

Harmonotes

The Quarterly Bulletin of the
Kansas City Heart of America Chorus

CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

VOLUME 18 • ISSUE 2 • JULY 2018

HOA HAS NEW DIGS AND MOVES ON TOWARD AN EXCITING SECOND HALF OF 2018

by Barry Sanders, HOA President



SANDERS

As I write this *Harmonotes* Article, HOA is continuing to move forward in a positive direction and we have an exciting second half of 2018 planned! We hope that you will be part of it!

The first week in May, HOA moved its practice location to Center High School, 8715 Holmes Road, KCMO. This is an exciting venue for our chapter! The HS Choral Director and the school administrators have been overly cordial and inviting to HOA. When we are there on Tuesday nights, we basically have the "run of the place", which gives us many choices for our chorus practices, depending on our goals for the evening (choral room, auditorium, "mirrored" practice room, etc.). We have now had our first guest night, and an official "open house" (June 26), so we feel like we are truly "moved in" and moving forward.

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HARMONOTES

Harmonotes is published by the board of directors of the Kansas City, Mo., Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, a non-profit organization. Photographs that are not attributed are the work of our photographers at large. Unless accompanied by a byline, all articles have been written by the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the officers and members of the chapter. Space will be made available for opposing points of view.

Chapter meets at 7 p.m. each Tuesday night, at:
8715 Holmes Road · Kansas City, MO 64131

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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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HOA Board meetings take place at 6pm on the second Monday or Tuesday of the month, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 100 East Red Bridge Road, Kansas City, MO 64131. Chapter members are welcome!

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



(Continued from front cover)

We also just finished our annual show, June 16, at the Bell Center at Mid-America Nazarene College, which was certainly deemed to be a success, even though we didn't fill the house for either show. We received many compliments, as usual, like: "how come I didn't know about you guys" and "best show ever", so we know that we did ourselves proud on the show. Oh, by the way, have you heard that our headliner quartet, *After Hours*, just went to Orlando and won 1st place in the International Quartet Contest? What a treat for us to be able to have them on our show right as they were preparing to win the gold medal! The Afterglow was a "blast", thanks to lots of hard work by **Mike Mathieu**.

Now, we need to start thinking about the second half of 2018! We know that we have 1 gig coming up in August, plus we are starting to prepare for both Fall contest in St. Charles (remember we were "most improved chorus" last year?) and for our HHS (holiday) show coming up on Dec. 1. Squeezed in there nicely is an exciting trip to St. Louis, on Sept. 8, for the H.E.L.P Coaching Session, where *HOA*, as a chorus, will be coached by approximately 10 highly renowned coaches, as we prepare for the contest in October.

I know that there are quite a few of you that are not currently in the *HOA* performing chorus (PC) that are reading this article. I would like to issue a "challenge" to any and all of you to commit to coming back to *HOA* for just for the second half of 2018. You could commit only to the Fall Contest and HHS Show and see what you think of the "new" *HOA*! That will buy you a "bonus" because you could then go along with us for on Sept. 8 for an exciting weekend of fun, and highly rewarding coaching by some of the best coaches in the Society!

If you're singing with *HOA* in the performing chorus – GREAT! If not, why not? We want you back! Oh, and by the way, we have 2 more guest nights scheduled for the rest of 2018, so please help us find more guys that like to sing, and invite them to one of our upcoming guest nights! ❤️

New Harmony Handful Happenin's

Article and photo courtesy of Don Fuson

The daytime group has already been quite busy entering the summer of 2018. Since we have been lacking any rain, our journeys to senior centers and church services have only been hampered by the orange cones around town.

We had many *HOA* members come from the Handful to join in *The Old Quartet* finale at the recent chapter show. Everyone who participated thoroughly enjoyed getting on the risers to sing. Well, one veteran member and veteran himself, **Gordy Coleman**, also discovered the "drop and roll" technique during the afternoon show. The good news is that Gordy's wife, **Marilou**, soaked his white shirt overnight and removed all red traces.

The bad news is that he had to explain the "rough and tumble" world of *HOA* Chapter shows to her when he returned home.



Above, from top to bottom:

In another view of this event, Bob Murphy is the "auditor" during warm-ups, making sure that everyone is tuning properly!

The remaining space of summer months has the Handful lined up for 3 or perhaps even 4 more church services, representing the Kansas City Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society with energy and blended harmonies!

The consensus of the Handful is that they support the concept of the CSD KC-area Seniors Chorus, as announced by **Carter Combs**, but would not be interested as a group in going to St. Charles. The *Handful* is hopeful that enough other 55+ singers will come together and represent Kansas City area chapters well.

A recent outing at the Don Boscoe center had many in the audience singing along to some of the hymns. The picture caught the singers all watching the director, except for the camera person! ❤️

June 26 Guest Night and Open House

by Jerry Meier

After two months at Center High School, the *Heart of America Chorus* hosted a Guest Night and Open House in our new facility. We welcomed four guests and two members that we haven't seen in a while:

- **John Still**, a guest of **Jim Bagby**.
- **Bart Bartholomew's** grandson **Luke** and his friend **JT**.
- Former member **Bryan Seydlitz**.
- HOA members **Dick Henderson** and **David Miller**.

We enjoyed a fun, relaxed evening of singing and entertainment. Snacks and drinks were served in the Cafeteria area. Tours were given to see the Choir Room, the Practice Rooms (including the Dance Studio) and the Auditorium. Our wonderful Harmony Explosion! quartet *Stand-By* performed their contest set for us on stage in the Auditorium. *Stand-By* traveled to Orlando to compete in the Next Generation Varsity Quartet competition where they finished 9th.

Make plans to join us at Center High School on a Tuesday night, as we meet and rehearse in the Choir Room or on the Auditorium Stage. Park on the north side of the school (between the school and the football stadium). Get to know your fellow members and our new home! ❤️

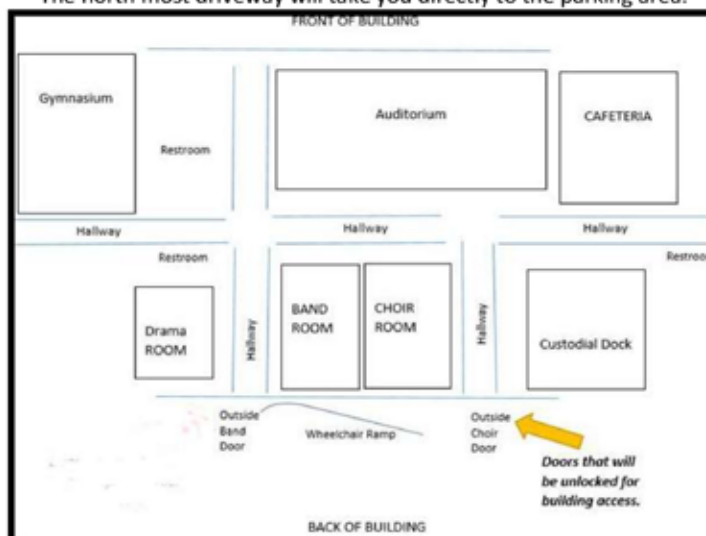


8715 Holmes Rd

1.8 miles north of I-435, Holmes Rd Exit 74

If you enter the driveway at the front of the high school you will need to weave around the bldg. to the parking lot in the rear.

The north most driveway will take you directly to the parking area.





An Orlando Experience at International!

by *Standby* and Jerry Meier

Above, left to right: *Stand-By* and *After Hours*:

**Tenors Ryan Sanford and Tim Beutel, Leads Kyle Feather and Drew Ochoa
Basses Carson Kientz and Dan Wessler, Baritones Mark Doyle and Bryan Ziegler**

Stand-By (Tenor **Ryan Sanford**, Lead **Kyle Feather**, Baritone **Mark Doyle**, Bass **Carson Kientz**) is a youth barbershop quartet from Blue Valley Northwest High School. They have sung in Harmony Explosion! for the past two years, and have received the highest overall scores in both years. In 2017 they met and sang with *Throwback* (3rd place International Finalist) on *HOA's* Annual Show; in 2018 they met and sang with *After Hours* on the Annual Show. *After Hours* just became the 2018 International Quartet Champions! *Stand-By* participated in the new Next Generation Varsity Quartet Contest (f/k/a the Collegiate Quartet Contest) for the first time this year in Orlando. They were clearly the youngest competitors in that contest; nearly all of the other quartet competitors were 20 - 25 years old. *Stand-By* qualified 9th going into the contest and finished 9th overall at the contest. They did a fantastic job representing the Central States District and our Barbershop family. We are very proud of them.

From Stand-By:

"If we were to use one word to describe our first experience at an international barbershop convention, it would be community. It was astonishing (and at the same time, not surprising) that we would constantly run into friendly faces, including people who we were close with, people who knew about us, and people who just wanted to ring a tag. Not only was it a blast to compete in the collegiate competition, but to have the opportunity to watch the big league competition was unforgettable. Speaking of which, we were so incredibly proud of our friends, *After Hours*, whom we had the pleasure to perform with on the *Heart of America Chorus'* show a couple weeks before. They absolutely killed it in Orlando, and we couldn't have been happier. Overall we had such a wonderful experience, and we are so thankful for all of the friends, family, quartets, and choruses that have supported us on this amazing journey. And to think that it's only our first year!" ❤️

BARBERSHOP HISTORY QUIZ:



**Author: Mark Axelrod, editor of
"Blue Chip Chatter," Teaneck, NJ.**

(Posted February 2009)

QUESTIONS:

- 1- Society founder, **O.C. Cash**, was a lawyer by profession but his true calling and genius lay in publicity. His accomplishments as a promoter are legendary, and he did not let the truth get in the way of his mission to promote barbershop whenever and however he could. How was this demonstrated in St Louis in June of 1938, two months after the society was founded?
- 2- While in Kansas City in the very early days helping to organize a chapter in western Missouri, how did Cash creatively recruit singers?
- 3- Cash also believed that when you can't think of something to say, say something anyway. It will all turn out okay. Explain how this proved fruitful while he was being interviewed by a newspaper reporter.
- 4- How did Cash get barbershop into the spotlight through the use of old shaving mugs?
- 5- How did Cash propose promoting the development of tenors, then and now in short supply?

**(ANSWERS AT
BOTTOM OF PAGE 11)**

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!



Introducing the newest members of the Chapter!

Photos by Ron McIntire



Don "Fergie" Ferguson

joined the Barbershop Society in 1997 and sang with the *Harmony Kings* in Federal Way, WA before joining the Bellevue, WA *Northwest Sound Men's Chorus*. He transferred to Independence, MO in 2016 and joined the Metro Kansas City Chapter where he sang bass with *Central Standard*. Don has served in every chapter office except President and Treasure, has been in four registered quartets and prefers to sing lead in the *HOA* chorus. He lives with his wife **Sandy** in Independence and is a retired Fire Alarm System Inspector and currently likes to buy and sell lawn mowers.



Jerry Meier

In grateful appreciation for planning and organizing the 2018 Harmony Explosion Program February 17, 2018.
Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire.



Mike Mathieu

In grateful appreciation for planning and organizing the 2017 Salvation Army Caroling Caravan.
Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire.



John Braden

In grateful appreciation for hosting the Afterglow at your house on Lake Tapawingo following the HOA performance at the Blue Springs Fall Fun Fest, September 16, 2017.
Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire.



Mike Mathieu

In grateful appreciation for "taking the bull by the horns" to finish coordinating the events at the 80th Anniversary Celebration of the Barbershop Harmony Society, April 11, 2018.
Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire.

SAVE THE DATE FOR HARMONY EXPLOSION!

**Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019 at
Olathe East High School**

The Tentative Schedule of the day will be:

8:30 am - Registration Opens

9:00 am - Opening Session

**10:00 am - Quartet Performances and
Announcements**

1:00 pm - LUNCH for EVERYONE!

2:30 pm - Chorus and "Parade of Quartets" Concert

Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter

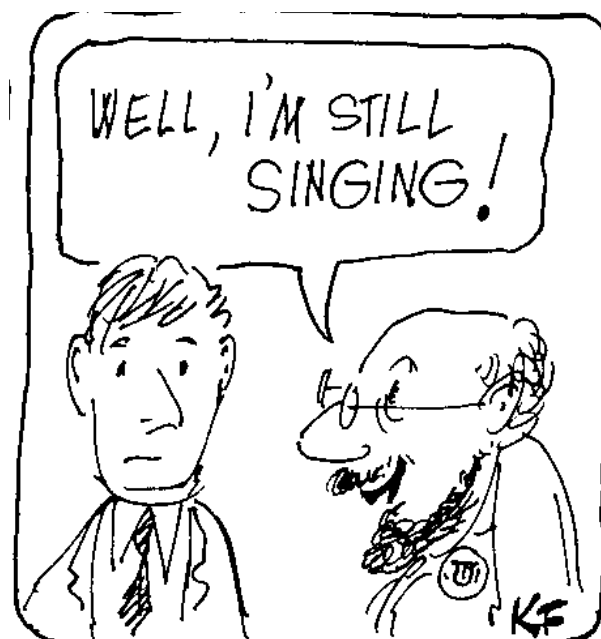


Note that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. All of the proceeds of the raffle not given as prizes or used for expenses of the raffle

goes to Harmony Foundation at the end of each year. In return, we are able to have the Foundation designate up to 30% of the funds given to chapter activities such as Harmony Explosion.

As of June 27th, after 26 drawings (15 since the last report):

- The total collected for Harmony Foundation since the last report is \$379.
- The total collected for the calendar year 2018 is \$622. The carry-over jackpot amount stands at \$187. ❤️



ARTHUR PAUL WINANS 1933-2018

by Ron McIntire



Arthur Paul was his given name but he always went by Paul. His family knew him as a loving family man and he used to tell his children "Never fear, Daddy Paul is Here." He could fix almost anything.

In his younger life, Paul was born a welfare baby and slept in the backroom of his father's appliance store. Later, he grew up helping his dad with his business; he worked at a wildlife preserve; worked on the railroad in Iowa and was drafted into the Army where he was assigned to a Missile site setting gyroscopes on NIKE Missiles. In college, he studied history and counseling and earned his PHD in Counseling. He taught at Lee's Summit High for a time then worked as a counselor in the UMKC Veterans Administration program where he was a Professor of Counseling at Warrensburg University of Central Missouri. Among his other positions and hobbies, he worked at Radio Shack for a time and was fascinated with all electronic equipment so he always had the best electronic gear and was a member of the Iowa Historical Society.

Paul was a 22-year member of the Kansas City Chapter, having joined in 1996, and sang bass in the *Heart of America Chorus*. He served for a year or two as treasurer but he is most remembered for his work as ticket chairman of the annual show for a number of years, not an easy task. Though he was not active for the past few years, he kept his membership up to date and he and his wife attended the annual shows every year. He was a quiet man, always made friends easily and was willing to help out where he could.

In early June, Paul complained of what he thought was a heart problem but resisted seeing a doctor. When he eventually went to the doctor he was found to have advanced cancer of the colon. He died Friday June 11, 2018. He was 84 years old.

A contingent of 11 members of HOA sang *I Believe* and *Irish Blessing* at Paul's memorial service at Langsford Funeral Home in Lee's Summit, Missouri. ❤️

RODNEY "ROD" FLATER 1946-2018

by Ron McIntire



Rodney "Rod" Curtiss Flater, 72, was born March 17, 1946 in Eldora, Iowa, population 2732 in 2010, and died March 24, 2018.

He attended Grundy Center High School in Grundy Center, IA where he graduated in 1964, and went to Weaver Airline School in Kansas City, MO. He worked at Delta Airlines in 1965 until 2000 with time out for a stint in the U.S. Air Force, serving one year in Okinawa, Japan.

Rod loved to sing. He joined the *Pride of Northland* chapter sometime after 1970 when he and his wife moved to Kansas City, and later joined the Kansas City Chapter in about 1980 after the Northland chapter closed. He sang baritone in the *Heart of America Chorus* from 1980 until 2003 and in at least two Singing Valentine's quartets in 2011 and 2012 when HOA needed additional quartet members to deliver Valentine's to patrons in the Kansas City area. Members of HOA remember Rod as knowledgeable in music and a strong voice in accurate singing, especially the baritone part.

He loved annual fishing trips with his brothers and grandson, organized a neighborhood Block Watch, managed a church softball league, coached a girl's T-ball team during his later life and played the piano when he was younger. He was a member of Platte Woods United Methodist Church for 46 years.

Rod was a heavy smoker for years and could never quit despite encouragement from members of the chapter. He died from lung cancer.

Rod married **Linda (Rhoads)** in 1967 in Grundy Center, IA, and they moved to Kansas City, MO in 1970 where they raised three daughters. He was preceded in death by his parents and a nephew. He is survived by Linda, his wife, daughters: **Tammy, Angie, and Amy**; seven grandchildren and brothers: **Jack, Jay, Roger and Jerry**.

A memorial service honoring Rodney's life was held, March 28, 2018, at the Platte Woods United Methodist Church and a committal service with military honors followed. ❤️

CLYDE H. MENSEN 1927~2017

by Ron McIntire



Clyde H. Mensen, 90, was a well known member of the Kansas City Chapter and *Heart of America Chorus* for a number of years. He is believed to have joined the Olathe Kansas Chapter in the early 1960s and transferred from Olathe to Kansas City in the late 1970s. He was active in Kansas City for a number of years until he moved to Zellwood, FL in 1983. In those years he was Chorus Manager and sang lead in the *HOA* chorus.

Clyde served in the U.S. Navy in the Seattle, WA area from 1944 until he was discharged in 1945 after contracting Scarlet Fever. After the war, he worked as an Air Traffic Controller for 21 years until he retired in 1975. In Olathe, he started his own sign company in his garage called *SignCraft Signs* and He moved to Stilwell, KS, a suburb of Olathe, in 1976 continuing to paint signs and do hand lettering out of the barn he renovated in a sign shop.

He was chosen Barbershopper of the Year in 1980, for his work setting up and handling travel arrangements and for the printing jobs he did for the chorus in preparation for the 1979 International contest and other activities. He and **Della**, Clyde's wife, were leaders when *HOA* won its first district title in 1978 and headed for the Minneapolis International in 1979. In the big metal building on the property behind the Mensen house and on the yard between, they led the *Heartbeats* and chapter volunteers in producing untold numbers of silk-screened, heart-shaped *HOA* fans, bumper stickers and T-shirts. Our performing attire then was the three-piece brown suit with bright yellow piping, so all the signs were bright yellow with brown print.

Through the Rotary Club, Clyde had met outgoing Santa Fe Junior High vocal music teacher **Texanna Olenberger**. And, along with fellow *HOA* member **Al Higgins** – a frequent substitute teacher at Santa Fe – they further inspired her strong interest in barbershop harmony. She said Clyde and his quartet had invited her to an *HOA* show and that cemented her plan to incorporate quartetting into her music program. It didn't take much persuasion to get Texanna and some of her boys to join our bus trip to Minneapolis, where she recalls to this day it was a wonderful time.

Della developed Multiple Sclerosis in the later years and Clyde took care of her until her death. He lived in Atlanta, GA until 2013 until he developed bladder cancer and his daughters moved him to Belton, MO in 2016.

Clyde sang in a few quartets over the years but the only two quartets his daughters could remember were *The Wagon Masters* and *The Dream Dusters*. He also sang in quartets in Florida and in Georgia and with the *Stone Mountain Chorus* when he lived in Peachtree City, GA.

Clyde Mensen died as he had wished, quietly listening to Ray Coniff on his favorite Pandora radio station. He leaves behind four children, seven grandchildren and seventeen great grandchildren. Those that knew him in the Kansas City Chapter will likely remember him as hard working and willing to serve the chapter in the best way he could. ❤️

*Ed. Note: Thanks to **Ron Abel** and **Jim Bagby** for their contributions to this article.*

ANSWERS TO PAGE 6:

- 1- When asked by a newspaper reporter where chapters, then called "singing clubs," were being established other than in Tulsa, Cash said that his old friend, **Everett Baker**, a railroad executive, was currently busy organizing a chapter in St. Louis. That was an outright lie, but it wound up in the St. Louis papers. Baker's phone then started ringing off the hook, and, voilà, the St. Louis Chapter was born.
- 2- In the hotel where he was staying, Cash paid a bellhop to meander through the lobby in the manner of a town crier proclaiming "call for barbershop tenors and basses." Several singers - my source did not specify the number - stepped forward. Cash was evidently a true believer in the "you can't lose what you don't have" school of thought, hence his willingness to try the unconventional - good advice for latter day barbershop recruiters.
- 3- Spacing out during the interview - the society's crazy growth spurt in the very early days was definitely newsworthy, and Cash was frequently interviewed, so I guess we can forgive him if his eyes glazed over now and then - Cash came out with another whopper. He told the reporter that neither he nor anyone else knew the verse to *Sweet Adeline*. Sure enough, the lyrics were then published in newspapers all over the country, oftentimes linked to stories about our nascent society. Barbershop and the society were back in the news, just where Cash wanted them to be, thanks to O.C.'s inventiveness and boldness.
- 4- He suggested that owners of old shaving mugs donate them to the society. He knew that very few would actually be sent to Tulsa, but he also surmised that the ploy had just the right amount of serendipity to make the papers. Right he was! The story was picked up by the wire services and widely published in newspapers. Once again barbershop was front and center in the public eye.
- 5- In a letter to **Deac Martin**, the famed musicologist, regular *Harmonizer* columnist for many years and early society historian, Cash suggested that babies be fed birdseed instead of cereal. Cash was always looking for a way to garner attention and get a hook into people. He certainly had his share of human failings, notably that he was an unrepentant bigot, an altogether common mindset in people from the place and time of his youth. That unfortunate aspect of his personality, notwithstanding, I believe that all barber shoppers owe him a huge debt of gratitude not only for founding the society but also for launching it like a rocket by virtue of his amazing talent as a publicist, promoter and marketing expert extraordinaire. In that regard, all these many years after his death in 1953, his equal has not yet come along. ❤️



...to the following HOA MEMBERS!

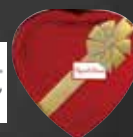
July 11 Mike Templer
July 14 Dave Parker
July 16 J.P. Marshall
July 18 Matt Moore
July 20 David Stockard
July 22 Calvin Yoder
July 26 David Miller
July 30 Bob Velazquez
July 30 Vince Perry IV

August 2 Lyle Wylly
August 4 Wally Thornton
August 7 Monty Duerksen
August 7 Gordy Coleman
August 14 Denny Briley
August 18 Harry Stewart
August 19 Greg Busch
August 19 Mark Fortino
August 20 Jonathan Andrews
August 25 Charley Drake
August 30 Michael Hillenburg
August 30 Mike Schumacher
August 31 Carl Turlin

September 5 Thom Tisdall
September 6 Jerry Garrard
September 7 Frank Lasta
September 8 John Braden
September 10 Rich Huyck
September 11 Willard Yoder
September 14 Matthew Fortino
September 15 Ron Abel
September 16 Michael Meier
September 23 Phil Veltkamp
September 24 Tom Hadley

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The Heart of America Chorus membership owes it to our sponsors to be aware of their support. Please use and/or support their products/services whenever possible and make an effort to let them know that we are thankful for this support!



HEART OF AMERICA CHORUS CALENDAR

Saturday, August 19 - 8:30am – 4pm
Coaching Session at Longview CC Campus

Saturday, September 9 - 6pm?
HOA Performance at St. Mary St. Mark Church

Saturday, September 16 - 4pm
Blue Springs Fun Festival HOA Performance

Thursday, September 28
HOA Golf Tournament at Falcon Lakes

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.