

River Ramblings

Editor - Jeffrey Grimmer

Tis the Holiday Season!!!



*Happy Holidays
To All!!!*

September/October 2012

THE HARMONIZER

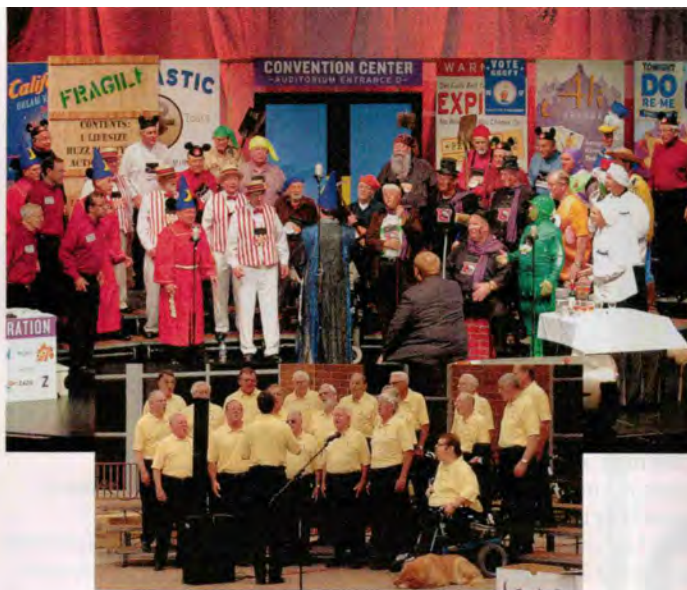
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

The 10 highest-scoring chapters in the 2011 Chapter Achievement program are all growing and reporting high member satisfaction. Some are well-known on the contest stage while others are not. Along with an internal focus on a healthy chapter life, these groups are also focused on making a positive impact in their communities and are partaking of many of the benefits the Society has to offer. Here are their stories in their own words.

We have just received the printed information informing us, that once again, the Mankato "Riverblenders" have placed in the top 10 chapters of the Barbershop Harmony Society for the Chapter Achievement Program!! Congratulations to all members!!! We placed 3rd this year just behind last years No. 2 position. We must remember that this is 3rd place out of 9 countries, 17 districts and over 700 chapters world wide!! It really is hard to grasp what a fantastic achievement this is.

The largest portion of the points for this award come from our support of our surrounding communities. We fill thousands of lives with harmony and great singing, and we are having fun doing it. This is what the "Riverblenders" chorus is all about.

All of you should be very proud of this achievement and use it to improve your participation in every aspect of Barbershop Singing. Be sure to let everyone you know about this, it truly is something to be proud of!



3. Mankato, Minn. (LOL)

Mankato Riverblenders

www.singmankato.com

Chapter's biggest strength: After last year's article, we hoped everyone in the Society would read our secret and race to the top. Actually, our biggest strength is no secret: we love our community and we spend time singing here. A big example is our Church Singout program, a great way to bring Barbershop Harmony to communities all across our region.

What the stats don't tell you: Coordinating five to seven church singouts on Sunday morning all summer long is an example of the magic happening behind the scenes. Everyone pitches in. Singing well and having fun happens when everyone shares in the work and leadership to run a chapter and serve the community.

Looking forward: Our biggest challenge is to build upon our success by attracting and retaining new members. On that score, we're hoping that all chapters are racing for the top!

Even More Achievement -

Place	ChpID	Chapter Name	Chorus Name	Total
1	F031	Louisville No 1 Chapter	Thoroughbreds	224
2	G069	Western Hills	Cincinnati Gateway	220
3	H047	Mankato	Riverblenders	193
4	Q040	Wilmington	Cape Fear Chordsmen	173
5	I011	Grand Rapids	Great Lakes Chorus	155
6	B098	Atlanta Metro Chapter	Atlanta Vocal Project	154
7	A101	Papillion	Sarpy Serenaders	152
8	L026	Simcoe	Gentlemen of Harmony	152
9	E007	Bloomington	Sound of Illinois	150
10	D008	Santa Rosa	Redwood Chordsmen	149

A Visit From One Of The Big Boys



Director Jacob Ritter shakes the hand of Harmony Foundations Senior Director of Development - Ryan Killeen

The "Riverblenders" welcomed Ryan Killeen from the Harmony Foundation on December 11. He came to educate the members and ask them to support Harmony Internationals youth development programs. Many of the members stepped up and gave their financial support after hearing his outstanding and moving presentation.

Ryan arrived earlier in the evening and spent it singing at Cub Food West with us while we sang and rang the bell for the Salvation Army. He sure looked like he was enjoying himself!

We want to thank him for visiting us and hope that he has a very successful and safe trip.

News from -



2012 was a very good year for the Land "O" Lakes District. We enjoyed many good Division Contests and two very nice District Conventions this year, and we also met our budget for 2012.

At our fall convention, as many of you know, we tried something different, that is, we had the YIH Camp included with the Rochester Convention. Those of you who stayed to hear the young men sing on stage and one quartet of young men, had to be happy with the quality of the performance. The singing, followed by the standing ovation, I'm sure, brought tears to the parent's eyes.

John Buss, our LOL YIH Director, and his team did an outstanding job of making this happen. The video from that performance has gone society wide. Mankato has been very active in the YIH program, and the Mankato board is already planning for 2013. Be sure to be at Crossview Covenant Church for a fun time, when the young men and young ladies work with the clinicians and the chorus sings with them at the concert.

The last three years the age group that joined the society was the 17, 18, 19 year olds. Many of these have come through the YIH program. I believe this is the future of our society. With that in mind I want to thank all of those who signed up to become a part of the Barbershop Harmony Foundation the night our society foundation representative was with us, singing for CUB Foods and singing with us at practice. When individuals sign up for their donation, up

to 30% can come back to the Chapter. Thank you to the Mankato Chorus for picking the Harmony Foundation parade of checks as their charity donation vehicle. The parade of checks was held at the Rochester Convention last fall. When the Chapter checks were tallied, at that House of Delegates meeting, the LOL Chapters had donated over \$10,000.00 to the foundation. The last I heard, the Society 2013 Mid-Winter Convention that is held in Orlando where the YIH choruses will compete, cost about \$ 75,000 for the foundation to fund.

At the Leadership Academy in River Falls in January, there will be a vote on raising the dues of the senior Membership dues. This only affects the District portion of senior annual dues. We chose the seniors since it would help balance the budget and not have to raise any of the other dues categories. In the case of myself it will cost me one extra dollar per month, and Bruce Gray (for example) will have to pay \$ 2.00 extra per month. While this is a small amount per person it will balance our district budget for 2013. This increase will be voted on by the entire House of Delegates at the Leadership Training Academy in River Falls in January before it can go into effect.

Merry Christmas, and a very happy 2013 to all,

Chuck Schubbe



Important Messages & Dates



Carol Grimmer directing and Members of the YIH Team visiting Byron High School: L-R Jeff Grimmer, Byron High Schools Music Director Susan Braun, Wayne Hughes, 50 year Barbershopper Dennis Schilling, Stan Bruss, Carol Grimmer, Chuck Schubbe

On Tuesday morning, December 18th, a not so awake group of individuals stepped into Stan Bruss's mini-van and headed to Byron, Minnesota. The purpose of their journey was to introduce the Byron High Schools choir members to Barbershop singing and invite them to this years Youth In Harmony Festival. The weather was great (a lot of snow just to the south of us) so we had an easy drive to Byron. In fact we arrive about a half hour early.

Carol Grimmer was the front person and introduce the style of singing and the quartet. Due to the injury of Chuck Brooks and job duties of Steve Pettis, Stan Bruss and Wayne Hughes were kind enough to give up their day to sing with Jeff Grimmer and Chuck Schubbe. The quartet was introduced as the RFD #5 or Magically RFD Quartet.

We warmed up and then treated about 200 students to the harmonies of Barbershop singing. The students were than taught a tag which they performed to us and the other members of the choir. They seemed to have a great time, lots of smiles and cheers and we thanked them for that.

Hopefully this will lead to some fruition and we will see some of them in North Mankato, on January 26, 2013.

2013 Youth In Harmony Festival

Just a reminder to all of the members about the Youth In Harmony Festival being put on by the Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines and the Mankato Area "Riverblenders" on January 26, 2013. Please look over the tentative poster so that you know what is going on during the day. We will be asking you for help as many tasks need people to complete. Please make plans to hold that day open so that you can participate in the festival. We hope that this will be bigger and better than last year. Thanks to all of you ahead of time for your efforts and time concerning this activity.

Youth In Harmony Team

Calendar

January 8, 2013 - Tuesday

Loyola High School Band Room

Regular Practice - 7:15 PM

January 15, 2013 - Tuesday

Board Meeting 6 PM

Loyola High School Band Room

Regular Practice - 7:15 PM

January 22, 2013 - Tuesday

Loyola High School Band Room

Regular Practice - 7 PM

January 26, 2013 - Saturday

Crossview Covenant Church

Youth In Harmony Festival

8:30 - 5 PM

January 29, 2013 - Tuesday

Loyola High School Band Room

Regular Practice - 7 PM

February 14, 2013

Singing Valentines

More to Follow

April 13, 2013 - Saturday

Annual Show

"Everybody Wants To Go To Heaven"

May 3-5, 2013 - Tuesday

Contest -

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

Sponsor - Hilltop

Nice To Know

Frank Selvey

601 Dublin Ct

Mankato, MN 56001

507-441-0199

Bailey Blethen

100 Dublin Rd, Apt 3305

Mankato, MN 56001

(Keystone)

Tis the Season To Share!!!



The Holiday group sing and ringing for the Salvation Army at Cub Food West



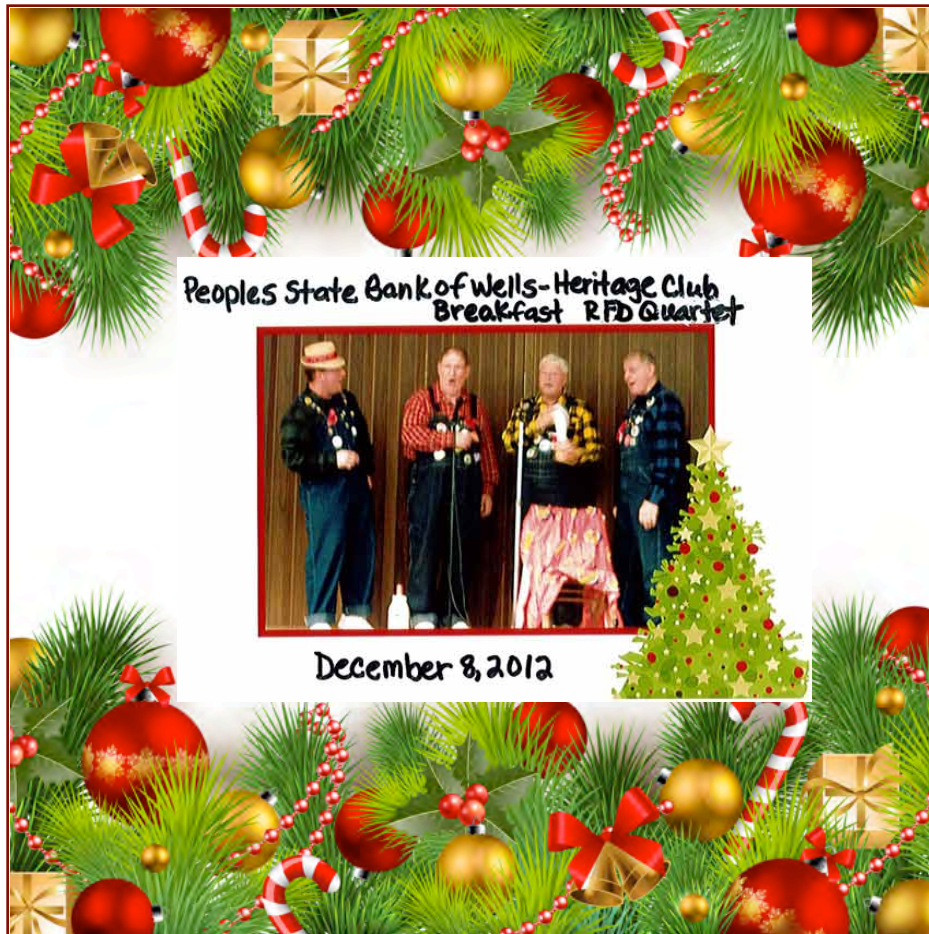
The Holiday group back at it again singing and ringing for the Salvation Army at Cub Food East

Two Tuesdays in a row in December, we were at the local Cub Food Stores. For many years now we have helped support the Salvation Army and all of the good work that they do. We were lucky enough to be asked to sing at their Bell Ringers gathering and send off party at the Salvation Armies main building in November. We had a great time meeting a lot of really nice folks. Then off to the singing and ringing in December.

We want to thank all of the people involved in setting up these performances. We also want to thank the employees at both Cub Food Stores for allowing us to sing inside the buildings and for suppling us with refreshments and cookies.

I know that the “Riverblenders” that participate in these events feel good about themselves as many of the shoppers stop over and thank us for making their shopping experience more enjoyable.

Quartet News -



RFD #5 Sings for Sertoma
at Happy Chef 169

Talk about a versatile Quartet! A big thank you goes out to Wayne Hughes who took over for the working Steve Pettis and Stan Bruss who took over for an injured Chuck Brooks. It was simply a magical performance with 2 members of MAGIC and 2 members from RFD singing for the Christmas meeting of the local Sertoma Club.



Marketing/Public Relations Chairman Bailey Blethen and committee member Jeff Grimmer meet to discuss goals for 2013



Other Important Messages

YOUTH IN HARMONY FESTIVAL

GRADES 9-12



Saturday, January 26, 2013
Crossview Covenant Church
2000 Howard Drive
North, Mankato, MN

Tentative Schedule:

8:30 Registration
9:00 Warmups
9:15 Divide into 2 choruses
9:30 Learn song #1
10:15 Learn song #2
11:00 Sectionals
12:00 Lunch
12:45 Combined rehearsal
1:30 Choreography
2:30 Break
2:45 Riser rehearsals
3:30 Wrap-up
4:00 Concert for friends and family

Clinicians:

Director Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines Chorus - Carol Grimmer
Director Riverblenders Chorus - Jacob Ritter
and chorus quartets

Registration Fee: \$5.00

Sponsored by the Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines and Mankato Riverblenders

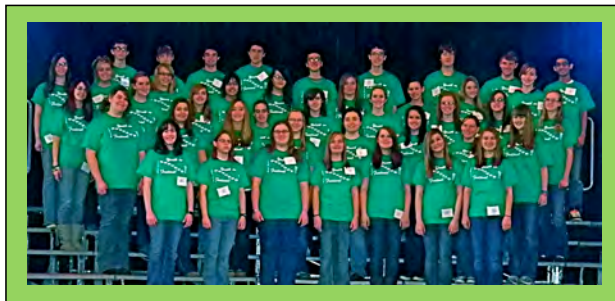


"This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Fund"



YOUTH IN HARMONY FESTIVAL

GRADES 9-12



Saturday, January 26, 2013

Crossview Covenant Church
2000 Howard Drive
North Mankato, MN

8:30 AM - 3:45 PM

4:00 PM - Concert - open to public

Clinicians:

Director - Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines Chorus
Carol Grimmer
(Plus Quartets)

Director - Mankato "Riverblenders" Chorus
Jacob Ritter
(Plus Quartets)

Registration Fee: \$5.00

Sponsored by the Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines and Mankato Riverblenders



"This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund"



Holidays mean -



Spending time with friends and family