

What will be New at River Falls in January?

By Dave Sylte – LO'L District Education Team

It's that time of year to start thinking about a great weekend that happens every year in January at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls. So the first thing is to mark your calendar and start to think about **The LO'L Leadership Training Academy – Lakes Chord College (LTA-LCC)** on **January 11-12, 2019 at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls**. The first question that often comes up when we put this out there is, "Well I've been there before, so is there anything new?" The answer is "yes." First, let's start with some numbers. Among the 17 faculty members, over 50% are new compared to last year. Looking at the class selections, over 50% are new subjects. Now that we have your attention, here are some other details.

Focus on Membership

Membership is always on our chapters' music radar because we're always looking for new members to join our ranks. So to help get this going better in your chapter, this year we are offering new classes on **Membership/Chapter Development**. These guys are your leaders to promote membership, but as we all know membership is a team effort as is everything else to make your chapter thrive. So once again we are offering the tuition is still a bargain at **\$85 for 2 days of classes and 5 meals!**

The class schedule will include several classes on membership. In addition to the Core Class for Membership/Chapter Development VP's, there are two new elective courses, "**Recruiting with New Ideas**" and "**Orientation Equals Improved Retention.**" These classes will be led by **Bob Cox**, a Society leader on promoting chapter membership.

Focus on Leadership

Bob will join forces with **Don Fuson**, former Society President, to help us navigate through the new vision for the Society "**Everyone in Harmony – A Bold Vision for a Bright Future.**" They will present a keynote address on this topic at the Friday night General Session where they will share the latest from Nashville on the recent changes that are unfolding under this new umbrella. Then Bob and Don will fill in more details in an elective class they will tag teach, "**Become a Change-able Leader.**" In addition, there will be two new classes on leadership, "**Leadership Development,**" led by Don and "**Leadership in Volunteer Organizations,**" led by Jay Althof. Larry Lewis will again present a class on "**Generational Differences in Your Chorus – An Update.**"

Focus on Singing & Performing – New Classes

In addition to Jim Emery's popular classes on singing, Paul Wigley will lead two new classes on this topic, "**Vocal Improvement**" and "**Ear Training for Barbershoppers.**" To add more excitement to your singing and performing, Jay Althof will lead "**Bringing a Song to Life.**" We're adding a session this year on "**Standing Ovation Program Basics & Review**" to cover the basics of the SOP as well as a refresher for those who have been doing SOP reviews. We're more than just singers, we're performers.

Focus on Music Leadership

In addition to the Core Classes for Chorus Directors and Assistant Directors as well Music and Performance VPs, we have several music leadership elective classes that were not offered last year. Larry Monson will lead classes on “**Assistant Director/Music Team Workshop**” and “**The Joy of Singing.**” Dave Speidel will lead classes on “**Successful Directing for the Novice**” and “**Planning Rehearsals for Your Chorus.**”

Other New Classes

Here is a quick look at some other new classes with new teachers. Jim Ramus and Chris Vander Pas will cover an important part of our Youth in Harmony efforts, “**ABC’s of Engaging Music Educators.**” Bruce Anderson will cover “**Marketing Your Chorus**” and “**Social Media – Round Table Discussion,**” assisted by Dave Helf. “**Barbershop Smorgasbord**” has been a popular class on Saturday morning for the guys who are not taking the office specific courses. Scott Kvigne who has led this class was not available this year, but Jay Althof has stepped forward to lead this class and promises to serve up “a little of many barbershop morsels.”

Other Details

As you can see, there is something on the list for every man in your chapter. So mark your calendars for **January 11-12, 2019 in River Falls.** Once you have elected your officers and made some plans for the coming year, work through the list and get your guys registered. And tuition is still only \$85 for 5 meals and 2 days of classes.