

CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



VOLUME 12 - ISSUE 1 - JANUARY 2012

HOA Hits Record Note for Salvation Army

by Jim Bagby, Director Emeritus



It started on what was then known in Kansas City as Petticoat Lane, in front of the old Emery, Bird, Thayer Department Store at 11th and Main. That was in the mid-1940s. It

was a relationship between two unique organizations: the Salvation Army and the Kansas City Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Barbershop quartets and fellow chapter members would sing to attract passersby and buttonhole them for donations. The singers even scooted out into the street to collect from drivers of vehicles stopped at the stoplight. And since it was the Saturday before Christmas, like many other bell ringers across the city, they froze their toes off.

These days, the *Heart of America Barbershop Chorus* has found a warmer – and much more profitable – way to raise funds for its favorite charity. The barbershoppers proved that Dec. 17 when they collected a one-day, single-organization Kansas City Salvation Army record of over \$23,000. Other civic clubs and organizations in the metro area raise more during the season, but their members work every weekend.

"I almost passed out, it was unbelievable," said chorus co-chairman **Mike Mathieu**, who carried a peck-sized basket to collect all the donations from eager residents of the retirement centers. "We've done it every year for

a lot of years, and to jump to this total is just beyond our wildest expectations."

The HOA chorus, on this Saturday about 40 strong and accompanied by three chapter quartets, piled on a yellow school bus and visited six area retirement homes. It's the sixth straight year for the so-called "Caroling Caravan," and the residents have been alerted that they will be treated to a 30-minute concert. They have also been asked to bring their contributions for the Salvation Army. A red kettle with a picture of the chorus has been sitting in the lobby for a least a week prior to the date.

"Our people just love the *HOA* barbershoppers," says **Suzan Files**, program director at the Forum. "They literally look forward to this day all year long."

The chorus has a secret weapon, and it dates back to those frigid days in front of EBT. He is retired WDAF-TV weatherman **Dan Henry**, a 65-year Barbershop Harmony Society member and former Salvation Army "Bellringer of the Year."

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HARMONOTES

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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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The utmost care was used in preparation of this newsletter. Should you notice erroneous copy, please let the editor know!

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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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HOA Hits Record Note for Salvation Army

(Continued from front cover)



He has never missed a December bell-ringing performance with *HOA*, and at age 86, he's a big hit with the retirement home set. Henry's senior comedy quartet, *Tone-Henge*, was one of the foursomes who performed and Dan also directed one number – after a mock bidding war between the chorus and the audience as to whether that was a good idea.

Also taking part in the caravan was *Homeward Bound*,

complete with silly Santa hats, and a foursome put together for the day consisting of Craig Wilcox, indefatigable director David Krause, Jonathan Andrews and Dave Stockard.

After the *HOA* bell-ringers left the streets in the 1960s, they moved indoors to Kansas City area shopping malls, beginning at Ward Parkway shortly after it opened. Risers were set up for as many as 75 singers in the middle of the mall, with chairs across from that for perhaps 100 audience members. The chorus and quartets would sing for 30 minutes, then ring bells for 30. Dan Henry would station himself on side or the other and work the crowd.

Then those spaces filled up with kiosks and carts. The chorus moved to other malls — Independence Center, Oak Park Mall, Bannister, Metro North – but they followed the same pattern as Ward Parkway, or disappeared altogether. Then Mike Mathieu, a chapter leader as well as Salvation Army diehard, and co-chairman **Bob Burdick**, in 2006 came up with the idea of taking the caravan to the people.

With the help of such organizations of J.E. Dunn, who has been a big supporter with providing funding for the bus, and our *Heartbeats*, who provide healthy and tasty sack lunches for our caravan, the event has generally gotten to be a bigger success each year. And this year was the capper.

"I have not seen anybody deliver that kind of number in six hours before," said **Andy Wheeler**, bell-ringing and special events coordinator for the Salvation Army in the metro area. "I would be surprised if anybody did better than that nationally."

What You Need to Know About Portland Now! by Vince Perry, Chorus Manager

First off, everyone who competes in any kind of sanctioned BHS contest must have a full registration. No daypasses allowed, period. Registrations (which represent seats in the venue) went on sale in Kansas City this past summer. I just checked the seating chart of the Rose Garden's website (The Venue) and wow, lots and lots of seats are not available. I'm sure International has blocked off some but really most all of the prime seats in the first tier are already sold. Early-Bird Pricing is still in effect until Jan. 15 and there is a substantial saving by buying now! Early Bird adult registration is \$149 but after the cutoff date it iumps to \$175. That's substantial!

There are two ways to order tickets at this early bird time: 1) Order online through the Society webpage.

Advantage: you get to pick your own seats; disadvantage: you don't know who you will be seated next to unless you have your own little mini-group. 2) Order through the chapter: Advantage: get to sit next to other *HOA*ers.

Disadvantages: can't pick your own seats and seats will probably be farther back in order to have the group seated together. Other disadvantage is the 4% credit card fee the chapter has to reclaim when it runs your credit card through the chapter's terminal. Pay by check and you save the cc fees.

Next, housing in Portland: *HOA* is staying in the Red Lion on the River Hotel. It's a competitive rate of \$125 a night and reservations have to be made by the first of April. After that date we lose all the rooms we have on

reserve at this time. I will be trying a new method this year of taking room reservations: I will provide the chapter with a special online link where you can make your own reservation for the Red Lion on the River Hotel. The reservations actually go through the Portland Convention and Visitors Bureau and held there until a couple of weeks before the convention. Then the CVB turns all the reservations over to the hotel. You may make changes using the same provided link up to time the CVB is gearing up to send the reservations to the hotels. After the transfer occurs then you will be dealing directly with the hotel. Look for an email from me in the near future with the reservation link. Be sure to make your reservation as soon as possible. If you have a roommate, only one person needs to make the reservation. If you have difficulty call me and I'll see if I can get you going again. If you need a roommate please let me know and we'll try to pair guys up as we go. Recently I sent an email to the chapter explaining the necessity of all HOA competitors staying in one of the BHS Convention Block Hotels- ours is the Red Lion on the River. This is not my rule but the Society's. We also have three other choruses staying in our hotel with whom we will be sharing rehearsal space and times. HOA normally has its first rehearsal on late Wednesday afternoon of convention week. This year that Wednesday is the 4th of July.

How cool is that for all of us to be together singing on the 4th of July in Portland, Oregon? Then going out to the river to watch the fireworks displays!

The chorus contest is on Friday, the 6th and we sing in the second set starting at 4pm; we're number 23 right after *Central Standard* and just before Hilltop from Minnesota. If the contest schedule runs about like it did in KC we would probably leave our hotel at around 4pm and would take the stage at about 5:30pm. This gives us lots of time to really prepare on the day of the contest. Remember how prepared we were in Philly because of our draw? Let's make it happen again in Portland!

Portland is the City of Roses and HOA has never competed there. This is a great opportunity to visit one of America's great cities and have the time of your life. Plan your vacation around it. Leave early and/or stay late. Take the Alaskan Cruise being offered to barbershoppers. (See Carl Turlin for more information.) Start thinking Portland now! Get your registrations before Jan. 16 if at all possible. Reserve your room by April 1 (remember you can always change it later; but you can't make a reservation later. Hint, hint!) The Central States District is sending four—count'em, four choruses—and probably several quartets. Portland is an opportunistic time for HOA and CSD. It's going to be a fun time! See me if you have any questions or concerns. Together we can make things happen!



A Holiday Harmony Show To Remember! by Vince Perry

First, I would like to thank our director of music **David Krause** for all the work he did throughout the year

in preparation for the 2011 Holiday Harmony Spectacular. He had a plan of being proactive and he stuck to it. Also great thanks to Carter Combs for the idea of having an eight-part arrangement about Rudolf and his misfit friends. Kevin Keller did a marvelous job of arranging the Montage. Also thanks to Darrell Mc-Cune for getting the men's learning tracks recorded. They really helped and were well worth the money! And when it came time for the actual production once again David Krause worked very hard to pull the whole montage together. And least I forget the ef-

forts and talents of our narrator and soloist **Dan Henry Bowser** for a wonderful job in both performances! Thanks, Dan! And many thanks to the *Heart of America Chorus* for learning the forty-six page montage in such a short period of time.

Next I would like to thank **Stacy Schumacher** and the *Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines* for also learning the montage in the short period they had left after their International Competition. Also though they out numbered *HOA* two to one, they were very professional in balancing the eight-part sound throughout the montage. Finally, I would like to thank all the members of both choruses who bought into the spirit of the montage and dressed the

part. I wish I could thank each one but of course that is impossible. Still, we had a Santa played by **David Krause**,



Above, left to right: John Erwine (Jack In The Box) Larry Colburn (Toy Soldier)
Vince Perry (Square Snowman) Dave Jobe (Christmas Tree) .
Photo submitted by John Erwine

a jack-in-the-box created by **John Erwine**, a misfit square snowman I created, and the nicest costume of them all, a Christmas tree with lights created and worn by **Dave Jobe**. (We think that **Sharon Jobe** may have had something to do with the costume creation!) And the women dressed the part too; many as misfit toys! The whole colorful effect of the costuming was awesome and the audience loved it!

After the montage, while *HOA* made a quick costume change the reigning Region Seven quartet champions *Legacy* performed their holiday set. Many thanks to **Trish Holland**, bass, **Karla Kraut**, baritone, **Stacy Schumacher**, lead, and **Wendy Pool**, tenor for their fine performances.

Next came *HOA* back in their black tuxedoes singing three holiday songs including the all time favorite "I Have Seen The Light."

Voices Unlimited (2011 CSD Quartet Champions) took the stage in the second half and wowed the audience with their holiday music. A special thank you to Micah Jeppesen, tenor, Mark Fortino, lead, John Fortino, bari, and Shaun Whisler, bass for taking the time to learn holiday/sacred music especially for this show. They even made a three-track Holiday CD that may be made available soon on their website: www. voicesunlimited quartet.com

After the Kansas City Chorus performed the two choruses combined again this time under the direction of **Stacy Schumacher**. The show ended with the combined choruses singing "The Halleluiah Chorus."

Finally, I must say that I've sang on all the Holiday Harmony Shows in the past and to me this one was the most fun! Thanks again to all who made it happen, especially **Mike & Linda Schumacher** for all the coordination of risers, meals, and you name it! I'm already looking forward to next year's show, maybe the "Grinch Who Stole Christmas" will show up?

JANUARY 2012 HARMONOTES

HOA Installation and Award Banquet

The HOA Installation and Awards Banquet is on Saturday, Jan. 7, from 6-10 p.m. in the Overland Park Room of the Overland Park DoubleTree Hotel. Call Jerry Meier at 913-226-5394 to sign up and attend the chapter's premier social event of the year. Come honor and support the 2012 officers and board members you have elected. The installing officer will be our own Society Board Member, **Don Fuson**. The Heartbeats also will be installing their officers. AND you'll learn the identity of the HOA 2011 Barbershopper of the Year, and the recipient of the John Cross Award. Both of these are men you know and love. Who, if anyone, will get the coveted Ozzie Award? It's not presented every year — another suspenseful moment! Will there be a rare Joe Stern Award announcement? There certainly will be a *Heartbeat* of the Year. Yes, it will be a night to remember! Here are the details:

The adult menu consists of the following selections:

- Mixed Green Salad (Ranch Dressing) OR Caesar Salad OR Soup of the Day
- Chicken Florentine Roulade Topped with Sun-dried Tomato Sauce (stuffed, baked chicken breast) and Chef Selection of rice / potato / vegetable, OR
- Lemon and Rosemary Marinated Grilled Petite Beef Tender over Chive Whipped Potatoes and Vegetable Medley Topped with Balsamic Glaze, OR
- Cheese stuffed ravioli with white crème sauce
- Chocolate Mousse OR Cheesecake with Strawberry Sauce

Hope to see you on Saturday at the Overland Park Double Tree Hotel! ♥



Harmony Explosion 2012 -Coaching Young Quartets by Jerry Meier



Coaching the Harmony Explosion quartets will start in January. These young singers will

have six weeks to prepare their songs and polish their performances for the event on Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Olathe East High School.

Some quartets have to rehearse before school, starting at 7:15am, because these fine young students are involved in after-school clubs and sporting activities. Other quartets rehearse after school, start singing at 3:15pm.

Requests for coaching come primarily from the Olathe School District. I already know that Pioneer Trail, California Trail, and Indian Trail Middle Schools in Olathe have organized quartets that are starting to prepare for Harmony Explosion. I also expect a strong showing from Olathe East and Olathe South, thanks to the wonderful support we receive from Dr. Dwayne Dunn and Mrs. Jan Holthus.

Please give me a call or see me during rehearsal if you want to help this year. Coaching is easy – just take the Mike Slamka approach and share what you have heard from so many other fine coaches! Or simply sit and listen to the quartets as they sing, to keep them focused during their rehearsal time. It's easier than you think! And it means so much to the kids when you show up at their school to help them practice their songs.

Please think about it and talk to me if you can 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) Home or 913-226-5394 Mobile) if you have questions.

Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter



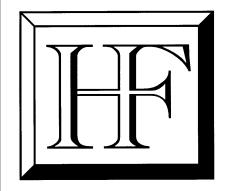
Note that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location.

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. 14, after 45 drawings (3) since last report):

- The total Harmony Foundation contribution since the last report: \$84.
- The total collected for the year just completed is \$1,040.
- The total for the previous year was \$1,718.
- The total in our best previous year (2009) was \$3,854.
- The total in 2006 (our best full year) was \$4,500.
- The total in 2002 (the lowest year of the past decade) was \$1,273.
- The progressive jackpot stands at \$575.

A donation of \$1,040 was made by the chapter to Harmony Foundation on Dec. 15.♥



HARMONY HOLDAY SPECTACULAR!

Show photos courtesy of Mark Yeokum









HARMONY HOLDAY SPECTACULAR!

Show photos courtesy of Mark Yeokum





Caroling Caravan #6 — 2011

by Mike Mathieu and Bob Burdick, Co-Chaimen

If you weren't able to make this annual event, you missed one of the most fulfilling Salvation Army Experiences yet! To those able to make the day, you made the day one for the ages.

In 2008 we had our greatest year ever collecting \$11,388.90. That total more than doubled the

previous best year up until then. This year we more than doubled 2008, collecting up until now \$23,080.02 That number is still "numbing" as I read it and try to comprehend what an achievement you have all attained.

Susan Files, our best supporter ever, and activities coordinator at the Forum, e-mailed me today asking what our final totals were. She gets almost as excited during this annual event as some of our members do. I would love to put her in a jar and take her to each retirement home with us and have her help spread the "reason for the season" that she does so well. Her efforts are the main reason we continue to grow and grow in this annual campaign.

The 2011 Salvation Army lapel pin pass also helped our numbers climb for this year, as did the continuing totals that your own chorus continues to raise. Our members collected a record of over \$5,000 for the year, a total that in any year before the Caroling Caravan would have been far and away the best year ever. Your dedication and generosity are simply amazing and you all should give each other a round of applause. If we could figure out a way to add up the money that gets thrown at the bucket to get **Dan Henry**



to "not" direct Jingle Bells, I bet we would have easily surpassed \$5,500 for this year. Again, how generous you all truly are!

Thanks to **Bob Burdick** for lining up the Retirement Communities again this year, and for all the "behind the scenes" work he continues to deliver. If you guys only knew what an organized and

focused individual he truly is, you'd probably look for ways to keep in home all year round so we could use his many talents 365 days per year. Isn't the weather here in KC during January, February, and March much better than it is in southern Florida those same months? Heck if Bob were here in March, I bet he would probably come up with a way to sell out all of the seats at our annual shows.

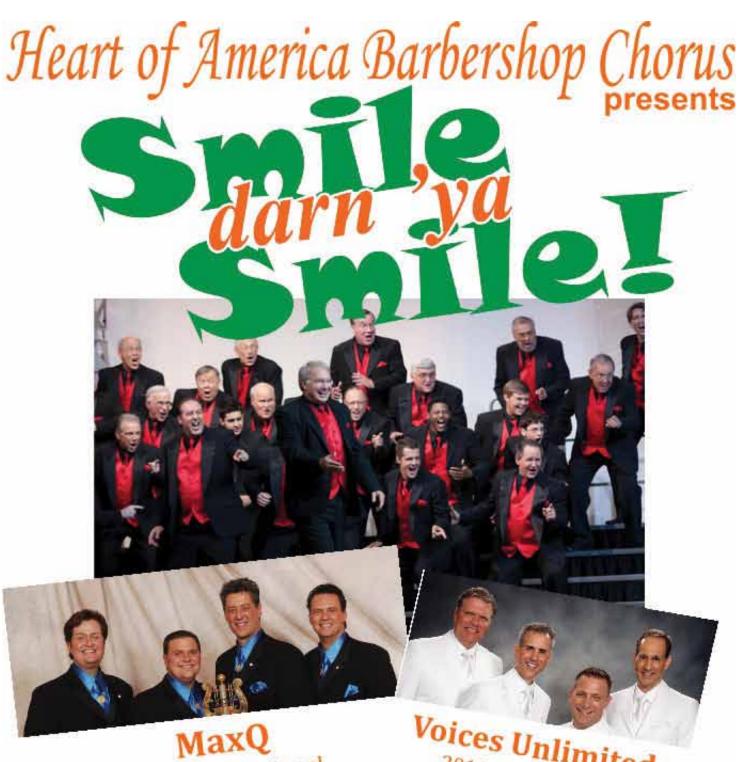
The gears are already grinding for Caroling Caravan 2012, and if anyone else has some ideas to help our numbers continue to grow, please share them with Bob and me so we can get working on them. Thanks for all you help and I hope you all had a Merry Christmas, and have a Happy and Fabulous 2012!

CAROLING CARAVAN PHOTOS ON PAGE 9

A) On the Caravan Bus; B)"Homeward Bound" L to R Wendell Shaffer, Carl Turlin, Alex Tate and Don Fuson; C) HOA with Mark Fortino directing at Atriums; D) "Tone-Henge" Jim Bagby, Keith Schweer, Dan Bowser and Bruce Wenner at Atriums; E) "Caravan" L to R Jonathan Andrews, David Stockard, David Krause and Craig Wilcox at Tallgrass Creek; F) Mark Fortino directing "Jingle Bells" at Tallgrass Creek; G) Mike Mathieu our pitch man for the Salvation Army taken at the Forum. Photos courtesy of Vince Perry and Don Fuson.

2011 CAROLING CARAVAN!





2007 International Quartet Champions Voices Unlimited
2011 Central States
District Quartet Champions

Saturday, April 14, 2012 Yardley Hall – Johnson County Community College Show Times 2:00 and 7:30 \$25.00 and \$20.00

For tickets call 913-469-4445

Also available online at www.hoachorus.com (service fee additional)

Group and student discounts

Free Parking

SMILE, darn ya', SMILE!

by Kent and Cindy Miller, 2012 Show Chairs

That's right, SMILE, darn ya', SMILE!, as you put Saturday, April 14, 2012 on your calendar, because it's the date of the next *Heart of America Chorus* Annual Spring Show!

The show will be at Yardley Hall, the auditorium at Johnson County Community College. It's a great venue with a great location and great free parking – easily accessible to all.

As usual, show times are 2pm and 7:30pm and also, as usual, in addition to the *HOA* chorus we will have several excellent *HOA* quartets for your listening pleasure. They include the 2011 Central States District Champions *Voices Unlimited*, followed by the headliner quartet *Max Q*, the 2007 International Champions!

Win a Kindle Fire! Starting Jan. 10 and ending Feb. 8, for each \$25 ticket purchased you will receive \$35 in discounts including: \$20 off of a Singing Valentine, \$10 off of a 2012 Holiday Show ticket, \$5 off of a *HOA Happy Together* CD and: A CHANCE TO WIN A KINDLE FIRE!

You can purchase tickets by calling 913-469-4445 which connects you to Yardley Hall's ticket office or by going to the *HOA* website at **www.hoachorus.com**. Both methods will enroll you in the above promotion. We hope to see you there!





Plan Your Summer High Point in 2012: Come to International in Portland! Beautiful Music! Gorgeous Scenery!

Register now for the Portland 2012 International Convention next July 1-8! There are so many reasons to be excited about this convention!

For starters, how about the drama between Ringmasters and Musical Island Boys as they vie for the top spot in the quartet competition? As if that won't be enough, who knows what contender might challenge both of them? Whoever wins, it will be a peak experience. As for peak experiences, on the scenery side, how about the drama of Mt. Hood - over 11,000 feet above sea level and clearly visible from downtown Portland?

And after placing just a breath away from the gold last year, Great Northern Union will be a force for the Ambassadors of Harmony to reckon with in Portland. There'll be some beautiful music there for sure. And, speaking of beautiful, you'll thoroughly enjoy a visit to the International Rose Test Garden, the Columbia River Gorge, and Multnomah Falls, to name just a few, all within easy reach! See what we're talking about by visiting http://www.travelportland.com/things-to-see-and-do/attractions/top-sights. And, breathtaking coastal views of the Pacific are only about 100 miles away!

General housing opens January 15. Register at... http://barbershop.tix.com/Event.asp?Event=381268.

Can't Come to Tucson? Watch it on Webcast!

If you have to miss the convention, you can still share the excitement! Webcasts of all four Midwinter events will be available! Cost is only \$39 for all events, or \$15 for individual events.

To sign up, visit...

http://www.barbershop.org/tucson-midwinter-main.html.



The *Heartbeats* wrapped up 2011 with their final meeting in December, complete with the annual cookie and Christmas ornament exchange. The slate of officers for 2012 was presented and the elected officers are: **Marci Brown-Turlin**, president; **Linda Schumacher**, vice president; Betsy Strub, secretary, and **Jeffi Combs**, treasurer. Two board members will be appointed by Marci. The officers and board members will be installed at the *HOA* banquet. My thanks to this year's officers: **Marci Brown-Turlin**, vice president; **Betsy Strub**, secretary; **Linda Fuson**, treasurer, and board members **Linda Schumacher** and **Lois Kemper.**

We are continuing to accept contributions for the book fundraiser. It's an easy way to get a few dollars to help the chapter. So keep bringing those books of all kinds, magazines, CDs, DVDs, records, video games and paper collectibles (i.e. postcards, posters, playbills, maps) to rehearsal. Thanks in advance for your help and donations.

The recipient of the 2011 Orval Wilson Harmony University Scholarship was **Jeff Gerrard**. He was very grateful and in his note. Thanking the *Heartbeats* for our support, he made the following comments. "The experience was nothing short of incredible. The opportunity to network and socialize within our extended Barbershop family was priceless and unforgettable." The scholarship application for Harmony University 2012 will be made available at rehearsal and on the *HOA* website after the first of the year. We hope many of you will apply.

Under the coordination of **Jeffi Combs**, we organized a "golden" afterglow for the guys' annual show, *Gold & More Gold*, in April. There were many golden moments during the evening.

Our largest task of the year was planning the ladies activities during the International Convention last summer. **Marci Brown-Turlin** coordinated the ultimate ladies hospitality room and **Jan Mathieu** had everyone "All Jazzed Up" for the ladies breakfast. These events were successful, with lots of help from many hands and were the talk of the convention among all of the participants.

We helped **Rick Foreman** with the District Harmony Marketplace in October, taking inventory and staffing the room on Friday and Saturday. We were told it was the "most successful one ever."

The year's activities ended with the traditional gathering at the Combs' home, putting together sack lunches for the caroling caravan. Thank you, Jeffi, for coordinating this event and making it such a party atmosphere. We always receive comments from the guys about how much they appreciate every surprise in their lunch sacks.

Dates for the 2012 *Heartbeats* meetings are March 13, May 8, Sept. 11 and Dec. 11. The organizational meeting will be held Jan. 10. All dates are the second Tuesday of the month and all meetings are held at St. Peter's at 7pm.

To all the female supporters of the Kansas City Chapter, we would love to have you join us and share in the fun and fellowship as we continue to help and support the *HOA* chapter and chorus in its endeavors.

As I reflect on this fun and exciting year, it would not have been successful without everyone's help. It has been my great pleasure to have served as President for the past two years and I look forward to working with all of you in 2012. Happy New Year!

The Heartbeats and HOA each year award a scholarship to a first time attendee to Harmony University each summer in St. Joseph, MO. This year **Jeff Garrard** received the scholarship awarded in Memory and Honor of HOA great **Orval Wilson**. The following is an email from Jeff written to the Heartbeats about his HU experience. The Heartbeats will have applications on the HOA Members Website for the 2012 Scholarship very soon. Also look for announcements in the weekly InTune.

To Jana Henderson and the Heartbeats,

My continued thanks to the *Heartbeats* for all you do in support of *Heart of America* chapter and its members. I was allowed a few minutes during the first chapter meeting after Harmony University to share thoughts and reprise my HU experience. I'd be more than happy to recap them for you.

The experience in general was nothing short of incredible. The opportunity to network and socialize within our extended Barbershop family was priceless and unforgettable. The curriculum of courses offered provided me a wide range of learning opportunities—that I fully capitalized on. Naturally, like everyone would, I had my favorites and looked forward to them every day.

The 'Witness Relocation Program' with Cindy Hansen-Ellis was at the top of my list. In this daily class we discussed and explored the many methods of incorporating humor into our work in quartets, choruses and even as emcees. The class examined various means using comedic elements, both with successful and not-so-successful results. This was a tremendous eye-opener for me; as I am always looking for ways to enhance my personal performance techniques. And it's just a barrel of laughs sharing time with Cindy.

General Session each morning was a treat--even after staying up late into the wee-hours of morning singing tags-because of the dynamic approach each leader brought to the gathering. Warm-up techniques, working on fundamentals of quality singing and learning a new piece was truly an invigorating way to begin every day at HU.

This experience would not have been possible for me without the scholarship provided by the *Heartbeats*. But now that I've attended and experienced a whole new world of learning the craft of Barbershop, outside of what is offered during *HOA's* limited rehearsal time each week, I certainly have the desire to attend again and again.

It was my pleasure to represent the *Heart of America* chapter at Harmony University. Thank you, *Heartbeats*, for assisting me in achieving this goal.

Cheers! Jeff Garrard



The Tip O'The Hat is recognition to both members and non-members who have made a recent contribution in time and effort to the betterment of the Kansas City, Missouri Chapter.

A big Tip O'The Hat to **John Warrior** for all his work in producing and directing the techincal aspects of the 2011 Holiday Harmony Spectacular.

Also, another Tip of the old hat to Co-chairmen **Bob Burdick** and **Mike Mathieu** for their record setting efforts in organizing the 2011 Caroling Caravan for the Salvation Army Bell Ringing Campaign.

Hats off to **Jerry Meier** for all his planning and organizing of the upcoming 2012 Installation/Awards Banquet.

A tip of the topper also goes to **Tony Strub**, **Don Fuson**, and **Jerry Meier** for serving as the Chapter's 2011 Nominating Committee!

And one last tip of the tumbler to all the unnamed *HOA*ers who worked so diligently in secret meetings to determine the recipients of *HOA's* most prestigious awards being given on Saturday, Jan. 7. **Bruce Wenner** was the general chairman overseeing all the subcommittees.

Singing Valentines Right Around the Corner

by John Erwine, HOA SV Chairman



The first major *HOA* fundraiser of the 2012 year is fast approaching. It's time to begin thinking about the loved ones in our life, and those messages of love that others will be asking us to deliver for them. This year we'll be delivering on

Monday and Tuesday. What a great way to start the work week. And wouldn't it be nice to see the number of deliveries jump once again into the 250-plus range!

Most of our membership knows what a rewarding and fun event this is. But for the newer members, it's a chance to participate in the delivery of love. Besides supporting the Kansas City Chapter, 25% of the funds from the event will be presented to Children's Mercy Hospital, to help with the purchase of equipment to aid in speech and hearing rehabilitation needs. This can be accomplished either by being part of a delivering quartet or in a supportive role. There are plenty of opportunities for everyone.

So, it's time to begin thinking of how you can help with this most important fund-raiser. It's time to begin putting your quartets together, polishing up *Heart of My Heart* for quartet auditions and thinking of new ways we can build awareness in the community for this event.

If you can't or don't want to be part of a quartet, that's fine, because we need lots of support people to put this all together and make it happen. We'll need help at the headquarters location to process last-minute orders, routing and to pack quartet delivery supplies. We'll need drivers, help with publicity, direct marketing, advance performances, obtaining supplies and many other things that have to start taking place in January. We already have a few volunteers, but need many more.

It doesn't matter how you help with this event, just as long as you help. In whatever capacity you participate, you'll be helping to spread the word about the superior product that we offer. One additional thought: this is a great promotional tool to help advertise our upcoming Spring Show. Just think of the exposure we get during this time. Let's take full advantage of it. Contact me at jerwine@kc.rr.com.

How Many Guys In Your Quartet? by Ol' Bruce



You know the old saw – "you can't teach an old dog new tricks"? It ain't true. *Tone-Henge* stands as a living counterexample. These four old codgers have learned to sing as a barbershop trio.

We were booked for a performance in a Westin Crown Center ballroom, so we took the trouble to rehearse the previous day. *Whoops!* Strange sounds coming out of the tenor, who was fighting a cold – and losing. We practiced long enough to realize that our best chance for the morrow was to do a lot of praying.

Alas. The cold was even worse the next day. Weak tenor notes from E up, and nothing but croaks from E^{\flat} down – I wound up not even trying to sing in that range. But – guess what. The crowd loved us. Laughed themselves silly at our corny gags, and gave us a standing ovation at the end. We thought maybe they were just relieved it was over, but we heard from them the next day – they want us back again next December! Go figure.

Saturday was the Caroling Caravan, and **Bruce** had his voice back (most of it, anyway). Once we were all there we ducked out to run through a song, and got the bad news. It was **Jim** this time – an absolute frog, even in his speaking voice. A monster when singing an octave below the bass, but he had nothing anywhere in the baritone range. So we cut our program to one number, and rearranged that one to try to hide the fact that we were a trio again. Don't know if we succeeded, but we did survive.

So – you can't teach old dogs new tricks? *Hah!* ♥



HOA Chapter/Chorus Strategic Planning Meeting Held

by Vince Perry, Chapter President



As I reported last month, I was forming an ad hoc committee to discuss the chapter/chorus with respect to what we have done right, what we have done wrong, areas we can make improvement, etc. Really any topic was open for discussion. The com-

mittee did meet on Monday, Dec. 12 and for a little over three hours had a very beneficial discussion.

Past HOA President Don Young facilitated the meeting. The committee members were, representing the Board: myself, Executive Vice President John Erwine, Immediate Past President Kent Miller, and Operations Vice President Elect Mike Schumacher; representing the Music Team: Music & Performance Vice President Mark Fortino, Director David Krause, and Past Music & Performance VP and current tenor section leader Carter Combs; representing the youth element in the chapter was Craig Wilcox; and representing the veteran members was Past Everything (Prez, M&P VP, Section Leader and who knows what else?) Keith Schweer. Don Young queried the committee before hand and the following agenda was the result:

- 1) Fiscal Path/Chapter Finances
- 2) How has *HOA* changed in the last 4 years? (Including Structure of Chapter Meeting)
- 3) Contest Placement
- 4) Musical Leadership/Musical Program/Kevin Keller
- 5) Growth & Retention/Membership
- 6) Music Selection
- 7) Ticket Sales
- 8) 75th Anniversary

The following is a draft of the results of the meeting. Remember these are the opinions expressed by the committee and not everyone agreed on every point. The Board and the Music Team with this input will now be better informed as to at least the opinions of these nine members with respect to the chapter and chorus.

Meeting Notes from Dec. 13, 2011 Planning Meeting

Listed below is the summary of notes that Don made during the meeting. They are in no particular order other than being in the order of our discussion.

- 1. The structure of our meetings should remain the same for now.
- 2. Bringing back some old chorus members would be a good move, however our main focus should be on bringing in NEW chorus members.
- 3. It's recommended that we find a Pizza place for the afterglow or have it delivered on Tuesdays.

- 4. Tag singing should be continued during the meetings.
- 5. The PVP needs to bring in different types of talent for entertainment during our meetings.
- 6. Rather than focusing on singing at a "Contest Level" we need to focus on an overall "Great Level" of singing all the time because "Contest Placement "is a result of great singing.
- 7. Auditions (*Heart of My Heart*) are used to become a chapter member, then there are additional qualifications as outlined online to earn the right to sing in the Performing Chorus.
- 8. Several of the leadership will be having a meeting with some of the old good singing members to try and figure out what it may take to have them come more often and also discuss how we can improve retention.
- 9. **Kevin Keller** could be the choruses X factor in taking *HOA* to the next level.
- 10. MT said that they need to take some time to work on developing more leadership positions in the chapter.
- 11. The chorus needs to have more performances.
- 12. It was agreed that we need to develop a committee to investigate some ways to recruit other college graduate singers from around Kansas City.
- 13. Finalizing show dates after our spring show is important by either leaving them alone or changing them slightly but trying to change them now would destroy *HOA's* credibility and is not recommended.
- 14. Music selection is related many times to the wow factor of the song. Which is also related to *HOA's* ability to perform the song at a wow factor level.
- 15. The guest quartet (like *MaxQ*) remains very important to the success of a barbershop show and the sale of tickets
- 16. How do we spend the money the chapter earned this year? What will Keller cost us? We need to investigate ways we can earn money to support Keller's involvement with HOA so that he can be with us as often as possible.
- 17. Recommend to the board that this committee wants to make 2012 a year of great improvement and success and should be willing to spend the chapter dollars in ways that will accomplish that goal.
- 18.75th Anniversary Year: This group would like to charge the Board with the task of marketing the 2013 anniversary year starting now and continuing all year long. It's determined that doing that would be a terrific benefit to the chorus for many years to come.
- 19. Consider changing the name of the chorus.





to the following HOA MEMBERS!

January 1 John McConnell

January 3 Don Newman

January 7 Harvey Shapiro

January 9 Bob Rutherford

January 10 Oly Oldehoeft

January 13 Roy Manade

January 13 Fran Gangel

January 21 Brian Marston

January 25 Bob Burdick

January 27 Daniel Fortino

January 30 Rick Foreman

January 31 Brian Bellof

DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF HARMONOTES:

JANUARY 25

Guest Night Slated For January 3!

by Jeff Wolff

While you are partying and celebrating the holidays with friends and family, remember to reserve some energy for the night of Jan. 3, where there will be another opportunity for fellowship and mirth! This is our first night back on the risers after the holiday break, and it will also be a Guest Night to show off our talents to others that may be interested in joining us.

All members of *HOA* are invited and encouraged to attend and to bring guests. We will have a guest clinician and the 2012 Music Team will be introduced. Quartets will perform. Tags will be sung. Contest pieces will be debuted. Pizza will be consumed. It will be a lot of fun, and as your Membership Chair, I need your help to make sure the word gets out to anyone that isn't on this email list! Do what you can to fill the risers that night so that we can show off our barbershop craft to new sets of eyes.

Our unofficial goal is 100 men on the risers; if every member of the current performing chorus brings just one guest, or convinces one past member to return to the group, we will hit that goal.

Please check out the flyer on page 15 (thanks, Vince Perry!) that you can use as a recruiting tool. It has all the pertinent information for your guests. Any further questions can be submitted to me privately through my email address and I will answer them as best I can.

Let's make this a great night! •



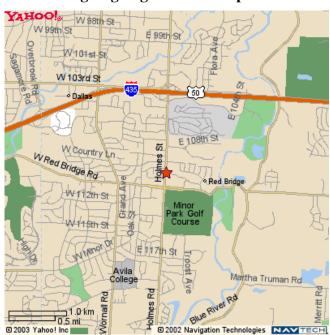


Calling All Singers:

You are invited to be part of a fullscale guest night presented by the Kansas City, MO Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. It will be on Tuesday evening, January 3rd, 2012 at our regular meeting hall, St. Peter's United Church of Christ.

The church is at 110th Street and Holmes Rd about one mile south of I-435 and just one block north of Red Bridge Rd. (See the map below)

We'll start signing in guests at 7:00 p.m with a little informal time to meet everybody. Our



regular rehearsal time starts at 7:30 at which time you will get to hear and sing with the Heart of America Chorus. HOA prides itself for its history of excellence in the singing of a cappella barbershop harmony. At the Int'l Contest last July in Kansas City, we scored 14th in the world! We are guys from ages 10 to 82 who like

We are guys from ages 10 to 82 who like to sing and enjoy the fun of being with almost 50 active members each week. The majority of our singers have no formal music training but we can match pitch and hear harmony – and we love to ring chords. Our motto is "Drawn by Harmony, Bound by Fellowship, Striving for Excellence." We will end the evening with lots of yummy pizzas!

You gotta love pizza and we hope you'll find that you love barbershop harmony HOA style too!

So mark your calendar and come on out. You're officially invited on behalf of our Chorus Director David Krause, our eager and active Music Team and our HOA family. If you need a ride, just holler! We'll sing a song together, hear from the chorus and some quartets, sing a tag or two and learn a little more about this unique hobby.

I hope you can join us.

Sincerely,

Vince

Vince Perry, President

KC Heart of America Chapter of BHS, Inc

(The home of the Heart of America Chorus, Voices Unlimited (2011 CSD Quartet Champions), BCQ (CSD 2011 3rd Place Quartet, The New Harmony Handful, and other great chapter quartets!)

SUMMARY OF DECEMBER 2011 BOARD MEETING

By Rich Huyck/Ron McIntire



FINANCE REPORT - Jim Porter.

Unrestricted Funds: \$22,842.68Restricted Funds: \$1682.60

OPERATIONS VP - Jim Clark

 Mike Schumacher was able to acquire a large truck for transporting the risers for the Holiday show.
 Because the original truck to be rented for this purpose was not available, Mike got the use of the large truck for no charge.

PROGRAM VP - Jerry Meier:

 The 2012 Installation Banquet will be held on Jan. 7, 2012 at the Overland Park Doubletree Hotel 6pm to 10pm.

MEMBERSHIP VP - Jeff Wolff:

• The next guest night is to be held on January 3, 2012. The plan is to order pizza to be available to all at the end of the meeting..

Old Business:

2012 Installation/Awards Banquet: Vince Perry

• Signup webpage is ready for the banquet.

Holiday Harmony Spectacular: Barry Sanders

- We may clear approximately \$3700.
- The follow up Show Committee meeting will consider issues such as more emphasis on group sales, getting an earlier start on show promotion, and possibly cutting back to one performance instead of the traditional two that we have been doing.

Portland Update: Vince Perry

- Hotel: Red Lion On the River
- We stay with the result of the formal draw order (22nd)

Learning Academy (COTS)

• Rich Huyck, Vince Perry, John Erwine, Jim Porter, and Dick Irwin have been identified to attend COTS thus far.

2012 Chapter Dues Increase - Decision:

• Present \$35 per yr; Incr \$0,\$5,\$10,\$15? Leave the issue on the table. No increase for the upcoming year.

Annual Show Update - Kent Miller

 Promotion will begin on January 10, 2012. We benefit by using the JCCC mailing list which has 10,000 potential customers. Thirty day promotion offering some kind of discount and prizes available in a drawing.

New Business:

Music Director's 2012 Contract/AOH Provision/ Mileage Rate

- David has requested same AOH Provision for next year.
- Mileage rate is currently .55/mile. This is what is currently used for David's contract.

Strategic Planning Meeting Results/Recommendations

- 9 people participated with excellent discussions and new ideas.
- **Kevin Keller** may be coaching *HOA* on a monthly basis beginning on January 3, 2012. Consideration is being given to making Kevin a member of the HOA Music Team.
- Board agreed: Finance **Kevin Keller's** travel expenses as coach for the *HOA* Performing Chorus for up to 6 months on a monthly basis.
- Quartets considered for the 2013 annual show are *OC Times* and *Crossroads*.
- Board agreed: Commit to Lake Doniphan for HOA Retreat on May 18-20, 2012. ♥

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!

































January 7

HOA Installation/Awards Banquet Doubletree of Overland Park

April 14

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



So let us sing our songs together And make that sound divine Let's keep the memories golden For the sake of auld lang syne

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.