

# The Pitch Piper

76 YEARS OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY

OVER 714,089 SQUARE MILES

Volume 77, Number 4

A Bulletin for Barbershoppers in the LO'L District

September-October 2024

## LAND O' LAKES FAMILY REUNION 2024!!



**LO'L District Quartet Champions - Spice!**



**LO'L District Chorus Champions - Forward Harmony!**



**International Qualifiers**

Coulee Classic & First Ave  
LO'L international  
qualifiers!



**LOL Lifetime Achievement**

Carl Grahn and Chuck  
Schubbe (posthumous)  
the 2024 LO'L District Joe  
Liles Lifetime Achievement  
Award Winners.



**LOL Barbershopper  
of the year**

Jim Rasmus the 2024 LO'L  
district Barbershopper of  
the year!



## Pitch Piper

The *Pitch Piper* is published bi-monthly by the Land O' Lakes District Association of Chapters of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

Land O' Lakes Chapters are situated in the states of Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and the Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario.

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### Land O' Lakes District – State of The District

October 11, 2024



Throughout 2024 we have seen stabilization of the membership in our singing community, and several of our groups are beginning to grow again.

- Here we are again! What Jay called last year our “Family Reunion”. Well more than 500 of our friends and family are here to enjoy the music, the good times, and especially each other’s company.

- Your district leadership meets virtually or in person at least ten months each year. This is on top of smaller committee and work group tasks that do all things great and small and allow us all to enjoy

our hobby. Many have served for years in various capacities, and some are newer to the game, but I believe we owe them all our sincere gratitude for their time and talent.

- The District remains in very solid financial shape. The balance sheet remains strong, meaning our funding to invest in our chapters as well as all contingency funding are in rock solid shape. This continues to be influenced positively by direct charitable contribution.

- Last year, our district membership was around 930 people. As of BHS official accounting ending 9/30, the LOL membership rolls had grown to 947 people. Kind of cool, huh? What would we look like getting ourselves back over 1000 by the end of 2025? How many



more positively impacted lives, new talents discovered, workload spread out more, and all the other great things that comes with growth could that afford us? We know also that our chapters have 10-15% more singers that are participating without benefit of membership. Jay is spearheading a lot of work to show the value in membership, and different ways of approaching it. We continue to want to hold those close who love our harmony and not run them off, and work to embrace them within our structure rather than from afar.

- Our District Grants program has continued to actively help our chapters get music to the people. Such diverse things as website and PR funding to bringing LOL district champs to shows our ears remain open to your requests. We are not in a white-hot hurry to just spend money, but this will be the second year running that we have budgeted more for grants than what has been requested or given back. Details are on our LOL Website.

- Jim Rasmus has done a bang-up job with our regional VPs in getting our arms around what is actually going on in our chapters and more importantly, what is needed to attain success in whatever way your singing community defines that success. Please actively embrace Mike Ziegler and Justin McCullough as they reach out to your chapters. They are asking the questions out of a place of helpfulness, not nosiness or judgment. Let us know how you can best be helped.

- Finally, BHS is wisely trying to use the vast

underutilized volunteer network native to our world. There are current opportunities for such things as ambassadors who can be sounding boards and answer centers at conventions like these. They will be versed in knowing what is happening at the International level and able to carry messages both ways – from and to BHS – in a more direct fashion than before.

They are also looking for volunteers to pick up some off hours call center time. There is work being done that I am a part of investigating what our Barbershop “Brand” is, and a short-term work group to explore that is being seated soon... And as will be mentioned here in a moment, entire chapters are being asked to volunteer to explore differing means of serving the members by charging for those things seen of value and precious little else.

This means that there are opportunities to become involved in great and small ways, regardless of where you live, size of chapter or whatever. Please raise your hands when you hear of these projects and we will work to find you the best avenue to use your talents and time.

This has been a year of stretching, learning and growing for us all. It is a sincere pleasure for me that you trust the leadership of this great board to move us even more forward. Especially in the LO'L, It is great to be a barbershopper!

Sincerely,  
Mike Lietke, President, Land O' Lakes District

## **LEADERSHIP WITH LARRY**

The quality of a leader is reflected in the standards they set for themselves.



## **CHAPTER SUPPORT REPORT**

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



### **I'M HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THE *LO'L GRANTS AND PROGRAMS* WILL CONTINUE IN 2025!**

- **Chapter Show Grants** support up to **\$750** for District Quartets to perform at your show.
- **Chapter Development Grants** provide up to **\$1,000** to help you promote your Chapter in your community through advertising or public relations or provide resources for creative projects to help your Chorus in your musical development.

(One intriguing grant is funding a consultant who specializes in non-profit organizations to assist them to engage more senior men in their chorus!) Stay tuned for those results.

Larry Lewis and I have now completed three **Visioning Retreats**, which engage Chapters in a three-hour conversation to develop goals to move their Chapter forward. Though we can't take credit, we noted the Stevens Point Chapter (our first retreat participant) just received recognition as the Most Improved Chorus at District Convention....

Although I hate bringing it up, we need to face the facts: 10 LOL Chapters have folded since the Pandemic and 2 Chapters will cease singing by the end of 2024. Our research tells us up to 9 additional Chapters may not survive to see 2026.... It is our hope that our efforts will help struggling Chapters to grow and develop. Let us know how we can help!

Check out the LOL website: <https://loldistrict.org/chapter-development> where you'll find resources to guide you in your Chapter Development efforts – e.g., Guest Welcome Process, Christmas Show Chorus and the Learn to Sing Better program, Chapter/Chorus Evaluation Surveys, Greeters-Riser Buddies.... We continue to add more ideas and programs from around the LOL and BHS. **Please reach out to me if you have ideas to share or questions we can explore together!**

Finally, I urge you to attend the **Leadership Training Academy, January 10-11!** Larry and I will lead conversations on “Successful Visioning For Your Chapter” and “Reaching Out to New Members.” I will again teach the *Membership/Chapter Development VP class*.

**If you or anyone you know would like to receive the *Pitch Piper* in good old-fashioned print form, contact any board member or email [pitchpiper@loldistrict.org](mailto:pitchpiper@loldistrict.org)**



## 2025 LOL LEADERSHIP TRAINING ACADEMY (LTA)

**JANUARY 10 & 11, 2025**

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - RIVER FALLS**

- Reasonable rates for LTA at two local hotels (Radisson and Country Inn)
- Tuition: \$75 for LOL singers & \$90 for those outside the LOL District  
(Includes: 2 meals on Friday & 2 meals on Saturday)

### **EDUCATIONAL & FUN CLASSES FOR EVERY BARBERSHOPPER**

- New ideas from experts, Amy Rose, Donny Rose (HFI) & Steve Scott (BHS)
- Friday night session on “The Barbershop Belt” with Sarah Wigley (Associate Professor of Voice at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana)
- Saturday morning core classes for Chapter Officers & Directors, plus “Barbershop Smorgasbord” activities for everyone else
- A variety of additional classes led by fellow LOL barbershoppers

### **A SAMPLE OF ELECTIVE CLASS TOPICS**

- **Learning Better Singing & Performance Techniques**
  - Develop Your Awareness of the Tonal Center
  - Basic Vocal Pedagogy
  - You’ve Been Singing Barbershop Incorrectly?
  - Performance 101: What They Are Looking For
  - Swing Concepts for Barbershoppers
  - Warmups & Vocal Technique
- **Improving Communication & Supporting Our Members**
  - Staying Connected: How Technology Improves Chorus Culture
  - Unlock the Power of Communication - Lead, Inspire and Engage
  - Reaching Out to New Members
  - Supporting Senior Singers
  - The Truth About Social Media
  - Successful Visioning for Your Chapter
  - Lost Singers – What You Can Do About It



### **REGISTRATION**

- Check with your chapter President or Secretary
- Go to the District website: [www.loldistrict.org](http://www.loldistrict.org)
- Email **Brian Schultz** at [SchultzBrian.LTA@gmail.com](mailto:SchultzBrian.LTA@gmail.com)



# LTA Student Schedule

11:30 – 12:20 pm - Lunch – Riverside Commons

CLASS # CLASS TITLE INSTRUCTOR ROOM

## Friday Jan 10, 2025

12:30 – 1:50 pm - 80 Minutes classes

10101	You've Been Singing Wrong This Whole Time		
	Steve Scott		
10102	Directing 101: For The Novice	Scott Perau	
10103	Swing Concepts for Barbershoppers	Donny Rose	
10104	Reaching Out To New Members	Jim Rasmus/L Lewis	
10105	A NextGen Playbook	Justin La/Jay Fahl	
10106	How to Grab An Audience/Show Themes	Bill Fricke	

## Friday Jan 10, 2025

2:05 - 3:25 pm - 80 Minute Classes

10201	Lost Singers - What You Can Do About It	Steve Scott	
10202	Basic Vocal Pedagogy	Scott Perau	
10203	Rehearsal Techniques for Chorus Members	Donny Rose	
10204	The Barbershop Paradox	Nate Peplinski	
10205	Ways to Improve Internal Communication	Tyler Hall	
10206	How to Breathe Life Into Chapter Meetings	Bill Fricke	

## Friday Jan 10, 2025

3:40 - 5:00 pm - 80 Minute Classes

10301	Supporting Senior Singers	Steve Scott/Jay Althof	
10302	Warmups & Vocal Technique	Scott Perau	
10303	Develop Your Awareness of the Tonal Center	Donny Rose	
10304	Successful Visioning For Your Chapter	Jim Rasmus/L Lewis	
10305	Communicating With Younger & Older Adults	Justin La	
10306	Performance 101: What are they looking for?	Tim Milbrandt/M. Lietke	

## Friday Jan 10, 2025

5:00 – 5:50 pm – Dinner – Riverside Commons

## Friday Jan 10, 2025

6:00 - 8:15 pm General Session & Mass Sing – Kinnic Theater

The Barbershop Belt Sarah Wigley Zoom

## Saturday Jan 11, 2025

7:30 - 8:15 am Breakfast – Riverside Commons

CLASS # CLASS TITLE INSTRUCTOR ROOM

## Saturday Jan 11, 2025

8:30 – 11:45 noon – Office Specific Core Classes

20101	President	Jay Althof	
20102	Secretary	Tyler Hall	
20103	Treasurer	Matt Nagel/B. Schultz	
20104	Membership/Chapter Development VP	Jim Rasmus	
20105	Music & Performance VP	Donny Rose	
20106	Chorus Directors/Ass't Directors	Scott Perau	
20107	Barbershop Smorgasbord	Steve Scott/N Peplinski	

## Saturday Jan 11, 2025

11:45 noon - 12:30 pm Lunch – Riverside Commons

## Saturday Jan 11, 2025

12:45 – 2:05 pm – 80 Minute Classes

20201	Lost Singers - What You Can Do About It	Steve Scott	
20202	Rehearsal Techniques for Chorus Members	Donny Rose	
20203	Warmups and Vocal Techniques	Scott Perau	
20204	Ways to Improve Internal Communication	Tyler Hall	
20205	How To Breathe Life Into Chapter Meetings	Bill Fricke	
20206	Reaching Out To New Members	Jim Rasmus/L Lewis	
20207	A NextGen Playbook	Justin La/Jay Fahl	

## Saturday Jan 11, 2025

2:20 – 3:40 pm – 80 Minute Classes

20301	Supporting Senior Singers	Steve Scott/Jay Althof	
20302	Chorus Repertoire: Share Session	Scott Perau	
20303	Swing Concepts for Barbershoppers	Donny Rose	
20304	Successful Visioning For Your Chapter	Jim Rasmus/L Lewis	
20305	Communicating With Younger & Older Adults	Justin La	
20306	How to Grab An Audience/Show Themes	Bill Fricke	
20307	Performance 101: What are they looking for?	Tim Milbrandt/M. Lietke	

## Saturday Jan 11, 2025

3:45 - 4:00 pm Closing Session – Kinnic Theater

Drive Home Safely!



**NEXT**  
GENERATION  
BARBERSHOP

# 2025 Youth in Harmony Festival

[www.nextgenwi.org](http://www.nextgenwi.org)

**100% PURE A CAPPELLA. NO TRACKS. NO AUTOTUNE. NO INSTRUMENTS.**

Youth In Harmony Festival of Western WI is a one day Festival held in January for young men and women grades 6 through college. We sing in the Barbershop style and introduce the kids to close 4 part harmony.

**INCLUDES** Shirt, Lunch, Snack, Music & Learning Tracks

## Free Public Concert at 4:30pm

Cost \$15.00 | Saturday - January 25, 2025 | Amery Wisconsin High School

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN (Individuals and Groups Welcome)**

GUEST CLINICIANS



**Jay Althof** - Jay has been singing barbershop harmony his whole life and has been a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society for 39 years. He is currently the Artistic Director for the Croix Chordsmen from Stillwater, MN and loves sharing his experience and talents with such a fun group of men.

Many of you will recognize Jay as the tenor of Vocality, a Land O' Lake District champion and Hall of Fame quartet [www.vocalityquartet.com](http://www.vocalityquartet.com). Jay recently completed three years as President of the Land O' Lakes District and received the Barbershopper Of The Year Award for 2023.



**Brandon Galbraith** - Brandon graduated from U of M Twin Cities with a degree in music education. In addition to the Vallee de Croix Sweet Adelines he also directs two choruses in the Barbershop Harmony Society; the North Star Chorus, from Saint Paul, MN and International Medalist Chorus, the Great Northern Union.

He sings lead/baritone with his quartet Mixed Meter. Brandon has previously directed the annual NW Wisconsin Youth in Harmony Festival which attracts over 100 youths interested in singing. In addition to his barbershop singing, Brandon sings at Hamline Church United Methodist in St. Paul as a tenor section leader and works producing learning tracks for area groups.



**Upbeat Quartet** - Upbeat is an award winning a capella quartet from the Twin Cities. Their members are Karla Kalway (tenor), Val Salley (lead), Bonnie Plumley (baritone), and JoAnn Flanagan (bass).

They are all members of the City of Lakes Chorus of Sweet Adelines International and are the 2022 Northern Lights Region 6 Bonze medalists. Mostly, they are four great friends who love the opportunity to sing together and share their harmonies with you!



[www.nextgenwi.org](http://www.nextgenwi.org) (651) 202-6056



## Land O' Lakes 2024 Fall Convention, October 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

Thanks to everyone who got on-board the LO'L Harmony Express and participated at our 2024 Fall Convention! There were about 800 people who enjoyed the camaraderie, performances, contests and fun that make up our convention.

We started the convention early Friday morning with free quartet coaching and the performances by those quartets early in the afternoon. Our House of Delegates and our District Board met and elected next year's board of directors Friday afternoon. In addition, the Association of District Champs met, BHS Sponsored a Listening Session and the All-Chapter Chorus rehearsed. Then, starting at 5:00 PM we enjoyed the first round of the quartet competition that included 28 quartets. We then announced our 2024 Barbershopper Of The Year, Jim Rasmus. After announcing the 10 quartets that advanced to the finals round, the judges and other quartets held feedback sessions late into the evening.

Saturday started at 9:00 AM with the chorus competition that included 17 choruses. Right after lunch we had the quartet finals round. We then inducted our 2024 Hall of Fame recipients, Dave Sylte, Dave Speidel and Gordon Billows. And then announced all of our competition winners. A special congratulations to Spice, our District Quartet Champion, Forward Harmony, our District Chorus Champion, Northwoods, our District Seniors Quartet Champion and Late Nite, our District Novice Quartet Champion. In addition, both Coulee Classic and First Ave qualified for the International Quartet Competition and Checkmate qualified for the International Seniors Quartet Competition.

Following the competitions our attendees enjoyed an afternoon of tag-singing, Polecats and just being with friends, old and new. Then at 6:30 PM about 350 of us enjoyed a banquet and another 100 joined us for the Showcase performances. The All-Chapter chorus

kicked off the show, followed by 11 quartets and we wrapped up the Showcase with the Association of District Champions chorus. We also announced the Joe Liles Lifetime Achievement Award winners for 2024: Carl Grahn and Chuck Schubbe (posthumously).

The Hospitality rooms started about 9:30 PM with about 300 people gathering to sing and also hear more performances by our quartets. And sometime in the wee hours of the morning the last of us went to bed and our convention concluded.

As you can imagine, there is a tremendous amount of time and effort required to plan and deliver our conventions. Following is a list of those who helped plan and also worked behind the scenes during the convention. And there were many more who helped with specific tasks during the convention. A huge thank you to all of those people!

- Website/On-line Registration: Todd Smith
- On-site Registration/Ticket Desk: Carl & Diana Pinard
- Treasurer: Jack Edgerton
- Stage Sound & Lights : Roger Fette
- Stage Manager: Walt Ogburn
- Contest/Judging: James Estes
- Convention Printing (and mentoring): Arv Zenk
- Contestant Picture and Video coordination: Justin McCullough
- All Chapter Chorus Chair: Steve Zorn
- Quartet Coaching Chair: Tim Milbrandt
- Fun Squad Chair: Steve Grady
- NextGen Coordinator: Justin La

And now, we are starting to plan for our 2025 Convention! We received excellent feedback from our post-convention survey and are already working to make small improvements to what was a successful event. It truly is Great To Be A Barbershopper!

Jay Althof, VP of Events & Convention Chair, LO'L District



## Vocality 3.0

As many of you have learned, we have a change happening with Vocality. Our bass, David Boyd and his wife, Jane, have retired and moved to South Carolina. After 18 years of singing with David, we miss him and at the same time know that he and Jane will enjoy the warmer climate!

At the Fall Convention, during the Showcase performance, we had the opportunity to share the three versions of Vocality. Vocality's first rehearsal was in January of 2007 with Tony, Bob, David and Jay. Four years later, after winning the District Quartet Championship, being in the Top 20 at the International competition and recording an album, Bob stepped down from Vocality 1.0 due to work related conflicts. We were very fortunate to have Tom Matchinsky join us and for the last 14 years we have been Vocality 2.0.

More trips to the International Compe-

tion, Harmony Sweepstakes, 4 more albums, induction to the LO'L District Hall of Fame, many, many shows and now David moved. Once again, we are very fortunate to have another excellent musician, Ben John, join us as we become Vocality 3.0.

Ben has already learned many of the songs in our repertoire and we are also working on new charts. We are very thankful for all the years we have had together and are excited about what the future holds for Vocality. We hope to perform for many of you on your chapter shows in the future!



Thanks, from all of us in Vocality, past and present!

Ben, Jay, David, Tony, Tom, and Bob

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:Juddorff3108@msn.com) or text 651-262-9843



# Land O' Lakes Convention Friday, Oct. 11 Quartet Contest

(in order of appearance)



Ear Doctors

Late Expectations

Joyful Blend



Casserole Crusaders

Wind Chill

Rhapsody



Cinematix

Loose Change

Lakefront



Checkmate

By Request Quartet



Northwoods

**Spice**  
2024 Land O' Lakes  
QUARTET  
CHAMPIONS



Just One More!!



Mixed Meter

Ransom Notes

Whistle Junction



Fifth Quarter

Thrift Store Four

Forward Fusion



Double Dutch

Late Nite

CHORD SMASH!



Fourwarned

First Ave \*int'l qualifier

House of Chords



GrandPaPa and the Kids

Coulee Classic \*int'l qualifier



# 2024 Land O' Lakes Chorus Contest Saturday, Oct. 12

(in order of appearance)



Great Plains Harmony - Fargo/Moorhead



Great Northern Union - Hilltop, MN



Northern Gateway Chorus - Stevens Point, WI



## 2024 Land O' Lakes Chorus Champions *Forward Harmony*

Greendale, WI



Fox Valleyaires - Appleton, WI



Northern Lights - Dunn County, WI



MCX - Minneapolis, MN



Clipper City Chordsmen - Manitowoc, WI



Capitol Chordsmen - Madison, WI



River City Sound - Winnipeg, MB



Coulee Chordsmen - La Crosse, WI



The Riverblenders Chorus - Mankato, MN



North Star Chorus - Greater St. Paul, MN



Commodores - Minneapolis, MN



Midwest Vocal Express - Greendale, WI



Bear - Woods, LO'L



Lakelanders Chorus - Faribault, MN



Croix Chordsmen - St. Croix Valley, MN

Plateau AAA Champion: Forward Harmony  
Plateau AA Champion: Great Plains Harmony  
Plateau A Champion: Lakelanders Chorus

2024 HOF: Dave Sylte, Dave Speidel, Gordon Billows  
2024 BOTY: Jim Rasmus  
2024 JLLTAA: Carl Grahn, Chuck Schubbe (posth.)



# CONVENTION SHOWCASE SHOW!!





## **Northern Pines Harmony Brigade Alert!**

Submitted by (HOF) David Speidel, NPHB President

Our team is working hard to get all of the pieces in place so you can register in early December for the 2025 Rally being held at the Crowne Plaza Conference Center in Plymouth, MN. The dates are May 2nd through May 4th. We will have 10 great musical selections to wet your whistle and all of the usual fun stuff that makes the weekend a quartetting experience bonanza. If you choose to come early, you can participate in one of the highlights of the weekend which is our journey on a chartered bus to 3 or 4 high school music programs to promote our musical art form and to enjoy performances by these great choral programs. The past 2 years Donny Rose has accompanied us and we expect that he'll be there again in 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](http://nphb.org) and sign up for the time of your life!

### **Technology Helps Drive a Successful District Convention**

-Justin McCullough, West Region VP and District Innovation & Technology Chair

What a fantastic event we had in October! With 800 attendees, 28 quartets, and 17 choruses, everyone had a blast!

Our events team, led by Jay Althof, is dedicated to improving the experience year after year. Technology plays a key role in this ongoing effort. One area we're focused on is enhancing our media. We've upgraded our sound and lighting and made significant changes to how we capture performances on video. This includes using higher-quality cameras with multiple angles and integrating our video direction with the sound system for superior audio recordings.

To achieve this, we brought in Johnathon Purvis, a fellow barbershopper with extensive experience recording barbershop performances, including the Wisconsin Youth Festival. While we encountered a few minor delays in getting the videos out to performers, we ultimately delivered them successfully and received positive feedback. We're committed to further enhancing video quality and

exploring new services like individual audio recordings and, if possible, webcasting.

We're also improving our photography. We commissioned Todd Mueller, another talented barbershopper, to capture contest pictures, and the results are a significant improvement over previous years. We're already discussing how to elevate the quality even further.

A huge thank you to both Todd and Johnathon for their hard work, not just during the convention, but in the weeks following, diligently editing pictures and videos to ensure top-notch quality.

Finally, we've made strides in improving our website and contest registration process. Todd Smith has dedicated countless hours to keeping our website current and streamlining online registration. Todd is fantastic to work with, always fulfilling requests promptly and offering valuable suggestions for improvement. Thank you, Todd!

If you have a chance, please express your gratitude to these incredible men for their dedication and countless volunteer hours. They truly deserve it!

-Justin



## unlabeled editor's notes

- Wanna hear a great word I made up? I call it “plagiarism.”
- If you think someone would be deserving of a feature in this publication, contact [pitchpiper@loldistrict.org](mailto:pitchpiper@loldistrict.org) or Tim Milbrandt at [tjmilbrandt@gmail.com](mailto:tjmilbrandt@gmail.com).
- I think the cat is sick. At the very least it's not feline well.
- 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.
- What do you get when you cross a pig and a dinosaur? Jurassic Pork.
- If you need learning tracks, check out [www.choraltracks.com](http://www.choraltracks.com). They're super cheap and high quality and I do a ton of this composition, editing, and formatting during work time. Don't tell Matt.
- Colin is quitting his job as a physical trainer. He just handed in his too weak notice.
- *Look for more on the 2024 District award winners in the next issue!*
- The CB code for a “bathroom break” is 10-100. There. Now that's something you know.
- The definition of perfect pitch is “the sound made when the accordion lands squarely on top of the banjo in the dumpster.”

## Hello Barbershoppers!

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

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

A few years ago, Society updated policy and now ALL shows, even freewill shows need a show clearance form and payment of fees.

*In Harmony,*  
Robert Brey  
Land O' Lakes District Secretary

**Ed Selissen** passed away peacefully in Green Bay on October 3, 2024 at the age of 94. He was a 67 year member of the Barbershop Harmony Society and directed the Green Bay Baylanders chorus for almost **60 years**. He was active in quartets throughout his life, spreading laughter through northeast Wisconsin

and winning the LOL District championship with his **Four Clips** quartet. He was Mr. Barbershop in Green Bay and his influence will be remembered for years for his entertaining presence throughout the area.

- Paul Blair, President,  
Baylanders Chorus  
Green Bay, WI

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

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



# Choral Tracks

Practice Made Simple



## Great Plains Harmony - Fargo - Fun in Just One Lifetime

(Gordon Billows)



On Saturday, Nov. 2, six of us from Winnipeg attended Fargo's 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary show (Art & Linda Gross, Charlie Siegel, Ferryl Caselman, Gordon & Paula Billows). For this special event, Fargo extended an invitation to other LOL Chapter members and men from around their community to join the Fargo chorus for the "Festival Chorus" finale. This included three songs – *Breakin' Up is Hard to Do*, *Feelin' Fine*, and *Fun in Just One Lifetime* (with Coulee Classic). Music tracks and sheet music was emailed a month ago and guests were able to have their music on stage, if necessary.



About 65 men, from near and far, young and old, met on Saturday morning and had section rehearsals that focused on vocal production and the synchronization of all sections. The show went very well with a good variety of chorus songs and guest quartets – **Coulee Classic**, Double Dutch and Fallcreek. The "Festival Chorus" really added to this 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary show! Fargo's "Festival Chorus" show model will be promoted throughout the District! A great success!

The "afterglow" started with a CanAm quartet (Art, Gordon, Gord Moe (main show organizer) and Christopher (a community member). Following that were a few Chapter quartets, a Bismarck VLQ & quartet, Fallcreek, Fargo's "tag master", a 15-person mixed university vocal jazz ensemble and the show headliners **Coulee Classic**.

In my opinion, no Barbershop event is ever complete if there is not a "sing-a-long". That is why Pole Cat 1 and 2 songs are so very important. I went over to three "older" members, early in the evening, and asked if they wanted to sing a few Pole Cats. They commented that unfortunately their chorus does not spend time learning them, but welcomed the opportunity. Later in the evening, I went over to a group of men around Coulee Classic and asked if they wanted to sing a few Pole Cats together. Many of us were from other chapters and a few from the community and were not familiar with each other's repertoire. Forty-five minutes later, about 20 of us had sung through most of the Pole Cat 1 songs and three of the Pole Cat 2 songs. Interesting - several of the very young singers got their phones out, found the Pole Cat songs and sang their voice parts. **Welcome to Barbershopping!**



# Seven Habits of Highly Effective People

Nate Peplinski, Executive Vice President



Dr. Stephen Covey penned one of the most influential leadership books of the Twentieth century. Here is a brief recap of his famous list:

**1. Be Proactive**

- Make your behavior a function of your decisions, instead of a function of conditions.

**2. Begin with the End in Mind**

- Never lose sight of the target. Build the appropriate foundations to get where you're going.

**3. Put First Things First**

- "Major on the majors." Put the big rocks in the jar first. High-percentage budget numbers are the biggest opportunity for analysis. Keep priorities in order.

**4. Think Win/Win**

- In Win/Lose approaches, everyone loses.

**5. Seek First to Understand, Then be Understood**

- No one was ever convinced by someone whom that person thought wouldn't be willing to be convinced otherwise themselves. If you want to *influence*, you first have to *listen*. And listen to *understand*, not to *win an argument*.

**6. Synergize**

- Build upon differences (think Win/Win), instead of multiplying negativity.

**7. Sharpen the Saw**

- Always take the time to study yourself and others who have done what you've done and what you want to do. Every great idea has already been said before, and by someone who didn't think of it.

# SAVE THE DATE!!!!



Manitowoc County Chapter of Barbershoppers  
**80th Annual Show!**

**Two Shows:**

**Fri., April 11, 2025 @ 7pm**

**Sat., April 12, 2025 @ 2pm**

**Tickets go on Sale  
January, 2025**

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





# 2024 Christmas Show



**Saturday - December 7th**

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

3PM!

## **SPECIAL GUESTS**

Stillwater Area High School  
Vagabonds & Chamber Choir

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

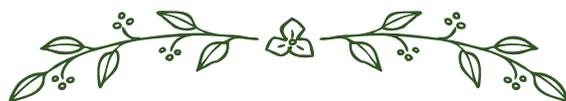


Minnehaha Academy Chamber Singers  
and the Minneapolis Commodores  
present

# Good News! Holiday Concert



**SUNDAY DECEMBER 8, 2024 4:00 PM**



Featuring Spirito, MCX and Chapter Quartets

Minnehaha Academy Upper School Hognander Chapel

3100 West River Pkwy, Minneapolis, MN 55406

Tickets - Adult \$10 & Student/Child \$5



**For Tickets - Scan QR  
or [Minneapoliscommodores.org](https://minneapoliscommodores.org)**





The Greendale Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society presents

# A Warm and Fuzzy Christmas

**Saturday, December 21, 2024 • 7:00 pm**

Sharon Lynne Wilson Center • Brookfield, Wisconsin

featuring

## Coulee Classic



Tickets:

**\$20 General Admission**

**\$25 Preferred Seating**

Contact any  
Greendale  
member  
or go to:

[mve.org](http://mve.org)





# WinnebagoLand



## Barbershop Chorus HOLIDAY HARMONY 2024 Charity Benefit Concert

Saturday, November 23rd, 2024  
6:30PM

St. Johns Lutheran Church  
808 N. Main St, Oshkosh



*Lakefront*

Featuring  
Musical Guests



Plymouth  
HHT A-Cappella

Free Will or  
Food Donation Benefit

Oshkosh Warming Shelter &  
St. John's Food Pantry

Made with PosterMyWall.com



# Stevens Point Chapter, The Newfangled Four, and Coulee Classic Community Outreach Event

John Gethers

The Northern Gateway Chorus was delighted to host the inaugural Wisconsin Scholastic Harmony Workshop, September 27th at Lincoln High School in Wisconsin Rapids. This event invited students from across the state to participate, with the only associated cost being transportation.

The workshop featured renowned barbershop



quartets, The New Fangled Four and Coulee Classic. These award-winning groups shared their passion for barbershop music and their exceptional talent with the high school attendees.

A highlight of the day was the Tag Competition, where the top student and teacher/chaperone quartets had a chance to earn the privilege of showcasing their tags at the start of the evening show. Aply named "An Evening of Harmony", this show aimed to revive the once vibrant barbershop scene in Wisconsin Rapids, a city that has been without a chapter since the 1980s.

The workshop also featured representatives from ChoralTracks and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's Contemporary Voice Department, further enriching the educational experience for the participants.

The New Fangled Four and Coulee Classic shared their harmonious melodies on Saturday, September 28th, performing alongside the Northern Gateway Chorus at the 71st Annual Harvest of Harmony at the Sentry Theater in Stevens Point, WI.





## FUNDRAISER LEADS TO A “PARADE OF CHECKS” towards Music Education in Manitowoc County!!!



On September 21st, the Clipper City Chordsmen hosted a fundraiser for music education at the Franciscan Center for Music Education and Performance in Manitowoc. For 79 years, the Chordsmen have been bringing their a cappella barbershop music to Northeastern Wisconsin through their chorus and chapter quartets. Support for music education is one of the primary goals of this organization.

“One Voice ... All Together” was the theme and title of the performance. The Chordsmen were joined by talented students from the *Holy Family Conservatory of Music* as well as the *Two Rivers High School Show Choir* under the direction of Shannon Meulbroek. Both music programs performed and then joined the Chordsmen for a finale of “One Voice” by Barry Manilow. The students from Two Rivers also helped Emcee and joined the chorus as a “king” and “Robin” as they performed their upcoming contest set. Through direct donations at the door, raffle baskets, and additional donations from area individuals and the chorus itself, **over \$6,000 was raised.**

Over the last few weeks, the Chordsmen have presented checks in the amount of **\$650 to 9 area music programs.** It is hoped that a similar fundraising event next September will be even more successful in helping our local music programs.

As a part of the celebration of their 80th anniversary in 2025, the Chordsmen are bringing the new international champion quartet “Three and a Half Men” to Manitowoc on April 11th and 12th. They have made arrangements to have this quartet give a master class to area choral students in the morning and afternoon of Friday, April 11th at two locations.

It is wonderful to see the enthusiasm of area educators as they inspire our local youth. Singing can be a lifelong source of joy and is worthy of all our support.



Photos: (Clockwise, top Left):

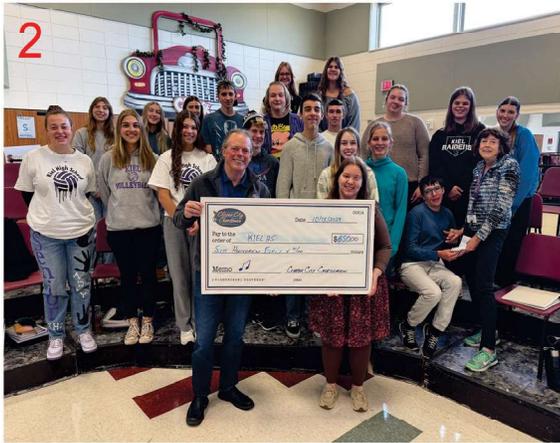
- Start of “One Voice” with Chordsmen Derek Luckow and Two Rivers’ students.
- Finale verse of “One Voice” with entire ensemble.
- Robin comes bobbin’ along with the chorus
- A king is welcomed by the chorus.
- Two conservatory students join on violin half way through “One Voice”





### “Parade of Checks”

1. Manitowoc Lutheran High School, 2. Kiel High School, 3. New Holstein High School, 4. Roncalli High School, 5. Valders High School, 6. Holy Family Conservatory of Music, 7. Mishicot High School, 8. Manitowoc Lincoln High School, 9. Two Rivers High School.





# 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!



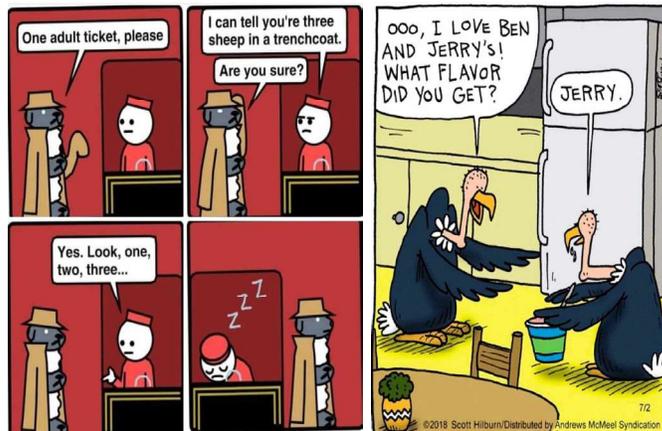


## Incoming District Treasurer Matt Nagel

I've been in accounting since I was a high school freshman. I studied through school and went right into public accounting and passed all four parts of the CPA Exam in my only attempt. I audited dozens of not-for-profit organizations for seven years before moving into manufacturing accounting.



I'm looking forward to building on the solid base Jack Edgerton has built and provide solid information to move the Land O' Lakes District forward. I have sung lead with the Midwest Vocal Express since 2009, and am a founding member of Forward Harmony, singing baritone. I also sing lead with Easy Days quartet.



## CONTEST CORNER

with James Estes, DVP for Contest and Judging

If you were in one of the **FORTY-FIVE** choruses/quartets that crossed the contest stage in Bloomington last month, THANK YOU! If you were in the audience cheering these groups on, THANK YOU! If you were one of the many volunteers who helped make the convention and contests run, THANK YOU! Barbershop Harmony continues to grow in numbers and quality in Land O' Lakes, and the excitement is contagious. Events Chair Jay Althof and his team worked countless hours to make sure we improved from the 2023 convention, and we are so happy that it made a difference for you - both competitor and audience member! We will continue to tweak and make the best of the space provided at the Hilton for next year's convention.



In addition to the 45 groups who crossed the stage, we are incredibly fortunate as a district to have qualified **Checkmate** (1996 District Champion) for the International Seniors Quartet Contest, being held in January in San Antonio! Along with Checkmate, two of our district's own qualified for the International convention in July in Denver, Colorado! For the International quartet contest, we are thrilled to again be represented by **Coulee Classic** (2021 District Champion) and **First Ave** (2019 District Champion).

Finally - congratulations go to our District Chorus Champion and International Chorus Representative, **Forward Harmony**, as well as **Spice** (2024 District Quartet Champion), **Late Nite** (2024 District Novice Quartet Champion), **Northwoods** (2024 Seniors Quartet Champion), and **Fifth Quarter** (2024 Next Gen Varsity Quartet Champion). We also crowned two regional champions: **Spice** (West Region Champion), and **Lakefront** (East Region Champion). Congratulations to all and enjoy your championship year!

We will see you all next year in Bloomington!



Jeff Paul  
Ken Ryan

**RANSOM**  
**NOTES**  
QUARTET

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ransomnotes@myyahoo.com Facebook: Ransom Notes Quartet

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info@chordsmash.com  
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**CHECKMATE**

A Winning Combination of Music in the Barbershop Style!

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Phone: 262-498-0314 Email: checkmatequartet96@gmail.com  
Facebook.com/CheckmateQuartet96

Allen  
Colin  
Matt  
Nate

**COULEE CLASSIC**

Facebook: Coulee Classic Quartet

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

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



**Calendar**

Please send show registrations to:  
District Secretary Bob Brey, Land O' Lakes District  
1411 S. 31st St.  
Manitowoc, WI 54220  
rwbrey1950@gmail.com

**2024**

November

- 1-2 Fargo, ND - Coulee Classic
- 2 Journeymen at

December

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

**2025**

January

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

March

- 21-22 Harmony College Midwest - Bloomington, ILL

April

- 5 Bismarck-Mandan, ND
- 11-12 Manitowoc, WI - Three and a Half Men
- 12 Dunn County (Colfax, WI) - Kordal Kombat
- 26 Appleton, WI - Gimme Four
- 26 Mankato, MN
- 26 St. Croix Valley, MN
- 26 St. Cloud, MN - Kordal Kombat

May

- 17 Wisconsin Youth Quartet Festival - Stevens Point, WI
- 17 Oshkosh, WI -

June/July

- 28-July6 International Convention - Denver, CO

October

- 4 Amery, WI (Polk County)

