



CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

VOLUME 11 - ISSUE 6 - JULY / AUGUST 2011

Mike Mathieu: Hometown Hero

by Jim Bagby, HOA Director Emeritus

If you have been a Kansas City Chapter member at least a couple of weeks, you've heard **Mike Mathieu**. You've heard him say the chapter can do this, and the chorus can do that, and the Society CAN do something else. And he believes it. Oh, and he's got this great idea about...something new every five minutes!

That's the guy: positive, forceful, a workaholic, the epitome of leadership. You hear him all the time talking about what WE can get done, and how to do it. His latest accomplishment is co-chairing the highly challenging but ultimately successful 2011 Barbershop Harmony International Convention, right here.

Through the years leading up to the convention, and through his 29 years as an HOA member, the one thing you seldom hear Mike say is "I." That's why it probably comes as a news to most of us that earlier this summer, the Kansas City Convention and Visitors Bureau presented him one of its highest annual honors: the Hometown Hero Award. Mike has not mentioned it.

Bill Bohde, vice president of convention sales for the CVB, says of Mathieu, "Mike has put so much effort into the Kansas City community. He's just awesome. And he's a great champion for the Barbershop Harmony Society."



The award goes to a leader who represents a convention in Kansas City that year. Recently the recipients have represented NASA, the USA Soccer Federation and the NAACP. The winner is nominated by a committee within the convention bureau, then approved and presented by CVB President and CEO **Rick Hughes**.

"Mike has been a friend of the hospitality community for many years," Bohde said. "He really did lead the charge to get this (Society) convention bid. He comes here to the bureau every year with his Singing Valentine quartet. We know we can always count on Mike and the barbershoppers."

Mathieu is known for putting together quartets on the spur of the moment and, in many cases, writing special lyrics to suit the occasion for visiting groups when the CVB calls. HOA is no stranger to Mike's clever (?) parodies.

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HARMONOTES

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

Heart of America Chorus

Chapter meets at 7 p.m. each Tuesday night, at:
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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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(Continued from front cover)

Mike is a 43-year Society member who began barbershopping in 1968 when they mentioned his name in Sheboygan, Wis. He transferred to HOA in 1982, and in the succeeding 29 years he has brought his three sons and one grandson into the HOA family, served as chapter president in 1991 and '92 and was Barbershopper of the Year in 1990.

Mike served eight years on the Society Events Committee. He has never missed an HOA chorus competition, and has sung in several registered quartets. He and his patient wife, **Jan**, have eight grandchildren.

When it comes to chapter jobs, Mathieu may hold the record. "I'll do it." "We'll get it done." He should have those tattooed on his arms. It's a bet he must own the most Barbershopper of the Month and/or Extra Mile certificates.

As a financial consultant for Axa Advisors (formerly the Equitable Co.) Mike spends some time on the road -- he still has clients in Wisconsin -- but his chapter attendance record still puts most of us in the shade. How many times can you recall that he was not ready with the electronic pitch pipe, and a smile? His dedication matches his determination,

Having just completed heading up the international, who do you suppose will co-chair the fall Central States District convention here? Yep, **Bob Burdick** and Hometown Hero **Mike Mathieu**. ♥



Mike Mathieu receives the "2011 Hometown Hero Award" from Rick Hughes, President and CEO of the Kansas City Convention and Visitors Bureau
(Picture provided by CVB)

What a Convention! by Vince Perry, Chapter President

Though I spent the majority of my time doing transportation I was able to visit a few areas where convention activities were going on. No matter where I went *HOA* guys, gals and volunteers were hard at work making this convention one of the very best.

The second floor of the Marriott was definitely the place to be. The Ladies Hospitality room was phenomenal. Many thanks go to **Marci Brown-Turlin** for all her hard work to make this room the talk of the convention. Also, many thanks to **Jeffi Combs** for she was also there on the second floor by the LHR hard at work most all the time.

Carl Turlin was the guru at the information desk. He must have worked there non-stop for five days because every time I was there he was there. Not sure he ever took a break. Many thanks, Carl! Across the hall I found **Barry Sanders** and a host of volunteers working the registration/name tag booths. It was pretty cool to see so many working every where I went. Across the walkway and down, down, down I finally found the room with **Bob Howard** and all the volunteer shirts. He's another guy who camped out in one area thorough the week. Many thanks Bob for heading up this special committee. Is it true you ironed 177 shirts? Wow!

I also was able to see **Tony Strub** and his gang in action. Tony was in charge of all the risers and rehearsal rooms and anything else thrown at him under the guise of Competitor Services. He did an awesome job and deserves a special thank you from everyone.

Mike Schumacher ran the back stage area and though I was never there to see him in action I understand the pattern went flawlessly. Many thanks, Mike! **Rich Huyck** took care of the Judges and I did get to see the room he managed. I even snagged one of the judge's cookies in passing. Great job Rich! Also, a special thank you to all the *Heartbeats*, *Kansas City Chorus of*

Sweet Adelines, and the members of the Leavenworth Chapter's *Cody Choraliers* for all their work during the convention. They were literally everywhere! It was awesome!

My biggest disappointment of the convention was not being able to see our chapter quartets compete, especially *Voices Unlimited* since it was their first international. I missed **Shaun Whisler** sing in his first international quartet contest. Bummer for me! Congrats to **Shaun, Mark and John Fortino**, and **Micah Jeppesen** of *Voices Unlimited* for coming in twenty-first in the world! Also congrats to **Mike Louque** and *Skyline* for being twentieth and **Rob Mathieu** and **Brian Bellof** of *3 Men and A Melody* for bringing home 15th.

My fondest memory of the week was singing with my two sons, **Vince** and **Dave Perry**, in the Father/Son/Grandson Chorus on Saturday before the quartet finals. This was really special. I look forward to adding a grandson or two to the mix the next time we have international.

My greatest thrill was when the curtain opened on the *Heart of America Chorus*. We were the last competitor in a long chorus contest, and of course, the chorus representative of the host chapter and district. Most everyone in the chorus was dead tired from hosting all week yet we were able under the fine direction of **David Krause** to create something really special with our rendition of "Love Me and The Whole World Is Mine." Many thanks to the convention coordinators, especially **Don Fuson** and **Keith Schweer** for helping free up guys from their volunteer assignments so that *HOA* rehearsals were well attended.

A special congratulations to the **Michael Meier, Price Carter, Dom Geniuk**, and **Jim Twyman** for singing in their first international chorus contest! This was also **Brian Marston's** first international with *HOA* though he'd been on the international stage several times with the *Ambassadors of Harmony* winning gold in 2009.

I was very proud and pleased with *HOA's* competition set. We placed 14th and improved our placement from Philly in 2010. Not bad for a bunch of guys who'd worked their buns off all week running the convention!

And the convention did run smoothly thanks to our two general co-chairmen of the convention: **Mike Mathieu** and **Bob Burdick**. On behalf of the entire *Heart of America* Chapter I would like to thank them once again for all they did the past eighteen months (or more!) to make this convention a huge success. Terrific job, guys! Also, a big hug of thanks to their better halves **Jan Mathieu** and **Sandy Burdick** for love and support.

The international convention is over. Our chapter is at rest? No way! It's now time to gear up for the Central States District Convention and Contests to held again right here in Kansas City, MO this October. The headquarters hotel and the contests will be held in one place, the Hyatt Regency and the attached Convention Center. It should be a blast! And the convention co-chairmen... you got it, **Mike Mathieu** and **Bob Burdick**. Hold on, *HOA*, here we go again! It's great to be a barbershopper! Especially in KC! ♥



Rural Route 4 Survive Frantic, Delightful Convention Week

by Jim Bagby, Bari



It was a tossup whether there were more breathless moments, or just times we were out-of-breath, during the 2011 Society convention here. It was such a great thrill for the five of us and our extended families to be honored on the 25th anniversary of winning our gold medal, and to still be able to sing.

When we first got the invitation for the Association of International Champions (AIC) show, it never occurred to us that the week would end up almost as busy as our championship week at Hartford in 1987. But it seemed that way. If Joann had not been standing by with our trusty red van to zip us from place to place, especially on Thursday and Saturday, we would not have gotten from one engagement to another in time.

Couple our schedule with the other convention meetings and duties, and like many others on the steering committee or who had committee jobs, forget about eating or sleeping. But it was a convention we'll never forget!

Here's a brief recap of what the RR4 were involved with during the week:

Tuesday: AIC chorus rehearsals, and our first picture session with the fabulous *Suntones*, who were celebrating their 50th anniversary. Sharing the week with them will make our 2011 memories all the more meaningful: no other quartet in Society history has performed as a 50th anniversary quartet on the AIC show. And they sang great, with three of the originals, all really nice guys and good friends!



Wednesday: More rehearsals for the AIC show, then we skipped some of the morning quartet quarterfinal for our own rehearsal to ready for mic testing. We did the "scarecrow routine" and "Farm in Old Missouri" to open the second quarterfinal. It was one of the few disappointing moments for us all week; we got a fine reception (all the veteran judges stood when we came out) but we didn't have enough wind on stage. We went off thinking things like "good thing we're retired," and "maybe we're too old for this." But bass **Willard Yoder** did a dandy job once more of convincing the audience he had sticks holding his arms straight out.

Thursday: We were at the Sprint Center at 8 a.m. to do a sound check for the AIC show that night, then left our show clothes there along with tenor **Don Kahl** in case he was needed for more stage instructions. We were at Grace and Holy Cathedral with tenor **Wes Yoder** by 8:45 for the Good News Gospel Sing, with the *Happiness Emporium/Good News* quartet and the *Benson Family Singers*. Lead **Calvin Yoder** was one of the congregational song leaders. Whatta joy!

We had to leave before that was over to be back at Sprint by 10:30 for a web cast interview. It lasted more than 20 minutes with hosts **Bob Hartley**, **Debbie Cleveland** and **Mike McGee**. When we emerged from there, Society PR ace Melanie Chapman was waiting to take us for an interview with **Laura Spencer** of Kansas City's KCUR-FM radio.

Then we got to watch the rest of the quartet semifinals, followed by the AIC tech rehearsal and the AIC show that night. We thought our 14-minute segment went very well. It was introduced preceded by a video that producer **George Davidson** had put together from the 1989 "Farm in Old Missouri" barbershop video **Gary Stamm** had produced for the Society. At any rate, we got lots of good comments (but then, how often are you approached by anyone but your fans after a performance?)

Friday: At the annual AIC breakfast, we received Lucite-mounted cutouts of the quartet championship picture, and Wes got one of our PR picture with him — a very nice touch by the leadership. We were all five dressed in matching new *RR4* logo shirts designed by Willard's daughter, Megan, who also had bright yellow shirts made for family members that said "I Have *RR4* Roots" (see group picture on next page).



The AIC officially unveiled our new Masterworks RR4 cd that **Dan Israel** spent so much time on and **Brian Beck** wrote the liner notes for. Then we got to see all of the chorus contest before heading off to the Marriott for a “meet and greet” session at the special booth honoring the Suntones and the RR4. Wish we’d counted how many times our picture was taken during the week, and especially that afternoon! Friday night, RR4 shared the Chorditorium stage with the *Suntones* and *Crossroads*, plus a cool mixed quartet from St. Louis, *City Nights*, and another mixed foursome before Chorditorium Chairman **Dave Hokanson** opened the room to all quartets.

Saturday: We sang for the Certified/Master Directors breakfast at the Marriott, then I hot-footed it for a rehearsal at Bartle Hall for the Father-Son-Grandfather chorus, with my brother, uncle and grandson. As **Landon James** said, way cool! And that was before he knew he was going to get to be on the Sprint stage. From there I double-timed back to the Marriott for the AIC’s “Sing with the Champs,” always a great time. We had to cut that short to go sing for a lunch of the retired Chairmen of the Contest and Judging program, in the Power and Light District. That put the *RR4* in touch with some of the great friends we’d made along the competition trail. But we hurried back to the Marriott in time to get in three or four more SWTC signees.

Saturday night after the quartet finals, the *RR4* met backstage and some of us changed clothes once more to our AIC blazers so we could present the 4th-place medals. Our last AIC duty of the day was to greet *Old School* at the new champs reception in the old lobby of the Muehlebach, about an hour after the contest.

Sunday: Once again with **Wes**, we sang for the church service in the Muehlebach ballroom that only a few hours before had been the Chorditorium. Once again we were joined by *Happiness Emporium* and the *Benson Family Singers* (now with dad and *Great Northern Union* director **Pete** wearing a silver chorus medal) and the country’s best mixed gospel quartet, *Jubilee Transfer*. It was an inspirational and fitting end to an amazing week. ♥



Above: Our own *Rural Route 4* at the recent Spring Show, Gold & More Gold, celebrating their 25th year since bringing home the gold. Jim Bagby, Willard Yoder, Calvin Yoder and Don Kahl with Calvin’s daughters Cindy Yoder and Gwen Yoder Meeks. And perhaps one of the oldest and proudest groupies in attendance was Willard and Calvin’s mother, Elizabeth Yoder at the age of 94, still with a watchful eye on them all. Photo courtesy of Nancy Erwine.



Above: Musical Island Boys stopped by Mike Mathieu’s suite Saturday evening, July the 9th, for a late night afterglow celebrating their success and joy of being at KC2011. Photo courtesy of John Erwine

CONVENTION AWARD WINNERS

Photos below were taken by Vince Perry on Tuesday, July 26.

In each photo, Convention Co-Chairmen Bob Burdick and Mike Mathieu are shown making the presentations.



Convention Coordinator Awards:
Doug Brott and Carter Combs



Convention Coordinator Award:
Keith Schweer (far right)



Committee Chairman Award:
Tony Strub (center)



Committee Chairman Award:
Carl Turlin (center)



Committee Chairman Award:
Marty Oldehoeft (center)



Committee Chairman Award:
Bruce Wenner (center)



Committee Chairman Award:
Rich Huyck (center)



Committee Chairman Award:
Jim Clark (center)



Extra Achievement Award:
David Krause (center)



Extra Achievement Award:
Don Young (center)



Committee Chairman Award:
Mike Schumacher (center)



Extra Achievement Award:
Barry Sanders (center)

Committee Chairman Award:
Marci Brown-Turlin (center)



**CONGRATS TO ALL
OUR WINNERS!**

What Info Booth?

by Carl Turlin



Fairly late in the process, **Bob Burdick** asked me if I would take care of the Information/Hospitality Booth at the International Convention. I was intimidated to be in charge of what sounded

like a place for people to ask all kinds of questions. The assumption was that I or someone at my booth, would have that information and rescue the person from their ignorance. Ummm...could be questions from "where's the closest restroom" to "exactly what's the content of the master classes?"

We did in fact get all kinds of questions and I think we handled them all with courtesy, directness and accuracy; even with the guy who came back three times to make sure that he had his bbq order correct, that we didn't charge him too much (all dinners were \$12) that he could sit with his friends and finally, to cancel the whole thing because of a schedule conflict.

Bob Burdick and **Mike Mathieu** rescued us a number of times with answers to questions that stumped us. I memorized their phone numbers, along with **Bob (Ironman) Howard**, who ran the Competitive Services/Volunteer room in the dungeons of the Muehlebach, in a room that we will never forget, the Trianon Room.

The ladies from the Convention and Visitors Bureau were a great help in taking care of the folks who needed directions to restaurants, shopping venues, a drug store, and many other locations downtown.

A large thank you goes out to all the guys who volunteered within a committee, but who never received recognition, like **Kevin Tritsch**, who ran the sound system in the Imperial Ballroom whenever there was an event there. Although the cell phones certainly aided our communication, the spirit of cooperation and the attitude of service really made the difference in so many people having a great time while they visited Kansas City during this convention. Mike and Bob are to be congratulated for setting both the tempo and the attitude of a good heart that helps, that helped all the volunteers deal with unforeseen dilemmas and long hours. Thanks, Mike and Bob! ♥

NH Handful Hits Summer Rush Season

by Bob Howard



The New Harmony Handful has been keeping very busy over the past few weeks.

We performed at midday on June 16 for the Silver Saints, a senior group at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Liberty. We had a very appreciative crowd of 42 seniors, enlivened by a vacation bible school audience of 14 four-year-olds.

We sang one of our favorite numbers; "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" from *Lion King*, which we were sure would entertain the young girls and boys. However after we finished, Director **Jim Bagby** made the comment it might have been better if we would have had a Sponge Bob song in our repertoire.

During the latter part of June and the first week of July, almost every member of NHH was involved in the running of the International Convention. Our entire group took part in so many ways in making the convention a success. We had numerous members of our group that were coordinators or committee chairmen, and others who participated as volunteers. The NHH is very proud to have had so many men that contributed to the running of the convention.

We now begin our summer season of singing at church services and sang for the third year in a row at North Cross Methodist church in North Kansas City on July 17. A special thanks to **Val Putzier** for making the trip from Paola and arriving at 7:30 a.m. to take part in our early rehearsal prior to singing at the 8:30 service.

Our regular monthly rehearsal was the following night, and the next Sunday found at the Blue Springs Episcopal church of *HOA* member **Ron McIntire**.

On Aug. 7 we're due at Jim's Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church to help them celebrate their 60th anniversary, and thank them for letting us hold our rehearsals there. And in September, we're working on putting together a joint concert with four other chorale groups in the Raytown and Lee's Summit area. We'll let you know more about that later; we hope it will be at the John Knox Village Pavilion. ♥

Convention Highlights by Carter Combs



During my first 20 years in barbershopping, I attended several International conventions, all purely as a spectator. It was a lot of fun, though my B-level chorus and quartets never rose to the quality required to compete. After I moved back to Kansas City a decade ago, I experienced the thrill of actually participating as a competitor, with *HOA* bouncing around the second-10 tier since 2004.

This year though, has been my first International convention viewed “from the inside” and let me tell you, it’s a whole ‘nother critter! If you have never been on the convention committee, you just can’t imagine the level of detail, planning and forethought required to coordinate an event like this. I gained a whole new respect for the tenacity and commitment of co-chairs **Mike Mathieu and Bob Burdick**, and the nearly 3-dozen other men and women on the team.

My schedule allowed me to see some of each of the competitions, and attend some of the other events as well. All were fun and exciting, but the absolute highlight for me was the AIC show (MCs notwithstanding). When I learned that both the *Suntones* and *Rural Route 4* would perform, I knew it would be a show not to be missed, regardless of who else might be on-stage.

I know I am not alone in my deep admiration for the *Suntones*. I’m

pretty sure they were the first gold-medal quartet I ever saw perform live, long before I was a barbershopper. While I was still in school, I attended many shows with my Mom and big sister, both active in *Sweet Adelines* back then. I still remember the gold jumpsuits, and my amazement when they let the baritone (of all people!) take the solo on “Tennessee Waltz,” which kept getting higher and higher and higher and I knew he’d never hit those high notes but he did and it was spectacular! I made my Mom buy the LP (she didn’t resist very much) and I spent hours listening to **Harlan, Gene, Bob & Bill**.

After college, I started a job that transferred me to Florida, where I first joined the society. My very first annual show with the *Pensacola Fiesta Chorus* featured, you guessed it, the *Suntones*. They did a fabulous show, and I acquired every LP they had.

You get the general idea... I’ve been a *Suntones* “groupie” for longer than I’ve been in the society, and have seen them perform many times. Still, I was a little concerned about this year’s AIC show. Could any quartet, even the mighty *Suntones*, hope to actually perform well 50 years after they had won?

I needn’t have worried. Their performance was masterful. Yes, there were a few warbles... even they could not entirely withstand the effects of time. They started out strong, and by the time **Gene** finished “Danny Boy” I suspect there wasn’t a dry eye in the house. Fifty years of barbershop history, wrapped into one glimmering package. Magical. Timeless. *Suntones*.

Nothin’ better than that. ♥

Mayor Declares Kansas City Week of Harmony

by John Erwine,
Executive Vice President

Recently elected Kansas City Mayor, **Sylvester “Sly” James Jr.**, warmly welcomed the more than 5,900 visiting international barbershoppers to KC2011 on July 5th, at opening proceedings of the Harmony Foundation International Collegiate quartet contest (see photo below).



Somewhat of a music buff in his own right, while attending Bishop Hogan High School in Kansas City prior to his 1969 graduation, he developed quite a passion for music. He became the lead singer from 1965-1970, in the Amelia Earhart Memorial Flying Band. A little know fact: Sly’s band (later re-named *Manchester Trafficway*) was the opening act for *Jefferson Airplane* when it performed in Kansas City!

A former four-year Marine MP, small business owner, current established lawyer and now Mayor, Sly gave the guests a few minutes of Kansas City Jazz and music history, City of Fountains education (over 200), a little sports memorabilia and a touch of BBQ pride. Although he still has a deep passion for music, you can see other things have continued to call on him throughout. What a way to open a convention! ♥

Photo Property of the Barbershop Harmony Society

KC2011 Transportation - Happy, Proud, Relieved!

by Vince Perry, Transportation Chairman



In 2000 I worked with the **Val Putzier** at Kemper Arena with the ushers and sssshers.

The convention was a blur. The only quartet I saw perform that week was the eventual champion, *Platinum*. Each time they performed I ducked inside and got down as close as I could to the stage. It was awesome. When the convention was over I was pooped and vowed that next time I would not work the house.

Fast forward to early 2010 when a lot of arm-twisting was taking place getting folks signed up as committee chairs and coordinators for the KC2011 convention. I said no to the house (what a memory!) but eventually agreed to chair the transportation committee. **Keith Schweer** warned that following the transportation legend of 2000 (**Bob Burdick**) was not too smart on my part. Of course he was right. Bob commanded a fleet of 40 coaches bringing everyone to and from Kemper Arena with the greatest of ease.

And now in retrospect to my efforts this year, I am even more awestruck of Bob's efforts in 2000 than ever before.

That being said, I'm still very happy with the transportation committee's efforts this year. Early on, **Al Higgins** and I spent many hours mapping different bus routes; driving and timing the routes pretending to be a motor coach. "Slow down Al," I'd say. "We're supposed to be a big motor coach." By the time we were done, I was just about an expert on the downtown streets and intersections. Many thanks to Al for helping me get started on a job that I knew absolutely nothing about!

My next task was to develop a transportation plan for the convention. To my surprise, the Society used my plan to get bids from transportation companies. After the contract was awarded, the actual planning with the transportation company took place. A few times I really needed help. I was stalled out on something and couldn't move forward. One time my coordinator, **Carter Combs**, got me going. The other times **Bob Burdick** came to my rescue. He was able to tell me just enough to get me off dead-center and back on track. Many thanks to 2000 Transportation Guru **Bob Burdick**!

When the day finally came and the buses showed up, I was thankful. And when the volunteers showed up, I was relieved. **Mike Owen**, *HOA* & *Cody Choralier* dual-member, was the first transportation volunteer to show up. I remember he was so full of pep and happy despite the heat. I think it was Mike, with that great big smile, who set the tone for how to greet people wanting to ride a bus. I tried to mimic his helpful and joyful attitude throughout the whole week. And though it was hot, hot, hot, a smile and cheerful greeting to anyone approaching a bus was always in order.

I can't name all my volunteers but a couple of keys ones were **Jerry Meier**, **Dave Jobe** and **Melladee Perry**. I remember Jerry had an umbrella the one morning it rained so hard, which a lot of people appreciated.

In general, the transportation efforts were well-received by most everyone. As I look back on the experience, I am most proud of the transportation volunteers. When a bus loaded, a volunteer was right there to greet and answer questions. When a bus unloaded, a volunteer was right there to help. Philly may be the city of brotherly love but KC has to be the city of midwest hometown hospitality!

Many thanks to all who made KC2011 Transportation a thing of beauty! I am happy, proud and relieved! ♥



Frank Leone, *MUGS'* Lead

by Ol' Dan



Since Frank Leone's recent passing has left me as the last living member of the *Merry Mugs*, I've been asked to pass along a few thoughts about Frank and the quartet.

Frank had health problems all along, and since he was nine years older than the rest of us, we naturally thought he'd be the first to go. Not so! He outlived **Ed Rooker**, **Bob Gall** and **Dennis Taylor**. (Ed took over the tenor slot when Dennis became a TWA pilot)

The quartet was formed in 1960 and hung it up in 1970, making several appearances after retirement. All during that ten-year period, Frank continued to teach his Sunday school classes. That meant that, no matter where we were performing on Saturday night, and we had dates all over the country, we had to drive or fly home Saturday night. To my knowledge Frank never missed teaching that class. Now that's dedication!

Frank and all of us were quite proud of two very special trips: the Navy Exchange invited the Society to send three quartets to the US bases on Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to entertain our troops for a week. We were chosen along with the Dukes of Harmony from Lexington, KY, and the Circle W Four from Pittsburgh, PA. A show each night on six different bases. Wonderful receptions !

Then in '67, the Society was again invited to send a quartet, as a test, to entertain Viet Nam wounded in Pacific area hospitals. The USO wanted musical groups that were easily transportable from one hospital ward or room to another, and the Mugs were selected. We entertained in hospitals in Hawaii, Guam, the Philippines, Okinawa and Japan, the first of many Society quartets that followed similar paths. Ours covered 19,000 miles in 19 days. Greatly rewarding!

Bust some chords with the guys up there, Frank, but save a baritone spot for Ol' Dan. ♥

Afterglow

From the program at Frank's memorial service

I'd like the memory of me
To be a happy one,
I'd like to leave an afterglow
Of smiles when life is done.
I'd like like to leave an echo
Whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times
And bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve,
To dry before the sun
Of happy memories that I leave
When life is done

Nine members of HOA sang *Friends* at Frank's memorial service. It was one of his favorites:

Dave Krause
Rich Huyck
Keith Schweer
Carter Combs
Bruce Wenner
Jim Bagby
Mike Mathieu
Dale Neuman
Vince Perry

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING HOA MEMBERS!

- July 11 **Mike Templer**
- July 12 **Al Moritz**
- July 18 **Matt Moore**
- July 20 **David Stockard**
- July 22 **Calvin Yoder**
- July 23 **Ed Grape**
- July 26 **David Miller**
- July 30 **Vince Perry**
- August 2 **Lyle Wylly**
- August 7 **Gordy Coleman**
- August 7 **Monty Duerksen**
- August 7 **Jonathan Fortino**
- August 9 **Dennis Kinghorn**
- August 18 **Harry Stewart**
- August 19 **Mark Fortino**
- August 20 **Jonathan Andrews**
- August 20 **Carl French**
- August 20 **Dick Irwin**
- August 25 **Charley Drake**
- August 30 **Michael Hillenburg**
- August 30 **Mike Schumacher**
- August 31 **Carl Turlin**



Barbershopper of the Month



Kent Miller - May 2011

Vince Perry (left) presents **Kent Miller** with the May 2011 BOTM which reads: In grateful recognition for your work organizing and managing the 2011 HOA Golf Tournament at Falcon Lakes Country Club, May 12, 2011.

Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire

Barbershopper of the Month



Bob Burdick and Mike Mathieu July 2011

Vince Perry (center) presents **Bob Burdick** (right) and **Mike Mathieu** with the July 2011 BOTM which reads:

With grateful praise and recognition for your work as co-chairmen of the International Barbershop Convention July 3-10, 2011, in Kansas City, MO.

Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire

Extra Mile Award Winners



Carl Turlin - May 2011

Vince Perry (left) presents **Carl Turlin** with the May 2011 Extra Mile Award which reads: In recognition for your work substituting as PVP for **Jerry Meier** many times in 2011 and for your work cleaning out the riser storage closet.

Ray Young June 2011

Vince Perry (far right) presents **Ray Young** with the June 2011 Extra Mile Award which reads: In recognition for your extra efforts in producing posters, flyers and programs for the 2010 Holiday, 2011 Spring and 2011 United in Harmony shows.



Tony Strub July 2011

Vince Perry (left) presents **Tony Strub** with the July 2011 Extra Mile Award which reads: In recognition for your diligence and hard work organizing and securing risers for all functions and rehearsals at the 2011 International Convention, July 3-10, 2011.

Extra Mile Award photos courtesy of Ron McIntire



SUMMARY OF JUNE 2011 BOARD MEETING

By Rich Huyck/Ron McIntire



FINANCE REPORT - Jim Porter

As of June 13, 2011

- Unrestricted Funds: \$3,600.71
- Restricted Funds: \$1,167.60
- St Peters Church returned \$120 for the Tuesday in May there was no meeting due to bad weather.

MARKETING/PUBLIC RELATIONS VP. - Ray Young

- Prepared and sent post card mailer to the Friends of HOA for the July 3rd United In Harmony Show.
- Look into advertising in the program at the New Theater.

MUSIC & PERFORMANCE REPORT VP. - Mark Fortino:

- Music Team interested in bringing back "I Have Seen The Light" for the Holiday Show.
- Team is researching new tunes for contest and shows.

PROGRAM VP - Jerry Meier:

- The Olathe Trails West Barbershop Chorus has invited all area chapters to a T-Bones picnic and baseball game at the Legends on Saturday, June 25 at 5pm.
- Plans are underway for the 2012 Installation Banquet.
- The *Heart of America Chorus* will perform on stage at the Midland Theater in the "United in Harmony" concert and afterglow on Sunday, July 3.
- The *Heart of America Chorus* will perform on Saturday, Aug. 14 in downtown Overland Park.
- Motion: Sell items found in HOA closet to highest bidder on ebay. Seconded and passed.

MEMBERSHIP VP - Jeff Wolff:

- We have had very few walk-in visitors to our rehearsal in the past few weeks. Membership assumes it's because the chorus is concentrating on the International contest.
- Motion: Accept **Brian Marston** as member of Kansas City Chapter. Seconded and passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Golf Tournament: Kent Miller

- \$2,656 netted on the Golf Tournament.

KC2011 Convention Update: Mike Mathieu

- Chorus hosting could be an issue. May not have enough volunteers. Each available host volunteer may be called on to host two choruses.

Break after International: Revisited: Vince Perry:

- Proposal to not meet for two Tuesdays following International. First meeting after Intl would be July 26. The proposed break will stand as approved at the last board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

2012 Spring Show Guest Quartet: Mark Fortino

- MAX Q contacted for the 2012 spring show.
- Motion: Approve hiring of MAX Q for the 2012 Spring Show. Seconded and passed.

CSD 2011 Fall Convention: Vince Perry

- HOA International committee to be called upon to take on this task. ♥



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 July 27, after 25 drawings (6 since last report): The total Harmony Foundation contribution since the last report: \$147.

The total collected for the year to date (since Jan. 3, 2011) is \$599.

The total for the previous year was \$1,295 after 25 drawings.

The total in our best previous year (2009) was \$2,671.

The total in 2006 (our best full year) was \$2,237.

The total in 2002 (the lowest year of the past decade) was \$656.

The progressive jackpot stands at \$345. ♥



George Scarbo, cartoonist for N.E.A., and member of Cleveland chapter says, "I've seen it happen this way".



A TIP OF THE HAT!

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 Old Noggin' Cover to all the HOA'ers who helped make the 2011 International Convention the best ever. There's no time nor way we can list or thank everyone.

A Major Tip O' The Hat to our convention co-chairmen, **Mike Mathieu and Bob Burdick**, who kept their fingers on the pulse of the activities and knew what was going on every second of the week. We may have found the co-chairs for the next Kansas City International, you think?. Stay healthy boys.

Here's a big Hats Off to Director Dave and everyone in the HOA chorus who sang their hearts out to make Kansas City and the Kansas City Chapter proud. Great job guys. ♥

**DEADLINE FOR
THE SEPTEMBER
ISSUE OF
HARMONOTES:
AUGUST 31**



My Thoughts on 2011 Society Quartet Results

by Jim Porter

One thing stands out — there is a lot of turnover in the quartet lineup from year to year. Of the 50 competitors in Philadelphia, 22 of these were not in the lineup this year. Just 3 of these 22 tried in the preliminary rounds and failed to qualify with a 76% score.

This year in Kansas City, there were also 50 quartets in the competition, 22 of which did not compete last year in Philadelphia. None were among those who tried to qualify in 2010 and failed. There were 55 quartets qualified in the spring prelims this year, the other 5 opted not to compete in Kansas City.

Twenty-nine quartets competed this year that also competed in Philly last year; at least one of which had personnel changes and/or name changes. Those 29 quartets were compared as follows. The overall average scores for these 29 quartets were just 1 point higher (out of 3,000 per session) this year, compared to last year. The 15 quartets that finished in the top 20 averaged .38% higher this year, while the other 14 quartets averaged .36% lower.

When results are compared to results from the qualifying competitions (most of which occurred last spring, but BABS and SNOBS held theirs in May 2010), all 50 quartets could be included. The average scores at International were .95% higher than the scores in the qualifying rounds. (80.47% at International, 79.52% qualifying). For the top 20 quartets, the improvement was 1.49% (84.57% compared to 83.08%). This is normal and has been observed every year in recent times.

Thus, individual quartets that improved by at least 1.5% would be expected to finish in a position near their ranking in the preliminary rounds, while those that improved more would move up while those who failed to improve would move down. In our own district, Skyline improved 1.27% and were 21st in the preliminary round and 20th in the International contest. *Voices Unlimited* was 0.20% below its score in the preliminary rounds and slipped from 19th to 21st position. *Three Men & A Melody* improved .11% but slipped from 13th to 17th position.

Among the top 20 quartets, the greatest improvement was shown by *Main Street*, over 5%, as this first time competitor took the 5th-place medal after placing 15th in the qualifying rounds. *Musical Island Boys* improved over 3.5%, moving from 5th to 2nd position. A college quartet, *After Hours*, improved over 4%, moving from 27th to 16th position.

Other quartets improving by at least 2% include *TNS*, *Ignition!*, *The Franchise*, *Maverick*, *Frank The Dog*, *Q-Tones* and *Flashback*.

The biggest disappointment was *The Allies*, who were 4th in the preliminary rounds, but posted a score at International .75% lower and finished 9th. Others that finished with a lower score at International were 95 *North*, *The Real McCoys*, *The Crew* and *Evolution*.

Lunch Break finished 11th (mic tester for final round) both years. Interestingly, they were also 11th in the 2010 prelims, but were 12th last spring in the qualifying rounds. ♥

Directors Notes, Edited for *Harmonotes*

by David Krause

About Hosting:

Just a quick note to thank any and all who helped in any way in hosting our guests from New Zealand. As some of you no doubt learned they usually visit our International every other year and it is quite expensive for them in time, effort, and money. So, if you hosted any in your house, or helped in any way with that show before the convention you really helped them out. I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate the help and expense (man, can they eat!) you incurred to help these fellow barbershoppers. They really seem to love this hobby and you have helped to perpetuate it's spread around the world.

About the Contest and Chorus:

Hope you all had a great time during that convention, and not just on the contest stage itself. If you didn't then you really messed up. And, you might need a new hobby. I even had fun moving risers?

After big contests, in some ways, is the best time to reassess why we do what we do in this hobby and how best to do it better. For better or worse, our contests drive our hobby. And, many people lament this fact. Others embrace it. I'm a bit torn but understand that we certainly would not sing or perform at the levels we do without them.

For instance, I would love to sing in a quartet almost exactly like *Vocal Spectrum*. How much fun would it be to sing at that level? But, honestly, I would not do so for the reason some would. I really don't think I'd care about having the gold medal. For some guys over the years I've talked to, even in our own chapter recently, the medal would be the thing. But the thing for me would be the actual experience of being able to perform at the level those men do at the drop of a hat. Now, would they have gotten to that level without the motivation of competition? No way!

So, let's apply this to our chorus. Do I want to "beat" Fremont this fall? CS? The *Ambassadors*? Nope!

Recently one of our members really took me to task for my goal of placing 2nd this fall. That's OK. He's too new to understand. If he saw the *Ambassadors* at the Sprint on that Saturday I'm sure he gets it now.

I want to sing at a higher level. In fact *significantly higher*.

Our chorus, since I've been directing, has now been at two plateaus, so to speak. Just below 80 and just above 80. But, even though our scores went down a bit since last summer I do believe we actually improved. In my view you don't actually stay the same,...you either get better or worse. And, we must always strive to get better even if we ever make it to scoring 90s. You should enjoy the success of that, certainly, but not be satisfied.

So, now you've read several of my opinions. Now you get to consider them and decide if you agree or disagree. And, then decide what you individually think we should do next.

Feel free to think a bit outside the box. But as you do, try to be sure you understand the box you are thinking outside of and feel free to edit your ideas appropriately. I'll share a real story, slightly altered to emphasize this point.

One of our guys recently asked me why we sing so much **David Wright** stuff in contest instead of using an arranger from our chorus or, even, a local jazz arranger who we might help educate to develop him into a barbershop arranger. Perhaps that idea has some merit? But, my barber-shop experience discounts it fairly quickly.

So, come prepared a week from Tuesday to discuss your thoughts, and mine, about what's next. And, of course prepared to have some great fun singing very well.

I'm sure we'll have more plans soon. ♥







Skyline photo above property of the Barbershop Harmony Society

Tone-Henge on the Run

by Ol' Bruce



What has *Tone-Henge* been up to for the past month? Quite a bit, actually – but very little in the form of quartet activity. One performance, two rehearsals. The performance was a real workout, though – it was outdoors in 100-degree weather. How we let **Jim** talk us into it is beyond belief. Never again. We're too old for this – uh - stuff.

Oh, we kept busy nonetheless. It was that International Convention that *HOA* just finished hosting. You'd think we would have learned how to say "no" by this time. Well, we learned, but too late. Here's a list of the convention committees that we headed, coordinated or worked for as volunteers: Registration, Volunteer Staffing, Barbertots, Uniforms, Harmony Foundation Show, World Harmony Jamboree, Competitor Services, Chorus Hosting, AIC Liaison, Civic Relations, Chorditorium, Church Service, Scoresheet Delivery and Convention Bulletin.

There's more. Jim already had a full-time job meeting commitments for the *RR4* on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of their championship – didn't stop him from taking on another full-time equivalent in hosting activities. Dan returned to his rightful place at the lectern, serving as emcee for one of the chorus contest sessions – wasn't it a treat to see him up there again, this time with daughter Kathy! And all four *Hengettes* helped their hubbies in our convention duties, and added other work with Ladies Hospitality activities.

We know what you're thinking. Yeah, these guys are really dumb. Or maybe just slow learners. (let's go for the slow learner bit). Next time KC hosts the convention, and these over-achievers like Mike and Bob come knocking, we'll have the right answer.

Maybe. ♥

United In Harmony at the Midland

by John Erwine, Executive Vice President

What better way to kick off an International convention, than with a gig at one of the oldest and most prestigious theaters in Kansas City—The Midland. July 3rd, the *Heart of America Chorus* hosted a performance as a fundraiser to assist the *Vocal FX Chorus* and the *Musical Island Boys Quartet* from Wellington, New Zealand, defer the enormous expense involved to come and participate in the convention competition.

The *Vocal FX* was formed in 2003, and under the direction of dynamo director, **Charlotte Murray**, has won the New Zealand national championship every year since 2006. This year, their third International, they placed 7th at KC2011 with a score of 86.4. Three-time national champion *Musical Island Boys* won the International collegiate competition in 2006. They took home the bronze last year in Philly, this year finishing second at KC2011, with a score of 88.5.



Those assisting *Heart of America* with this effort were the *Vocal FX Chorus*, *Musical Island Boys*, *Zing*, *O.C. Times*, *Vocal Spectrum*, and *Storm Front*. *Moxie Ladies* had to cancel due to illness. And special thanks goes to Duane Lawson for chairing and producing this wonderful show and afterglow. Not just anyone can bring together 5 international champion quartets, two top quality choruses and soon to named silver medalist quartet for one show! Duane, you are the man!

The New Zealanders descended on Kansas City the previous Saturday afternoon. They were greeted by a number of *HOA* members at the home of director, **David Krause**. David and wife **Gail** provided sandwiches, drinks and plenty of hospitality. The afternoon was made complete with some awfully nice singing. Then it was beddy-bye for those weary travelers who were dispersed into local chapter members' homes for the evening and next few days.

The Midland performance was certainly one of a kind. With all that talent, it was nothing short of excellent. The capstone of the evening perhaps was the finale when *Heart of America*, joined by *Vocal FX*, jointly sang *Anthem*, arranged by Olle Nyman for the *Growing Girls*, revised for *HOA*. Here stood representatives of two nations, together, singing their love of country; truly *united in harmony*. ♥

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

July 31 - August 7

Harmony University in St. Joseph, MO

August 14

**Music In The Park Concert 7pm
Overland Park, KS.**

Oct 7 - 9

**CSD Convention & Contests
Hyatt Regency, KC, MO**

**"Whether the weather be fine,
Whether the weather be not,
Whether the weather be cold,
Whether the weather be hot,
We'll weather the weather,
Whatever the whether,
Whether we like it or not"**



©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.