

# River Ramblings

*Editor - Jeffrey Grimmer*

## The Mankato Riverblenders and the LO'L



Mankato "Riverblenders" 8th place 2011 LO'L District Contest



L-R Thom Schubbe-LO'L Southwest Division VP, Chuck Schubbe-LO'L Executive VP, Steve Zorn-LO'L Director Membership, Arvid Zenk-LO'L Secretary



The Mankato Chapter is very proud to have three of its members that are actively taking part in the running of the LO'L District. Chuck Schubbe is the current Executive Vice President, Arvid Zenk is the current Secretary and Chuck's son Thom is the current Southwest Division Vice President. It is very unusual for any chapter to have three participants involved in the operations of their district. The Riverblenders are very proud to call these men as members.

Congratulations Guys!!



## World War II Honor Flight

World War II ended in 1945. There were 16 million American men and women in service. Four hundred thousand had been killed. The Memorial to the war was not approved until 48 years later, after years of government foot dragging. Senator Robert Dole of Kansas, a wounded combat veteran, is credited with finally pushing it through. Now Dole has a place at a bus stop where he greets visitors to the Memorial. The Memorial was completed none too soon. WWII vets are dying at the rate of 1000 a day. Thanks to Dole and his friends, the Memorial was funded largely with private donations.

Most States have groups that sponsor honor flights to the Memorial for WWII veterans. Mankato veterans were sponsored by the Southeastern MN Honor Flight based in Rochester. Rochester veterans have erected a veterans memorial at Soldier's Field which is well worth seeing on your next visit to Rochester.

A chartered bus came to Mankato to pick up Mankato's vets for the trip to Washington. The bus brought wheel chairs and care takers for those vets who could not tour without help. We spent the night in Rochester and were bused to the airport where we were greeted by a large crowd who thanked us for our service and wished us well.

During the flight we had mail call. Honor flight volunteers had contacted our families and friends who were asked for letters thanking us for our service. The response was huge. Each of us received a hand lettered mail bag containing about 30 pieces of mail. It included mail from school children who thanked us and asked for replies telling them what it was like to be in the war. We received a sack lunch before arriving at Washington International at about 9 am, EDT. As we taxied to the Gate a fire truck on either side of the taxiway doused our plane with tall jets of water. In the terminal, we were again met by a large crowd who thanked us for our service. We were bused to the WWII Memorial where we spent about two hours. It is constructed around a large pool. There are 3 story towers opposing each other on the North and South side containing large intertwined bronze castings of American Eagles. These are connected by towers for each State, and a Freedom Wall bearing 4000 sculpted gold stars, each representing 100 American dead, which brought tears to the eyes of many veterans.

The Viet Nam Wall, Lincoln Memorial, and Korean Memorial are all within walking distance. After them, we went to the Women's Memorial at Arlington for lunch. Everyone had walked enough, so we bus toured the US Capital, the native american building constructed of Vetter Stone from Mankato, the national archives and the US Navy Monument.

Back to the airport where we were again greeted by a large crowd who thanked us for our service. When we reached Rochester at about 9:30pm, we were again greeted by a large crowd, met by family members, and returned to Mankato.

The efforts of the Honor Flight volunteers were incredible. I can't thank them enough. It was a trip I'll never forget.

Kelly Gage

*Congratulations Kelly and thank you for your service!*



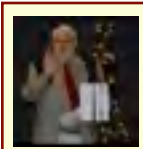
Photo- J. Grimmer



## Riverblenders 2011 Installation Banquet

The annual Riverblenders Installation Banquet was held on November 18th at the local Loose Moose Restaurant. We had a great turnout with almost all of the current active members in attendance.

Chuck Youngblom was the emcee for the evening and did an outstanding job. The invocation was given by



Emcee -  
Chuck Youngblom

Chuck Brooks and then the dining was on. The meal was fantastic and we certainly appreciate the people that took care of us.



Invocation:  
Chuck Brooks

Mike Maes, the owner, Andy, and Katelyn did a great job of making sure that our every whim was met. We thank them for their dedication to doing a great job!

Steve Zorn, the LO'L Director of Membership, came down from Roseville to install a stalwart group of members as the new board for the year 2012. We wish to thank him



Steve Zorn

for his time and energy and for doing a super job of installing the new officers. And, for singing with us after all had been completed!

Bailey Blethen was up next to present the 2011 BOTY to Ron Meyer. Congratulations to Ron, he worked very hard this year on many different items. The biggest being our 2011 Show Chairman and as this years Chorus Manager - Booking.

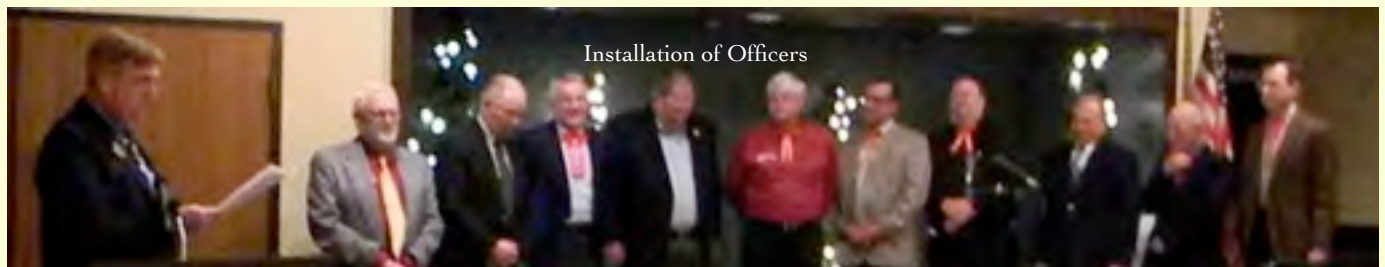


2010 BOTY - Bailey Blethen  
2011 BOTY - Ron Meyer

Entertainment was then provided by the Chorus & our own chapter quartets RFD, Soul Purpose, and Magic.

We would like to thank Jeff Grimmer for setting up the location, making the programs, and for taking pictures and taking care of the sound system.

Thanks go out to everyone that came and made it an enjoyable and a memorable experience.



Installation of Officers



Chorus Performs



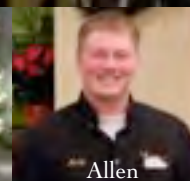
RFD



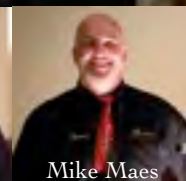
Frank & Mary



Allen



Mike Maes



Katelyn



Soul Purpose



Prez-Ron



Chow Line



Mike & Kelly



# More - Riverblenders 2011 Installation Banquet



Installation Photos- j. Grimmer / c. Grimmer

# Quartet Corner



Grand Design at Fargo



"A Little Bit of Old Magic"  
Bruce, Doug, Don, and Bill



"A Little Bit of New Magic"  
Wayne, Bruce, Stan, and Doug



Soul Purpose Sings at the Banquet  
with stand in Doug Peterson

Thirty one years ago four guys, Bill Lydecker, Don Miller, Doug Peterson and Bruce Gray, were together at an afterglow, at a contest, when suddenly they stood facing each other and began to sing. That night MAGIC was born. Miller began to work with his magic so the act would be "funny." Through the years Magic has sung on many shows in the Midwest and Canada. The quartet also had a chance to travel to England and Wales with our wives. Barbershop was just beginning to make its way to the British Isles and our "act" was a hit. There have been several voice changes to be reported on in future news letters. WHAT A GAS! Bruce gray



RFD Sings for Lutheran Social Services



"A Little Bit of New RFD?"  
Steve, Chuck, Jeff, and Chuck



RFD Sings for Birthday in Wells

RFD has had a few really fun singouts the past few weeks. We sang at Whiskey River for the Lutheran Social Services Banquet - really a great audience!! Not to be outdone, was a surprise performance Birthday Party held in Wells - wow what a group! We were really milking it for everything that we could. Many new things will be happening the next few months so keep posted! Jeff Grimmer

## Barbershop Quartet Singing

"Four guys tasting the holy essence of four individual mechanisms coming into complete agreement"



## Inter-chapter Meeting at Faribault



Photo- j. Grimmer

The Faribault Chorus and Guests

On Monday, November 14th, a small group of seven members from the Mankato Riverblenders and Jimmy Wirtz the Director of the Albert Lea Chorus, met at the Gander Mountain parking lot at 6 PM to venture Eastward to Faribault. The group participated in an inter-chapter meeting put together by the Faribault "Lakelanders Chorus" and Dave Sylte the LO'L Director of Music and Performance. We all gathered to get some coaching from Harmony International Staffs own Adam Scott, the Member Services-Music person from headquarters in Nashville. We did some warm up exercises for both the body and the

vocal apparatus. Once that was accomplished, Adam introduced us to some new vocal techniques, taught us some tags (always fun) and eventually had some of us sing the tags in quartets. Adam then worked with the "Lakelanders Chorus" and Director Dale Danielson on several of their chorus songs. The rest of us listened to the coaching and picked up several usable ideas for our choruses.

We were then treated to several songs from Faribault's own "Vocal Express" Quartet and then consumed some snacks baked by Curt Danielson's wife (Thank You!). After a few more songs we headed home after a very enjoyable evening. Our thanks to everyone that helped set up the event! Editor



Photo- j. Grimmer  
Adam Scott & Dave Sylte  
Discussing Strategies



Photo- Faribault Member

Back - Stan Bruss, Chuck Schubbe, Byron Josephson  
Front - Sandy Allen, Duane Bieber, Arv Zenk, Jeff Grimmer



Photo- j. Grimmer

"Vocal Express"



Photo- j. Grimmer

A "Little" Coaching



Photo- j. Grimmer

Adam Scott says "HI"



Lakelanders Chorus - Faribault, Minnesota

LOL Photo

"Lakelanders Chorus" at the LO'L Contest in Rochester

## Chorus Information

Hello Guys!

I hope you all are doing well and making some progress on those outstanding Disney tunes. It will be a great show.

I am so happy to say that I will be the guest director for the YIH festival on Jan. 21st. It will be FUN! Maybe I can even sneak in and direct one chorus song?!?!?

I am planning on attending some of the rehearsal this evening and to meet Anita.

I miss you guys and think about you all the time. See you soon!

Derek Glenna

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## Chorus Communications

Fellow Riverblenders:

It's a great honor and I thank you from the bottom of my heart, for your vote, nominating me as the 2012 -

**Barbershopper Of The Year**

It was a great party.....If you missed it.....we missed you!

Thanks Jeff for the great party and thanks to the Riverblenders for this honor!!



Ron Meyer - BOTY 2011

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### Harmony International To Increase Dues

It has been no secret that for the last 25 years the Society has experienced a steady membership decline. As a result, the organization has adapted in recent years by reducing expenses in as many areas as possible, seeking opportunities to increase revenue, and prioritizing its education programming to ensure our mission is best accomplished within our financial means. With the organization's recent attention to membership as "Job One," trends indicate that the decline is slowing down. In 2012 we are re-launching the membership recruitment campaign, **Operation Harold Hill**, which was the most successful recruitment event the Society has ever seen.

With the declining membership and ever-increasing costs to do business, the Society, in order to balance its budget, will be implementing a \$5 dues increase per member effective January 1, 2012.

As we look towards 2012 we are excited about the success that chapters will be able to experience through Operation Harold Hill. By working together across the Society, we can make 2012 the year the Society grows again!

Thank you for your continued support of barbershop harmony and the Society's mission to "bring men together in harmony and fellowship to enrich lives through singing."

[Keep the Whole World Singing!](#)

Larry Deters

## Youth In Harmony

Former Riverblenders Director "Derek Glenna" has accepted our offer to be one of the directors, along with "Carol Grimmer", at the 2012 Youth In Harmony Festival this January.





L-R - Jon Schwichtenberg, Ron Meyer, Joel Botten, Wayne Hughes, Carl Schoenstedt, Duane Bieber, Bailey Blethen, Sandy Allen, Dean Kluge, Stan Bruss, Jim Mongeau, Jeff Grimmer

On a frosty Saturday evening in November, a small contingent of Mankato Riverblenders converged on Three Eagles Radio Station in North Mankato. Their objective: Perform for the lighting of the "Worlds Largest Christmas Tree" without freezing to death. Many of the Riverblenders members were attending the GNU show in Minneapolis and, because of inclement weather, none of them could make it back in time to help out. So, without hesitation, the group spread their vocal cords and out came the glorious sounds of Christmas Carols! The crowd loved it and gave us round after round of rather muffled applause (they had on their thickest gloves). We performed for about 20 minutes and then headed our own ways. It was a lot of fun and a great public relations venture. Thanks to Wayne Hughes for lining up our songs and getting us started and stopped.

### Early Bird Housing Coming Soon for 2012 Portland, OR International Convention

Make plans now to attend the exciting 2012 International Convention in beautiful Portland, Oregon, July 1 - 8, 2012. Early bird housing opens December 15! There'll be plenty of drama in the **Ringmasters** vs. **Musical Island Boys** match for the top spot in the quartet competition - but, who knows what contender might challenge both of them? And after placing just a breath away from the gold last year, **Great Northern Union** will be a force for the **Ambassadors of Harmony** to reckon with in Portland. That'll sure be fun to watch!

In addition to the glamour of our fun of singing tags, the incredibly gorgeous to see you'll want to days to take it all in! talking about, click Rose Garden, Columbia Multnomah Falls, Mt. St.



excitement and competitions and the Portland area is an place, with so much spend an extra few To see what we're [HERE](#). Take in the

River Gorge, Helen's & Mt. Hood - plus, it's only about 100 miles from breathtaking coastal views of the Pacific! General housing opens January 15.

[Register at PORTLAND INTERNATIONAL](#)

## Calendar

### \*December 6, 2011 - Tuesday

Salvation Army Kettle  
Cubs - West - 5-7 PM  
Oak Terrace - 7:15 PM  
Loyola High School  
Regular Practice - 8 PM

### \*December 10, 2011 - Saturday

#### Dual Board Meeting

City Center Hotel, Mankato  
Board Meeting - 8 AM - Noon

### \*December 11, 2011 - Sunday

Chorus Performance  
St. Benedictine Center  
St. Peter - 3-4 PM

### \*December 13, 2011 - Tuesday

Loyola High School  
Music Committee Meeting 6:00 PM  
Regular Practice - 7 PM

### \*December 20, 2011 - Tuesday

Hilltoppers Performance/Lunch  
Christ The King - 11 AM  
Loyola High School  
Show Committee Meeting - 6 PM  
Regular Practice - 7 PM

### \*December 27, 2011 - Tuesday

Loyola High School  
Regular Practice - 7 PM

### \*January 6-7, 2012 - Fri/Sat

2012 - LO'L Leadership Academy  
& Chord College  
UW River Falls-River Falls, WI  
See Tim Schubbe

### \*January 21, 2012 - Saturday

Youth in Harmony - Festival  
Crossview Covenant Church

### \*February 14, 2012

Singing Valentines

### \*March 31, 2012 - Saturday

Southwest/10,000 Lakes  
Division Contest  
Mankato, MN

### \*April 14, 2012 - Saturday

Annual Show:  
Crossview Covenant Church  
2 & 7 p.m.



## PRESIDENT ELECT - RON MEYER'S COMMENTS

### 2011 Officer Installation Banquet:

I would like to take this opportunity to once again, thank Jeff Grimmer, for being such a huge part of putting on the party November 18th, at the Loose Moose. These kinds of "small parties", take a huge amount of "coaxing", "prodding" and just plain great organizing that Jeff does so well. We all enjoy getting together, but when it comes down to the tough part of putting it all together and making final decisions, Jeff steps forward and makes it all happen. Thanks again for all you do for the chapter and your efforts toward last week's party.

### BOTY Award:

I am very proud to be your 2011 BOTY recipient. Along with that pride come the personal knowledge that our own Don Miller takes the time and effort to make these ties. Actually the 2011 tie nearly got a Manhattan baptism as the party was getting started. The box was on the table in front of Don and of course, it's not possible for Don to talk without

animation. The good news is that after the spill, the Loose Moose was able to sell him another Manhattan. Hey, another tip for the waitress! She could have been a daughter of one of Don's former students! Someone at the table suggested Don's next drink should be put in a tippy-cup, like little kids get.

### 2012 Presidency:

A budget meeting was held on Saturday morning, the 19th by the Budget Committee. Bad timing, considering the previous evening party. However, our two Metropolitan area brothers were still in town and we couldn't pass that opportunity up. A preliminary budget has been prepared for the December 10th Joint Old/New Board meeting. I am looking forward to my duties as your President for 2012. It's my good fortune, that the structure of the "The Riverblenders", lends itself well to a very organized and productive 2012. I promise to do my best and stay out of the way of the real workers.

Ron Meyer



### Sunny Tucson Beckons! Make Reservations Now for Midwinter

Come to sunny Tucson for the 2012 Midwinter Convention January 17-22, 2012, and tack on a few days before or after to enjoy the unique beauty of southern Arizona! Visit Saguaro National Park, play some golf, check out an old cowboy movie set, and just feast your eyes on the scenery along Arizona's highways! Housing reservations are now available. The best rooms will go

fast, and Tucson in particular may be a sell-out, so make your reservations now!

We can't wait to see how many young men will take part in the Fifth Annual Youth Chorus Festival - the entries are starting to pour in now! And it's always a treat to enjoy the Seniors Quartet Championship.

Register at [TUCSON MIDWINTER](#). Check out the [Tucson Visitor's Website](#) and [SPECIAL EVENTS](#) arranged by the Tucson Sunshine Chapter.



### New! Barberpole Cat Program Learning CDs by Tim Waurick!

Newly recorded by none other than Tim Waurick, and newly released for your learning pleasure. Pre-order your voice part today!

Individual parts, \$5 each, or \$18 for all four.

What did one turkey say to the other turkey as they flew into outer space?  
"Hubble, Hubble, Hubble"

## 2012 “Disney” Show

**Show Date:** April 14, 2012

**Location:** Cross View Covenant Church - Contract signed by Doug Peterson

**Show Times:** 2 PM & 7 PM

**Ticket Prices :**

Seniors - \$13.00

Students - \$ 5.00

Advanced - \$13.00

Regular/at Door - \$15.00

*Possible* \$5.00 Ticket for members of Crossview Covenant Church

**Quartet:**

“Humdingers” - *(Traveling Show we may include a Sweet Adeline's Quartet)*

Travel Items - *Working on* - Doug Peterson

Housing - *Working on* - Doug Peterson - will work with hotels for lodging Ad exchange

Host - Doug Peterson

**Sub-Committee Reports -**

Show Content - Tim & Thom Schubbe

**First Half-**

Concept - *Working on* - Fan Club - Convention

Title - *SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPIALIDOCIOUS* -

Songs: **Chorus:** *Disney Medley, Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah, When You Wish Upon a Star*

*Heigh Ho, The Bare Necessities, A Spoon Full of Sugar.*

Quartets: **Magic** - *Ten Feet Off the Ground*, **Stretch** - *Be Our Guest*, **RFD** - *Fortuosity*,

**Soul Purpose** - *When She Loved Me*, **Riverbend** - *Jolly Holiday*

Flow - *Working on* - Excitement about the “Humdingers” Quartet

Script - *Working on* - Tim & Thom Schubbe

Props - Tim & Thom Schubbe, Willy Derner

Costumes - Along the lines of Disney - *Checking on what is possible*

**Second Half -**

Humdingers

Chorus - Tux Uniform

*Other??*

Entertainment - *Pre-Show - Belgrade Methodist - Bell Choir / Don Miller - half time - Singalong? (possibilities)*

Preglow/Afterglow - Chuck Schubbe

Preglow - Best Western (4-6PM) - \$10.00

Afterglow - Loose Moose - approx. 9:30 PM - \$10.00, Chuck Brooks - MC

*Need to remember to invite Sweet Adeline Quartets*

Publicity - Bailey Blethen - Carl Schoenstedt will help

Program Ad Sales - Jeff Grimmer - Doug Peterson will help

Print Media - Steve Pettis

Ticket Sales - Jon Schwichtenberg

Award of Harmony - Ron Meyer - Needs suggestions now

**Thank you for your time and effort!!**

Jeff Grimmer - 2012 Show Chairman

Next Meeting - December 20, 2011



**MEMBERS - Please read this page over and respond to me with questions, ideas, corrections, etc. Your input is needed, wanted, and desired!!!**