



CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING  
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE  
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY®

VOLUME 10 - ISSUE 2 - FEBRUARY 2010

## Status Quo? Not Heart of America!

by Kent Miller, Chapter President



The last few years have been a real challenge for *HOA*. I congratulate **Doug Brott** (and **Tony Strub** before him) and the *HOA* Board of Directors, many of whom have returned to the board this year, for dealing with the strife of one of the worst recessions in our history and the financial hardships resulting from that, for finding and hiring a new director in the midst of that recession, and for handling many other significant challenges. You all can be very, very proud of the dedicated leadership in our Chapter.

So, considering all that has happened the way should be paved for a relatively easy year, right? It would have been pretty easy to rest for a while, but I am really proud that our membership is not content to accept the status quo. If it were not enough that we have a huge task in hosting the International Convention in July of 2011 – and I can't say enough about the commitment **Mike Mathieu** and **Bob Burdick** have made toward making that a success – we have accepted hosting the District Convention both in 2011 and 2013!

But that's not nearly enough for *HOA*. How about having such a commitment to excellence that we qualify a new performing chorus, and having such a dedication to doing it that at the time of writing this article almost 60 members have qualified with more to come!

It certainly hasn't been easy. How could it be easy when you are going through perhaps the most important cultural change

that has ever happened to our Chorus? But you have a dedicated Music Team who – besides going way above and beyond in terms of the hours spent in the qualification auditions – has remained steadfast in their commitment to do everything possible to assist members in any way that they can.

I sometimes think that resistance to change is one of the strongest forces in existence. What a tremendous testimony it is to the courage of this organization that we understand that change is always necessary for progress, that without progress we stand still, and when we stand still we inevitably go backwards. ♥



Above: Jerry Meier qualifies by singing with Mark Fortino - lead, Shaun Whisler - bass and Rob Mathieu - tenor. Evaluating, is Jerry Garrard, Jonathan Andrews and David Krause. Photos by Ron McIntire.

### INSIDE OUR FEBRUARY ISSUE:

**Page 3** - 2009 Banquet Awards Recap

**Page 4 & 5** - Installation/Award Banquet Photos!

**Page 6** - Singing Valentines is Approaching

**Page 12** - Membership: Just Maybe It's The Trip

# 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.



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

## 2010 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD

President	<b>Kent Miller</b>
Immediate Past President	<b>Doug Brott</b>
Executive V.P.	<b>Vince Perry</b>
Music/Performance V.P.	<b>Mark Fortino</b>
Membership V.P.	<b>John Erwine</b>
Program V.P.	<b>Carl Turlin</b>
Marketing & PR V.P.	<b>Brad Dawdy</b>
Operations V.P.	<b>Jim Clark</b>
Secretary	<b>Rich Huyck</b>
Treasurer	<b>Jim Porter</b>
Board Members at Large	<b>Chuck Ames</b>
	<b>Jim Kemper</b>
	<b>Mike Mathieu</b>
	<b>Val Putzier</b>
Board Member Emeritus	<b>Dale Neuman</b>
District Delegate	<b>Kent Miller</b>

## MUSICAL LEADERS

Chorus Director	<b>David Krause</b>
Assistant Directors	<b>Carter Combs</b>
	<b>Jerry Garrard</b>
	<b>Mark Fortino</b>
Director Emeritus	<b>Jim Bagby</b>

## SECTION LEADERS

Tenor - **Rob Mathieu** · Lead - **Mark Fortino**  
Baritone - **Jonathan Andrew** · Bass - **Shaun Whisler**

## HARMONOTES STAFF

Editor Emeritus	<b>Wade Dexter</b>
Editor	<b>Todd Anderson</b>
Photographers at Large	<b>Matt Bostick, Don Fuson,</b>
	<b>Ron McIntire</b>
Staff Reporters	<b>ALL Our Chapter Members!</b>

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 (Editor)**  
2909 West Trevor Trail • Ozark, Mo. 65721-8438  
(417) 581-2961 • andersondesign@centurytel.net

The HOA Board of Directors meets at 6 p.m. on the second Monday of the month, at St. Thomas More Church, 118th & Holmes, Kansas City, MO 64131. Chapter members are welcome!

HOA Website: [www.hoachorus.com](http://www.hoachorus.com)  
Web Address: [webstaff@hoachorus.com](mailto:webstaff@hoachorus.com)  
Chorus Manager & Webmaster - **Vince Perry**  
Chapter Telephone: (816) 221-7888



## Direct From The Front

by David Krause, HOA Chorus Director



I know I've been sending you too many e-mails but...it's the price of change.

Anyway, in the large number of e-mails I've exchanged in the last few weeks per barbershop there is one I don't think that's been communicated as of now and needs to be. If someone has sent this info out I apologize for the repeat.

Obviously, our big push to improve is about raising expectations for all of us, as leaders and as chorus members. You have to do homework and come prepared to sing without music, knowing notes and words, or come prepared to sing silently. We'll practice that singing silently thing early on Tuesday.

In addition, besides passing your audition you must really learn all notes and words and demonstrate you can sing them with quality to your section leader. They will let you know if you need to record some things and what that might be. In general, it's their call to qualify you for the show, any contest, etc. So, just passing the audition process is one simple step. You must also qualify on the music particular to a certain event along with any choreography, etc.

And, we also have an attendance requirement. At least 65% of rehearsals. I know that sounds very low to most of you (I hope). That's the bare minimum. We certainly expect that most of us will be there much more often than that percentage. And, honestly, some guys can get by with that % while others probably can't.

Section leaders will probably begin the process this Tuesday, if they haven't already, of evaluating their guys to be sure they can qualify for the show. And, that minimal attendance thing starts now also. Please let your musical leadership know if you have any questions, and let's get ready for an A level show! ♥

## Long Holiday "Vacation" for NEW HARMONY HANDFUL

by Dave Hokanson

The *New Harmony Handful* had a fun filled December and a quiet January. We celebrated our annual Christmas get together at the home of **Cindy and Roy Manade** and then took a longer than usual "vacation" from practice, due to our Director's previous commitments and busy schedule (how did he find time for work?).

By the time you get this, we will have been sending best wishes to *High Mileage*: **Jim Bagby, Dale Comer, Gary Drown** and our own **Lyle Wyly**, in their endeavor to make a good showing at the Midwinter Seniors Contest in Tampa on Jan. 29. Some of us will also be getting ready to participate in Singing Valentines. We will be back to practice and hard work again the middle of February and hope to put it to good use in the months to follow. Practice is not all that often, but it is always full and lots of fun. ♥



## 2009 Banquet Awards Recap

by Bruce Wenner, Awards Committee Chairman

The 2009 Awards Committee was pleased to honor two of our most distinguished chapter brothers at the annual Installation Banquet Jan. 9 at the Doubletree Hotel in Overland Park. **Bob Howard** received the John Cross Award, and **Mark Fortino** was named the 2009 Barbershopper of the Year.



**Bob Howard** is a poster boy for the John Cross Award, which goes to a man who best lives up to the example of **John Cross**. That means attendance as close as possible to

perfect, and willingness to take on the job nobody else wants. To begin with, Bob's attendance was perfect in 2009. Further, Bob is a prime example of a group of past presidents and Barbershoppers of the Year who just keep on working hard for *HOA* long after earning the honors (Bob earned his almost twenty years ago). Few Society chapters are blessed with as many such men as *HOA*, and Bob is a leader in this distinguished group. There has never been a John Cross Award recipient who was more appropriate than Bob Howard for this honor.

The 2009 Awards Committee includes **Jim Bagby**, **Vince Perry**, **Mike Schumacher**, and myself. We salute Bob and Mark, and we know you will make it a point to thank both men for their efforts and productivity. It is men like these who make *Heart of America* such a great chapter. ♥



Talk about easy choices for awards: **Mark Fortino** is a no-brainer for 2009 Barber shopper of the Year. For several years now Mark has been serving as assistant director and lead section leader. He is very effective in

his work in front of the chorus, including coaching and leading warmups. Then, in the middle of 2009, our Music VP moved to Florida, and Mark took on this demanding job on top of his other contributions. (All this from a very busy man who works long hours as a bank executive and is raising a young family!) Since assuming the Music VP duties, Mark has injected a huge amount of energy, enthusiasm, and youth into the *HOA* musical program. He is leading the way in raising the level of individual commitment to the chorus, and is spearheading the highly successful audition process. *HOA* is a much more interesting and exciting place to be these days, and Mark's efforts have been central to the changes. In both quantity and quality, Mark's service to *Heart of America* has been truly outstanding, and makes him an ideal Barbershopper of the Year.

## HOA Section Leaders Singled Out For Service

During the recent Installation/Awards Banquet, Awards of Excellence were presented to three top-notch, *HOA* section leaders. You can see the actual presentation photos on page 5.

The plaques read:

*Presented For the Many Years of  
Generously Giving Your Time and  
Talent as Section Leader.*

*We Hereby Acknowledge Your  
Dedication to Improve the Singing  
Excellence of the Men in the  
KC Heart of America Chorus.*

Each plaque was signed at the bottom by Director **David Krause**, Director Emeritus **Jim Bagby**, and Music VP **Mark Fortino**. ♥



From left to right, Section Leaders **Carter Combs**, **Bruce Wenner** and **Keith Schweer**  
All award photos on this page courtesy of  
**Ron McIntire**



# CONGRATS GENTS!

# HOA INSTALLATION & AWARDS BANQUET JANUARY 9, 2010 OVERLAND PARK DOUBLETREE



Above, from left to right: Marci Turlin-Brown, 2009 Heartbeat of the Year, presented by Jeffi Combs



Above: Kent Miller (right), 2010 Chapter President presents a special appreciation award to Doug Brott, (left) who served as chapter president in 2008 and 2009.



Above, from left to right: Tony Strub, past Barbershopper of the Year, presents the 2009 BOTY to Mark Fortino



Above, from left to right: Bob Howard, 2009 John Cross Award Winner for the chapter, as presented by past winner, Mike Schumacher



At left, from left to right, Mark Fortino presents Music Team Awards of Excellence to tenor section leader Carter Combs, bari section leader Bruce Wenner, and bass section leader Keith Schweer. Photos courtesy of Don Fuson





Above, left to right: Dr. Don Blank, 2010 CSD District President, and Installation Speaker and Officer Installer; From left, Jim and Joann Bagby welcome Jan and Don Blank to the chapter festivities. Don is 2010 District President and Jim continues to serve the districts as 2010 Vice-president of Contest and Judging

---

Below, top to bottom: Installation Dinner quartet entertainment by *KC Prime* (David Krause, lead, Brian Bellof, bass, Matt Moore, Bari and ably assisted by fill-in tenor, Rob Mathieu); Installation Dinner MC, Don Young (left) got all wrapped in chords with Carl Turlin, Dinner coordinator upon the end of the successful evening.



## Singing Valentine's Approaching

by John Erwine, Co-Chairman

**W**e are approaching our first major fundraiser for 2010 and things are rapidly coming together. We're very fortunate this year to be fully funded for this event. Special thanks go to the following sponsors:

<b>Bank of Blue Valley</b>	Headquarters location
<b>Helzberg Diamonds</b>	Diamond tennis bracelet for the major drawing
<b>Flowerama</b>	Fresh roses
<b>Russell Stover Candies</b>	14 oz Sweetheart candy
<b>Layne Christensen Co</b>	Computer equipment
<b>Verizon Wireless</b>	Cell phones
<b>KC Marriott Downtown</b>	Sweetheart package for drawing
<b>Hilton President KC</b>	Sweetheart package for drawing
(Others expected)	

There is still time for you to participate in this event. I'd like to include just a couple of notes that have been circulated recently;

*"...I've also been a driver before and have sung in some quartets and it is SO much fun! It's something you've got to do. You'll thank yourself for participating (in ANY capacity!). A great way to connect with the other guys in your quartet, with your delivery subject/person and with the public as well! They are so thrilled with what you are doing; the event that you're creating...it's just a blast!" — Thom Tisdall*

*"...And thanks to all of you who might consider this quartet thing for the first time. Hey, I'm singing in a singing valentine's quartet for the FIRST time myself. Yep, I've NEVER done it before. Always been too busy or had an excuse. Let's have some fun together!" — Mark Fortino*

Now with comments and company like these two guys above, why wouldn't you want to be a part of it? The fully funded position we're in certainly helps give us a boost in net revenue, but we can't let that make us lax in our effort to sell Valentines.

With the 14th being on Sunday this year, we're going to need all the promotion and effort we can muster.

So as Thom and Mark said, *"It's just a blast, and let's have some fun together!"* ♥

## The Power of Music

Mary Knox, Royal City Ambassadors, Guelph, Ontario  
—from the harmonet

**I**'m sitting here at my desk watching an 83-year-old gentleman with significant memory loss singing along with "My Wild Irish Rose" on the stereo. He knows his name, and a good many old tunes—and that's about it. Once every two weeks, I go to the local nursery home to play for the Alzheimer Group's Sing-Along Hour. When I enter the room, three of the 21 residents might actually look at me—the rest are in a misty world. But when I begin to play "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" or "Let the Rest of the World Go By," those tunes become my one and only connection with them, and most of them begin to sing.

What is it about music that makes such a deep impression? Is it the melody? The lyrics? The emotion? A combination of things?



On one occasion we did an experiment with the Alzheimer's exercise class. Everyone was asked to imitate the instructor as she raised her hands high. No one responded. She repeated the maneuver a number of times,

as animated as possible speaking first in a soothing tone of voice, then in a lively voice. No response again. Then we passed around rhythm instruments. Tamborines, bells, sticks, etc., were put into the hands of the residents. Then with the accordion, I would simply play a waltz beat with the bass keys—oom pa pah—and immediately 75% would respond. Faces would begin to lighten up, and rhythm instruments would begin to shake. As I'd begin the melody, "Casey would waltz with a strawberry blonde," and the instructor would ask everyone to imitate her and raise their hands in the air and shake the instruments, again approximately 75% would respond, doing what they were asked to do.

I'm sure you've recognized this effect on seniors when you sing in the homes. Can you explain it? Music is such an effective catalyst.

At the other end of the stick, I've gone into many classrooms noisy with active, challenging kids, asked everyone to come and sit down on the mat for a few songs, and had little response because no one was paying attention or could hear what I was saying. But if I begin playing a song on the guitar, and singing the instructions, to come and sit down on the mat, I have everyone's cooperation. And some schools no longer have a music program! ♥





## Thank You From your 2009 Heartbeat of the Year!

by Marci Brown-Turlin, *Heartbeats* Sunshine Chair



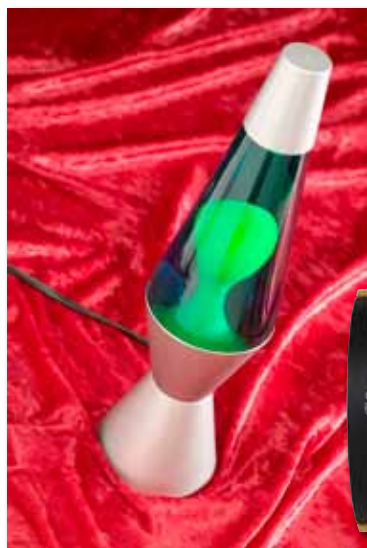
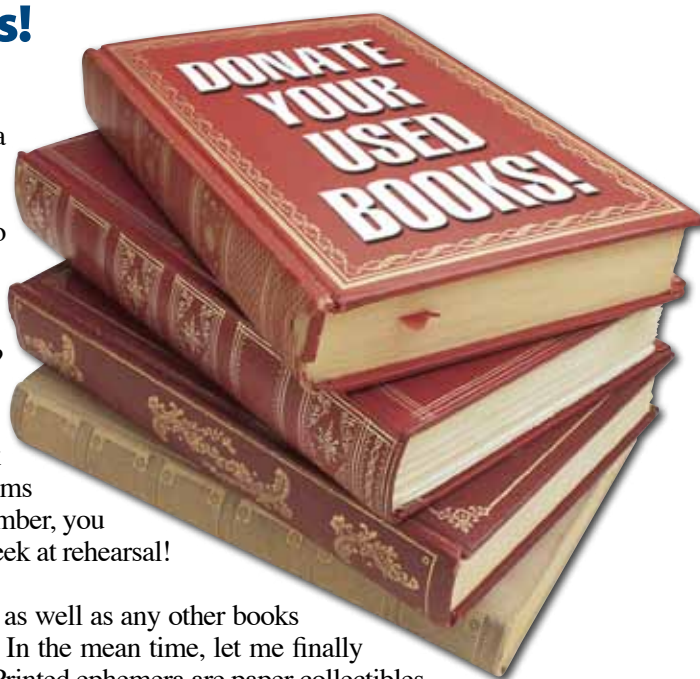
**A** tremendous “thank you” to the *Heartbeats* for honoring me with the 2009 Heartbeat of the Year award! You certainly took me by surprise and I very much appreciate your generous praise and recognition. I also very much appreciate your companionship in support of our loved one’s “hobby.” Since I cannot take credit alone for all that was accomplished by the *Heartbeats* in 2009 on behalf of HOA, please feel included in the honor you gave me because for your chorus member, you will always be his “Heartbeat of the Year!” ♥

## Book Sale Fundraiser Continues!

by Marci Brown-Turlin, *Heartbeats* Sunshine Chair

**C**ongratulations, gentlemen! You and your ladies have done a wonderful job getting started on our Book Sale Fundraiser! During the month of January, we collected \$61.00, which brings our total for the year to \$83.00! And we’re just getting started! Do your part and bring something to contribute each week!

For February—ahhh, the month of romance—we want you to sort through your music. After all, what’s romance without music? Focus on OLD music, like vinyl records (33s, 45s, and even 78s), cassette tapes, and 8-track tapes. Sort through your collection of printed sheet music and donate that! (Don’t forget to check inside the piano bench!) Pace yourselves! Those old record albums get HEAVY when you get very many of them collected, so remember, you can bring some in EVERY week at rehearsal!



Keep the cookbooks coming, as well as any other books you are willing to part with! In the mean time, let me finally tell you about “ephemera!” Printed ephemera are paper collectibles other than books and magazines. Examples of ephemera include postcards, advertisements, movie and other posters, playbills, maps (!), historical documents, product labels and packages (!), political buttons, and many more items! Who knew? *I didn’t*. These items are mementos and symbols of our social and cultural history, from sheet music for “St. Louis Blues” and slave auction ads to beer bottle labels and **Jimi Hendrix** posters. As you wander through your house, keep your eyes open for likely ephemera and bring it with you to rehearsal!



Thanks so much! (Your HOA checkbook thanks you, too!) ♥



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



### TEN YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY, 2000

*Harmonotes* was published in an interesting format—four pages that measured five-and-a-half by eight-and-a-half inches. But it contains a lot of good stuff. Here's something that old **Dan Henry Bowser** had put together:

"The *Heart of America* Chapter has an incentive-based membership drive underway this year. It offers wonderful rewards, ranging from bumper stickers all the way up to the grand prize of a full package for two persons to International 2000 in Nashville! It includes round-trip airfare, hotel for three nights and your contest registrations! This board-approved plan is really quite simple. For each guest, new member, or inactive current member that YOU get involved with, YOU accumulate points which lead to great rewards. This drive is broken down in four quarters of play for the year, which allows more of YOU to reap the rewards! The first quarter of play ends on March 31, 2000. The reward for the first quarter is GREAT! Tools are being provided by the membership team to assist with your efforts, and if you want some free 'prospect names,' call Grant."

**Grant Hunget** was the 2000 Membership Vice President. Wonder how successful this plan was. I was a member at that time, and I seem to remember it turned out with 17 new members that year. But how many of them are still with us?

### TWENTY YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY, 1990

This edition of *Harmonotes* was typewritten on 18 eight-and-a-half by eleven-inch pages. Must have been a lot of work for the editor. It says he was the "International Editor of the Year for 1988." Wonder who he was.

At this time, our chapter was hot and heavy about acquiring its own meeting-place building. We had been meeting at the Unity Temple, which was an excellent place for our meetings. But it wasn't our own building. According to Chapter President **Bob Howard**, we needed "additional rooms that could be utilized for vocal coaching, director's classes, quartet practice, woodshedding, section rehearsals and business meetings." Chapter Board Member **John Pennington** was chairman of a search committee, and this edition of the chapter newsletter had a front-page article by John, who was finding it quite a project to find a suitable place. John came up with a half-dozen problems that made it difficult to find and acquire the perfect place to live. Maybe that's why we're still meeting at the St. Peter's United Church of Christ at 110th and Holmes in Kansas City, MO.

### FORTY YEARS AGO: MARCH, 1970

Editor **Dick Ham** was having a heck of a time finding enough material to fill out a decent edition of *Harmonotes*. This issue consisted of only three eight-and-a-half by eleven pages. On the third page, he was forced to resort to the following, the lyrics from the song, "Down By The Old Mill Stream," which he took from the "PROBEMOTOR," the official bulletin of P.R.O.B.E., the organization of Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors. Are you ready for it?

"Darn body oat meal stream  
Wear a first mate shoe,  
With hair eyesore blue,  
Dress tin gingham, too.

"It was there anew  
Add chew loft meat, too.  
You wear six team,  
Marvel itch cream,  
Darn body oat meal stream." ♥





# Summary of January 2010 Board Meeting

by Vince Perry/Ron McIntire



## FINANCE REPORT - Harvey Shapiro

As of 12/31/2009:

- Operating/Social fund was \$13,827.12
- Restricted Fund was \$6550.32
- The Board agreed that 2010 Treasurer Elect **Jim Porter** could begin the process of finding a new bank to conduct chapter business. The Board did specify that the accounts must be free of service charges save checking supplies.

## VP MARKETING/PUBLIC RELATIONS - Brad Dawdy

Cards and flyers for the Singing Valentine's program will be available January 19, 2010.

## VP MUSIC & PERFORMANCE - Mark Fortino

### New HOA Performing Chorus Standards:

- The Performing Chorus members will have three weeks from the time the sheet music and the learning media become available to learn a new song before the song is sung for the first time.
- Members will be asked to learn no more than one song in any three week period.
- To maintain membership in the Performing Chorus, a member must attend at least 65% of the chapter meetings.
- To maintain membership in the Performing Chorus, a member must record both new contest songs and review it on his own and will promptly record and turn in any passage or entire song to his section leader upon request.
- The Music Team will do its best to give the members a list of two songs that they need to focus on for the following week.
- Only members of the Performing Chorus will be allowed on the risers. Guests may be on the rises after undergoing an initial voice placement by the director or other member of the Music Team.
- The Music Team will not approve a new or dual member application before qualifying the person for the Performing Chorus.

### Singing Valentines Quartet Standards:

- Quartets with all four members in the Performing Chorus, regardless of the part they are singing, are automatically approved as Singing Valentine Quartet.
- If one or more members of a Singing Valentine quartet are not in the Performing Chorus, the quartet must be approved by the Music Team by auditioning in front of the chorus or a member of the team. The Music Team reserves the right to make exceptions to this rule.

The 2010 Presentation Team will be led by **Jerry Meier** and assisted by **Craig Wilcox**.

A new chapter web page explaining the *HOA* Performing Chorus audition process and links to audition sheet music and learning media downloads are forthcoming.

## Old Business:

### Golf Fundraiser: Kent Miller:

The 2010 Golf Tourney will be held on May 6, 2010.  
Show Program Ad Sales:

**Larry Colburn** is appointed Chairman.

Jan. 26, 2010 is the target date for distribution and of sales packets and a short presentation about how to sell the ads.

## Singing Valentines Pricing - John Erwine:

The Board agreed to set the 2010 Singing Valentine pricing as follows:

- \$55 for a regular deliver (any 8-hour window between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m)
- \$75 for any 2-hour window
- \$90 for 1-hour special delivery

## KC Arts Council Performance - Kent Miller:

- Everyone needs to promote and clear their calendars for this important event at Starlight Theatre, March 5, 2010.
- Director **David Krause** and **Kent Miller** will attend a planning meeting with Starlight personnel, January 12, 2010 at Starlight.
- Leadership Training:
  - *HOA* will send four representatives: **Kent Miller**, **Vince Perry**, **John Erwine** and **Jim Porter**, to the Leadership Training sessions in St. Joseph, MO, Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010.
  - Reservations and payment has been made.
- The Board agreed send the new Music Team members to Harmony University 2010.

## Director's Contract:

**Doug Brott** will draw up the new Director's Contract with the specifications passed at the December Board Meeting and have it ready for signatures at the January 12, 2010 chapter meeting.

## New Business:

- Church Fee Negotiations:
  - As of January 1, 2010 the rent for the rehearsal hall will revert to the regular price of \$120 per week.
- Annual Resolutions:
  - The Board agreed to authorize **Dale Neuman** (Board Member Emeritus) to carry out the Chapter's legal business to include but not limited to maintaining: Jackson County Person Property Tax exemption, the license on the *HOA* trailer, business pursuits license, USPS non-profit mailing permit, and the State of Missouri Tax Exemption; seconded and passed.
  - The Board agreed that, in accordance with legality issues that may arise if ever an insurance claim is filed, every member in good standing with the Kansas City Chapter (A048) is hereby authorized to accept funds on behalf of the chapter which shall be turned over to the chapter treasurer as soon as possible.
  - The Board agreed to designate Assistant Director **Jerry Garrard** as the 2010 Annual Show chairman.
  - Harmony Festival 2010 - **Mark Fortino**
    - The first committee meeting for Harmony Festival 2010 will be held soon. The most probable Festival date is June 19, 2010.

## Online Board Meeting Addendum #1

The board agreed that the structure of the chorus rehearsal Jan. 12, and 19, will be to hold chorus rehearsal from 7:10 p.m. to 8:40 p.m. then audition from 8:50 p.m. to 10 p.m. ♥

# BARBERSHOPPERS

## OF THE MONTH

Photos by Ron McIntire



### DECEMBER 2009 ◀ Mike Mathieu

Kent Miller (right) presents Mike Mathieu (left) with the Dec. 2009 BOTM. In grateful appreciation for your hard work planning, organizing and managing the 2009 Salvation Army Caroling Caravan, December 19, 2009.



### NOVEMBER 2009 ◀ Dick Irwin

Kent Miller (right) presents Dick Irwin (left) with the Nov. 2009 BOTM. In grateful appreciation for your work folding, bundling and mailing the *Harmonotes* each month over the past decade keeping the Kansas City Missouri Chapter informed and up to date and for your dedication and service.



### NOVEMBER 2009 ◀ Barry Sanders

Kent Miller (right) presents Mike Mathieu (left) with the Nov. 2009 BOTM. In grateful appreciation for your work as Asst. Show Chairman of the 2009 HOA/KC Sweet Adelines Holiday Harmony Spectacular, December 5, 2009.



### NOVEMBER 2009 ◀ Mike Schumacher

Kent Miller (right) presents Mike Schumacher (left) with the Nov. 2009 BOTM. In grateful appreciation for your work as Show Chairman of the 2009 HOA/KC Sweet Adelines Holiday Harmony Spectacular, December 5, 2009.

## Extra Mile Award Winner!



### DECEMBER 2009 ◀ David Miller

Kent Miller (right) presents David Miller (left) with the Dec. 2009 Extra Mile Award. In grateful appreciation for staying late to lock up the rehearsal hall on Tuesday night after the vocal auditions.



LET'S SING "IDA LEE." IT TAKES A LONG TIME TO GET TO THE 45TH FLOOR.





# 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 big Tip O' The Hat to **Mark Fortino, Shaun Whisler, Jonathan Andrews, Rod Mathieu, David Krause, Jerry Garrard** and **Keith Schweer** for conducting the vocal audition program and to **David Miller** and **Jim Clark** for hanging around till the last audition was complete to lock the doors and spruce up the place.

Hats off to all *HOAers*, both the ones who've passed and the ones who have not passed, who have worried through the audition process, and their overall acceptance of the program. Their commitment to improvement and excellence is exemplary. ♥

## KEEP THE WHOLE WORLD SINGING ...EVEN DOWN UNDER!



**Scott Haines** is guest director to sing "Keep The Whole World Singing" on his final night with *HOA*. He is moving to Ringwood, Victoria, Australia, in the first week of February. *We wish you Good Luck Scottie!*



Here's your chance to learn more about the newest member of the Kansas City, Missouri, Chapter!



### DAN TILSON

**Dan Tilson** is a first time barber-shoppper but has sung barbershop music in previous choruses. He is an Investigator for the U.S. Department of Labor and lives in Prairie Village, KS with his wife **Kathy**. Dan has a broad musical background having sung in choral groups in college, church choir, musical theater, the KC Civic Opera and he plays piano. Dan sings bass in the *HOA* chorus. ♥



### JOE BARGO

**Joe Bargo** is a first-time barber-shoppper living in Overland Park, KS. His musical background includes saxophone and choir in high school. He was introduced to barbershop music in choir in and he's currently learning to play the guitar, but admits he has a way to go. Joe teaches CADD (Computer Aided Drafting and Design), Project Management and other courses at ITT Tech in Kansas City and sings bass in the *HOA* Chorus.

*Two more tremendous voices for our chapter!*

# MEMBERSHIP: Just Maybe It's The Trip

by John Erwine, VP Membership

This hobby of ours for some could be called infectious. Others could term it as being the total and complete cure for what ails you – a healing agent. There are probably as many definitions as there are barbershoppers. I was talking with someone the other day about things we've done throughout our lives that have left lasting impressions on us. Music was the general term of one of those things; singing was on par with string and brass groups we'd both been in. Then we got to talking about some of the great vocalists and how their lives must have been so filled with lasting memories.

Well, barbershop singing became one of the topics. But now we weren't talking about the greats – just us; the lasting memories, the friends we may never have met, the events, the rehearsals, the frustrations and rewards. And, how those that really were bitten by it never seemed to want to let it go. Yes, the conventions and competitions are perhaps the golden ring, but are they what really drives us? Then I remembered something my Mother introduced me to some years ago, and you may know it. It's called:

## The Station by Robert J. Hastings

*Tucked away in our subconscious is an idyllic vision. We are traveling by train –*

*out the windows, we drink in the passing scenes of children waving at a crossing, cattle grazing on a distant hillside, row upon row of corn and wheat, flatlands and valleys, mountains and rolling hillsides and city skylines.*

*But uppermost in our minds is the*



*final destination. On a certain day, we will pull into the station. Bands will be playing and flags waving. Once we get there, our dreams will come true and the pieces of our lives will fit together like a completed jigsaw puzzle. Restlessly we pace the aisles, damning the minutes – waiting, waiting, waiting for the station.*

*"When we reach the station, that will be it!" we cry. "When I'm 18." "When I buy a new 450sl Mercedes Benz!" "When I put the last kid through college!" "When I have paid off the mortgage!" "When I get a promotion!" "When I reach retirement, I shall live happily ever after!"*

*Sooner or later, we realize there is no station, no one place to arrive. The true joy of life is the trip. The station is only a dream. It constantly outdistances us.*

*"Relish the moment" is a good motto, especially when coupled with Psalm 118:24: "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." It isn't the burdens of today that drive men mad. It is the regrets over yesterday and the fear of tomorrow. Regret and fear are twin thieves who rob us of today. So stop pacing the aisles and counting the miles. Instead, climb more mountains, eat more ice cream, go barefoot more often, swim more rivers, watch more sunsets, laugh more, cry less. Life must be lived as we go along. The station will come soon enough.*

Maybe this is the thing that keeps us

wanting to return week after week. Just maybe it's the trip – the journey. I'm in no way diminishing the importance of the golden ring – the secret decoder in the box of Crackerjacks. But this trip is one of a lifetime. And it's one that can be shared.

Think of the lives we could impact by introducing just one guest to those we share our memories with. Who knows where their journey may take them? And how will their memories and stories impact others? Infectious, a healing agent – just maybe a ticket for the trip of a lifetime. Remember, it's your chapter and you are making a difference. ♥



## Ron Fortino Accepts Spring Show Ticket Chair

by Vince Perry, Executive Vice President



Ron Fortino

When the word went out that we desperately needed a ticket chairman for our Spring Show I was not surprised to hear that **Ron Fortino** had accepted the challenge. And I bet that **Mark Fortino**, our assistant director and Vice President of Music and Performance, and Ron's son didn't have to do much arm twisting either. Ron is the perfect person for the job with his career expertise as an accountant and his experience as our past chapter treasurer. Being a ticket chairman is a very demanding job; one that requires lots of multi-tasking and lots of patience. He can expect to talk to hundreds of people in the next seven weeks all the while helping them find those perfect seats in

Yardley Hall come this March 20. Ron is joining a long list of ticket chairman in this great chapter with **Dale Neuman, Paul Winans, Al Higgins, Rich Huyck, Bob Rutherford** and myself to name a few. It's kind of a brotherhood unto itself and I'm sure I speak for everyone in the chapter when I pledge to help Ron out in anyway and at anytime he needs help in getting the ticket job done. *Thanks again, Ron!*

So starting the first week on February Ron will begin accepting phone and online orders.

The *HOA* ticket hotline number is 913-390-6544. He also will be taking orders at chapter meetings so get in line and get those tickets ordered. As *HOA* prepares for our 64th Annual Show entitled *New Found Sound* it is paramount that we get the word out, sell those tickets, and fill those seats. What a great show it will be too as we will debut our two newest contest songs.

For those wanting to order online, remember you can do so at [www.HOACHorus.com](http://www.HOACHorus.com) and clicking on the Spring Show menu item. Ticket prices remain the same this year:

\$28 for seats in the Orchestra Pit, \$22 in the Orch Center, \$17 for Orch sides and rear center seats, and \$12 for all Terrace and Balcony seats. The venue is in the Carlsen Center of the Johnson County Community College located at College Boulevard and Quivira Road in Overland Park, KS. Show times are 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

And of course the feature quartets will be phenomenal! *Lunch Break* is a hilarious quartet that actually sings great, placing 12th in last year's International Quartet contest in Anaheim.

*High Definition*, *HOA's* own has gotten so good it is scary! (in a good way!) If you've heard their new CD *High Definition* entertainment, you know what I mean. If you haven't, you have a real treat in store for you come March 20.

Finally, there are lots of things happening in the *Heart of America Chorus* these days where singing excellence is top priority. Come hear for yourself, it's *HOA's New Found Sound!* ♥



**Harmony University:**  
**August 1-8, 2010**  
**St. Joseph, MO**

*The PREMIER event for  
barbershop music education*

Be sure to visit the Harmony University page!

NOW ONLINE! 2010 Course Guide which includes class descriptions, information about Missouri Western State University, schedule information, and faculty information. Check it out by visiting [www.barbershop.org/education/harmony-university.html](http://www.barbershop.org/education/harmony-university.html)

Just about everything you need to know about HU 2010 is online now, such as:

Specific information on each college:

- Harmony College
- Quartet College
- Music Educator Tract
- Directors College
- Next Generation
- Registration Deadlines - March 15th, Registration prices increase
- Scholarship information - Visit the scholarship page at [www.barbershop.org/scholarships.html](http://www.barbershop.org/scholarships.html)
- Class Selection forms - browse courses that will be available
- eXtreme quartetting
- MUCH, MUCH MORE

For any additional information regarding Harmony University, email [HarmonyU@barbershop.org](mailto:HarmonyU@barbershop.org). ♥

## RR4 Family Has Great Holiday Celebration by Jim Bagby, Bari



BAGBY

One of the most enjoyable gatherings of the holiday season for us usually

comes a week or so after Christmas, when members of the Yoder extended family can all make it back to Cass County. Then the Rural Route 4 family all piles into either Calvin or Willard's house (one year way back, before the group got so large, it was at their parents' home) and we make merry with great food and lots of singing.

This December Velma and Willard hosted, their three girls (Emily, Meagan and Anna) did most of the food preparation and 23 people in three generations were on hand. Mother Elizabeth Yoder, age 93, lives with Calvin and Mary across the road, but she allowed that night she was a little tired and decided not to come over. One of the girls took her a plate of food.

Tenor Wes Yoder, Calvin's son, was home from Seattle with his wife, Kate, and their two children. Willard's son, Daniel, and his expectant wife, Talas-

hia, were home from Middlesburg, Ind., so there was much joshing about Willard going to be a first-time grandpa this spring.

Wes replaced Don Kahl in 1990, so naturally sometime during the singing we drank sweet tea or milk toasts to Don. The RR4 did the Overland Park

ward to an article from him in this space next issue.

Everyone in the room, kids included, sang sometime during the informal and often raucous evening. As we always do, we reminisced about travel experiences and recalled the funny and odd things that happen when you do shows across the country. And we sang everything we knew, plus some we didn't. The four Yoders (Cal, Willy, Wes and Daniel) sang "Praise, O Praise Jehovah," which had been a staple of Dad Walter Yoder's quartet, the one that inspired the RR4. The kids scattered to play when we got into the ballads, but reappeared when one requested "Old MacDonald."

At the end of the evening, the quartet headed across the road to sing for Elizabeth. She was still awake and pretty lively. "Do I have to put my teeth in?" Heck no, what do you want to hear? Anything at all. So we did a couple more of songs that Walter's quartet had done.

Jim Henry was right: it's not a hobby, it's a wonderful calling. We ask you to continue to pray for Mary Yoder's health. I'm sure she, Velma, Kate and Joann would join all the RR4 family in wishing all the Heart of America family a blessed new year. ♥



Chapter's 50th anniversary show last March with Don. And we're looking forward to celebrating the 25th anniversary of our championship year when our own Kansas City Chapter hosts the 2011 convention.

At our Christmas dinner, we talked a lot about whether Don would need a walker to get into the Sprint Center next year. Maybe you can look for-



**Stay Healthy  
and Fight  
the Flu!**

**Use Hand  
Sanitizer  
at Rehearsals!**







# **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

## **TO THE FOLLOWING HOA MEMBERS!**

- February 2 **Doug Brott**
- February 8 **Dane Montgomery**
- February 12 **Charlie Greene**
- February 13 **John Renfro, Jr**
- February 14 **Jim Bagby**
- February 18 **John Fortino**
- February 18 **Brian Seydlitz**
- February 18 **Dick O'Dell**
- February 18 **Sal Iannazzo**
- February 19 **Fred Hangartner**
- February 20 **Jim Porter**
- February 24 **Lud Einess**
- February 27 **Jon Gathright**

## **Harmony Foundation Report**

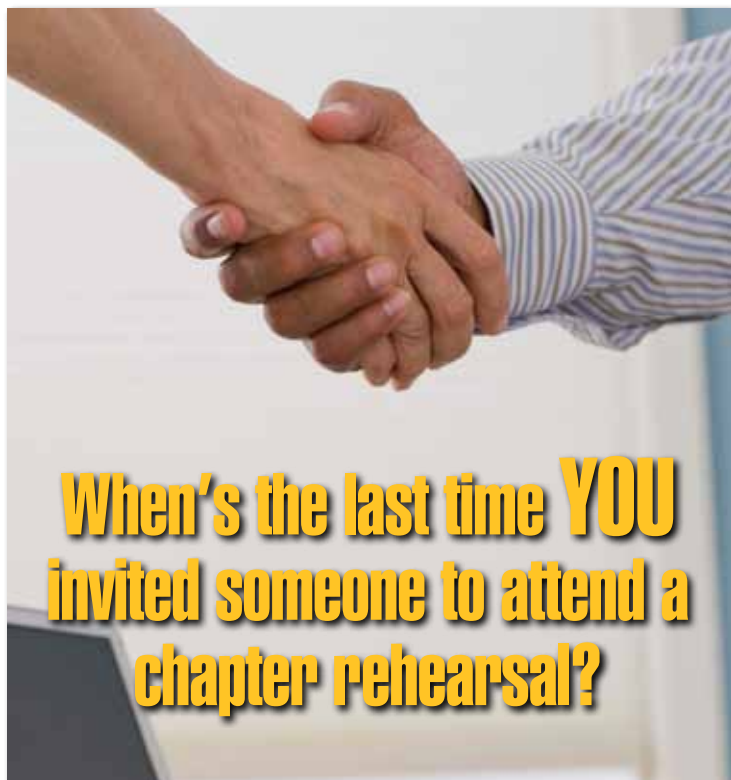
by Jim Porter



**Note** that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. One half of the proceeds from the sale of tickets goes to Harmony Foundation. As of Jan. 27, after three drawings (three since last report):

- The total collected for Harmony Foundation since the last report is \$145.
- The total collected for the year to date (since Jan. 1, 2010) is \$145.
- The total for the previous year was \$634.
- The total in our best previous year (2006) was \$193.

The progressive jackpot has grown to \$910 at the time of the report. ♥



**When's the last time YOU  
invited someone to attend a  
chapter rehearsal?**

**DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH  
ISSUE OF HARMONOTES:  
FEBRUARY 24**



# HOA! Save The Date!

The Arts Council of Metropolitan Kansas City  
and master of Ceremonies, Bryan Busby,  
are proud to recognize local businesses and volunteers  
for their extraordinary leadership in the arts at the

**7th Annual ArtsKC Awards Luncheon**  
**Friday, March 5th, 2010**  
**11:00 - 1:00 pm**  
**Starlight Theater Complex**



Call 816-221-1777 or visit [ArtsKC.org](http://ArtsKC.org)  
for sponsorship or tickets

**Performances**  
**by:**

Heart of America Chorus  
HYBRID: Theatre Collective  
Wylliams-Henry Contemporary Dance Company  
and introducing  
Percussion Group Kansas City

**Featured Visual Artist:**  
Rain Harris



ArtsKC has given HOA first billing at this important event! This is the "Very Big Deal" that Mark Fortino has been mentioning. Please mark your calendars - Friday, March 5, 2010. Their program is from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, but we will sing first for perhaps 10-12 minutes, so it won't take too much of your time.



## Make An Effort To Patronize Our Sponsors!

The Heart of America Chorus membership owes it to our sponsors to be aware of their support. Please use and/or support their products/services whenever possible and make an effort to let them know that we are thankful for this support!



## Heart of America Chorus Calendar

**February 12, 13, & 14 (Fri., Sat., & Sun.)**  
Singing Valentines

**February 20 (Sat.) – Harmony Explosion**  
Olathe East High School!

**March 5 (Fri.) HOA Performance at the Indoor Theatre at Starlight! – KC Arts**

**March 20 (Sat)– HOA Spring Show at JCCC**



*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.*