The Quarterly Bulletin of the Kansas City Heart of America Chorus Control Control

CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE







SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 1 FALL 2017 · WINTER 2018

AN HOA REVIEW

by Barry Sanders, Chapter President



This note for the *Harmonotes* comes at a time when we are transitioning from 2017 into 2018 for the *Heart of America Chorus*. As is typically the case, this is a good time for us to take a look back at the past year, plus take a look forward at the coming year. With that in mind, let's first take a look at 2017:

This past year has certainly had it's share of good and bad as most of us would say about every year. Let me point out some of the good things:

- 1. HOA has "stopped the bleeding" with its attendance and membership decline from the past 4-5 years. According to statistics compiled by Jim Porter, our average Tuesday night attendance ticked up for the first time in the past five years. Also, according to statistics compiled by Jerry Meier, HOA gained three new members in 2017 (Wally Thornton, Nate Harper, and Bart Bartholomew). Plus, we know that at least 4 of our older members have now come back to sing with HOA, including Jim Davis, Tony O'Brien, Frank Lasta, and Eric Weber. Hurrah! Several others came back to sing with us for Fall contest, which was GREAT.
- 2. HOA has also "stopped the bleeding" financially. We actually made a profit on all of our fundraising activities in 2017 (Annual Show, Golf Tournament, and HHS show). (Continued on page 2)

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Chapter meets at 7 p.m. each Tuesday night, at:

St. Mary & St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church 110th & Holmes · Kansas City, Mo. 64131

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ALL Our Chapter Members!

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 Web Address: webstaff@hoachorus.com Chorus Manager & Webmaster - Vince Perry





(Continued from front cover)

2. Continued

Though the *HOA* Board realized heading into 2017 that we might actually run out of money during the year, that did not happen. In fact, we are now much better positioned for 2018, with about \$10,000 in cash in the bank. There were a couple of guys, namely Kent Miller and John Erwine, who were particularly influential for this financial turnaround during 2017, but many, many others contributed as well.

- 3. HOA had more singing gigs in 2017, as you have told us you want to do. Once during the Fall, Director **Bob Velazquez** noted that it was so hard for us to prepare for Fall contest and for the HHS show, because we had so many other performances (like the performance at **Bob Murphy's** church, the performance at our own practice facility, the performance at the Blue Springs Fall Fun Festival, and the performance for Blue Ridge Bank at the Hilton Garden Inn). That's good news / bad news, obviously, but all in all, we all love to sing and perform, so I'd say it comes down on the positive end of things.
- **4.** HOA is singing better. At Fall contest with about five more singers competing than in 2016, we raised our score by nearly three full points, and won the district contest award for the Plateau AAA chorus most improved in 2017 over the previous year.

I mentioned that there were both good things and bad things – let's call those "not so good things" instead of bad things. Obviously, most of you would say that the shocking disruption to our director situation was the toughest thing for us to bear, especially since it happened 4 days before our annual show. Another "not so good thing" was the news that our landlord is trying to double the rent on our practice facility. More on both of those topics is ahead in this article.

Now, as we head into 2018, here are some of the things to be looking for:

- **1.** We have some great "new blood" coming onto the *HOA* Board in 2018. **Jim Davis** is going to be an at large member. **Don Fuson** will be VP of Marketing, and John Braden will be Music VP. I am terrifically excited about the new ideas and new enthusiasm that these new Board members will bring to us!
- 2. Jerry Meier has already scheduled five count 'em, five quest nights for 2018. I am excited that we have renewed enthusiasm about sharing what we have in HOA. (it never was gone – just in hibernation for a while). HOA is singing better, and HOA is now more focused on what we know we are best at, so it's time we go out and "sell" this to those that don't yet know who we are.

- 3. Our director situation is in very good hands. Though we were shocked when Jerry Garrard had to step aside to resolve his personal legal situation, we quickly found that Bob Velazquez, with help from Carter Combs, and Jim Bagby (director emeritas) can very ably share the director role for our chorus. As mentioned above, despite the director interruption, HOA scored much better at Fall contest in 2017. We certainly look forward to a more permanent situation after Jerry's legal status is resolved. However, we know that we don't need to hold up on any of our go-forward ideas and plans waiting on that situation to resolve itself.
- **4.** Lots of special activities and events are ahead of us in 2018. We have in mind a new fundraising event for Valentines Day, called Valentine Rendezvous at the Station (still hoping to resurrect our traditional Singing Valentines as well). We also are working on a special event on April 11, 2018, the 80th anniversary of the society, which will be at the old Muehlebach Lobby of the Marriott Hotel. Planning for this event will be combined with the other 3 area choruses. Also, for our annual show on June 16th, we have some exciting ideas for basing the theme of the show around the 80th anniversary of our *HOA* chapter.
- **5.** Our venue selection committee was busy over the Christmas holidays evaluating some possible new venues, if we determine that we need to move, that might work for *HOA* to hold weekly practices, and some of those already appear to be as affordable or even less expensive than what *HOA* is currently paying, so the potential for venue options is very promising.

Our work on a strategic plan for the chapter based on inputs from last year's surveys and focus group session is yet to be completed, so we still have much work to do. However, I am excited to be heading into 2018 with as much "good news" as we have. I hope all of you have had a great holiday season, and I hope that all of you will be excited about what *HOA* will be doing in 2018. I hope that if you have not been singing with us in 2017 that you will come out on Tuesday and give us a try. We want you back!

AWARDS BANQUET SLATED FOR SATURDAY JAN. 13, 2018

by Jerry Meier



The Heart of America Chorus will host its annual Awards Banquet at 6:30pm on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018 in the Private Dining Room at Cinzetti's "All You Can Eat Italian Feast" Italian Market. You will like the 2018 price and you will LOVE the food

and desserts. Here are the details at a glance:

Time: 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm Date: Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018

Location: Cinzetti's Italian Market (Private Dining Room)
Address: 7201 W 91st St, Overland Park, KS 66212

(southwest corner of 91st and Metcalf in OP)

Dress Code: Somewhere between formal and casual

We will enjoy an unlimited selection of Italian food from a dozen cooking stations, representing foods from the various regions of Italy.

The cost will be \$20 per person. Please support your chapter by attending this event.

HOA members and guests can arrive anytime after 6pm, and enjoy the full service cash bar. Dinner will begin at 6:30 pm, with the events starting promptly at 7:30 pm. We will complete all presentations and speeches by 9:30 pm. Your 2018 Board of Directors will be installed and your annual awards will be announced: the John Cross Award, the Oz Newgard Award, and the Barbershopper of the Year Award. Stay tuned for additional. Make plans to attend!



HARMONY EXPLOSION!

Who: YOU!

What: Harmony Explosion! 2018

When: Saturday, Feb. 17 from 8:30 am to 5 pm

Where: Olathe East High School, 14545 W. 127th Olathe, KS 66062

You are invited to participate in a very exciting opportunity to support our youth — Harmony Explosion 2018! — to be held at Olathe East High School on Saturday, Feb. 17. Harmony Explosion! 2018 is a one-day clinic that introduces Middle School and High School students and teachers (and family members and friends) to the 4-part a cappella harmonic sounds created by singing Barbershop style music. *The Kansas City Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society* and the *Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines* join forces to sponsor this event, as we have done for more than 20 years.

Harmony Explosion! 2018 includes vocal music activities for students that wish to sing Barbershop music in quartets or in larger groups — with a common goal to promote 4-part a cappella singing in a mistake-friendly environment that encourages participation and performance with plenty of support and fun!

- Goal #1 get the students to sing on stage!
- Goal #2 get the students excited about singing a cappella music on their own and with their friends!
- Goal #3 get the students to understand that singing is a life-long hobby they can participate in school, in college, as young
 adults, and throughout their lifetime.
- Goal #4 provide excellence in vocal music singing through demonstration and education with wonderful Featured
 Quartets such as Harmonium, Legacy, BoomTown, Premium Blend, HEAT, and ZING!

Getting the students to sing on stage is a HUGE accomplishment:

- 1. Builds character and self-confidence
- 2. Improves their self-esteem
- 3. Teaches them responsibility and accountability
- 4. Uses Barbershop Music as the vehicle for fun!

The schedule for the day will look something like this:

8:30 am Registration Opens 9:00 am Opening Session

10:00 am Preliminary Quartet Performances 12:30 pm Quartet Finals Announcement

LUNCH!

2:00 pm Quartet Finals Performances

4:45 pm Awards Ceremony

Make plans now to attend. You will thoroughly enjoy the experience — I GUARANTEE IT!

Jerry Meier, Harmony Explosion! Director (913) 780-1822 (Home) (913) 226-5394 (Mobile) lilhossks@aol.com jerry.meier@hoachorus.com



Are YOU a Harmony Explosion! Volunteer?

Harmony Explosion! will be here before you know it. It's right around the corner.

- 1. Can you be an Enthusiastic Audience Member? Please make plans to attend, even if you do not receive a specific work assignment that day. Your presence gives the kids moral support when singing for a larger, loving audience!
- 2. Wanna be a Judge (you get simple, basic instructions)? Can you operate a laptop running Excel? Wanna help set up /serve lunch? Can you operate a video camera? Wanna hang signs inside the building? Can you help the kids find the Warm-up Rooms? Wanna help back stage? These are just some of the simple but important assignments that make Harmony Explosion! run. Please notify Jerry Meier if you can help — it's appreciated by everyone involved.

Can you be a Quartet Coach? It's easier than you think! Simply share your barbershop knowledge with the students – it's the most beneficial service that we can provide. Your presence with a young guartet will help the students practice their songs with a purpose. Just one or two days prior to Feb. 17 is all it takes – usually at 3:15 pm during the school day (sometimes at 7:15 am). Just 30 minutes of coaching can make a huge difference in a student's ability to sing on stage. Don't you wish that someone would have coached you when YOU were in school? Please talk to **Jerry Meier** in person to get more information.

Finally, all Harmony Explosion! volunteers (those of you with a specific work assignment) must complete the online training. Please complete the training well before THE Saturday in February.

Harmony Explosion! 2018: Saturday, Feb. 17

Opening Session with performances by the
KCCSA, Pizzazz and a Special Awards Presentation
Vocal Warm-ups and song (Boys Chorus will learn
When I Lift Up My Head)
Quartet Prelims
Quartet Performances by Date Night
catered by Olive Garden (\$5 suggested donation)
Afternoon Rehearsal on the songs
Quartet Finals
Performance by <i>Harmonuim</i>
Girls Chorus / Boys Chorus performances
Hand out medals

2017 HARMONY HOLIDAY **SPECTACULAR (HHS) SHOW**

by Barry Sanders, Co-Show-chairperson

The HHS show for 2017 (Dec. 2) was once again a rousing success for both HOA and for KC Chorus (Sweet Adelines). Although there may be a few last minute minor expenses to be paid, it appears that the net profit from the show will be about \$5,200, which will net each chorus right about \$2,600. We'd like to have had more, but at least it is a substantial profit – again.

The total number of tickets sold – including about 50 walkins on a beautiful day - was just under 700 tickets, which is slightly more than we sold in 2016, but certainly well below some of our record years when we nearly filled the auditorium at Unity for two shows, let alone the single matinee performance that we have had the past three years. This obviously is impacted by the reduced size of both choruses: where we used to put nearly 200 men and women on the stage for the combined choruses, this year we put about 80 on the stage. Both HOA and KC Chorus are growing again, so let's hope that we can start moving back toward those larger performing numbers in 2018 and larger audiences also!

Our headliner quartet for 2017 was New Fangled Four, a very young and very entertaining guartet from California that previously won the collegiate competition and now is scoring in the top 10 in International BHS competition. Not only were they a big hit for the HHS show, but they were also very popular at the Afterglow and the Glimmer, where those of us guy and women barber shoppers were able to appreciate their talent and entertaining humor.

Most of the comments we received from patrons about the show were something like "best show ever," which admittedly we receive every year, so we have become somewhat numb to those kinds of comments. However, we need to remain cognizant that this show always touches the hearts of those that attend, and routinely puts those patrons into a "spirit of Christmas" so we need to be proud that we fulfill that role in peoples' lives each and every year.

Not to leave you on a downer, but all of us who participated in this year's show feel that we could have fixed a few things and the show would have been even more impressive than it was. The combined show committee (men and women) will meet in January to debrief and hopefully document these things that can make for an even better show in 2018, including trying to add a greater mix of new songs to the line-up so that returning viewers will view the show as fresh. Well done, as always, HOA! ♥

IITH ANNUAL HOA FOUR-PERSON GOLF SCRAMBLE

September 28, 2017 Falcon Lakes Golf Course, Basehor, KS



Jim Bagby and Jim Davis arrive at the club house



Jim Bagby, John Erwine, Mike Mathieu in registration area



Slideshow guru Don Fuson



Jim Bagby, John Erwine work the check-in table



Stan Dozier, Lynn Bridie. Cecil Goettsch, Matt Goettsch



Stan Dozier, Lynn Bridie, Mike Mathieu. and Cecil Goettsch sing a tag



Kevin Schumacher, Don Young, Jana Henderson, Mike Schumacher



Mike Schumacher tees off



Don Young drives



Chorus Director Bob Velazguez loses his head

IITH ANNUAL HOA FOUR-PERSON GOLF SCRAMBLE

September 28, 2017 Falcon Lakes Golf Course, Basehor, KS



Jim Evans, Johnnie Huff, **Barry Sanders, Mark Rains**



Tracy Dame, Mike Wilcox, **Bob Hurlz**, Bill Bay



Mike O'Dell putts



Carl Turlin, Bob Davis, Mike O'Dell, Jeff Kelley



Niel O'Brien, Tony O'Brien, Kevin O'Brien



Tournament Director Kent Miller lets'r fly from best ball lie



Bob V switches to an iron



Bob break-his-driver Velazquez, Zack Stover, Bill Brown, Kent Miller



Barry Thompson, Ron Whitehouse, **Chuck Meyer, John Zillman**

IITH ANNUAL HOA FOUR-PERSON GOLF SCRAMBLE

September 28, 2017 Falcon Lakes Golf Course, Basehor, KS



Jack Strange, Russ Thompson, **Tami Holthus, Dick Calkine**



Weldon Harris, Steve Keisker, **Bob Rutherford, Harvey Shapiro**



Charlie Drake, Jr., Charlie Drake, Sr, Jim Bagby, Jim Davis



Kevin Tritsch putts



Brian Tritsch, Tom Tritsch, Bob Kruetzkamp, Kevin Tritsch



John Canter, Dave Hokanson, **Don Fuson, Frank Lasta**



Bob Velazquez, John Erwine, Marty Oldehoeft, Cecil Goettsch in chow line



Dinner at one of the rounds



Kohls volunteers enjoying some chow

SALVATION ARMY (PAROLING (PARAVAN

December 16, 2017 30-minute concerts at six **KC Metro Retirement Communities**



On the caravan bus!



Elves Byron & Carla Weisz



2 thumbs up from Past Int'l Prez Don Fuson



Mike Schumacher directs



Director Emeritus Jim Bagby directs



Salvation Army Associate Rick Marston give an update on 2017 Bell Ringing



SA associate Rick Marston directs



Bus Driver Santa Bob Eddy



HOA Director Bob Velazquez

SALVATION ARMY CAROLING CARAVAN



Jim Bagby, Caravan Co-chair **Bob Burdick**



Singamabob quartet plays instruments made by the late, great Dan Henry Bowser



Caravan Organizer Mike Mathieu



Assistant Director Carter Combs directs



Audience sings



Harmonium: Mark Fortino, Brian Bellof, Micah Jeppesen, Michael Troyer



Carl Turlin, John Erwine, Bob Burdick, Steve Keisker, Bob Velazquez



VLQ (Very Large Quartet) sings "Hanukkah in Santa Monica"



Director Emeritus Jim Bagby directs



SA Associate Jeanine Conrady directs



Vince Perry4, John Erwine, Vince Perry 3

In Memoriam

Article by Ron Abel. Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire.



Steve A. Abel 1943-2017

Steve A. Abel, HOA member in the 1970s and son of **Ron Abel**, died August 31, 2017. He was in the hospital to have a biopsy on his lungs and what the doctor's found turned out to be worse than anticipated. Steve's working career began in 1960 with Amoco Oil. He later transferred to the Amoco

Chemical plant in Chocolate Bayou, TX and retired when British Petroleum took over Amoco in the late 1990s.

Steve was a member of HOA from 1974 through 1979 and served as chapter secretary in 1975 and 1976. **Steve** and **Ron** were both front row fixtures during the years leading up to HOA's first district championship in 1978 and its initial international contest appearance in 1979. HOA always liked to say "we have a very Abel Row 1!"

Steve's survivors include: his father, **Ron**, one daughter and one step daughter and their families living in Texas, one son and his family living in Independence, MO, a brother, **Eddie** (also a past *HOA* member), and two sisters, **Jeanne** and **Joan** and their families living in Kansas City.

Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter



Note that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. All of the proceeds of the raffle not given as prizes or used for expenses of the raffle goes to Harmony Foundation at the end of each year. In return, we are able to have the Foundation designate

up to 30% of the funds given to chapter activities such as Harmony Explosion.

As of Dec.13, after 50 drawings (19 since the last report):

- The total collected for Harmony Foundation since the last report is \$431.
- The total collected for the calendar year now ended is \$1,086.
- Last year's total was \$1,107, the highest since 2010.



Tom Gray
Kent Miller
Dick Korek
Dick Henderson
Vince Perry III
Todd Anderson
Paul Winans

Jim Davis Ron Fortino Darrell McCune Nate Harper

Don Newman Harvey Shapiro Bob Rutherford Oly Oldehoeft **Rov Manade Bob Burdick** Rick Foreman

Jim Baqby John Fortino Fred Hangartner Jim Porter **Johan Marshall** Jon Gathright

Ron McIntire Eric Weber Don Young Jason Garder **Charles Ramirez Jerry Meier** Doc Jeppesen

November 8 November 10

November 20 November 26

November 28 November 28 **November 29**

December 7 **December 9** December 24 **December 28**

January 3 January 7 January 9 January 10 January 13 January 25 January 30

February 14 February 18 February 19 February 20 February 25 **February 27**

March 4 March 16 March 17 March 19 March 23 March 29 March 30

Four Friends in New Fun Foursome

by Jim Bagby

Once upon a time, I was invited to deliver a Harmony College keynote address, and the topic I chose after much deliberation was: if you wanna sing in a quartet, pick your friends. All these many years later, I believe that more than ever.

As a coach, judge and just an observer of the barbershopping scene (male and female) for well over half a century now, I've seen too many quartets who have formed with the the express purpose of putting together the best-singing

- and by extension, best-scoring - foursome around. In most cases, those quartets didn't last long OR didn't have much fun because:

- 1. They didn't get along all that well, or,
- 2. Their spouses had nothing in common, so there was not enough comfortable social interaction, or
- **3.** They lived miles (often miles and miles) apart so they couldn't do their own shows or local gigs without costly travel, or
- **4.** They only time they got together was related to coaching or competition, or
- 5. Fill in the blanks from your own experience with quartets who picked by voices only.

This is a long-winded way to announce the formation of an extremely fun new foursome: Singamabob, all members of the Kansas City Chapter and more important, all longtime friends. In fact, we now have eight quartets that we've sung in together, in one combination or another. And this one is intended primarily as a comedy quartet, as you can tell immediately by

who's singing what: tenor Carter Combs, bass Willard Yoder, baritone Keith Schweer and lead Jim Bagby.

> It's Keith's first fulltime quartet venture on bari, and my first 100 per center on lead since 1967. Those other two fellers are legitimate. We made our debut on the Holiday Show. Keith is the contact person. We haven't said absolutely certain we won't compete, but it's not likely - although that's a

great way for any quartet to improve. But it's an end to a means rather than the reason to form a quartet.

If you're interested in the history:

Carter and I recently sang in *Armchair Chorderbacks* for about three years, with Mike Mathieu and David **Stockard**. We did have a good time, and enjoyed one of the chief prerequisites for a foursome: all the members and wives must get along. We just discovered as we went that our goals were somewhat different.

Keith and I sang way back in Four the Fun of It, with Dale Neuman and bari Jim Davis. It was just-forthe-heck of one contest, with Dale on lead and me on tenor. Then Keith and I were two of the four baritones for almost 15 years in *Tone Henge* -- with **Bruce Wenner** on tenor, laughing behind **Dan Henry** on lead.

Willy and I also sang with Dan in *Hubbub*, along with lead Manley Vance; with tenor Gene Bowers and lead David Krause in Harmony Spectrum, and wore out three Rural Route 4 tenors (Ev Roth, Don Kahl & Wes Yoder), lead Calvin Yoder and original bari Rufus Kenagy. >

(Photo by Joann Bagby)

Handful Looks Back at Busy 2017; Huyck Honored

by Don Fuson



Things continued busy in 2017 for the New Harmony Handful. representing the daytime tuners of HOA.

We were sad to see Dale Neuman depart for Maine, after

being a stalwart tenor in various combos over the years. but wish Dale the best "down east" in the new digs. **Lyle Wyly** has returned to the *Handful*, expanding our small and mighty tenor section.

The summer months and even into the fall gave *NHH* many opportunities to get out to the community. Administrator Tony Strub even had to "cut back" some of the opportunities to give sufficient time for the members to return home to mow the grass!



The *Handful* sang at the funeral for Val Putzier as well as for Ann Abel's memorial service. In memory of Val, and with some of Val's hunting socks, a familv member fashioned the sock monkey, who has now been affectionately named "Valor-key" and may accompany the Handful at future gigs. Temporary

dad **Jim Davis** shares a laugh with the new guy, while remembering Val.



Rich Huyck accepts the 2017 "Handful Hero" award from NHH **Director Jim Bagby (Photo by Dave Hokanson)**

The end-of-year Handful dinner normally is hosted by a member. However, this year, Jon **Gathright** went out and negotiated such a sweet deal with the Loch Lloyd Country Club management that we took our spouses there instead. A great evening, great food,

and even broke into song to entertain some of the other diners and staff. The evening culminated with presentation of the 2017 Handful Hero award to Rich **Huyck**, who serves as our IT guru, backup pitch piper and among his other contributions, he normally provides pocket-size printed song lineups to each member at every performance.

In the "count 'em again just to make sure" department, our own Ron Abel has the record on great-grandchildren that he claims. The number was 43 up until that phone call with one of his grandsons, and come to find out there was another that came along without Ron's knowledge. New count (until the next time) now at 44! (Ron was the 2016 Handful Hero).

The Harmony Handful claims the Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church in Raytown as our monthly rehearsal space. and we show up regularly there for Sunday service, and also an occasional OWLS (senior group) luncheon, too! We will continue to gladly use that location, which makes it a friendly exchange.



During 2017, we performed 24 times, covering Retirement and Nursing Homes, Church dinners, Memorial Services and Sunday Church services alike, bringing some close harmony to those in our diverse audiences. While we took a break in December, several groups have already called and are reserving future dates for us to come and perform.

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

Saturday, Feb. 10 - Valentine Rendezvous at the Station

Wednesday, Feb. 14 - Singing Valentines

Saturday, Feb. 17 - Harmony Explosion

April 11 - 80th anniversary of Barbershop Quartet Day

Muehlebach Lobby of Marriott Hotel

April 19-22 - Spring Convention in Omaha NE

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.