

Heart of America Chorus Calendar



- Aug. 8** 7 p.m. - HOA Weekly Meeting - Guest Night and New Adventure Quartets
- Aug. 15** 7 p.m. - HOA Weekly Meeting - **Jim Henry** Coaching!
- Aug. 22** 7 p.m. - HOA Weekly Meeting - Junior Guest Night
- Aug. 27** 1 p.m. - HOA Recording Session #2
- Sept. 9** 7 p.m. - St. Joseph Show Chorus Fall Show with Vocal Spectrum
- Sept. 11** 6 p.m. - HOA Monthly Board Meeting
- Sept. 15** 7 p.m. - HOA Annual Retreat in Atchison -**Mark Hale and Joe Hunter**, Clinicians
- Sept. 16** All Day - HOA Annual Retreat in Atchison -**Mark Hale and Joe Hunter**, Clinicians
- Sept. 17** 7 a.m. - HOA Annual Retreat - Atchison -**Mark Hale and Joe Hunter**, Clinicians
- Sept. 29 - Oct. 8** All Day - Fall District Conventions: CSD, MAD, SUN

The Kansas City chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society is a singing fraternity whose mission is to learn, teach, and perform the highest-quality, entertaining, a cappella music that embraces the barbershop style through the Heart of America Chorus and its chapter quartets, to bring about a spiritual and emotional response from the performer and the audience.

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HARMONOTES



The Monthly Bulletin of Kansas City's Heart of America Chorus

CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

Last Look At The Indy Arena: Some Silver Lining

by Jim Bagby, HOA Chorus Director



and could have—and perhaps should have.

All right, now the other part of it. We said as we prepared during the week that we wanted to leave the stage feeling good, and as far as “Auld Lang Syne” went, I felt great. I know most of you did. At the start, during the song, at the tag and at the acceptance. It was probably the highlight of the week for me. It’s one reason we do what we do, the rest of the year. Then the &^%\$!@#! scoresheets came out. *Sigh.*

What happened? One part of the equation, I believe, is we were underscored by some judges on the ballad. This is not sour grapes or a complaint, just a feeling, backed by a look at the individual scores on ALS. In Music they ranged from 77 to 85 from the quintuple panel. In Singing, the spread was from 79 to 84 and in Presentation from 80-84.

Let’s get it out of the way first: 16th place is not what we went to Indianapolis to do. No, we don’t wanna hear about “everyone’s a winner,” and “only the best in the world got there” and “we scored at A-level.” We know all that. We know we intended to place higher,



Those ranges are well within acceptable levels for any panel. The natural tendency for any competitor is to want to believe that the highest judge is right—and had all the judges agreed with the top scorers for HOA, we would have finished several spots higher...but still not in the top 10. So if we can’t blame the judges, how come we were not higher?

For those who were not part of the competition chorus, I can tell you that we did not maintain the same level of intensity from our Wednesday and Thursday rehearsals into the Friday pattern, for whatever reason. *(Continued on page 10)*

“...had all the judges agreed with the top scorers for HOA, we would have finished several spots higher...but still not in the top 10.”



2005 CENTRAL STATES DISTRICT BULLETIN OF THE YEAR • 2006 THIRD PLACE INTERNATIONAL CONTEST WINNER

Photo by Jim Porter

Harmonotes Takes Third Place at International!

by Todd Anderson, *Harmonotes* Editor



Still elated after winning the 2005 CSD Bulletin of the Year, a June breakfast meeting at Liberty, Missouri's Corner Cafe brought together your *Harmonotes* Editor and his indispensable cohorts. You'll see pictured above, from left to right, 1986 International Bulletin Winner **Wade Dexter**, **Don Fuson**, **Ron McIntire**, **Jim Bagby** and yours truly (**Todd Anderson**).

Such a meeting was probably long overdue. Each of these men provide me with a heaping helping of everything from outstanding photos to expert proofing to sage wisdom on what a bulletin ought to be. It's because of them, and many of you within *HOA* who chime in on a regular basis, that *Harmonotes* just won third place at the International level! *That's fantastic!* Such a spike in placement is a tribute to the desire of each of us to see our bulletin regain the top spot that Wade corralled just 10 years ago.

I heard a saying some years ago, that when planning you should, "Plan your work and work your plan." Our current plans are not only to maintain the consistent, quality input from our regular contributors, but to elicit the same desire in many others.

We'll need all our leadership plugged in if we are serious about winning first place [again] someday. Since *HOA* is no stranger to dedication, I'd wager that reaching for gold in the bulletin category will add even more purpose to a chorus who already has its sights set high.

Don't feel that you have to wait for one of us to contact you. Make a resolution to send in your input. This publication is a vehicle for you to communicate your ideas or thoughts. For leaders, it's away to let your folks know the excitement that's going on within your specific area (membership, sections, etc.). Even quartets should be tripping over each other to give reports on their accomplishments or performances.

Hats off to the first and second place bulletin winners at International. But a major "huzzah" goes to *HOA*. While I'm going to savor this level for a moment, you can bet we'll look to climb even higher in the judges eyes. You're invited to help make that happen! ♥

Last Look At The Indy Arena: Some Silver Lining

(Continued from front cover)

Sometimes that seems inevitable, but that's something we obviously can and must do better and I pledge to see that we improve our focus in future patterns, as long as I'm the arm-waver (some people are slow learners, I hear you say).

More important, I suggest, is we did not raise our level of intensity until we got to Indianapolis—and I'm sure most of those who placed ahead of us did a better job. That's another area the music team is discussing, and I brought up in my presentation to the chorus in Indy the day before the contest. Just how competitive are we, and do we want to be? We were missing a lot of good voices from our 160 members among our 81 men on stage. Ah, but there's also the contingent that says "yes, we could also do better by eliminating some of those 81 and going with a lean and mean chorus of (you pick the number) to Denver." Can we do better? That question remains to be answered (see **Keith Schweer's** article elsewhere in this *Harmonotes*).

Other than performing at an over-all A-level, there was much to be proud of with our Indianapolis experience. Eight *HOA* rookies to the international stage performed well and, I hope, had a great experience: **Mike, Phil and Keith Owen, John Erwine, Tom Wenner, Jim Clark, Rod Rivard and Fred Hangartner**. At the other end of the scale, **Ron Abel, Bruce Wenner, Keith Schweer** and I were onstage with *HOA* for the 17th time without a miss. The chorus took on the toughest uptune in chapter history and missed by one-half point averaging an "A" performance with "Runnin' Wild"—so we certainly know we can do that in Wichita.

We got to see *12th Street Rag* earn the Saturday night mic tester spot and barely miss a spot in the top 10, while **John Fortino** did double duty in the quartet and in our chorus. And of course we were part of a Central States District thrill when our St. Charles cousins, *Vocal Spectrum*, went wire-to-wire for the quartet gold. Editor **Todd Anderson** got a bronze medal when *Harmonotes* placed third among all chapter bulletins judged at the Society level. On top of all that, barbershopping's No. 1 chorus management team, **Vince and Meladee Perry**, did another brilliant job that kept us organized, on track, dressed and on time all week. ♥

Attention All Members Of HOA!

Consider directing your tax-deductible contributions to *your very own* charitable organization—*HOA*!

As you can see, it has already started. Certainly not everyone has the financial ability to participate, but consider that this is an opportunity to know how your charitable dollars are being used. *Be included in the list below, and proudly support HOA.*

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Donors will be listed in *HOA's* monthly bulletin and the March 23, 2006 Annual Show program. The Heart of America Chorus is a 501(c)(3) organization. Checks should be made out to: *HOA*. Give to any *HOA* Board member or mail to: *HOA, c/o Dale Neuman*
816 W. 121st. St. • Kansas City, MO 64145-1011
Donors are listed from June 30, 2005 through July 1,

SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 17, 2007

HOA'S ANNUAL SHOW AT... YARDLEY HALL!

Heart of America Chorus

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Fishin' in Indy by Dick Irwin



Ron McIntire

Who would have thought that dressing up like a bunch of tropical fish and performing two parodies would earn a fifth place medal? I'll bet that even the Greendale (WI) boys didn't expect the response they received when they went on stage

in Indianapolis and "schooled" us all on how to put on a show.

In the 7 international chorus contests I have attended, I have never been more entertained than I was by the *Midwest Vocal Express* performance. This is not to say there weren't better singing choruses. There were exceptional performances beginning with the silver medalists, Westminster. Once again youth shows they not only can compete, but also have the desire and commitment to make themselves one of the best. In addition, *The Northern Lights*, *Sound of the Rockies* and my old friends *Great Northern Union* all sang extremely well, in my opinion. So many great choruses and so few points to share.

The chorus contest wasn't the only show in Indy. Way to go *Vocal Spectrum*! And how about those mike-testers, *12th Street Rag*? I think they should have been in the top ten. And in spite of one song, *3 Men And A Melody* performed extremely well. I'm not saying the one song was performed badly. In fact, I thought they did very well. Perhaps it just wasn't the best contest song choice. But, who am I to criticize. Congratulations to all of our Central States quartets. You did us proud.

The weather couldn't have been better, after raining most of the way from Kansas City to Indianapolis. On the fourth, the fireworks were spectacular fired from a top a skyscraper. The downtown area itself was pretty decent, if you don't count all of the people sitting and standing on corners jingling their cups looking for donations. Our hotel accommodations were nice enough, although it would have been nice if all of the elevators went to all of the floors.

How did we do? Another year of wondering what it takes to finish better than in the middle. I thought we nailed our ballad. It felt good to me. Guess the judges didn't hear what I heard. Our up tune felt a little out of control. But, as a front row guy, it's hard to pay attention to how the rest of the chorus is performing. In spite of our scores, I am very proud to have been a part of the *Heart of America Chorus* in Indianapolis. I think we entertained the audience and that is an extremely important part of what we do in this hobby. Thanks for letting me be a part of one of the best choruses in the world.

Maybe next year we could dress up as pigs and do a couple of parodies on Bar-B-Que! It could be a real "Masterpiece." ♥



A creative Midwest Vocal Express swam thier way to fifth place at International! Above: Members display the aquatic attire that proved to be a crowd pleaser. Photos courtesy of Darrell McCune and Jim Porter

My Sabbatical Year: A Time to Observe and Learn Editorial by Jim Porter

Indianapolis 2006 was my fifth opportunity to go to an international convention as a competitor. Each of the previous four occasions included three days of intense preparation with little time to enjoy the convention and take advantage of the many things to do at this event. I decided this past spring to break out of the rut and just go and have a good time. As it turned out, it was a time to watch the other choruses and learn a bit about what sets the best of them apart from the rest.

In a nutshell, the lesson was simply that the difference between *HOA* and a medalist chorus is not so much a difference of talent as it is a difference of dedication. I watched the *Vocal Majority* prepare for the contest, I was able to see **Jim Clancy** at his best, and watch his men up close as they did their package. In the end, I noted that those men were not being asked to do anything I could not do myself. It is possible for our chorus, with the talent it has, to perform at that level. All that is required is that every man on the risers be as committed to the program as the men in Dallas are to their program. Sure, it takes work and application of lessons learned. The point is, we COULD do it if we were committed enough to learn the music, the moves and the emotions required to put on a top-notch performance.

Of course, the big reason I had for visiting the *Vocal Majority* was to see [former *HOA* member] **Shawn Jeffries** and to show him my support. It was fun to see him on the risers with those men, having the time of his life and showing that joy with every movement and facial expression he made. Shawn is a pretty spe-

cial guy, and to show you how well he is doing at making friends, I talked with several of the *VM* guys during the week, and every one of them knows Shawn now and speaks highly of him.

The whole week was a time to reunite with old friends from all over. One friend from Milwaukee was with the Greendale chorus, which certainly woke up an audience weary after hearing 30 other choruses sing for nine long hours on Friday! If you left Friday evening's session early, you really missed something. The aquarium scene, the [tropical] fish heads and those turtles caught outside the curtain at the end — you just had to see it to believe it!

It was also a time to make new friends. We've had a visitor the last couple of weeks ahead of the contest, **Harvey Berwin** from Minneapolis and the *Great Northern Union*, who has recently moved to Overland Park. We invited him to ride with us to Indy, as he was looking to hang around with his friends from *GNU* one last time before coming on board with us. Harvey invited me to sit in on a *GNU* practice, which I did

Thursday afternoon. How wonderful a hobby we have, where men from presumably rival choruses welcome you as a friend and not as an opponent!

Barbershoppers from all over are very friendly, open and welcoming, for the most part. Those who served us in the hotels and restaurants were delighted and thanked us for coming to Indianapolis, and invited us to return. What a privilege it is to be a part of this wonderful hobby! ♥



Shawn Jeffries poses proudly with the gold medal he earned while singing with the Vocal Majority! Photo courtesy of Darrell McCune

A New Adventure Awaits!

by Jerry Garrard, Program Vice President



Ron McIntire

GARRARD

Assignments are now available for this next quartet activity, entitled "New Adventure - Quartets" rather than *Summer Hummer*.

Please communicate with your baritone any conflicts and special needs. Have your baritone communicate with **Harvey Shapiro** (hshapiro@pbig-ordon.com) If you change your contact person, let Harvey know who that new person is, in an effort to simplify and streamline communications.

If you have made contact with me please re-communicate your needs/concerns with Harvey (sorry).

Rules: 1 song (hopefully barbershop!)

Date(s): Tuesday, August 8

Purpose: To offer a quartet singing experience in a non-threatening environment. Your quartet 'could be' the next *Rural Route 4*.

Setting: "HOA only" contest. Why a contest? Really, who cares? This is more about getting a quartet experience with an equally blended mix of talent so we can fellowship with folks we normally don't spend time with AND do it while loving our hobby.

Help: If you need song selections or suggestions, get with any veteran, librarian, music team member, woodshedder, etc. **Enjoy your New Adventure!** ♥

Thanks From The Happiest Guy In Indy!

by Niel Johnson



Ron McIntire

Thank you to my *HOA* friends for allowing me the opportunity to perform with you on the International stage this year. Hopefully I earned us a few points, and didn't cost us any.

Lord knows I've had an interesting year, and I've had to sacrifice a lot in all areas of my life. Moving to North Carolina wasn't in the picture, so when that happened, it meant having to sacrifice yet another enjoyable part of my life—barbershop in Kansas City and, worse yet, Indy 2006.

I wasn't sure I would be able to continue my hopes of singing at Indy, but it was worth a shot. I learned the music as quickly as I could before the Spring Show, and tried to learn as much of the choreography as I could before I moved away. Once in North Carolina, I practiced the music a couple of times every day and looped the choreography in my head at least as often (admittedly more than

I did back in KC). But it wasn't a solo effort. In fact, I have a lot of folks to thank for getting me ready. First and foremost, **Al Fehlauer** kept me up to date each week on changes, coaching tips and other artistry adjustments that were made at rehearsal. (Fortunately, Al spared me the weekly updates to his joke repertoire and just stuck with the *Running Wild/ALS* set.) **Don Fuson** kept me supplied with videos of the choreography as it developed, which enabled me to stay on top of it from afar. **Carter Combs, Jim Bagby** and the rest of the Music Team went way out on a limb for me by giving me the chance to qualify. There was a lot at stake, and they didn't have to do it, but they did, and for that I'm grateful. And of course **Mike Schumacher** and the Leavenworth bunch got me through a midnight crash course on the choreography. Most of all, I have the entire *HOA Chorus* to thank for encouraging me to hang with it and get my butt up there on the risers. Without all that love, I'm not so sure this would have worked out the way it did for me.

My Indy 2006 experience will be my last with *HOA*, at least for the foreseeable future. I thoroughly enjoyed the entire week with you and especially the opportunity to perform once again on the big stage with the greatest bunch of men I've ever been associated with. The bridge from "Auld Lang Syne" that begins, "and years from now..." has a special meaning for me and it always will. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, and I look forward to seeing you again real soon to "raise our glasses high!" ♥

12th Street Rag: Bridesmaid Again!

by Mark Fortino



Dan Proctor

Always the Bridesmaid, never the Bride! That's what we felt like on Thursday afternoon after they announced the Top

10 and we again missed it by points! We're really getting good at testing the mics. This was our third International mic testing, having tested them at 21st place in 2002, 11th in 2004, and now again 11th in 2006. So I guess that means we'll be testing the mics again in 2008! OH, NO, I HOPE NOT...unless we're International Champs testing mics for the quarter finals!

Out of approximately 5000 points we missed the 10 by 20 points! That's .33 points per judge per song. #%\$#! Considering the fact that in presentation on *Tell My Father* we had two judges give us 88's, one give us an 86 followed by a 79 and an 81, and in singing we had everything from an 86 to a 78, we came away pretty frustrated. Some judges wanted to wrap a 4th place medal around our necks and other judges thought we barely deserved to be in the contest. I've *never* complained about our judges

but this contest really set me off! We thought we had the performances of our lives, and after watching the DVD, we did! I've never believed more that we had done it. I just knew we had broken the TOP 10. It just felt so good after every set. We as a quartet have *never* felt that way after every set. But, that's just part of competition and we are already "back on the horse" working on next year's musical selections.

To top my day off on Thursday, after feeling dejected by the judging community, we walked out of the fieldhouse only to find that my mini-van had been towed and impounded by the City of Indianapolis. I had to walk to the City office, take a cab to the tow lot to get the registration papers out of my car, take a cab back to the City office, pay a \$90 fine and then get a ride back to the tow lot to get my car. You know what they say, "Just when you think it can't get any worse..." The good news is by the time I finally got my car I couldn't remember what place the quartet came in, and I really didn't care!

Well, all of that is behind us and it's time to start looking toward the future, and we believe the future is very bright for us. We proved that we could put up medalist scores. During our two sets, various judges awarded us scores of 85 or higher 18 times! That is a major accomplishment for us and one that we intend to build on.

We can't thank all of you enough for the support you keep on giving us. *HOA* will always be a big part of our family, and you know once you're IN the FAMILY, you're IN the FAMILY! ♥

Challenge For Wichita: We CAN Do Better

Editorial by Jim Porter



Ron McIntire

PORTER

At the Indianapolis convention, I took an hour Thursday watching the Dallas Vocal Majority preparing for the contest. Of course, we all know who these guys are – the best barbershop chorus in the world (the young men of Westminster, CA notwithstanding), have been for more than 30 years. I suppose most of us believe they are the best because they have all the best singers, and there is no room on their risers for people like us – people who can sing and enjoy the experience, but not super-stars at it.

As I watched Jim Clancy inspire his troops and watched those men up close where I could see each face, see the intensity of their efforts and hear their music, the thought occurred to me:

Jim Clancy is not asking them to do anything I cannot do myself!

So, what is the difference between us and Dallas? Surprise – it isn't talent. It's DEDICATION. These men, EVERY ONE OF THEM, are committed to the program. You can see it as you watch them perform up close. I'm not an expert on these things, but it was clear that the "awesomeness" of their performance is the sum total of [more than] 130 men, every one doing exactly what they should do at exactly the right time. With another chorus, you see some doing the moves on time, others are a bit late, others are premature, some move too much, others too little, and the visual effect is fuzzy. Not with the Vocal Majority. They all know exactly what is expected of them, and they all execute it with precision.

The same can be said about the singing. With another chorus, some know the notes and words, some sort of do, the rest are going along keying off their neighbor and are continually a split second off. The result is fuzzy. It sounds so much clearer when everyone has the confidence to sing all the words and notes with no need to key off their neighbor!

You say you want to be better. Why do we want to be better? After all, an 81% level chorus is among the best 20 choruses in the world, and the best barbershop in this area is right here. I know why I am here. It's a lot more fun singing with an 81% level chorus than a 70% level chorus! I like the challenge of learning and striving to improve. Don't you think it would be even more fun yet to sing with an 85% level chorus, or an 89% level chorus? So, why is it, after four years of sweat, strain and work we are still an 81% chorus? Is it the judges showing bias against us? Are our leaders incapable of leading us higher? I've visited some

of the best choruses in the world and have sung with them. Believe me, it IS fun to sing with those guys! You haven't LIVED until you feel your voice melt into a sound like they produce! This time, let us not look for others to blame, let each of us take responsibility for his own performance level.

Which brings me to my point. Here, I'm not talking to our leaders. I don't pretend to know how to do their jobs, or to tell them how to do their jobs. I'm talking to you who stand in the hero section just as I do, who struggle just to learn the music and the moves in time for qualifying. Let's try this for Wichita.

Let each of us commit ourselves fully to the program this time.

What this means, simply, is that YOU should agree to do everything YOU can to be as good as YOU possibly can be while performing the program on the contest stage, and never mind what anyone else is doing. Don't be keying off your neighbor. Instead, be the guy your neighbor can key off!

Can you learn the music and words so well that you can sing it perfectly every time without anyone else near you singing your part? Can you do it alone, in your shower? Can you learn the choreography so well you can do it blindfolded? It's so much easier to show pizzazz in your moves when you have confidence enough to do them

right every time, and not have to think about what comes next. What does it take to bring you to that point? You'll have to determine this yourself; no one set plan is going to work for everyone.

I know what works for me. I challenge each of you to figure out what works for you, and by Labor Day be at that point. If you need help, ask your section leader or someone on the music team -- that's what they are there for.

If we all do that, I assure you that our scores will rise to at least 85% pronto, perhaps even more. (At 85%, we will be where this chorus was 10 years ago.) Given we accomplish that, then we can take to heart something I heard said at the Great Northern Union practice – that 85% then becomes our base point. We should never sing below that level again. Once 85% is our base point, we can then work toward 87%, then to 89%.

This is a journey that has many steps. We should be content to take it one step at a time. It took the *Ambassadors of Harmony* 16 years to make that journey. It may take us that long as well, but let us get going. It doesn't HAVE to be that long -- just look at the Westminster Chapter's recent history. Let's just focus on taking the next step. The rest of the journey will come along in due time. ♥

"It's so much easier to show pizzazz in your moves when you have confidence enough to do them right every time, and not have to think about what comes next. What does it take to bring you to that point?"

What Do You Get Out Of It?

by Tony Strub, HOA President



In mid-June, my daughters arranged a surprise birthday party to celebrate my 70th birthday. Relatives and friends, some of whom I hadn't seen since I retired five years ago, were there to wish me well and join in the celebration.

From those that I had not seen since I retired, I was asked the same question again and again "How do you like retirement?" and "What are you doing with all of your discretionary time?" I gave my usual description of my normal routine, but as I spoke about my work and activities with HOA, I am sure that they noticed the increase in my energy and enthusiasm.

I described how hard we were working on our contest package for Indy. I heard the comment several times "All of that on just two songs!" One of my least favorite relatives asked the question "Well, with all of that hard work, what do you get out of it?" The question startled me a bit because I had never given it much thought. As I remember, I fumbled around and came up with some nondescript anxious response that I can't recall now, but the question stayed with me throughout my entire Indy experience.

On my way back to KC, I attempted to answer the question. When I pulled into every rest stop along the way as most men my age have to do, I scribbled my answers to this question in my notebook. I wrote the following:

- 1) I have the good fortune and privilege to work, socialize and perform with some of the finest people that I have ever known. People who have a positive *can-do* attitude and who reach out to help when there is a need.
- 2) I participate in a hobby and activities at which, at my age, I can see myself learning and improving unlike my golf game.
- 3) I take pride in being a small part of something that is truly excellent.
- 4) I have the opportunity to have fun as I did in Indianapolis. I can enjoy the local hospitality, benefit from the organization of hotel, transportation and great food and best of all, to hear some of the finest singing on the planet.
- 5) I have the opportunity to perform in front of 10,000 people and to sing informally and entertain Barbershop fans at the Convention Center and the Consecro Arena.

I feel that I am now well prepared to answer the next person who asks me "What do you get out of it?"

I wonder what Denver is like? ♥

Dear Diary by Al Higgins



What a great week it was in Indianapolis at the annual convention of the Barbershop Harmony Society. I'm sure that there will be several takes on the week, but here is mine:

There will be those who are bummed out because the

chorus only finished 16th, or that *12th Street Rag* only finished 11th. But there were lots of positives. For instance, the chorus placement is a positive. There are about 800 chapters in the Society. How many of the 784 would like to trade places with HOA?

The chorus maintained its A-level scores—only 18 choruses that can make that statement. There were only 30 outstanding choruses that got the opportunity to sing on the international stage and they ALL had to do something outstanding to get there. And don't forget, we *are* the Central States District champions.

We're afforded the chance to improve and get better and we can. We should and we must, because those below are going to work even harder to knock us off.

A *hoorah* to **Jim Bagby** for his leadership, to the Music Team for its strength of purpose, to the men in the chorus for their dedication and hard work. Also kudos to *12th Street Rag* for an outstanding competition, to **Todd Anderson** for his third-place international award for *Harmonotes*, and all of the CSD representatives for a job well done. What can you say about *Vocal Spectrum*? "WOW" seems appropriate for our 2006 International Gold Medalist quartet.

And diary, there are not enough superlatives and praise that can be given to our Chorus Manager **Vince Perry**. He did his remarkable job once again making it easy and fun for all to enjoy. He should have *PROUD* tattooed across his forehead because that's what he should be for the tremendous servant he continues to be.

So you see diary, things are great when you put it in perspective. CSD and HOA had a fantastic week! ♥



This candid photo provided by Darrell McCune catches HOAs Stew Grosser "kissing the bricks" at the Indianapolis 500 track!

St. Joseph Show Chorus Show Slated

by Helen Shores-SJSC Quartet Contact for 2006 Show
dshores1@aol.com · 816-450-3632



The St. Joseph Show Chorus Show will be held at the Missouri Theatre in St. Joseph, MO on Saturday, Sept. 9 at 7:30 p.m. This historical theatre is beautifully restored with seating for 550 people. Tickets are \$12 for general admission and \$15 for reserved seating. Afterglow tickets will be \$5.

Headlining the show will be *Vocal Spectrum*, from the St. Louis area. All members of the quartet sing with the *Ambassadors of Harmony*, 2004 International Men's Chorus Champions. In July of 2004 *Vocal Spectrum* won the International Collegiate Quartet Contest and in 2005 they placed 6th at the International Men's Quartet Contest. Co-headlining the SJSC Show will be *PRIMO!*, Region 7's Sweet Adeline Quartet Champions from the Kansas City Chorus, with **Kim Kraut**, our new director, singing lead. Also appearing on the show will be *Opus IV* from SJSC and *Sunflower Harmony Chorus*. Of course the *St. Joseph Show Chorus*, will perform for our audience.

Ticket representatives from SJSC will be visiting the HOA to promote our Sept. 9 Show. SJSC is selling chances to win season tickets for the Chiefs games. More info is coming. We appreciate your consideration! ♥



New Member Spotlight

by Ron McIntire

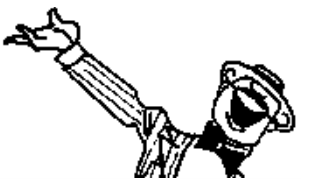
With this column, we introduce new members of the Kansas City, Missouri Chapter!



Ken Hennix

Ken is a first-time barbershopper and sings Lead in the HOA chorus. He is a retired Pastor and a certified Fund Raiser. Musically, he played trombone in high school, sang in the choir in high school and college and has sung in the church choir for years. Ken and his wife, Jean, live in Lenexa, KS.

"Huzzah and WELCOME, Ken, to the HOA Family!"



Musical Notes by Keith Schweer



Every so often in a *Harmonotes* article, or when I or another member of the Music Team is talking to you, we'll encourage you to bring your ideas and suggestions about how we manage the musical aspects of our chapter.

We want to hear your likes and dislikes, teaching and rehearsal techniques, attitudes about competition, choice of songs to sing and other things that go into the establishment of our chapter/chorus goals and direction. Some of you are regular contributors, but many of you remain silent on these matters. The result is, sometimes, we make decisions based on limited feedback from you. Well, we want to learn what you think. We want to know if our music program is addressing the goals of the chapter.

Your Board has approved the recommendation of the Music Team to conduct a survey of the membership to find out how you feel about the kinds of things I listed above. It will be a written survey designed and administered by a professional in this area. You can expect to see it in the coming weeks.

Those of you familiar with marketing know that most research administrators are happy with a return of about 30 to 40 percent. But we want to hear from every single one of you. We expect this survey will allow the choice of responding anonymously or signing your name. We don't care - we just want to be sure that every member's voice is heard. The more information we have, the more likely that we will be able to address your needs, therefore the more likely the Kansas City Chapter can make your barbershopping experience the best it can be. ♥

A LOOK AT THE PAST IN HARMONOTES

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

TEN YEARS AGO: AUGUST, 1996:

As I was leafing through the 22 pages of the August, 1996 issue of *Harmonotes*, noting what tremendous support as editor I had received from the chapter membership (would you believe that that issue contained 15 bylines, with two from **Jim Bagby**, **Dale Neuman** and **Grant Hunget** and four from **Ron Abel**?), I came across "A Look at the Past in *Harmonotes*."

In the "Ten Years Ago" segment, I had recreated my remarks in the August 1986 issue regarding my reaction to the announcement, after the quartet finals in the international quartet contest at Salt Lake City of the top ten competitors, including the five medalists. Without a doubt, it was one of the most memorable occasions in my entire 41 years as a barbershopper. And I'm going to recreate the entire segment again in the August, 2006 issue. (Don't try to stop me. Just don't expect me to do the same in the August 2016 issue). Here we go:

The following is reproduced exactly as it appeared, with the headline, "You Really Had To Be There . . ." in the August 1986 issue of *Harmonotes*:

"There we sat, pens and programs poised, waiting for the final announcement. Quartet Finals MC **Bob Cearnal** had introduced the chairman of judges, **Ken Buckner**, who now stepped to the microphone to announce the top five medalists in the 1986 international quartet contest.

"The tumult and the shouting that had begun with 50 quartets in the quarter-finals two days earlier had died. The cream had risen to the top, and soon we would know who would be carrying home the coveted bronze, silver and most important, the gold medals.

"As usual, there were a couple of 'housekeeping items,' and then Ken got down to business.

"Our fifth-place medalists. . . We hoped that 'our guys' had done at least as well as their 1985 fifth-place finish. Although the disappointed *Special Touch* had failed to make the first cut to the top 20, the other three CSD entries had moved up

to the semifinals on Friday. Only the *Rural Route 4* were still alive in the finals.

"... the *Chiefs of Staff*! From the Chicago area, they were in twelfth place last year. Nice jump! Four more slots to go. Come on, *RR4*!

"Our fourth place medalists...we'll take it! Even fourth place is better than fifth!

"...the *Cincinnati Kids*! Another nice move! They were in eighth place last year. Now this is getting serious!

"Our third-place medalists... there is still hope. We had picked *Vaudeville* for this slot, with the *Interstate Rivals* in first place.

"...*Vaudeville*! So many times a bridesmaid, still not a bride.

"...Our second-place silver medalists...it's gotta be our guys! We've picked the *Interstate Rivals* to win it!

"...the *Interstate Rivals*! Now what? We mutter to Joyce, 'Well, it looks like they're out of it this year.' Joyce says nothing. She's praying.

"*The New Tradition*, our 1985 champs, garbed in their trade mark *Marx Brothers* attire, are introduced and prepare to adorn our new champions with the gold medallions.

"And now, please greet our 1986 International Quartet Champions...can it be? Nah, nobody goes from 11th to fifth to first in two years.

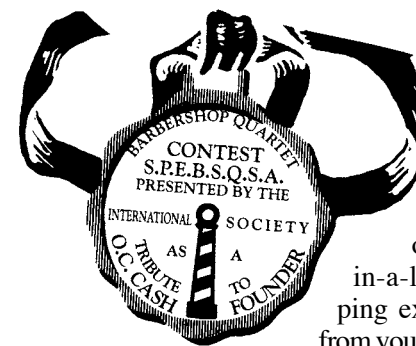
"...four of the nicest guys

you'll ever meet...Well, now, our four guys certainly meet that criterion! (Joyce said later that when she heard that, she knew the outcome was inevitable.)

"... the *Rural Route 4*!

"Kansas City's first ever international quartet champion and the first in CSD since the *Four Pitchhikers* of Springfield won it at Chicago in 1959! The spontaneous outburst of applause transcends district loyalties! This quartet has really captured the hearts of barbershoppers throughout the Society!

"After a pause (we can imagine what's going on backstage), **Calvin** comes stumbling out (is he crying?), followed by brother **Willard**. They wrap those long arms around each other in what must be a bone-crushing embrace. ♦



We never did see **Jim** and **Don** come out onstage. Too many people jumping up and down in front of us.

"This was truly one of those once-in-a-lifetime barbershop-ping experiences, a quartet from your own chapter wins the

international championship—and you're there to witness it! We're sorry for those *HOA* people who were unable to make the trip to Salt Lake City this year. An opportunity like this may never come your way again."

That's all there is. I want to apologize for the prolific and unrestrained use of the editorial "we" throughout the article. Don't know what the Associated Press has to say about that, but I don't like it anymore.

TWENTY YEARS AGO: AUGUST, 1986

Your editor twenty years ago was too anxious to convey to his readers the thrill of being present at an international quartet contest and watching and waiting for the announcement that a quartet from his own chapter had won the gold medal to pay any attention to how the other CSD representatives at the convention fared. Two of those quartets were also from his own chapter and certainly deserved recognition, which came from, as you might expect, our own **Mike Mathieu**, who always seems to find the right words.

Said Mike, "The *K. C. Connection* should be on 'Cloud Nine' with their finish (in 19th place, the semifinals...Ed.) the first time ever at international. They just keep getting better and better. Who knows where they may end up a few years from now." They went on to win the district quartet championship the following October. Continued Mike, "Then the *Special Touch* made the top thirty (in 28th place...Ed.). Not too bad for four guys who are mostly professional fathers and travelers, who once in awhile find time to ring a chord or two." The *Special Touch* were our district champions in 1984.

The CSD chorus representative was the *Black Hawk Metro Chorus* from Waterloo, Iowa. By winning the 1985 CSD chorus championship and qualifying for the 1986 international convention, they broke *HOA*'s string of six consecutive district championships.

Getting back to the *Rural Route 4* victory, international later reported that this was the first time in Society history that our international quartet champions and our international president were from the same district, city, and chapter. I recall that there was a story going around that **Gil Lefholz** was waiting backstage with the ten finalist quartets (it was his happy task to award the trophy to the winner) when someone handed him a note that the *RR4* had won the gold. Can you imagine receiving news such as that and fighting not to reveal it to any of the ten finalists, especially the *RR4*, until after the announcement?

FORTY YEARS AGO: AUGUST, 1966

With my mind still on the 1986 international convention at Salt Lake City, I searched the August 1966 issue of *Harmonotes* to find how well the *Heart of America Chorus* had performed at the 1966 event. (I was there with the *Pony Expressmen* of St. Joseph, my first international contest.) All I could find was a list of *HOA* members who had attended the convention in Chicago. Then, silly boy, I remembered that it would be another 12 years before *HOA* would win the district championship and qualify for the international contest.

Anyway, I thought I'd show you the names so you could see how many of the 19 guys are still members of the chapter. They were **Joe Costigan**, **Bob Dennis**, **Bob Gall**, **Ed Fleeman**, **Dan Bowser**, **Dick Hamm**, **Sal Iannazzo**, **Ray Koenig**, **Frank Leone**, **Steve Leone**, **Howard Mitchell**, **Al Moritz**, **Dr. John Meyers**, **Pete Peterson**, **Ed Rooker**, **Sam Solomol**, **Dennis Taylor**, **Bob Valle**, and **Don Thorne**. I counted five who are still in the directory, but there's only one who is still active... (Drum roll) Ol' **Dan Henry Bowser**. ♥



Ron McIntire

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the following chapter members!

- August 2 **Lyle Wylly**
- August 4 **Gary Jordan**
- August 7 **Jonathan Fortino**
- August 7 **Gordy Coleman**
- August 7 **Monty Duerksen**
- August 9 **Dennis Kinghorn**
- August 14 **Kip Mathew**
- August 18 **Harry Stewart**
- August 19 **Mark Fortino**
- August 20 **Dick Irwin**
- August 25 **Charlie Drake**
- August 29 **Bill Campsey**
- August 30 **Michael Hillenburg**
- August 30 **Mike Schumacher**

It Must Be Summer!

by Ol' Dan and Ol' Jim



Talk about a potent pair: how about *Tone-Henge* and *Command Performance* headlining the annual "Singing in the Park." Even the cicadas shut and listened!

It was a especially a lot of fun for us, because that's a mostly senior crowd—right down our alley. Of course, we about wore Ol' Dan slick, with all the introductions of the

quartets and the chorus, but it was a great night of performances all around.

Of course, we haven't heard what happened at the **Schweer** household afterward, after Ol' **Keith** used for one of his bumper stickers: "Sometimes I wake up grouchy...and sometimes I just let her sleep."

Tone-Henge had a fine spring, with appearances on the *HOA* show, Fort Dodge, Hutchinson and Tulsa shows, even headlining the last two. We thought, "Man, we got it made! Wait 'til fall! We'll be swamped with requests and have to tell so many chapters, 'Thanks, but sorry. We're booked.'"

Uh huh, yeah. Right.

So how many shows does this quartet of reknown have on its calendar for fall, 2006? *Zero, zilch, nada.*

Must because most chapters do spring shows. Yeah, that's it: spring shows must outnumber fall shows umpteen to one. *Sure!* Why didn't we think of that?

Hurry up, spring of '07. Ol' Dan ain't gettin' any younger! ♥

HOA GUEST NIGHT COOKOUT!

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 8
5:45 P.M.- 6:45 P.M.
ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



**BRING A POTENTIAL MEMBER,
...EAT FREE!
AS ALWAYS, FAMILY & FRIENDS
ARE WELCOME!**

Moritz Joins 50-Year Club

by Jim Bagby

At a small convention of Chicago businessmen in 1956, a quartet by the name of *Four Phonies* showed up to perform. They were from the *Illinois Bell Telephone Chorus*, and a fellow in the audience approached them afterward to ask them what SPEBSQSA chapter they belonged to.

Quartet bass **Alfred J. Moritz** replied: "S-P-what? Chapter? Huh?" His 100-man chorus had been singing mostly **Fred Waring**-style music, with a few barbershop numbers, and the aptly named quartet had formed for jobs too small for the chorus to do. To make a long story short, Al and the *Phonies* all joined Chicago's Southwest Suburban Chapter, where veteran Society arranger and quartet man **Jack Baird** still holds sway.

That set in motion a 50-year barbershop career that culminated with Moritz getting his half century pin in Indianapolis (shown at right). He becomes the seventh living 50-year Society member in the Kansas City Chapter.

The others are:

Walt Bates, 61 years; **Tom Millot**, 59, **Frank Leone** and **Dennis Taylor**, 58, and **Dan Henry Bowser** and **Monty Duerksen**, 57.

Moritz was transferred to Kansas City in 1963 by AT&T Long Lines, for which he worked for 41 years. He was honored on our 50th anniversary show with a plaque (along with **Ron Abel**) for singing on 35 consecutive *Heart of America* shows. He gave up singing actively with the chorus in 1988 when his hearing and then his voice started getting puny, but he still shows up at some meetings and afterglows.

Al was chapter president in 1973 and Barbershopper of the Year in 1974. But he may be best remembered as bass of the *Kansas Citians*, an active chapter quartet for more than 20 years. They began as the *BMA Beaconaires*, then became the *BMA Skyliners* and were an outgrowth of the *Gamboliers*—one of the oldest quartets in chapter history.

With the *Kansas Citians*, Moritz sang with former members **Nile Abbott**, **Barney Wasson** and the late **Jerry Kelley**. And he created a character show audiences are still talking about: "Hector the Garbage Collector."

With *HOA*, Al was responsible for another creation, when we sang "You Gotta Be a Football Hero." With her back to the audience, out danced a short-skirted cheerleader, complete with blonde wig and pom-poms, kicking, cavorting and flirting with the front row. When the beauty turned around, it was "Alice" Moritz, replete with black mustache and cigar. ♥



Photos courtesy of Frank Lasta



Ron McIntire

MUSIC IN



Ron McIntire

The Heart of America Chorus made it's 7th annual appearance at Santa Fe Commons Park for the July 23 "Music In The Park" performance.

Top photo: HOA warms up, while the 744 in attendance (middle photo) take their seats and brace for stellar entertainment!

Bottom photo: John Fortino leads HOA in "Lift Up My Head."

Note: The City of Overland Park has already booked HOA for July 22, 2007!



Linda Fuson

Heart of America Chorus

THIRTEEN-TIME Central States District Champions!

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)
- Gamboliers** - 1952 Central States District Champion
John Dooley (tenor), Eddie Schliebs (lead),
Orval Wilson (bari), Jimmy Byrnes (bass)
- BMA Gamboliers** - 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 Quarter** - 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** - 2006 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)
- New and Used Parts**
Carter Combs (tenor), Mike Neff (lead),
Grant Hunget (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)
- Quadrio**
Rob Mathieu (tenor), Michael Troyer (lead),
Grant Hunget (bari), Matt Moore (bass)
- Tone-Henge**
Bruce Wenner (tenor), Dan Henry (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

*Member of other chapters



Found Money by Dick Korek



Ron McIntire

KOREK

HOA has been fortunate to have the various sponsors and donors you see listed in these issues of *Harmonotes* month after month. These companies deserve our thanks and when possible our support as customers.

Recently an individual donor asked if he could support the chorus.

This gentleman and his wife, who happen to be from my church, attended the "Send-Off" and afterward asked if he could offer financial support. After encouraging him to do so, I was surprised to receive a check from him accompanied by a form from his company. A "Matching Gifts Program" form! WOW! It opened my eyes for the first time that this type of corporate "matching gifts" program actually does exist!

I ask everyone in the chapter who may want to be a donor to please check if the company you may be a part of, present or past, has such a matching gift program.

To once again remind you...YES, we are a 501(c)c organization and your donation is 100% tax deductible. All donors will receive a receipt for their donation for income tax purposes. ♥

Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter



Ron McIntire

PORTER

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 let me know.

As of Wednesday, July 19th, and 33 drawings: In the past month, our chapter has raised \$366 for the Harmony Foundation. The total raised for this year (since Nov. 19, 2005) is \$3,198. Last year, the total raised was \$1,731. In our best year (2003), the total raised was \$1,709. The ENTIRE YEAR total in 2003 was \$2,935. We are on a pace to DOUBLE the previous record!

AND -- the jackpot is at a record high level for our next big winner! It could be you! ♥



The Wonderful World of Membership The Elusive 'MAN OF NOTE'

by Stew Grosser

Do you have at least one "Man of Note?" A Man of Note is a small golden note awarded to a member for each individual new member brought into the Barbershop Harmony Society. It will show the number of new members brought in to date. **HOA** has a member who has 40 new members. That would be our Director **Jim Bagby**. This year 2006 we have awarded 8 of 85 active members with MON's. They are the following: **Jim Bagby, Bill Campsey, Stew Grosser, Joe Mathieu, Kent Miller, Vince Perry, Jacob Pirner, and Don Young**.

This represents 10% of our active membership. What about the other 90%? If just 25% of that group brought in a member each well, you do the math. It would be great! But lets be realistic. It will not happen unless we all proactively pursue new membership.

If you enjoy this hobby as we all say we do then let others know about it. Prospective members are everywhere. For example if



Command Performance Stays Busy by Rich Huyck



Whew! After a relatively quiet spring season, *Command Performance* suddenly became very busy! Starting on Wednesday, July 19, the quartet had six engagements in six days! We sang for a church dinner, a grand opening of food service at the Claycomo Ford Assembly Plant, **Carl Turlin's** wedding reception, the annual **HOA Battle With The Cicadas** in Overland Park, and a birthday celebration for a woman just turned 89. (Thanks to **Keith Schweer** for a last-minute substitution for bass **Monty** at the birthday party.)

Of course, with all that activity, we haven't had any time for rehearsals. Maybe next week.

We have begun to focus on the fall contest in Wichita: we just need to find some contest tunes and rehearse them!

What a hobby! Every barbershopper should get a quartet started and have as much fun as *Command Performance*! ♥

Dale Neuman hadn't bragged about his singing with **HOA** on trips to his HyVee Grocery store, then perhaps **Jim Kemper** wouldn't be singing lead today and loving it. There are many good and great male singers out there who are waiting for the opportunity to sing, not only barbershop music, but to part of a chorus such as **HOA**.

Selling an individual on Barbershopping begins with your enthusiasm and personally inviting and bringing a prospective member to a rehearsal or guest night. Allow them to experience the night for themselves. There is no need to overwhelm them about performing or competing choruses and least of all time spent in developing a quartet. Go easy with new guests. They have to be comfortable with breaking old habits and starting new ones when it comes to becoming a new member. Go back to when you first came into an **HOA** rehearsal if you can think back that far and put yourself in their place. Go easy but stay with them! Once more, MEMBERSHIP begins with ME...and that's YOU and me. The greatest legacy you can leave to barbershopping is bringing in a new member. For those without a *Man of Note*,...go get #1. ♥



GROSSER

Ron McIntire



FOCAL POINT: *Up Close and Personal!*

by Ron McIntire

Dale Neuman was born and grew up in Elyria, Ohio, 25 miles west of Cleveland—nine miles south of Lake Erie. He attended Elyria Public Schools and Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio where he received his A.B. degree. He went on to earn his Ph.D. from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

In 2000, he retired from UMKC as a professor of Political Science. “Today, I’m a re-employed Retiree,” he says, “simultaneously serving as Vice President of the UMKC Retirees’ Association and Interim Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. I plan to be fully retired again by early September if I can get all my work done.”

“I have been singing barbershop harmony since 1952,” Dale says, “when my High School Choir Director put together a quartet for some program we were doing.” They enjoyed it so much that “we stayed together until 1954 when we graduated. Many of the performances we did were for church and small-town civic group functions,” Dale says, “but most were organizations our mothers belonged to.”

“For our 50th class reunion in 2004, we sang (sort of) three of the songs from our repertoire. I forget two of them but the third is a classic: ‘A Limburger Sandwich, A Cool Glass of Beer, a Slice of Raw Onion and You, Phew!’”

Dale didn’t sing again until college when four men from the Cleveland, Ohio area were recruited to sing as a quartet in August, 1956. The quartet was part of a college-bound fashion show hosted by a leading Cleveland department store. “We got to model the newest college fashions for men while the coeds we sang to modeled their latest styles. We even got paid.”

He moved to Kansas City from Rochester, New York in 1966. “My wife, Dona, joined me here in 1967. She had just taken a new job at a college in Rochester when my offer came through from UMKC. She felt it was unprofessional to resign after two months when

she had been hired as a change agent and had started making changes.”

“With graduate school, marriage and my first full-time teaching job getting in the way,” he says, “my barbershop singing went on hold until 1972. I was in Kansas City by then and answered an ‘Audition for Admission’ I saw in the Kansas City Star. **Dan Henry** was the Director then,” Dale recalls, “and I guess I fooled him into believing that I could sing baritone because that was where he placed me.”

Over the years, Dale has sung in a number of quartets in the Kansas City Chapter. Many were “trophy-winning Bush League Quartets,” he says. “I sang mostly bari but sometimes tenor.”

In the early 1980’s he was recruited by **Jim Bagby** to sing lead in a quartet called *Four the Fun of It* to sing in the Central States District Fall Contest. “We did a routine where each of us blew a pitch in a different key. We started when we found a chord. They finished 20th in a field of 30 quartets. “**Greg Lyne** looked both younger and relieved when we said we were not serious about the quartet.”

In 2001, he was again recruited for a CSD fall contest with **Carter Combs**, **Charlie Drake** and the late **John Stucker** in a quartet called *Uranium*. The showing was a respectable 17th place out of 34 quartets.

Registered quartets often grow out of Spring Fling and Bush League quartets within the Kansas City chapter. So it was that in the early 1980’s *The Cross-town Four* began its career and Dale was recruited to sing tenor.

Over the years members of the *CT4*, as they’re referred to, have changed but the quartet has remained intact with Dale singing tenor. Various formations of the group have sung on the annual HOA show and performed for many local church and civic events. In 1989 they competed and won the gold medal in the first CSD Seniors Quartet Contest and competed several International Seniors Quartet contests.

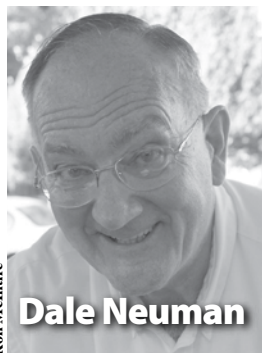
When asked about a vivid barbershop-ping memory, Dale recalls the time when the *CT4* was singing at an Alzheimer’s Unit. The staff told them that they would

probably get little response from the patients. And, if they did, it would probably be random. “Halfway through our first number,” he says, “a woman patient began to sing along with us doing fine on both words and music. Afterwards we learned that this was the first time she had spoken in all the years she had been there.”

Dale’s accomplishments are many. He has served in every chapter office except treasurer, served on the chapter officer nominating committee of number times, twice been a CSD officer and most recently a CSD board member at large. And, he was in charge of the auditorium house for the International Conventions in Kansas City in 1974, 1989, and 2000. “I never got to see a single session,” he says, “so I plan to be in my own seat at all the sessions in 2011 when International comes to Kansas City and let someone else do the problem solving.”

He has a lot of hobbies too. His most notable are bragging on his Grandson, travel, photography, matting and framing photos, writing poetry, reading mystery novels and taking good naps.

Everyone has a “Bet you’d be surprised to know...” story, and Dale has his. “**Bruce Wenner** and I grew up about 7 miles apart, went to small colleges at mostly the same time in Ohio, about 40 miles apart, and traveled to each other’s college for sports events during those same years. We both were on the UMKC faculty with offices in the same building too, but we didn’t meet until I showed up for that first ‘Audition for Admission’ in 1972.”



Dale Neuman

Where Are They Now? by Ron McIntire



Leroy Stock

Leroy Stock or **Lee**, as he’s best known, joined the Kansas City Chapter in 1976 and sang bass in the HOA Chorus. “One of my daughters played *Marion the Librarian*

in *Music Man* singing opposite a barbershop quartet,” he recalls. “I was really interested in the sound so after one of the shows, she introduced me to the quartet. They invited me to a meeting and that’s how it got started. As it turns out, **Ron Abel** was one of the quartet members.”

Over his 20-year barbershopping career, Lee stood mostly on or near the back row of the risers and his deep bass voice added a rich quality to the chorus sound. He was never in an organized quartet, he says, “but I sang in more than a few Spring Fling contests. I really liked singing in the *Harmony Handful*. I enjoyed performing at different churches all over the city during the summer when the choirs were on vacation.”

“My musical background has always been singing but I’ve never had any formal music training. Singing was always hard for me. I spent a lot of hours memorizing words and music to the songs and **Keith Schweer** was always helping me. I’m glad my truck had a tape player because I could play the learning tapes over and over as I drove to and from work.” He’s branching into other forms of music now, but mostly for fun. “I’m learning to play the one-finger organ that has built-in chords,” he says. “I get together with others to learn tempo and some music. But, I’ll never compete with **Doc Faulwell**.”

Old-timers will remember Leroy as the “Pay-As-You-Go, Joe” chairman. *Pay-As-You-Go, Joe* was a program to help members pay their dues. In those days, a member could pay his dues by the month. Leroy recorded the payments

in a book and put a numbered bingo ball in a gallon milk bottle corresponding to the member’s name. Periodically, usually monthly, he held a drawing, and the winner received free dues for the next month.

He served a year as Board Member at Large when he was in the chapter but never served in a higher office. In the 1980’s and early 90’s, he and “**Coffee John**” **Cross**, often monitored the chapter Afterglow after the district contests.

Leroy is a native Kansas Citian—on the Missouri side—and graduated from Manual High School. “I didn’t excel in anything particular in high school,” he said. “My main interest was printing.” He didn’t go to college.

Following high school, he worked as a printer for a couple of years in a Catholic Monastery in Conception, Missouri then joined the U.S. Air Force in 1951 and spent a year in Korea from 1952 to ’53. After the service, he held several jobs and went to school on the GI Bill learning the art of offset printing. In 1976 he hired on at Midwest Research Institute (MRI) as a printer in their reproduction department.

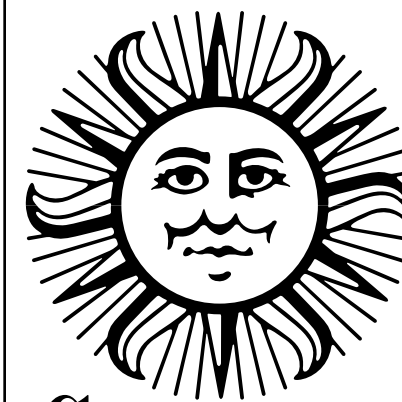
“I retired from MRI in Sept ’96 after 20 years and, because my wife **Mary** was in poor health and my retirement pay was small, I had to cut some corners—barbershopping and the necessary traveling to contest it involved was the obvious choice. After Mary died in November ’96, I attended a support group for widows and widowers and it was there that I met **Charlene**. She had lost her husband about that time and we found common interests. We married in ’99.”

“Charlene and I like to travel,” he says. We try to take a trip twice a year—sometimes out of the country, usually in the spring and the fall. We’ve been to Thailand, China, several other countries in Europe—Spain and Portugal, Germany, Switzerland and Austria and Ireland.”

Leroy has 8 children, 4 boys and 4 girls. One son lives in Texas and three sons and two daughters live in the Kansas City area. Two daughters live in Colorado. “I have 16 grandchildren and three great grandchildren,” he says, “not bad for 75.”

You can contact Leroy at 14806 West 71st Terrace, Shawnee, KS 66216, Ph: 913-962-1067, E-mail: lfstock82731@everestkc.net ♥

**HEAT GOT YOU DOWN?
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CHORUS OF SWEET
ADELINES FOR A**



Summer Cooler

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August 19 - 2:30 or 7 p.m.

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Colonial Presbyterian Church
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What:

A cabaret by the
Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines

With:

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Featuring the *Kansas City Chorus*,
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**HOT HARMONY!
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A TIP OF THE HAT!

The Tip 'O The Hat is recognition to both members and non-members men and women who have made a contribution in time and effort to the betterment of the Kansas City Missouri Chapter over the past month.

A big TOTH to the guys who made going to Indy easier: **Vince Perry** for his always faithful work setting up hotels and making reservations, ordering T-shirts, contest registrations, putting the International packets together and the many things he does...all without blinking; Chorus Attendance Monitors **Doug Brott**, **Mike O'Dell**, **Marlin Weidner** and **Walt Patterson**; HOA Sendoff gurus **Al Higgins**, for securing the DoubleTree hotel, and **Jerry Garrard** for the program festivities; **Dick Korek** for securing the Letters of Proclamation from Overland Park, KS Mayor, **Carl Gerlach** and Kansas City, MO Mayor, **Kay Barnes**.

A Tip of the Ole Beanie to **Dick Korek** for arranging the July 23 *Music In The Park* Performance, and the riser crews who showed up early to put them up and take them down. And a special TOTH to **Brian Seydlitz** for transporting the riser trailer to and from the park. It helped a great deal. ♥

Top Ten Hymns for Older Barbershoppers

10. "It Is Well With My Soul
(But My Back Hurts A Lot)"
9. "Nobody Knows The Trouble I Have Seeing"
8. "Amazing Grace (Considering My Age)"
7. "Just A Slower Walk With Thee"
6. "Count Your Many Birthdays,
Name Them One By One"
5. "Go Tell It On The Mountain... And Speak Up"
4. "Give Me That Old-Timer's Religion"
3. "Blessed Insurance"
2. "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah,
I've Forgotten Where I Parked My Car"
1. "Nearer, My God, To Thee"

**DEADLINE FOR THE
SEPTEMBER ISSUE
OF HARMONOTES:
AUGUST 22**

Xtra Mile Award!

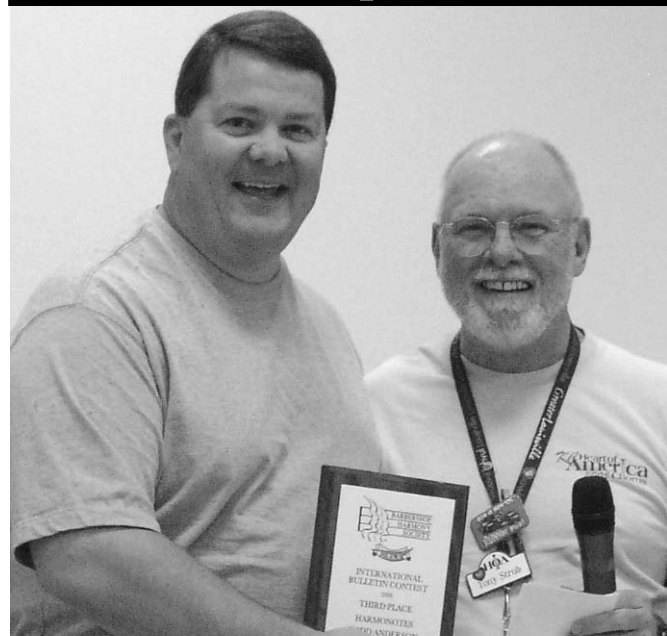


Ron McIntire

Bruce Marston

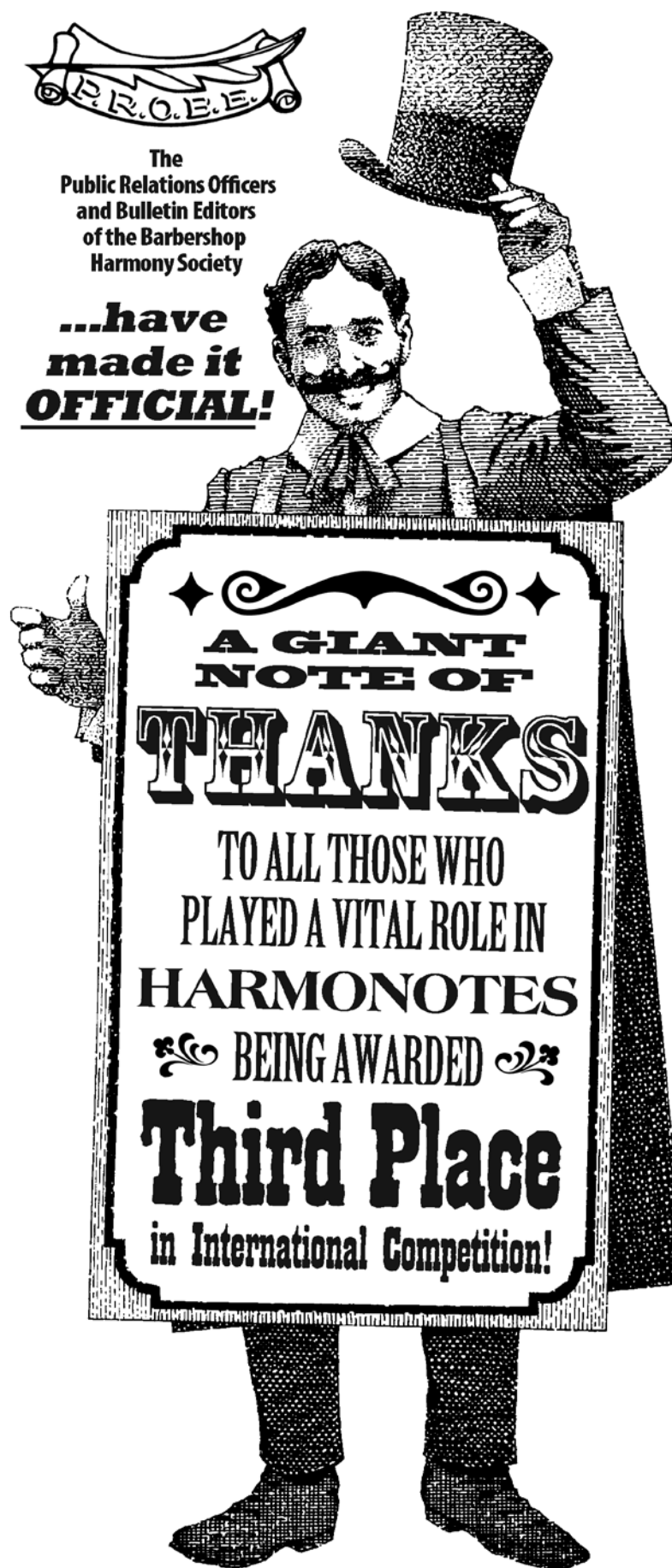
Above: HOA President **Tony Strub** presents **Bruce Marston** with the October 2005 Xtra Mile award, which reads: In recognition for your work managing and selling Sonic Value Coupons with the goal of making T-eh-eh-eh-n-n T-h-o-u-sand Dollar-r-rs for the chapter. ♥

Harmonotes Captures Third!



Ron McIntire

Editor **Todd Anderson** receives the plaque which was bestowed on *Harmonotes* in Indianapolis, signifying HOA's bulletin winning third place in International competition! ♥



HARMONOTES

...is published by the board of directors of the Kansas City, MO., Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, 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

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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, content and spelling).

Permission to reprint articles is granted to barbershop editors 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:

Todd Anderson
17905 East 24th Terrace Ct. South • Independence, MO 64057-1332
(816) 373-8633 • toddanderson@comcast.net

Chapter meets at 7 p.m. 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

