in, Jack, but know that your friendship and influence is felt and will continue to inspire others.

through 2024. He started as Packerland Division VP in 1991, was District President 2001-2002, and was District Treasurer for nineteen years.

Not to mention District Barbershopper of the Year in 1997 and getting selected to the District Hall of Fame in 2004.

He was certified by the Society as a Contest Administrator from 2005-2013. Not least of all, he has sixteen Man of Note awards. So far.

His life experiences are tied to barbershop events. He dates his heart attack in 1994 to the District contest weekend.

Do you have anything to say, Jack? Besides ‘What bright side?’

“Yes. Get involved in something.”

Why do you do all this, Jack?



Celebrate the **Clipper City Chordsmen's 80th Anniversary and International Barbershop Quartet Day** with *Three and a Half Men* on April 11 and 12, 2025. This will be the only scheduled appearance for this quartet in the Midwest for 2025.

Together with the **Clipper City Chordsmen**, you will set sail on an expedition that will take you **Over the Sea**. Your Skipper will help you navigate through calm seas, stormy waters, and

even lead you on some tropical island adventures. Come and listen to exciting tales of pirates, explorers, and sailors of all types on our musical voyage.

Three and a Half Men is a dynamic quartet from Central Florida that brings a variety of musical styles to the scene. With backgrounds in barbershop, doo-wop, vocal jazz, and gospel music, the quartet enjoys a diverse repertoire and delivery. That said, **Three and a Half Men** is honored to be the **2024 Barbershop Harmony Society International Quartet Champions** and **2023 Sunshine District Champions**. Always looking for ways to enjoy harmony, the group is thrilled to have the opportunity to share its music any chance they get. Please check them out on Facebook **@Three and a Half Men** and on Instagram **@3.5men.qt**. From their name, you might wonder where the other "half" went. Don't worry, they are wondering the same thing!

The show will also feature harmony and entertainment from the **Clipper City Chordsmen** and chapter quartets including **Lake Effect, Quandary, BarberPops, Late Expectations,** and **Harmony to Go**.

The show will be at the **Franciscan Center for Music Education and Performance**, 6751 Calumet Avenue in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Show times will be 7PM on Friday April 11 and 3 PM on Saturday April 12, 2025. With only two shows with limited tickets, the Chordsmen expect all seats to be taken, so get your tickets early!

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students 18 and under. They may be purchased from any Chordsmen member, at Fricke Printing Service, through [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com), or through the Chordsmen's website at [clippercitychordsmen.org](https://www.clippercitychordsmen.org).

BONUS TRACK: Three and a Half Men will be arriving Thursday Evening so they can spend Friday morning at Roncalli High School and Friday afternoon at Valders High School joined by other high school / middle school students from Manitowoc County. Thanks to Community First Credit Union for the funding to help make this possible. . . and as always . . . IT'S GREAT TO BE A BARBERHSOPPER!!!!



Three and a Half Men:
Joseph De Rosa, Josh Szolomayer,
Chris Keough, Tony De Rosa



Hi Land O' Lakes Friends,



I just returned from the Midwinter Convention in San Antonio, and what a joy it was to see so many of you there! But this wasn't my first time in San Antonio—my first visit was in 2008, and it changed my life.

I remember standing on stage with 25 nervous but excited young singers from Northwest Vocal Project. We were one of only six choruses at the very first Youth Festival, and none of us knew what to expect. But when the lights came up and our voices filled the hall with Sweet Georgia Brown, When She Loved Me, and Wade in the Water, the response was electric. The standing ovation, the cheers—it was unforgettable.

But the real magic happened after we left the stage.

In just hours, those young singers transformed. They weren't just "kids" anymore—they were barbershoppers. Swapping tags, making friends, realizing that even the "elderly" (30 and up!) could hang. Barbershop became a bridge across generations.

That transformation wasn't luck. It took vision—BHS daring to create a Youth Festival. And it took generosity—HFI donors stepping up to make it possible.

Now, nearly two decades later, that vision isn't just surviving—it's thriving. Young singers are everywhere at district and international conventions. Programs like the Next Generation quartet contests and Harmony University are growing, and HFI initiatives like The Power of Harmony and AIC outreach are lifting up new voices.

But here's the truth: this work doesn't fund itself. BHS creates these incredible programs, but HFI makes them accessible to young people. It's one thing to host an event—it's another to ensure kids can afford to be there. HFI donors make that possible.

If you're already a donor, thank you! If you haven't joined us yet, I invite you to be part of this movement. Whatever amount feels right, your gift matters.

Let's keep the harmony going. I'd love to connect—reach out anytime!

Donny Rose

✉ Drose@harmonyfoundation.org

☎ (253) 241-5616

ADC SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Did you know that the Association of District Champions has scholarships available for quartets or individuals?

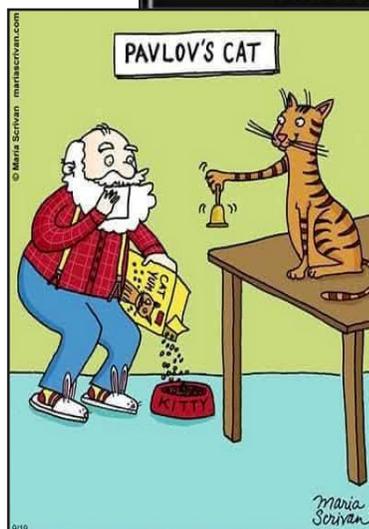
Scholarships for what, you ask?

Contact Leonard Huls at lensingstenor@gmail.com



unlabeled editor's notes

- If a pig loses its voice, does it become disgruntled?
- If you think someone would be deserving of a feature in this publication, contact pitchpiper@loldistrict.org or Tim Milbrandt at tjmilbrandt@gmail.com.
- A jogger is someone who thinks they can forestall death by doing something that looks like it is killing them.
- 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.
- Toilet: a type of chair, without which many people would never get any reading done.
- If you need learning tracks, check out www.choraltracks.com.
- The problem with the gene pool is there is no lifeguard.
- Get involved. Even if it's only thirty minutes every six months, that's still helping. Ben, I'm talking to you.
- I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.
- 99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- All those who believe in psychokinesis, raise my hand.
- What happens if you get scared half to death, twice?



tinyobscurae

@tinyobscurae

why don't you make like a tree and slowly grow while helping others around you grow too

- Email for submissions is 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
- Special note of sponsorship to Matt Curtis and www.choraltracks.com



Choral Tracks

Practice Made Simple



Repertoire That Engages Audiences and Performers

Nate Peplinski, Executive Vice President



We, as performers, always want to be as entertaining as we can be; our audiences deserve to be wanting more as we leave the stage. A major factor in bringing butts outta seats is our song selection.

So often we find ourselves pining after the big-time groups. “Champ-chasing,” it could be called. We hear Vocal Spectrum or After Hours or Westminster slay on the International Contest stage, and we think, “that’s what we need to do.” Kinda, is the answer. We need to slay for *who we are*. And just ask any judge, they’ll say the same thing!

The problem we face is that those charts are designed to show off vocal and musical prowess of elite talents. Hey guess what, I’m not an elite talent and most of us AREN’T. If we want to slay, we need to have music that is achievable at our appropriate level! The paradox here is that not all of that attainable music is fully ENGAGING, for both performers and audiences (those two concepts are very much related).

1. Audiences love to hear music they’re familiar with.
2. They love to hear music executed pretty decently.

I think we all have experienced that reaction during a performance.

3. Singers like to grow, but also don’t like to waste too much time. (If a crazy difficult song takes 1.5 years to really learn, it’s a good exercise in improvement, but at the expense of perhaps learning several other, easier songs. And BOTH CAN BE GOOD! That’s part of why all of this is difficult, right?)
4. We all know that when we program a song we genuinely like, we both learn it faster and perform it with more gusto. (and audiences can tell)

THIS IS A SERVICE THE DISTRICT CAN OFFER.

I have personally had several conversations on this subject and district leadership is working on putting together a LIST of potential rep songs that are FUN, FAMILIAR, ENGAGING, AND ACHIEVABLE. FFAE! Some smarter than I would say all music VPs and directors should use this concept as a filter for the majority of musical decisions.

So keep your eyes open for this list to be coming out this spring. Shoot an email to me (starquarterback14@yahoo.com) or Scott Perau (sperau@gmail.com) or Jim Rasmus (pjras20@gmail.com) if you have any ideas or suggestions. We’re looking for about 500 titles. STAY TUNED!!

“THREE AND A HALF MEN” YOUTH OUTREACH IN MANITOWOC!

Three and A Half Men, the 2024 Barbershop Harmony Society International Quartet Champions, will be coming to Manitowoc, WI on International Barbershop Quartet Day, Friday April 11, 2025. They are being hosted by the Clipper City Chordsmen of Manitowoc as a part of their 80th Anniversary Spring Show weekend.

In addition to performing on two shows with the chorus, the quartet will appear at two local high schools as part of the Chordsmen’s ongoing support of music education. The quartet will appear at Roncalli High School from 9:30 - 11:00 AM and at Valders High School from 2:10 - 3:10 PM.

Choral students from all Manitowoc County schools have been invited to one of these two locations to share this opportunity. At each location, the quartet will perform 3-4 songs, will engage with the youth regarding their individual musical journeys, and will then lead some group singing by teaching a couple of tags. As time permits, 1 or 2 ensembles from preselected schools may also perform for the group and receive some coaching from the quartet.

Three and a Half Men formed as a quartet four years ago in Orlando with baritone Tony DeRosa, his son Joseph as tenor, lead singer Josh Szolomayer, and Chris Keough singing bass. Tony DeRosa, Szolomayer, and Keough have all performed with Voices of Liberty and other ensembles at Disney World for a number of years.

Three and a Half Men will appear as a part of the Clipper City Chordsmen 80th Anniversary Spring Show at 7 PM Friday April 11th and at 3 PM on Saturday April 12th at the **Franciscan Center for Music Education and Performance, 6751 Calumet Ave, Manitowoc, WI**

The Chordsmen are excited to be able to host a quartet of this caliber for their 80th anniversary and look forward to sharing their energy and music with area youth.



PASSING ALONG THE HARMONY

The Willmar Chapter, West Central Connection Chorus, held their annual Youth in Harmony event February 1st 2025. We have held this event for over 15 years with a few off for "covid" dating back to 2007. This all started thanks to a legacy gift from our Director Todd Mattison's late father Jerome Mattison who was a founding member of the chorus.

There are a lot of opportunities for today's youth, both in our school systems and outside our school systems. But how many of those things will they be able to do when they are 60, 70, years old. Singing is a lifetime opportunity to bring joy into your life and spread it to others through song and fellowship. We must plant the seed early and help it grow so it can produce more fruit.

On average we have between 30 and 40 young men sign up for our festival. We have kept this open to only young men as we believe that the young men do better and are more open to singing freely with out the girls around. So far this is working as our numbers are still quite strong and none of our student e-vals have asked that the girls be involved in this event. Over the years we have had more

than 500 young men attend this event.

We contact the schools with in a 75 mile radius of Willmar inviting their young men to this free event. The event is free to the students. We provide the music, learning tracks, tee shirt, snacks, pizza diner. We also bring in a clinician and a teaching quartet.

Our day starts at noon and the young men go through some warmups and work on the songs, then break into some sectionals, do some practice on stage, have pizza and preform a free concert for the public at 6:30pm. This is a very fast paced day and goes by in a hurry.

This year's event had 32 young men sign up from 7 different schools. Our clinician was Peter Benson. Peter does a great job with the young men. He is always able to connect with them and offer excellent insights on singing and tuning technics. We are very lucky to have Peter as a friend of our chorus.

Our teaching quartet was First Ave Quartet. They also did a great job in connecting with the young men and it is good for the students to see that young guys really do sing and sing very well. Having a

young teaching quartet is important for this event. The young men can identify with them and know that this is not just an old guy's hobby.

They see that young men can and do enjoy this, so we can too. The day ends with a free concert with the YIH chorus doing a few numbers and West Central Connection Chorus, Sound Image, and First Ave. Quartet doing a short set. Ending with everyone on stage together to do one last song.

None of this could happen without our area music educator's willingness to help their students reach out for different opportunities, and our local school system for letting us use their facility.

We also have to thank our area business's and the LOL District for their donations to this effort. Our goal is to teach young singers how to perform a capella with independence and confidence and grow to love music as much as we do. All in an effort to "Keep America Singing"

Jeff Danielson
Co-Chair 2025 Youth in Harmony
West Central Chorus

LA CROSSE COULEE CHORDSMEN

Changing of the Guards

As of January 1, 2025 our two long time Directors are retiring with over 15 year each of service.

Brian Berg and Eric Sorenson

Both have put in many hours of teaching the art of Barbershop, four-part harmony to our chorus.



Brian Berg



Eric Sorenson

The Chorus wants to thank you, directors, for all your years of hard work. Brian and Eric enjoy singing and will join the chorus in singing and will also be available to help when needed.

Meet Our New Directors

Nathan Peplinski will be our New Director

And

Joseph (Joey) Barnett will be our Assistant Director



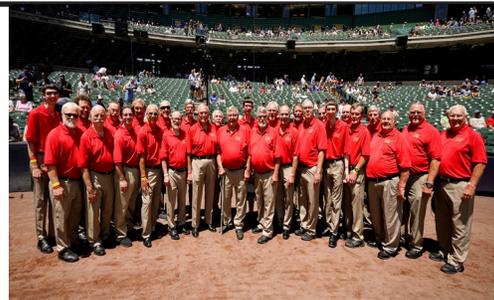
Nate Peplinski

Nate lives in West Salem WI.
He is the Baritone in an Award Winning Quartet "Coulee Classic"
He is also Executive VP of the Land O Lakes District
We welcome Nate to the Chorus with all his talents.



Joey Barnett

Joey lives in Black River Falls WI.
He is the Tenor in one of our chorus quartets "Sound Investment"
He is also an Elementary Music Teacher at Red Creek Elementary
In Black River Falls
We also welcome Joey to the chorus to share all his talents.



La Crosse Coulee Chordsmen

Singing the National Anthem

At the Brewers Game for

La Crosse Day 2024

Since 1947, the Chordsmen have produced annual shows each spring. Every August they perform a show called Harmony Under the Stars (HUTS) at Riverside Park. The HUTS show every summer serves as a benefit performance with voluntary donations given to area charities and service organizations.

Through the years, the Chordsmen chorus and quartets have performed free of charge for audiences in schools, care centers, hospitals, and churches. We also participate in fundraising events in the Coulee Region. The total audience attendance ranges between 7,500 and 10,000 people in a year.



15th Annual Willmar Youth in Harmony Festival

The 15th Annual Willmar Youth in Harmony Festival, hosted by the West Central Connection Chorus, was a resounding success, bringing together young voices and seasoned barbershoppers for an unforgettable day of harmony. Held on February 1, 2025, at Willmar Senior High School, this cherished event introduced 32 high school students to the joy of a cappella singing and the rich traditions of barbershop harmony.



The day was packed with music, learning, and camaraderie, culminating in a free public concert that brought the house down. Over 50 voices filled the stage, including performances by the Youth in Harmony Chorus, directed by Pete Benson, and featured sets from the talented teaching quartets—First Ave. Quartet and Sound Image Quartet.

Their vibrant performances showcased the power of harmony and left a lasting impression on both singers and audience members.

A huge thanks goes to the Land O' Lakes (LOL) Next Gen Barbershop Committee for their generous grant, which helped fund the teaching quartets. This vital support allowed students to learn directly from experienced barbershoppers, gaining insights that will inspire their musical journeys for years to come.

For the West Central Connection Chorus, this festival is more than just an event—it's a tradition and a mission. With over 500 young men having participated since its inception, the Youth in Harmony Festival continues to be a cornerstone of their outreach. As Jeff Danielson from the chorus proudly shared, *"We take great pride in offering young men this opportunity to experience the joy of singing and bringing happiness to others. We are grateful to LOL for their support and look forward to continuing this legacy."*



The excitement doesn't end here! Plans are already underway for next year's festival, and the West Central Connection Chorus invites interested students and educators to join in the fun. For more information or to get involved, contact them at westcentralconnectionchorus@gmail.com.

The future of barbershop harmony is bright, and events like the Willmar Youth in Harmony Festival ensure that the next generation will continue to ring those chords for years to come.



Penny's Burlington High School Sets a New Standard at Midwinter

Penny and her Burlington High School students made history at this year's Midwinter Junior Varsity Chorus Festival by sending a record-breaking three choruses from a single school—a true testament to Penny's passion and leadership. It's no surprise she was honored as the NAFME Music Educator of the Year and the Land O' Lakes (LOL) Golden Chord Award Recipient in 2023!

The three ensembles—*Here Comes Treble* (SSAA), *The Reigning Men* (TTBB), and *Vocamotion* (SATB)—delighted audiences with beautifully selected repertoire that showcased their versatility and artistry. A special highlight this year was their collaboration with Jake Bavarsky, an esteemed arranger, Musicality Candidate Judge, and Music Director of the international qualifying chorus *Prism*. Together, they brought a fresh and playful twist to the beloved classic *Sesame Street's Rubber Duckie*, arranged by Bavarsky exclusively for Penny's ensembles.



The excitement began on their first day, when all three choruses had the privilege of working with Jake in a coaching session that was as inspiring as it was educational. His expert guidance, combined with the enthusiasm of Penny's students, was a shining reminder that the future of barbershop is bright.



The results spoke for themselves—*Here Comes Treble*, *The Reigning Men*, and *Vocamotion* all received outstanding ratings from the judges. It was a proud moment for Penny, her students, and the entire Land O' Lakes District.

This incredible achievement is a reflection of Penny's passion, dedication, and belief in her students. Her work has not only elevated Burlington High School but has also brought honor to our entire district. We are so proud to celebrate Penny and these amazing young singers who represent the future of barbershop harmony.

Looking Ahead: If you know of any high school teachers who would love the opportunity to participate, next year's Midwinter is in Pasadena, California. I'd be happy to get them plugged in and provide more information. They can reach out to me directly. justinla92@hotmail.com





Sirena Quartet's Unforgettable Journey at Midwinter

As a mother, witnessing my daughter Seneca's journey with the Sirena Quartet has been nothing short of incredible. I am beyond thrilled by the experiences she has gained through barbershop, and in conversations with other parents, it's clear that we all share this joy. Barbershop brings a unique camaraderie unlike any other music program my daughter has experienced—it's a true family built on harmony and heart.

Sirena Quartet had the honor of representing the Land O' Lakes District at the Barbershop Harmony Society's Midwinter Convention, competing in the Junior Varsity Quartet Competition. From 38 video submissions, Sirena earned their place among the top 15 quartets, and in January, they proudly placed 8th in a field brimming with talent.



Their

achievement is remarkable, especially considering the challenges they overcame. Unlike many quartets that rehearse together at the same school, these young women come from four different schools across Saskatchewan. Emmie (tenor) attends Bedford Road Collegiate, Seneca (lead) goes to Warman High School, Brynn (baritone) attends Centennial Collegiate, and Oakley (bass) is a Grade 8 student at Lakeview Elementary. Despite their distance, they united through their shared passion for harmony.

The road to Midwinter had its obstacles. Just a month before the convention, they had to welcome Emmie as their new tenor due to unforeseen circumstances. Yet, through resilience and determination, the quartet came together and performed beautifully.



As a parent, my gratitude to the Land O' Lakes District runs deep. From the invaluable coaching at the District Convention to the generous support that helped them reach Midwinter, we are profoundly thankful for the community that made this journey possible. A special thank-you goes to their lead quartet coach, Justin La, whose guidance has been instrumental in their success. Additionally, we are deeply grateful to their external coach and contest song arranger, Jake Bavarsky, for his expert coaching and artistry.



The competition, however, was only part of their joy. The most cherished memories were made during late-night tag singing with new friends and barbershop legends. Meeting and singing with icons like Tony DeRosa, Joseph DeRosa, and Tim Waurick left them inspired and filled with excitement for what lies ahead.

From a proud mother's heart—thank you, Land O' Lakes District, for helping my daughter and her quartet find their voices, their community, and their passion for barbershop. The future of this art form shines bright, and I can't wait to see where their harmony leads them next.

Danielle Santo - Mother and Manager of Sirena Quartet

P.S. We would also like to share a little tag in thanks for all that you do!

Scan the QR Code with your phone or click the link below to watch the special video!

<https://youtu.be/Md1KIdJJIM>





Checkmate in San Antonio (Midwinter Convention)

What a fantastic time we had in San Antonio at the Mid-Winter Convention. Not only was the venue top-notch, but San Antonio had so much to offer, such as The Alamo, the beautiful River Walk, and of course, great barbeque!

If you have never attended a Mid-Winter Convention, it should be on a things-to-do list. Not only did the top quartets from BHS, the reigning Queens of Sweet Adelines, Inc., and The Vocal Majority put on the best performances you will ever hear, but the NextGen Junior quartets and choruses blew us away! And where else would you see a 13 or 14 year-old singing tags with a 70 or 80 year-old. Our future looks very bright!

Our goal is always to represent you to the best of our ability. Although our scores were not what we had hoped for (are they ever? wink), we'd like to say we finished a "distant" second!! Also, a big congratulations to our friends and former Land O' Lakes members, Rhapsody, for their silver place finish with an outstanding performance.

We would like to thank all of you in the Land O' Lakes district for your support and well-wishes leading up to and during the competition. Also, we would like to thank our wives (Ronda, Barb, Nancy, and Meta) for their love and support.

In harmony,

Dave, Harry, Brad, and Jim
Checkmate



Celebrating Music Educators: Call for 2025 Golden Chord Award Nominations

Music educators are the heart and soul of our barbershop community, igniting a passion for harmony and shaping the next generation of singers. The Land O' Lakes District proudly recognizes these remarkable educators through the Golden Chord Award – Music Educator of the Year, honoring those who inspire, uplift, and empower their students through vocal music.

In 2023, we celebrated Penny for her extraordinary contributions—her record-setting three choruses at the Midwinter Junior Varsity Chorus Festival reflected her dedication and artistry. However, in 2024, we were without a nominee. Let's change that in 2025 by spotlighting the many music educators across our district who inspire students every day.

The Golden Chord Award:

More Than Just Recognition

This prestigious award celebrates middle and secondary-level music educators who instill the virtues of singing, teamwork, and joy in their students. Candidates may be current or retired educators and should demonstrate a strong impact within their school and community.

Nominate an Educator Today!

We need your help to find outstanding educators who go above and beyond to share the joy of singing. Share their stories through anecdotes, videos, and testimonials from students, families, and colleagues.

•Nomination Form (use the link or scan the qr code): <https://forms.gle/7pMHu9yYqLcUsH4G7>

•Submit to: Justin La, YIH Chair, at justinla92@hotmail.com

Award Presentation and Prizes:

The award will be presented at the recipient's school's Spring Music Concert and at the Fall District Convention. The winner will receive a Golden Chord Award plaque and a minimum \$500 contribution to their school's music program (or a program of their choice if retired).

Help Us Honor the Best in 2025

Our district is full of inspiring educators—let's ensure their efforts are recognized. If you know a music educator who has made a lasting impact, submit your nomination today and help us celebrate their commitment to music and community. Together, let's make 2025 a year to remember for the exceptional educators shaping the future of barbershop harmony.

Justin La

Chairman, Next Gen Committee Land O' Lakes District

(306) 920-0212





Rockin Harmony

Presented By:

The Mankato Riverblenders



Saturday April 26th 2025

at 1 P.M.

Hosanna Lutheran Church, Mankato



Featuring:
First Ave Quartet

Adult Tickets \$15 Student \$5

at Cub Foods and Hilltop HyVee in Mankato &
Nutter Clothing in St. Peter





**NORTHERN
LIGHTS
CHORUS**

**50 YEARS
OF
NORTHERN LIGHTS HARMONY:
The Return of A Capella Man**



With special guests:

- **River Rhapsody**
- **Mixed Nuts**

Quartet

Free concert for the public
(free will donations happily accepted)

**2 p.m., April 5
Trinity Lutheran
Church
502 N. 4th St.
Bismarck, ND**





Croix College Glee Club Reunion

1 DAY

2 GREAT SHOWS



 **CROIX CHORDSMEN**

SPECIAL GUEST
Vocality Quartet

Spring Show

Saturday | April 26, 2025 | 3pm | \$15.00

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

Cabaret Show



GRAND BANQUET HALL

301 2nd Street So, Stillwater, MN 55082

Pizza Provided & Cash Bar

Sat. April 26th | 5pm (approx.) | \$15.00

SPECIAL GUEST: Vocality Quartet (2007 L'OL District Quartet Champions)

www.croixchordsmen.org GET TICKETS (651) 202-6056



Presenting the Chordsmen's 80th Annual Spring Show

Over the Sea

Friday, April 11, 7pm
& Saturday, April 12, 3pm

Franciscan Center for Music Education
and Performance, 6751 Calumet Ave., Manitowoc



The Clipper City Chordsmen & Chapter Quartet



3 & 1/2 Men Quartet



TICKET INFORMATION

GENERAL ADMISSION: Adult - \$20 • Students 18 & Under - \$10

Tickets available thru Eventbrite.com, at Fricke Printing, Manitowoc,
through a Chordsmen Member,
by calling 920-973-SING (7464), or on our website:
clippercitechordsmen.org/annual-spring-show

Scan QR Code
to order tickets
on Eventbrite



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We'll Find A Way!

Guest Performer Sponsor

2015



The Greendale Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society Presents

the power of MUSIC



This event is made possible courtesy of an AIC outreach grant by Harmony Foundation International on behalf of the Association of International Champions

Performers include:

Choral students from
ARROWHEAD HIGH SCHOOL
and
BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Saturday, April 12th

6:00 pm – Pre-Show Reception

7:00 pm – Show Begins

Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts

3270 Mitchell Park Drive, Brookfield, Wisconsin

\$20 General Admission

\$25 Preferred Seating

Contact any Greendale member for tickets or purchase online at

mve.org



Forward Harmony Chorus



Midwest Vocal Express



Featuring special guests:

SIGNATURE QUARTET

2019 Barbershop Harmony Society International Quartet Champions





Dunn County Barbershoppers Proudly Present....

54th Annual Harmony Show



How The West Was Sung!



Saturday, April 12, 2025 7:00 P.M.



Martin Anderson Gymnasium, 601 University Ave, Colfax WI



Kordal Kombat Quartet

LOL District and Collegiate Champions



Vocality

LOL District Champions



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Entertainment by...
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Laughs!**

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**High
Energy!**



Afterglow at
the Whitetail
Golf Course



Wheelchair Accessible

Ticket Information can be found at [our facebook page:](#)

Dunn County Barbershop Harmony Singers





West Central Connection Chorus

MAGIC IN HARMONY

A special collection of modern Disney favorites

Special Guests:

Gimme Four

2024 International 3rd
place Bronze Medalists



Sound Image



The Rolling Tones



Saturday April 5, 2025 – 7 PM

WEAC Auditorium 611 6th St SW Willmar, MN



Tickets on sale at Cash Wise, Walt's
Car Wash, Lu Lu Beans, any chorus
member, QR code, or (320) 220-2482





HARMONY COLLEGE MIDWEST 2025

Featuring: 2018 International Champions
AFTER HOURS



Head Clinician:
Patrick McAlexander

Guest Quartet Lead:
Eric Dalbey



Educational Classes, HCM Chorus, Quartet Coaching, and more!

Date: March 21-22nd, 2025

Location: Doubletree by Hilton, 10 Brickyard Dr, Bloomington, IL 61701

Follow us on Facebook for additional event updates!





Paul Herzog Remembrance

February 13, 1933 to December 30, 2024.

Paul Herzog was originally a member of the Tri-Town Chapter, which became the Greendale Chapter of the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. (Village Showmen Chorus) where he won a BOTY award. He became part of the Milwaukee Chapter when Greendale and Milwaukee merged in 1984. He sang in the Festival City Chorus well into his 80s.

Paul was well known for his handyman skills, and was responsible for designing and constructing many sets for chapter shows.

He was seldom without a big smile on his face and a wisecrack or two.

He mostly sang bass, but would often migrate to the lead or tenor note if he liked that one better. When we were woodshedding, he loved to sing the lead part, which could be a struggle for whoever was singing bass, because Paul would pitch the lead part down where he was comfortable. The tenor would never complain, though !

Paul was from Illinois, where he worked as an installer for the telephone company. In his later years, he did handyman work for anyone who needed it, at reasonable prices. Many of us in the Chapter made use of his services. There was almost no job he wouldn't tackle.

CONTEST CORNER

with James Estes, DVP for Contest and Judging

Gearing up for spring show season, Land O' Lakes?? This seems like the ideal opportunity to remind you that one of the primary purposes of the entire contest system is to build skills that will help improve our performances year-round, not JUST at the Airport Hilton once a year.



As we are buckling down to get ready to share our gifts with audiences, remember that the district has a partnership with the ADC to send **FREE COACHES** to your chapter! Not everything has to revolve around contest, and coaches can help you sing with more ease, perform with more freedom, and connect with audiences more authentically. I mean, that sounds like what we're after, right??

AND the ADC has **scholarships available** year-round for quartet schools like HCM or Harmony University, and individuals are considered as well. See www.loldistrict.com and www.loladc.com

-James




Lakefront Quartet
Max, Dylan, Derek & Brian

Call/Text: 414-708-3573

Follow us!
lakefront_qt





Jeff Paul
Ken Ryan

(701) 799-8665
ransomnotes@myyahoo.com Facebook: Ransom Notes Quartet



JAY TONY BEN TOM

classic a cappella sound

www.vocalityquartet.com 651-206-2686

CHORD SMASH!

Sam Sather, Erik Eliason, James Estes, Scott Perau

info@chordsmash.com
715-461-0318



CHECKMATE

A Winning Combination of Music in the Barbershop Style!

Contact: Harry Hanson 2020 Grange Ave. Racine WI
Phone: 262-498-0314 Email: checkmatequartet96@gmail.com
Facebook.com/CheckmateQuartet96



Allen
Colin
Matt
Nate



Facebook: Coulee Classic Quartet

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

Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/LOLDistrictBHS



Calendar

Please send show registrations to:
District Secretary Tyler T. Hall
603 6th St NE
Mandan, ND 58554
Cell 701-213-7636
secretary@loldistrict.org

2025

-  **April**
- 3,4,5 Fergus Falls, Detroit Lakes, Pelican Rapids
- 5 Bismarck-Mandan, ND - River Rhapsody, Mixed Nuts
- 5 Willmar, MN - Gimme Four, Sound Image, Rolling Tones
-  11-12 Manitowoc, WI - Three and a Half Men
- 12 Dunn County (Colfax, WI) - Kordal Kombat, Vocality
- 12 Brookfield, WI - Greendale Chapter show MVE and FH - Signature
-  26 Appleton, WI - Gimme Four
- 26 Mankato, MN - First Ave
- 26 St. Cloud, MN - Kordal Kombat
- 26 St. Croix Valley, MN - Vocality

April (cont.)

27 Lacrosse, WI - Coulee Classic

May

- 17 Wisconsin Youth Quartet Festival - Stevens Point, WI
- 17 Oshkosh, WI - Checkmate, Thrift Store Four, FH
- 31 West Region Spring Sing - Valley City, ND

June/July

28-July6 International Convention - Denver, CO

September

30 Stevens Point, WI

October

- 4 Amery, WI (Polk County) - Coulee Classic, Just One More!!
- 10-11 District Convention = Bloomington, MN

December

6 Oshkosh, WI

