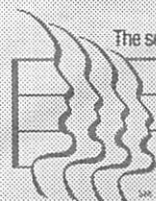


April 2005

HARMONOTES

The monthly newsletter of Kansas City's

Heart of America Chorus



The second-oldest chapter in the
BARBERSHOP
HARMONY
SOCIETY

Drawn by Harmony...
Bound by Friendship...
Striving for Excellence!

"Without music, life is a journey through a desert."

- Pat Conroy

Photo courtesy of Matt Bostick

2005 ANNUAL SHOW REFLECTIONS

by Bill Campsey

I overheard Jim mention that he wanted the new guys to share their first-time experience with the HOA annual show. Most of you know that I'm a dual member with the *Cody Choraliers*. As we get ready for our spring competition, I will be spending most Tuesdays in Leavenworth. But, I just don't want to miss this opportunity to share with you my personal experience.

I'll talk about the HOA chorus in a moment. But first, I want to personally congratulate **Mike Mathieu** on his idea to have a family chorus. It was a special moment with my son **Jeff**—through the rehearsals and especially during the shows. Will Jeff join us? I don't know. But I can tell you that he loved the harmony as much as we did. The reason I asked **John Fortino** to run through the entire thing one more time

Saturday morning is because I heard Jeff timidly asking if we could do it again. You betcha, son. You betcha.

It's no secret to this chorus that our overwhelming theme is commitment to excellence. It's a commitment made deep in the breast of every individual, coaxed forward by the extraordinary leadership HOA is blessed with. Every one of us on the risers understands that for every ounce of commitment we dedicate to getting better, the leadership of this chorus will give back a pound of direction and inspiration.

Carter Combs gently insisted and strategically prodded us to focus on the subtleties of what I believed was a very difficult song. **Mike Neff** encouraged the full-body experience of every phrase and every nuance. **Keith Schweer** had his own definition of "gentle" prodding. (continued on page 3 ♦)

■ **Page 4**
IRAQ UPDATE
Neil Johnson hasn't let duty keep him from finding harmony!

■ **Page 6**
WHEN DO WE GET TO DO THIS AGAIN?
J.B. Witham asks the question that everyone is asking!

■ **Page 10**
HOW TO BE A STAR REPORTER
No, not the KC Star. A Harmonotes Star!

■ **Pages 12-13**
THE '05 ANNUAL SHOW
HOA's sureshots provide us with a grand glimpse of the days activities!

HARMONOTES

...is published by the board of directors of the Kansas City, MO., Chapter of SPEBSQSA, Inc., a non-profit organization. Unless accompanied by a byline, all articles have been written by the Editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the officers and members of the chapter. Space will be made available for opposing points of view.

Heart of America Chorus

The Kansas City, MO. Chapter S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.

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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:

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ANNUAL SHOW NUMBERS

by Grant Hunget, 2005 Show Chairman



Early reports would show the Chapter making about \$4,500 on the 2005 Annual Spring Show. It's been better, but we'll take it!! There were a lot of circumstances involved this year: We paid full fare for our Headliner *Power Play*, which is fine. We simply came out a bit better financially last year when *RR4* only charged us about ten bucks!! Also, we were down this year in ticket sales by about 350 over both Shows. My congratulations and compliments to everyone who contributed to the success of this Show—the Show Committee, Music Team, our Directors, and the HOA Heartbeats. We have SO MANY GREAT PEOPLE always willing to assist, and we appreciate it. I'll give you a more full report in the May issue. ♥

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(continued from front page)

Every one of the section leaders poured time and self into making our qualification process thorough, rigorous, and individually successful. We needed all this range and quality of personalities to sew the fabric of leadership.

I fear that I will leave someone out, and I apologize in advance for that. But I want to point to three folks whose selfless dedication and outpouring of talent truly make this chorus a privileged group.

Mike Schumacher was at rehearsal early every week. Not only was he the encyclopedic reference to every chorus move, he shared his knowledge with absolutely no judgment. He'd work a move over and over until a group of folks or one individual had questions answered. He turned the plodding drill of synchronized movement into a personal mission and inspired us all to be the very best we could be.

John Fortino is to me the epitome of dedication to excellence. I never saw him get frustrated; although I'm sure there were plenty of opportunities for him to pull out what little hair he has. He drilled us on pitch. And even though we asked for it, I'm sure that a lesser personality could have made us grow weary of the pitch master. But he was always positive. When we needed to get better, he concentrated on how. When we did get better, you could see the light in his eyes. We wanted him to keep grilling us. We'll make jokes over the next several months about "balloons," but it was the perfect metaphor delivered after weeks of drilling—it made us better on Saturday and forever.

I want to turn **Jim Bagby's** words around on him. When he spoke of *Power Play* at the afterglow, he repeated something he had heard, "Every year we have a winner. But it is not every year we have a champion." How honored and privileged we are to have a gold medal champion as our leader. I'm not talking about the one he wears around his neck. I'm talking about the gold medal championship attitude he brings every week; week after week.

After a career in the Army and a decade since retirement, I have been a 34-year student of leadership. There is simply no substitute for leadership by example. This chorus has it in spades. And with such leadership we turn our focus to Salt Lake City. With such leadership, I am emboldened to ask, "If not now, when?" "If not us, then who?"

After the spring competition with the *Cody Choraliers*, I'll be reporting back to duty with you. I hope you will have answered those questions. Count me in, and tell me my next chore. ♥



Heart of America Chorus

TWELVE-TIME Central States District Champion!

CHAPTER QUARTET CHAMPIONS

Rural Route 4 - 1986 International Champion

Don Kahl (tenor), Calvin Yoder (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Willard Yoder (bass)

Gentlemen of Note - 2001 International Seniors Medallists

Rod Rule (tenor), Jon Gathright (lead),
Rich Huyck (bari), Monty Duerksen (bass)

HyPower Serenaders - 1948 Central States District Champion

Don McPherson (tenor), Ben Franklin (lead),
Bert Phelps (bari), Dale Warrick (bass)

Gambolliers - 1952 Central States District Champion

John Dooley (tenor), Eddie Schliebs (lead),
Orval Wilson (bari), Jimmy Byrnes (bass)

BMA Gambolliers - 1957 Central States District Champion

Barney Wasson (tenor), Eddie Schliebs (lead),
Orval Wilson (bari), Harold Robinette (bass)

The Kippers - 1962 Central States District Champion

*Ken Gabler (tenor), *Tom Taylor (lead),
John Goldsbury (bari), Don Page (bass)

The Four Kippers - 1966 Central States District Champion

*Ken Gabler (tenor), *Byron Meyers (lead),
John Goldsbury (bari), Gil Lefholz (bass)

The Morning Times - 1974 Central States District Champion

Dave Snook (tenor), Roger O'Dell (lead),
Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)

Corner Quartet - 1981 Central States District Champion

Don Kahl (tenor), Lance Heilmann, (lead)
Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)

Harmony Spectrum - 1982 Central States District Champion

Gene Bowers (tenor), David Krause (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Willard Yoder (bass)

Special Touch - 1984 Central States District Champion

*Rick Kready (tenor), David Krause (lead),
*Bud Clark (bari), Matt Moore (bass)

KC Connection - 1986 Central States District Champion

Rod Rule (tenor), Wayne Lankenau (lead),
Rich Huyck (bari), Larry Wilson (bass)

12th Street Rag - 1994 Central States District Champion

*Rick Kready (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead),
John Fortino (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

OTHER CHAPTER QUARTETS

12th Street Rag - 2000 International Semi-Finalists

*Micah Jeppesen (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead),
John Fortino (bari), *Barry Moore (bass)

Command Performance

Carter Combs (tenor), Jon Gathright (lead),
Rich Huyck (bari), Monty Duerksen (bass)

Crosstown Four

Dale Neuman (tenor), Gordon Coleman (lead),
Ron Abel (bari), Val Putzier (bass)

Grandstand

Rob Mathieu (tenor), David Krause (lead),
*Jeff Veteto (bari), *Adam Veteto (bass)

Mother's Guys

Rob Mathieu (tenor), and Mike Mathieu (lead)
Rick Mathieu (bari), Joe Mathieu (bass)

New and Used Parts

Carter Combs (tenor), Mike Neff (lead),
Grant Hunget (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

Rewind!

Marlin Weidler (tenor), Thom Tisdall (lead),
Dick Irwin (bari), *J.B. Witham (bass)

Sound Alibi

Tom Elefson (tenor), Jerry Garrard (lead),
Shawn Jeffries (bari), Darrell McCune (bass)

Sounds Like Treble

Niel Johnson (tenor), Rob Varney (lead),
Al Fehlauer (bari) and *Bill Bay (bass)

The Buzz

Mike Troyer (tenor) Jason Eggers (lead),
Kalin Tapp (bari) and Mike Louque (bass)

Tone-Henge

Bruce Wenner (tenor), Dan Henry (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

*Member of other chapters

NOTES FROM IRAQ

by Dr. Neil Johnson



Dear Friends and family,

All is well, now into my 2nd month. I suppose I've gotten into a routine, and that's good.

Life is pretty basic here. A typical day starts about 0600 with a short hike out to the portolet before physical training (PT). For PT, I usually just go for a walk or jog. The gym is small and extremely crowded, so I tend to avoid it. When I get back, a quick shower and change and it's off to breakfast. I get to work at the palace around 0800 and start working on whatever is on my desk for the day. Lunch is around 1300 or so, followed by a walk around the palace grounds for 30 minutes or so. The afternoon is more of the same back in the office. On certain days we have staff meetings where we update the staff on our projects. At 1600 or so I call home because it's about 0700 in Kansas, right about when everyone is getting up for school.

We go to dinner chow around 1800 and either call it a day afterwards or go back to finish up important issues that needed to be done by the close of business. Most nights we're out by 2000. Then it's a 1-mile hike through the rocks and mud back to the hooch where I get ready for bed. I'll either watch a movie, do a crossword, or read a little, and then lights out.

There's not much variation with that except on Sunday morning when we go to church before lunch, and on Mondays and Fridays when I go to chorus rehearsal. Also, on Saturday nights, we watch a DVD, eat pizza, and drink non-alcoholic beer as a group up in the office. It's pretty fun and relaxed.

As I mentioned, there is a men's singing group called the "Hard Corps Chorale," that has been together for about a year. There are between 20-30 men actively participating right now. It all started with a group of guys learning some Christmas songs for a Christmas party. They did a great job, so they decided to continue getting together twice a week to sing.

Over the past year, they've sung at promotion ceremonies and other festive occasions. I first heard them sing the National Anthem at the Transfer of Authority (TOA) Ceremony and they were great. Their director is leaving in a month and I will be their new director. It's a lot of fun, definitely the most fun I have all week. In addition to learning some traditional capella music, I'm teaching the group some barbershop tags. Everyone seems to like the barbershop a whole lot more than the traditional stuff, so when I take over I'll likely change the repertoire around accordingly.

Occasionally we have visitors to the base camp. A couple weeks ago, a few senators and members of congress stopped by to say hello. I'm actually impressed that they would come all the way out here to see us.

Anyway, that's it for now. I miss you all, take care. ♥



NIEL JOHNSON

LTC, MC
Chief, Clinical Operations
Multi-National Corps-Iraq HQ
Surgeon's Office
Camp Victory South
APO AE 09342-1400
318-822-2415

HARD CORPS CHORALE

by Dr. Neil Johnson

I just had to share this with the group...

Last night at our rehearsal, we decided to go out into the rotunda, which is a 5-story, round marble chamber in the middle of the palace, to sing our tag. We always finish the rehearsal with a tag. Last night's selection was "In Dixieland where I was born," a fine choice for this venue.

After a few dry runs, we let it go and WOW! Unbelievable sound! It sounded so good we sang it a few more times.

As we were gathering up our stuff to call it a night, a guy walks in and says "Hey, that sounded awesome!" We asked if he was a singer and he said, "Yeah, I just got here, I'm a tenor, and I'm a barbershopper. When's the next rehearsal?" We told him, gave him some music and a learning CD and sang a couple more tags than he knew.

It just proves my theory that the #1 recruiting tools are singing well, having fun, and setting yourself up so the best singers can find you and will want to sing with you.



The Hard Corps Chorale just had its first show under its new direction. We had 10-12 men performing at a dinner where a retiring Navy Rear Admiral was honored. It went great! Songs included:

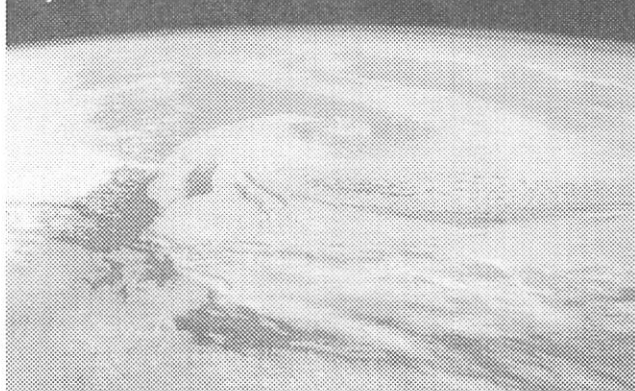
- Star Spangled Banner - Not a SPEBSQSA arrangement, but nice.
- Armed Forces Hymn - Also not Barbershop, this is one that was new to me.
- HCC 12 Mar 05 - 4 parts (I couldn't separate them):
- Men of Harlech (Welsh National Anthem)
- Irish Blessing (SPEBSQSA)—I directed this.
- "Dear John Letter" Joke
- America the Beautiful with Overlay - I directed this. These guys learned it after only about 5 rehearsals! This was the best song of the night.

A photo from that night is shown above.

I'm very excited about being able to sing with this group while I'm away. I can't wait to teach them some more barbershop... ♥

HOA'S AFTERGLOW SPANS THE GLOBE!

by Al Fehlauer



The HOA afterglow at the Meuhlebach Tower was heard far beyond the Imperial Ballroom. Small world—literally.

Sounds Like Treble (SLT) had just been asked by Afterglow emcee **Dick Irwin** to get ready to sing right after the opening quartet. This set the stage for a very special moment in the life of the *Sounds Like Treble Quintet*. [Okay: Think a Lead, a Bass, a Baritone, and a 1st and 2d Tenor...]

Shortly after the opening quartet *Men In Black* took the stage, a call came in to **Bill Campsey's** Cell Phone at the *SLT* Table about 1 minute before we took the stage. It was none other than **Neil Johnson**...from Baghdad. Wow...**Rob Varney, Bill Bay** and I briefly spoke with Niel just before *SLT* took the stage. Dick Irwin passed around the cell phone, renewing strong bonds across the miles with many of his HOA brothers. This added to the electricity of the room while *SLT* took the stage...right in front of our heroes, *12th Street Rag*, and the awesome 2003 Gold Medalists, *Power Play*. But at that moment, we were singing and connecting with Doctor Niel across the miles. Dick held the phone close by as we performed "Something In the Way She Moves." Then we kidded around about not knowing a second song to sing before launching into a version of "Nellie" that we had just started to experiment with Niel in late December. As we were on stage, we felt the electricity in the room. Now that was "Something"—having our beloved "1st tenor" listen in as we sang with his hand-picked replacement tenor, **Carter Combs** (what a talent, and the newest member of our "quintet"!)

Afterwards, Niel said that he loved hearing us—he even heard some of those "high-pitched ringing chords at the ends of phrases. Just like the big guys do..." Way to go, 1st tenor!

During both shows, the *HOA Chorus* honored "Doctor Niel" in **Keith Schweer's** introduction to "Friends", and ironically Niel sent his best wishes which were read to the HOA chorus before we took the stage. What a treat to have our quartet-mate and riser-mate share in our Annual Show! Well, it won't be long before the big guy comes home to rejoin us. In the meantime, ours is truly a brotherhood that spans the globe! ♥

MARK FORTINO LEADS TICKET SALES! (AGAIN!!)

by Ticket Chairman, Vince Perry

For the third consecutive year and probably more before I became tix chair, **Mark**

Fortino is our top salesman. This year he sold over \$1,000 worth of tickets far distinguishing himself as the undisputed Leader of the Pack! Rumor has it

that Mark did all this without twisting one arm or breaking one thumb and that 99% of his sales were from outside of the family! Congratulations Mark and many thanks.

The Over 500 Dollar in Sales Award goes to **Steve Carruthers**. Steve has also done this each of the past three years. Way to go Steve! And thanks! Reaching the \$400 mark this year was **Rick Foreman**. Outstanding, Rick!

In the Over 300 Category, I am pleased to announce we had 2 veterans: **John Landry** and **Monty Duerksen**. Thanks guys!

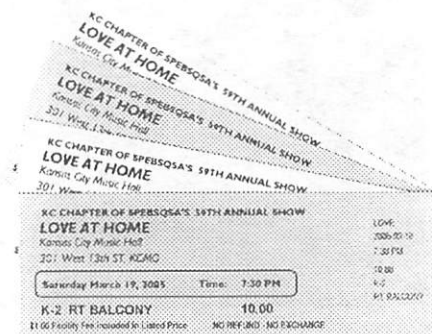
Right behind them we had several guys that sold over \$200 worth of tickets: **Dick Korek, Don Young, Jim Kemper, Vince Perry, Jim Bagby, Thom Tisdall, Jim Davis, Bill Campsey, and Grant Hunget**. Many thanks fellas!

And finally, Our Bread & Butter Division of over \$100 in sales, congrats to the following: **Mike Neff, Bruce Wenner, Stew Grosser, Dan Bowser, Harvey Shapiro, Phil Veltkamp, Ron Abel, Lud Einess, Gordy Coleman, Gary Mehalic, Dennis Kinghorn, Brian Seydlitz, Bob Rutherford, J.B. Witham, Dale Neuman, Al Fehlauer, Tony Strub, Mike Mathieu, Gary Jordan, Mike O'Dell, and Brian Marston**.

Of course most of our sales are from people that do not identify a chorus member when buying tickets. I'm sure that if they had there would many more of our members mentioned above. So for all those unsung heroes of HOA ticket sales, many, many thanks! We couldn't make it without you.

In the group sales division, an extreme thank you to **Al Higgins** as our group sales this year topped the \$3,000 mark!!

In addition I would like to thank those people that helped me with my job as your 2005 Annual Show Ticket Chair: **Grant Hunget, Gordy Coleman, Charles Ramirez, Dick Korek, Rich Huyck, Mike & Linda Schumacher, Jeffi Combs, Dick Irwin, Mike Mathieu, Paul Wnans, Angie Blaisdell & Diana Tinnin** at the Music Hall, my backups **Dale Neuman & Bob Rutherford**, and my mainstay **Melladee Perry**. ♥





CURTAIN, LIGHTS, ACTION!

by Dick Irwin

We've finished "Friends" and it's almost time. Are the other guys getting down from the risers OK? Steal a quick look...yep, there they come. *SLT* is singing. Have to make sure to watch them. OK, They're done, the applause for them is starting, walk out to the microphone, big smile, stand up straight, go ahead and start J.B. Holy cow! All I can see is a bright light and the outline of the microphone. Gotta focus and imagine the audience. Remember face, moves, emotion, sing, listen, act, words, notes, did I feed the cats...wait, forget the cats...we're done! Don't forget the little bow...walk back to the chorus...turn around...smile...what's the next song?"

Rewind! has made its first chorus performance. What a thrill to be able to perform for two great crowds. What a thrill to share the stage with such fabulous performers. I must admit to a certain amount of fear about how our first performance would go. The laughter and applause were all I needed to know we did fine. Thank you to *HOA* for allowing us to be a part of "Love At Home". Thank you to all at the afterglow who applauded four very tired voices after our songs. I think that considering our lead, bass, and baritone had no voices at all only a week before the show, we held up pretty well. But, we know we can be better and we will strive to continue to improve so that we can represent ourselves, our hobby, and *HOA* in the best possible way. ♥

(Editor's note: In the photo above, that mic made it tough to see if J.B. was having a good time! Sorry 'bout that, J.B.! Not sure what J.B. looks like? His photo appears with his article...in the very next column!)

THE FIRST SHOW OF MANY!

by Brian Marston

When I attended the 2004 Spring Show, "From the Heart", I remember thinking to myself, "Man, I wanna do that!" Ever since I joined the chorus in August, I have been looking forward to being apart of the 2005 Spring Show. At last year's Spring Show I was sitting in the audience in pure awe of how spectacular the chorus sounded!!! This year, I was quite honored that I had the privilege of singing with the *Heart of America Chorus* on stage at the Music Hall. In no way whatsoever was I disappointed with my experience of my first show. It exceeded every one of my expectations. I look forward to many more years of singing with the *Heart of America Barbershop Chorus*. It's great to be a Barbershopper!!! ♥

WHEN DO WE GET TO DO THIS AGAIN?

by J.B. Witham



WOW, It's been quite awhile since I've been involved in such an intense show experience! I forgot how little sleep I get the night before a show. The long & grueling rehearsals, and extra rehearsals, cramming the music, working the visuals, the tech stuff. And then the day of the

show, get their early, rehearse some more, grab a quick bite, drink about 10 gallons of water, put on makeup, cram your feet into the most uncomfortable shoes ever made in the world, for standing around in. Stand on the risers, with feet hurting, for over an hour, take a break, costume change, do the finale, dinner break, and try to relax a little. Then do it all over again at 7:30 PM, stay up till after midnight to listen to more quartets, & the headliners again. Finally getting home around 2AM totally exhausted, get up late Sunday, eat breakfast, then go take another 2/3 hour nap, & wonder why you put yourself through all that torture! For what kind of gain? THE APPLAUSE OF COURSE! & THE GREAT SATISFACTION OF PERFORMING WELL!

The next question I have is....WHEN DO WE GET TO DO THIS AGAIN???? WOOOOHOOOO! WHAT FUN!

I've had many of you come up to me and shake my hand to welcome me back to *HOA*, & I appreciate it! And I like being back, and being apart of the *HOA* unit again. The singing quality has really improved (really), and the total song selection we had on the show was excellent! A number of them I already knew & there were quite a few of them I'd always wanted to get the spots on. I'm having fun with *REWIND!* and hopefully our work habits will take us to or beyond some of the modest goals we've tentatively set for ourselves!

Thanks for the great weekend....I had a lot of fun....& even dropped a few notes occasionally as a tear or two of joy rolled down my cheeks when the emotion of the song or the moment took over! Or was that because of the pain from the shoes???? I am looking for many more painful...err...happy moments to take place in the future! ♥

OL' GUYS USE OL' GIMMICKS

by Ol' Dan



It's an entertainment bit that usually scores points at afterglows; working names of prominent persons into the routine, and serving them up a bit of a "roast" in the process. Such has been the desire of *Tone-Henge* for some time, but we lacked a musical vehicle to accomplish the bit.

Monte Duerksen to the rescue. Back in the 50's, a novelty number was performed by a few quartets, a cute tune with uninspired lyrics called, "Chocolate Whiskey and Vanilla Gin." Monte used to sing it, since his extensive career goes back that far. Monte furnished the music and *Tone-Henge* "massaged" it to fit the aforementioned routine. If you attended our afterglow 3/19, you heard the quartet poke fun at **John Fortino, Bob Rutherford, Dick Korek** and **Jerry Garrard**. Judging from their smiles and an audience response that met and exceeded expectations, it's a bit that will be a part of future *Tone-Henge* afterglow appearances, hoping other local "roastees" have the great sense of humor that John, Bob, Dick and Jerry have. If not, we may be in trouble.

All of us were delighted to participate in a show that allowed us to associate with really good singers! Hey, good singers, thanks for tolerating *Tone-Henge*! ♥

MUSICAL NOTES

by Keith Schweer, Music Vice President

Our 59th annual show is history and a great show it was. I was very proud of the way we performed. We're singing better than ever. This is because of our continuous emphasis on good singing and your desire to improve. I want to thank you for all your hard work. Recently, **John "Pitch Master" Fortino** has given us some new things to think about relative to intonation and vocal production and many of you have taken these ideas and applied them to your own singing. The results were obvious and immediate. If all of us can sing on top of the pitch and continue to "blow up the balloon", imagine how good we'll sound.

It's the time of year when the Music Team will evaluate our repertoire. We'll drop some old songs and add some new ones, both for our holiday and general repertoires. We welcome suggestions from anyone who has a favorite song they think we should be singing or is tired of an old one.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Music Team for all their hard work. They spend lots of hours every week planning rehearsals, listening to tapes, preparing for section rehearsals, acquiring music, learning new music and many other things. All of this is geared to make *HOA* better. I especially want to thank our arm waving staff, **Jim, Mike, Carter** and **John**. We are very lucky to have such a talented and dedicated group of men leading us. ♥

WHAT A WEEKEND!!!

by Dick Korek, Vice-President Marketing & Public Relations



Just finished a fantastic show and *HOA* should be proud of having presented a top quality total package. Comments from everyone that was fortunate enough to attend the show all spun around "WOW, what a show" and "I never knew you did that complete a show and the moves and faces were just outstanding." Seems that two and one-half hours of a great, well designed

show, moved very quickly.

It's time to work on ideas for building on a much larger audience in 2006. Yep, we're scheduled for March 25, 2006 at the Music Hall once again. Keep that date in mind whenever you talk to ANYONE! Don't hesitate to ask friends, and everyone, to mark their calendars for that date! Show your pride and remind them of the great show we just completed. Marketing the 2006 show begins today!

Working with **Grant Hunget** and **Tony Strub** on promo ideas. If anyone wants to join us on this adventure, let any one of us know.

Wow, what a weekend!!! ♥

Dear HOA,

Hi Jim,
I knew you were very busy so didn't hang around after, but Suzanne and I attended the 7:30 performance of "Love at Home" and really enjoyed it. Congratulations to you and the men of *HOA* on a job well done and an audience well served.

Best wishes,
Paul Drummond

Jim,
Thank you so much for helping to celebrate my dad's life. Nothing could have been more fitting than the *RR4* & "farm in old Missouri." Also, please extend my gratitude to *HOA*. Thanks again.
Kim Lefholz

Hi, everyone! My Dad (**Elston Schrader**) would have been proud to hear the wonderful sounds produced at your show. Mother and I always try to attend and we have never been disappointed. This was a fantastic show (nice to have the "hominess") and you have some really great quartets. Of course, the chorus is outstanding. You guys just get better'n better! Thanks for a wonderful afternoon of Barbershopping!

Bev. Silvius

Editor's note: Elston Schrader and his brother, Les, both were members of HOA and North Johnson County.





By Wade Dexter,
Editor Emeritus
wadeliberty@aol.com

TEN YEARS AGO: APRIL, 1995:

This issue of *Harmonotes* is full of reports of near calamities that nearly side-tracked the performance of the 1995 HOA annual shows, plus stories of how the valiant HOA show committee and chapter members themselves pulled together to produce another annual show that chapter President **Dale Neuman** and Show Chairman **Jim Davis** were in agreement was a gratifying success, although Jim acknowl-

edged that poor ticket sales would affect the bottom line for the show. The first crisis arrived in December, when the appointed show chairman revealed that job conflicts would prevent him from finding the time and energy necessary to do an effective job. So Dale called upon Past Chapter and past show chairman Jim Davis to take over the chairing of the show committee. Jim was able to count on the fact that many of the key committee assignments were already in the experienced hands of members who had performed the jobs very capably in the past.

Then, on Feb. 16, what could easily have side-tracked the oncoming show completely occurred unexpectedly when our music director, **Jim Bagby**, had to undergo quadruple by-pass surgery, which was expected to put him out of commission for several weeks. But according to Dale, "But he wouldn't let us see it that way and was back coaching less than three weeks from the day of his by-pass surgery." Fortunately, as often occurs with HOA with its abundance of musical talent, there were four experienced chorus directors—**David Krause, Darrell McCune, John Fortino** and **Don Newman**—who, with only a month's notice, were able to step, as Jim so aptly described it, "so magnificently into the directing role." By the way, Jim was able to occupy a front seat during the matinee and provided a valuable critique of the performance, especially as it was affected by poor sound conditions in the Music Hall.

But wait, there's more. And this involved the actual performance of the musical groups that participated in the program. On Friday afternoon, the day before the show, as Dale describes it, "**John (Warrior)**, our perennial technical advisor, who's always there to play a critical role in the show production—Ed) was informed that the computerized light

board had 'blown up' and was inoperative, meaning he would have to rework his cues and do most of the raising and lowering of the lights by hand. I (we) owe a lot to John, and although work and family commitments don't allow him to sing with us as he would like to do, he still manages the show and then does his job so well, we hardly know he's there."

As I write this—on Tuesday afternoon prior to the weekend show—I'm hoping that, with the splendid show you guys have put together this year, it'll come off without a hitch. Thank that's too much to ask? We'll see. I'll be there for the matinee performance.

TWENTY YEARS AGO: APRIL/MAY, 1980

In an anonymous article (probably written by Editor **Joe Costigan**), there is an announcement that the Central States District's 1980 "Barbershopper of the Year" Award had been presented to our own **Ron Abel** at the recent spring district convention. The article goes on to reveal that "Ron has been in our chapter for 18 years and a member of the Society for 22 years. He started barbershopping in Des Moines, where he sang with the *Jax of Harmony* (district champions in 1972—Ed). After he moved to Kansas City, he continued quartet singing with several foursomes including the *Suburban-Notes*. He has served the chapter, the Missouri Division, and the district in several official positions. He was the Kansas City BOTY in 1975, and continues to serve on key committees as well as keeping us 'pitched' right at every performance." Now, if my fifth grade arithmetic doesn't fail me, Ron has been an HOA member of 43 years, and with the Society for 47 years. Wonder how many other HOA roster members can beat that mark.

FIFTY YEARS AGO: JUNE, 1955

The closest I could get to the May 1955 issue of *Harmonotes* was the June edition, and I didn't find much of great importance, but here are a few tidbits that you might find interesting.

It appears that the *Harmonotes* editor fifty years ago at this time was the late **Bob Gall**, who also happened to be the chapter secretary. Assuming he wrote the following article—there's no byline—Bob announced that the guest quartets for their 1956 show would be the *Confederates*, who went on to win the gold at the international contest in Memphis, TN, the following summer; the *Big Four*, who are not further identified; and the *Hawkeye Four*, who later became the 1955 CSD quartet champions. I can recall seeing and hearing the *Confederates* on a Kansas City chapter show back in the 60s.

Member **John Goldsberry** brought four young lads, who called themselves the *Gloom Chasers* and who were students at Kansas City Junior College (wonder what they call it now). The boys' names were **Ross Arnold, Jim Evans, Ralph Sheets, and Ronald Turner**. Anybody recognize any of those names? Wonder if any of them ever joined HOA? ♦

At the recent Past Presidents' Dinner, **Milt Grafrath** described his visit to the chapter in Hawaii. He reported that the chapter president was an Hawaiian, and the chorus director was Chinese. Milt commented that the membership of that chapter experienced frequent membership turnover because of so many members who were U. S. servicemen.

And apparently **Bob Gall** didn't really enjoy putting out the bulletin all by himself. On the next to the last page of the June 1955 issue is an announcement of action taken by the chapter board of directors: "Editorship of *Harmonotes*, so capably handled in the past by **John Westbrook** and staff, will be assumed by the entire Chapter Bulletin and Roster Committees as a group: **Bob Gall, Mike Michel, Bill Hamm, Dan Jacobson, and Ed Eichman**. An editor-in-chief will not be designated at this time. **Dan Jacobson**, however, will function as production manager, while less experienced staff members are learning the ropes." Why do I sense that there's more than meets the eye here? Can anyone shed any light on this matter? ♥

KEVIN TRITSCH WINS THE HARMONY FOUNDATION RAFFLE

by Jim Porter

It was our first Thursday practice before the spring show, and the men must have sensed something as they showed unusually high interest in the drawing, only a week after **Ron Abel** claimed the latest \$1,000+ jackpot. There was not much in the jackpot, and all the marbles were in the bag, but this did not deter **Kevin Tritsch**, one of the many fine young singers who have joined HOA in the past few years. He defied odds of about 300 to 1 and plucked the white marble out of the bag. Kevin's prize of \$54 was a modest one, but he was all smiles as he won in just his second chance to draw a marble since joining the chorus.

There is still time to have another big winner before International. It could be YOU!

Thanks to all of you for playing, and for supporting Harmony Foundation. ♥

THIS JUST IN:

**Veteran chapter member
Gene Bowers, former Stage
Presence judge and tenor of the
1982 CSD champs, *Harmony
Spectrum*, died March 22.
Details next issue!**

HEARTBEAT HILITES

by Sharon Oldehoeft, Heartbeats President

Thanks to all the ladies who provided food items for the March Show lunch, helped serve and clean up, and those who were ushers, ticket takers, and sold CD's. We appreciate the organizational skills of **Linda Schumacher** and **Jeffi Combs** for this event.

Mary and Sarah Fortino are accepting applications for the Harmony College Scholarship offered by the *Heartbeats*. We invite chorus members who haven't previously attended Harmony College to consider this opportunity.

Heartbeats next meeting will be May 17, so mark your calendars for that date. Please join us to make plans for the Salt Lake Send-Off and to discuss two fund raisers planned for this year. We need your input and help.

We send congratulations to HOA for a wonderful March Show. You did great and are well on your way to a top-notch showing in Salt Lake!!! We give you our applause and support. ♥

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following chapter members!

In the March issue of Harmonotes, we had no room to list our March birthdays! However, your editor found sufficient space in this issue to help us all celebrate both March and April!

Ron McIntire	March 4
David Krause	March 6
Eric Weber	March 16
Don Young	March 17
Charles Ramirez	March 23
John Winfiel	March 24
Jim Kinyon	March 24
Jerry Meier	March 29
Raymond Schwarzkopf	April 7
Matt Bostick	April 10
Frank Leone	April 11
Chris Meeks	April 14
Bob Howard	April 14
Mike Mathieu	April 17
Tom Elefson	April 21
Richard Krueger	April 21
Marlin Weidler	April 24
Bruce Wenner	April 25
Mike McKim	April 28

BE A STAR REPORTER

Wade Dexter sent me an article that was written by Editor **Tom Wheatley** of the [Dundalk, MD] *Charivari*. After reading it, I decided to use it. With Tom's permission, I've simply substituted our chapter, bulletin, and editor's names. Why did I do this? Because I couldn't have said it ANY BETTER! This is a new year with plenty of opportunity to grow individually and as a chapter. If you don't feel you can be a star reporter, you still have a gift that can be used to help the chapter some other way. Offer it. Let 2005 be the year you make a difference.

Here is your chance to be part an award-winning team. Your own chapter bulletin—*Harmonotes*—is seeking people to accept reporter positions in the following areas:

- Member biography writer
- Heartspring happenings
- SingAmerica, SingCanada program
- Young Men in Harmony program
- History of songs and singers
- Quartets of bygone days
- History of our HOA Chapter (Wade does a *tremendous* job of this. However, there are others that could chime in as well!)
- Current event reporting (several needed)
- Coming events information (several needed)
- Singing and music craft items
- Summary of board meetings
- Summary of music committee meetings
- Summary of planning committee activities
- Obituary reporter (hopefully not often)
- Convention activities reports
- Show plans and needs
- Chapter human interest items
- Quartet news
- Barber Pole Cat promotion
- Quartet development ideas
- Sick and shut-in status

Please contact *Harmonotes* Editor **Todd Anderson** for information on these thrilling opportunities. Not everything has to be in every issue, but most of them should appear quite regularly. Try as I may, it's not practical for me to be able to cover all these areas and also do the editor's job.

Your writing skills need not be rated at the Shakespeare or Steinbeck level. What is needed is help in covering the various areas of importance to the chapter. If you are a chairman, make sure you have a reporter to cover your area, even if has to be you. Don't just read *Harmonotes*. Participate in making it happen! ♥

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD.

by Marty Oldehoeft, Chapter President



Now that I've had a day or so to recoup, I feel like we should do one more show. What a joyful experience the annual show was this year. From my "home" on the risers, my tin ear and I agree with the music folks when they say that the chorus is making beautiful sounds. We have a long list of dedicated people to thank for that. I won't even attempt to name each individual.

Our thanks needs to start of course with the dedicated and hard working music team and the directors. Then our stage presence team and the newly added "Pitch Monitor" need a special nod of gratitude as well. The entire chorus should also take a bow for the increased focus on the details of better singing and the respect given to those hard workers out front. Even though we didn't have a sell out crowd at this years show, I'm convinced that any time we can make a thousand plus folks feel the emotion of the song we deliver to them, then we can color our efforts a huge success. Both the chorus and the quartets pulled that off big time.

Seems to me then, that this weekend is a good launching pad for our next big event in July. Our invitation to Salt Lake is becoming more exciting by the day. We have work ahead of us but I feel we have more than a few of the performing chorus members who have now bought into the ideas of what it requires to become a better ensemble singer. Lets keep moving forward.

Again, THANKS to all who made this annual show, "one to remember"!! ♥

ORVAL WILSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

by Sarah Fortino

Applications are now being accepted for the Orval Wilson Memorial Scholarship to Harmony College, July 31-August 7, 2005, at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. This scholarship is open to any first-time participant, so if you've never been to Harmony College, but would love to experience a full week of barbershop harmony, check your calendars and apply today! See **Mary Fortino** (or **Ron, Mark** or **Anthony**) to get your application. The deadline is May 3, and the recipient will be notified by May 17. If you'd like more information on what you can gain from attending, just ask last year's recipient, **Charles Ramirez**, or check out his enthusiastic article in the September 2004 issue of *Harmonotes*. To quote Charlie, "I learned a lot, and more importantly, learned a lot that I didn't know I didn't know." ♥



Barbershopper(s) of the Month!

From Top to bottom:

October 2004 - Vince Perry

In grateful appreciation for devoting your valuable time and energy to seeing that the *Heart of America Chorus* was informed, housed and registered for the 2004 District Convention in Omaha, Nebraska.

December 2004 - Dan Henry Bowser

In grateful appreciation for being one of the best nonriser promoters of the Kansas City Missouri Chapter and *Heart of America Chorus*, and a tireless background helper, organizer and taker care of things.

January 2005 - Keith Schweer (not pictured)

For your above-and-beyond work setting up the annual Music Team meeting and for your weekly instruction, encouragement and musical reminders.

February 2005 - John Fortino

In grateful appreciation for your weekly guidance as Pitch Master of the *Heart of America Chorus*, keeping us always on the upside of the pitch.

Photos courtesy of **Ron McIntire**

A TIP OF THE HAT!

...to **John Starcke** for his excellent video work so the chorus could watch the show from backstage.

...A big TOTH to **Grant Hunget** for his work as Chairman of the 2005 Spring Show,

...to those unsung heroes who hung around to knock down the risers and help clean up after the show.

...and to **Ron McIntire** for completing and distributing the 2005 chapter directories.



Xtra Mile Award Goes To:

February 2005 - Singing Valentine's Program

Rich Huyck, Chairman, HQ Acquisition, Drawing Prizes, Misc Supplies

Eileen Huyck - Quartet Order Packaging

Joan Korek - Quartet Order Packaging

Roberta Porter - Quartet Order Packaging

Marilyn Roberts - Quartet Order Packaging, Sweet Adeline Coordinator

Nat Eiswood - Quartet Order Packaging

Pat Ross - Quartet Order Packaging

Al Higgins - Hotel Drawing Prizes, HQ Management, Order Assignments

Ron McIntire - Computer Program, Order Processing, Delivery Resolution

Vince Perry - Website Orders

Jon Gathright - Quartet Recruiting and Certification

Monty Duerksen - Quartet Recruiting and Certification

Dick Korek - PR and Marketing

John Landry - Valentine Candy Supplies

Mike Mathieu - Cell Phones Acquisition

Gordon Coleman - Credit Card Processing

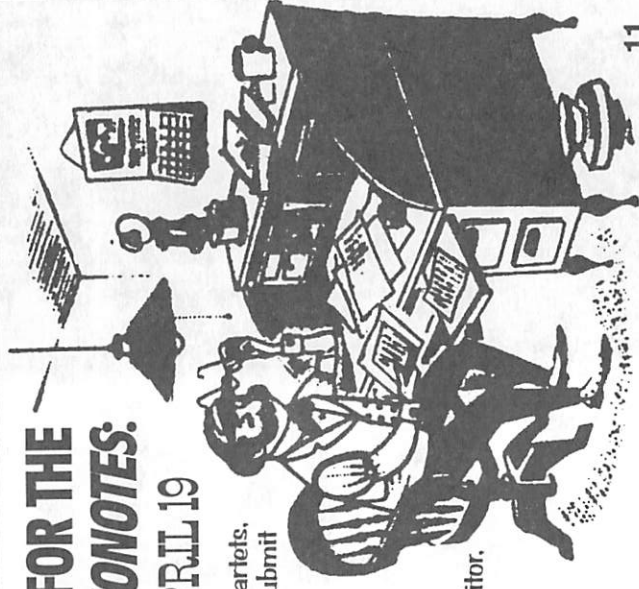
Phil Veltkamp - PhotoCopier and Paper Supplies ♥

DEADLINE FOR THE MAY HARMONOTES: TUESDAY, APRIL 19

Chapter officers, quartets,
members...please submit
your articles and
photographs NO
LATER THAN
APRIL 19!

Many thanks from
your *Harmonotes* editor,

Todd Anderson



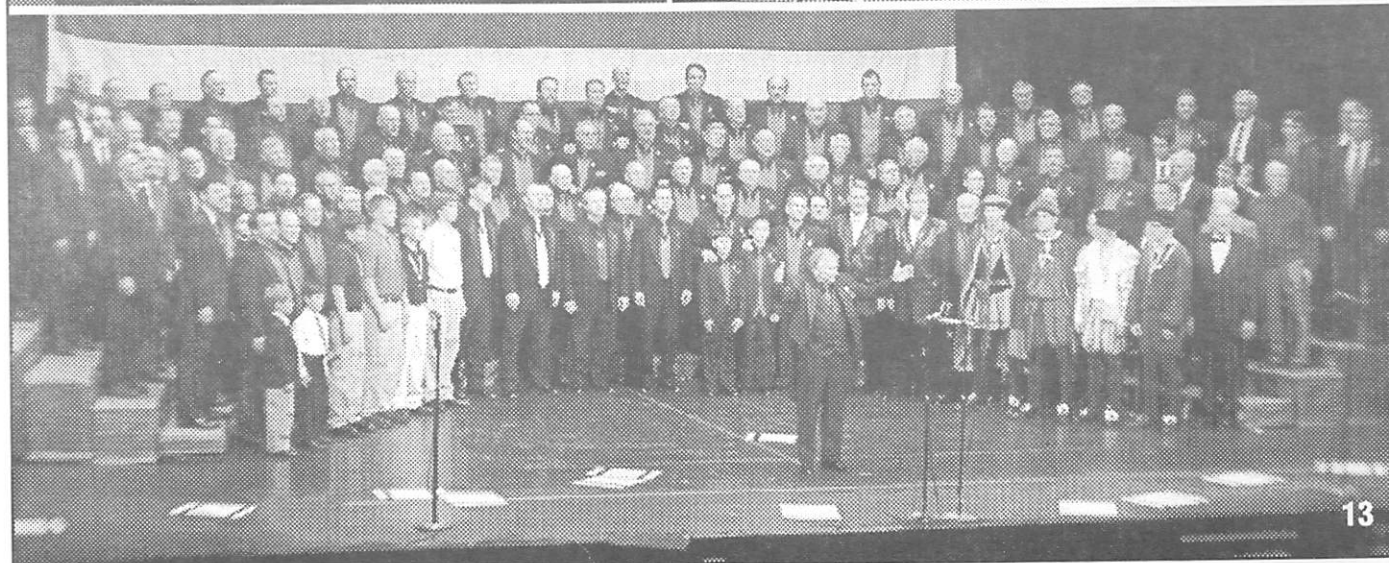
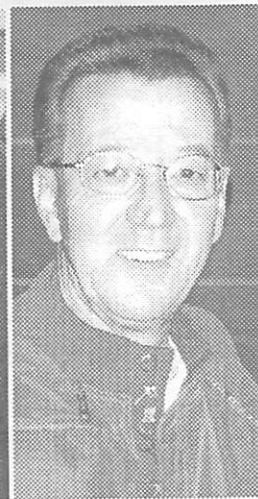


2005



ANNUAL SHOW!

A taste (but definitely not all) of what each audience enjoyed is shown in this candid collage. Future photos will be shared as space permits. Thanks to **Matt Bostick**, **Ron McIntire** and **Don Fuson** for snapping these action shots! *At left:* Chorus members do what they do best! A plethora of quartets filled the air with sweet harmony! *On this page...at right:* past members of HOA that came backstage to see us include (l to r) **Joe Davis**, **Dave Marti** and **Mark Smith**, both from Clinton, MO. They were visiting with **Ron Abel** and **Val Putzier** before the evening show. Former member **Noland Amote**, the only barber—as far as we know—in the chapter when he was a member in the 80s. (Yes, he's still barbering!) *Then below,* more dynamic performances followed by a finale that showcased the days talent! Whatta great show!

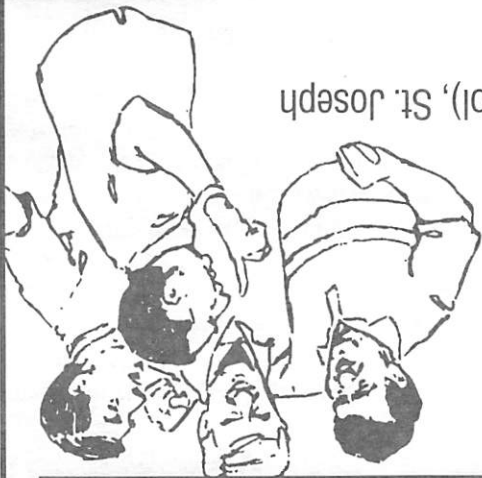




BARBERSHOP
HARMONY
SOCIETY

Society for the Preservation and Encouragement
of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America
Kansas City Chapter, Inc.
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- April 5 - Rosemary Calderon (Coaching)**
- April 15-16 - CSD prelims, St. Joseph, MO**
- April 19 - Bill Bittie (Coaching)**
- April 30 - Overland Park Show**
- May 10 - Kevin Keller (Coaching)**
- May 27 - Retirement Party for David Krause**
- May 31 - Dwain Brobst (Coaching)**
- June 3-4 - CSD Harmony Happening (HEP School), St. Joseph**

APRIL-MAY CALENDAR



Heart of
America