

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 7 - AUGUST 2007

Looking Back at Denver, Ahead to Retirement

by Jim Bagby, HOA Chorus Director

My name was supposed to be Nancy Lee. So was brother Terry's, and Ron's, and Mike's and Ken's. My parents wanted a girl—period. The first four boys—all blond and brown-eyed at birth—arrived in Colorado. Then we moved to New Mexico when dad was offered a managing editor's job with the *Farmington Sun*. There Ken was born, red-haired and blue-eyed, and mother sobbed as he was brought out "Oh, no, surely that's not mine...there must be a girl back there!"

That's how I felt when they handed out the scoresheets in Denver—oh, no, that can't be ours: we did much better. There must be another one in there with our name on it—we didn't have any 70 scores! I can't ever recall, in 17 years of competing at international, being so surprised or disappointed. But when I saw the DVD, I probably felt the way mother did when Kenny's eyes turned blue and his hair blond—this is the chorus I thought it was, or even better. No, the judges didn't agree; **Bruce Wenner** and **Mike Louque** gave us a lot of good reasons why the scores were what they were in MUS and PRES.

But those of you who were on stage and have seen the recording, or maybe watched the Web cast, know we performed "Time after Time" with emotion and probably as big a sound a 76 guys can make. There were some problems with "Running Wild," but the fun came across, and the audience responded about as we hoped.

So I congratulate the 76 who made it to the stage in Denver. We lost a lot of guys along the way. And until we got to Denver, we were, at best, inconsistent in our rehearsal approach to this contest—as well as for the last couple. And that weighed heavily in my decision to retire at the end of this year.

Bottom line: I think *HOA* deserves a new face, instead of the one that's been in front of the chorus the majority of the time since 1974. Here's part of what I wrote in the letter I delivered to President Tony Strub and Music Vice President Carter Combs right after we came off stage in Denver.

"I reached this decision with very mixed feelings not long after our March show—or perhaps even earlier—but said it out loud to **Joann** for the first time sometime this spring. It has become obvious that whatever skills I might have once had are not as effective in front of the chapter, and that the membership no longer

responds to my suggestions and directions. Even the Music Team has more advice than ever before, and sometimes conflicting feedback on my approach. Most telling, despite "what the survey says," is the lack of commitment, as indicated by the number of dropouts—particularly in this contest cycle. If I had any doubts about whether I've made the right decision, the number of clothespins I was pulling week after



Denver photo courtesy of **Rich Huyck**

ter week, including strong singers and back row faces, convinced me anew that someone else needs to be delivering a more universal message...I'm not tolerant of holes on the risers, nor the pattern of inconsistent attendance, nor our failure to attract new members, nor other things that tend to get overlooked."

I also said:

"*HOA* appears to have reached a place in its musical progress where a new face in the most critical position could create a new atmosphere and give us a chance to start afresh. We have talented people in the chapter we can look to; or a search committee might decide to cast a wider net. I would not presume to suggest the approach in seeking a successor.

(Continued on page 2 ♣)



Looking Back at Denver, Ahead to Retirement

(Continued from front cover)



BAGBY

I am honored beyond words to have served *HOA* as chorus director, not once but three times. And after a brief leave of absence, I certainly plan to remain active with the greatest chapter in the Barbershop Harmony Society."

If you know me at all, you know I believe that last sentence with every fiber of my being. And that accounts for why I returned to the arm-waver's spot twice when I had no intention of doing so, both times saying it would be for a limited time. Both times those limited times became extended. Although I'm honored to hold the Society designation of Master Director, I'm probably a better coach than chorus director; perhaps that's how I can help *HOA* sometime down the line. Ever since my retirement from the AP two years ago, I've spent more time coaching quartets and choruses than I ever dreamed, and it's been one of the most enjoyable times in my almost 50-year barbershopping career. (I have a period coming up in September where I'll work with three CSD choruses in the space of eight days).

I do owe you an apology about announcing my retirement on the Web cast before I told the chapter. When we left the stage, some bumbler from the otherwise efficient Denver volunteer brigade showed up and said "I'll take you to the Web cast." He led me down a long hall and up an elevator right into the corridor outside our seats, and said "oh, this isn't right" (no kidding) and then we backtracked very slowly with me still sweating head to toe and trying to get my split pants refastened until we finally got to the right place, by which time we'd missed most of the *HOA* interview slot. Then **Joe Connelly** and **Mike Mano** asked me how long I'd been doing this and I said something like "a long time but not much longer," which obviously was unplanned, and that's how that came about.

The highlight of the whole week might have come the next morning when I showed up for the lobby sing, expecting to see (a) a small *HOA* turnout (b) a group disappointed about our scores and/or placement (c) a group unhappy about the way my retirement announcement had gone down (d) an attitude of "howcome we should perform for a lame duck director?" or (e) all of the above. Instead virtually the entire *HOA Chorus* was there, plus families and groupies, many tired and sleepless but eager. I can imagine Biz Manager Extraordinaire **Vince Perry** having threatened and cajoled to get everyone into place, with other chapter leaders following suit, but it was a great experience (well, I could have done without "Friends") and a memorable performance by all.

I thank you for a lot of those over the years... ♥

Top 10 Reasons Denver Is NOT Our Favorite City

by Ol' Dan for *Tone-Henge*

- 10 The scenery from here to there.
- 9 Price of a beer there.
- 8 "...but it's DRY heat." Yeah, sure.
- 7 Distance from the hotel to the Pepsi arena requires provisions.
- 6 Hotel costs....Holy mackerel!
- 5 *Tone-Henge* didn't make top 100 and were told "Don't come back !"
- 4 *AOH* was robbed.
- 3 So was 12th Street.
- 2 And so was *HOA*! Amen!



And the number one reason Denver is not our favorite city...

- 1 The price of beer there (I know, but it bears repeating). ♥

HOA Ladies Lucky in Denver

Our *HOA* delegation did well in the ladies' hospitality room, at the headquarter Adam's Mark Hotel in Denver. **Mary Jo Miller** and **Connie Schweer** both won prizes in the daily drawings. And **Jan Mathieu** was a double winner! ♥

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, July 18th, and 35 drawings:
The total raised for Harmony Foundation since May 24th is \$341.

The total raised for this year (since Nov. 14, 2006) is \$1,533.
Last year, the total raised to this point was \$3,198.

In 2005, the total raised to this point was \$1,731. ♥



Change Can Create Opportunity by Tony Strub, HOA President



Change is an every-day fact of life. It can produce anxiety and turmoil, but if handled in the right way can enrich our lives. Many of us have experienced the anxiety and frustration of learning to use the computer, the cell phone and the digital camera. None of us can deny that these technologies have greatly improved our lives. Few in our culture today could accept the communications, record keeping and the availability of information of fifty years ago.

HOA is experiencing significant change. **Jim Bagby** has decided to give up the duties and responsibilities of chorus director and to participate in and contribute to *HOA* in other ways. We will miss Jim's musical leadership, his meticulous preparation and tireless pursuit of singing excellence. The positive side of this development, however, is that *HOA* will continue to have Jim and his talent, knowledge, experi-

ence and dedication. Yes, this is a big change, but it is also an opportunity.

If we wish to grow as a chapter, we must do the things that will make that happen. We have to find ways to be more proactive. We need to go out into the community and let people know who we are, what we do and how well we do it. We have to sell our music, our craft and our chapter. I believe that we have become far too reactive. We wait for things to happen. We believe that the leadership will find the money, the other guy will get it done, the directors, section leaders and the presentation team will get us ready. If our chapter is to grow, it will be the personal commitment of each individual member that will make it happen.

As we prepare to take advantage of the opportunities that change will bring, we should never fear to think differently. To use status quo as a plan for the future would be a serious impediment to progress. As we plan for change, we must always keep in mind the mission of our chapter and the needs of our membership. Not all of us have the same aspirations or expectations. We

should consider these things in all of the decisions that we make.

When I allow myself to think differently about *HOA*, I wonder what if we provided a variety of opportunities for our members to get involved? For example, if we had a senior chorus of retired members who would have the discretionary time to go into the community to teach, entertain, recruit new members and let the public know who we are, what we do, and how well we do it. What if we had a contest chorus that had strict standards and expectations that would make *HOA* an international contender? What if we had a performing chorus that would be all-inclusive and provide a wide variety of music that would excite and energize all ages? We must reach out to all in our community who love music and singing and invite them to join us and enjoy this wonderful hobby.

I am sure that these ideas are not unique. They are different from what we have now in *HOA*. Change is essential for progress. This is our opportunity to make things happen.♥

"Director's Awards" Presented To Three HOA Members



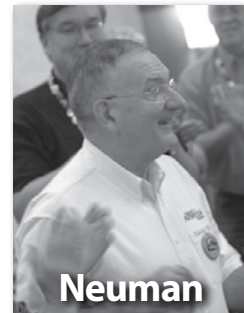
Jim Bagby bestowed three special "Director's Awards" which he presented at the Friday morning rehearsal in Denver. The first went to **Jim Clark**, whose award was labeled the "spark plug award" for his

ability to overcome colon cancer surgery and his nine-week hospital stay this Spring from the complications to still qualify and compete in Denver this summer.



Next came **Jim Moynihan** who was praised for his continued willingness to work hard to compete without complaining

and for never missing a downbeat or cutoff that Bagby had given in all of his years directing.



The last award given went to **Dale Neuman** who was singled out for being willing to change parts to sing whatever was needed whenever it was

needed as well as after hours efforts in teaching the choreography to Jim Moynihan.

Photos are courtesy of **Rich Huyck**, who snapped these candid pics as each man was presented his certificate.



Pics Proving 2007 Tag Party a Rousing Success! courtesy of Joe Mathieu



Top row, left to right: (1 to r) New member **Brad Dawdy** gets things going with host **Joe Mathieu**, **Jerry Garrard** and **Bruce Wenner**; **Don Peck** enjoys some libation; who can smile better than grandpa **Mike Mathieu**, unless its granddaughter **Emily**! **Bottom row:** **David Krause** enjoys the fellowship, as do **Donie Peck** and **Jan Mathieu**; *Tone-Henge* members **Jim Bagby**, **Keith Schweer**, **Dan Henry** and **Bruce Wenner** show those in attendance just how a tag is supposed to sound!



June 23-24 Retreat Photos

courtesy of Don Fuson

Top, left to right: **Carter Combs** (center) awards Coaching awards to **Mark Hale** and **Joe Hunter**; **Mark Hale** and **Joe Hunter** sport some new Denver shirts; Rookie Award winner **Brad Dawdy** and Most Improved Winner **David Stockard**; **At right:** **Bob Murphy**, Hero Section Hero; Front Row Hero **Kevin Tritsch**, **Kent Miller** and “Mr. Personality” **Ron Abel**





The Singing Always Comes First by John Erwine



ERWINE

There were, of course, many highlights during the International competition in Denver this year. There were some mighty good choruses performing at very high levels. I happen to believe we were one of them. It's a lot of hard work but also something we call fun. Competition improves everyone, which makes it more enjoyable for the audience as well as for the performers. I'd like to say my highlight of the International was the performance itself. However it was such a blur that I don't think I can, yet I will never forget it. Certainly another was the presence of my wife in the audience for the first time. I believe the most memorable experience for me was during the final rehearsals in Denver. It is so easy to get completely immersed into the mechanics and techniques of preparation for the final moments of the project we are working on; the physical and personal emotion of our efforts causing us to become lost in our own thoughts. All contributing to this are our directors, section leaders, music and performance teams and coaches encouraging us to find "that edge" from which to balance upon. The focus of combined and individual effort is what brought us to this level. It's what keeps us returning week after week.

During these final rehearsals our arm wavers shared something quite personal and emotional with us. It was courageous and difficult to do. For that, I am very appreciative. But even more so I am appreciative of **Jim Bagby**, our head arm waver, for taking a moment to put many things into perspective. It was like getting the first jolt out of the first cup of coffee from the freshly brewed pot. It awoke me, energized me, made me reflective and the blurred became sharp. In a very quiet, intimate, emotional and personal way he took the time to recognize the very extraordinary efforts of three individuals in the competing chorus: **Jim Clark, Dale Neuman** and **Jim Moynihan**. Efforts,

these accomplishments, which were primarily unknown to many, except those involved or closer to each situation than most. Efforts they themselves probably couldn't even envision being anything but life's ordinary daily circumstances, or at least a temporary setback to be dealt with in its' own time. However someone knew, and also knew what to do with them and when.

Without actually saying the words, heaven forbid, this head arm waver took the time to remind us that perhaps the singing doesn't always come first. Perhaps it is something a little deeper that gets taken for granted, forgotten, buried, overlooked, or not considered for any number of reasons. What does come first is the personal commitment of family for the sake of family. It comes seemingly without effort. Without family there is nothing. Without family there would be no *Heart of America Chorus* such as this one of ours. "Heart," how it is so aptly named. Someone said a few days ago that this is a naturally inviting and welcoming chorus. It goes deeper and beyond that. It is a very caring, committed and devoted family. I have seen it, experienced it and it is true. You have seen it as well. It is good to be reminded of that from time to time. That is what makes the next step so valuable. The next step our head arm waver most likely would say is... "the singing always comes first." ♥



Photo courtesy of Don Fuson

HOA Tourney Slated for Sept. 10

by Kent Miller

Do you like to Golf? Do you have friends who like to Golf? Here is your chance to experience a wonderful day of golf, listen to barbershop harmony, and support the *Heart of America Chorus* all at the same time!

HOA is sponsoring a fund-raising golf scramble on Monday, September 10, 2007 at the Falcon Lakes Golf Course. Falcon Lakes is located north of Bonner Springs about 5 miles north of I-70 on KS-7 in Kansas.

The \$90 entry fee per person includes Green Fees, Cart, Range Balls, \$13 credit in the Pro shop, and a Burger Buffet Dinner. You will have the chance to win hole prizes, door prizes and to participate in a fabulous raffle. If you don't want to golf, you may still come out for dinner, socialize and sing a few for \$10.

You also have the opportunity to support the *Heart of America Chorus* by becoming a Hole Sponsor at one of four levels.

Information and a registration form are available on the HOA website, www.hoachorus.com. Just click on the golfer on the front page.

If you would like to make donations for hole prizes and /or raffle prizes (you can donate prizes or fund the purchase of prizes), please contact me at kmiller268@aol.com.

This is a very important fund-raising project for our organization and we hope everyone will participate. ♥



Cultivating New Members

by Bob Murphy, membership vice-president



Well, I have now had the experience of three International Barbershop Harmony Society conventions. I must admit, even though I was not happy with our scores, the Denver convention was my best experience. I believe

that I got more from this year's competition than in the past. Perhaps, it was because I was more familiar with the quartets and choruses that were competing. I was proud to be a member of HOA, and hold my head up high along with all those of our membership that were in Denver. We are good, and we should continue to show it.

As we were driving that long drive home one thought kept going through my head. As a member of HOA, how can we keep from spreading the 'news' far and wide about this wonderful organization and hobby? We have to spread the news. We all should be shouting from every roof top, street, church and where ever about the joy, fellowship, accomplishment, and effort that one can have as a part of HOA. We should not hide what we do. We should not keep what we do from anyone. We should be exposing the opportunity for membership to an average of five potential members each and every Tuesday night.

It has been my observation over the past two-and-one-half years that "special" guest nights do not really bring in new members. Guest night nights can be distracting from our major purpose, which is to sing better, with better sound, and feeling. New members come from each and every one of us asking someone to come to a Tuesday night meeting. We should not hide this society from anyone. We should bring them in to see for themselves. Even if you have asked someone to come that you know can sing and they have not come, ASK THEM AGAIN. I know I am doing that.

At the Membership Booth at the Harmony Market Place, I signed a page that pledged I would ask everyone I come in contact with to come see what the Society stands for. I intend to do this. As a follow up to this, I am going to put the same type of paper on the Membership Table each Tuesday evening and ask all members to think about it, sign it, and follow up by bringing a prospective member to a meeting. ♥

*Toughest job in a chapter is editor.
He must hunt for his news like a predator.
Though his deadline's behind,
Little help he can find,
And the printer is always his creditor.*

---Byron L Rice

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the following chapter members!

- July 5 Tom Forsythe
- July 6 Marv Faulwell
- July 10 Alex Scott
- July 12 Al Moritz
- July 14 Simon Tady
- July 18 Matt Moore
- July 20 David Stockard
- July 21 Mike Neff
- July 22 Calvin Yoder
- July 23 Howard Barrows
- July 24 Paul Raikula
- July 25 John Stock
- July 25 Tom Wenner
- July 26 David Miller
- July 28 Niel Johnson
- July 29 Jordan Weber
- July 30 Vince Perry IV
- August 2 Lyle Wyly
- August 4 Gary Jordan
- August 7 Jonathan Fortino
- August 7 Monty Duerksen
- August 7 Gordy Coleman
- August 9 Dennis Kinghorn
- 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
- August 31 Carl Turlin

DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF HARMONOTES:

AUGUST 21

Denver Remembered! by Vince Perry

This was a good international for me filled with lots of memories. The greatest memory while being a spectator was when the *Chorus of the Chesapeake* (you've got to love a chorus named Chesapeake!) sang Auld Lang Syne! Talk about connecting with the audience. It was truly a celebration complete with an auld acquaintance named **Freddy King**. We all came to our feet to celebrate the moment and pay tribute to Freddy. Not many a dry eye in the place. Magic it was...brilliant in plan and execution. Thank you *Chorus of the Chesapeake*, all one hundred forty of you!

But for me it was the little things that made this trip so memorable...the several phone calls received while we were making our way across Kansas on Monday afternoon...like a phone call in the middle of Kansas from **Jim and Joanne Bagby** letting **Melladee** and I know how we could still get to tour the US Mint without having a reservation. Actually the Mint tour didn't work out but we were able to save the outing by touring the nearby *Molly Brown House* with **Ron and Mary Fortino**. Later we went through the Colorado History Museum just to run into **Don Young and Jana Henderson**. Why is it that a ho hum museum and a stuffy old house seem, oh, somewhat extraordinary when you run into someone you know from the *HOA* Family? That's barbershopping!

And talk about fun...the morning (okay, late morning!) we went to breakfast at *The Delectable Egg*, the line was out on the sidewalk. When the gal from the inside popped her head out the door and asked if there were any parties of six of outside, we looked at the two couples just ahead of us, we all kind of grinned and nodded and said "yes."

So Melladee and I, two Sweet Adelines from San Antonio and the Prez and his wife from the *Chorus of the Chesapeake* (you've got to love a chorus named Chesapeake!) went inside past the front of the line directly to our table for six. Needless to say a good time was had by all!

For us this will also be a convention remembered as the Dinner with Friends Convention! Melladee and I had a wonderful time dining with **Chuck Ames** and **Al Higgins** one evening at the *Ramada Inn Midtown*, with **Roy and Cindy Manade** at *Johnny Rockets*, with **Mike & Jan Mathieu** and **Fred & Connie Hangartner** at *The Broker* (photo above taken by a waitress with my camera), with 94 other wonderful *HOA* folks at *Maggiano's Little Italy*, and with **Don, Donie, and David Peck** at the *Brookville Hotel* in Abilene, Kansas. It was Donie's birthday and for reasons I can't remember, we laughed and laughed until we were all crying. Happy Birthday, Donie!

Finally a couple of kudos are in order. Many thanks go to **Marty Oldehoeft** and **Bob Howard** for doing the bottled water duty this year at International. They took our coolers to Denver, bought water and ice, then bought more water and ice, then bought more water again. Denver was a place where



having water was really a necessity more than a convenience. Thanks, guys, for helping keep us hydrated. And speaking of thanks, how about **Jeffi Combs** and **Margo Owen** and the rest of the *Heartbeats* who literately saved many a life with their before contest brown bag sack pack? I remember sitting in the Pepsi Center at 9:30 that Friday night thinking how hungry I would have been had it not been for their efforts. Many thanks, gals. As usual your timing was perfect! Also many thanks to the guys who showed up to set up and take down the *AOH* risers. I am *HOA* Proud of each one of you! And finally many thanks go to all the guys that showed up for our *HOA* Saturday at International Lobby Sing. "This is what it's all about" was heard more than one by these old ears that morning. And to that I say "Hallelujah Brother!" Thank you Denver; thank you *Heart of America!* ♥

Summary of June 2007 Board Meeting

by Rick Foreman/Ron McIntire

TREASURERS REPORT: Ron Fortino

Budget deficit covered by pulling funds from music team, membership, secretary, trailer, and chorus manager's budgets.

MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE VP: Carter Combs

- Due to budget restraints, discussions on new uniforms tabled until further notice.
- Retreat schedule and activities will up Saturday night, June 18.
- Send off at Doubletree Hotel is set for Thursday, June 28, 2007.
- Concert in the Park is set for July 22, 2007.

PROGRAM VP: Carl Turlin

- *HOA* sponsored Golf Tournament as fund raiser, Monday, September 10, 2007.
- Annual *HOA* picnic planned, date to be determined.

OLD BUSINESS:

HOA will provide T-shirts for competition chorus members in Denver. ♥



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



DEXTER

TEN YEARS AGO: AUGUST, 1997:

I don't remember whether *Harmonotes* was published for July, August and September of 1997. In any event, I don't have copies of those issues if they do exist. The reason for the gap is that our editor, who had put out our chapter bulletin for 11-1/2 years, 139 consecutive issues, had to resign because of **Joyce's** deteriorating health. I must admit that I was having my own health problems at the same time. So we were without a bulletin for those three months—until a fellow named **Anderson** took over, and everything improved from that point on. What a happy day that was.

TWENTY YEARS AGO: AUGUST, 1987

The "Heart of America" chorus finished in 13th place in the chorus competition at the 1997 international convention at Hartford, Connecticut. A change of chorus contest format was tried for the first time—and as far as I remember, the last time—at this convention. The 16 competing choruses sang in a semifinal segment on Friday evening of the convention week. The top six choruses then sang again in the chorus finals—along with the quartet finals—on Saturday evening.

There must have been some degree of dissatisfaction among the convention goers. For example, I heard some people complain that there was nothing to do all day Saturday --- normally a busy day at a contest --- until the chorus and quartet finals at night. I remember sitting with Joyce all afternoon in a snack bar somewhere in the Civic Union with Bob Godfrey, brother of Arthur Godfrey (I know, many of you youngsters don't know who Arthur

Godfrey was. Ask one of the old timers.) and his entourage. There wasn't much else to do, and Bob, who was a member of the Kitchener, Ontario, chapter was quite an interesting character. I still have the shirt he gave me. We were in the lobby of his hotel, and he dragged me into the men's room and made me pull off my jacket and put the gift on over my shirt and tie.

BTW, the gold trophy went to the "West Town Chorus," of Lombard, Illinois, directed by Greg Lyne.

Oh, yes, *Harmonotes* finished in third place in the bulletin competition and went on to win all the chips the following year.

FORTY YEARS AGO: AUGUST, 1967

Editor **Don Thorne** tells how his quartet, "The Missouri Pewkes," visited the Honolulu Chapter during their recent trip to Hawaii and finished in runner-up position behind a quartet called the "Alahoa Foaa" (at least that's how Don spelled it). The meeting was held in the beautiful Hawaiian Village Hotel. Says Don, "The competition was terrific, 10 quartets doing their stuff, and judged by five impartial and dedicated men who nearly came to fisticuffs because of the closeness of the first and second place quartets. However, pull and influence and possibly a slightly greased palm influenced them to place the winners as they did. We know we were the best because our wives told us so."

The member of the "Pewkes" (darn, **Bill Wall** told me once what that word meant, but I can't remember what he called it. Looked it up in my brand new College Dictionary, but couldn't find it) were **Bill Wall** (lead), **Ed Eichman** (bari), **Joe Costigan** (bass) and **Don Thorne** himself (tenor). ♥

Quadrio Buckeye Bound!

by Grant Hunget

Matt, Rob and I went to Denver July 7th for rehearsal at **Michael's** new home in Castle Rock, CO. (Well okay, we were already there for International). Our families joined us and we wound up having a BBQ and some beverages too. Love it when that happens. On July 14 we did the same thing at Matt's house. Hey, this long-distance quartet thing is working just fine!

We will be competing as one of about 12 quartets (6 mens, 6 womens) in the "Standard" Quartet Contest at the Buckeye Invitational, August 16-18. It will be a 3-round elimination format on Friday and Saturday, so it should be a good time! If you want to come out and hear us, fantastic! If not us, then come hear *Vocal Spectrum*, *Max Q*, *Spotlight* (*Sweet Adeline Queens*), and a few other good groups who'll be on hand. Hope to report good things next month with the outcome! ♥

There'll Be Some Changes Made

by Carter Combs



Yes, sir, change is comin.' Lot's of it. And to tell you the truth, it's pretty exciting!

Yes, I know change can be challenging. Ask me about my current project at work — two-plus years, and counting.

I'll explain to you in great detail just how frustrating change can be. But, at the same time, I'm stretching, spreading my wings, learning new skills, taking on greater responsibilities. And the rewards for me and Helzbergs are going to be impressive.

Now HOA has some changes coming our way, and the question is: what are we going to do with 'em? My advice? Grab change by the horns and plunge ahead for a thrilling ride!

First up: a new director. After over two decades of dedicated service, **Jim** (and **Joann!**) look forward to enjoying a richly deserved retirement. And so, we have a Director Search Committee forming, and the word is going out both near and far that HOA is seeking a new leader. Will it be someone from the KC area, or from further afield? It is certainly too soon to know. I'll let you in on a little secret though...when we sent word out on the Harmonet, we received our first resume less than 12 hours later! There is great interest out there in our little ol' chapter.

Next up: a new chorus. I don't know all the details about this yet, but what I have heard so far is mighty impressive. Some of our own have seen a need for a different kind of barbershop chorus in KC, and they are stepping up to make it happen. Something a little edgier, a little more aggressive, that may just have a stronger appeal to some of our younger fans. A MID-WESTminster Chorus, if you will. Well, maybe not quite as young! And the guys I've spoken with have made it clear that this chorus is in addition to, not instead of HOA. I admire anyone with the energy and tenacity to tackle two choruses. A group like this has the potential to raise much-lacking awareness of barbershop in the KC area. What a great opportunity to welcome and mentor some new young talent into our local barbershop community!

So, what else is new? That's easy—'most everything! We have new music coming down the pike, some arranged "in-house" by our own **Bruce Wenner**. We return to our "new" annual show venue in the spring. And of course we will all have to get used to saying "Nashville" instead of "Keno-sha."

With great change comes great opportunity, and those who take advantage are richly rewarded. Personally, I'm looking forward to some great things in HOA's future. ♥

Music In The Park 2007

by Vince Perry, Chorus Manager, Photos courtesy of Ron McIntire



Great performance, guys! Extra thanks to *Tone-Henge* for doing a double quartet slot in *Command Performance's* absence. (Hope you are feeling better today, **Carter**.)

And thanks to *Raisin' The Bar* for their two songs. You guys get better every time I hear you. And a little side note that only I viewed: it was pretty cool to see **John Fortino** (**Jonathan's** dad) doing last-minute coaching of the quartet. And what exactly was he stressing the kids do? Sing it high with forward placement through the o-vowel. The kids sang the tag again and John said "that was much better." Jonathan said "it rang that time!"

Also many thanks to **Dick Korek** for coordinating our efforts. It was good to see Dick in uniform and unless my eyes were playing tricks on me I'm sure I could see a hint of envy on his proud face as he watched our performance from the first row.

And how about **Jerry Garrard's** HOA directing debut? Great job Mister Assistant Director! (An interesting side note is that Music In the Park was also where Associate Director **Mike Neff** debuted his directing career with HOA a few years ago.)

Thank you also to **Brian Seydlitz** for hauling the risers and to our Operations VP **Chuck Ames** for coordinating their set-up and knockdown. **Doug Brott** and **Kent Miller** provided a pretty keen HOA Information table complete with CD sales and Four Person Scramble Golf Flyers.

Finally the weather was great! The cicada's were, well, silent for some reason. It was also pretty cool that people seemed to mill around more after the concert this year. I had one couple thank me as they inched down the sidewalk toward the street; the fellow said "we've been to all your concerts here and I can tell you, you guys are really getting good!" So there you go HOA!

Many thanks to all the 60-plus guys that made this year's MITP a great success! ♥





Xtra Mile Award Winner!



Mike Schumacher

Above: HOA President **Tony Strub** presents **Mike Schumacher** with the June 2007 Xtra Mile award, which reads:

For your commitment, hard work and willingness to provide extra choreography assistance to HOA as we prepare for the 2007 International contest in Denver, CO. ♥

Barbershoppers of the Month!



Mike Louque

Above: HOA President **Tony Strub** presents **Mike Louque** with the May, 2007 BOTM award, which reads:

In grateful appreciation for your hard work, inspiration and infinite patience creating and teaching HOA new choreography for the 2007 International contest in Denver, CO. ♥



A TIP OF THE HAT!

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

Hats Off to the 12 guys: **Mike Schumacher, Chuck Ames, Tony Strub, Rich Foreman** and his brother from Hawaii, **Kevin Tritsch, John Starcke, Brian Seydlitz, Stew Grosser, Steve Starr, Charles Ramirez, Doug Brott** and **Tom Forsythe** for putting up the risers at the Music In The Park performance, July 22,...and to the two ladies: **Cindy Miller** and **Kathleen Murphy**, who sold HOA CDs. ♥

OUR HEARTFELT SYMPATHY GOES OUT TO HOA EDITOR EMERITUS WADE DEXTER, IN THE PASSING OF HIS BELOVED WIFE, JOYCE.

THIS PAST JUNE THE COUPLE CELEBRATED THEIR 65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.



Mike Loque & Mike Neff

Above: HOA President **Tony Strub** presents **Mike Neff** with the May, 2007 BOTM award, which reads:

In grateful appreciation for your hard work, inspiration and infinite patience creating and teaching HOA new choreography for the 2007 International contest in Denver, CO. ♥



Harmonotes: Moving in the Right Direction!

by Todd Anderson, *Harmonotes* Editor

A year ago we celebrated our chapter bulletin reaching third place in the International bulletin category! While I admittedly was shooting [again] for first this year, I was ecstatic that we are at least still moving UP in the bulletin rankings!

And just as in 2006, I must admit that our second-place finish was due to many who provide amazing input and encouragement.

Ron McIntire - outstanding photos and unique article ideas for me to work with.

Don Fuson - Another great photo source and someone who has connections and great ideas.

Jim Bagby - articles by the truckload and a keen eye for my grammatical errors.

Wade Dexter - He's won first before as *Harmonotes* editor, so I lean on him for sage wisdom. Each month he provides us with a great "Look At The Past" article and keen insight to what the judges want.

Dick Irwin - Dick provides the sweat equity that's needed to get the bulletin ready for delivery to the post office. An integral part of the whole process, without Dick, there's no bulletin to read each month!

Then there's the DOZENS of members who provide articles on a consistent basis. It's those articles and the work of the people I just mentioned, that has the publication scoring so well.

I'm so proud that HOA has received this honor and pledge to work harder... to inch us up to the summit in 2008. However, without YOU—all of you—we won't have a shot. Sure, I can develop layouts and throw some clip art here and there. But your passionate input about the life of our chapter is the high octane that will raise us to the top.

I have not seen this year's first-place winner—Colby, Kansas. I tip my pointed hat to them and say "well done!" However, I'm eager to emulate their success. So I'll sift through any samples I can get of their publication, then go to work.

Thanks again for allowing me the honor of living vicariously through this position. Here's to our chapter's communication tool! Second best...*for NOW!* ♥



ANDERSON

HOA Friends,

Please let me add my congratulations for a wonderful performance in Denver. I hated not being up there with you, but, in a way the treat was mine to get to see it. "Time After Time" was one of the best songs sung by anyone all week, and "Runnin' Wild" was outstanding. Clearly there was improvement in technique and stage presence from previous years, so whatever you were doing, it worked.

Let me also quickly thank **Vince Perry** for helping me be there with you. Without his help, I couldn't have tagged along with you so easily and experienced this event like I did.

Ever since I visited HOA the first night in 2002 I've felt like a member of a large family, and this feeling hasn't let up one bit. And this was reinforced even further when I got to sing with you at the Saturday sing-out. In fact, I recommend you consider renaming that Saturday sing-out the "HOA Alumni Sing-Out," to reflect how much of a family event that is each year.

Again, thanks for another great set of memories, and I'll be seeing you around...

Niel (Johnson)



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:

Todd Anderson

2909 West Trevor Trail • Ozark, MO 65721-8438
(417) 581-2961 • andersondesign@centurytel.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 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



- Sept. 10** HOA Golf tournament
- Sept. 22** Leavenworth show
- Sept. 23** Annual Chapter Picnic @ Lake Quivira
3pm - 9pm
- Oct. 4** HOA Extra rehearsal
- Oct. 13** Olathe Chili Supper
- Oct. 19-21** CSD Fall Convention, Kansas City

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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