

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!*

Joe Stern Inducted into Barbershop Harmony Society Hall of Fame!

by David Krause, Society Historian

A highlight of the 67th International Convention just completed in Salt Lake City was the induction of the second class of the Society's Hall of Fame. Included among the seven honorees is Kansas City's own **Joe Stern**. He was in a class of members that will probably be the most renowned of all. It will be hard to beat the combined contributions of **Dave Stevens, Bob Johnson, Ed Waesche, Jim Miller, Jim Clancy, The Suntones** and **Joe Stern**.

The induction ceremony was handled expertly by committee chairman, **Jim Richards**. Those honored who are still living were present and graciously eloquent in accepting their awards. It seemed a very appropriate ceremony at the conclusion of the quartet final round as we waited to hear the announcement of our new champions, Realtime.

Last year, 16 men were included in the first class of the Hall of Fame. As it turns out, Joe was considered for induction at that time. However, the committee might not have been aware of all of Joe's important contributions in those early years. After our chapter created the Joe Stern Award this last year, I contacted some of the committee and sent information about Joe to them. There was interest expressed through follow-up conversations. His own modest personality may have kept him out of the first class. Joe had a tendency to be a quiet, unassuming leader. Yet, an early edition of the *Harmonizer* said he

"comes close to being the Society's indispensable man." His organizational efforts in the Society's early days helped make the organization a success. His contributions to our hobby will probably never be equalled by another member of our chapter.

Instead of recounting all of those contributions I'll close with the bio used by the Hall of Fame committee. We should all take great pride in being able to claim Joe Stern as one of our own.



Joe Stern

Joe Stern (deceased)

A man of winning personality, Joe was instrumental in the early Society years as a musician, administrator, and philosopher. He helped structure membership dues, served as Society Treasurer, and as editor of what became the *Harmonizer*. In a famous 1941 letter he defined the barbershop style and suggested criteria by which it should be judged. This letter profoundly influenced the development of our judging system. As an arranger, one of the most popular early Society songs was his arrangement of "Daddy Get Your Baby

Out of Jail." At a time when the Society was adopting a "whites only" membership policy, he eloquently defended the role of African Americans in the historical development of the barbershop style. Finally, he was an entertaining piano player, an outstanding singer and promoter of the old songs as well as founder of the *Heart of America* Chapter-one of the very first Society chapters. ♥

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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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* and to edit all submissions for reasons of space and clarity (grammar, phrasing, and spelling).

Permission to reprint articles is granted to barbershop chapters as long as the author and *Harmonotes* 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:

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Chapter meets at 7 pm each Tuesday night, at:
St. Peter's United Church of Christ
110th & Holmes - Kansas City, MO 64105

The HOA Board of Directors meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of the month. Place TBA. Chapter members are welcome!

HOA Website: www.hoachorus.com
Web Address: webstaff@hoachorus.com
Chapter Telephone: (816) 221-7888

Help Make A Difference For HOA!

by Dick Korek, Marketing & P.R. Vice President



There are ongoing needs and capital equipment needs such as replacement of the risers and a new trailer for transporting the risers to various locations. As members of HOA we can individually support and/or encourage friends, employers, companies, for their financial support. Check with your company Human Resource Department to see if they have a "matching funds" policy in place.

The Heart of America Chorus is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax deductible. All contributors will be listed in the monthly *Harmonotes* as well as in the March 2006 Show Program. The listing will continue to grow through July of 2006, then begin all over again. Contribution Levels are as follows:

- Major Benefactor: \$10,000 and above
- Benefactor: \$5,000 - \$9,999
- Patron: \$1,000 - \$4,999
- Sponsor: \$500 - \$999
- Contributor: \$250 - \$499
- Friend: up to \$250
- In-Kind: Goods or services

All checks should be made out to HOA Chorus and given to any HOA Board Member or MAILED TO: HOA c/o Dale Neuman, 816 W. 121st St. Kansas City, MO 64145-1011 ♥

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- David Hokanson

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Sheridan's
FROZEN CUSTARD
MADE FRESH ALL DAY

President's Corner

by Marty Oldehoeft, Chapter President



How quickly major events come and leave us with only the memories. We certainly have some great memories to draw from after the International Convention in Salt Lake City. It was great to be part of the largest *HOA* chorus to sing on an international stage. It was great to sing in the awesome LDS center with the huge arena, massive pipe organ and beautiful

wood décor. It was also great to leave the stage with marks from the judges that show that we are making progress in our performance and singing efforts. I think that not only brings us home from SLC with a feeling of accomplishment, but gives us encouragement to begin our preparation to move forward at the district convention in Des Moines in October. The week went very smoothly from a logistical standpoint for our chorus, thanks to our chorus manager who seems to find a way to outdo himself every time we have a major chorus endeavor. From the chorus and family members who kept your book of times and facts close at hand, I say thank you, **VINCE**. We also had another member of the Kansas City Chapter who played a big part in keeping the convention on track. Even though back behind the curtain (the one that wasn't), a lot of last-minute forest fires were being extinguished before most folks out front smelled any smoke. A big pat on the back to the International Events Chairman, our own **MIKE MATHIEU**.

Maybe our equipment trailer has a word or two for us. "I certainly do. I started from Kansas City with the risers and signs from *HOA*. I then headed for St Joseph where I finished out my load with the risers and staging props from the *American Barber Boys*. Off I went, up and across Nebraska when "ouch"—something pierced my tire. Oh, oh,—"ouch" again, I've lost that tire and with it a fender and light and some wiring. Oh well, I have a spare tire and there's a tire shop in the next town. Wow, we're off again with four new tires. Sure hope that Goodyear on the side has more to say than just the brand name. I'll have to go the rest of the trip with my new tires exposed cause they didn't have a fender for me. I made it to Salt Lake City! I will rest a few days while the choruses do their thing. What are you talking about? I don't feel like I have a bent axle. If you insist I'll take a trip to the truck and trailer clinic. (Whew!) **Adolph**, the owner, says I'm good to go. Heading east is much easier. I just rolled along watching the miles go by with no more incidents to report. Back home now with new tires, a bath, new fender on order and a couple feet of new wires. It's good to be home but I'm already looking at my calendar to see where I'm headed next. Home, refreshed, ready for more!" ♥

Musical Notes

by Keith Schweer, Music Vice President



I was very PROUD of our chorus when we came off the stage in Salt Lake City. From where I stood on the front row, I thought we had done a terrific job. The audience thought so too, because they gave us enthusiastic applause. Our *scores were higher than* last year, but those other

choruses continue to improve too. We'll contact some of the judges for their evaluations to help us plan our improvement program for the coming months. Our coaches continue to tell us that we're *on the right track* and that we just need to *keep working* to get better. The Music Team will meet to evaluate what we did well during our preparations and what we can do to improve. As always, if you have suggestions as to how we can do better in our efforts to improve, don't hesitate to tell me, the directors, your section leader or any member of the Music Team. We measurably improved in the last couple of weeks before we went to Salt Lake City. Our challenge is to achieve a "competition-ready" level earlier in the cycle and improve from there. ♥

Heartbeat Hilites



by Sharon Oldehoeft, Heartbeat President

Welcome back from Salt Lake! We hope everyone had a great time, met some new friends, and saw some sights. Salt Lake is definitely a unique city, but there's no place like home. We applaud the chorus and quartets for the time and commitment you gave in preparation for the contest. Your excitement is our excitement and we are very proud of you. The signs looked great and Elvis was definitely "in the house."

Here are some dates to mark on your calendar.

Tuesday, Sept. 6 - *Heartbeat* Board meets at the church at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 13 - We'll meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. and will car pool from the church to **Jan Mathieu's** home for a potluck picnic. We invite all ladies of *HOA* to join us for this fun event.

Saturday, Sept. 17 - We have discussed a day trip to Weston, Mo., since the men will be at Retreat that weekend. We will look and shop in the quaint little shops and have lunch. Vaughn's Apple Orchard is near there—maybe the apples will be ready then. I'll have more details on this trip in the September *Harmonotes*. Have a great month. ♥

Can I Make A Tax-Deductible Charitable Gift To HOA?

by Dale Neuman

In an effort to answer this question, I have chosen to use the Q & A format that follows. My hope is that, with a four-month lead time before year-end tax planning arrives, the information will be useful to that purpose.

Q. Is it true that I can get a charitable gift tax deduction by making a contribution to HOA?

A. Yes, but more accurately, the correct IRS qualified 501 (c) 3 charity is: "The Kansas City Missouri Chapter, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc."

Q. Can I make a donation and then have the Chapter spend it specifically on something for me?

A. No, you, as an individual, cannot be the direct beneficiary of your own charitable gift. All donations must be used for the qualified activities permitted by and paid for in a manner consistent with the IRS regulations.

Q. How can I make a deductible gift to the Chapter?

A. Currently, there are four ways to do so, each with different advantages to both the donor and the chapter.

1. A contribution to the Chapter to be used as the Board deems appropriate in support of the conduct of the Chapter's business. (Unrestricted)
2. A contribution to the President's Helpers Fund where the monies are used to assist chorus members in financial need in going to contest, the retreat, or in other ways essential to their ability to perform on stage with HOA. (Somewhat restricted.)
3. A contribution to the Riser Replacement Fund where the monies are restricted to this use only.
4. A contribution to "The Heart of America Charitable Foundation."

Q. I have heard about the first three, but what is the Heart of America Charitable Foundation?

A. This tax-exempt Foundation was set up several years ago by a former member, David Hokanson, as a base for building an endowment for the Chapter that, in time as it grows, could be used to fund many of HOA's activities. It could also serve as an instrument for financial and estate planning purposes in ways that the first three routes of giving cannot. And it has the added advantage of

being recognized for the purpose of matching grants from other entities—including employer foundations where a member's gift is matched by one from his employer.

Q. Where is the HOACF foundation established?

A. It is created as a separate foundation under the administrative auspices of the National Heritage Foundation, a Georgia corporation, registered in all 50 states with its national office in Falls Church, Virginia.

Q. How is the HOACF run?

A. Foundations under the umbrella of the NHF are administered by the NHF according to its rules. Disbursements from the HOACF must be approved by the officially designated contact which currently is the founding donor David Hokanson. But the Chapter Board can in the future choose whomever it wishes to be this person or persons.

Q. Are there fees charged to transact business on behalf of HOACF?

A. Yes. There was a start-up fee of \$285 that has been paid as well as the required minimum gift to start the fund. For funds like HOACF with assets under \$10,000, there are no service charges but they also do not earn any interest on their funds. There are modest fees charged to the fund to

process gifts directed to the fund depending on the nature of the transfer mechanism and to make disbursements on behalf of HOACF.

Q. Why did Hokanson not choose a local umbrella foundation or financial institution instead of one out-of-state?

A. The costs to legally create the HOACF and the minimum initial endowment required were lowest at NHF. If, at a future point the Chapter would wish to move its foundation, that is possible.

Q. How big is NHF?

A. As of June, 2005, it administered more than \$250,000,000 in assets for its many separate foundations. In addition, they are managing accounts with over \$2.3 Billion in deferred gifts.



(Continued from page 4)

Q. What can HOACF spend money on?

A. The rules of the IRS are also the rules of the NHF and so spending would have to comply with the educational and charitable purposes which qualifies the Chapter to be a 501 (c) 3 organization.

Q. Who monitors the activities of HOACF?

A. First, the NHF audits and monitors the activity to make sure that both the governing IRS rules as well as its own philosophy of supporting our national heritage are not violated. In addition, the sponsoring donor along with the Kansas City Chapter Board must create a disbursement policy and guidelines and then approve of any disbursements.

Q. Where can I find out how to make a gift and where can my financial planner get more information?

A. The web site address for the National Heritage Foundation is: www.nhf.org. and they have a specific site for making donations. Or you or they could contact **David Hokanson** at Hokanson@thinkingbeyond.com. ♥

Harmony Foundation Report For July by Jim Porter

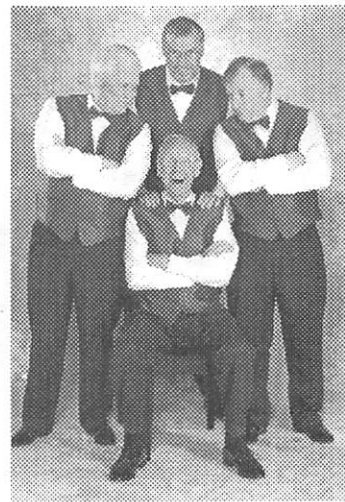
Congratulations to Jim Moynihan, our latest jackpot winner! Jim pulled the white marble in the drawing July 19 and claimed the \$441 jackpot.

Note that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. Half of the proceeds is designated to Harmony Foundation. You can, of course, give money directly to Harmony Foundation any time we are together; just tell me at the time of your intentions and I'll direct your gift 100% to the Foundation.

As of Wednesday July 20:

In the past month, our chapter has raised \$70 for the Harmony Foundation. So far this year (since Nov. 20, 2004), we have raised \$1,731. Last year at this point, the total raised was \$1,699. In our best year (2003), the total raised at this point was \$1,746.

Thank you all for your interest and participation! ♥



Tone-Henge

by Ol' Bruce

Tone-Henge activities last month took a back seat to HOA preparations and performance in Salt Lake City. We were so busy with the chorus that we didn't even get in a rehearsal. Of course some would

say that rehearsals don't do us any good anyway, so we can't claim to have made a real sacrifice.

Nevertheless, four old guys like us can only focus on (at most) one thing at a time. (Make that three—**Jim** is a special case. Wind him up and he goes.) Three of us got on stage in Salt Lake, and the fourth—**Dan**—was there in spirit, or I should say in our Dixie signs. Dan turned his PVC pipe expertise from the *Tone-Henge* musical (?) pipes to the creation of the Carolina-Georgia-Tennessee signs, and then tried to see them on the webcast. Wouldn't you know—the cameras missed the whole thing. Oh, well—this too shall pass. We'll be back in action as soon as somebody invites us to sing. ♥

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the following chapter members!

Lyle Wylly	August 2
Gary Jordan	August 4
Monty Duerksen	August 7
Gordon Coleman	August 7
Jonathan Fortino	August 7
Dennis Kinghorn	August 9
Harry Stewart	August 18
Mark Fortino	August 19
Dick Irwin	August 20
Charles Drake	August 25
Bill Campsey	August 29
Mike Schumacher	August 30
Michael Hillenburg	August 30
Carl Turlin	August 31

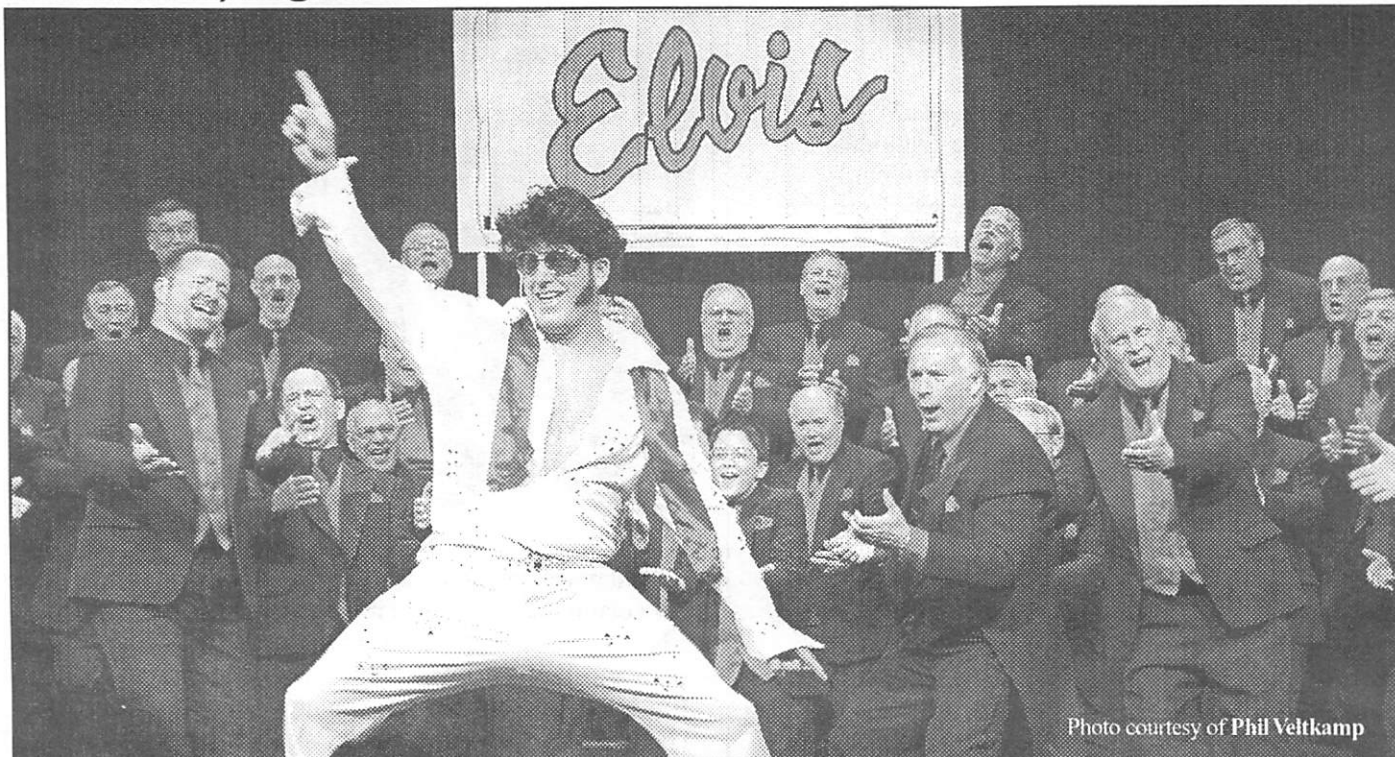


Photo courtesy of Phil Veltkamp

Elvis Attacked In Salt Lake City!

by Dick Korek

It was an intense late night of rehearsals at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Salt Lake City in final prep for the Saturday afternoon contest. July 10, about 12:30 am under the watchful eyes of **Dwain Brobst**, the chorus was at an all-time "we're ready" mode. With a heart-warming rendition of "Tie Me to Your Apron Strings Again" completed, and "Look Me Up When You're In Dixie" under way...the planned appearance of non other than ELVIS making his approach to the front of the stage.

Then, WOW...screaming, hugging, tackling and wrestling Elvis to the floor happened to the total surprise of the entire chorus. Yep, those gals just piled on Elvis, bras were flying everywhere and over 100 folks, the chorus, Dwain and guests in the ballroom at the Embassy Suites totally broke up!

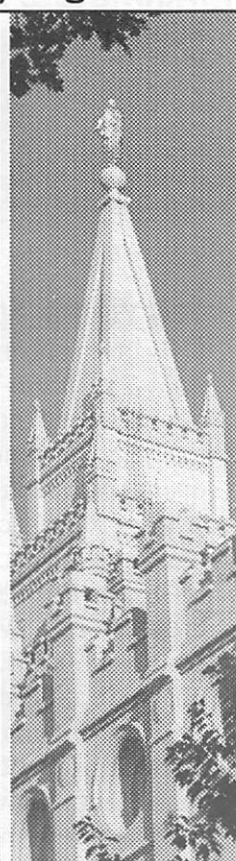
The Elvis fans (attackers) were a modest group of wives, friends and family including **Sue Fulcher, Helen Shores** (ringleader), **Michelle Hunget, Denise Davis** and **Jeffi Combs**.

This was a special moment for every member of the chorus. It's fun, surprises and family...it's HOA. Everyone should be proud to be a member of the family called HOA. ♥

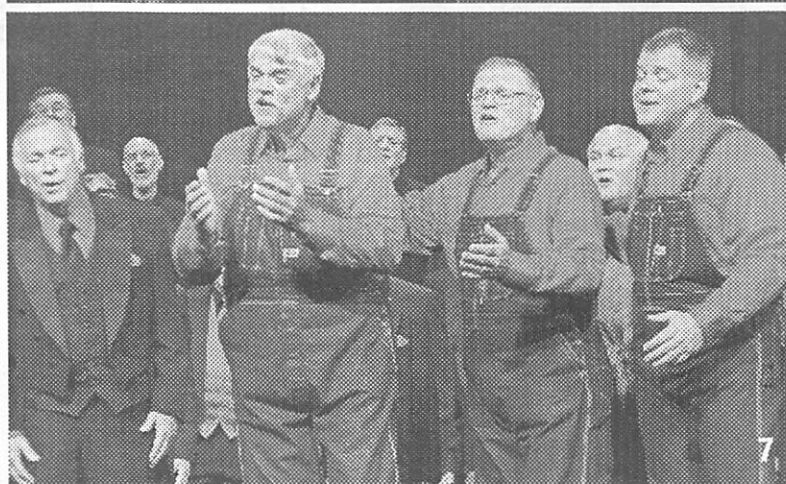
*(Editor's Note: The photos above and below shows **Rob "Ain't-Nothin'-But-A-Hound-Dog" Mathieu** striking his Elvis pose during HOA's recent International performance!)*



Photo courtesy of Don Fuson



HOA's intensity is evident in all of these actions shots from Salt lake City, which include the featured spotlight on *Rural Route 4*, another shot of Elvis making the ladies swoon, and **Matt Bostick's** daughter **McKenna** watching the *Dapper Dans* via webcast during the AIC show. Chorus Photos are courtesy of **Dan Proctor** of PROBE, Temple photo courtesy of **Phil Veltkamp**, McKenna's photo courtesy of her Dad, **Matt**.



A LOOK AT THE PAST IN HARMONOTES

by Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus · wadeliberty@aol.com

TEN YEARS AGO: AUGUST, 1995:

Only 66 members were on stage as the *Heart of America Chorus* achieved its primary goal of a top ten finish with ninth place in the standings at the international contest at Miami Beach, Florida. In the quartet competition, *12th Street Rag* repeated their 1994 performance with a 36th-place finish. My how times have changed!

Chapter President **Dale Neuman** announced the creation of a new chapter long-range marketing committee. As Dale described it, "This group is charged with getting us connected with our community in a systematic fashion." Committee members were Chairman **Dave Hokanson**, **Bob Burdick** and **Dan Henry Bowser**. **Jim Bagby** would function as a consultant to the committee.

Raymond Schwartzkopf was introduced as a new chapter member by Membership Vice President **David Miller**.

TWENTY YEARS AGO: AUGUST, 1980

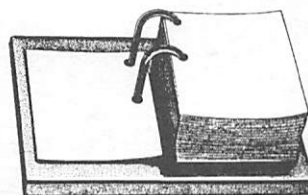
David Larson announced his decision to resign from the chapter presidency at the chapter meeting on Aug. 19. **Keith Schweer** took over to fill the vacancy for the remainder of Dave's term. The August, 1980, issue of *Harmonotes* was chock full of quartet news. **Jim Davis** reported that the *12th Street Irregulars* were calling it quits after the members "decided unanimously that quarteting in its present form is not what we want." Davis says that three of the guys wanted to sing the baritone. **Cal Yoder** reports a busy summer for the *Rural Route 4*. **Nile Abbott** explains that although the Kansas Citians have been relatively inactive during the summer, they have performances coming up in the near future. And in the case of the *Principle Ingredients*, **Dick Henderson's** two-month vacation in the mountains around Colorado Springs had resulted in a quiet summer, too. And finally, quartet promotion chairman **Don Kahl**, uses nearly an entire page to describe the results of the "Bush League" contest. **Joe Costigan** was the *Harmonotes* editor at the time.

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO: AUGUST, 1970

Thirty-eight members of the *Heart of America Chorus* journeyed to Joplin, Mo., on July 18 to put on a show for the newly chartered Joplin Chapter, which was sponsored by Kansas City. In addition to the *HOA Chorus*, the show program included the *Digits*, **Percy Franks** (on the piano), **Dan Henry** as the MC, and as a special treat, the *Travelaires* from western Kansas.

Another fun evening was enjoyed on July 21 at a party hosted by the management of the Schlitz Brown Bottle (does anyone remember that place?). A busload of *Pony Expressmen* came down from St. Joseph. and there were barbershoppers present from NOJOCO (now the Overland Park Chapter), Lawrence, Davenport, Cedar Rapids, Harrisonville and even New Orleans. Editor **Dick Hamm** reported that the management of the Brown Bottle hosted a different outfit every evening but "that they felt the barbershoppers were the best group that has been at the Brown Bottle all year." (I'll bet Dan can tell us all about the Brown Bottle.) ♥

Heart of America Chorus



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 31

Concert in the Park, Overland Park Commons

July 31-Aug. 6

Harmony College, Columbus, OH

Aug. 14

Annual HOA Picnic

Sept. 6

HOA Guest Night

Sept. 16-18

2006 HOA Retreat

Oct. 7-9

CSD Fall Convention, Des Moines, Iowa

Serendipity by Carter Combs

Having been a barbershopper for a few years now, I've gotten used to strangers stopping me to comment on a recent chorus or quartet performance. So a few days ago, when a new employee here at Helzberg's complemented our chorus, I simply assumed she had been at our send-off.

Not so! "Were you at our show at the Music Hall?" I asked. *Uh-uh*. "Related to someone in HOA?" *Nope*...seems she was in Salt Lake City, and first saw us singing "Friends" and giving friendship bracelets to our pals up north, the Barberboys.

Turns out SLC was her first barbershop contest ever. She had a wonderful time, and was (rightfully) astonished at how much goes on at our annual shindig. So, will we see her at District in October? Sorry, no, she's getting married the following weekend. Oh, and did I mention that her fiancé is the tenor for *Tomfoolery*?!!

Congratulations, **Clint & Mackenzie!**

How 'Bout Them Apples?

by Carter Combs

What a great convention! What an amazing array of talented competitors and polished performances! HOA's steady improvements in all categories led us to yet another high milestone score, and we fielded our largest chorus ever! The venue was beautiful and the hospitality outstanding (one curmudgeonly columnist notwithstanding.)

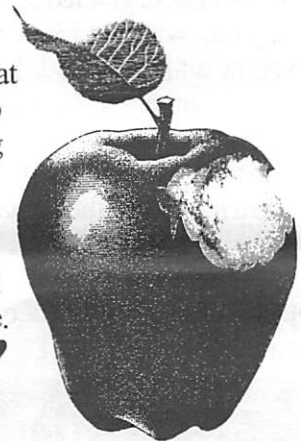
And yet...and yet some folks seem to be disappointed in our reported slight drop in the rankings. *Why?*

Pardon my asking, but what drop? What rankings are you comparing? This year to last year? *Why?*

This year's contest was run under a different set of rules, resulting in a larger set of competitors. Based on that, we can ask all manner of "what-ifs"...what if it had been just the 3-4 wildcard choruses like they did the last few years? Or what if the shootout had been in a different venue? Or what if the moon really is made of cheese?

Regardless, none of those "what-ifs" will change the underlying fact that the rule changes make it impossible to determine a reliable change in ranking after the highest scoring wildcard chorus. It's not so different as comparing apples to oranges...more like comparing Granny Smiths to Red Delicious...but different just the same.

So, how do you like them apples? ♥



LDS Conference Center

by Dick Korek

The capacity of this building: 21,000. Fantastic is just too modest to describe. The photo at left was shot from the HOA-assigned seating section, about 200 feet from the performance stage. From this location even the huge screens on both sides of the stage seemed small. The massive organ pipes, colored lights and seating for the LDS Chorus were the backdrop for quartets and the chorus competitions.

Now the other side of this is, of course, what did it look like from the stage when we did the "walk-on?" You quickly realized that indeed they could park a 747 passenger plane within this auditorium. And the seats seemed about a football field distant up there in the terrace area. A wonderful experience in an unusual venue. Glad I was there. ♥



Annual Tag Party: A Huge Hit!

by Joe Mathieu

Joe's 8th annual tag party has come and gone and looking back on it all I can think is "what a monster I've created!"

About 60 barbershoppers and their families showed up this year. That amount of people is a little overwhelming to host but I had some help from my Dad **Mike** and brother **Rob**. Thanks, guys!

Mike Mathieu grilled chicken and brats which kept everyone fed and wanting more. We had the lawn darts set up but I don't think anyone ever used them! The same thing happened with Texas Hold 'Em. Every time someone mentioned getting the Hold 'Em game started, I would try to do it but got distracted singing a tag or getting caught up with old friends. Next year if you want to come and play Hold 'Em, I will designate someone other than myself to be in charge of starting the game!

It was great to see all four members of *Tonehenge*. And those that stayed after dark were entertained by the **Hunget** family singers (below). I'm not sure if that is their official name but I'll use it until I hear otherwise. What a great sound those four have!

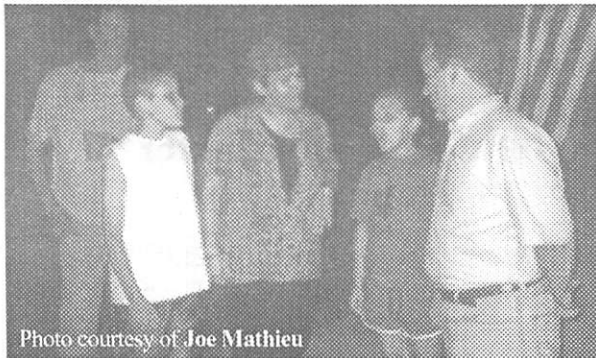


Photo courtesy of Joe Mathieu

Rob's goal this year was to sing a tag at 6 a.m. He didn't quite make it and neither did your host. Guess we're getting old!

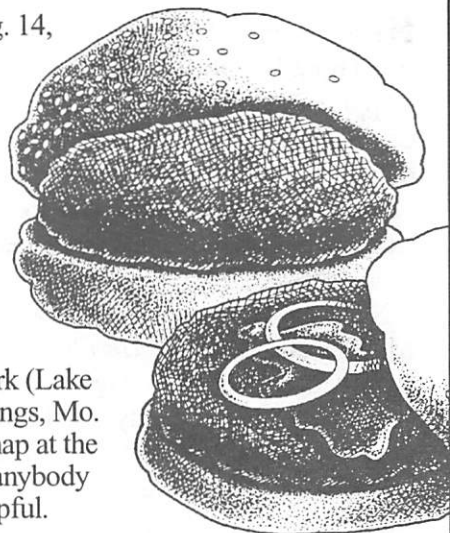
A great time was had by all. Thank you everyone for coming! The party gets bigger and better every year and I will definitely continue the tradition! ♥

Come One, Come All, To The '05 HOA Summer Picnic!

by Carl Turlin

When? Sunday, Aug. 14,
anytime after 3 p.m.
Plan on putting on
the burgers at 6 p.m.
and eating after 6:15.
We have the shelter
until dark.

Where? Shelter
#2, next to the
Administration
Building, Fleming Park (Lake
Jacomo), in Blue Springs, Mo.
I'll have copies of a map at the
August meetings for anybody
who would find it helpful.



What? Lots of eating & drinking, tag
singing, Frisbee throwing, swinging on the swings, hiking
down to the lake, fellowshipping with barbershoppers and
family members and friends.

What Is There To Bring? I will have sign-up sheets at
the meetings in August to sign up to bring veggie dishes,
salads, desserts, and other favorite recipes. If watermelons
are still in season, be ready to participate in the water-
melon-eating contest!

You may also want to bring your favorite chair, a hat, a
ball glove, your Frisbee, a change of shirts if you're in the
watermelon contest and your favorite beverage. There is a
water faucet at the site and we will use the grills at the
shelterhouse. Dress for the weather. (Gee, I wonder
what the weather could be in the middle of August
in Kansas City!?)



What's Provided? Burgers, hot dogs, buns and
condiments are being provided. If you would like to bring
something on your own to grill, let me know.

What's there? Real toilets (not port-a-potties) are
located in the adjacent parking lot, which will
accommodate about 50 cars. We will be under the
large shelterhouse, which has many large shade
trees around it. There is a set of swings closeby for
those young-at-heart swingers.

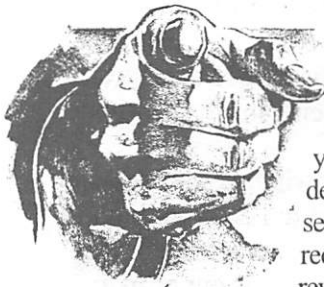


So, keep our picnic in mind and we'll talk more about it
as the time draws near!! Have a great summer! ♥



We Want YOU For Vocal Coaching and Breakouts

by Darrell McCune



I would like to remind everyone about an opportunity that you can take advantage of every Tuesday evening. Earlier this year, the music team made the decision to schedule breakout sessions from 9:30 until 10. Most recently, you had the choice of video review, repertory review, tag singing,

front row choreography, and vocal coaching.

At this point, I have been doing the vocal coaching session, although others on the music team have been asked to assist with this as their time permits. As it turns out, however, we have not needed more than one coach due to a lack of participation by chapter members. The idea is to have a small group of people (say 3 or 4) getting vocal coaching together. Maybe everyone is anxious to get home, go to the afterglow, etc., but I have never had more than one person show up at a time for coaching (and several nights no one at all).

I hope no one feels intimidated by the idea of vocal coaching. The intent is to give you a chance to get some individualized feedback about your vocal strengths, as well as suggestions for improvement. Some of the areas we work on include breathing, vowel production, singing with consistent resonance and placement, intonation, reducing choppiness, and reducing vibrato. The advantage of working in a small group is that we can also work on matching color with other singers, singing in sync, and working on balance.

If you have never had a vocal coaching session, please come down to the middle room on the left side of the back hallway at 9:30 on Tuesday. If you have had a vocal coaching session before, come back and take it a step further. If we're really serious about improving as a chorus, then it has to start with each person working individually to become the best singer that he can. **Good choruses do vocal coaching on a regular basis.** We're experimenting with doing it this way on a voluntary basis instead of pulling people out of the regular rehearsal as we have done in the past. **If we don't get enough participation, however, we may have to do go back to doing it the old way.**

It's important for me (and the music team) to hear how you feel about what is being offered in the breakout sessions. If there are other things that you would like learn about or participate in, please let us know. If you would rather just be done at 9:30 so that you can go home, then we need to know that as well. I look forward to working with those of you who would like some help. In fact, if you are interested in vocal coaching, it would be helpful if you could let me know earlier in the evening or by email prior to the meeting (darrellmccune@swbell.net). I just don't particularly want to spend 10 or 15 minutes looking at a blank wall before taking off on my 50-mile journey back to good ol' Ottawa. ♥

FOCAL POINT Up Close And Personal!

A 47-year barbershopper, **Ron Abel** refers to himself as an Iowa transplant, having been born and raised on a farm near Ventura, and graduated from high school and the Hamilton School of Commerce in Mason City. His wife of 51 years, **Dixie**, died a few years ago, and Ron and **Ann**, whom Ron married six years ago in Hawaii, now live in Overland Park.



Ron Abel

Ron's World War II service included a two-year stint as radioman aboard a U. S. Navy destroyer in the Pacific Theater. He retired in 1986 as a senior district analyst after 38 years with Amoco.

Ron has an impressive musical background: his mother played the piano and his dad was a singer. Ron sang in high school and college, played the saxophone in the high school band, and played piano and sang for several years in old-time and modern dance band combos. He also sang with the *Mason City Chamber of Commerce Glee Club* prior to their chartering as a barbershop chapter.

In 1958, Ron joined the Society through the Des Moines chapter. He later transferred to Kansas City and has been an active member of the *Heart of America Chorus* since 1962. He has held most of the chapter offices, except treasurer. He has served in several capacities at the district level, including district president (1982-1983), executive VP, Missouri Division VP and area counselor. He has also served the district as representative on the international board of directors (1985-1986).

Ron takes real pride in having been the recipient of the Central States District Hall of Fame award as well as all three chapter honors; the "Barbershopper of the Year" and the "Oz Newgard" and "John Cross" awards.

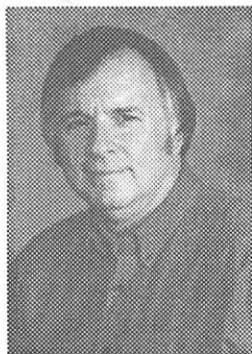
Ron's quartet experience through the years includes a college quartet in Mason City, and the *Jax of Harmony* and the *Shamrocks* in Des Moines. In Kansas City, he sang with the *BMA Beaconsaires*, the *Suburbanotes*, the *Red Bridge Players*, the *Music Men* (this included a three-week trip to Europe with a "Music Man" production), the *Old Mission Messengers* and currently the baritone with the *Crosstown Four*.

Ann and Ron enjoy a large blended family including six children and spouses, 17 grandchildren and spouses, and 22 great grandchildren—thus far! ♥

Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire

We Came, We Saw, We...Wandered In The Dark

by Jim Bagby, HOA Chorus Director



Ah, it was lovely, inspiring, goosebump-inducing! Those increasingly louder and more intense chants from our fans and the audience in the vast LDS Conference Center, late in the loooooong afternoon of July 9:

"HOA...HOA...HOA!"

Our trip to Salt Lake City, for our 16th international chorus competition, was about to hit the magic moment.

Well, not just yet. The chanters lost momentum as the minutes dragged on and no chorus appeared. Had someone broken a leg. NO, look, there they come...well, some of them, sort of straggling on in the dark. Now a few more, HERE WE GO...no, no, wait, our signs aren't there. Let's wait some more. What the heck is going on?!? And from our non-fans: "Get on with it!" Who could blame 'em?

And so it went in the chaos that was the SLC chorus pattern, which lagged more than an hour behind, a victim of a variety of circumstances: the size of the venue, minimal backstage communication and a woeful lack of manpower from the host committee. We had stood in various hallways for almost an hour, then suddenly were told to take the stage—altho our tech crew had not been given access to the signs in the very spot they'd been told to store them. So the signs that were supposed to go on first came on last, hoisted horizontally over the heads of the guys already told to be on stage.

It sounds almost comic now, and it likely had little to do with our placement, but it was a most unusual

start to what turned out to be a most rewarding performance. Many of the choruses experienced similar delays—and if they had props or setup, those were magnified by being in a hall without a curtain. But what a hall!

And HOA came away knowing we had put our largest chorus on stage, and achieved our highest scores ever. Moreover, most of us achieved what we said in our final rehearsals was our primary goal: to feel good about our performance when the curtain closed, er, the lights came down. We had some early hiccups in the ballad, possibly related to the confusion in the setup that took us out of the "Apron Strings" mood we had captured in the warmup. But we never sang "Dixie" better.

In fact, I wanted to hug everyone as **Rob "Elvis" Mathieu** signalled the final pose and the applause swept over us. It was that kind of moment. Maybe that didn't make up for the first sight of the placement, and having to relay that number to you guys in the balcony—which certainly was my low point of the week.

The high points were many, starting with all our rehearsals and how focused and determined you were—even when Friday night turned so late. I think about **John and Mark Fortino** giving HOA their all when *12th Street* was competing, and they had to recover from their own placement disappointment to be at 100 percent Saturday. What a joy it was to have **Calvin** and **Willard** back in the chorus, both for their voices and their inspiration. And how much time away from his family and competing quartet, *Flashpoint*, **Wes Yoder** gave us just to make a one-song appearance.

(continued on page 13 ♦)



(continued from page 12)

I look back again at the hours and hours **Vince Perry** put into this effort (again), of **Mary Fortino** sewing at midnight, the work behind the scene of all the Music Team and the direction that **Keith Schweer** gives us. **Shawn Jeffries** and his mother pictures and stories. The front row sweating—I mean sweating—in their workouts upstairs. The members who drive 45 minutes or an hour or more one way to every meeting and extra rehearsal, we take for granted now—but that adds up to a lot of dedication.

The five youngsters, who take on the same responsibilities as the other 90 guys, and the efforts their families make to get them where they have to be. I suspect their mothers go through more stress than any of our wives. I think about the personal sacrifice of fellows who were on the risers in SLC who perhaps should have been somewhere else, or did not feel good enough to be there, but made the commitment. We don't even know all those stories. The support of the regulars we had to leave at home was felt, through their written and spoken communications.

The contribution of the "rookies" is major, because they had so much to absorb in such a relatively short time. But the leadership of the veterans is even more important. I'm not about to get into trying to name all the people who mean so much, but step back sometime and look at how many guys are 70 or older...how many have been on the risers 25 years or more; or even 15-20 years. That's a SIGNIFICANT factor in why HOA remains what **Bill Biffle** calls, simply, the best all-around barbershop chapter in the Society. And speaking of the wise and windy one, we know that without him, **Dwain Bropst**, the **Calderons**, **Kevin Keller** and **Sheri Hart**, we would not have achieved an 83-plus average.

So I hope everyone who was there knows something now, without a doubt, that we talked about and maybe believed in the weeks leading to Salt Lake City. Now we know what's possible. ♥

**DEADLINE FOR THE
SEPTEMBER
HARMONOTES:
TUESDAY,
AUGUST 23**

Support Those College Quartets!

by Rick Spencer, Society Staff Music Educator

One of the advantages we have as quartet singers is, as simple as it sounds, WE SING IN QUARTETS. Sounds like a no-brainer, right? Well, we are presented with an interesting challenge when it comes to developing collegiate quartets due to the fact that quartetting is arguably the most challenging aspect of the barbershop art form. Think about it. There are roughly 2,000 quartets registered with the Society. So, 8,000 members of the Society sing in a quartet regularly. (This figure is hardly accurate because many of those groups share several of the same members, while other quartets may exist without being registered). So why do the other 22,000 members of the Society NOT sing in a quartet? Because it is challenging, intimidating, time-consuming, etc!

However, we then try and encourage college singers, some of whom are not members of the Society and have never sung barbershop before to form a quartet, learn (at least) two contestable songs, and then sing these songs before a panel of judges and an audience of barbershop "experts." Something that 22,000 experienced barbershoppers will not do. Each year, the MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest averages around 50-60 quartets who participate. After 14 years of the program's existence, we would expect more, right? (100? 200 collegiate quartets?)

The potential lifespan for a collegiate quartet is much shorter, due to the age restriction (17-25 years of age). As a result they have less time to rise to the top in that arena. When these young guys experience barbershop for the first time it is usually their first contest as a quartet. There they watch you compete. They sing tags with you. They want to do what they see and hear you do! They are sponges, ready to soak in as much information as they can about the "cool thing" called barbershop. Supporting and encouraging these guys are the keys to their longevity in barbershop.

Be their role models. If you are a coach, offer them coaching. If you are an arranger, offer them a song or two. If you are none of the above, perhaps you can point them in the right direction. Double quartet with them if you share a repertoire song. Have your chapter invite them to sing on their show. There are countless ways to encourage these guys. If you talk with any of the CBQC participants who have gone on to other great barbershop successes they will tell you it was because of the support they received from barbershoppers, especially quartet men. ♥



A Summary of Results, Compared to Previous Years by Jim Porter



First, the good news. Since the present scoring system was put in place in 1994, our Salt Lake performance (2498) is second

only to 1997, when *HOA* finished 12th with 2526. Also, the 93 men represents the largest group singing for *HOA* on the International stage since 1994 [Ed. note: not only *HOA's* largest since '94, but the largest *KC* chorus in competition history].

Now, the news needs to be tempered with the fact that the average score of all competing choruses is higher. That average is 2517 this year (placing *HOA* below average) compared to 2463 last year (*HOA* was over average at 2484). You might think that the competition is getting better, but this average has NOT steadily increased over the years. It has varied up and down, and shows no trend.

Overall, for 12 years, the average chorus competitor score is 2493. It was highest (2538) in 1997, which is the year *HOA* had its highest score (which was below average then). It was lowest (2411) in 1995, when *HOA* had its highest finish (9th place), but did that with only 2443 total points. (Ed: the highest finish ever for *HOA* was 6th at Detroit, in 1981].

Our position (15th) is matched only in 1998, when *HOA* scored only 2377 points. In other years [since 1994] the chorus competed, the finish was between 9th and 14th place. *HOA's* best finish with respect to the overall average was its 1995 9th-place finish.

This year, that performance would only have placed us 13th, ahead of the *Saltaires* chorus. In that sense, one might conclude that the competition is getting tougher.

The Music category showed the biggest increase, with the average being 841 this year compared to 817 last year. The Presentation average was 848 this year compared to 831 last, and Singing was 829 this year, 815 last year.

If you chose the first five choruses from the October seedings to win the medals, you would have had the exact order except for 5th place. Sixth-seeded Hilltop, MN, edged out 5th-seed Denver for the 5th-place medal. *HOA* finished behind the 13 choruses seeded ahead of us in October and ahead of all other seeded choruses. Note that there was no seeding for the Stockholm, Sweden, chorus which finished 14th, just ahead of us.

Of the 24 choruses in the competition, nine were NOT at Louisville last year, and five of these haven't been at international in five years.

What to conclude from all this? Status quo rules, I guess. Regardless, our chorus is at a high level, one of the top 20 in the world (including recent champs on the sidelines), one we can all be proud to be a part of, one worthy of keeping up the effort to maintain that standing in our community.

Unlike choruses, some quartets do show marked changes from year to year. Some standouts, looking at the top 20 quartets this year:

Champion Realtime (8157, 90.6%) was 7th last year (7510, 83.4%).

3rd-place Metropolis (7939, 88.2%) was 4th last year (7822, 86.9%)

5th-place O.C. Times (7851, 87.2%) was 18th last year (4771, 79.5%).

6th-place Vocal Spectrum (7808, 86.8%) was college champ last year (1011, 84.3%).

10th-place Storm Front (7598, 84.4%) was 13th last year (4846, 80.8%).

11th-place State Line Grocery (5017, 83.6%), was at its first International.

16th-place Hot Air Buffoons (4919, 82.0%) was 45th last year (2270, 75.7%).

19th-place Reveille (4853, 80.9%) was 28th last year (2337, 77.9%).

20th-place Quest (4823, 80.4%) was competing for the first time at International.

22nd-place Odds On (2409, 80.3%) was 39th last year (2296, 76.5%).

26th-place Vocal Magic (2376, 79.2%) was dead last (52nd) last year (2137, 71.2%).

28th-place Impulse (2368, 78.9%) was 43rd last year (2276, 75.9%).

Of last year's top 20, three quartets (*Finale*, *Sold Out* and *Q*) did not compete this year.

In the college contest, champion *Men in Black* (958) finished eighth last year (866) and 12th in 2003 (792).

Locally, *12th St. Rag* was 15th (4966, 82.8%), down from 11th a year ago (4857, 81.0%). *3 Men & a Melody* was 13th (4975, 82.9%), a drop from 10th (5305, 81.2%). The top-20 average score was 84.7% this year and 82.6% last year. ♥

Board of Directors Meeting Highlights by Kevin Tritsch, Secretary

In attendance: President **Marty Oldehoeft**, Immediate Past President **Dick Irwin**, Membership VP **Stewart Grosser**, Marketing and PR VP **Dick Korek**, Operations VP **Chuck Ames**, Treasurer **Charles Ramirez**, Secretary **Kevin Tritsch**, Director **Jim Bagby**, Board Members at Large: **Doug Brott**, **Kent McClean**, **Bob Howard**. Guests: **Tony Strub**, **Rodger Faherty**. Members absent: **Steve Carruthers**, **Keith Schweer**, **Jerry Garrard**, **Rich Huyck**, **Harry Stewart** and **Brian Seydlitz**.

Reporting for Music and Performance VP **Schweer**, recuperating from surgery, **Bagby** said one new eight-part song, "Toyland," has been received for the holiday show from **Mel Knight**, two others are en route and all the songs for HOA are set. The Music Team has discussed the spring show music line. *12th Street Rag* won't be available. The Music Team has discussed producing a new CD in time for release by spring 2006.

Ramirez said the current checking account balance is \$18,955.80. There was discussion of numerous items in the report.

Grosser reported newest membership packages have arrived and nametags are up to date. The costs have increased for the nametags because they are now being shipped in from Colorado. Under the new Society membership program UCANSING2, **Grosser** said his goal is to put 120 members in the performing chorus. One of his suggestions is to offer a dinner for two or \$50 to the member who brings the most guests, and another prize to the member who has the largest number of guests become members. July 26 and Sept. 6 were set as the next Guest Nights. **Bagby** recommended that **Grosser** recruit at least four fulltime people to help with membership.

Ames reported that some of the risers are falling apart, and two need immediate repair.

Korek reported that he and **Strub** have been working very hard and long for grants, sponsorships and donations. Sam's Club has the latest major donation, of \$1,000. The chapter has now been placed on the Donor Edge program. **Strub** submitted an idea for doing three spring shows instead of two, with a corporation buying out one show and donating the tickets to whomever they wanted. **Korek** is sending out messages to past sponsors for support.

He also set up a flyer to be passed out at future shows and a flyer to the 4,000 names on our mailing list.

OLD BUSINESS

Carter Combs will have a report after Salt Lake City about for microphones and speakers for the rehearsal hall.

Bob Howard submitted a prop report. Tech Committee members are **Oldehoeft**, **Dan Henry Bowser**, **Al Moritz**, **Ron McIntire** and **Jim Davis**, with **Bagby** as the advisor.

Marble drawing: Chairman **Jim Porter** has gotten the information from the state of Missouri and we are now legal to continue with the drawing.

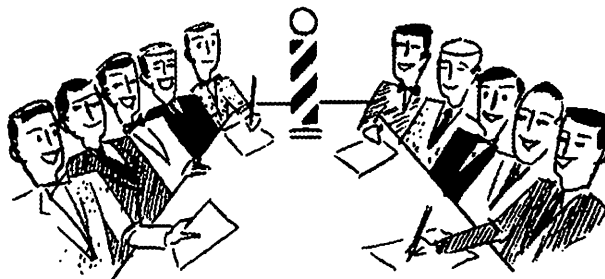
NEW BUSINESS

Oldehoeft said a member wondered if the winner of the marble drawing be willing to submit half of the winning to the risers fund. **Brott** suggested one-third of the drawing proceeds to the weekly winner, one-third to Harmony Foundation and one-third to the riser fund. **McClean** and **Ramirez** pointed out the problems with designating marble funds for chapter projects. **Korek** and **Bagby** suggested a separate riser donation fund and **Irwin** volunteered to head that effort, with an immediate goal of \$2,200 for one set of new risers.

GOOD OF THE CHAPTER

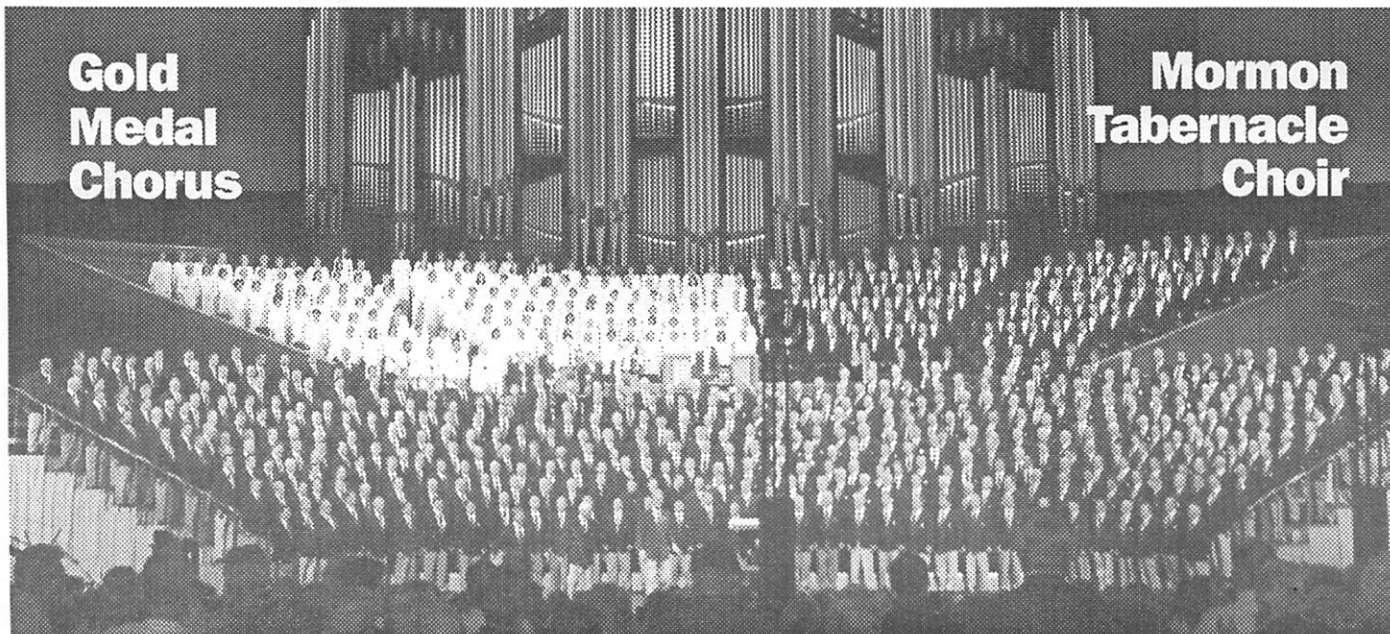
Bagby reminded we are the Kansas City Chapter of the *Barbershop Harmony Society*, rather than the *Heart of America Chapter*, and the need to distinguish between the chapter and chorus both for legal and PR purposes.

Oldehoeft recommended that all Board members contribute articles about their area of activity to the *Harmonotes*. **McIntire** volunteered to coordinate the contributions. ♥



Gold Medal Chorus

Mormon Tabernacle Choir



THIS COLLECTION OF ALMOST 1,000 SINGERS presented the nation's longest-running radio broadcast, "Music and the Spoken Word," from the LDS Conference Center in Salt Lake City's Temple Square on Sunday morning, July 10. The world-famed Mormon Tabernacle Choir, directed by **Dr. Craig Jessop**, stands above 556 Society gold medalists—AIC, chorus and senior quartet members. Our **Jim Bagby** is third from the right in row 1, flanked by his brother, **Mike**, on his left, and **Bill McLaurine** of AOH on his right. The picture was taken by **Lynn Leavitt**. Her husband, **Chuck**, is on the Society Events Committee, chaired by our **Mike Mathieu**—who relayed the photo. Following the 30-minute broadcast, the combined choruses presented a one-hour public concert, including a repeat of their three joint numbers. Also directing were **Greg Lyne** and **Jim Clancy**. "The Music and the Spoken Word" telecast that features the Gold Chorus will be broadcast on the Hallmark Channel on Sunday, August 14 at 5:30 am. That is channel 61 on Time Warner cable. Look for more about this remarkable presentation in the next *Harmonotes*.

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