

HarmonOtes

Monthly Update of Kansas City's Heart Of America Chorus

COURTESY, PLEASE!!!

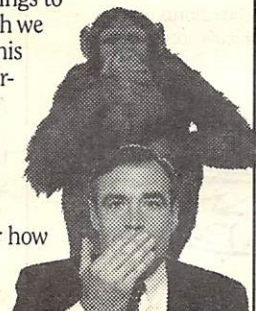
By Dick Irwin

Most of the members of this chorus have at some point in their lives found it necessary to deal with an unruly child by yelling at them. It isn't the most pleasant thing we've ever done. But, we felt it was the only way to quiet the offender. I would be willing to bet that there are very few of us who have ever dealt with co-workers in the same way. But then co-workers tend to act more adult-like and for the most part know when to be quiet and listen, don't they?

Gentlemen, in this chorus we can be considered co-workers. Each of us has a different job to do to make the entire chorus work properly. In this chorus there are also people who have been chosen to lead or guide us so that we may perform our jobs in unison. These leaders and guides should be considered on the same level as your boss at work. They have been empowered to teach us and to judge our performances and they deserve our undivided attention and our respect the same as a boss. If we are to achieve our goal of improving this chorus we MUST show our leaders the respect they deserve. We can no longer tolerate the constant disruption that comes from chatter on the risers during our rehearsals.

We as adults MUST show courtesy to each other as well. We should not need to be "shushed" by anyone. However, should the need arise it is the responsibility of the person directing/teaching/coaching/speaking in front of the chorus to recognize the problem and to stop whatever they are doing for us until we give them our full attention. We will not appoint a "master at arms" to help to enforce what should be common courtesy. But, as your elected President I will, when I feel it is required, step forward and assist the person in front by quieting the chorus. The only other individual who may appropriately provide this assistance is the Program Vice-President. *It is no one else's job!*

Lastly, our meetings begin at 7:00 not 7:15 or 7:30. At 7:00 we are expected to join together on the risers to begin warming-up our voices and minds in preparation for our rehearsal. Our chapter is also a social organization. We come together on Tuesday evenings to meet with friends and share experiences. Although we prefer that everyone join in the warm-ups since this will help us individually and as a chorus, we understand that visiting is also a part of our meetings. Since we have the use of more than one room in our meeting facility and since the chorus MUST use the large room for rehearsal, all other members who choose to not join us on the risers are expected to take their conversation, no matter how quiet, to another room where it will not interfere with the chorus activities. ■



Appreciations

Inside

HELP WANTED

Are you the man to fill one of these important roles?

BOARD MEETINGS

Dates and times for your calendar

KC150

HOA will co-star at Arrowhead on June 3rd!

Harmonotes express

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All chapter officers and quartets are expected, and chapter members encouraged, to contribute their ideas on a regular basis.

The editorial staff reserves the right to deny publication of material deemed inappropriate for *Harmonotes Express* and to edit all submissions for reasons of space and clarity (grammar, phrasing, and spelling).

Permission to reprint articles is granted to barber-shop chapters as long as the author and *Harmonotes Express* are acknowledged.

The utmost care was used in preparation of this newsletter. However, should you notice erroneous copy, please let the Editor know! Comments/submissions may be made to:

Todd Anderson

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CHAPTER INFORMATION

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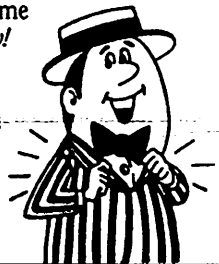
Member Of



FROM THE TOP OF OUR HEART

Grrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrreat job on the annual shows guys! I couldn't be more proud of the way we performed at both shows. I've heard nothing but compliments from many people. The chorus did a wonderful job! All of our quartets were simply fantastic! *Uptown Sound* really showed everyone what an international contender is all about! **Mike Schumacher** and his crew deserve big pats on the back for all of their efforts. And how about those Harmony Explosion quartets! *Fabulous!* Once again our sincere thanks to the *Heartbeats* for the terrific lunch. You ladies sure know how to get to a man!

Now we move onward. Shows in almost every month will keep us very busy! The convention is coming up fast. We cannot accept less than 100% effort from each and every member. This is our convention! We as a chapter are being judged by the world! I believe our job is to make it possible for each and every person who attends this convention to feel like they never had a better time anywhere. *Volunteer now!* Every member WILL be contacted one way or another and we expect all who can to pitch in and help make *Music Man 2000* the convention of the millenium! ■



HELP WANTED

Gentlemen, we are in desperate need of help with two jobs in our chorus. Our **Program Vice-President** is being transferred to California and will be unable to complete the remainder of his term. We are looking for someone to step forward and take the reigns of our Tuesday meetings. The person should have some computer capabilities and a great desire to help organize the meeting activities and keep things running smoothly.

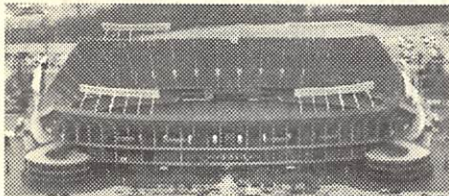
We are also in need of a new **Uniform Manager**. **Marty Oldehoeft** has done a wonderful job for several years and would like to take a break. This is a position that could be shared by more than one individual. This would spread the duties out and make the job less of a burden for any one person.

Please see **Dick Irwin** or any chapter officer or board member if you can be of help. ■

KANSAS CITY IS 150

You've heard us talk about it. You were probably part of making a tryout tape for it. Now you get to BE a part of it.

The **Heart of America Chorus** will be performing along with several "big name" stars in the celebration of Kansas City's 150th birthday. The party will take place in Arrowhead Stadium on the evening of June 3rd.



Although final program details are not yet completed the early indications are that we will perform at least one song (probably "Gee, But It's Great To Be In Kansas City") alone and then one combined with the **Kansas City Sweet Adelines**. We may also be asked to learn a finale song to be sung combined with all performers.

This show will require that we be available for a tech rehearsal on Friday, June 2nd from 7:00 to 10:00 PM and then again on Saturday, June 3rd beginning at noon until the end of the show.

This is a fantastic opportunity for us to show Kansas City and the world just what we have to offer. It could be a really big crowd to perform for too! When the sign-up sheets are out get on board this one fast! ■

TRUE STORY!

On March 7, a stranger who'd had a bit much to drink showed up at the meeting hall, needing a ride home to Leavenworth. 'Twas a different, and delicate situation, but at least he had the common sense to remove himself from the road. After some input on "how to handle" from chorus members on-hand, good ol' **John Stucker** volunteered to give the man a lift home, but not until after the meeting. So, the stranger took himself a 2-hour nap on a lobby couch, then John took him home. ...John didn't come back raving about his singing ability, so we likely won't see him again. But, isn't it great to be part of an organization which has the caliber of people who will do such good deeds as this? Thanks, John!! ■

SPRING FLING!

The Kansas City Chapter traditionally puts on two quartet contests per year. And one of them is coming up on Tuesday, April 11. It's the 2000 **Spring Fling**—a one-song, just-for-fun competition.

The primary reasons for Spring Fling are to give every chapter member a quartet experience, encourage participation by inactive members and provide a night of post-show entertainment. Families, friends and guests are welcome to come cheer!

Assignments have been made for 24 quartets. It would be great to get everyone into a foursome—but we have more than 150 names on the roster...and there just are not enough baris and tenors to go around. HOWEVER, if you wanna be a part of the competition and were not assigned a foursome, please lemme know. You'll got to the top of the replacement list.

We set an unofficial Society record in 1984 with 22 quartets in one contest. Now we can break that and capture some more international attention for HOA—if the contact men will do their jobs. I can't keep up with 96 quartet members, but I will be in contact with the contact men for each foursome (designated by an x on the assignment sheet).

So, contacts, please encourage those in your quartet to get together for at least one rehearsal. All participants will be recognized, and special awards go to the top five quartets. Then keep me informed about spare parts!

And the rules are purty simple: You can sing any Barberpole Cat song, any chapter song—almost any song. Costumes are encouraged but not required. Judging by chapter members will be on a simple sight and sound basis. No one may sing in more than one quartet, and all personnel changes must be approved by the Quartet Promotion Chairman.

April 11 comes during the Society's annual Harmony Week, observing our 62nd anniversary. *Whatta way to celebrate!*

JIM BAGBY

Quartet Promotion Chairman



A FEW MUSICAL "NOTES" By Mike Neff, Music & Performance VP

If I had to choose only one word to describe the Kansas City chapter's schedule over the next 5-6 months, it would be "FUN!" If I could choose a second, it would DEFINITELY be "BUSY!" But hey, I think that's a good thing! And I hope you do too.

Coming off another GREAT Annual Show, all I can say is "keep up the good work!" Several exciting events will be taking place over the coming months, and if you can participate in them, you'll sure be glad you did.

On Tuesday, April 11th, we'll bring back the annual Spring Fling quartet contest.

Jim Bagby, Quartet Promotion Chairman, is coordinating this year's

Spring Fling, and has already organized a "roster of real ringers," plus a few "bargain basement" judges. Be sure to get your

foursome together and experience what it's like to sing in a quartet. Who knows, you may like it so much, you might decide to buy matching socks!

The weekend of April 14-16, several HOA quartets will be competing at the CSD Spring Preliminary contest in Lincoln, Nebraska. If you have the chance, make the journey to Lincoln, Nebraska, and cheer on the guys who'll be representing our chapter. You're guaranteed to hear some great singing and enjoy the wonderful acoustics in the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

Our next 200 in 2000 performance is slated for 2:00 p.m., Saturday, April 29th at the Old Mission Methodist Church, located at Mission Road and Shawnee Mission Parkway. And, you may have already heard that the American Barberboys, from the St.

Joe chapter, will join HOA on Saturday evening, June 10th, for a performance at Yardley Hall, on the JCCC campus. Tickets are available now by calling the JCCC box office at 913-469-4445. Prices are \$5, \$10, \$15, and \$20.

Of course, July 2-9 brings the International Convention to our backyard, and some of the finest barbershop chords you'll ever hear. You won't want to miss this week full of fun and fellowship.

AND, we've got a BIG job to do as hosts, so let's make sure we really roll out the red carpet and make this year's convention one

of the Society's best!

If you just can't get enough barbershop, then Harmony College/ Director's College may be the next stop on your list. This annual

"hot dip in barbershop harmony" takes place August X-XX on the campus of Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph. Ask anyone who's ever been, and they'll tell you what a thrill it is to spend a week improving our craft, meeting fellow barbershoppers from all over the world, and ringing some chords with some of the Society's finest instructors. If you can't make it this year, think about it in 2001. What a fantastic event, and so close to home! I want to challenge the chapter to send a record number of attendees to HC/ DC next year. Will you be one of them?

We'll be planning a fall retreat again this year, and even though we're not competing in the fall contest, the Music Team has recommended that the chorus attend the Fall District Convention anyway.

(Continued on page 5)



A FEW MUSICAL "NOTES"

(continued from page 4)

Think about it—we can charter a couple of buses to Des Moines, root for our competing chapter quartets, and participate in many of the weekends activities, WITHOUT the competition schedule. Then on Saturday night, we'll host an afterglow, put on a brief performance and invite our fellow chapters and competing quartets to come and sing for us. Let's show the CSD that we're supporting the district, even though we're not competing in the contest.

And, before you know it, the annual Holiday Show will be fast approaching in early December. The show committee will be re-grouping soon to lay the plans for this year's show.

Whew! Did I say FUN or what?! Yep, we'll be busy this year, but imagine what fun it will be to share in these activities together, as we grow and learn and improve as musicians. This year presents some real opportunities for the chapter. Let's go out there and SEIZE THEM! You + Me =WE—TOGETHER! ■

MENTORS NEEDED!

So far 2 people have offered to mentor new members. *We need more!* The responsibilities are listed below and should take place during the first 8–12 weeks of a potential/new member's attendance.

1. Welcome him weekly to the meetings.
2. Stand with him and help him learn new music.
 - Could include making a learning tape for him.
 - Bring your music weekly to share with him on the risers.
3. Along with his sponsor, attend to him at breaks. Invite him to woodshed and sing tags. Introduce him to people.
4. Call him weekly to see how he's doing. Guide him through the orientation process. ■



NOTE "FROM THE HEART"

By Mike Neff

Well, it's time to add another foursome to the list of chapter quartets from Kansas City. We're excited to be the chapter's newest registered quartet and had a GREAT time singing on the annual show on March 18th. *From the Heart* (Matt Bostick, tenor, Mike Neff, lead, Grant Hunget, baritone, and Gordon Lankenau, bass) sang a spot in "Minstrel Montage" and performed two songs at the cast party after the show.

And, we've decided to find shirts, pants and socks that match, and will head to Lincoln next month for

Spring prelims. After a few weeks of tinkering around after rehearsal,

we agreed to pick a few songs, a name, and put this thing together. We're really looking forward to representing the chapter, and sharing the stage in Lincoln with *12th Street Rag*, *Gentlemen of Note*, and all other competing quartets representing our chapter. ■



BOARD MEETINGS

- Monday April 10, 2000
- Monday May 8, 2000

PLEASE NOTE:
The *Heartbeats* next meeting dates will be April 18th and June 20th.

SUNSHINE - by Max Boise

Getting "the skinny" to members about members and their families is like the train in "Swanee" - gooooooood!

It was great to have several chorus members gather at **Orville Wilson's** residence to ring a few chords in honor of his 85th birthday. I'm sure he also appreciated each card that we sent that affirms he's still very much a barbershopper at heart.

We're glad to hear from **Kevin Beauford** that his mother is improving nicely following the stroke she suffered early in March. Also, congrats to Kevin as he receives concentrated training in connection with his job promotion.

By now most of you are aware **Jerry Snyder** had discomfort diagnosed as a heart-attack. He's had angioplasty and a stent (a liner to keep the artery from becoming blocked at that place again) inserted. He needs to have one more similar procedure but is in "time-out" with an infection. We'll welcome you back on the risers, ASAP, Jerry.

And, just before the show we learned that **Ron Abel's** wife had a recurrence of the pneumonia she had earlier in the winter. Get well soon, **Ann**.

Finally, it was nice to see **Wade Dexter**, Editor Emeritus of the *Harmonotes*, circulating through the dressing rooms to say "Hello" at the Music Hall prior to the Spring Show. ■

HEARTBEAT

by Dessie Gathright - President, Heartbeats

Reminder that the next *Heartbeats* meeting is April 18, 2000, 7:00 p. m. at the church.

Many thanks to the members of *Heartbeats* who helped with the men's show this past Saturday. Some of us pulled "triple duty" by bringing food, helping serve it, and by ushering for both shows! Those ladies are: **Dessie Gathright, Bev Weidler, Sharon Oldehoeft, Joan Korek, Betty White.** Members **Sandy Rule, Betty Kaat, Laura Crawford, Mary Jo Miller, Sheli Irwin** brought food, helped set up etc. Several of these pulled "double duty." **Carol Ramirez** provided food; **Jan Mathieu** and **Shawna Mathieu** ushered. I hope I have not forgotten anyone. Your service is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to **Bev Weidler, Sandy Rule, and Dessie Gathright** who helped at the Harmony Explosion at Olathe East High School!

The Heartbeats are always there—willing with a smile to help our fellas! ■

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!



by Lud Einess, General Chairman - Convention 2000

Just in case you have been out of touch with HOA Chorus for the past several years, our chapter is hosting the 2000 International Convention, right here in Kansas City, July 2-9, 2000.

We expect upwards of 9000 attendees and we will need 300-plus volunteers to make sure every thing will run smoothly and to put on the very best International convention ever.

We need the help of all HOA'ers, active and inactive, and the wives, children (18 & over), parents, siblings, etc.

For all of you that work at least two 4-1/2 hour shifts, you will get a beautiful convention shirt with the *Music Man* logo on it, that you will be proud to wear anywhere.

You can get volunteer sheets by calling **Ron McIntire** @ (816) 229-8223 or our website @ www.hoachorus.org

Won't you please help? Thank you! ■



TONE-HENGE

On the weekend of March 3 & 4, *Tone-Henge* performed on our first barbershop show in Kearney, Nebraska. They were an enthusiastic bunch of guys and we had a great time. They had 3 shows (Friday night, Saturday afternoon and Saturday night) with an afterglow each night and an after-afterglow after the Saturday night afterglow. It all went really well (broken pottery everywhere!) and we were treated royally by the folks of Kearney, but the 3 older guys in the quartet were really worn out after all that. We have another 3 show weekend coming up the end of March in Mason City, Iowa. This time, former HOA assistant director, **Charlie Drake**, will be flying us, so in case one of us loses his voice, we'll have a built-in substitute. Before that, we have a couple of local performances—one at John Knox Village for a group that will include long-time HOAer **Ed Sundermeyer** and his wife **Ruth**, and another at the Fountains at Greenbriar in Independence where **Harriett Gall** and my mother, **Audrey Schweer**, live. In the middle of all this was the Kansas City show, which has to be the best place in the world for a quartet to sing. Thanks for asking us. ■

THE EFFORTS CONTINUE!

by Grant Hunget

After 11 weeks of the new year, the chapter has added 6 new members, with 4 more coming 'round the bend'! Things are looking good at this point, and that means KEEP IT UP!! In the "One a Day" program, 12 HOA'ers have caused new singer/visitors to attend our meetings, while **Ken Neujahr** and **Bob Howard** have captured January and February "point" titles. Everyone keep up the great work by utilizing the "Guy's Nites Out" (next one is June 13th).

The membership committee is working in various areas to assist us all. One of their main jobs is to assure that practical prospecting "tools" are available to members, so we may ALL have an easier time at working to attract new singers. There have been some good ones so far, don't you think? If YOU have an idea for a "tool" you'd like to see presented, let Grant know! WE ALL HAVE TO COMMIT TO PITCHING IN ON THIS EFFORT, NO MATTER HOW LITTLE OR GREAT THE EFFORT. THE CHAPTER'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON ALL OF US. REMEMBER, EVERY TUESDAY IS GUEST NIGHT...

...REMEMBER, MEMBERSHIP BEGINS WITH "ME"...GO GET 'EM !!!

The "200 in 2000" program has yielded additional guests as well! Now we move into a very important 2nd quarter, where we'll have recruiting opportunities at April, May and June performances. **Dan Henry's** doing a swell job, don't you think? We may all help make his job easier by following up with fellows we interest at these performances. ■

IT'S NEVER TOO SOON!

The annual show is past and we're starting to move closer to several other scheduled performances. As you can read in **Mike Neff's** article (page 4) we have some shows upcoming in April and May. These are all very important presentations since they are part of our recruiting program this year. We need each and every one of the performing chorus members to

be on the risers at every show. We can't make a good impression if we show up with only half of our team.

When the sign-up sheets are out **DON'T WAIT!!!!**

Be the *first* to put your name on the list! ■



WHAT'S ON
THE WAY FOR...



Our next *200 in 2000* show is a **Saturday matinee, April 29th, at Old Mission Methodist Church.** The United Methodist Women are using our performance as a fund raiser, and are so delighted to have us they're distributing flyers and selling tickets right and left! It'll be a sell-out! Please plan to be a part of this big event.

In **May**, we're doing the "Gatsby" at the **Elms Hotel in Excelsior Springs on the 20th.** It too will be a matinee, a whopper and a ton of fun! *Keep your oars in the water this year for sure!* ■

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