

# PACKERLAND



## Stays in Tune!

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### Oshkosh WinnebagoLand Barbershop Chapter's activities

Submitted by Jack Kile

### TODD OXLEY SELECTED TO DIRECT THE OSHKOSH WINNEBAGOLAND BARBERSHOP CHORUS

The Oshkosh WinnebagoLand Barbershop Chorus is pleased to announce that **Todd Oxley**, a 25-year Barbershopper, has accepted the position of choral director beginning September 2008. **Todd**, a distinguished music educator with over 30 years of experience, recently retired as Director of Choral Music at Neenah High School. Prior to that, he served as Director of Choral Music at Winneconne High School. He was introduced to Barbershopping by his father, **Norris**, a founding member of the *Minocqua-Woodruff Chapter*. While a student at UW-Stevens Point, **Todd** sang tenor with the quartet "Crowd Pleasers." For the past 23 years, he has sung lead with the "Sawdust City Slickers," past Packerland Division Champions and LOL District Finalists. Currently, he is singing bass in "The Cheery-O's" with his three sons (**Jacob, Joshua, and Nathan**), current Packerland Division Champions and LOL District Finalists. Through the years, Todd has been instrumental in introducing the barbershop style of music to his students and is a frequent teaching clinician at Youth in Harmony Festivals.

### OSHKOSH YOUTH IN HARMONY FESTIVAL

The third annual YIH Festival sponsored by the *Oshkosh WinnebagoLand Chapter* on May 10, 2008 was quite successful. We had 33 youth in attendance - including 15 middle school students. Interestingly, the Oshkosh Alliance Youth Barbershop Chorus, that competed in the first ever International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival in



San Antonio, had 6 high school freshman who were introduced to Barbershopping

at last year's Festival. **Duane "Duke" Enders** did a great job as the teaching clinician, and interaction with the teaching quartet - The Cheery-O's (Father **Todd Oxley** and three sons - **Jake, Josh, and Nate** - 2008 Packerland Division Champs) was outstanding. Everyone was in synch, and it was a total team effort. It helps when you have a music educator and a couple of choral directors in the teaching quartet. **Craig LaPoint**, a very talented member of the Oshkosh Chorus, served as the accompanist during rehearsals. The group worked on three songs ("*Hello Mary Lou,*" "*Bye, Bye Love,*" and "*Bad Bunch of Boys.*")

For the third year, the event was held at a local middle school (Webster Stanley) which has an auditorium that seat about 300 - more than adequate for our needs - a stage and a good sound system. The chorus rehearsed in

the school's choral room and also had rooms (with key-boards) for holding sectionals. The only expenses for the facility were for custodial services. Experience suggests that there are far less scheduling conflicts and it is much cheaper to use a middle school rather than a high school.

The one-hour performance, open to the public, began promptly at 4:00 p.m. (had about 200 in attendance -- tickets - \$5.00 for adults and no charge for students). Order of Appearance -- Sawdust City Slickers, Acoustically Challenged (High School quartet from Oshkosh West), The Cheery-O's, Oshkosh West High School Chorus, and the featured group - the Festival Chorus. The groups received a standing ovation for their efforts.

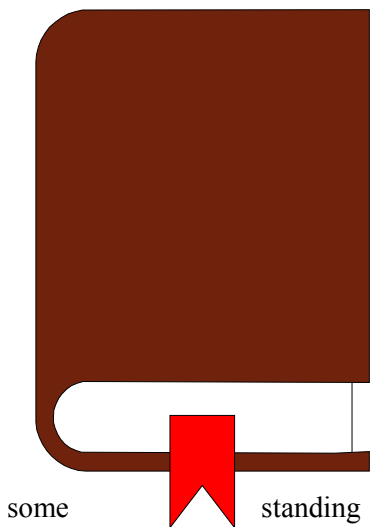
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## HARMONY EXPLOSION CAMP

The Oshkosh Chapter sponsored a student to attend the Harmony Explosion Camp June 19-21 (would have sponsored more if there were takers). **Jack Kile** provided transportation for a student from Oshkosh and another from Fond du Lac to the Camp and served as chaperone.

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## CHURCH SING PERFORMANCES



For the past 15 years, the Oshkosh Chorus has sung in local churches during the summer months. On June 22nd, the chorus, under the direction of **Jake Oxley**, made eight appearances in different Oshkosh churches singing two numbers to appreciative parishioners (even some standing ovations) - "**I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked,**" and a "**Little Talk With Jesus.**" The chorus ended the day by performing at an open house at The Waters (formerly Oshkosh American Legion). The show also included a performance by **Counterpoint**, who represented LOL District in the

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Collegiate Quartet Contest in Nashville. Additional church sing outs have been scheduled in Oshkosh for July 20th and in Berlin on August 17th. Thanks to **Art Loos**, Chorus Manager for arranging the sing outs and getting in and out of the churches in a timely fashion.

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## CHICKEN CHEW

The Oshkosh Chapter's annual Chicken Chew (an inter-chapter event) was held June 24th with guys and significant others from the **Fox Valleyaires, Pride of the Valley, Plymouth, Ripon and Oshkosh Chapters** in attendance. A mass chorus of



over 70 sang for their dinner. As usual, no one went home hungry. The infamous quartet contest showcased exceptional talent form throughout the Packerland Division. It was a fun time as usual, making new friends, reminiscing,

renewing friendships, and ringing lots of chords -- Barbershop-ping at its best.

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## COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP TO JACOB OXLEY

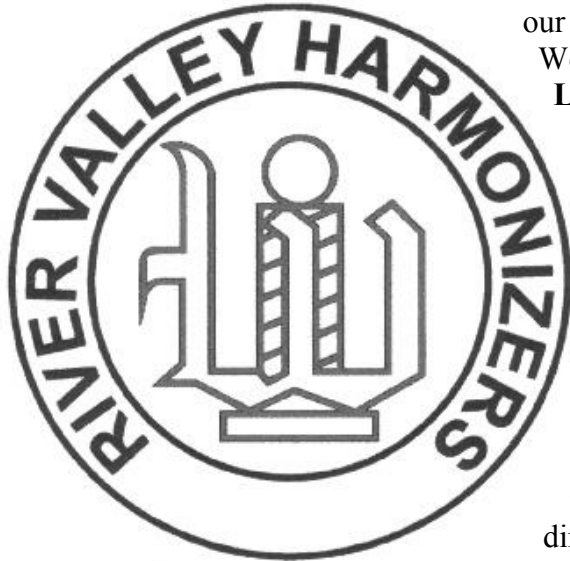
The Oshkosh WinnebagoLand Chapter was pleased to award a \$1000 college scholarship to **Jacob Oxley**. Jake will be a sophomore at UW-Stevens Point where he is majoring in Music Education. He is a third generation Barbershopper who already has an outstanding resume. He directed the Oshkosh Alliance Youth Barbershop Chorus that participated in the first ever International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival in San Antonio this past January and is currently directing the WinnebagoLand Barbershop Chorus for the summer. He sings lead with **Counterpoint** who represented the LOL District in the International Collegiate Quartet Contest in Nashville in June. He also sings baritone with The **Cheery-O's** (which includes his dad and two brothers) who are current Packerland Division Champions and LOL finalists.

WAUSAU....

Home of the River Valley Harmonizers

Submitted by Charlie Wade

Director search



Our main issue is the loss of our chorus director.

We have met with Larry Lewis, and received some valuable info. It looks like a busy summer getting that problem solved. Paul Smith has graciously taken over the directorship, but

would like to go back to his retirement as soon as possible.

Even at that, we are doing three performances at local churches this summer. We also had the pleasure of singing the National Anthem for the State Little League championship here in Wausau on July 19 and for a Woodchuck game.

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In the second quarter of 2008, the Appleton Chapter Fox Valleyaires kept busy with a flurry of activities, highlighted by our Annual Show "Love...Finally!" The show was



held at Pathways Church in Appleton and featured the Fox Valley Chorus of Sweet Adelines and the quartet, Main Street Station. The show, written and directed by Kelly Aschebrook, was enjoyed by the chorus and audience alike.

After the show, the chorus began busily preparing for the 2009 show while spending some time working on the Packerland division contest set. This year's division contest was successfully hosted by the Fox River Valley Chapter here in Appleton. Our chorus placed 2nd overall and won the AA plateau championship. Now it's on to Appleton where we'll host this year LO'L District convention. I like to refer to it as "Having Big Fun in the Little Apple"! Get your registrations in early!



In May, the chorus also performed as part of the Little Chute Memorial Day Ceremony. We performed "Sleep, Soldier, Sleep" and "God Bless America".

The weather was beautiful and the community support was in full force. We also performed as part of a fundraiser at Chilton High School. Here is a photo of one the quartets (One Button Short) at the performance.

Three chapter quartets and four guest quartets provided entertainment for the Singing for Life blood drive. The chapter quartets were “Touch of Old”, “One Button Short” and “Bag of Tricks”; and the guest quartets were “Just for Kicks”, the Fox Sounds”, “Hallmark”, and “Switch Chord Revival”. Although the turnout for the drive was low, the volunteers and quartets had a great time.



In June, the chorus participated in the Appleton Flag Day parade. The float was one of the major attractions as it was being pulled by a Hummer Limousine.

Twenty two members rode the float and the crowd enjoyed the patriotic numbers performed by the chorus.

The chapter also took a night off to party with the Oshkosh Chapter at the Umpteenth Annual



Chicken Chew. Chapter members enjoyed food, camaraderie, and great singing. The

highlight of the evening was the college quartet “Counterpoint” performed without their tenor and rang the tag using overtones to create the tenor note! The crowd jumped out of their seats.

The month of June was capped off by the chorus’ annual participation in the Kimberly “Art in Park” series at the amphitheatre in Sunset Park. The performance was preceded by a family picnic and featured the guest quartet “Sawdust City Slickers”.



Check out our website [www.foxvalleyaires.com](http://www.foxvalleyaires.com) for information of upcoming events and come sing with us on Tuesday nights at the Little Chute Village Hall, 7pm.

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