



CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING  
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE  
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

VOLUME 10 - ISSUE 1 - JANUARY 2010

## HOA's 2010 Calendar Offers A Long List of Opportunities

by Kent Miller, Chapter President



There are lots of important dates for you to remember in 2010. Following are some that will be here before you know it.

### FEBRUARY

The Central States District Leadership Academy, coupled with another **Chuck Greene** workshop, will be held in St. Joseph, MO on Feb. 5-7. The Academy is open to everyone, not just current chapter leaders.

The registration fee is \$40 if you sign up before Jan. 18. **New 2009 members have the opportunity to receive a free registration.** Chuck Greene's workshop, CACM, or the "Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meeting" is \$50. Indications are that the tracts have a lot of new material, including E-Biz updates and why our chorus should be on Facebook, Twitter, and Craig's list. Let me know if you would like more information.

### MARCH

You have already heard about the tremendous opportunity that we have to headline the entertainment for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual ArtsKC Awards Luncheon at 11:30 am on Friday, March 5 on Starlight Theatre's enclosed stage. It is billed as one of Kansas City's most popular events selling out to crowds of over 500 business, civic, and arts leaders each year.

HOA was awarded a \$2,175 grant in 2009 by ArtsKC to support our 2010 Harmony Explosion, which led to the invitation to perform at their luncheon.



KMBZ Meteorologist **Bryan Busby** will be the Master of Ceremonies. Our performance will not be long but will be very important for us to get significant exposure to Kansas City leadership. We will also have a great opportunity to promote our March 20 performance at Yardley Hall. Please plan to be there.

### MAY

The HOA Annual Golf Fund Raising Tournament has now been scheduled at Falcon Lakes Golf Course on Thursday, May 6. As in previous years, it will be a scramble open to everyone. We anticipate another great year with more than \$1,500 in prizes. Be sure to contact your golfer friends and have them reserve that Thursday. I've already sent an e-mail to mine. ♥

### INSIDE OUR JANUARY ISSUE:

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# 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

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Baritone - **Jonathan Andrew** • Bass - **Shaun Wisler**

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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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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!

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Chorus Manager & Webmaster - **Vince Perry**  
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## High Mileage Earns Its Name

by Jim Bagby, Director Emeritus



Many of us always seem to complain about how hectic the holiday season is, when we should be soaking in one of the most enjoyable times of the year. Yep, easier said than done—especially when you throw in quartet rehearsals that include a five-hour round trip. Well (I hear you say), why don't you just postpone those dang rehearsals until after the holidays?!?

For any normal quartet, that would be the logical answer. But for *High Mileage*, we have a responsibility to the Central States District to show up at the end of January in Tampa Bay and try not to fall on our faces in the international senior quartet competition at the Society's Mid-Winter Convention. We're certainly looking forward to the experience; all our wives and some other family members will go along for the Florida trip. But it means rehearsing every chance we get—which is not much in December, and then (we hope) lots in January.

If you read this space a couple of months ago, tenor **Lyle Wyly** laid it on a little thick about how the quartet formed. Actually, it's mostly about friendship. The impetus was the retirement of **Dale Comer** as chorus director of the *Lincoln Continentals*—after 28 consecutive years. (Few in the Society can match that record). Dale's a major bass and a super guy; we've been friends for years and always wanted to sing together. Since *Tone-Henge* is not competing, we thought maybe we could throw together a one-shot senior quartet.

**Gary "Hummer" Drown** was our first choice to be lead, but he sings in two other quartets, both pretty active: *Patent Pending* out of Kearney, Neb., and *Chordial Celebration* from the Rocky Mountain District (Gary used to live in Scottsbluff). But *Patent Pending* is not all old enough to be seniors, and *Chordial Celebration* does not compete. And the senior foursome that Gary competed in last year to represent CSD, the *Metmusical Brothers*, did not stay together. However, his wife says, "Gary's barbershop addiction is getting worse," so he agreed to take on a third quartet. The Drowns, not incidentally, are the parents of some talented singers, including son **Darin**, a former HOA member who's now director of the medalist *Sound of the Rockies* chorus in RMD and bari of the current third-place quartet medalist and comedy kings *Storm Front*.

Lyle is a veteran HOA tenor who began his barbershopping career in Olathe. He has not always sung with our chorus, but always is there for Singing Valentines and has been a member both of *Harmony Handful* and the *New Harmony Handful*. So he and I hook up for the pre-dawn start for most of our drives to our mid-point rehearsal spot, Nebraska City. Gary comes through Lincoln to pick up Dale and they head on east to Nebraska City, where a member of the Nebraska City Chapter provides us with space at his church to rehearse.

We got in minimal rehearsals before qualifying (barely) last fall, so we're doing our best to get in more time together before Tampa. Dale and Lyle have gotten together several times to duet (shades of **David Krause**!), and provided us with a CD of them singing together, which was a help. And we've done a lot of recording. We've also changed one song, so our set in Tampa will be all sailor-related: "A Son of the Sea" and "Minnie the Mermaid." The latter is **Denny Driscoll's** already challenging arrangement to which we've added an intro, new words, key changes, a tag that puts the bari on a high R-sharp and goodness knows what else!

We hope you'll come to Mid-Winter and see how it all works out! ♥



## The Audition Experience

by Tony Strub

### Dear Music Leaders,

I wanted to compliment all of you on the audition process that you have created to improve our chorus. I believe that what you are doing and the way that you are doing it will help make all of us better singers. Your expectations and advice for me were very clear and presented in a way that made me want to get to work ASAP. It is clear that your objective for our chorus is the pursuit of excellence in singing and performance of music in the barbershop style. It is my hope that you never compromise that objective. I hope that all of us in the Kansas City chapter realize the commitment and personal investment that you guys are making to help us be all that we can be in our society. You set a wonderful example. *Keep up the great work.* ♥

## New Singer for New Harmony Handful

by Jim Davis



Vince Perry

Long-time front row member and mellifluous bass **Vince Perry**, has stepped-in to replace charter member **Dick Krueger** as a member of the **NHH**. We welcome Vince and wife **Melladee** to our fellowship and thank Dick for his contributions and wish him well.

The **NHH** finished the year with a combination practice and social time with our wives at the wonderfully decorated home of **Roy and Cindi Manade**, complete with luscious chips and dips, cookies, cheese cake, sweets, and drinks. Cindi's collection of Teddy Bears and Santa Clause figures (including a life-size one) is beyond description. She has 300 or so bears of all sizes and descriptions, and I counted 24 Santas within eyesight while sitting in the living room. This in addition to three fully decorated Christmas trees and the decorations on the outside of the house.

Those of us who didn't participate, congratulate the chorus and quartets on another wonderful holiday show and also congratulate the singers in the Caroling Caravan for another fantastic day of fund raising for "The Salvation Army" on behalf of the Chapter!

The past year has been a trying one for most, if not all of us, but it is our sincere wish that 2010 will bring bigger and better things for each of us and for the chapter. Good Luck to our new officers and leadership team and a "Happy New Year" from the *New Harmony Handful*! ♥



## For Some, There's No Such Thing As "Too Much Barbershop"

by Ol' Dan for Tone-Henge

When a normal guy is bitten by the barbershop "bug," he gets the urge to harmonize. But apparently some guys, through no fault of their own, are not just bitten. "Devoured" is more like it. And there are several of these guys **right here in our chapter!**

Now you take **Jim Bagby**. *Please!* (Thank you, **Henny Youngman**) Ol' Jim is so completely engulfed in ringing 7ths, that one quartet just doesn't satisfy that Dracula-ish urge to bite into a chord. Nope, he's in *two* quartets! The other three in his first quartet tried to tell the other three in his second that we thought he was spreading himself a bit thin, but that had no affect at all 'cause some of *them* were already in other foursomes and some of 'em **already in two!** See just how contagious this affliction really is?

And Ol' Jim is not alone. Look at **Carter Combs**. (Maybe "listen to Carter Combs" beats lookin' at 'im) How many quartets is he singing in at this moment in time, and that number will probably have increased by the time you read this. This "bug" is not to be denied! Read on.

**Fortino**. The mere mention of the name and another quartet springs forth like daffodils in April.

**John Gathright**. Well, I guess he's in one-and-a half...or maybe one-and-three-quarters. I don't know. I don't think **he** knows.

**Bill Bay**. How many is it now, Bill? *Thirty seven?*

There's more, but I'm running out of space.

I'm not saying there's anything wrong with all of this. They can't help it just because they were bitten. You wanna know the real reason they are in more than one quartet? It's because they're **GOOD** at what they do and are in demand!

Wanna know why this article rings with a bit of sarcasm? 'Cause **nobody ever asked ME to be in two quartets ! Rats!** ♥

# 2009 Holiday Show!

From top to bottom, left to right, *Zing!* members Mary Rhea, Susan Ives, Melynnie Williams and Michelle Hunget; *High Definition* Rob Mathieu, Mark Fortino, Adam Veteto and John Fortino; *La Ti Dah* chorus members directed by Michele Hunget and Helen Shores; (Back row, from left to right) Sarah Gabriel, Mary Duncan, Shea Simmons, Anna Snow, Jordan Seek, (Front row, left to right) Summer Olson, Marin Propst, Trenle Hunton and McKenna Bostick; *La Ti Dah* quartet members Sarah Gabriel, Anna Snow, Mary Duncan and McKenna Bostick; *ListenUp!* Tom Wenner, Dave Stockard, Jerry Garrard and Carter Combs. Photos courtesy of Matt Bostick and Mark Yeokum



**Zing!**



**High Definition**



**La-Ti-Dah Chorus**



**4**

**La-Ti-Dah Quartet**



**Listen Up!**



From top to bottom, left to right, *Back in Business*, Jonathan Andrews, Danny Wellman, Shaun Whisler and Jonathan Thomas; *4's Company*, Bobbie Brown, Pat Duncan, Cindy Orzel and Kimi Ruder; *The 4TNO's*, Dan Fortino, Mark Fortino, Andrew Fortino, Jonathan Fortino; David Krause directs the *Heart of America Chorus*; introduction to "Baby It's Cold Outside" with *ListenUp!* (Jonathan Andrews, David Stockard, Jerry Garrard, Carter Combs) and *4's Company* (Cindy Orzel, Pat Duncan, Bobbie Brown, Kimi Ruder); David Krause and Stacy Schumacher directing the combined choruses *Heart of America Barbershop Chorus* and *Kansas City MO Sweet Adelines*, and featured quartets, *Zing!*, *High Definition*, *4's Company*, *ListenUp!* *Back in Business* and *4TNO's*.



Back In Business



4's Company



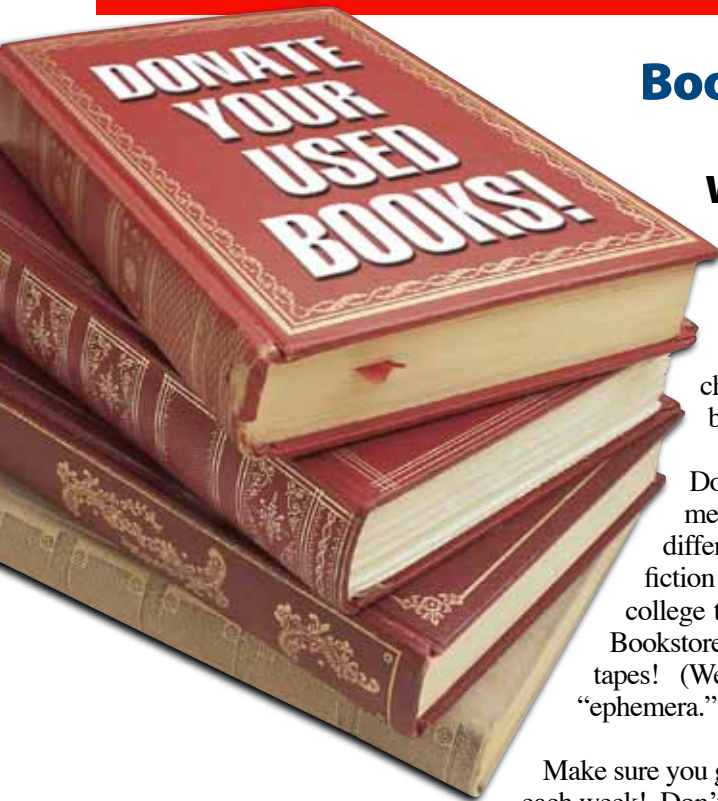
4TNO's



Heart of America Chorus







## Book Sale Fund Raiser Kicks Off!

by Marci Brown-Turlin, *Heartbeats* Sunshine Chair

**W**e're just getting started! We began with some left over books from our garage sale, which netted the chorus \$22. *But, we're just getting started!* Our focus for January is...**cookbooks!** Yes, we've all just been through the best feasting time of the year so you know which cookbooks you use and which ones are just gathering dust and taking up space in your house! It's time to clear the decks and help out the chorus at the same time! If you only ever use one recipe in the whole book, copy out that one recipe and dump the book!

Don't hesitate to bring in anything else you would like to donate. As mentioned in last month's *Harmonotes* article, you can donate LOTS of different kinds of things, like...recent best sellers; perennial classics; non-fiction (from history to science); kids books; former best-sellers; even old college textbooks. In addition to the above mentioned books, the Half Price Bookstore will buy CDs and LPs, including cassettes, 45s, 78s, and even 8-track tapes! (We'll designate a month this year for each of these things, as well as "ephemera." More on that later, too!)

Make sure you get your items into the labeled book fund raiser box (look for the sign) each week! Don't forget your cookbooks! ♥

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## Health Update by Fran Gangel



**D**uring a routine physical in 2008, I was informed that I had a hiatal hernia and an inguinal hernia. Neither caused much trouble until one Saturday morning in Nov. 2009 when I woke up with a half-fist size knot protruding from my left groin. The following Monday morning I visited our family doctor and took the first surgeon appointment available, then the first surgery date available. On surgery day I was taxied away by family at 8 a.m. When I was released about 3 p.m., one of the kids asked if I wanted to go home and sleep. I said that I was tired but not sick and hurting so I (the MUSIC HERO) would sit in the easy chair and listen to Holiday Show Music.

Then one of them asked if they should bring Mom (**Lorraine**) home now. I said no, that she could ride to the airport. Later I heard **Sandy** tell **Doug** that she did not think they should keep his Mom more than three hours when **Fran** (Lorraine's Security Blanket) is not around. Incidentally, I am listening to "Heart of My Heart" and "Love Me and the World Is Mine" as Lorraine sleeps and I write.

Looking back as a Monday morning quarterback, I can see that it was foolish—very foolish—to make the music decision without first specifically checking on Lorraine's situation. The only other time I realized that I cheated Lorraine or the chorus was one morning when she was sipping coffee in the dining room. A few feet away, I was fixing breakfast in the kitchen and listening to Holiday Show Music. Suddenly a loud authoritative voice shouted "SHUT UP." I had overdone it again. Obviously I am trying to walk a fine line. One thing I can and do promise is that I will keep on plugging along. ♥

# Harmony EXPLOSION: Coaching These Young Quartets

by Jerry Meier

**Q**uartets will start the week of Jan. 11. That gives these young singers about six weeks to prepare their songs and polish their stage presence for the event on Saturday, Feb. 20 at the Olathe East High School.

Most of the quartets have to rehearse before school, starting at 7:15am, because many of these fine young students are involved in after-school clubs and sporting activities. Some quartets can rehearse after school, starting at 3:15pm, but the majority will work before school starts.

Are you available to help this year? If so, please give me a call or see me during rehearsal. Coaching is easy – just take the **Mike Slamka** approach – share what you have heard from so many other fine coaches! It's easier than you think – all **YOU** have to do is give it a try.

Your presence with a young group in a coaching session will help the students work out the problem spots in their songs. With repetition and lots of encouragement, the students will be able to perform their songs on the Harmony Explosion stage, and they will be ever so thankful for your input.

Please consider to volunteer your time to coach and encourage these young quartets – just 30 minutes on a school day can make a huge difference in their ability to sing on stage. ♥

**Contact Jerry Meier  
(913-780-1822) if you  
would like to discuss  
this activity!**

## DID YOU?

by Ed Hinkley, Asst. Chorus Director, Sarasota FL  
*Chorus of the Keys*

- Did you call a friend and offer to pick him up and take him to chapter meeting?
- Did you offer to sit in the role of buddy for a new visitor?
- Did you spend some extra time working on the new music so that your contribution at rehearsal will help speed up the learning process?
- Did you practice your stage face in front of the mirror?
- Did you help the librarian distribute the new music?
- Did you offer to help make learning tapes for all the guys who don't read music?
- Did you set an example in your section by keeping conversation to a minimum?
- Did you compliment the new man on his performance at the last singout?
- Did you hold out your hand and smile at the guys coming in the door?
- Did you sing all the notes and words in the new song...correctly?
- Did you help set up the risers for rehearsing the new choreography?
- Did you find it hard getting to sleep after the great rehearsal?
- How many of these things are on your check list?

--Taken from Harmonet email list, and used by permission.







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



#### **TEN YEARS AGO: JANUARY, 2000**

*Harmonotes* Editor **Dale Neuman** announces that “I do plan to retire from UMKC at the end of August 2000 (after 39 years of teaching—34 at UMKC). Between now and then I

have responsibilities as department chair as well as faculty member. I also have been given to participate in a national research project on the 2000 elections that will keep me quite busy and carry over into retirement. And I am on the Convention 2000 Steering Committee (for the 2000 international convention in Kansas City). I have recently found that with everything else going on, what I have stopped doing is having time to learn my music and enjoy that part of this hobby that is my reason for doing everything else. So I am trading my editorship for more time to sing, and I trust folks can understand the tradeoff.” That was when **Todd Anderson** [who had been producing the bulletin since October, 1997] was given the title of bulletin editor. He took over with the March 2000 issue, and has been doing an outstanding job over the last ten years. Let’s don’t allow him to ever resign, okay?

#### **TWENTY YEARS AGO: JANUARY, 1980**

**Joe Costigan**, one of the best basses in the entire Society, was editor of *Harmonotes*.

Does anyone of you old-timers remember a quartet named “The Principle Ingredients?” **Dick Henderson**, a tenor, and a darned good one, had been a member of our chapter off and on since 1953, and at this moment, his tenure was seven years of continuous service. Dick was a school teacher and once directed the *Northland Chorus*. (Does that outfit still exist?) The late **Manley Vance**, the lead, also joined the Society through the Northland chapter. Manley was also a teacher, the principal in the Liberty School District. The baritone, **Rod Flater**, worked for Delta Airlines, and also joined the Northland chapter, was a member for six years and chapter president for two. And **Joe Costigan** was the bass, despite the fact that he stood about a foot-and-a-half above any of the other members of the quartet. Joe used to attend my chapter in Lawrence—he was a member for four years—and sang with one of our quartets.

#### **FORTY YEARS AGO: MARCH, 1970**

Do any of you members know that our chorus once sang with the Kansas City Philharmonic Orchestra? Editor **Dick Ham** described as follows: “We had two enjoyable singouts with the Kansas City Philharmonic Orchestra on Feb. 1 and Feb. 13. These appearances were in (coordination) with the Philharmonic’s Family Concert Series. Judging from the generous applause, both appearances were thoroughly enjoyed by the audiences.

“One hazard of singing with the Philharmonic is that it was necessary to subject our performance to the evaluation of professional critics. Actually, we didn’t come off two badly. While the reviews were not ecstatic, by no means were they harsh. Perhaps some consideration was given to the fact that we are an amateur singing organization and that we were donating our performance.

“One note of reminder, it has been pointed out that there is a chapter policy of no drinking before a chorus appearance. This policy was not enforced at the recent Wichita show or at the Philharmonic concert at the Plaza Inn, but please, fellows, for the good of the chorus, no drinking before we sing on any public appearances. If you think about it, there is probably more than a little truth to the saying, “It’s usually the drinkers that throw in the clinkers.”

Does our chapter have a no-drinking policy? I’ve never seen a member, even at a regular weekly chapter meeting, who appeared to have imbibed. Let’s keep it that way. ♥



**“KEEP THE WHOLE WORLD SINGING!”**



# Summary of December 2009 Board Meeting

by Vince Perry/Ron McIntire



## FINANCE REPORT - Harvey Shapiro:

As of 11/30/2009

- Operating/Social fund was \$13,970.44
- Restricted Fund was \$10,475.32
- The Board agreed that 2010 Treasurer Elect **Jim Porter** may 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 minus checking supplies.

## VP MARKETING/PUBLIC RELATIONS - Brad Dawdy:

- HOA has signed a contract for a two-hour show in Richmond, MO, Saturday, June 5, 2010 for \$2,200.
- Flyers for the Annual Spring Show March 20, 2010 will be mailed in mid-January.

## VP OPERATIONS - David Miller:

The Board agreed to retain the Security Policy of locking the rehearsal doors at 7:30 p.m. and directing late comers to use the back door except during inclement weather.

## VP MUSIC & PERFORMANCE - Mark Fortino

Music team is taking audition reservations for Tuesday nights: Dec 22, Dec 29, and Jan 5.

## VP PROGRAM - Carl Turlin:

- *Heartbeats* (HOA's ladies auxiliary) is conducting a fund raiser of selling used books, cd's and record albums and requests chapter member's support by bringing materials to sell.
- The 2010 Installation/Awards Banquet is set for Jan. 9 in the Overland Park Room at the Overland Park Doubletree Hotel. Cost is \$25.50 per person.

## VP MEMBERSHIP - John Erwine:

The Board agreed to accept the membership application of **Ted Simon** (bass) pending approval by the music team.

## OLD BUSINESS:

### Performance for Arts KC Council - updated

- Exec VP **Kent Miller**:

Marketing for the event has started and the signing of the performance contract is eminent. The performance date is Friday, March 5, 2010 at Starlight Theater. Exact time to be announced later.

### Holiday Show update: - Rich Huyck

Final ticket sales:

- Matinee - 861 tickets for \$13,790;
- Evening - 507 tickets for \$9,048.

### Singing Valentines - Singing Valentine co-chair **John Erwine**:

- Search is on to get a new SV Headquarters in order to save money.
- The contract with the answering service has been renegotiated. The answering service will enter orders through a special HOA server-driven online order page for their use only.

## KC International Convention 2011

- The first 2011 Convention Committee meeting was held on Saturday, Dec 12, 2009.
- All five Convention Coordinator positions have been filled.
- The 2011 Convention Pre-Sale Registration booth will be located in the Convention Center.

## NEW BUSINESS:

### Harmony Foundation "Double Your Monies" Promotion

Treasurer **Harvey Shapiro** will not send any money to the Harmony Foundation or the District until it is determined if HOA's chapter donation qualifies for the "Double Your Monies" program.

### Credit Card Processing Fees

The Board agreed, starting in 2010, the Chapter will collect a Credit Card Convenience Charge of 3% of the total credit card charge rounded to the nearest dollar from any member or person reimbursing the Chapter for the purchase of 3rd party tickets, registrations, photos, banquet meals and other goods and services.

### Leadership Academy Attendance:

The Board agreed to pay the \$40 per person fee for the Leadership Academy for any 2010 chapter board members. Four members now attending are: **Kent Miller, Vince Perry, John Erwine and Jim Porter**.

### 2010 Singing Valentine Pricing:

The Singing Valentine Pricing guide for 2010 is:

- Any eight-hour window is \$60
- Any two-hour window is \$85
- Any special delivery (one-hour window) is \$100

### 2010 Annual Show Program:

**Larry Colburn** will serve as the Program Advertising Chairman for the 2010 Annual Show.

### Chorus Director's Salary:

The board agreed to increase **David Krause's** monthly salary from \$350 to \$400 starting in 2010, and eliminate any incentive bonuses from his 2010 contract.

### Miscellaneous:

- The 2010 HOA Golf Tournament will be Thursday, May 6, 2010.
- The 2010 HOA Retreat will be August 20-21, 2010 at Lake Doniphan.

### Online Board Meeting Addendum #1

#### December 17, 2009:

The Board agreed that the Kansas City Chapter would join "Chapter Connect," at a total cost of \$1,050 (\$10 per active member currently on the Society rolls). Chapter Connect will pair up the Kansas City Missouri Chapter with Harmony Foundation. The chapter will be assigned a specific foundation Staff Member to help make more money on our shows and to raise money for our chapter. ♥

## Singing Valentine, What? Late '40s & Early '50s

by John Erwine, Co-Chairman

**A Singing Valentine, what?** Heck, what was a Valentine? Some crazy thing your teacher and Mom said you had to create each year or you just weren't right with the world. You had to trace this heart-shaped thing out on a folded piece of paper, color it with a huge crayon, then write some stupid thing on it about how nice some girl was, and how would she like to "be your Valentine?" Not only that, you had to do it for all the girls, not for just one you maybe could'a, kind'a, sort'a liked...*eeewwwwww!*

What's a Valentine anyway? If you were a town kid, you could buy already colored construction paper. And if you were really a "blue blood", you could buy a fully colored card with writing and a picture already on it and just have to sign your name. So how many cookies did you get for that? I'll bet the girls were sickened just as bad as we boys were at the thought, if they'd admit it! Oh, yes, we had to bring cookies or cupcakes too.

Well, anyway, a reality check. So how far have we really come? At this point I've learned that St. Valentine's Day is celebrated due to some third-century guy who was a martyr in Rome of some kind. And to top it off, it's "coincidentally" a day for sending valentines to sweethearts or

schoolmates. Let's see: third century, 1946 plus...I'm still not sure about this coincidental thing and sweethearts in kindergarten. And a singing one? Well anyway, for the benefit of the doubt, let's go on.

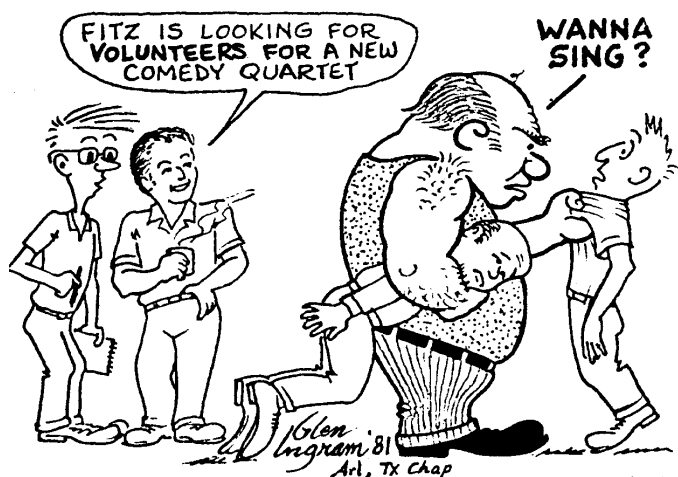
I suppose some guy or guys must have been hanging around a lamp post or hitching post somewhere along the way a long time ago, feeling sorry about their situation with either a loved one or a "pretended" loved one. We all know that the love bug has a way of showing up at the most impromptu time, and we also know we don't always know how to handle it. So again, for the benefit of the doubt, let's just say that if a guy could somehow muster up the courage to tell his beloved how much he cared for her it would be a good thing. But if he couldn't, then maybe a support group, as we call them now, could help bolster his confidence. WOW!! Maybe I could send her a special note with the help of some dear friend, or maybe not, but someone who knew how to deliver what was truly within my heart.

Ah. My heart! Her heart! A Valentine!!! This heart-shaped thing, and heart-felt feeling that is pounding, contained and wants to explode within me can only be expressed in a song! I may not be able in any way to deliver such

a message, but I want to get it out. I just don't know how! I want to tell her that I love and cherish her, that she is the "Heart of My Heart." But how can I make this happen?

Well, now back to reality, boys and girls. It just happens that the *Kansas City Heart of America Barbershop Chorus*—us guys—is equipped and able to handle just such a dire situation for those not so fortunate or too bashful. We are trained and have rehearsed for just such a life-changing experience. As previously announced, quartets made up of we fine chorus members are qualified to deliver love to people who are very much cherished. Your help in selling, with the commitment to the delivery or preparation of delivery, will be very much-appreciated as we try our very best to defer any anguish to those asking for our help.

Please remember that we will be making this promise somewhat longer than in the recent past, as the 14th is on a Sunday. Our headquarters will be setting up on the Feb. 11th, with deliveries beginning on the 12th, and continuing through the 13th and 14th of February. Come on along...it's a great life! ♥







# THINK NEW MEMBERS!

## Membership

by John Erwine, VP Membership

By the time you read this, the New Year will have come and gone. And what a year it was. During 2009, you recruited nine brand new members and eleven new dual members. The Membership made their wishes known to those that lead and guide us that this should be a year of improvement, cemented with basic singing skills.

We went to Central States District in Lincoln and qualified to be one of three choruses to represent CSD in Philly next year. The Music team has instituted a new qualification process which is meant not to discourage, but to positively encourage each of us to become better singers, thus reinforcing those wishes.

As we now enter 2010, I'm looking forward to the results of all those positive initiatives. So should we all. Excellence is the beginning of good things to happen. Excellence will help our membership grow. It will lend itself to draw in those who really want to share the excitement that the chorus is experiencing. Remember, it's your Chapter, and you are making a difference. ♥



**NEW  
MEMBER**  
*Spotlight!*

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



### TED SIMON

**Ted Simon** is a first time barbershop-per living in Overland Park, KS with his wife **Donna** and their two children. He has a minor in music from Missouri Southern State College in Joplin and plays piano, clarinet, bass guitar and other instruments. He is self-employed in advertising specialties and a trophy plaque engraving business. He sings bass in the *HOA* chorus. **Mike Schumacher** invited him to an afterglow one night and that's where it all began. ♥

*Welcome Aboard, Ted!*





# CAROLING CARAVAN!



**HOA at the  
Atriums**



**Tone Henge performing at Silvercrest Retirement Village**



**HOA Section Leaders at  
Silvercrest Retirement Home;**



**Crosstown 4 rings a Holiday Chord!**

**Photos courtesy of Ron McIntire**





# 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.

## A More Relaxed Barbershop Experience - Leavenworth

by Jim Porter

Since several members of the Leavenworth chapter have committed to singing with us in the contest, I thought it fitting to visit one of their Monday evening practices, and did so back on Sept. 28. I was greeted there by about 20 singers, several of which I had gotten to know, including our own **Jerry Garrard**, who is generously giving of his time and effort to lead them to a higher level of excellence. My reputation preceded me, of course, as they greeted me with "Come buy a ticket for our marbles game, I'm sure you know all about it!" (I got TWO tickets for \$1, but it's simply 2 for a buck, regardless of how many bucks you play with—AND if you draw a blue marble, you get nothing for it!)

At the time, the chapter was deep in its preparations for their Nov. 7 annual show, and had a list of 10 songs, including three we all know ("Beautiful Dreamer", "Basin Street" and "Happy Together"). We were invited to sit for the warm-ups and an initial sing-through of "Dreamer" and "Basin Street" and I was placed by **Harold Clark**, lead for *Escape*. Harold and I spent the evening matching chords together and it was a mutually enjoyable experience. Jerry then had the group on the risers where they sang through all 10 show songs and I endeavored to keep with them holding music from the

guest book. Of the other seven numbers, I recall two from singing with previous chapters in the 1980s and '90s, and the others were all songs that I have heard sung in the competitions and/or were familiar show tunes. Being a lead was helpful as I could pick up on the melody line. I positioned myself at one end, which happened to be the baritone section, which made it a greater challenge. After a time, Jerry invited me to stand on the risers with the leads, which made it easier for me to find the right notes and ring the chords with them.

After that came a break, and REFRESHMENTS, compliments of some in the chapter willing to do those preparations. One was celebrating his granddaughter's first birthday, so we got the cake to eat. When we resumed, all of the singers were still with us, none went home early.

Jerry then sought to work out the details of the curtain calls at the end of the show, positioning the quartets for their bows, and I was invited to stand in for **Mike Owen**, who wasn't there that evening. It was fun, but afterward I commented to Harold that they were fitting me for a large striped suit and making me a baritone! I don't think so!

We then returned to the chairs to work on the hard spots of a couple of songs,

and I learned something! We worked on the last part of "Happy Together" in some detail, and after referring to the music when I clashed with Harold, I found I hadn't learned that part of the song properly! I think I have it now, I await the next opportunity to sing it with HOA.

All in all, it was a relaxing and fun two-plus hours, and yes, it was a good training time, too. Jerry seems to enjoy his role as director, and the men are quite positive toward him. Those who strive for riser discipline might cringe at how the evening went, but no one was complaining and everyone seemed to be enjoying the time, and relished the occasional times when everything was in pitch and the chords rang. Jerry is knowledgeable and is able to motivate the men to learn and do their best without jumping on those who fail to meet his expectations.

Bottom line, by all means, if you can get a free Monday, make the trip to Leavenworth and show your support for this small chapter that is helping us by sending our way about half of its group. They start at 7 p.m. and the location is just west of K-7 as it comes through the town, two blocks north of K-92 west. You will find it to be a relaxing evening, but a challenge nonetheless as this group does seek to sing well. You'll know some of the guys and you'll know some of the songs, so you won't be a stranger. At the end of the time, I believe you'll walk out as a friend. ♥



**Stay Healthy  
and Fight  
the Flu!**

**Use Hand  
Sanitizer  
at Rehearsals!**





## Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter



**Note** that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. This is the final report for the fiscal year, now is on a calendar year basis.

The Board has considered and given approval to a resolution that provides the entire fund, including \$200 carried over from last year, be paid directly 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 Dec. 16, after 52 drawings (2 since last report):  
 The total collected for Harmony Foundation since the last report is \$124.  
 The total collected for the year to date (since Nov. 10, 2008) is \$3,854.  
 The total for the previous year was \$2,677.  
 The total in our best previous year (2006) was \$4,500.

The progressive jackpot has grown to \$818 at the time of the report.  
 The drawing on Jan. 12 will be the first of the new fiscal year. ♥



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

**JANUARY 26**



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING HOA MEMBERS!

January 1 **Tom Steele**  
 January 1 **John McConnell**  
 January 3 **Don Newman**  
 January 7 **Harvey Shapiro**  
 January 7 **Dan Tilson**  
 January 9 **Bob Rutherford**  
 January 10 **Oly Oldehoeft**  
 January 13 **Roy Manade**  
 January 13 **Fran Gangel**  
 January 14 **Ed Witham**  
 January 15 **Steve Carruthers**  
 January 25 **Bob Burdick**  
 January 27 **Daniel Fortino**  
 January 30 **Rick Foreman**

## ***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

### **January 9**

HOA Installation and Awards Banquet  
Overland Park Doubletree

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

Singing Valentines

### **February 20 (Sat) – Harmony Explosion**

Olathe East High School!



*The Kansas City chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society is a singing fraternity whose mission is to learn, teach, and perform the highest-quality, entertaining, a cappella music that embraces the barbershop style through the Heart of America Chorus and its chapter quartets, to bring about a spiritual and emotional response from the performer and the audience.*