

Harmonotes

The Quarterly Bulletin of the
Kansas City Heart of America Chorus

CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

VOLUME 19 • ISSUE 2 • APRIL 2019

FROM THE HEART

By Mike Schumacher, HOA President



SCHUMACHER

Looking back on the first three months of this year, you will (as I have) seen several guys who have 'Stepped Up' and answered the call. As always, **Jerry Meier** put together a wonderful installation banquet with a record number of attendees. To the point where additional tables and chairs were squeezed into the room. *Thank you, Jerry.*

Next, **Barry Sanders** also stepped up and led our efforts in Singing Valentines along with help from **Vince Perry III**, **John Erwine** and **Marlin Weidler**. What a team. And in the process, a lot of hearts were touched by some fun quartets! A couple of which were brand new and not only did they enjoy the experience but I know their recipients did also.

The good times didn't stop there. Despite the awful weather that caused us to cancel several rehearsals, **John Braden** stepped up and led the Music Team (including **Bob Velazquez**, **Ted Simon**, and **Carter Combs**) and the chorus along a fun path to our Annual Show which was in March this year. Not only was the show fun and innovative, the chorus bought into the plan and everyone stepped up to put together a good time for our audience. John put in an incredible amount of time and effort and it was amazing. (Continued on page 2 ➡)

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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
Center High School
87th and Holmes - Kansas City, Mo. 64131

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HOA Board meetings take place at 6pm on the second Monday or Tuesday of the month, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 100 East Red Bridge Road, 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)

Thank you, John (doesn't seem enough but the thanks come from the hearts of the 30 guys on stage)!

Show chairman **Greg Busch** also put in some long hours getting details handled. **Marlin Weidler** also stepped up as our illustrious ticket chairman again (although I don't think we worked him near hard enough). Thanks for your continued efforts.

Special thanks go to Pastor **Nicole Richardson** and South Broadland Presbyterian Church for allowing us to use their Fellowship Hall for several rehearsals leading up to the show (as Center High School was unavailable). And thanks to **Rich Huyck** for helping find this location! Speaking of bad weather; not only did it cause us to cancel several of our meetings but one of the snowstorms had to come along on the weekend of our Harmony Explosion! That's the first time that's happened in my memory! **Jerry Meier** always pours his heart and soul into this event because it touches the hearts of the students and encourages the teachers to teach barbershop. Undaunted, he made every effort to reschedule and on a Saturday late in March, he found a date and a location that would host 12 quartets and give them an opportunity to show off the skills they had been practicing. It was awesome (even though a few flakes of snow had the nerve to make their presence known). *Thank you, Jerry!*

It never ceases to amaze me what this chapter and chorus are capable of accomplishing when we step up and lead with our hearts. Yes, we are a smaller chorus than we've ever been before, but we're just as big when we touch the hearts and souls of the people that we get involved with—other choruses, quartets, our audience member, Valentines recipients, Explosion students and teachers, Children's Mercy Hospital. Just last week, Tuesday night Barry presented the lady from CMH with their check (their share of the valentines money) and three days later (Friday), my 8-year-old granddaughter was in CMH having her appendix removed. Funny how some things touch you when you least expect it!

Last but not least, an opportunity came to us to reach out to the community in a new way to maybe stir up some interest in increasing our membership. At least we hope so. **Adam Singleton** and **Don Fuson** stepped up and prepared some artwork and an ad that will run in the next three shows at the New Dinner Theatre. Actually, the membership portion will be for the next two shows and we will have the chance to change the ad to advertise our Holiday Show during their third show which runs in November. New waters are being tested so keep the good thoughts coming. I am convinced that we can accomplish what we set our minds to do with "a little help from our friends".

There are other things in the works and those things will rely on other individuals stepping up and making things happen. But we can do it. Enjoy the other articles in this issue and let's keep learning and encouraging others to get involved and enjoy the camaraderie that we do on a weekly basis. There are others out there that need the Harmony in their lives! I found that on occasion I'm leery of starting a new project because I want it to always turn out to be the best and a lot of my projects just don't even get started. So here's my new mantra: "Don't let PERFECT get in the way of Better!"

I am proud of HOA and the members I love singing with. And I will work as hard as I can to help us succeed in whatever **WE decide to do**, together! ❤️

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 April 17, after 16 drawings (14 since the last report):

- The total collected for Harmony Foundation since the last report is \$289.
- The total collected for the calendar year 2019 to date is \$328.

The carry-over jackpot amount stands at \$190. ♥



"SORRY, BUT I'M GONE TO MY WEEKLY BARBERSHOP MEETING. IF YOU WANT TO JOIN ME NEXT WEEK, LEAVE YOUR NAME AND NUMBER!"

FROM THE NEW HARMONY HANDFUL

by Jim Davis

It wasn't quite spring yet, but Saturday night, March 9, with more than a chill in the air and several inches of snow on the ground, a somewhat "Lead"-depleted group entertained at the Overland Park Marriott Hotel annual fund raiser and award ceremony for the New Dinner Theater Guild. We had been forced to cancel a couple of gigs in February due to weather, so it was good to get out again, even in the snow. The event had a Mardi Gras theme/decor, and many in the audience were wearing beads, fancy hats and feathers, etc. and we did our part by displaying the different brightly colored scarves *HOA* had used on last year's annual show, thanks to our uniform guy, **Marty Oldehoeft**.

Now it's finally Spring and we're off and running/singing. Our yeoman coordinator/business manager **Tony Strub** has scheduled two individual performances and a one day pre-Mothers Day caravan to four or five nursing homes in April. Also, on May 15 we will be performing at a luncheon for the Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church OWLS group. This is an annual event for us as a partial "Thank You" for the use of the Church Choir Room where we hold our monthly practice. We also participate in a Sunday worship service at the church during the summer.

We have, or are adding, several new/old songs to our repertoire including "That Lucky Old Sun" that many long-time *HOA* members might remember. We currently have 10 religious and 10 secular songs and are working on three more of each.

Congratulations to the *HOA Chorus* for another lively and entertaining annual show! Keep "cracking the whip" **Bob** and **Carter**! ♥

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BARBERSHOP HISTORY QUIZ QUESTIONS

author: Mark Axelrod, editor of "Blue Chip Chatter," Teaneck, NJ.
(Posted January 2009)

1. Society founder, O.C. Cash, was a lawyer by profession but his true calling and genius lay in publicity. His accomplishments as a promoter are legendary, and he did not let the truth get in the way of his mission to promote barbershop whenever and however he could. How was this demonstrated in St Louis in June of 1938, two months after the society was founded?
 2. While in Kansas City in the very early days helping to organize a chapter in western Missouri, how did Cash creatively recruit singers?
 3. Cash also believed that when you can't think of something to say, say something anyway. It will all turn out okay. Explain how this proved fruitful while he was being interviewed by a newspaper reporter.
 4. How did Cash get barbershop into the spotlight through the use of old shaving mugs?
 5. How did Cash propose promoting the development of tenors, then and now in short supply?
3. Spacing out during the interview - the society's crazy growth spurt in the very early days was definitely newsworthy, and Cash was frequently interviewed, so I guess we can forgive him if his eyes glazed over now and then - Cash came out with another whopper. He told the reporter that neither he nor anyone else knew the verse to Sweet Adeline. Sure enough, the lyrics were then published in newspapers all over the country, oftentimes linked to stories about our nascent society. Barbershop and the society were back in the news, just where Cash wanted them to be, thanks to O.C.'s inventiveness and boldness.
 4. He suggested that owners of old shaving mugs donate them to the society. He knew that very few would actually be sent to Tulsa, but he also surmised that the ploy had just the right amount of serendipity to make the papers. Right he was! The story was picked up by the wire services and widely published in newspapers. Once again barbershop was front and center in the public eye.
 5. In a letter to Deac Martin, the famed musicologist, regular Harmonizer columnist for many years and early society historian, Cash suggested that babies be fed birdseed instead of cereal. Cash was always looking for a way to garner attention and get a hook into people. He certainly had his share of human failings, notably that he was an unrepentant bigot, an altogether common mindset in people from the place and time of his youth. That unfortunate aspect of his personality, notwithstanding, I believe that all barbershoppers owe him a huge debt of gratitude not only for founding the society but also for launching it like a rocket by virtue of his amazing talent as a publicist, promoter and marketing expert extraordinaire. In that regard, all these many years after his death in 1953, his equal has not yet come along. ❤️



ANSWERS:

1. When asked by a newspaper reporter where chapters, then called "singing clubs," were being established other than in Tulsa, Cash said that his old friend, Everett Baker, a railroad executive, was currently busy organizing a chapter in St. Louis. That was an outright lie, but it wound up in the St. Louis papers. Baker's phone then started ringing off the hook, and, voilà, the St. Louis Chapter was born.
2. In the hotel where he was staying, Cash paid a bellhop to meander through the lobby in the manner of a town crier proclaiming "call for barbershop tenors and basses." Several singers - my source did not specify the number - stepped forward. Cash was evidently a true believer in the "you can't lose what you don't have" school of thought, hence his willingness to try the unconventional - good advice for latter day barbershop recruiters.



HARMONY EXPLOSION! 2019: RESCHEDULED AND HELD!

Article by Jerry Meier, Photos Courtesy of Dennis McBride



Harmony Explosion! 2019 (originally scheduled for Feb. 16, but canceled due to the weather) was held on Saturday, March 30 at Grace United Methodist

Church in Olathe, KS. One-third of the original thirty-six quartets made plans to sing on March 30; ten of those twelve quartets were able to perform for the judges that day. Those forty students decided that singing Barbershop Music was THE most important activity for them to complete that day! And they were thrilled to do so on their last Saturday in March, even though it was SNOWING AGAIN!

I want to say THANK YOU to the vocal music teachers at the eight schools sending students to Harmony Explosion:

Elise Peterson - Olathe South HS (1 Quartet).

Pam Williamson - Olathe Northwest HS (2 Quartets).

Dr. Dwayne Dunn - Lawrence HS (1 Quartet).

Jason Cole - St. James Academy (2 Quartets).

Beth Sullivan - Blue Valley Northwest HS (1 Quartet).

Beth Nelson - Oregon Trail Middle School (2 Quartets).

And a special THANK YOU to **Mr. Jordan Flemming**, a Senior at Olathe East HS (1 Quartet).

I also want to say THANK YOU to the two dozen HOA and KCCSA Volunteers that came together to help me run the event, along with the staff at Grace United Methodist Church (such a wonderful facility for hosting our Harmony Explosion! 2019 Parade of Quartets). ❤️

Medals were awarded to the following quartets:

8th Grade SAI:

SILVER Medal - *The Quadreamers*
(Oregon Trail MS)

8th Grade BHS:

SILVER Medal - *The Nameless Naturals*
(Oregon Trail MS)

10th Grade SAI:

GOLD Medal - *Saved by the Belles*
(Olathe Northwest)

10th Grade BHS:

GOLD Medal - *On Air Quartet*
(Blue Valley Northwest)

12th Grade SAI:

GOLD Medal - *The Fortes*
(Olathe Northwest)

12th Grade SAI:

GOLD Medal - *The Girls in Pearls*
(St. James Academy)

12th Grade BHS:

GOLD Medal - *High Intensity*
(Olathe East)

12th Grade BHS:

GOLD Medal - *The Cleftomaniacs*
(Lawrence)

12th Grade BHS:

GOLD Medal - *The Guys in Ties*
(St. James Academy)

12th Grade BHS:

GOLD Medal - *B-Sharp*
(Olathe South)

HARMONY EXPLOSION! WINNERS FOR 2019!



CONGRATULATIONS!

JAMES MICHAEL “JIM” MOYNIHAN 1944 – 2019

James Michael Moynihan, 74, was born May 12, 1944, in Queens, New York. He was known for spelling and won a four-year college scholarship and a trip around the world at the age of 13. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from St. Bonaventure University and a Masters in American History from New York University. He worked as a 7th-grade history teacher at Madison Township, New Jersey and then as a Civil Rights Investigator for the Dept. of Education in Washington D.C. Jim moved to Kansas City, MO when he met his wife, **Jana Sims**, and continued to work for the Office of Civil Rights. He was a lifelong member and office holder of the National Federation of the Blind in Washington D.C., Kansas City, and St. Louis.

Jim loved to sing. He joined the barbershop society when he lived in Washington D.C. in 1976 and joined the Kansas City Chapter in 1980. He retired to St. Louis, Missouri in 2010 to be near his children and transferred his membership to the St. Louis Suburban Chapter singing with the *Gentlemen of Sound*.

Jim died on April 4, 2019, in St. Louis. He is survived by his son **James C. (Kristen)** and daughter **Jeanene B. (Christopher) Livingston** and their families. He was preceded in death by his wife **Jana** and his parents **James and Hannah Moynihan**.

MEMORIES OF JIM MOYNIHAN

Jim Moynihan was born blind though it was more common for him to say he was unsighted; not much deterred him from doing things he wanted to do. He visited Alaska, kissed the Blarney Stone and probably mowed his own grass until his son **JC** was old enough.

Jim Bagby recalls that “no one worked harder than perhaps any member in Kansas City chapter history to achieve the same results. And, he did it without ever seeing a downbeat or a cutoff. He was never guilty of an early entrance or a late release but struggled with choreography. His riser brothers spent extra time helping him with the staging. They guided him from behind or next to him: “step left, recover, right arm forward, down the tiles.” No one was more dedicated than former president and Mr. Everything, **Dale Neuman**, who made sure his clothespin in the lineup was always near Jim’s. Dale would meet with him often on extra nights for drill on singing and movement.



Jim Moynihan listens as Dale Neuman coaches him on choreography.

Jim was an Irish tenor but accepted that his voice fit the chorus sound better as a lead. He sang tenor in a number of Valentine quartets when Valentine’s Day rolled around and in other chapter functions. He was patient and persistent, quiet and well-liked. He qualified to sing with a dozen *HOA* district chorus champions and, counting wildcards, appeared more times than that on the international competition stage with *HOA*. No judge ever commented that Jim was a distraction on the risers, and his spirit was always an example to *HOA*.”

Everyone who knew Jim will remember that he had three Seeing-Eye dogs during his tenure in the Kansas City Chapter. **Hogan** was the first, a Black Labrador Retriever. Hogan was quiet and slept in a special place near the door while we sang. **Dean**, his second, also a Black Lab, was much like Hogan, quiet, patient and never moved from his special resting spot, usually beneath the roster sign-in board when we met at Unity Church on the Plaza. Dean always seemed to know when the evening was over. At the first phrase of *Keep the Whole World Singing*, he would rise, stretch and yawn and wait for Jim.

Then there was **Trooper**. Trooper was a young Golden Retriever. Golden Retrievers, by nature, are more spirited in their

youth than Labradors. Trooper's first experience with barber-shop must have awakened an inner desire to sing. He yowled in various voices trying to match the key but was not as successful as he'd hoped. An awkward moment for Jim. Jim often tied Trooper to a table or the risers while we practiced. On one occasion, Trooper became restless during the evening and pulled a table around the room until Jim could calm him down. Jim soon recognized that Trooper should stay home and we never saw him again.

For the most part, Jim relied on public transportation back and forth to work and as far as we know, he never complained. On Tuesdays, he often counted on a variety of members to pick him up and take him home after rehearsal. For those who saw to it that he had a ride, it was not uncommon to engage in a conversation covering a myriad of topics for the whole trip. For those he rode with on a regular longer-term basis, transportation was a matter of rote. **Dale Neuman** recalled once that he and Jim engaged in small talk on the way home one evening. When they came to a final stop, Jim sensed an unexpected bump like driving over a garden hose and an unusual quietness in his surroundings. "Where are we?" Jim asked. **Dale** suddenly realized that he had taken Jim to his own home and they were in his garage.

Doing things by rote seemed to be the norm for those Jim rode with. **Ron McIntire** provided the service for a number of months as did **Jerry Snyder**. One night, Jim did not attend rehearsal. Without thinking, Ron left the rehearsal hall as usual, probably thinking about the evening. When realization dawned, he was sitting in front of Jim's house—alone. When he recounted the event to Jim, Ron said "that's okay, I was going this way anyway." Once on an especially dark night, Ron cautioned Jim to watch the first step leading up to the walkway to his house. He asked if he needed help. As Jim departed the car and declined the invitation, it occurred to Ron that the darkness of the night might not be an impediment to a blind man.

Those who sang with Jim will likely remember many stories about him in the years to come. But, without a doubt, his friends in the Kansas City Chapter will miss him.

Rest in peace, Jim. ❤️

JIM MOYNIHAN FUNERAL

By Jim Porter

Part of any funeral service are the remembrances of the family. His children, **JC** and **Jeanene**, knew their father as a stubborn old Irishman who loved to sing, loved sweets, especially chocolate, and who never let his handicap keep him from succeeding in life.

When I heard of Jim's passing, I knew I needed to drop my agenda and give my Saturday to my friend **Jim Moynihan**. I drove to St. Louis to join **Jim Bagby** and **Matt Bostick** at his funeral service on April 13. Jim's family was very appreciative that we took the time to bid farewell to an old friend. There were about 30 at the service — family, friends, and people from the National Association for the Blind. A full meal was served after the service.

One of the first men I came to know as a friend after joining *HOA* was Jim Moynihan. I came to admire his dedication to being a part of the chorus despite his handicap. When Jim knew he was headed to St. Louis, he was hoping to sing with the *Ambassadors of Harmony*. Since I knew them well, I invited Jim to join me as we traveled to St. Charles one Thursday to visit *AOH*. I introduced Jim to several men at *AOH*, including **Jim Henry** and **David Wright**. Jim Moynihan knew what he wanted — an opportunity to audition — and he asked when he could do it. **Jim Henry** offered him that opportunity a few weeks later. I saw to it he got to St. Charles for that opportunity.

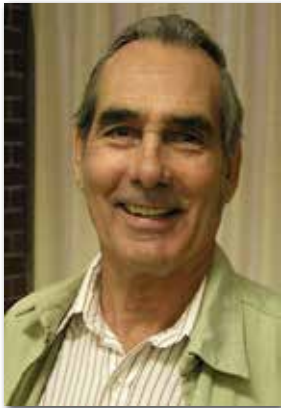
Jim auditioned to sing with the *Ambassador's of Harmony* when he arrived in St. Louis but alas, he did not pass that audition. However, while riding home, he told me he was content. He had the opportunity to try and that was enough. After he settled in St. Louis, he found his alternative with the *Gentlemen of Sound* and sang with them until his health concerns took him off the risers a year or so ago. Twice a year *AOH* had a show and twice a year I made plans to go to the show and bring Jim along with me. A friend of mine in St. Louis, a past member of *AOH*, obtained tickets, and joined us, both for a steak dinner and the show. Jim Moynihan paid for my dinner, I paid for his ticket. Each time, after the show, Jim would seek out and greet the *AOH* men he got to know in his brief time with them.

Jim lived for six years in an assisted living facility. *uBt* over time, it is possible that his love of sweets frustrated his doctor's recommendations for managing his diabetes. For a year and a half, until his death, he lived in a full care facility.

Rest in peace, Jim. You can see now, rejoice in the light. Say hello to Jana, and to my **Roberta**. You are now a singer in Chapter Eternal. It would not be Heaven if there was no chocolate there. I will see you when God says it is my time. ❤️

FRANCIS E. GANGEL 1937 – 2019

By Ron McIntire



Fran Gangel was born in Louisburg, Kansas in 1937 and graduated from Louisburg High School in 1955. He went on to receive a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Biology from Emporia State University. He met and married Lorraine Cupples/Hall in 1963 and together they raised their family in Louisburg. He was employed

by Panhandle Eastern pipeline until he retired, working in Indiana, Colorado, and Kansas. The Gangel's were famous around Louisburg for their barn dances on the family farm.

Like most people, he had several hobbies. He enjoyed hunting mushrooms, volunteering with the local Lions Clubs and singing with community and church choirs. Fran was a 15-year member of the Barbershop Harmony Society. He spent ten years with the Pueblo, Colorado and Arkansas River chapters before joining the and *Heart of America Chorus* in 2007. He served two years as a Chapter Board Member in the Pueblo, Colorado chapter.

Fran will be remembered by his friends in the Kansas City Chapter as a soft-spoken and quiet man, and he enjoyed singing. He left *HOA* in 2011 to spend more time with his wife, who was ill and needed more care.

Fran died on March 1, 2019, and was proceeded in death by his wife. He is survived by 6 children, 14 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Rest in peace, Fran. We were happy to sing with you. ❤️

Some information for this obituary was taken from the Kansas City Star.

BENSON FAMILY SINGERS: FREE MAY 19 PERFORMANCE!



One of the most entertaining mixtures of gospel, barber-shopping, bluegrass and family music in the nation is coming to the Kansas City metro area next month. *The Benson Family Singers* from the Minneapolis area will perform Sunday night, May 19, at Sycamore Grove Mennonite Church in Garden City, home of the Yoder brothers from our chapter. Many of you have heard the *Rural Route 4* there over the years.

Pete Benson is the former director of the international silver medalist *Hilltopper Chorus*. He and his wife, **Rachele**, bring their four sons and a variety of instruments to the country church about 45 minutes southeast of here for the free 6:30 p.m. performance.

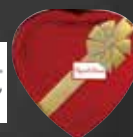
You can get a taste of their music at www.bensonfamily-music.org.

DIRECTIONS TO SYCAMORE GROVE MENNONITE CHURCH

27221 S. Sycamore Grove Road, Garden City, MO 64747: U.S. 71 south past Belton, Raymore and Harrisonville to Missouri 7 (Clinton exit), east app. 7 miles to Sycamore Grove Rd. exit on left. There is a sign for the church there and a service station on the south side. Also reachable through Harrisonville on Highway 2 east to Sycamore Grove Rd., if you want more scenic route and dip over Thrill Hill. Southern route is a few minutes shorter. Church phone: 816 862-8514. ❤️

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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 26-29

Iowa City CSD Spring Convention (Marriott Coralville)

Tuesday, May 7

South Broadland Presbyterian Church (7850 Holmes)

July 2-6

BHS International Salt Lake

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.