



CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

VOLUME 11 - ISSUE 1 - JANUARY 2011

Improvement Noted in 2010

by Kent Miller, 2010 Chapter President



MILLER

Where to start? Being the master of understatement that I am, it's been an interesting year. Certainly we experienced the normal "stuff"—four or five performances,

Singing Valentines, a Golf tournament, a successful garage sale, and some other things.

But beyond that we experienced a metamorphosis unlike any *HOA* has seen in recent memory. Was this metamorphosis necessary? Did we have to go through the trauma of an audition process to improve our sound? Well, based upon comments from some very knowledgeable people concerning our recent performances and based upon earning "most improved chorus" at our District Competition, I don't think there is any dispute that our sound has improved significantly. Question is, how important is it for *HOA* to have (and continue to improve) that sound.

In my opinion, **Don Blank** was correct at our last installation dinner when he said the future of the Barbershop Society is in the Metropolitan areas. Did you know that the Society's membership is down to 28,000 (plus) from 33,000 (plus) in 1998? Folks, it doesn't take the proverbial "rocket scientist" to

figure out that the trend is in the wrong direction. We are losing people because we are naturally becoming a much older Society. If we (both *HOA* and the Society) are to reverse that trend we must attract younger singers and it's clear that those younger singers don't want to be a part of a less than quality sound.

Is it working? It's a moving target, but we have around 75 members in the performing chorus and a dozen or so of them are under 40 (with the majority of those under 30!). Plus, we have more young men who have been guests lately and are potential new members. Perhaps it's even more significant that some of them are getting involved by becoming members of the Music Team (and one is your new Membership Vice-President).

It's working. Yes, it's traumatic and sometimes painful. **O. C. Cash** started our Society because he wanted to preserve our art form. *Heart of America* is an example of what can be done to continue that dream. ❤️

INSIDE THIS JANUARY ISSUE:

- Page 2:** Caroling Caravan 2010 Tally
- Page 3:** *New Harmony Handful* an Interesting Mix
- Page 4:** Caroling Caravan 2010 - What a Great Day!
- Page 7:** 2010 Awards Banquet Coming Up!
- Page 10:** CSD: One of the Strongest Districts in BHS

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.

Heart of America Chorus

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

2011 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD

President	Vince Perry
Immediate Past President	Kent Miller
Executive V.P.	John Erwine
Music/Performance V.P.	Mark Fortino
Membership V.P.	Jeff Wolff
Program V.P.	Carl Turlin
Marketing & PR V.P.	Ray Young
Operations V.P.	Jim Clark
Secretary	Rich Huyck
Treasurer	Jim Porter
Board Members at Large	Mike Mathieu Barry Sanders Jim Kemper Dale Neuman Vince Perry
Board Member Emeritus	
District Delegate	

MUSICAL LEADERS

Chorus Director	David Krause
Assistant Directors	Carter Combs Jerry Garrard Mark Fortino Jim Bagby
Director Emeritus	

SECTION LEADERS

Tenor - **Crater Combs** • Lead - **Mark Fortino**
Baritone - **Jonathan Andrew** • Bass - **Shaun Whisler**

HARMONOTES STAFF

Editor Emeritus	Wade Dexter
Editor	Todd Anderson
Photographers at Large	Matt Bostick, Don Fuson, Ron McIntire
Staff Reporters	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:

Todd Anderson (Editor)

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

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

HOA Website: www.hoachorus.com

Web Address: webstaff@hoachorus.com

Chorus Manager & Webmaster - **Vince Perry**

Chapter Telephone: (816) 221-7888



Caroling Caravan 2010

by Mike Mathieu and Bob Burdick.

Through the efforts of 32 dedicated members, most of whom made all of the performances on Saturday, we raised \$7,994 thus far. A great job done by one and all.



In normal years we have a pretty good amount of checks that get mailed to me personally that I will make certain get added to our total. Considering the fact that over the last two years we have had one substantial donation each year that we have lost the following year, I think the total that we continue to raise continues to grow steadily. We will have an article in the paper either tomorrow or Wednesday, and hopefully it will include pictures. That publicity should help our numbers continue to grow next year. I have a few more new ideas that we will probably try next year also. The need is still there, so we might as well try to continue our efforts.

If anyone would like to send in a donation, please make the check out to The Salvation Army, on the lower left hand corner of the check write in Caroling Caravan, and mail to me at **Mike Mathieu**, 15431 Woodward St., Overland Park, Ks. 66223.

Thanks for all your help and Merry Christmas to one and all! ♥

Tone-Henge Too Busy for Ol' Dan

by Ol' Keith

We've all been busy the last few weeks, doing various things relating to the holiday season.

We all spent time with our families on Thanksgiving, overeating and watching football on television. **Bruce** and I sang on the Holiday Harmony Spectacular – it seems like the Christmas season doesn't officially start until the first Saturday in December.

On Dec. 13, *Tone-Henge* we had our annual holiday dinner at a restaurant overlooking the Plaza lights, where we see how far we can lower our treasury and treat nearby diners to some really high-quality caroling.

Then, of course, was the annual carolling caravan. That's always a long but satisfying day for us. It turned out to be a little too long for our ageless lead singer, **Ol' Dan**. He was battling a cold all day Saturday and, by the time the day was over, he was ready to collapse. He is improving and we trust that by the time you read this he will be his OLD self again.

We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and wish you all a happy and healthy 2011. ♥





Above, NHH members! Seated (left to right): Jim Bagby, Jon Gathright, Roy Manade, John Erwine, Jim Davis Second row: Rich Huyck, Bob Howard, Keith Schweer, Tony Strub, Val Putzier, Ron Abel, Lyle Wyly Third row: Tom Elefson, Marty Oldehoeft, Don Fuson, Dave Hokanson, Mike O'Dell, Barry Sanders. Photo courtesy of Rich Huyck

New Harmony Handful an Interesting Mix

by Val Putzier - Photo courtesy of Rich Huyck

As the newest member of the group, I was asked to come up with something for this issue of *Harmonotes*, so here goes.

In researching our 18 members, I came up with some interesting facts. Twelve of the 18 are now or have been members of the current *Heart of America* performing chorus. Would you believe, seven are past *HOA* presidents, and one has held this office on two occasions.

In addition, several have served as board members or as other chapter officers. Two of our members, **Ron Abel** and **Don Fuson**, are past Central State District presidents. Our director, **Jim Bagby** is the current CSD Contest and Judging

VP. Two of our members are in the Society contest and judging program: **Don** as a contest administrator and **Jim** as a judge in the Presentation category.

Lets take a look at length of time as Society members. We have two with over 50 years, one with over 40 and four with over 30. This adds up to a lot of years of barbershopping experience. The total number of membership years for the group is 362-plus, which gives us an average of just over 20 years per man.

It is indeed a pleasure singing with this fine group of guys in what is just a little bit different type of barbershopping experience. We try to meet monthly, and we do serve refreshments at every meeting.

On Dec. 15, we sang a full program for a senior group at the Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church in Raytown, which is our regular rehearsal spot. *HOA* members **Mike Schumacher**, **John Starcke** and **Dick O'Dell** joined us for one number. We even got the minister, the **Rev. Pat Jackson**, to sing a tag in a quartet.

And on Dec. 20, we were hosted by **Roy and Cindy Manade** for our annual holiday party, with virtually all members and wives on hand. Missing was **Dave Hokanson**, who provided the meat and spirits for the gathering that he had intended to have at his house. But his 95-year-old mother-in-law was in a life-threatening situation. Our prayers are with their family. ❤️

2010 Caroling Caravan - What a Great Day!

by Vince Perry, Chorus Manager



Ask any of the thirty-three guys participating in this year's Caroling Caravan and you will hear the same comment: What a great day! The weather was really nice, a little nippy maybe but no snow or ice to hamper navigation to the six retirement communities.

Event co-chairmen, **Bob Burdick** and **Mike Mathieu** did an outstanding job of planning the event, making personal contacts with each home and providing them with literature & publicity materials about the upcoming 30-minute fund raiser concert for the Salvation Army Bell Ringing Campaign.

HOA has participated in raising money for the Salvation Army through bell ringing activities every year since the late 1940's. It all started when chapter members rang bells outside Emery, Bird, Thayer Dry Goods Store in downtown Kansas City (see artwork above and right). During the boom of the malls, HOA held hourly concerts inside malls instead of just ringing bells. In recent years as malls started disappearing and the appearance of kiosks caused space limitations in the remaining malls, HOA started taking its bell ringing concerts on the road. Mike Mathieu is happy to report that contributions via the caravan the past couple of years have been up to five times the amount recorded in the last year at a mall.

Each of the caravan concerts were basically the same starting off with the chorus singing

"Caroling, Caroling." Next came a chapter quartet Homeward Bound (**Wendell Shaffer**- tenor from the Overland Park

Chapter, **Carl Turlin** - lead, **Don Fuson** - Bari, **Alex Tate** - bass from the Frank Thorne Chapter) with one song. Then the chorus sang "Angels We Have Heard On High," "O Come All Ye Faithful," and "Silent Night." On "Silent Night" the audience sang the final time through with the chorus humming. It was great! Next came chapter quartet *Command Per-*



formance (**Carter Combs** - tenor, **Jon Gathright** - lead, **Rich Huyck** - bari, **Monty Deurksen** - bass). They did their hilarious version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Next the chorus sang "While By My Sheep" and "Jingle Bells." HOA veteran barbershopper **Dan Henry Bowser** directed "Jingle Bells" in his zany way. The crowd and the chorus members love it when Dan is out front directing!

Tone-Henge (**Jim Bagby** - bari, **Dan Bowser** - lead, **Bruce Wenner** - tenor, **Keith Schweer** -bass) were next. They are always a big hit especially when they sing and play their home made instruments. HOA ended each show with three songs: "The Christmas Song" (directed by assistant director **Mark Fortino**, many thanks!), "Ring De Bells," and "We Wish You A Merry Christmas." Throughout the concert Mike Mathieu told the audience about HOA and The Salvation Army Bell Ringing Program. Special thanks to director **David Krause** for his extra efforts to make our first concert after attending his early Saturday morning church choir re-

hearsal across town. That's dedication and we appreciate it, big time! David is cool under pressure and kept all six concerts running flawlessly.

After each concert it was back on the bus for the caravan to the next stop. Speaking of the bus, its rental fee was donated by J. E. Dunn Construction Company in Kansas City. In addition, J. E. Dunn matched dollar for dollar for all bell ringing donations in the Kansas City area on the day of the HOA Caravan up to one hundred and fifty thousand dollars! This is huge. Many thanks to the J. E. Dunn!

Also thanks to *Heartbeats* (HOA's Ladies Auxiliary) **Jeffi Combs** and **Linda Fuson** for preparing forty sack lunches for the event. The guys really enjoyed the goodies and had a good time "dining in" on the bus. Ice cold water was available on the bus all day thanks to chorus manager **Vince Perry**.

In the afternoon, out came the miniature candy bars to provide the troops with a source of extra energy.

HOA members participating in their first bell ringing caravan this year included Music & Performance Vice President **Mark Fortino** who sang the solo part on "Ring De Bells," **Ray Young**, **David Jobe**, and **Vince Perry IV**. Missing this year and ending his consecutive bell ringing participation streak since 1981 was **Ron McIntire**. He hated to miss but had a family wedding conflict that took precedence.

At this point we don't know the amount of money HOA raised for the Salvation Army. I hope it was huge. I do know that everyone left that day feeling a bit tired but with a glow of self satisfaction that comes from giving from the heart. It was a great day to be a barbershopper! Thank you HOA for all you do! Your Caroling Caravan efforts will touch many lives in a positive way! ♥

CAROLING CARAVAN 2010



Top row: At the Atriums, the first stop of the day. Don't we look "fresh" and singing on pitch?

Middle Row, left to right: One of the stops on the Caroling Caravan with David Krause directing the HOA guys;
And who said Tonehenge never smoked pipes, anyway?

Bottom Row, left to right: Dan Henry directing a song during the last pit stop during the long Caroling Caravan day;
Is it really a "legal" director cutoff?; If I squint, does my Spanish look improve? Photos courtesy of Don Fuson



A Barbershop Solstice

by John Erwine, VP Membership (outgoing)



A solstice marks a new beginning to what we normally associate with winter or summer days as they start to become either longer or shorter. So why not a barbershop solstice? Why not take advantage of opportunities out there to change someone's life with a new beginning?

We just entered the winter solstice; right now our days are short, but beginning to become longer. Right now we are through with our 2010 commitments and looking ahead to 2011. Right now we are probably on as level a playing field as we will be all year for learning new music, including new members. Right now potential guests may be experiencing cabin fever, or soon will be. What if we can reach them before someone else does while they're waiting it out and offer them a bright new beginning to this new year?

Here is another response that I eluded to last month which may renew your confidence in approaching people. It was submitted by our very own 23-year Society veteran, **Harry Stewart**.

"Quite a few years back, I was doing some Christmas shopping one weekend at the mall when I heard some a cappella music that sounded intriguing. After a few steps I found what I soon learned was the Overland Stage Chorus singing to encourage Salvation Army donations. I listened and in no time had a foot tapping to the rhythm of the music. At their break I was about to continue my shopping when a chorus member came over to me. After the usual pleasantries, he

said he noticed I seemed to be enjoying the music.

We talked about that for few minutes and he then invited me to a chorus practice later that week. I protested that I was not a trained singer. I had been to one barbershop chorus concert several years prior but did not think I had the skills to even consider checking it out personally. He didn't argue but just said he was sure I would enjoy it. He volunteered to contact me and accompany me to the practice. Although I had sung with two different choirs previously, I had not felt as welcome as I did the evening I attended that practice.

I was hooked and after three weeks I submitted my application to join. My only regret is that it took me so long to become involved in barbershop singing."

Now that was simple enough wasn't it? Sure, it doesn't work every time, but with persistence it eventually will. Perhaps not for you in this setting, but what about other circumstances you find yourself in? Who knows how many months or years the gentleman that invited Harry had been asking other people? Or how many did not respond, but more importantly, did!

The key is to keep the reason you became involved in this craft always alive within the remote corners of your consciousness. Think of each contact you have as a potential chorus member. How neat would it be to share your experience with another person, especially if he then gets involved and excited enough to pass his excitement along as well?

Thank you—for making a difference. ♥

Harmony Explosion: Coaching Young Quartets

by Jerry Meier

Coaching the Harmony Explosion quartets will start the week of Jan. 10. That gives these young singers about 6 weeks to prepare their songs and polish their stage presence for the event on Saturday, February 19 at the Olathe East High School.

Most of the quartets have to rehearse before school, starting at 7:15 am, because many of these fine young students are involved in after-school clubs and sporting activities. Some quartets can rehearse after school, starting at 315pm, 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. ♥

2010 HHS Show

by Barry Sanders

This year's Holiday Harmony Spectacular show was a rousing success! As usual, we got lots of comments from attendees at both shows that told us that we sounded GREAT, maybe best ever! We had about 45 men and about 80 women on the risers. The matinee performance was very well attended (downstairs was practically sold out), and the evening performance was a little lighter, but the crowd was very enthusiastic, as usual for the evening crowd. As stated by **Sheri Hart**, we hope that for over 1,100 people, we helped them get their holiday activities off to a great start! Although the financial results are not yet official, it looks as though each chorus will gain about \$5,000 from the net proceeds from the show.

This was my first year as co-chairman, along with **Pat Mikels** of KC Chorus of SAI (her first time also). We both found out that there are many small details to get worked out behind the scenes that help make the show a success. We learned a lot and know that we will now be able to make next year's HHS show even better. Also, the show could not have happened without all of the work from everybody who helped on the show committee. In particular, thanks to **Ray Young, John Erwine, Mike Schumacher, Rich Huyck**, and **Dick Korek** (for those others who helped, whose names I am not remembering to mention, thanks to you as well!). ♥

Command Performance 2010

by Rich Huyck



The year 2010 has been one of the most unusual years for the quartet since we organized back in 2005!

Rich Huyck, baritone was out of the country for the first two months of the year and when he returned, Lead **Jon Gathright** was diagnosed with nodules on the vocal chords and was on orders of vocal rest from his doctor until mid-June.

With more traveling of Jon and Rich getting in the way, we were finally able to have a quartet rehearsal in mid July to prepare for a few gigs on the quartet calendar in August and September.

With even more travel in October on the part of our wayfaring Lead and Bari, the four of us were unable to meet in the same room until November. This gave us time to prepare for a program for the Kansas Association of Counties on Nov. 14. We also put in a full day with the Caroling Caravan for the Salvation Army on Dec.18!

We are looking forward to the new year when we might be able to get back to a more regular rehearsal and performance schedule. Maybe. ♥

2011 Installation of Officers & 2010 Awards Banquet

by 2010 Program Vice President, Carl Turlin

Ready to start off the year with HOA? Plan now to attend the annual Installation of Officers and Awards Banquet. It's on Saturday, Jan. 15 with activities starting at 5:45 pm. The place is the Doubletree Hotel of Overland Park at 10100 College Blvd.

Since last year's buffet menu was so well received we plan to repeat it again this year. The menu prepared and served by local culinary students will include fried chicken & barbequed brisket, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable, salad, rolls, dessert, coffee and tea.

After dinner and the Heartbeats of Year Award presentation, you will be entertained by three HOA chapter quartets: **Tone-Henge (Jim Bagby - bari, Dan**

Bowser - lead, Bruce Wenner - tenor, Keith Schweer - bass), ListenUp! (Carter Combs - tenor, Jerry Garrard - lead, Grant Hunget - bari, David Stockard - bass), and HOA's newest quartet, Voices Unlimited (Micah Jeppesen - tenor, Mark Fortino - lead, John Fortino - bari, Shaun Whisler - bass).

Next comes the business part of the evening. But you can safely bet it will not be dull since the installing officer this year will be one of HOA's greatest friends and coaches: **Mr. Bill Biffle**. Bill is the Barbershop Harmony Society's 2010 international president. It truly is a great honor to have Bill and his wife **Lillian** as our guests all the way from Albuquerque, NM. Bill will be installing **Vince Perry** as Chapter President

along with the rest 2011 chapter officers and board members.

Lastly, comes the awards part of the evening's activities. Who will be named the Kansas City, Missouri's BHS Chapter Barbershopper of the Year? Who will receive the John Cross Award? Who if anyone will take home the Oz Newgard Award? And finally, who if anybody will receive the prestigious Joe Stern Lifetime Achievement Award? You've got to present to be a part of history being made. It's a fun evening. Please put it on your social calendar!

Reservations may be made at http://www.hoachorus.com/installation_awardsbanquet2011.htm.

Hope to see you there! ♥



Book Sale Fundraiser Concludes...Finally!

by Marci Brown-Turlin, *Heartbeats* Sunshine Chair



A tremendous "Thank You!" to everyone for their efforts in supporting the fundraiser! After bringing in an additional \$19 in December, our finally total for the year of 2010 was \$527.75! Wow! Who knew we could make that much money, not really put forth too much effort, and clean out our houses at the same time! That's a good fund raiser!

Truly, it couldn't have happened without a little effort on the part of many, many people. However, **Carl Turlin** deserves a special "Thank You" for his weekly efforts to tote books and other donations home, make the trips to Half Price Books, and bring the money home to *HOA*! It really wouldn't have happened without him! Please let him know that you appreciate his efforts on behalf of this chorus fundraiser, too.

Whew! I'm glad it's over, but I'll say it again, *WOW!* Together, we increased the *HOA* treasury by \$527.75! Together is a very friendly place to be, whether we're singing, visiting, or fundraising! Thanks again, so very, very much! ♥

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following HOA MEMBERS!

January 1	John McConnell
January 1	Tom Steele
January 3	Don Newman
January 7	Dan Tilson
January 7	Harvey Shapiro
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
January 31	Brian Bellof

Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter



Note that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location.

By Board resolution, this year all of the proceeds from the raffle not given as prizes goes to Harmony Foundation. In return, the board is able to have the Foundation designate up to 30% of the fund to chapter activities such as Harmony Explosion.

As of Dec. 15, after 42 drawings (3 since last report):
The total collected for Harmony Foundation since the last report is \$48.

The total collected for the year to date (since Jan. 5, 2010) is \$1,710.

The total for the previous year was \$3,854 at year end.

The total in our best previous year (2006) was \$4,500.

The total in 2007 was \$2,290, which was the lowest in the past 7 years.

The year had fewer drawings (all previous years had at least 48), and with lower average attendance throughout the year, the contribution to Harmony Foundation was the lowest in the past 8 years.

The progressive jackpot stands at \$365. ♥

Gold & More Gold!

KC Chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society's
65th Annual Show

March 16, 2011 2PM & 7:30PM
Unity Village Auditorium, Unity Village, MO
Visit <http://www.hoachorus.com> for details

HOLIDAY HARMONY SPECTACULAR 2010



Top row, left to right: Keith Schweer, Brian Seydlitz, Mike Mathieu, and Mike Templer say, "Let's count the cards, not the beats in that last rest."; KC Chapter Chorus Manager Extraordinaire and also 2010 Chapter EVP, Vince Perry, watches over the "energy station" between shows; New member Jim Twyman prepares his first singing with HOA at the Holiday Show

Middle Row: David Krause directs the combined choruses

Bottom Row, left to right: 2010 International Quartet Champions, Zing!: Mary Rhea (Bari), Susan Ives (Lead), Melynnie Williams (Bass), and Michelle Hunget (Tenor); ListenUp! members Carter Combs (Tenor), Dave Stockard (Bass), Jerry Garrard (Lead) and Grant Hunget (Bari), . . . all decked out for their Christmas performance.

Photos courtesy of Don Fuson and Mark Yeokum



CSD Remains One of the Strongest Districts in Society

Analysis by Jim Porter

The fall district competitions are over, and once again, Central States District distinguished itself. There were 17 district contests, and results were included for the May competitions in Great Britain (BABS) and Sweden (SNOBS).

The quartet competition produced two outstanding champions, Forefront (Cardinal District) and The Crush (Far Western District), both of which posted scores in the 83% range that would have placed them just below the top 10 in Philadelphia. No other quartet posted over 80%. There were 23 quartets that scored over 76%, which is the cutoff point for eligibility at the international competition. Those included CSD champ Progression. Our own ListenUp! was 24th at 75.9, just four points (out of 3,600) below that 76 cutoff point.

Considering the top five quartets from each district competition, FWD (77.6) and Mid-Atlantic District (77.1) stood above all others. Third was Sunshine (74.9). Central States placed fifth (behind BABS) with 74.2. The overall average of the 19 districts was 72.7. Last year, CSD was sixth in this ranking at 74.3, while in 2008, we were third at 76 (when Crossroads competed).

It should be noted that the district competitions are not entirely equivalent. These results include all quartets that competed, including seniors. The total number of competitors varied from 11 (Sunshine District) to 28 (Johnny Appleseed and Evergreen), and the number moving to the finals round varied from 7 to 10. (Central States had a total of 26 competing quartets.) The two European competitions combine the spring qualifications for international with their national competitions (they have one annual convention only).

In each district, past champions are not eligible to compete. The spring contests are open to all quartets in the district (other than International champions) and are a better measure of the strength of the quartets in a district. However, if a quality quartet chooses not to compete, this can seriously damage the district average, as shown by SNOBS, where Ringmasters did not compete in May.

That said, the strength of the CSD quartet

Considering the top five choruses from each district, Central States placed fourth with an average of 79.3 percent. On top was Far Western (82), followed by Southwestern (81.5) and MAD (81.4). The overall average for all 19 districts was 75.4.

With the past champion choruses included with the top four of their districts, FWD improves to 86.4 and CSD moves up to second place with 83.2. With two international champion choruses and a third at 84.%, Far Western certainly stands out as the strongest district.

Considering the top 10 choruses in each district (with the two past international champions), Central States placed third with 76.6 percent behind Far Western (78) and Mid-Atlantic (77.5). Ontario was fourth at 74.9%, but only six choruses entered its competition. The overall average was 71.3.

A total of 37 choruses competed in May in BABS. In North America, the biggest

competition was 22 in the Mid-Atlantic district and 21 in the Far Western district. There were 13 choruses at Mason City. In seven of the districts, there were fewer than 10 choruses in the competition.

There were 1,205 competitors in BABS (32.6 average per chorus). In Mid-Atlantic district, 778 competed (35.4 per chorus), and in Far Western, 762 competed (36.3 per chorus). There were 493 competitors in Mason City (37.9 per chorus). The overall average chorus size was 32.5 men.

In conclusion, our district is one of the stronger in the Society, but Mid-Atlantic and Far Western stand above all others. There are a lot of districts out there that are struggling, both from a quality of competition standpoint and quantity of people coming to and competing in the contests. ♥



competition stands out in that the district is 4th in rank when all finalist quartets are averaged, and 3rd when the best 20 quartets are averaged from each district. Far Western and Mid-Atlantic are 1st and 2nd in these categories as well. CSD is also 3rd in the total number of competing quartets in the fall competition, with 26.

On the chorus side, CSD also shows strength and depth. This competition is a better measure than the quartets, since all districts have just one chorus competition each year that both crowns a champion and determines eligibility for international. Here, consideration is given to the fact that the past two years' international champion chorus is ineligible in a given year, and their absence adversely affects the average for their district. (For these choruses, the most recent district competition score is used for comparison.)

Summary of December 2010 Board Meeting

by Rich Huyck/Ron McIntire

FINANCE REPORT -

Jim Porter

As of Oct. 31, 2010

- Unrestricted Funds: \$10,155.16
- Restricted Funds: \$2,147.60

MARKETING/ PUBLIC RELATIONS -

Ray Young:

- Produced for the Holiday Harmony Spectacular (1,500 copies).
- A Marketing team for 2011 has been recruited. **Thom Tisdall** will take charge of booking shows for the chorus.
- A marketing and publicity plan will be developed for Singing Valentines and the Spring Show. The promotion of the Singing Valentines effort will mainly concentrate on use of e-mail and getting promotional spots on TV and Radio and the possibility of using a postcard mailer if the cost is significantly lower than the flyer.
- Continue to assist **Kent Miller** with development of the sponsor program.

MUSIC & PERFORMANCE -

Mark Fortino:

- **Cindy Hansen** is booked to work with the chorus Feb. 1, 2011 from 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. She will be work the presentation packages for our contest tunes.
- **Mike Slamka** will likely be the clinician for our Retreat in August 2011.
- Section leaders are to make a personal call to every man in their section between now and the first meeting in the new year on January 4, 2011.

PROGRAM VP - Carl Turlin:

- Joint garage sale with Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines will be at St. Peters Church in the Fall of 2011. Date to be selected.
- HOA will not participate in the BHS blood drive due to lack of support from the local blood bank community in past years.
- The annual Installation banquet will be held on Jan. 15, 2011 at the Overland Park Doubletree Hotel. **Bill Biffle** will install new officers.

Old Business:

Singing Valentines - John Erwine

- Singing Valentines HQ will be at Bank of Blue Valley location on Friday, Feb. 11, 2011.
- Awaiting responses from Helzberg Diamonds and Russell Stover.
- The answering service, ICG, is reviewing call volume from last year and will contact us soon with a contract proposal.
- Flowerama has already committed to provide flowers.
- Auditions of Singing Valentines quartets will be on Tuesday nights during January.

Holiday Show Wrapup -

Barry Sanders

- Gross income for the show was \$18,000. Last year's gross was \$23,000.
- Had good walk-in sales for both performances, but the pre-show sales for the evening performance were down significantly from last year.
- Audience reaction was generally good, but lack of a male headliner quartet was noticeable.

New Business:

Applebee's Fund Raiser:

Kent Miller

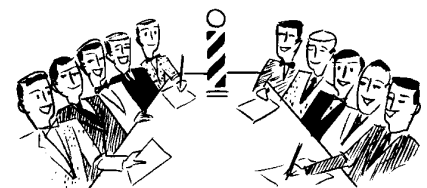
Dave Stockard will pursue organizing a fund raiser in association with Applebees.

December Schedule: Kent Miller

Dec. 18, 2010 is the Caroling Caravan for Salvation Army.

Leadership Academy: Kent Miller

- CSD Leadership Academy will be Feb. 5, 2011 in St Joe. HOA attendees will be **Vince Perry, John Erwine, Ray Young, Jim Porter, Jeff Wolff, and Rich Huyck.**
- CSD Spring Contest will be in Wichita, KS, April 8-10, 2011. ♥



Singing Machines On The Way!

by John Erwine, HOA
Singing Valentines
Chairman

We're rounding them up! Yes, it's gangs of four guys with red vests, red ties with a solid look of determination about them. They're scrunched into horseless carriages, desperately reading maps and trying to decipher why the sexy sounding lady in that GPS box keeps arguing with them; their four swiveling heads hanging out the windows, keeping an eye out for the coppers as they urgently zigzag, horn frantically blaring trying not to be late for the next delivery.

Sound a little like the Keystone Cop movies? **Marty Oldehoeft** has had to talk his way out of the "gray bar hotel" at least once. I bet he can give you all pointers if you ask him. As frantic as that description sounds, it's pretty close to the truth; however, I think probably with a little more discretionary sanity involved.

At any rate, those who have ventured out on this dizzying exploit swear it's the opportunity of a lifetime. You get to deliver the gift of love, you get to sing while doing it and you get to enjoy the usual embarrassment of the recipient; all the while raising money for the **Kansas City Chapter** and **Children's Mercy Hospital**.

If you aren't the adventuresome in spirit, there is still plenty of opportunity to help with the preparation and execution of the event. So I hope you are making plans to participate in whatever capacity you can.

And remember, even with all the excellent delivering quartets and exceptional preparation and execution volunteers, it won't be a success without the promotion and sale of the Singing Valentines themselves in large number. ♥

Uncle John Needs You! Contact me at jerwine@kc.rr.com.

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 15

Annual Installation Banquet at Overland Park Doubletree Hotel

February 13 & 14

Singing Valentines!

April 16

Annual Show at Unity Village

May 5 or 12

Annual HOA Golf Tournament

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man.

- Benjamin Franklin



©Thinkstock

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.