

River Ramblings

Editor - Jeffrey Grimmer

February 14th - Valentines Singing



A Singing Valentine
for that *Special Someone*
by a Mankato Riverblenders Quartet

The quartet will sing 2 songs,
present a long stemmed rose, a Valentine card
naming the sender,
and a photo of the occasion.

Appointments available
Friday, February 14th
from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.
all for only \$40
CALL NOW!
507-469-4085 or 507-382-9384
www.singmankato.com

Dwain and Margaret Frazee are winding up their preparations and getting ready for the stacks of singing requests. They still need your help in distributing the flyers and in passing the verbal word out to all of your friends about this worthwhile event.

There are 4 quartets and they are looking for a fifth one to fill the roster of singers. Front men and drivers are being chosen and things are tightening up.

Not only is this a great fund raiser for the chorus, it is a really great time for the quartets and their support personnel. Thanks everyone for your help!!

"YOUTH IN HARMONY FESTIVAL"

February 8, 2014
Crossview Covenant Church
North Mankato, MN

Student: _____

Grade _____

E-MAIL CONTACT ADDRESS

Voice Part (circle one):

School: _____

S₁ S₂ A₁ A₂

Teacher: _____

T₁ T₂ B₁ B₂

Adult T- Shirt Size (circle one) S M L XL

Parent Permission

(Student Name)

has my permission to participate in the "Youth In Harmony Festival" on February 8, 2014 at Crossview Covenant Church in North Mankato, to appear in the concert at 4:00 P.M. and I also give permission to use digital media of the chorus for publicity purposes.

Signed _____
(Parent/Guardian)

Phone Number _____

Parents: Please return this form and the \$5.00 "Registration Fee" to your teacher by
Friday, January 24, 2014

Teachers: Please send forms and registrations to:

Pat Prange
2105 Roe Crest Ct
North Mankato, MN 56003

Registration Form

If you know of a student that may want to attend, use this registration.

Youth In Harmony Schedule

February 8, 2014

8:30 Registration
 8:45 Physical Warmups
 9:00 Warmups and Introductions
 9:25 Divide into Choruses
 9:30 Learn Song #1
 10:00 Learn Song #2
 10:30 Break
 10:45 Sectionals
 11:30 Tag Singing
 12:00 Lunch
 12:45 Combined Rehearsal
 1:30 Choreography
 2:30 Break
 2:45 Riser Rehearsals
 3:30 Wrap-up
 4:00 Concert

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Youth in Harmony is just around the corner. That means I'll need your help with loading/unloading risers and railings. We'll plan to load them after rehearsal on February 4th into my trailer and probably Friday, February 7th, unload them at Crossview and then go to Grace Lutheran to load the Sweet Adelines Risers and bring them up to Crossview and then set-up.

Also, after the concert on Saturday afternoon February 8th, we'll load our risers in my trailer and if some of you guys with pick-ups could load the Sweet Adelines risers and railings and unload them at Grace (remember to reattached the 4 step to them), hopefully it's not snowing or the roads aren't sloppy. If so we'll use the trailer. On Tuesday February 11th, come to rehearsal a little early to unload our risers at Loyola.

Thanks in advance!!

Stan Bruss

House Manager - Mankato Riverblenders

Calendar

February 4, 2014 - Tuesday

Loyola High School

Regular Rehearsal - 7 PM

February 8, 2014-Saturday

Youth In Harmony Festival

Dwain Frazee

Crossview Covenant Church

Show - 4 PM

February 11, 2014 - Tuesday

Exec. Board Meeting 6 PM

Loyola High School

Regular Rehearsal - 7 PM

February 14, 2014 - Friday

Singing Valentines - Dwain Frazee

February 18, 2014 - Tuesday

Show Committee Meeting - 6 PM

Loyola High School

Regular Rehearsal - 7 PM

February 25, 2014 - Tuesday

Loyola High School

Regular Rehearsal - 7 PM

March 29, 2014 - Saturday

Southwest/10,000 Lakes

Division Contest - Arv Zenk

Hosted By - Mankato, MN

Nicollet High School

April 26, 2014 - Saturday

Annual Show - Arv Zenk

Quartets:

2013 LO'L District Champs

"Kordal Kombat"

LO'L Humor Champs every year!

"Gay 90's"

Crossview Covenant Church

2 & 7 PM

2014 Show "BACK 40"

Our 40th year in existence will include the show "BACK 40", a plethora of songs that the "Riverblenders" have sung over the past years. The show will take place at Crossview Covenant Church in North Mankato on April 26 at 2 & 7 p.m.

Our quartets will include the return of the "Gay Nineties" and the introduction to the Mankato Area of the 2013 LO'L Quartet Champs "Kordal Kombat".

We are spending a bit more than usual this year, so we need each of you to get out and sell just one more ad and 5 more tickets. If we accomplish this we will be sitting pretty for the rest of 2014.

As you know, we have been working on several new songs that will be used on the show and in future performances. The time is short to learn these so we need you to hit those learning CD's hard!

The Preglow is set for the "Best Western Hotel" and the Afterglow will be at "The Loose Moose". Maybe we can get Mike Maes, the owner and former member to sing a couple of songs with us.

Director Jacob Ritter has Learning CD's if you need one.

That's all for now!



Designed by Steve Pettis

"I SING" buttons were recently purchased by the chorus, and they are now available for only \$1.50.

See Jeff Grimmer for your button.





BARBERSHOP
HARMONY
SOCIETY

LA CROSSE
COULEE
CHORDSMEN

P. O. BOX 902 • LA CROSSE, WI • 54602-0902 • 608-780 SING (7464) • H-032

November 30, 21013

Ronald Meyer
1530 N 4th Street
Mankato, MN 56001

Dear Ronald,

I am writing to express our appreciation to the Mankato Riverblenders for assisting La Crosse during the LOL Fall District Contests. Of the 39 sections of risers required, yours were critical for the completion of the 3 contest sites and the YIH rehearsal hall.

As we waited to go on stage Saturday morning we can attest to the fact that Mankato opened the contest with a high quality performance. Again, thank you for contributing to this District Event.

Looking forward to see you all in 2014.

Singingly yours,

Dale Montgomery
Dale Montgomery, Chairman
La Crosse LOL 2013 Fall Convention and Contest

Newsletter Editor Needed

As the old saying goes - everything must have an end. And it is time for this editor to step down and let someone else try their hand. It's been a blast and I hope that I have touched some of your heads and hearts.

Thanks for the support!

River Ramblings-Special Edition

Taxes

The Mankato Riverblenders Tax Information

As tax time approaches we are all looking for ways to reduce the amount that we pay to the IRS. As barbershoppers there are some things that are tax deductible for us. In addition to any monetary contributions that you make to the Society, District, or Chapter your "Out of Pocket" expenses may also be deductible. Some of the expenses that you may deduct include travel to performances and contests, and uniform expenses, including cleaning.

Chapter officers, board members, and others that have been assigned certain responsibilities may have additional deductible expenses.

Activities in which a Barbershopper engages solely as the result of membership in the Society are not "duties," in the IRS sense of this word. Expenses incurred in traveling to and from Harmony Education Program (HEP) schools which he attends not as an official, but as a general Barbershopper, or in traveling to and from shows or conventions in which he is solely a spectator, are not charitable contributions and are not deductible.

Remember—to be deductible as a non-reimbursed expenditure, the expense must occur "incident to the rendition of a service" to the Society, a district or a chapter. A Barbershopper is not rendering a service when, as an individual, he sits in the audience at a contest or show or sits in a classroom at a Society school. If he sits in such a meeting as an elected or appointed official, however, his expenses become deductible (if non-reimbursed), for he is now rendering a service.

As in so many other tax situations, the intent of the taxpayer becomes of great importance. If he attends a meeting primarily to serve his chapter, district, or Society as the result of being elected or appointed, he falls in one category. If he attends primarily for his own enjoyment, he falls in another category.

Check with your tax advisor or preparer for specifics about your individual situation. Remember that all deductions must be verifiable. Keep receipts for all of your non-reimbursed expenses.

5.11 Personal income tax deductions

Section 170(a) of the Internal Revenue Code allows as a deduction any "charitable contribution" where payment is made within the taxable year. Such contributions are allowable only if verified or capable of verification. Contributions are "charitable contributions" if they are made to corporations, among others, which have been declared by the IRS to be exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Society, its districts and chapters fall in this category.

The Income Tax Regulations (Section 1.170-2) provide that, in general, a deduction is allowable only for charitable contributions actually paid during the taxable year, regardless of when pledged and regardless of the method used by the taxpayer in keeping his books and records. It is important that a true and accurate record, with all possible receipts and vouchers, be kept if a taxpayer intends to claim a charitable contribution as a deduction.

5.12 Out-of-pocket expenses

According to the IRS, contributions to the Society, its districts and chapters, are deductible for the individual taxpayer, and that non-reimbursed out-of-pocket expense incurred in rendering service to any of these units fall in this category.

The Mankato Riverblenders Tax Information-Continued

5.12.1 Contribution of services not deductible

There are no deductions allowed for contribution of services. However, non-reimbursed expenditures made as services to an organization, contributions to which are deductible, may constitute a deductible contribution. The regulations specifically provide, for example, that the cost of a uniform without general utility which is required to be worn when performing donated services for such an organization is deductible.

Similarly, the regulations hold that out of-pocket transportation expenses necessarily incurred in rendering donated services for such an organization are deductible. Also, reasonable expenditures for meals and lodging reasonably incurred while away from home in the course of rendering donated services are deductible.

5.12.2 Travel expenses

Another provision of the Income Tax Regulations (Section 1.162-2) defines travel expenses as travel fares, meals and lodging, and expenses incident to travel. Only traveling expenses, as are reasonable and necessary in the discharge of the taxpayer's duty in the Society, district or chapter, and directly attributable to his duty, may be deducted.

If the taxpayer travels to a destination where he engages in both Society and personal activities, travel, meals and lodging may only be deducted if there is no significant element of personal pleasure, recreation or vacation in the trip. The traveling expense to and from such a destination is deductible only if the trip is related primarily to the taxpayer's Society duties. If his activities are not primarily Society in nature while at his destination, the travel expenses are not deductible. Whether his activities are primarily personal or primarily Society depends on the facts in each case. The actual amount of time spent in each type of activity is an important factor in making this determination.

5.12.3 Non-deductibles

Activities in which a Barbershopper engages solely as the result of membership in the Society are not "duties," in the IRS sense of this word. Expenses incurred in traveling to and from Harmony Education Program (HEP) schools which he attends not as an official, but as a general Barbershopper, or in traveling to and from shows or conventions in which he is solely a spectator, are not charitable contributions and are not deductible.

Remember—to be deductible as a non-reimbursed expenditure, the expense must occur "incident to the rendition of a service" to the Society, a district or a chapter. A Barbershopper is not rendering a service when, as an individual, he sits in the audience at a contest or show or sits in a classroom at a Society school. If he sits in such a meeting as an elected or appointed official, however, his expenses become deductible (if non-reimbursed), for he is now rendering a service.

As in so many other tax situations, the intent of the taxpayer becomes of great importance. If he attends a meeting primarily to serve his chapter, district, or Society as the result of being elected or appointed, he falls in one category. If he attends primarily for his own enjoyment, he falls in another category.

5.12.4 Partial reimbursement

In many cases, a chapter, district or Society official is reimbursed for part, but not all, of his expenditures while rendering service in his official capacity. Under certain conditions he may deduct (as a charitable contribution) the excess over what he is reimbursed in this case.

If he is reimbursed, the official should keep a careful record of these payments. If he wishes to do so, he may report them as income, showing his total expense and showing the excess of actual expense over reimbursed expense as a deduction. If he prefers, however, he may use the income information only if required to do so during an audit by the IRS. In this case, the "income" in the form of reimbursement from his chapter, district or Society will now show on this tax return. He should show, as deduction, the expenses toward his duties as an official which are over and above the reimbursed amount.

The official must be very careful in documenting all expenses which he claims as a deduction. It is always possible for a taxpayer to be involved in an IRS audit.

The Mankato Riverblenders Tax Information-Continued

5.13 Apply the law to the facts: specific cases

A Barbershopper may deduct as a charitable contribution any non-reimbursed expenditure for expenses incurred in carrying out an official duty. Such duties may arise out of having been elected to office or appointed as a chapter, district or Society official. They may arise from singing in a quartet or chorus in a public appearance if his services are donated.

Based on IRS regulations and relevant laws, the following expenses (incident to the discharge of duty for the chapter, district, or Society and not reimbursed to the chapter, district, or Society officer incurring them) are considered charitable contributions and deductible items provided they are fully documented and evidence of their nature is retained by the official:

5.13.1 Chapter officials: president, chapter development vice president, music and performance vice president, secretary and treasurer

- Travel to and from chapter meetings

5.13.2 Chapter board of directors

- Travel to and from meetings of the board

5.13.3 Chorus directors

- Travel to and from district chorus directors' workshops and craft workshops and Society music education schools
- Travel to and from chapter meetings

5.13.4 Chapter, district and Society officials

- Telephone
- Stationery
- Postage
- Other supplies incident to the discharge of the official duty
- Travel, meals, lodging and other reasonable and necessary expense incurred when away from home while attending the following:
 - Meetings of official bodies, such as Society Board, district board, district house of delegates
 - Leadership Academy
 - Administrative and music education schools
 - Contest and judging workshops
 - Tuition or enrollment fees at Leadership Academies, education schools, or contest and judging sessions
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5.13.5 Chapter members

- Out-of-pocket expenditures for uniforms and performances
- Travel, meals, lodging to contest where no significant element of personal pleasure was derived
- Travel to performances where services were donated
- In computing cost of automobile travel, refer to the IRS informational packet for current and accurate mileage allowances or list actual cost of gas and oil. If travel is by public transportation, use the actual cost of fare.

The Mankato Riverblenders Tax Information-Continued

5.14 Reporting contributions

In completing a Personal Income Tax Form 1040, the total amount claimed as a deduction should be entered in "Itemized Deductions," under the classification "Contributions, other than cash." Your "contribution" has been made by virtue of your electing not to claim these expenditures for reimbursement by a Society chapter. Therefore, your contribution has been "other than cash."

You should attach to your personal income tax return a sheet, headed "Contributions other than cash." It should begin with a statement that you have incurred expenses, incident to performance of your duty as a chapter, district or Society officer or official, for which you have not been reimbursed. Give the full name and address of the Society unit for which the services have been performed, and state that this unit is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The statements in this paragraph are all very important and are required by law. In a second paragraph, you should show the general classifications of expenditures into which the total deduction figure on your return breaks down, giving the dollar amount for each classification. Appropriate general classifications include:

- Travel
- Lodging
- Meals away from home
- Tuition at Society training sessions
- Supplies
- Telephone
- Other expenditures

Our thanks go out to Ron Larson and the Barbershop Society for the following information. I reprinted these forms in their entirety as to not delete some information that the members may need. Ron's summary is on page 10, in case you do not want to read the entire offering. - Editor



Do any of you recognize the people in this 1976 pool picture?

The Mankato Riverblenders Tax Information-Continued

Ron Larson's Review

Personal Income Tax Deductions for Barbershoppers

Yes, some things you do as a Barbershopper are tax deductible. If you itemize your deductions, you may be entitled to include some expenses for barbershop activity.

Some things you do as a Barbershopper are tax deductible. If you itemize your deductions, you may be entitled to include some expense for barbershop activity. If you had verifiable out-of-pocket expense in connection with a chapter duty as an elected or appointed officer or board member, or, if you sang in one or more local shows or performances, such expenses as travel (14¢ per mile, or actual cost) telephone, postage, parking, etc., for which you were not reimbursed are deductible. Also, the costs of buying and maintaining your uniform, including cleaning, are deductible.

Expense of travel to chapter meetings is not deductible unless you hold an office directly involved in conduct of the meeting.

A different rule applies to travel away-from-home. Transportation, meals and lodging may only be deducted if there is no significant element of personal pleasure, recreation or vacation in the trip. If golf games, sightseeing, and similar activities heavily overbalance singing and participation in meetings as a duty for the away-from-home expenses, these expenses would not be deductible.

The cost of tuition at schools is specifically barred as a deduction as well as dues.

If you use these deductions, here is the procedure. With Form 1040, use Schedule A, under "gifts to charity, other than cash or check," enter the total of your out-of-pocket expense. (Remember the words "non-reimbursed" and "verifiable.") If over \$500 attach the appropriate schedule and categorize expenses by groups (lodging, transportation, etc.), captioned "Expenses incurred in connection with contributions of services to an organization classed as exempt under Section 501 (c) (3)." Then state the name and location of your chapter and the full name of the Society.

The website calendar can serve as a reminder of scheduled performances and events for which you may have deductible expenses. However, you need to maintain accurate records of your mileage and expenses.

Your cash contributions to the chapter or the Society or to Harmony Foundation Inc. (for the General Fund or to the Endowment Program) are directly deductible. Include this figure in Schedule A, under "gifts to charity, cash or check." Be sure to retain verifying records such as appointment books, calendars with notes, etc.