

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

VOLUME 07 - ISSUE 4 - APRIL 2007

Magic Moments a Big Success at its First Year at Yardley!

by Jerry Garrard, Show Chiarman



GARRARD

WOW! Magic Moments truly occurred many times on the *HOA* Spring Show stage. I'll give you a brief overview from the Show Chairman's point of view. Starting with the staff at Yardley Hall.

The staff was absolutely professional. They all had a great eye for the stage and were conferring with **John Warrior** and me the entire day Friday-Tech Rehearsal/Setup day. Working all kinds of magic with that stage stuff they do so well. Then in comes **Rick** from XS Lighting with his "let's add some emotional responses to some lighting" as he offered several GOBOs for us to choose. Looking for Disney shapes and having Mickey Mouse silhouette embedded in my mind he pulled out "Cinderella's Castle." From that point on it was one lighting wow after another with "Raising of The Flag at Iwo Jima" and "Bald Eagle" it just made sense to create that visual image as the flag flew in. So then, we called two sources to confirm how to hang the American Flag vertically. Rule is: Always have the stars in the upper left corner - we learned that in Scouts, but two or three heads agreeing are better than one. Once we painted the mental picture with the stage crew, they knew exactly how to get the

effects we were looking to achieve. Prior to this there were two things causing a breath of fresh air aka Magic Moment. That was when I walked on the stage at 11:15 a.m. and saw **John Warrior, Chuck Ames** and **Mike Schumacher** staring at the hanging *HOA* quartet shell with a look of completion on their faces. Then to hear the Sound Man turn on the system and have Barbershop Music start humming through the hall. I quickly turned to see none other than Val Putzier's grandson, **Anthony Putzier**. Anthony worked some Sound Management Magic with **John Fortino** later on while the chorus was filling the stage with some wonderful singing during our tech rehearsal.

As you already know, there were very few cues remaining to be worked out and most of them were timing issues. So, with the dynamics of Yardley Hall's built in acoustics to tackle and with the upfront planning and preparation from John Warrior and the stage crew, I decided two things. 1) Let's let the guys see the Show from the \$28 seats without any bodies on the risers, so they know what will be happening around them. 2) Now that we've built there confidence with the visual effects, let's get them on stage so we can retune the house to manage the 'Wash of Sound' that has become the benchmark of *HOA* presentations. So, we swapped our Tech Rehearsal schedule with our Sound check schedule on the fly. (Continued on page 2 ♦♦)





Magic Moments a Big Success

(Continued from front cover)

The chorus sang two hours straight with show-like intensity so our sound crew could tweak the appropriate frequencies and maximize the architecture and enhancements of the sound system. **John Fortino, Mark Fortno** and I worked together with our new best friend, **Anthony Putzier** to tweak the hall making it our own. When we were done, Anthony said, "I've never heard this hall sound like that!"

The chorus and crew went home and the show moved forward flawlessly in our minds eye while we slept. The next morning came; we ran a few staging timing concerns and created the momentum needed for an awesome performance.

By the time you read this article, we will have already had our after show chats and our other Magic Reflective Moments. But I'll tell you what, transitioning from the Music Hall to the JCCC Carlsen Center's Yardley Hall, was no easy feat. We had a 'lessons learned' session to help us keep from making the same mistakes whether major or minor. John Warrior has taught me that he can work with anyone to make things PERFECT!. **Al Higgins** has the respect of the hotel community of Overland Park. To be able get great hotel deals and a wonderful Afterglow location, not to mention the back-breaking job of Ticket Chairman along with many many other tasks that he did for me, which without hesitation made me raise his title on the show bill to Assistant Show Chairman. **Dick Korek** can without a doubt take the sound and face of *HOA* and spread it across the region, reaching as far south as Oklahoma City, Okla. and as far north as Lincoln, Neb. I bet there were people attending from Australia, now that I know the way Dick "Big Picture Man" Korek thinks.

Between show meals from Joann Bagby are always a great place to reflect on the matinee as we look forward to our evening show. This year, there were very few words mentioned about notes, words, timing, etc. One fun quote that rings in my memory was **Chris Smith** saying, "Jim, you did that one cut-off just perfect!" Of course, I twisted that in my mind as Jim only did one cut-off perfectly, rather than its intended message. So, I rib Jim about that a bit too much as it is. Now that it's in writing, I can stop! *Maybe!*

There might have been some humble down-play associated with the quality of show we put on, but I'll tell you what—the staff and management of Yardley Hall are excited about having local talent like ours filling the Carlsen Center. We have two dates pending for next years show and should know by mid-April who will be headlining the 2008 show. I'm looking forward to next years shows already. Thank you to all who commit at such a huge level of quality and excellence. The accolades should all go to you and your families. Your time commitment to yourself and brothers in harmony are paying off in spades. Thank you for giving me *Magic Moments!* ♥

HOA Strategic Plan in the Works

by Tony Strub, HOA President



Our 2006 survey provided us with a lot of important and helpful information about the priorities, feelings and concerns of our membership. In order to take full advantage of the information, the music team and the board have made some adjustments and are currently doing some planning for the future.

The board has initiated a strategic planning project designed to look ahead five years. Taking into account our chapter's mission statement, our survey information and where *HOA* is today, we want to make plans for what *HOA* could look like in 2012. The strategic planning committee is made up of six board members and two non-board members. Our first meeting was held on March 10 at which time we agreed on four strategic initiatives. Under each initiative are listed a number of projects needed to achieve the strategic initiative.

After receiving the approval of the board our job will be to recruit people to be responsible for each initiative and each project. We will then establish what we will need to see in five years that will tell us that we have achieved our strategic initiative. The person in charge of each initiative will report to the board every 90 days beginning in September of 2007.

I would like to thank **Jon Gathright, Kent McClean, Doug Brott, Carter Combs, Dick Korek, Bob Murphy** and **Rich Huyck** for volunteering to serve on this committee. ♥

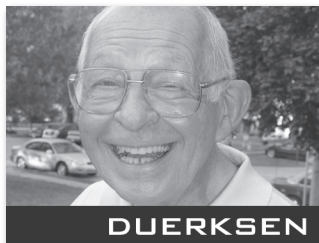
"Give the Bari a Break!"

by Sigmund Spaeth in "Barbershop Ballads"

"The baritone should be the best musician of the four, as his part is the most difficult, generally. The range is not likely to be large, but the quality should be good and the sense of pitch very accurate. The baritone is consistently called upon to sing the trickiest intervals, whose accuracy will make or break a barbershop chord. An unerring ear and a great musical confidence are the valuable assets in a baritone. The world is full of instinctive tenors, but natural baritones are rare." ♥

What a Show!

by Monty Duerksen for *Command Performance*



DUERKSEN

On SHOW "Tech-Night," we had some anxious, serious concerns regarding our ability to sing, as a foursome, on Saturday. Carter had been struggling with the Viral Upper Respiratory "Snorts Syndrome" (definition: the mind makes contracts

that the vocal, singing apparatus cannot keep). By showtime, however, thanks to a "pro" attitude and proper medication, Carter strategically placed his tenor notes back in the music, where they needed to be, creating overtones so high that only a dog could hear them.

From the best place on the risers, (Row 2-Center), I could hear a number of examples of chorus discipline. The MAGIC MOMENTS they created for me, were undoubtedly due to new habits adapted by HOA at the **Mark Hale** coaching session. I heard vowel matching and sound that had not been there before. GOOD WORK, MEN!

Friends and neighbors came to me after the show, with praise for the quality of our quartets, the wonderful selection of music, and the flow of the show. **Jim DeBusman**, our V.I.P. guest from barbershop headquarters, commented that he appreciated that there were no "white, dead" spots in the show due to the smooth flow.

It was great to note that our multi-talented super show chairman, **Jerry Gerrard**, now sings in a quartet—*Mighty Fine*. As expected, *The Humdingers* and *Tone-Henge* supplied the entertainment aspect of the show. What can we say about *Quadio* and *12th Street Rag*, except THE EXAMPLES OF OUR BEST QUARTETS! It was an honor for us to share the stage with you!

Most important, the Harmony Explosion champs were audience favorites. Our own stand-outs, "Raising The Bar," have already established their abilities to take command at performances, wowing audiences with good singing and their appealing personalities. Tie all of this up, then add the most spectacular experience...an extraordinary thrill...singing "It's A Small World" with HOA and *12th Street Rag*...set up by our young pro, **Anthony Fortino**. ♥



Orval Wilson Harmony University Scholarship Application

by Carol Ramirez and Mary Fortino, Scholarship Committee



RAMIREZ

The HOA Chorus and the Heartbeats are sharing in the cost of one scholarship to Harmony University for July 29-August 5, 2007. Harmony University will be held this year at Missouri Western State University in

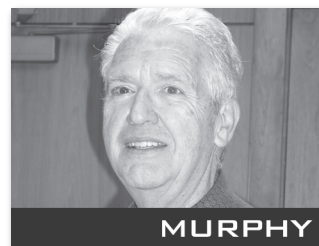
St. Joseph, Mo. This scholarship is open to any first-time participant at Harmony University. Forms are available on the table during rehearsals as well as on-line.

Completed forms may either be e-mailed or given to **Charles Ramirez** (Ramirez816@aol.com) or **Ron Fortino** (FORTINORM@aol.com) no later than Tuesday, May 15.

The deserving person selected for the scholarship will be notified by May 22, 2007 by the committee. Good luck to all of you! ♥

Saving Dollars on Dues

by Bob Murphy, Membership Vice-President



MURPHY

This is not going to be wordy or long. I would like to remind all that if you would like to save on your yearly dues, the same program as last year is still in effect.

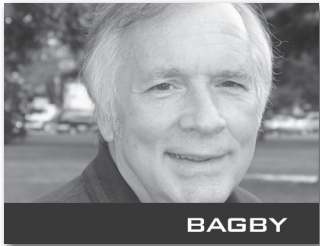
For each new member that you bring in during 2007, you will receive a 20 per cent credit on your Society, District and Chapter for 2008. That sounds like a pretty good deal to me. So, let's all get busy and bring some guests. We won't get new members without guests.

Well, I guess I will get a little wordy. One activity that I have been thinking about, as a way to recruit new members, is to send out quartets to various churches choir rehearsals. The quartets could sing a few numbers, expose the choir members to Barbershop Harmony and then invite any that may be interested to come to a meeting.

Let me know what you think of this idea. Also let me know if you would be interested in forming a quartet to do such an activity. ♥



HOA is Showing the Way this Spring by Jim Bagby, Chorus Director



If you like the sound of applause, the *Heart of America*

Chorus is the place to be these days. I can't recall a time when we've had as many major performances so close together — John Knox in mid-February, our annual shows a month later and the Trenton outing two weeks after that. And all of them two hours or more. That's a lot of singing!

In fact, *HOA* did 15 songs at the John Knox Pavilion and 16 in Trenton (counting the mini-chorus performances of "Apron Strings"). It's easy to count because **Ron Abel** always makes me my own pocket-size lineup card, neatly typed. And he's done that ever since I began directing, as **Dan Henry** would say, back in 18-ought-something.

Ron probably would remember the year because he just completed his 45th consecutive show on the front row on the *HOA* chorus. And he did a handful in Des Moines before he transferred to the Kansas City Chapter. I bet no one in the district can match that record. No wonder this guy is my hero.

Speaking of Trenton, it was a treat to have *12th Street Rag* volunteer to be our headliners. They sang better than ever on our March 17th shows, where they set a modern chapter record by appearing for the 14th consecutive time (some think a version of an **Ed-die Schlieb** quartet may have made more shows back in the '40s and '50s). But that bested the 13 times the *Rural Route 4* sang. Say, maybe we oughtta invite those old guys back...(who said that??)

Speaking of quartets, as the guy in charge of continuity for the spring

shows at Yardley Hall, my hat is off to all our chapter foursomes for filling their spots with timely good singing. One of the highlights of the feedback we kept hearing was how well both the matinee and night show moved, with no dead spots or extra talking. *Mighty Fine*, *Command Performance*, *Tone-Henge*, *Quadrio* and *12th Street* all nailed their assigned time slots and left the audience wanting more. That's show biz at it's best! That allowed our headliners, the *Humdingers/Dapper Dans* to take their full 30 minutes and do the dancing/chiming/silliness they do best. I thought the western set they did at the afterglow was some of the best singing I heard all night.

But the highlight of our annual show, especially, for me was the great singing of the chorus. There were some numbers that lifted me off the floor. There were others that we all knew we could have done better. But the ballad in the afternoon, and "Runnin' Wild" at night, and "Don't Blame Me" on both shows (**Bruce Wenner** asked me if was gonna milk it into an eight-minute production; I was enjoying it that much), the energy you poured into "Harmony" and the fervor of the finale reminded me once more why I have the best job in Kansas City.

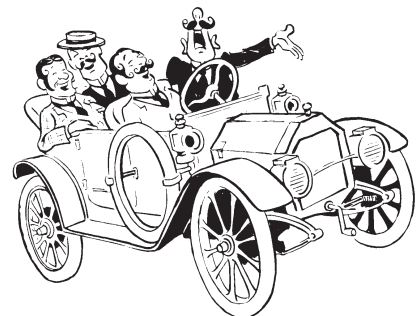
Let me share with you one more experience of the kind that serves to keep the barbershop blood pumping no matter how many hours we spend in this hobby. And sometimes those hours are dumped on us not by our own design. On the fourth weekend in March, I judged the Dixie District spring prelims — or tried to. An airline that shall remain unidentified but begins with the letter D conspired to keep me from reaching Knoxville until 11:30 Friday night — long after the first round of quartets had competed, and 12 hours after I'd left my

house. It's too gruesome to go into detail here. I had an early flight home Sunday, so got three hours sleep Saturday night, then drove early Monday morning with CSD President **Don Fuson**, who'd overseen the arrangements, 300 miles to Humboldt, Iowa, to be clinician at a Youth In Harmony event hosted by the Fort Dodge Chapter.

About 60 junior high and high school boys and girls showed up in a non-air-conditioned music room for their first exposure to barbershop. There was no teaching quartet, so I drafted Don, two Fort Dodge barbershoppers and a music teacher — two of whom had never seen either of the songs I was teaching. They got about 10 minutes practice and bravely ventured out, doing a surprisingly good job. After three hours of rehearsal, we put on a concert for an enthusiastic audience of about 150, probably mostly families of the kids from four different schools in the area. We were joined by the Fort Dodge and Algona choruses, plus *Call Street* and *Juras-sic Lark* quartets from Algona and Des Moines, respectively. I emceed and had sweated out two shirts by the end of the day. And with no more sleep than I'd had, I was wondering how I was gonna stay awake on the four-and-a-half-hour drive home. Don said he's not good driving late at night. Oboy.

But after the concert, Don and I were teaching a half-dozen of the boys a tag, and they ripped it. "Man," one of them said, "I love this barbershop!"

Don and I were both on a high all the way home. ♥





Sunshine Report

by Roy Manade, Sunshine Chairman

Let's start with the better news.

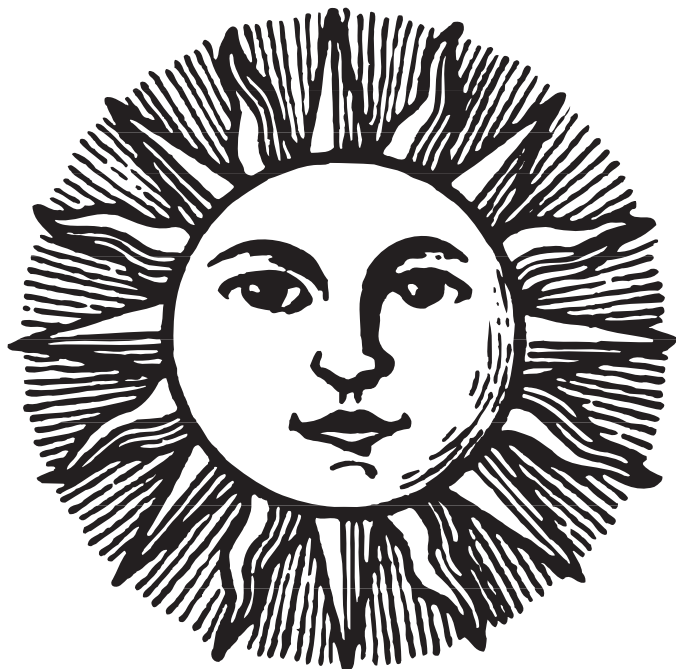
Dwight Herrick was released by his doctor from the first carotid artery surgery. The surgery to be done on the other artery will probably be in one or two weeks. He just called me and he sounds fine. He's concerned about things like yard work. He would like very much to be back singing with us.

Dick Irwin says he's feeling fine [after undergoing bypass surgery] but still gets weak and tired. He's just hanging out and "enjoying the cats." His brother also had bypass surgery in the last two weeks. His father had three bypasses, his brother had two and Dick has had eight. Is he winning or losing that contest?

Now the not-so-good news.

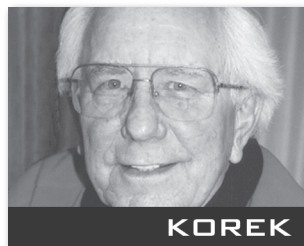
Jim Clark was back in St Luke's Hospital. The incision from his colon surgery developed a leak causing infection. He has a drain inserted and has been without food for a few days. He told me the drainage had decreased by 50% and the white count had fallen to 9.

Talked to **Jana Moynihan** who sounds remarkably upbeat. During her annual tests it was discovered she has kidney cancer. It sounds as though it is only in one kidney. The urologist will do some more checking and then decide on the procedure to follow. Jana's choice right now is to have the kidney removed. The reason she has an annual test is because she had bone cancer two years ago and breast cancer twelve years ago. Like I said, she sounds remarkably upbeat. ♥



Great Responses, Great Sponsors!

by Dick Korek, Marketing & PR VP



The survey card comments told us the audience thoroughly enjoyed the show. Comments included single words like, "great," "WOW," and "tremendous" to more lengthy comments such as:

- "excellent program, great harmony, good to see young persons."
- "More chorus, less quartets."
- "I think they need girls in the show. *Tone-Henge* also needs a CD! I will buy it! Please."
- "*Raising the Bar*, was great."
- "Our youth should use *HOA*, some way or other, to create goodwill & unite our country & the world."

One person mentioned that **Marvin Faulwell** was missed. **Anthony Fortino** was rated A++ and the show format was well received. AND the audience preferred Yardley Hall to the Music Hall by over 7 to 1. There was one "ugh" regarding one song selection but overall it made for interesting reading. Responding to favorite song from the show was: "Joseph Song" received most votes. How did you hear about the show? *Know someone in the chorus* and *Received show flyer* as the most popular way to get the message out to our audience.

This year our Sponsors included: Pulte Homes, the Marriott Hotel downtown, Sam's Club, The Green Company, Bank of Blue Valley, Overland Park Convention & Visitors Bureau, Frank Ancona Honda and an anonymous donor.

Current in-kind donors are: Sheridan Frozen Custard, FedExKinko's, First Watch Restaurants, Marriott Hotel Downtown, Helzberg Diamonds, Metcalf Bank, XS Lighting & Sound, Doubletree Hotel of Overland Park, Kenmark backdrops, Tobler's Flowers and of course **David Hokanson** who not only maintains membership in *HOA* but contributes to the chorus for a variety of needs.

Thanks to all chapter members for participating, and for any help you provided in searching out new sponsors. Remember most companies welcome the opportunity to help, especially if one of their employees is a member of the chapter. Any marketing or promotion ideas you may get should be passed on to **Dick Korek** or any vice-president of the chapter. ♥

Corned Beef and Cabbage (and Beer) Suits *Tone-Henge!*

by Ol' Bruce

Tone-Henge started our spring show season March 10 in St. Louis, guests of the St. Louis Suburban chapter at its annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner Show. Second time we've done this one. In 2003 we headlined the show; opening for us were a young *Vocal Spectrum* and 11th-place International quartet *Cheers* - how do you like that for a show order! We attributed it to the assumption that they had never heard us sing. But this time they HAD heard us sing, and they asked us back as the headliner again, so I guess they're just hearing-challenged.

We really have fun over there - great bunch of guys, great hosts, and the corned beef and cabbage is delicious. The opening act this year was *A Cappella Joe* from St. Charles - you may remember them from last fall's district contest, in which they finished in third place. Good singing quartet, and terrific guys to hang with. The chorus closed the show by calling back the quartets and singing "America the Beautiful" with Overlay, so we were able to chime in instead the usual stand-there-and-look-stupid.

They did two shows this year for the first time. The matinee audience was a bit sparse, but I think they'll get it going better in a year or two. The evening show was packed - they even had to add chairs in the back after filling up all the tables. And what an audience - huge reaction to everything we did. Matter of fact, several times they started laughing before we even opened our mouths! (hmm - might be a message there) After the show we discovered why the crowd was so live - they had been serving beer all the way through (and after) the evening show. We were delighted to participate in that activity after the show, while visiting with a number of old friends, who included **David and Sandy Wright**.



And then of course was our own chapter show the following weekend, where we get to sing with an "A" chorus as well as toss out a couple of quartet numbers -- always a real highlight for us. And at the afterglow we managed to roast four more guys with "Chocolate Whiskey" - that's 12 chapter brothers we've gotten so far, and **Dan's** working on four more even as we speak. ♥

Quadrio Looks Ahead

by Grant Hunget for *Quadrio*



Congratulations to *HOA* on a very memorable show at Yardley Hall. Way to go, guys! *The Humdingers* were dapper, and kudos to all the chapter quartets and Harmony Explosion groups who performed. Thanks for letting us be part of the fun.

After some great coaching with **Mark Hale** in February, and **Cindy Hansen** in March, we have a very busy April. We'll be proud to be a part of the Topeka Chapter Show April 14, CSD Prelims in Sioux Falls, SD April 21, then down to Springfield, MO to perform on their Chapter Show April 28. Can you say "togetherness?" Hey, we're having fun!

We hope to see some or all of you, at some or all of these events. Thanks for your continued support! ♥

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

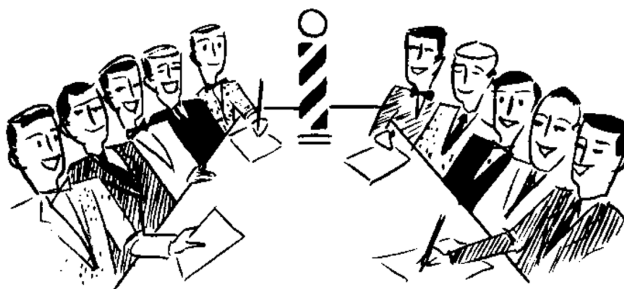
to the following chapter members!

April 7	Raymond Schwarzkopf
April 10	Matt Bostick
April 11	Frank Leone
April 11	John Erwine
April 14	Chris Meeks
April 14	Bob Howard
April 16	Jim Clark
April 17	Mike Mathieu
April 21	Dick Krueger
April 21	Tom Elefson
April 24	Marlin Weidler
April 25	Bruce Wenner
April 28	Mike McKim



Summary of March 2007 Board Meeting

by Rick Foreman/Ron McIntire



TREASURERS REPORT: Ron Fortino

Ron Fortino will set a date for the finalization of the budget before the April meeting.

MARKETING VP: Dick Korek

"Friends of HOA" campaign will be launched at the Spring Show.

MEMBERSHIP VP: Bob Murphy

Approved membership application for Steve Starr

OLD BUSINESS: Tony Strub

- Singing Valentines: Financial statement for "Singing Valentine" presented and reviewed.
- Harmony Explosion: Transition from manual scoring to computer scoring.
- Holiday Show: Question from February about payment to Sweet Adelines resolved.
- Spring Show: Discussion of ticket sales, dressing facilities assigned, put together a list of HOA's contractual expectations for 2008 show, wherever it is held, to assure cash flow throughout the process.
- Strategic Plan: Committees will be formed to develop a strategic plan for where the Chapter and Chorus wants to be in five years relative to: Membership; Outreach; Music and Performance; Marketing. Will ask for follow-up reports to the board every ninety days.

NEW BUSINESS: Tony Strub

- Chapter phone number: Change number to Rich Huyck's cell number. Purchase new "Barbershop Harmony Society logo: Add new BHS logo to riser trailer.
- Chapter Cruise: Investigate possibility of chapter cruise for 2008 with performances on board and in ports of call along the way.
- Directors Contracts: Reviewed contracts for all directors. ♥

The HOA Board of Directors meets at 6 p.m. on the second Monday of the month, at the Johnson County Car License office, located at 6000 Lamar Avenue. Chapter members are welcome!

We recognize the donors and sponsors that are leading HOA:

Sponsors:

Anonymous Donor
Bank of Blue Valley
Frank Ancona Honda
Marriott Hotel downtown
Overland Park Convention & Visitors Bureau
Pulte Homes
Sam's Club
The Green Company

In-Kind Donors:

David Hokanson
Doubletree Hotel of Overland Park
FedExKinko's
First Watch Restaurants
Helzberg Diamonds
Kenmark backdrops
Marriott Hotel, downtown
Metcalf Bank
Sheridan Frozen Custard
Tobler's Flowers
XS Lighting & Sound

The Theme for 2007 is **FRIENDS OF HOA**

Everyone is invited to participate in helping support the *Heart of America Barbershop Chorus* in the ongoing mission to pursue excellence in a cappella singing.

Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim 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.

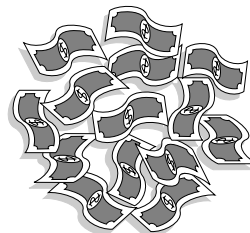
As of Wednesday, Mar. 28th, and 20 drawings:

The total raised for Harmony Foundation in the past month is \$192.

The total raised for this year (since Nov. 14, 2006) is \$870.

Last year, the total raised to this point was \$1942.

In 2005, the total raised to this point was \$1081. ♥



DEADLINE FOR THE MAY ISSUE OF HARMONOTES:

APRIL 30



Dorthea Durley's Last Valentine by Jim Porter



It was just another gig for Eu-Four-EA (Carl Turlin - lead; Bruce

Marston - bass; Don Fuson - bari; Marlin Weidler - tenor) as they headed to Research Medical Center through the snow on Tuesday, Feb. 13, to present one of 20 Singing Valentines they were to do in two days. When they got there, they found the recipient, 83-year-old **Dorthea Durley**, sitting up in a wheelchair in her room with her daughter **Debbie** (who ordered the valentine) and a nurse in attendance. The quartet presented the songs, the rose, the box of candy and the love. Other nurses soon were on hand to hear the presentation. Dorthea was able only to offer a few weak responses during the time and afterwards as the nurses posed her, her daughter and the quartet for pictures. The group then went on their way, not sure if the ailing woman was even aware that they were there, but thinking that they did see a little smile on her face as they sang.

It's been said that comatose people are far more aware of their surroundings than people might think. Dorthea wasn't truly comatose, but according to those in attendance, she brightened up noticeably after the quartet left, and gained strength in the days that followed. Doctors were giving her only a few days to live, but she lived on nearly a month, passing away in the hospital March 2. In the ensuing chaos of planning for the funeral, Debbie and her husband recalled how her mother had rallied and strengthened after that Singing Valentine was given, and decided to invite the quartet to return for the funeral and sing again those songs that proved to be such a blessing. Her husband, **Dave Baker**, therefore contacted Bruce Marston on Saturday, March 3, and Bruce readily agreed to contact the others in the quartet and come to the funeral on the following Wednesday. Carl announced the event to the chorus family and asked simply for a quartet to make themselves available for the funeral.

Then Bruce realized the challenge—getting three other guys to agree on short notice to take the day off Wednesday, travel together to Sedalia, sing a 15-minute set of songs at the funeral around noon, then return. Carl Turlin agreed reluctantly, aware that if substitutions were made it would be difficult to put on a good performance with little practice beforehand. Don was just returning from Seattle, and Marlin had work and other commitments that just could not be set aside. Bruce came to Tuesday's practice with heart in hand asking for others to step in as bari and tenor so that they could properly honor this family in their time of mourning.

Bruce had contacted the family and described his problem. They all agreed it was a problem that God could solve, so they committed it to prayer. How would God answer that prayer?

The bari spot was filled when **Ron Abel** agreed to stand in, but no one among those who sing tenor in quartet performances was available. **Jim Porter** was on the risers hearing all this, but thinking in his mind that as a lead in the chorus, he did not know the chorus repertoire songs as a tenor, and the quartet was wanting to sing "Love At Home" and "Precious Lord." He knew the tenor for the valentines medley, but that was about it. Besides, he knew it would require he take the whole day off work, so he remained quiet as Bruce asked for someone to stand in. But, when Bruce and Carl approached Jim after practice broke up at 9:45, he felt something urging him to say yes. After all, he had left his appraisal work that afternoon with no job pending. There was no work to go in for on Wednesday morning! God must have had that in mind all along.

Jim therefore cut a CD with the two songs in tenor on it, played them as he drove to pick up Ron and then go to Bruce's home for practice and warm-up, and was able to do the songs while holding music. Bruce had contacted the family and told them they were coming, and said they might need to hold music as they sing. "No problem, thank you and God bless you!" The quartet then agreed to do the two songs mentioned, plus "Roll is Called Up Yon-

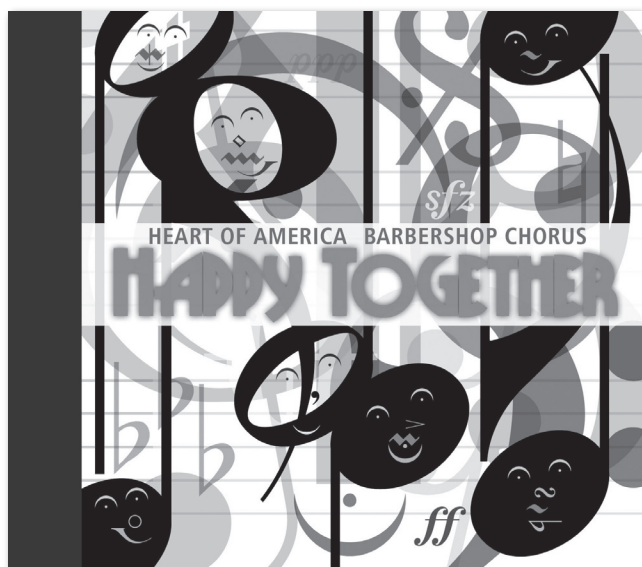
der," which Jim learned tenor for a couple years back for a Spring Fling quartet. After an hour, all realized that it would work OK, so it was then off to Sedalia, all four in Carl's small SUV, arriving an hour early, time for some more practice.

The funeral service was in the large salon of a funeral parlor, and the quartet did their set as the last event of the service. A soloist sang "Precious Lord," so that song was dropped by the quartet in exchange for "Battle Hymn of the Republic" (sung in unison). The group started with the Singing Valentines set. The daughter and her husband, right up front, heard it, and Debbie broke into tears and had to go out briefly. All in the audience of 100 or so listened attentively and somberly. The words of "Love At Home" never sounded as appropriate as they did at that time. "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" reminded all that Dorthea was in a better place and we all could also look forward to that time ourselves. There wasn't any applause afterwards, but there was a whole lot of hugs and hand shaking. Dave Baker was so grateful that he pressed a bill into Bruce's hand as we were leaving. It was a \$100 bill. The quartet used it to enjoy lunch together and fill Carl's vehicle when they returned. The balance became a contribution to the chorus from the family.

Guys, so much of the time it would seem that our singing is just for ourselves, and it really doesn't matter all that much. This time, it touched a whole family and provided a blessing of inestimable value to a dying dear old lady. It is things like this that remind us that truly, it's great to be a barbershopper. It is even greater to know that God used you to answer a prayer by a stranger to bring some joy into an otherwise very somber day.

Rest in peace, Dorthea Durley. I never met you in this life, but I'll be looking for you in the next. ♥





Happy Together

by Doug Brott, Executive Vice-President

The CDs arrived in time for the performance for the Lee's Summit Concert Series at John Knox Village. Then our big weekend of the annual show, sales were brisk. As of this writing we have sold around 500 CDs with pre-sales and sales after arrival. Our production costs were a little less than expected so we came in under our expense projections. Our break-even point is about 950 CDs sold. As you can see we are well under that. The idea behind producing a CD is to have fun, show the world what we can do and raise a little money for our chapter. We have had the fun, we have showed the world what we can do, now we need to raise the money. Every member must do their part to push CD sales. CDs will be available at every meeting for purchase. Please make your personal commitment to help us sell out our 2000 CDs. Do the math on 1050 CDs and you will see the potential for the chapter. We appreciate all of your support. ♥

Cancer Claims Former Serenade Editor

by David Haase, Serenade Editor

It was recently posted on the Central States District website that **John Petterson**, PROBE Hall of Famer and past PROBE and CSD *Serenade* Editor passed away due to cancer. For details go to www.centralstatesdistrict.com

John was my mentor, he helped me get my start in publishing chapter and district bulletins. Without his help and infinite wisdom at COTS many chapter bulletins wouldn't be where they are today. The CSD and PROBE has lost a treasure in John. ♥

FROM THE MAIL BAG



Jim:

Another great concert!

I loved the chorus rendition of "When There Is Love at Home." It is a fine arrangement, too. "Time after Time" was another of my favorites.

I enjoyed all of the quartets, and as usual Tone-Henge stole the show! The Humdingers were a great addition to the show. I wonder how Tone-Henge would perform if you added taps on your shoes and organ chimes? Just an idea.

Eugene C. Hall, Vice President
The Kansas City Jazz Orchestra

"I Love You Truly/A Perfect Day"

contributed by Casey Parker, President,
San Francisco Bay Cities Quartet Chapter

"**Carrie Jacobs** was born in Janesville, Wisconsin, in 1862 and experienced a number of misfortunes in her early life. Her father died when she was 12. Her husband, **Dr. Frank Bond**, died prematurely. A serious fall in 1895 left her an invalid with a young son. After a career attempt as an artist, she turned to songwriting to survive. Popular music publishers turned down her 'art' songs, but she had early success with children's songs.

"To succeed as a songwriter, she started her own publishing business in a bedroom, financed by a song recital. Her first book, 'Seven Songs,' contained 'I Love You Truly,' a standard at weddings for many years, (and) which survives today as a Valentine's Day ballad. Her most popular song was a big hit in 1909, 'A Perfect Day,' selling five million copies. Carrie Jacobs-Bond received many awards and is recognized as an outstanding American woman composer. She retired to Hollywood and was interred at Fairlawn Court of Honor in 1946, following notables like the sculptor of Mt. Rushmore." ♥





Barbershopper of the Month for February!



Marlin Weidler

Above: HOA President **Tony Strub** presents **Marlin Weidler** with the February, 2007 BOTM award, which reads:

In grateful appreciation for your work planning and organizing the 2007 Kansas City Missouri Chapter and *Heart Of America Chorus* Singing Valentine program.. ♥

Xtra Mile Award Winners!



Al Higgins & Tony Strub

Al Higgins: In recognition for your contribution of work, advise and assistance to the Chairman of the 2007 Kansas City Chapter Harmony Explosion contest February 17, 2007,

Tony Strub: In recognition for your work planning, organizing and chairing the 2007 Kansas City Chapter Harmony Explosion contest, February 17, 2007. ♥

Mental Harmony

by Dale Neuman

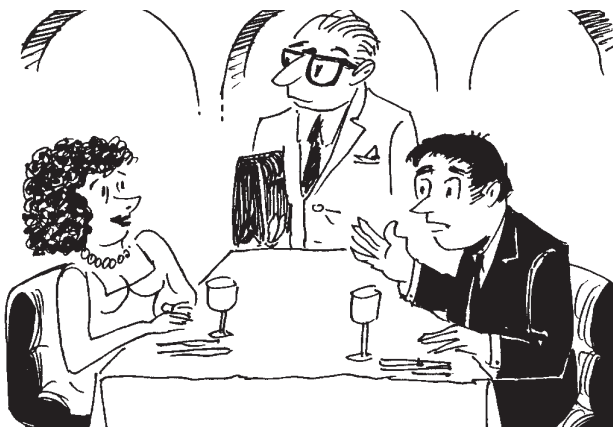
Scenes melodic and
harmonies visual
the phrases seem to suggest
something unusual.

But think if you will
of emotion's cause
and know then
that only sensate incongruity gives us pause.

Sounds colored to fit one another
become soothing sources of calm in a day
and vistas perfectly attuned to needs
work the very same way.



**"THREE THINGS HE'S GOT GOING IN HIS FAVOR:
HIS IMAGE, HIS STAND ON THE ISSUES AND HIS SINGING
IN THE BARBERSHOP CHROUS!"**



**"EVE, THIS IS MY ATTORNEY, MR. COVER. HE WILL
BE HANDLING ALL DIVOIRCE PROCEEDINGS AND
SING BASS IN OUR QUARTET."**



What You Can Personally Do to Make Your Chapter More Attractive to Potential Members

by Byron Meyers Sr., Chairman, Society Membership Committee

Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony. — Mahatma Gandhi

Do you think that growth in your chapter will lead to happiness? Do you say that growth in your chapter will lead to success? Do you do that which will cause growth in your chapter, thus leading to happiness?

Sounds great, but I think we will all agree, the shortest word is the biggest challenge: Do. What can each of us do to help cause growth in our chapters. Here are some ideas:

Keep a positive attitude about your chapter. Look for the things that are unique to your chapter and then tell others about them.

- **Take pride** in what your chapter can offer a prospective member. Regardless of the type of chapter you may have, there are things unique to it that are positive in the eyes of a prospect.
- **Think about** what your chapter can offer folks in your community that no other group can. Start talking that up to guys you meet.
- **Make up your mind** that you will work hard at singing better, so the guest next to you will want to join. Gaining a new member is better done by creating a desire to join before asking the question, "Want to join?"
- **Help make** your chapter membership plan a success. It truly is not the other guys' job in your chapter to do "membership things." We all must participate in making the plan a success.
- **Try to be the guy** who challenges any degree of apathy that may exist in your chapter.
- **Meet with some other guys** whom you know feel as you do about your chapter's need to grow. Talk about the need for new voices in weak sections in the chorus, the need for new leadership to get things done in the life of your chapter.
- **Maintain a positive attitude** toward chapter growth. Think about the happiness you can bring to new people, the fun of being around new personalities with new ideas and new synergies. Focus on guys in your community who would bring new energy to your chapter.
- **Help your chapter** make a decision to grow. Many chapters have had success simply because they made a "group decision" to grow. Want some inspiration? Look to Beatrice, Neb., a town of approximately 12,000 that had a chapter of around 50 guys. They made a group decision to grow. In one year, they grew to more than 100! Why? The membership bought into the plan and they were focused on the goal. Their growth came from some fun and unusual ways to get attention and meet prospects. (See The Harmonizer, March/April 2006, page 14.)
- **Recognize** that we not only need some younger members, but we also need singers of any age. Break into teams of two or more to go after younger guys, newly married guys, mid-50s guys—solid 60s guys and super 70s-plus guys.
- **We all know** you can not depend exclusively on your circle of friends to supply you with new contacts. Start asking people you don't know, because there a lot more of them. Make it fun! Wear a badge, button or something musical. Then use an opening line like, "I'm trying to find other singers. Who do you know that might like to sing?"
- **Finally**, establish a personal goal of recruiting one new member this year or one each quarter. Five this year? Do that, and you get your dues paid for 2008. Bring what you think, what you say and what you do into harmony and we will grow. ♥

HARMONOTES

...is published by the board of directors of the Kansas City, MO., Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, a non-profit organization. Photographs that are not attributed are the work of our photographers at large. 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

Chorus Director - **Jim Bagby**

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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.

Should you notice erroneous copy, please let the Editor know!

Comments/submissions may be made to:

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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 6 p.m. on the second Monday of the month, at the Johnson County Car License office, located at 6000 Lamar Avenue. Chapter members are welcome!

HOA Website: www.hoachorus.com

Web Address: webstaff@hoachorus.com

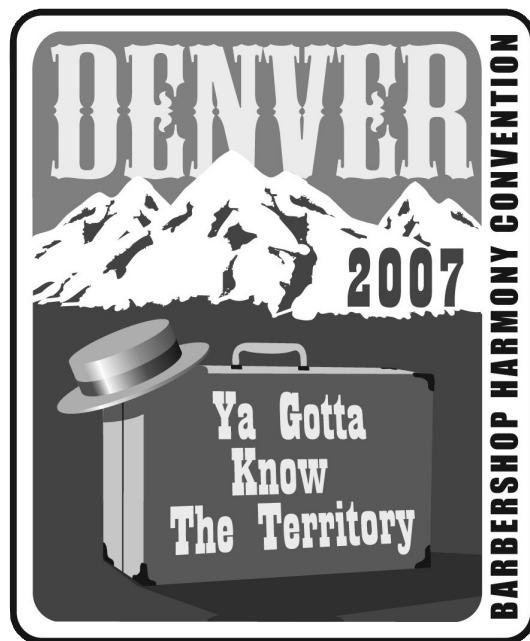
Chorus Manager & Webmaster - **Vince Perry**

Chapter Telephone: (816) 221-7888



Heart of America Chorus Calendar

- April 10** Spring Fling
April 11 Barbershop Harmony Society Birthday
 - Began in April, 1938
April 15 HOA Performance at Colonial Church
April 20-21 CSD Spring Prelims, Sioux Falls,
 South Dakota
June 2 Kansas City Chapter founded on this date
 back in 1938
June 23 All day - HOA Retreat in
 Atchison, Kansas with **Mark Hale**



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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