

# The Monthly Bulletin of the Kansas City Heart of America Chorus

## HARMONOTES

Chorus and Quartet Singing  
in the Barbershop Style



Second-Oldest Chapter in the  
Barbershop Harmony Society

Volume 12 • Issue 4 • April 2012

## HOA Every Day and Every Night

by Vince Perry, President



**"Every day and every night"** are the opening lyrics to the *Beatles* song "Eight Days a Week" as arranged by **David Harrington**. It is probably the most difficult arrangement I have attempted to learn in my 49 years as a barbershopper. I do confess that I like the challenge and I certainly like the song. And though as a chorus we haven't mastered it yet, I already think it's pretty cool and look forward to being a *Beatle* for at least a few minutes every Tuesday night.

What makes this chart so difficult besides the rhythms is the repetitiveness of the lyrics while the notes differ slightly on each repeat. It's crazy sometimes just knowing where you are in the song. It's kind of like the Hallelujah Chorus we sang on our Holiday Show where we ended up holding music because not everyone could commit the song to memory. That's an interesting word "commit." I'll come back to that later.

What I do like about the experience of the learning this song is that everybody is having trouble. I love it when someone like our tenor section leader **Carter Combs** admits to having trouble learning this song. Those that have not admitted to having any trouble haven't taken the trouble of learning it, yet! For me, my learning technique of just listening to the learning tracks proved to be ineffective. I've had a few minor problems with this learning style in the past, which included learning a wrong word here and there. Notes were usually learned quickly and accurately just by listening. Also with our great learning tracks from **Tim** and **Tony**, it's also very easy to learn correct singing and great interps. Words are my slow-learn and only through repetition and creating mental maps am I ever fully confident on the words. It's probably an age thing because I don't remember having trouble learning lyrics as a young man. Oh wait a minute, I did do a lot of "watermeloning" back in those days. So maybe I did have a learning disability in that area all along. ;-) (Continued on page 2 ➡)

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"Drawn by HARMONY...Bound by FRIENDSHIP...Striving for EXCELLENCE!"

[www.hoachorus.com](http://www.hoachorus.com)

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# The Monthly Bulletin of the Kansas City Heart of America Chorus **HARMONOTES**

**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

## 2012 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD

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All chapter officers and quartets are expected, and chapter members encouraged, to contribute their ideas on a regular basis. The editorial staff reserves the right to deny publication of material deemed inappropriate for *Harmonotes* and to edit all submissions for reasons of space and clarity (grammar, content and spelling). Permission to reprint articles is granted to barbershop editors as long as the author and *Harmonotes* are acknowledged. The utmost care was used in preparation of this newsletter. Should you notice erroneous copy, please let the editor know!

Comments/submissions may be made to:

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HOA Board meetings take place at 6pm on the second Monday or Tuesday 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](http://webstaff@hoachorus.com)  
Chorus Manager & Webmaster - Vince Perry  
Chapter Telephone: (816) 221-7888



(Continued from front cover)

To help the basses learn “Eight Days” our section leader **Darrell McCune** spent one session just analyzing and recognizing the similarities in the music and then breaking up the music into sections. We marked A, A2, A3 and B, B2, B3. This was what helped Darrell break the song down into manageable parts to be learned separately. It sounded promising and I dutifully marked off the sections on my sheet music. Unfortunately it didn’t work for me as I really needed to focus on the differences instead of the similarities. What has worked for me has been working on only one page at a time until it was solid enough to go to the next page. This was really **David Krause’s** approach for the whole chorus and for the most part was the way to go.

Week after week went by learning this puppy and just when I thought I was good to go, I found out at the next rehearsal that I could not hold my own when someone around me sang something different. First it was the leads singing in my ear that derailed me then it was other basses getting lost and singing the wrong words and notes. I’ve got to admit that for several weeks I left chorus rehearsal a little disappointed in myself as I thought I had it and didn’t. For the next week I listened and sang with the learning tracks while studying the sheet music more and more. A funny thing happened to me after so many weeks: when I sang a section or phrase I could actually see where I was on the sheet music without looking at the sheet music. When I reached this point I knew I would get it mastered. But it was a long road for me as it was for most everyone in the chorus. David was a super teacher and made a few exceptions in his normal routine to help bring this song to life. He even brought in the learning media and played it over and over again, even with us singing, just so we could experience some degree of success as a group. His patience, understanding, and encouragement have made all the difference. With the annual show just two rehearsals away, *8 Days* is still on the bubble as to being a show song. If it doesn’t make the show it’s because it just has not risen to the level of excellence for which the *Heart of America Chorus* and Director **David Krause** have come to represent.

Now back to the word *commitment*. I’m really happy we’ve had to work especially hard to learn this song. It has proven to be a positive test of our resolve and our commitment to each other and the chorus. So, many thanks to every member of *HOA* for his perseverance and commitment to mastering “Eight Days.” This is the level of commitment each member needs every day with respect to *HOA*. *HOA* is not a Tuesday thing; it’s an *Eight Days A Week* thing! And when you really commit to *HOA* not only will our singing improve but I bet, so will our membership. Membership is really the only area in which *HOA* needs substantial growth. Singing great with 40 guys is okay but let’s try committing to awesome singing with 80 to 100! I promise you that if you double our chorus membership this year you will quadruple the fun and excitement. You want *HOA* to go viral? Make a commitment! ♥



# Almost Here and Really Special!

by Kent and Cindy Miller, 2012 Show Chairs



I'm guessing that you will be reading this with about 10 to 12 days left until *SMILE, darn ya', SMILE!*, Heart of America's annual show and most important event on April 14, 2012 at Yardley Hall at Johnson County Community College. As I write this,

well over 80% of the center and side sections back to the first aisle for both the 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm performances are sold. There are still great seats available, particularly since there are really no "bad" seats at Yardley, but it would be a good idea to get your tickets now (see the flier for information on purchasing tickets).

Why is this show REALLY SPECIAL? Well, as you will see in another article in this issue, **THIS IS THE FINAL PERFORMANCE FOR DAN HENRY AND TONE-HENGE!** If there was ever a reason to attend a Heart of America performance and to tell everyone you know about it **THIS IS THE ONE!**

So, let's show **Dan** and *Tone-Henge* how much we sincerely appreciate their fantastic contribution to Barbershop Harmony in Kansas City and their fantastic contribution to the Heart of America Chapter by **PACKING THE HOUSE!** I know you can do it! ♥

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## Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter



**Note** that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. By Board resolution, this year all of the proceeds from the raffle not given as prizes goes to Harmony Foundation. In return, the

board is able to have the Foundation designate up to 30% of the fund to chapter activities such as Harmony Explosion.

As of March 28th, after 12 drawings (5 since last report):

- The total collected for Harmony Foundation since the last report is \$116.
- The total collected for the year to date is \$258.
- The total for the previous year was \$305.
- The total two years ago was \$725.



The progressive jackpot stands at \$133. ♥



## Ol' Tone-Henge is Collapsing

by Ol' Dan

**After** 14 wonderful years, *Tone-Henge* is facing retirement, and... It's all my fault. Well, really, the fault lies in my physical condition, but I take the blame for beating the bod to a pulp for 87 years.

I know what you're thinking: "Too many beers at too many afterglows!" Nope, not so. If anything the suds may be attributed to my longevity. It's two lungs that are functioning at a one-and-a-half level, following a case of pneumonia a coupla years back, preceded by **WAY** too many years of contributing to those employed by the tobacco industry.

So, I've been complaining to the other *Hengers* for several years, complaints that fell on deaf ears. (I should have suspected that malady 14 years ago!)

At any rate, that decade-and-a-half has been absolutely wonderful, participating in the best hobby in the world with four guys who are equally world's best companions. And I'm being serious for a change.

The only thing wrong with 'em is they think I'm still capable of "carrying on." Well, I forgot to mention they're nice gents who have been overlooking many of my faults for 14 years.

I'll be holding on to my Society membership, now 63 years in length, but as of April 15, 2012, the day after our chapter show, *Tone-Henge* and the *Hengettes* will remain only as a socializing octet.

Needless to say, we eight gather frequently! That will continue 'til STONEHENGE crumbles! ♥





# Spring iz Sprung, Grass iz Rizz, He iz Mine, and I iz Hizz, Wake Up Little Rosebud!

by John Erwine, Executive VP



Tell me you can't all relate to this! What a crazy winter and spring so far. I'm still not sure that

we won't have an April surprise, and our gardens are certainly not ready. Talk about corn being as high as your knee by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July! By that I mean that most plants are already that high, and if we do get one, boy, will it be a surprise! And my poor wife – she knows better than to push the growing season, but not really? As many gardeners, she's already stressing the season by planting baskets and pots around the yard against my sage advice. And of course you know who's going to pay for it if we do get a freeze? You bet – the "Sage," and there'll be an empty space on the risers for awhile!

As things seem to be rushing by very quickly, I have to think about our normal winter projects, what we normally do in the spring and summer, and try to keep things in perspective; obviously not an easy task.

Winter: Holiday Harmony Spectacular, and Singing Valentines was supposed to be cold and snowy, but not this year; mostly no jackets or coats required. While I'm addressing this, I feel really good about our SV drawing recipients this year.

Our diamond pendant winner is an employee of Children's Mercy Hospital. Now how cool is that! Her name is **Kimberly Loerzel**, a 3 year Nurse's Assistant with CMH. Our three Sweetheart Hotel Package winners were: Judge **Charles Shangler**, SV purchased by **Dick and Helen Shores**, **Stacey Schumacher** purchased by her Dad, **Mike Schumacher**, and **Glenda Faye Davis** purchased by **Hank Hammer**, a BHS judge that purchases one every year from us. So when you look at the winners and purchasers this year, can you see a connection to barbershop? Let's keep it going.

Spring: Wild flowers such as Trillium, Jonquils, Trout Lilly, and Meadowrue are all very early. Also are Tulips, Lilly of the Valley, and Lilacs. Redbud, Crabapple and Dogwood trees are out, and Tulip, Magnolia and Pears are already just about behind us.

The tree peonies (very early) are already blooming, and guess what – already ticks are being found (very unusual for this area), not in our yard of course, but in the area nurseries. And what about all the Hellebores in bloom so early? Not to be connected, but I've already mowed my lawn thrice!

So we as a chorus also have promising buds. We are singing very well, primarily in pitch, and improving with each rehearsal. On April 14<sup>th</sup>, our Spring Show, we will be singing probably the most aggressive program in recent years. Approximately ½ of our repertoire will be brand new. And as I see it from near and afar, we're just about ready to truly blossom!

Summer: This brings us to a very contentious part of the year. The long term forecast for the summer is wrought with fear of drought and high temps. We already know that some normal cool weather crops such as pansies, cabbage and some types of crocuses have already been, and gone, without much of a whimper.

So how does all that relate to our *Kansas City Heart of America Barbershop Chorus*? Well, we're going to be in Portland in July, the "City of Roses," for our International competition – right? Normally, the northwest part of the country is just ablaze with plant life. They have Gunnera plants the size of car hoods! Here...they die.

So what I'm projecting is this: we've already proven that we can gradually progress in quality from week to week. We have the



intestinal  
fortitude to  
continue that record.

As importantly, we have the music and leadership to support that effort. We have the desire and talent to show the BHS that we can break out of the middle of the pack that we've been so tightly immersed in for so many years with the quality of our art – perhaps almost the size of a car hood!

How do we accomplish this? We have to ignore all those radical drought and high temp forecasts. We can't control what Mother Nature brings our way, but we certainly can control our own destiny.

We're singing at such a great level now, so that if we keep on keeping better, we'll do what we came there to do – our very best! At the very least, what if we can say that we came to Portland, and were – HOT! And how about if we were in a lobby somewhere, sang "Eight Days a Week" and just blew Portland to the east coast! WINNING! ♥



# HOA Financial Corner

by Kent Miller,

reprinted from the March 2009 issue of *Harmonotes*



When I began this column in 2007 the title of the second article was "Why Didn't the Rest of us Know?" The article explained that all expenses a member incurs by going to contests – travel, lodging, meals, etc. – are tax

deductible as a charitable expense, if you itemize deductions. I mentioned that based upon the results of my very informal poll, perhaps 80 to 90 percent of you were not aware of these deductions.

Recent discussions indicate that new members would like to know about the deductions and that older (longevity) members may need a refresher.

You may deduct the expenses because you are being educated. Section 5.4 of the Chapter Treasurer's Manual says: "... IRS regulations state that an educational organization is one designed primarily for the "improvement or development of the capabilities of the individual."...The main part of a chapter's activity is directed toward improving and developing the capability of the individual to sing barbershop harmony."

These expenses are deductible because barbershop chapters fall under Section 501C(3) and are only deductible as charitable expenses. They are limited to 30% of the amount on Form 1040, line 38 (adjusted gross income). You must itemize deductions on Schedule A to use them.

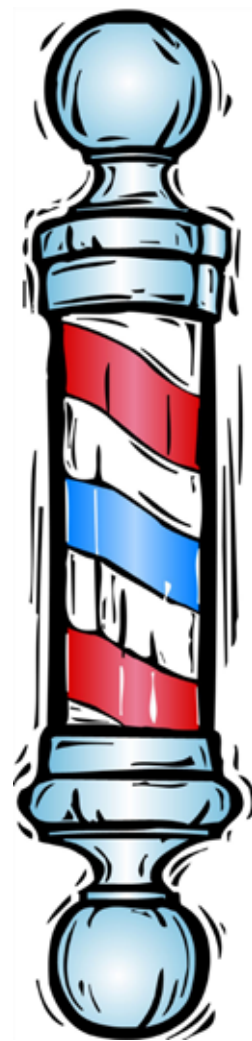
You may deduct expenses associated with public appearances including contest, shows and other public appearances, and attendance at inter-chapter, area and district meetings (but not including chapter meetings unless you are specified officers). You may deduct expenses connected with travel such as travel fares, meals, lodging and expenses incident to travel unless you are only a spectator.

You must have very good records of your expenses in case you are audited. Also the IRS sometimes has trouble locating our organization in the IRS Code. The Chapter Treasurer's Manual gives explicit instructions on how to locate it (it is listed as SPEBSQSA). ♥



## 2012 International Chorus Contest Order of Appearance, Friday, July 6, 2012

1. Grand Rapids, MI
2. Concord, MA
3. Greater Toronto, ON
4. Elizabethtown, ky
5. Hells Kitchen, NY
6. Manhattan, NY
7. Houston, TX
8. Greendale, WI
9. Bloomington, IL
10. Bolton, UK
11. Stockholm, Sweden
12. Wasatch Front, UT
13. Fremont, NE
14. Jacksonville, FL
15. Western Hills, OH
16. Bay Area, CA
17. St. Charles, MO
18. Western Washington, WA
19. Research Triangle Park, NC
20. Nashville, TN
21. Atlanta Metro, GA
22. Metro Kansas City, MO
23. Kansas City, MO
24. Hilltop, MN
25. La Jolla, CA
26. Sunrise, FL
27. Greater Central Ohio, OH
28. Mohawk Valley, NY
29. Salem, OR





# TERRIFIC TUESDAYS!

Photos taken by **Vince Perry** during the March 13 and March 20 Tuesday night rehearsals



**Top row, left to right:** *Resonation* members LtoR **Craig Wilcox**-Tenor, **Jeff Wolff**-Lead, **Jonathan Andrews**-Bass, **Jake Wozniak**-Bari; *Heartbeats* President **Marci Brown-Turlin** (right) presents **Shaun Whisler** with 2012 Oval Wilson Harmony University Memorial Scholarship; **Bottom row:** A couple different looks of reigning Region Seven Quartet Champions *Legacy* as they practiced their contest set for the upcoming Sweet Adeline Region 7 Competition in KC. **Left to right:** **Trish Holland**-bass, **Stacy Schumacher**-lead, **Karla Kraut**-bari, and **Wendy Pool**-tenor

# Harmonotes May Be On The Chopping Block (Again)!

by Vince Perry, Chapter President

It's only been a little over two years since the *Harmonotes*, our award winning, monthly chapter bulletin, went green and paperless. The cost savings was immediate and provided some relief to our then cash strapped chapter. We called it "going green" which sounded like we were environmentally motivated, but it was really the HOA financial climate that brought upon the change. Chapter presidents **Doug Brott** and **Kent Miller** led the chapter through those difficult financial times and basically fielded all the flack that came from the masses about going paperless. Needless to say it was not a very popular decision. It maybe a little late but never the less many thanks to Doug and Kent for helping HOA make some tough decisions for the good of the chapter in our recent past.

One phenomenon that we didn't foresee after we'd gone paperless for year was the popularity of Facebook. Even some board members and other influential people in the chapter have stated that the use of Facebook and emails are more effective ways of communicating with our members and our supporters than the *Harmonotes*. Whatever the reasons, the *Harmonotes* for the past year has struggled each month to get enough articles to put out a newsworthy edition.

I have contended for over a year that the *Harmonotes* is basically the only historical document that is currently being produced by this chapter. I have regularly urged all quartets, musical leaders, chapter officers, members, and auxiliaries to chip in to make the *Harmonotes* something that will tell the whole story of the chapter whenever it is read in future.

Have you ever found an old chapter bulletin hidden away in some other paperwork for a number of years? I have and it usually costs me 30 minutes or more as I have to sit down and read every word to find out again what was happening in HOA during that particular month of that particular year. **It's our history.** You want to know what the chorus goals were for the chapter in that time period all you have to do was read. If you wanted to know important chorus opinions about the last contest or upcoming annual show, all you had to do was read. It was history in the making, one word at a time.

So where do we go from here? I guess you knew this was coming from the title. Should we continue with the *Harmonotes* on a monthly basis or not? Do we go bi-monthly hoping we might get more articles if we don't have it as often? How about quarterly? Or semi-annually? Or should we just forget it altogether, call it a day, and chalk it up as a thing of the past? The Board will be considering this soon but it's important that they know how you feel. Do you agree that we need to stop putting our energies and resources into the *Harmonotes* and that they should be directed instead to Facebook and other social media?

Nobody's mentioned a chapter blog. They are many times like online diaries that in essence record history of a sort. There is no denying the effectiveness of the social media (though I did for a long time!) HOA is now online with all of the most popular forms including Facebook, Twitter, and Craig's List. (Many thanks to our dynamic PR Vice President **Ray Young** for his leadership to make these happen.)

And I agree that all these social medias are great vehicles and have a place in promoting our chapter and chorus. But I wonder, do they record our history? It seems to me that the writing of history has to be done with a purpose in a purposeful manner. If we agree that social media does not record chapter history, then maybe the real question we must answer is: does this great chapter want to continue writing its own history or not? Gone are the days of chapter scrap

books and the chapter historian. Is it now time for the chapter bulletin to find its own place in our chapter's history—gone?

Your responses to this article are very important to the chapter and particularly the Board as we face the challenge of determining the fate of the *Harmonotes*. If you would like to voice an opinion please complete a very short form online at:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dG03VHdZYmoxc0pWYTZud25yZ19NSGc6MQ>





*Heart of America Barbershop Chorus* presents

# Smile! *darn 'ya* Smile!



MaxQ  
2007 International  
Quartet Champions



Voices Unlimited  
2011 Central States District  
Quartet Champions

**Saturday, April 14**  
**Yardley Hall**

**Johnson County Community College**

- Show times: 2pm and 7:30 pm
- For \$25 or \$20 tickets call 913-469-4445
- Also available at [www.hoachorus.com](http://www.hoachorus.com) (service fee additional)
- Group and Student Discounts • Free Parking





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 **Carl Turlin** for organizing a KCUR news spot, complete with quartet, to advertise the Spring Show "Smile, Darn 'ya, Smile."

Also, a bow of the bowler to **Dave Jobe** for visiting and then bringing back his experiences from other barbershop chapters while he is traveling the country on business.

Hats off goes to to **Jeff Wolff** for organizing HOA's second guest night of 2012.

And finally, a flip of the fedora to **Marci Brown-Turlin** and all the *Heartbeats* for their recent \$750 donation to the HOA coffers plus their work in organizing and presenting the 2012 Oval Wilson Memorial Harmony University Scholarship. ♥

**DEADLINE**  
**FOR THE MAY ISSUE**  
**OF HARMONOTES:**  
**APRIL 25**

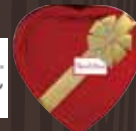


...to the following HOA MEMBERS!

April 7 **Raymond Schwarzkopf**  
April 8 **Jeff Wolff**  
April 10 **Matt Bostick**  
April 11 **Craig Wilcox**  
April 11 **John Erwine**  
April 14 **Bob Howard**  
April 16 **Brandon Yarbrough**  
April 16 **Jim Clark**  
April 17 **Mike Mathieu**  
April 21 **Dick Krueger**  
April 21 **Tom Elefson**  
April 24 **Marlin Weidler**  
April 24 **Dom Geniuk**  
April 25 **Bruce Wenner**

## 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

**April 14 (Saturday)**

2012 Annual Spring Show at  
Johnson County Community College  
2PM & 7:30PM

**May 18 - 19 (Friday – Saturday)**

2012 HOA Chorus Retreat at  
Lake Doniphan featuring  
Mike Slamka!

**April 20-22**

CSD Spring Convention with  
International Preliminary Quartet  
Contest & Plateau A Chorus Contest

**July 4 - 7 (Wednesday – Saturday)**

2012 International Competition in  
Portland, Oregon

**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.