

# River Ramblings

Editor - Jeffrey Grimmer

## Nicollet Show - November 18



Photos -Chamber

The “Riverblenders” at Nicollet under the direction of our new director “Jacob Ritter”

See more on Pages 6 & 7



Photos - j grimmer

On Tuesday evening November 13th, the Mankato Riverblenders Chorus showed up at the local Salvation Army Center to sing for this years Bell Ringers. This was the start of the Salvation Armys Holiday Kettle Campaign.

Under the direction of Arv Zenk, we sang a variety of holiday a contemporary music to about 50 guests. Mankato’s Mayor Anderson, the Salvation Armys Captain Mike, and the Kettle were also in attendance.

It was a resounding success! The Riverblenders Chorus will be ringing for the Kettle Campaign at Cub Food West on December 4, and Cub Food East on December 11th. Come on in and listen to us perform!

## 2012 Installation and Appreciation Banquet

November 3, 2012 - The annual “Riverblenders” Installation and Appreciation Banquet took place at Applewood Restaurant in Mankato. We had a social hour from 6-7pm so that we could relax and get the things in our lives attended to others. At 7pm, organizer and MC, Charles Youngblom took over and guided the group of 40+ through the events of the evening.



He welcomed everyone and then introduced Chuck Brooks to give us the invocation. We then were guided to the wonderful buffet dinner waiting for us.



After we had our fill of great food, Chuck introduced President Ron Meyer for some of his comments on 2012 and what we accomplished.



The next speaker to be announced was LO'L District Secretary, our own Arvid Zenk, to perform the installation of officers. The installation was very creative and we have published it in this newsletter for your enjoyment.



Next on the agenda was the 2012 BOTY (Barbershopper of the Year Award). This award was presented to the new recipient by last years BOTY, Ron Meyer. Ron had us stumped by the reading of the history of the new winner - something about being from Oregon and was a

member of the Long Shore-men in Californian etc. He went on for a long time until he told us that the recipients wives name was Carol (who was not present because she was singing with the City of Lakes Chorus in the finals of the Sweet Adelines Chorus Competition in Denver). Since we only have one wife by the name of Carol, Jeff Grimmer new that he had been chosen for this prestigious award. He thanked the chorus for the honor and gave credit to the many men in the chorus that work so very hard to make this the great group that it is.



He also wanted us to thank our spouses, friends, and members for their support and hard work.

Chuck then introduced Joel Botten to enlighten us with some Scandinavian humor and then asked the Southwest Division Champion Chorus to come up and sing a couple of songs to our guests.



The final entertainment was supplied by the Riverblenders Quartet RFD (Rural Free Delivery) after which 2013 President Ron Meyer gave his comments on the upcoming year.

Thank you to all of the guys that put this evening together it was a wonderful evening with friends and relatives. It was unfortunate that so many members had conflicting schedules and could not attend, they missed a fun evening.

Good luck to all of the new officers in the upcoming year!!



Arvid Zenk installs the 2013 Riverblenders Board

## More Banquet -



Everyone had  
a great  
time!

Banquet Photos by - j grimmer & j zenk

## Even More Banquet -



16 time Southwest Division Champion Chorus, Riverblenders Chorus sing for the guests



Mankato's own RFD Quartet entertains



Mankato's new Director - Jacob Ritter directs the chorus



Chowing down - if you went away hungry it was your own fault



Applewoods Owner & Chef and member Ryan Kuisle showing off some of the tasty food

## “RIVERBLENDERS” - RIVER RAMBLINGS OCTOBER, 2012

Thank you for inviting me to conduct the officer installation ceremony for 2013. Over the past 4 years, I've had the privilege of conducting officer installations at a number of other chapters in the district, but I've never had the privilege of doing one right here at home. So, when Chuck Schubbe asked me to do this it struck me how absolutely blessed we are with strong leadership right here in Mankato.

We have people who are not only able to step forth and do a great job, but they are willing to share their talent. I believe that every strong barbershop chapter has at least 2 key elements that make it successful – a great director and a strong management team. We continue to be blessed with both.

Jacob Ritter is an outstanding director and a most talented musician. Jacob has made a great impression on everyone with his exceptional barbershop talent and a great sense of humor. Jacob is the corner post of our entire music program, but it was our chapter leaders who took the initiative to conduct a comprehensive search to find him and to convince him that Mankato was a perfect fit. It proved to be a wonderful example of how a great chapter does great things and pulls together to get things done. Thanks to Bruce, Chuck, Wayne, Doug, Ron, and all of the other chapter leaders who brought Jacob to the Riverblenders.

Chapter Achievement Awards in both 2010 and 2011 rank the Riverblenders as one of the very best chapters in the world with programs and activities that are second to none. We continue to host memorable competitions and conventions, put on great annual shows, sponsor a great Youth in Harmony event and sing for over 40 churches each summer. All of those activities require a lot of hard work and great planning and thanks to the chapter leaders for all they have done. Once again this year, we have a great team who is ready, willing, and able to lead us. At this time, would the following officers come forward:



Ryan Kuisle  
Tim Schubbe  
Ron Larson  
Bailey Blethen  
Thom Schubbe  
Doug Peterson  
Jeff Grimmer  
Joel Botten  
Stan Bruss  
Bruce Gray  
Jacob Ritter  
Ron Meyer

For this great Riverblender debut, We're going to try something that's new,  
Like those great lines that Marv did It's a limerick by Arvid.

### To meet our management crew

Tim's job is to keep us updated  
With minutes and reports not inflated.  
And I think he once said  
"Approved as they're read"  
Are the words that keep him elated.

Ron Larson is the one who gets  
The pleasure of all of our debts.  
But he keeps us on track  
With humor and tact,  
And rarely refunds or forgets.

Doug leads our musical crew  
Choosing songs we sing that are new  
And when music is fun  
And judged number one  
The music he comes up with comes through.

Our membership seems to be down  
But Thom can turn that around.  
He knows what it takes  
Sells chords like hot cakes  
And brings new singers to town.

Bailey's marketing skill is extensive,  
And his approach is never defensive  
For his contacts are real  
They all eat at the Wheel  
And to pay for an ad is much too expensive.

Jeff has become our best voice  
To help us reflect and rejoice.  
With his great River Rambling  
He keeps us all scrambling

To keep Riverblenders first choice.  
Bruce and Stan have been known to force us  
To sing at places like Doris's  
Her birthday surprises  
Required our risers  
But remember what a busier, happier chorus is.

Joel has tasks miscellaneous  
As our member-at-large he's spontaneous,  
To fill in the gaps  
And sometimes take naps  
Especially at meetings extraneous.

Keep your eye on the ball Ryan's here  
He's back with us now in high gear.  
Like a bolt from the blue  
We'll sing something new  
With program ideas far and near.

Our director says that it's great  
To lead any chorus beyond grade eight.  
And Jacob you wow us  
With your musical prowess  
As we learn to pull our own weight.

Ron Meyer runs every meeting  
With time for a motion repeating  
He's so easily directed  
That's why re-elected  
This man all others defeating

These men come to serve all sectors  
With credentials that are reflectors  
Of character and poise  
Without extra noise  
May I present your board of directors

Our Society was founded as a singing Society, but wherever there are a number of persons grouped together, whether large or small, there must be leaders who will orient the group and determine its goals.

You men have been chosen by members of this chapter as worthy leaders, capable of carrying out the responsibilities and ideals which they entrust to you and which our Society upholds.

Gentlemen, as leaders of the Mankato Chapter for 2013, do you promise to do your best to fill each member's life with music, fellowship and fun?

If you do, please answer "I will". By the authority vested in me by Society President Alan Lamson and the Land O'Lakes District President, Chuck Schubbe, I declare the officers of the Mankato Riverblenders Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society duly installed.

## Even More Nicollet Show -



President Ron Meyer - MC



Director Scott Ritter & President Ron Meyer



2012 BOTY Jeff Grimmer & President Ron Meyer



Bruce Gray - announcing 2013 Show



The “Riverblenders” being directed by Doug Peterson



The “Elves”



Allison James -

Arvid & Jane Zenk's Granddaughter



Photos -Chamber

The “Riverblenders” being directed by Doug Peterson

We owe a great deal of thanks to the Nicollet Chamber of Commerce folks for inviting us to perform in Nicollet. They did a great job setting up and promoting the event. The people at the high school were wonderful to work with and everyone did a great job. Another pat on the back goes to the chorus members that sang and a special big pat goes to those that sang and performed other tasks that were involved with the show. The show would not have worked as well as it did if it were not for the chapters various Quartets. Makes sure that you thank them when you see them. Thanks to our directors! **THANKS EVERYONE!**

## Even More Nicollet Show -



Soul Purpose #2 - Let's Go Fly A Kite



Riverbend - It's A Small World



Just The Messenger - Super.....

Our Chapter Quartets do a lot of extra work for the chorus by singing for various activities and shows.



RFD - Chim Chim Cher-ee



MAGIC - Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo

We would like to thank them for being there when we need them and thank them for their time a talents.



### Party Time!!

A well deserved after contest/show party was held at Jakes Stadium Pizza on November 20, 2012. As you can see by the pictures it was a lot of fun and a great success!



Photos - j grimmer

Director Jake taught us a new tag, Treasurer Ron Larson shows us why he is our Treasurer, MAGIC #2 sang a few tunes with Don Miller dancing for us, Charles Youngblom lined up the event and was also the MC, Tag Quartet with Wayne, Arv, Stan & Don, and finally an Octet. A great time was had by all!!

## Other Important Messages



Nicollet Show Program

In case you didn't get to see one or didn't know how it came to be. The document to the left, which was produced for the Nicollet Show, was put together by our own and very busy Steve Pettis. Steve assembled this at the last minute for the Nicollet Chamber of Commerce, published it and had it printed just in time for the show.

Thank you Steve for your super efforts!!



### Date - 1974 - event - Riverblenders Charter Show.

Just a little history lesson for our members.

Take a look and see how many in the picture are still with the Riverblenders. As you can see we have changed a lot. Choruses continually need to replace members. If we don't we will cease to exist. Please make a concerted effort to reconnect with your acquaintances and ask them to come and visit. We are planning a big event next summer, but don't wait until then if you have a prospect.



### Barbershop concert

Members of the Mankato Riverblender Barbershop Chorus, which will present its charter concert at 8 p.m. Sunday at Mankato West High School, include (pictured from left, first row) Duane Jeldi, Bruce Gray, Frank Selvey, Joel Galde, Ed Wirtz, Carl Schoenstedt, Mel Goede, Don Felch, Joe Peschges, Larry Zambino and Byron Josephson; (middle row)

Bill Anderson, Bob Steinko, Don Miller, Charlie Barbarisi, Clarence Thompson, Norris Lokengard, Matt Peterson, Dave Johnson, Roger Menke, Dick Van Krevelen, Garry Knock and Edward Donahue; (back row) Jeff Gissmer, Frank Morros, Dick Larson, Jim Morigeau, Bob Theurer, John Korbaem, Gordy Smith, John Schwichtenberg, Jerry Bockus and Joel Botten.

### Riverblenders to give charter show

Mankato Riverblender Barbershop Chorus, which last weekend sang its way to second place in the small chorus competition in Rochester, will present its charter show at 8 p.m. Saturday at Mankato West High School.

Barbershop quartet and chorus enthusiasts will be treated to the Riverblenders, the Minnetonka Clipper Chorus and four quartets, the Bum Hummers and Jefferson Lords of the Minnetonka group, the Roadrunners of Minneapolis and the Gay 90's from Montevideo.

Edward Donahue, public relations di-

rector for the new chorus, said members hope to make the show an annual event. Advance tickets are \$2 and may be purchased from Wilson's, National Bank of Commerce, Valley National Bank or Hill-top Drug. Tickets at the door will be \$2.50.

The Riverblenders, organized just over a year ago, now has more than 40 members. Director is Phil Knouts, choral director and music department chairman at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. He is director of the former St. Peter Saints chorus, which folded a few years ago.

Members are from Mankato, St. Peter,

Cleveland, Le Sueur, LeCenter, Waseca, New Ulm, Madison Lake and Eagle Lake.

Last Saturday's competition was the second major public outing for the new club. It took second in the Area Three contest in March at Windom.

They plan to participate in the Land of Lakes District competition next fall in Oshkosh, Wis.

The Riverblenders are a chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, an organization with members in the United States and Canada.

## Important Messages & Dates



"Grand Design" with Riverblenders member Leonard Hulls showing off their 1st Place Hardware

Winners of the 2012 LO'L District Quartet Contest held in Rochester, Minnesota

The Mankato "Riverblenders", their families, and all of their friends want to congratulate Grand Design on their fantastic win in Rochester!!



RFD #5 Sings at the Wells Veterans Memorial

On Sunday, November 11th, RFD (#5) sang for the dedication of Veterans Memorial Park in Wells, Minnesota. It was a very cold and blustery day but we, along with about 300 people, showed up to pay our respects for the park and for the Veterans.

RFD wants to thank Wayne Hughes and Don Miller for filling in.

## Calendar

### December 4, 2012 - Tuesday

Cub Foods West - Kettle Ringers  
5 - 7 PM

Loyola High School Band Room  
Regular Practice - 7:15 PM

### December 9, 2012 - Sunday

Benedictine Performance  
St. Peter - Meet 2 PM Sing 3-4 PM

### December 11, 2012 - Tuesday

Cub Foods East - Kettle Ringers  
5 - 7 PM

Loyola High School Band Room  
Regular Practice - 7:15 PM

### December 15, 2012 - Saturday

Joint Board Meeting  
8:00 AM

City Center Hotel  
(101 Main Dining Room)

### December 18, 2012 - Tuesday

Wine Cafe

YIH Meeting - 5 PM

Loyola High School Band Room  
Regular Practice - 7 PM

### December 24 - 25, 2012

**Monday - Tuesday**  
Celebrate the Holidays

### February 14, 2013

Singing Valentines

### April 13, 2013 - Saturday

Annual Show

July 22, 2013

"Everybody Wants To Go To Heaven"

### May 3-5, 2013 - Tuesday

Contest -

Southwest/10,000 Lakes - Int. Pre-Lims  
Hilltop



NEW SCHEDULE FOR 2013! Thursday (1/10): Convention Kickoff Show featuring medalist quartets at 8:00pm Friday (1/11): Youth Chorus Festival Day Saturday (1/12): Int'l Seniors Quartet Championship (afternoon) & Show of Champions (8:00pm)



**2013 International Convention – Earlybird Registration Pricing (valid through Jan 15th)**  
Member/Associate: \$189 - Non-member: \$209 - Youth (25 & Under with ID): \$99  
Family Package: \$499 (2 adults and 2 youth from the same household. Each additional youth from same household - \$30). Enter Promo Code "familypack2013" to receive discount.



This event should be on every barbershopper's "bucket list." Coming to Harmony College means you can enjoy a potpourri of classes offered. You are not tied to a specific curriculum and have the freedom to enjoy whatever your heart desires. The members of the faculty are today's legends that we will be talking about tomorrow. The classes are more fun than you know what to do with and the extra curricular activities, the late night tagging, and all the Ice Cream you can eat will make you long for more hours in the day!