

HARMONOTES



Kansas City, Missouri's Heart of America Chorus

CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY®

VOLUME 08 - ISSUE 11 - DECEMBER 2008

Direct from the Front

by David Krause



KRAUSE

As I write this, the HOA chorus is making great progress in preparation for the Holiday Harmony show. Thanks to all for all of their hard work. I'm sure it will be a successful and fun event.

Your music team is working to continue to provide opportunities for education and growth. We have several coaching sessions in the works for the coming months and hope to make some solid efforts to gain membership for our chapter.

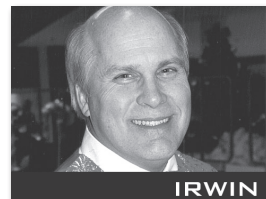


One of our main goals in the past year has been to encourage each member to work to enhance his vocal skills and musicality. A good place to start would be through the use of the tools on our website, such as the vocal exercises provided by **Darin Drown**. Actually vocalizing a few times a week with concerted effort at improvement should help us all enjoy this hobby even more.

I'll close by wishing you all a restful and enjoyable holiday season and thanking you for the fun I've experienced as your director this past year. ♥

Grateful For The Help

by Dick Irwin



IRWIN

It occurred to me that I'm about to start my tenth year as distribution manager for *Harmonotes*. Ten years is quite a while to do one job. But, it's a job that I don't mind doing and it only takes a couple of hours each month. Of course, sometimes those couple of hours don't fall very conveniently within my personal schedule. When I'm pressed for time, I sometimes receive assistance from the one person who makes barbershopping possible in my life, my wife **Sheli**. She will pitch in and stick labels on *Harmonotes* copies and frequently has helped me to get them to the Business Mail Entry Unit at the bulk mail center to get them in the mail. She was an exceptional help following my heart surgery in 2007.

I guess what I'm trying to say is, *Thank You, Sheli*. On behalf of a grateful husband and a couple of hundred people who look forward to having their *Harmonotes* arrive each month, thank you for your help. ♥

(Ed: Thanks, Dick, for alerting us to Sheli's assistance. Then again, we always knew barbershop wives are simply the best! Both Dick and Sheli are great servants and appreciated greatly by HOA.)

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HARMONOTES

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Heart of America Chorus

Chapter meets at 7 p.m. each Tuesday night, at:
St. Peter's United Church of Christ
110th & Holmes · Kansas City, Mo. 64131

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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!

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HOA Website: www.hoachorus.com

Web Address: webstaff@hoachorus.com

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A Change in Perspective by Carl Turlin



In the last issue, I described my feelings after my quartet, *Homeward Bound*, came in last place in the Cedar Rapids quartet contest. If you don't recall, I was pretty down in the dumps about the results, especially considering all the preparations that we made.

I realize that lots of guys sing in quartets: some sing together just for the fun and camaraderie; some perform in their community; some do that and also get into the competition. In competition, quartets sing on stage and consequently get some numbers from the judges that describe how the judges evaluated them in the three categories of Music, Singing, and Presentation.

Bearing in mind that these are my own thoughts and not those of my quartet members, or anybody else that quartets, with their own unique experience of that, I'm beginning to see my very short experience as a quarteter as a window and a mirror. First, the window of this experience allows me to see that the really good quartets are guys who not only know the words and music of some songs and can sing them in the same rhythm but, also, that they have mastered certain techniques that they can repeat consistently under the stage lights and not just in front of a familiar, comfortable audience.



Homeward Bound

Mark Yeokum, Dee Clark, Carl Turlin, Don Fuson

As a mirror, in examining our performance and the feedback from the judges, I've certainly got a way to go to master these techniques, and then use them to tell a story so musically that the audience really appreciates and is touched by

our sound. As *Homeward Bound* continues to sing and critique our sound, we get a little better at each rehearsal. Sometimes, we make a quantum leap, when each of us matches our sound on a key phrase and we hear it ring! Sometimes, we have a rehearsal when it just doesn't go well and we know it, so we work on it independently before our next get-together. I've decided that that's how I'm going to look at our experience at Cedar Rapids. For very correctable reasons, it did not go well. But, we CAN sing better and we CAN perform better. We can learn how to do those things as part of our art. Our quartet continues to meet at least weekly, while we continue to practice on our own at home. Don't know if we'll join in the competition this Spring or Fall but, whether we do or not, we learned from the Cedar Rapids experience and we're going to sing better because of it, whether it's at a gig in our community or back on stage in front of the judges! ♥

Caroling Caravan III

by Mike Mathieu and Bob Burdick

Our Caroling Caravan III will be here before we know it. Dec. 13 is the day, unfortunately only one week after our Harmony Spectacular, but the way the calendar fell this year, we could see no way around that. We hope all of you regulars, and all of you "irregulars" will plan on joining us for another fun-filled and rewarding day.

Last year we had our most productive day ever for Bellringing, and we raised over \$6,200. That makes it a greater challenge for this year, but I'm sure with our great Heart of America Spirit, we'll pull it off. This has been a most unusual year to say the least, but when the going gets tough, the tough get going!

We'll start as usual at the Doubletree Hotel, be there ready to sing at 9:30 AM sharp. Uniform will be white shirt, black pants, black shoes and socks, black belt, red vest with matching tie, and the biggest smile and the brightest face you have ever brought to this event. Remember that the Salvation Army gives out their "Grand Award" for any group that raises \$1,000 or more than the previous year. We might as well win another of those gorgeous crystal awards! We'll have a drawing for that award, one ticket in the kitty for each performance that you attend. Any member that makes them all, their ticket total doubles.

Performances in their order of appearance will be the Atriums, Forum, Kingswood, Town Village, Grand Court, and Silvercrest. Atrium kicks it off at 10:45, Forum at 11:45, we'll relax and lunch until 1:00 at the Town Village, then 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00 at the last three stops. We will again have a school bus, graciously paid for at the fine folks at Dunn Construction.

As always, if you can't make all the performances, please join us for as many as you can. If you haven't been too regular in your singing with us of late, please do not hesitate to come along and join in when you can. We

always sing some of the old chestnut Christmas Carols out of the Christmas books, and everyone knows those songs. Just join us at our rehearsal on December 9 and we'll get you up to speed on the Christmas songs. If you don't have the exact uniform, we'll play like horseshoes, close is good enough!

Quartets, please see if you can't arrange your schedules to join us for a portion of the day. As of this writing we have no quartets, and we are definitely still a quartet singing Society. The folks in the retirement homes always look forward to hearing two or three quartets for added entertainment value. If you need someone to help twist an arm or two in your quartet, please see me, Bob Burdick, or Vince Perry, three of the best "arm-twisters" I know.

We will have information sheets the two meetings prior to the engagement with complete details. If you know of anyone who regularly contributes to the Salvation Army but can't attend any of our performances that day, ask them to give you their check. Ask them to put it in a plain white envelope marked "Salvation Army/Heart of America Chorus."

If anyone would consider hosting a "Post Caroling Caravan Party" please let me know and we will add it to our information sheets. Thanks for all your help as we shoot for another banner year in our fund-raising efforts the Heart of America Chorus Favorite Charity! ♥



Heartbeats'



Happening

by Linda Schumacher

Attention all female supporters of HOA! Plan to join us to ring in your holidays on Dec. 9 at HOA's rehearsal location, St. Peters United Church of Christ. We will begin at 7 p.m. The evening will combine meeting, eating and an exchange game with no cheating. Our meeting will include reviewing proposed changes to our By-Laws as well as electing officers for next year. We'll be eating cookies brought by everyone to share. And the cheating (oops, I mean, no cheating) will be during our holiday decoration/ornament exchange.

You don't have to already be an "official member" of the *Heartbeats*. If you are a wife, significant other, friend, daughter, granddaughter, niece (you get the idea) of an HOA member, please plan to attend and get acquainted with other ladies who are connected with the *Heart of America* chorus. The more the merrier! If you want to participate in the cookie exchange, bring 2 dozen cookies. (Bring a few extra to be eaten that night.) If you want to play the exchange "game", bring a holiday ornament or decoration with a value of no more than \$10.

This will conclude our year of supporting the activities of the HOA chorus and promoting fun and fellowship among the women connected with them. Many thanks to those of you who have helped with various activities throughout the year including: providing lunch at the spring annual show; helping with international competition send off this summer; providing snacks at international competition; providing refreshments for the send off and making arrangements for dinner at district competition; and, always being willing to help in any way that arises.

It has been a joy to be *Heartbeats* president this year! ♥



2008 Has Flown By

by Doug Brott, Chapter President



BROTT

As I write this article, it is one week before Thanksgiving. I can't believe the year has gone by so fast. Looking back on the events of the year, the members of *HOA* have accomplished so much in so little time. We have a new chorus director. **David Krause** is working hard moving us all in the direction we need to go to achieve what we all want to achieve, being better singers and performers. We have had numerous performances (I count seven with the Holiday Harmony Spectacular and the Caroling Caravan yet to go). We competed at International and the CSD Fall Contest. Singing Valentines once again made hundreds of people very happy and donated \$1,600 to Children's Mercy Hospital. We were able to donate over \$2,400 to the Harmony Foundation and CSD Youth in Harmony. I hope you agree we have accomplished so much.

Can we do more? *YOU BETCHA!*

Our Music Team has already pledged, as part of our quest for excellence, to concentrate on and help our membership team find more members. More men of all ages and backgrounds that love to sing and perform and pledge to improve. Can you help with that? We need to promote *HOA*. More performances. More opportunities to show the public who we are and what we can do. As **Mike Schumacher** says "Barbershop is the best kept secret out there." Let's blow this secret wide open! Can you help with that? Our performances and Singing Valentines are major fund-raisers for our chapter. We need to sell out every performance and sell hundreds more Singing Valentines. Can you help with that? I could go on but I bet you get the picture. You have many opportunities to help *HOA* achieve goals. Yes, singing always comes first but we have so much else to do and we need everyone to participate. Please volunteer to help. And if you are asked, please say YES if you can.

Happy Holidays to you All.

"There'll Be Some Changes Made" by Carter Combs



COMBS

There has been a positive plethora of Music Team meetings and email exchanges during the last several weeks. Seems everyone on the team has a new energy, a renewed resolve to bring *HOA* up to an "A-level-all-the-time" chorus. Not just squeak into the 80s for a couple of contest songs, but to honestly live in the 80s in every performance, every song, every chord.

Priority 1 is to help every chorus member to perform at his best, both individually and corporately. Part of this plan is to bring in more of the best coaches available, to help us work together as a cohesive unit. Another piece of this pie is to provide additional one-on-one instruction in all areas of performance: vocal, visual, movement, story-telling, etc. This could include everything from voice lessons to acting classes! We're still working on the specifics, but don't be surprised if we request you bring dancing shoes to rehearsal.

The other Priority 1 is to actively implement plans to increase our membership. To do this, all of the directors and section leaders have committed to join and actively participate in the Membership team. We will work in concert with **John Erwine** to recruit and retain new singers. There are hundreds of guys in church choirs and service clubs all over the metro, just waiting to discover that we exist, and they can't wait to join us.

The final Top Priority is to continue having fun on our road to the 80s. Will we work hard? *Absolutely!* Will we have qualification standards? *You bet!* Will we brow-beat you into submission? *No way!*

That means it is up to each of us, individually, to decide that we are going to improve. The Music Team will do our level best to provide every tool needed. When each of us decides to take full advantage of these tools, THEN there'll be some real changes made! ♥



HOA Financial Corner

By Kent Miller, Financial Committee



MILLER

Finally! At last! They said it would never happen! An article about Gift Annuities!

I'm sure you have been waiting breathlessly for the article about Gift Annuities I have promised for some months.

So, what is a Gift Annuity? It's one of the favorite ways to contribute to a charity, get a tax benefit, and perhaps save some tax on highly appreciated assets.

To create one, a giver agrees to donate cash, stock, or other assets to a charity. There is no maximum limit to how much you may donate, but most Gift Annuities have a \$5,000 minimum. In return, the donor receives a fixed payment, called an annuity, for life. The donor receives an immediate charitable tax deduction and the payments are partially tax-free.

The rate of return is a fixed rate based upon your age – the older the donor, the higher the annuity payment the donor can lock in: the American Council on Gift Annuities suggests yearly annuity payments that range from 5.3 percent of the donation at age 50 to 11.3 percent at age 90 and over. Most charities follow the council's schedule of uniform gift annuity rates.

Ordinarily, the rates are somewhat less than a commercial annuity (one you would purchase directly from a life insurance company) although that is mitigated by the tax benefits. In our very low current interest rate environment, however, the rates can be very competitive.

This is a very popular way to support your favorite charities, and we certainly hope that the HOA is included on your short list. You can learn more about Gift Annuities and/or establish one with HOA as the recipient through our association with the Truman Heartland Community Foundation. In fact, THCF can help you with all of your charitable goals. You may contact them directly by calling **Paul Thompson**, President, at 816-836-8189, or e-mail me at **kmiller268@aol.com** and I will put you in touch with them. ♥



Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter



PORTER

Note that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. One fourth of the proceeds is designated to Harmony Foundation and one fourth will be given to the Central States District to help promote their programs to support and encourage Young Men in Harmony and other youth programs.

The fiscal year ended with the drawing November 4th, 47 drawings in the year.

The total collected for Harmony Foundation was \$2,677.

The total for the previous year was \$2,290.

The total in our best year (2006) was \$4,500.

Two drawings so far in the new fiscal year have netted \$424 for Harmony Foundation.

The current jackpot is still unclaimed, and is at a near record level, over \$2,000! ♥



- December 7 **Jim Davis**
- December 9 **Ron Fortino**
- December 10 **John Warrior**
- December 16 **Val Putzier**
- December 17 **Steve Duncan**
- December 24 **Darrell McCune**
- December 25 **Zach Atwell**
- December 28 **Mike Louque**
- December 30 **Grant Hunget**



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



DEXTER

TEN YEARS AGO: DECEMBER, 1998

Does anybody recall the “Quartet Follies” shows that our chapter used to put together? The idea was that by using only quartets on the show, the guys who weren’t in any of the quartets and would have had to perform with the chorus if it was on the program could themselves sit back and enjoy a good variety of foursomes without having to worry about changing uniforms, waiting backstage and not being able to see and hear the quartets on the program.

So I decided to contact **Dale Neuman**, whom I remembered had been involved closely in many, if not all, of the quartets-only shows. As you might expect, Dale responded quickly and thoroughly, and the result is an unusually interesting “Ten Years Ago” segment.

Dale says, “We had tried to hold a ‘Quartet Follies’ show about once every four or five years, as a money maker! So that means they started back in the mid-1980s, and the first show (featured), as I recall, *Four Under Par* and the *Rural Route Four*. Another show had the *Merry Mugs* and *Chordiac Arrest*, and yet another had the **Bob Gall-Dan Henry-Manley Vance-and-Jim Bagby** quartet.” (Apparently this one had a lot of talent but no name!)

Dale adds the following paragraphs: “In what proved to be the last in our ‘Quartet Follies’ series of comedy quartet shows at the Folly theatre in downtown Kansas City, ‘Quartet Follies IV’ took place on September 12, 1998. It featured four quartets: ‘4’s Company’ (then the current Region 7 Sweet Adeline champs); *Most Happy Fellows* (1977 International champs); *Expanded Sound* (200 pounds of fun from St.Louis); and *Seattle Sound* (1997 ; semifinalists).

“The *Most Happy Fellows* did their ‘Wizard of Oz’ set, and the others did what they all did well—made everyone laugh with abandon. We had some dressing room issues with so many quartets (some with fairly large singers and one with four women). And we got a price break from the Folly when the hot water heater didn’t work, and the *Most Happy Fellows* had to take cold water showers to remove the body paint that was part of their costumes. Without that extra \$500 discount, we would have been even more in the red on this event, as ticket sales fell far short of expectations.”

TWENTY YEARS AGO: DECEMBER, 1988

I’m sure there aren’t many guys in the chapter who remember **Pete Peterson**, but I’m equally certain that the memory of his contribution to the administration of our chapter, the Central States District, and the Barbershop Harmony Society endures in the memories of those who knew him. Pete passed away at the age of 76 on October 25, 1988, and our *Harmonotes* editor allotted a page and a half to the eulogy prepared by **Jim Bagby** and delivered by Chapter President **Rod Rule** during the memorial service for Pete.

To quote from Jim’s eulogy, “Pete Peterson...joined the Kansas City chapter 38 years ago because of the singing and the fellowship. But he soon found an even stronger attraction—the need for people who had a talent for administration while everyone else was doing the singing.” I joined the chapter in 1982, and I can’t remember ever seeing or hearing Pete sing as a member of the chorus or a quartet. Indeed, looking at the picture we included with Jim’s eulogy, I can’t remember whether I ever saw Pete smile!

Jim tells that Pete soon became the chapter secretary and the chapter treasurer and moved on up the line to chapter president in 1958. He was instrumental in the formation of the Central States District and in 1961, became the CSD president and then the district’s International board member.

Says Jim, “Although Pete was effective as an officer, he will be remembered even longer for his service to the contest and judging program...As district contest and judging chairman, or as chairman of a judging panel, Pete had the job of announcing the winners or qualifiers at the end of each contest session. He was often kidded about his tendency to get carried away when he got in front of a microphone while the contestants were sweating out the results. But every member of the judging panel who ever served under Pete will attest to his efficiency and attention to detail.”

Jim continues, “Pete received virtually every honor our chapter and the (CSD) can bestow and also earned his Senior International Judging Certificate. He was “Barbershopper of the Year” at the chapter and district levels, won the “Sam Cohen Award” in 1971, and the district “Award of Merit” in 1985.

And Jim tells how Pete considered that one of his proudest moments came in 1978 when he got to announce that the “Heart of America Chorus,” after years and years of trying, had finally won the CSD championship! As Jim tells it, “That meant our first trip to international competition, which was the following July in Minneapolis. And we well remember who returned to the chapter to handle all the tickets, housing and logistics for that trip—Pete Peterson!”

FORTY YEARS AGO: DECEMBER, 1968

Editor **Don Thorne** doesn’t have much stuff in his December 1968 edition of *Harmonotes*, although he does include his “swan song” — or perhaps his “swan editorial” — in which he announces his year-end resignation as editor of the HOA chapter bulletin. Except for the period from January 1964 until July of 1966 (during which **Warren Edmonds** took over the job), he reminds his readers that he’s been the editor since September of 1960. Don announces that **David Ritz** would take over the job on the first of January, 1969. ♥





Third Annual Golf Tourney Slated for May 2

by Kent Miller

ATTENTION ALL GOLFERS and duffers and hackers, and wives, husbands, barbershoppers, Sweet Adelines, family and friends - *did I miss anyone?*

HOA is having its third Annual fund raising golf tournament tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2009 at Falcon Lakes Golf Course. The cost will be \$90 to \$95 per person, which will include green fees, riding carts, balls for the driving range, a burger buffet, and likely some barbershop singing. You will have the chance to win hole prizes, door prizes and to participate in a fabulous raffle.

We have room for 36 foursomes and the tournament is open to all golfers (not just barbershoppers). If you only play in one golf scramble next year, **THIS IS THE ONE!** We had over \$1,500 in prizes last year including a \$50 gift certificate to Wal-Mart, dinner for two at Cracker Barrel, golf balls, golf gloves, and **MANY, MANY, MORE.**

We are giving you this advanced notice even though some of the details have not been finalized so you can mark your calendars now and start inviting people to play. The sign up information will be on our website at www.hoachorus.com in a few weeks, but if you would like to make a reservation early, send an e-mail to me at kmiller268@aol.com. Also let me know if you would like to support the *Heart of America Chorus* by becoming a Hole Sponsor and/or if you would like to make donations for prizes.

This is a very important fund-raising project for our organization and we hope everyone will participate by soliciting for sponsors, prizes, and players. ♥

Into Every Life ...

by Ol' Bruce



WENNER

You know those great *Tone-Henge* singout experiences we talk about all the time? Well, this wasn't one of them. It started with the preparations. They were sure they wanted a 40-minute program. We told them that was too long to hold

an audience, but they were sure 40 minutes was what they wanted, so we gave it a try. Sounded even less viable when we saw the setup in the room. The room is shaped like a rectangle, about 30 feet by 100, and we were to sing from the middle of one of the longer sides. Think about how you can engage the left 1/3 and the right 1/3 of the audience – *get the picture?*

We're announced with a five second intro – the intro that we had carefully crafted and delivered to them had gotten lost somehow. OK – we'll come on and sock it right to 'em. Or – maybe not. There was no floor mike set up. After walking on and greeting the crowd, we had to turn our backs on them and sort through the jumble of equipment to piece together an ersatz floor mike. Kind of a slow start to the show, but we got it rolling. By the end of our second number we were realizing that the sound system wasn't doing much for the people who weren't close to us. Some of the outlying patrons said they could hear our singing, but not our gags. Mull that one over – remember, this is *Tone-Henge* – worst-case scenario. Turns out the sound system is getting to no one but us – the speaker is directly behind us. Not that much is coming out anyway – the mike has a pickup range of approximately 1-1/2 centimeters.

So here we are, in this setting, trying to hold an audience for 40 minutes with *Tone-Henge*-quality singing and gags that the audience can't hear. Taking us toward the final part of the show, in which we had scheduled a Christmas sing-along requested by the sponsors, and led by their program director. This individual appeared to be well prepared – she had printed up word sheets for the Christmas songs and handed them out, and she had an instrumental backup ready to roll. The one problem was that she hadn't really listened to the backup before the show. When she started it up it turned out to be in racehorse tempo – for a room full of senior citizens – but that's OK because it was coming out of the same sound system, so they couldn't hear it anyway. We wound up doing the singing – pretty much ALL of the singing. The audience was too exhausted to do much of it.



Well, at least we got paid. ♥

Dennis J. Taylor (1925-2008)

by Ron McIntire



His name was Dennis and his family called him “Junior,” but he was known to his friends in the Kansas City Chapter as “Denny.” He was a strong believer in his family and friends and often gave them encouragement with “Atta boy” He was a man who seemed to never go anywhere without a smile.

Dennis Taylor was born in a log cabin in Cuba, MO, graduated from high school in Morganville, KS and served a four-year hitch in the US Army Air Corp during WWII. His love of flying served him well and he retired after 39 years flying commercial aircraft for TWA.

He joined the Kansas City Missouri Chapter in 1948 and over the years served in several chapter offices including president in 1964. He sang in at least three quartets including *Innerurbans*, *Crosstowners* and *CrackerJacks* before teaming up with long time friends **Bob Gall**, **Frank Leone** and **Dan Bowser** in 1960 to sing tenor in the original *Merry Mugs*. He was forced to retire from the quartet in 1966 when a work promotion and his flying schedule interfered with his singing. Denny sang less in the following years, but Barbershop harmony continued to be an integral part of his life. He visited the chapter from time to time and though his memory was not as sharp as it used to be, his love of Barbershop never left him.

He made many friends in his 60 years as a barbershopper and member of *HOA*, and to a man they would agree that he added brightness and fun wherever he went.

Dennis Taylor, friend, quartet man and barbershopper, died November 17, at the age of 82 from complications of Alzheimer's. 23 members of the Kansas City Chapter came together to sing at the 1 p.m. memorial service, Nov. 20, at the First Presbyterian Church of Independence, MO. They included:

New Harmony Handful

Jim Bagby - Director

Jim Davis

Brad Dawdy

John Erwine

Don Fuson

Jon Gathright

Bob Howard

Dick Krueger

Roy Manade

Mike O'Dell

Marty Oldehoeft

8 Barry Sanders

Keith Schweer

Tony Strubb

HOA Chorus

David Krause - Director

Dan Henry Bowser

Mike Mathieu

Kent McClean

Ron McIntire

Matt Moore

Vince Perry

Jim Porter

Bruce Wenner

A Celebration of Life: Dennis Taylor

by Jim Porter

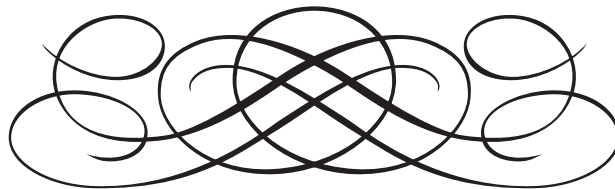
I was among the 23 chapter members who attended and sang at the Celebration of Life for **Dennis Taylor**, November 20.

The long-timers among us remember Dennis, but I have not been around long enough to have had that privilege. For an hour on the Thursday before Thanksgiving, I had the chance to know about him, laugh and celebrate with his family, and praise God for his life. I trust there will come a day when I'll have the privilege of meeting him again, in Heaven.

The church, a grand old edifice complete with stained glass windows just steps from the Truman museums in downtown Independence, was comfortably full for the memorial service—probably 300 or so. Ironically, the Presbyterian Church is just down the street from the Baptist Church where the funeral for **Bob Gall**, the bass who sang with Dennis in the *Merry Mugs*, was held.

Dennis came from a large family (7th of 10 children) and had several children and grandchildren of his own. This was not a time of grieving, it was a time of celebration of a life lived to the fullest, and full of love for and by family members and friends. His son **Mitchell** offered the eulogy, an upbeat presentation lasting a half hour that had the audience laughing and smiling throughout. He covered Dennis' life story from his birth in a log cabin in Cuba, MO, in 1925, through his early years when he served in the armed forces and fell in love with flying, his career with TWA where he met, fell in love with, and married the boss's secretary, his career as a pilot of the big jets, to his present passage to Heaven, where all believed was his destination. One of the laughs came when Mitchell noted the first date between his father and mother was a barbershop show in Joplin, MO, from which they did not return home until 6 AM. He noted his dad was hearing the music of heaven, and wondered if it might be barbershop, but was not all that sure!

It is always an honor and a privilege to be invited to sing and be a part of a service like this. ♥



New Harmony Handful Promotes HOA

by Tony Strub



New Harmony Handful members, from left to right, Front row - Tony Strub, Don Fuson, Bob Howard, Jim Bagby, Keith Schweer, Rich Huyck; Second row: Roy Manade, Marty Oldehoeft, Mike O'Dell, David Hokanson, John Erwine, Dick Krueger, Jon Gathright; Back row: Brad Dawdy, Ron Abel, Barry Sanders. Not pictured: Jim Davis and Lyle Wyly. Photo courtesy of Bob Howard.

Several past presidents and chapter officers in recent years have suggested that we take advantage of the talent and energy of our *HOA* members who are retired and others who have discretionary time in order to promote barbershop music and our *HOA* chorus to the greater Kansas community. **Jim Bagby**, after his retirement as *HOA* director and a short leave of absence from chorus activity, got the ball rolling in early April of '08 with an organizational meeting of 15 to 20 *HOA* members at his home. In addition to some singing for fun, our group discussed what we wanted to do, why we wanted to do it and how we were going to proceed.

Although our group has yet to adopt a formal mission, we all agreed that our main objective was to serve and promote *HOA* and have fun doing it. We believe that because of our wide range of availability to perform, we will be able to take advantage of opportunities that might be closed to the full chorus. We feel that our work can benefit our membership needs as well as promote business, civic and public support for our chapter. We also agreed that our group should be self sustaining. We did not want to use chapter funds to support our activities. The last part of our meeting was devoted to selecting and/or appointing people to responsibilities and taking up a collection to establish an operating fund. **David Hokanson** will take care of the money and arrange places for us to rehearse. **Bob Howard** and **Marty Oldehoeft** are in charge of uniforms. **Mike O'Dell** is our librarian. **Don Fuson** is our tech and communications expert. **Jim Davis** will be our community PR and promotions person. **Tony Strub** is the group contact person to schedule performances. **Jon Gathright**, **Keith Schweer** and **Rich Huyck** make up the music team and **Jim Bagby** will be our director. Our first step before beginning activities was to go to our chapter board of directors and seek their approval. **John Erwine** presented our plans to the board and after questions, answers and in-depth discussion *The New Harmony Handful* was given the go-ahead to start operations.

We developed a small repertoire of religious songs and during the summer we sang at five churches and this fall at the funeral of **Dennis Taylor**. We are currently working to expand and diversify our repertoire which by the way does not include songs from the current repertoire of *HOA*. We are now beginning to look for opportunities in additions to churches to entertain audiences with barbershop music and promote *The Heart of America Chorus*. If you are aware of such opportunities, contact Tony Strub at 816-453-1822 awstrub@msn.com. ♥



Help Put Barbershop On the Map!

taken from *Livewire!*

For the last few weeks chapter and district leaders have been receiving information from Society headquarters about the incredible opportunity we have to put American Harmony in theaters across North America.

The feedback from many of you has been extremely helpful and has allowed the Society and the film's producers refine the marketing and distribution plan to make the impact of this documentary about barbershop harmony an even bigger success. This truly has been a collaborative and we are very grateful for your input.

If you've received previous information that left you with questions or concerns, the new marketing and distribution strategy and the updated FAQ released today will not only address those concerns but will likely create a level of excitement in the world of barbershop not seen in years.

The critical first step in this plan is measuring the participation by our chapters. Please visit www.barbershop.org/americanharmony today. In addition to a link to a brief online survey, this page includes an updated FAQ as well as the marketing and distribution plan from the film's distributor. ♥



Summary of November 2008 Board Meeting

by Rick Foreman/Ron McIntire

TREASURERS REPORT: Harvey Shapiro

Operating Fund – \$11, 791.94
 Restricted Fund – \$ 8,259.32

The budget committee will meet Dec. 6 to work on the 2009 budget. All budget requests must be turned in by then. The committee includes **Doug Brott, Harvey Shapiro, Tony Strubb** and the officers of the board of directors.

MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE VP: Carter Combs

- The music committee is looking for a new direction for the chorus. We are reaching out to local music educators for ideas to and developing a plan for additional vocal instruction for the chorus. The first session will be conducted by **Rebecca Sherburn**, Vocal Professor from UMKC Conservatory of Music.
- At least half of the chorus songs for the Annual Spring show will be new. Learning media will be available for three of new songs before the holiday break. It is critical that chorus members work on the new music during the Christmas break so we can sing the new contest song for **Mike Slamka** at a Saturday January 10, coaching session.
- The May 2009 retreat will most likely be rescheduled or restructured into a series of Tuesday and Saturday coaching sessions. We are hoping to get **Jim Henry** for several Tuesday coaching sessions.

PROGRAM VP: Carl Turlin

Plans and scheduling is underway for the annual picnic, golf tournament, Harmony Explosion, Young Men and Boys Barbershop Night and guest nights.

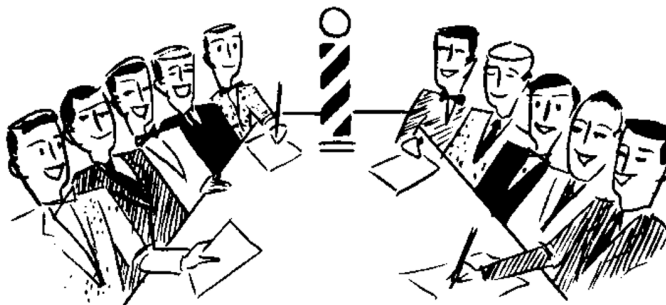
OLD BUSINESS:

- **Chapter Revitalization: Carl Turlin**
 After considerable investigation by the Board, the board has concluded that financial resources are not available to get involved with his program at this time.
- **Change of rehearsal location:**
 The study of moving our rehearsal location continues. No further action at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Harmony Explosion Funding: Tony Strub**
 The board agreed to request \$400.00 from the Youth in Harmony organization , Central States District, to support the Harmony Explosion program in the name of the Board of Directors of the *Kansas City Heart of America Chorus* to help with the Harmony Explosion.

- **Membership Skills/Experience Matrix:**
 A matrix of experience, talent and interests of the chorus members will be developed to help get everyone involved in areas in which they most qualified.
- **Financial Review Committee:**
 Harvey Shapiro has agreed to assemble the financial review committee for the fiscal year 2008.
- **Annual Golf Tournament:**
 The board agreed to recruit non-HOA golfing foursomes for the 2009 golf tournament to increase income. ♥



Look for opportunities to patronize these

Heart of America CHORUS SPONSORS



OCTOBER 2008

Xtra Mile Award



Ron McIntire

Above: *HOA* President **Doug Brott** (center) presents **Marty Oldehoeft** (left) and **Mike Templer** (right) with the October 2008 Xtra Mile award! In grateful recognition for always being on hand to help with the work of loading and unloading the chorus risers from the riser trailer.

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.

A Tip 'O The Hat to the **Jim Bagby** and 13 members of *New Harmony Handful* and the nine members of *HOA* who sang at the Celebration Of Life for **Dennis Taylor**, November 20.

A Tip of the Ole Cranium Cover to the **Mike Schumacher** for his work paring down the choreography for Hanukkah Medley.

Hats Off to **Rich Huyck** for handling show ticket sales for the 2008 Holiday Harmony Spectacular. ♥

REMEMBER!



The Presidents' Helpers Fund could use your help this season!

As you plan your year-end giving, remember that no gift is too small. Thanks!

The Songs We Sing -

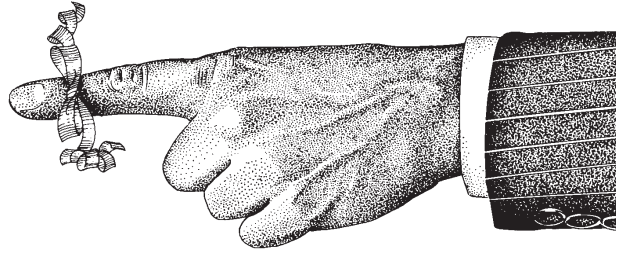
Compiled by Wade Dexter

"Begin the Beguine"

Words and Music by Cole Porter

To get into the proper creative mood for his 1935 Broadway musical, "Jubilee," **Cole Porter** hied himself off on an around-the-world cruise. Many exotic locales furnished the inspiration for some of his creations, most notably the Indonesian island of Kalabahl where a native war dance inspired the theme for "Begin the Beguine," once described by Time magazine as being structured artfully as a classical sonata, the theme elaborated and subtly expanded each time it returns, developed until it finally crests and crashes. ♥

Heart of America Chorus Calendar



Merry Christmas!

- Dec. 6** Holiday Harmony Spectacular, Unity Village Auditorium, Unity Village, MO
- Dec. 13** Salvation Army Caroling Caravan
- Jan. 3** Installation/Awards Banquet @ Overland Park Doubletree
- March 7** Harmony Explosion, Olathe East High School

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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