



CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING  
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE  
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

VOLUME 10 - ISSUE 6 - JULY/AUGUST 2010

# NOW YOU'VE DONE IT!

by Kent Miller, Chapter President



No doubt you will hear elsewhere in this issue about how great International was and I am in total agreement. **David's** "goose bumps" must be catching because I get them every time I think about our performance.

It was the most exciting performance that I have ever experienced with *HOA*.

Competition, however, is only one manifestation of what I was talking about in **Vince's** Philly information booklet when I said I couldn't be prouder of the *Heart of America Chorus*. I wrote that a few days before we arrived at International and meant every word even though we hadn't competed yet. In fact, my words had nothing to do with competition. They had everything to do with an attitude, a work ethic, and a commitment.

But now we've done it. We have demonstrated our potential by improving a whopping 3.5 points from our fall competition. We have set our own standards. We are now our own competition. How can we now settle for anything less than that which we have already accomplished? Did we create this attitude, this work ethic, and this commitment for just one contest? I think not.

David said in one of his extra rehearsals, "If it is to be, it's up to me." He also said, "...I mentioned a long time

ago that for this contest we were going to average in the 80's in all categories or know the reason why? Well, individual commitment will be the main reason...one way or the other." **Mike Slamka** said we all needed to take "ownership" of our performance. Obviously you all demonstrated that you took ownership — that it was up to you — and that you were willing to commit.

Now is the time to build upon the tremendous foundation we have created. We have an awesome opportunity to jump to the next level. You (I'm talking to *you*!) can start by making a total commitment to practice at home, by making a total commitment to not *ever* miss practice except when it is absolutely unavoidable (that commitment alone would probably increase our scores by a couple of points), by making a total commitment to riser discipline.

You've done it once, now it's up to each of you individually to keep the momentum going. ❤

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**DRAWN BY HARMONY, BOUND BY FRIENDSHIP, STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE!**

# HARMONOTES

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Chapter meets at 7 p.m. each Tuesday night, at:  
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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!

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## Direct From The Front

by David Krause, HOA Chorus Director



I'm glad I waited a while before composing this note. I wanted to hear from some of you first even though I had been working on this article for a while. The good news is that this will be brief as several are already thinking just like me, including **Mark Fortino**. In fact his main point on the following page is exactly mine. **How good do we want to be?**

But before we go there we must recognize and congratulate the 59 on their accomplishment. I hope those of you there had the same experience as I. I enjoyed every minute of every rehearsal. And, was very appreciative of your attention and responsiveness. We improved quite a bit that week! In fact, perhaps as much as a point and a half per judge in my estimation. And, it all came together on the stage. Can't wait to see the video. I personally managed to stay in performer mode the whole contest set and only starting thinking a bit as we sang the long tag to "Basin." I don't think it was quite as good as it was a couple of times in rehearsal that week. If it had been those two songs may have ended up close to identical in score. *Wow*. Do you guys know how hard it is to sing that song that well? Tougher songs like that take a while longer to get to a very high level. But then they become really fun. And, you know what's going to be really fun? We can still make both of those songs better. As Mark already mentioned we didn't take all of us. And, until we hit Philly we had only had one extra rehearsal in the previous three months. Anyway, we certainly peaked on stage, which is a great feeling, isn't it? In fact, on my ride home I listened to the *Master's of Harmony's* winning performance of "Love Me from the '90s and it just didn't sound as good to me as I remembered. My memory of our stage performance seemed superior.

Now, back to that how good do you want to be thing. In my view it's mostly about each guy being dedicated to improving. One category needs the most focus now. The one we haven't paid as much attention to in the last couple of years. My own. And, here's my simple recipe for our level to improve very quickly in this category. Individual work. By now you guys know that I dislike extra rehearsals unless you guys ask for them. If we aren't having 90% attend. at our regular meetings why add more? And, our time together needs to mostly be about blend, balance, etc. So, the individual commitment to facial expression of the song has to be exactly that.....an individual commitment. More on that soon.

OK now back to my third sentence above. The part where I said this would be brief? *Oops*. So, we'll save some of the rest of my thoughts for our next music team meeting and the 20th and...? But, I will share a fantasy I've considered a few times in the last days. We had 59 in Philly and several of the PC didn't go. What if we added those and then some? And, next July is in Kansas City. Wonder how many great singers we can put on that stage?

My sincere thanks to all of the Philly guys for one of my best barbershop moments ever. ♥

## HOA is BACK! by Mark Fortino



I got back into town last night but I've been dying to write you guys and say: "OK, now THAT was fun!" (Putting it in the words of our illustrious director!)

Do you all realize what we accomplished? Do you realize that we accomplished it with 25% of our qualified performing chorus members missing? Yes, that's right, we left 20 guys home because of work conflicts, financial reasons, etc! Those are 20 great singers that passed their audition but were not able to be on stage with us in Philly!

Imagine what happens when we add many of those 20 back, along with guys who have already told members of our music team since we stepped off the stage in Philly, "I'm in! I want on the bus!"

I hope the 59 of you realize that you carved a path for the future of this chapter that will forever be remembered as the turning point for HOA toward musical excellence! You don't score an 84 in the music category on anything unless you have a great group of singers AND the right musical leadership in place to do it. I couldn't be more proud of our performing chorus and our director and music team.

**Jim Henry** told me when we were going through the audition process that if you hold your membership to a higher standard and improve the quality level of your performing chorus, your musical leadership must also step up to a new level or you will never achieve your goals. Well, there is no doubt that BOTH our membership and our leadership stepped up and pulled off what many thought was unthinkable, and again we did it with 25% of our Performing Chorus missing! WOW!

OK...that's about as much celebrating as I can handle because I'm already thinking about our next goal, 84 average this fall!

How good do you guys want to be? Notice I didn't ask how much do you want to win the District GOLD? The first question will always answer the second. Strive for excellence and all the medals and trophies and all that other "junk" will take care of itself all while crowds are leaping to their feet to applaud you for moving them in ways they've never been moved before! That's the goal!

While it's awesome that HOA came out on top of the three CSD choruses in Philly, I got to see both *Central Standard* and *Fremont's* performance's and they were awe-

some! Don't think that this fall will be a walk in the park to bring home the GOLD. *Central Standard* and *Fremont* will be even stronger than they are now. That's what is so great about competition. Look what coming in third place did to us last fall. Competition, when approached in a healthy way, can be an awesome motivator for improvement.

BUT, let's stay focused on my first question, "How good do you want to be?" How good you want to be individually will determine how good we will be as a chorus forever.

The way I see it, how good YOU—and I'm talking to ME too—want to be will begin to be told by your/my attendance at our next rehearsal.

So, where do you plan to be Tuesday night, July 20? Which uptune do you want to take to district competition? Do you want to sing "Basin Street Blues" again?! Do you want to sing "Fit As A Fiddle?" I will tell you that your music team is leaving that decision up to YOU! YOU will tell US through your own actions if we are going to have to hold onto "Basin Street" for yet another contest by how well YOU show up on July 20 knowing every word and note and every rhythm to "Fit As A Fiddle."

Do you realize there are only 12 rehearsals left before the fall contest plus the Aug. 20-21 retreat with **Mike Slamka** and **Cindy Hansen**, which will require 100% attendance if we hope to achieve our goals? Do you realize that we will also need to be learning new repertoire music, new holiday show music all while trying to prepare for the district contest?

Attendance will become a much stronger focus for qualification to remain in the performing chorus over these next several months leading up to the district contest.

When you reflect on last week in Philly I hope what you remember is not our score or our placement. Nobody really cares about those things. Really, they don't. I bet very few of you could tell me the five medalist chorus's from last year. BUT, I'll bet nearly every one of you will never forget the feeling you had at the end of "Love Me and The World Is Mine" on that International Stage when the crowd began to applaud! Never forget that *that* is why we are working/playing so hard and having so much fun together! There is no other reason. That joy is the reward for all the fun we have each and every Tuesday night together as the HOA family!

I can't wait to see each and every one of you on July 20 and rip some chords together and celebrate a great contest and continue the journey! ♥





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## Book Sale Fund-raiser Continues All Year Long

by Marci Brown-Turlin, *Heartbeats* Sunshine Chair



BROWN-TURLIN

It feels like a long, long time has passed since I last reported on our fund-raising efforts! We collect \$50 in May and an additional \$26 in June from the "Half Price Bookstore." That brings our total for the first half of the 2010 calendar year to \$369.25! Wow! And we still have six months to go! This is really exciting! Who knew we could make this much money so easily! You guys are AWESOME!!! Keep up the excellent work by doing your part! Bring something, even just one thing, to contribute each and every week!

We're still working on July! There's still time to bring patriotic contributions to rehearsals on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. It can be books, fliers, political buttons, music (any kind of music), whatever! Don't be shy! We've been a bit out of the loop (and out of town) but it's easy to get back in the swing!

In August, we'll be collecting all your "Do It Yourself" books! Really, do yourself a favor, clear them out of your house so you have a better excuse not to do those pesky repairs yourself and you can quit feeling guilty about it because you will have donated all the directions anyway! Such a deal!

Don't feel as though you've missed out on anything! We're still accepting all of the following contributions:

**January – Cookbooks**  
**February – Old Music**  
**(Records, Cassette Tapes, CD's, etc.)**  
**March – Lawn and Garden**  
**April – Inspirational and Spiritual**  
**May – College Text Books**  
**June – Coffee Table books**  
**July – anything Patriotic**

Thanks so much! ♥

## Harmony Handful Happenings

by Jon Gathright



GATHRIGHT

The title *New Harmony Handful* is a little misleading in that the word "New" would indicate that the chorus is new. We formed about

two years ago but there was an original *Harmony Handful* years ago so we decided to add the "New" to *Harmony Handful*.

The "New" would also infer that we are new to Barbershop but most of us are retired and "OLD" Hands at this craft so to get music out of this bunch puts an real impossible task on our director, Ol' **Jim Bagby**. It is amazing but we get invited back and have more fun than we should!

About 18 of us do mostly daytime performances at churches, schools and performances *HOA* can't make, but we are open for other possibilities.

Our manager, **Tony Strub**, says that he has his phone open 24 hours a day but HOLLYWOOD hasn't called, YET, but we are ready and just need a hours notice.

We have a wide variety of songs in our repertoire but we learned that if we sing the same songs two or three times it's easier and helps the time fly.

July and August 2010 are busy for us as we have some six Sunday church outings and enjoy them all. ♥



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## Ol' Dan Gets *Tone-Henge* Presidential Invite in Philly

by Jim Bagby, Bari



We're still trying to figure out just how it happened. Three of

us went to Philadelphia to be pretty much immersed in the events of the Society's 72nd annual convention. As usual, it was a busy and hectic week.

Tenor **Bruce Wenner** and bass **Keith Schweer** probably were most on the go, because they were competing with the mighty *Heart of America Chorus*. That involved rehearsals and preparing for their highly successful time on stage Friday.

I judged the collegiate contest Tuesday night, had contest and judging meetings Monday and Tuesday, then rehearsals Tuesday and Wednesday for the Association of International Champions show Wednesday night. I also got to direct a number Thursday on the Good News Gospel Sing.

I believe all of us took a turn or two in the registration booth for the 2011 Kansas City International, where co-chairman **Mike Mathieu** and **Bob Burdick** must have set up cots. The three Hengettes in Philly, **Estyl Bowser**, **Francie Wenner** and **Joann Bagby**, also were booth stal-

warts. And to be fair, Ol' **Dan Henry** did put in some time in the booth, where *HOA* folks were heard more than once to say, "Yes, that's really him...No, he's not wax."

But mostly, Dan just schmoozed with his daughter, **Kathy (Kat)**, who works for the Society in membership, but was conscripted for Harmony Marketplace duty all week.

Even though she was busy, Kat did get time at night to spend with her good friend, Society President **Bill Biffle**. And the subject came up of the very exclusive, by-invitation-only Saturday night reception hosted by Bill and his much better half (did I say that out loud?), **Lillian**. Kat mentioned that in all the many years that Dan had emceed Society contests, he'd never been invited to the President's Reception. Whoa, said Bill. He not only provided an invite for Dan and Estyl, he was generous enough to make it for all of *Tone-Henge*. AND, he requested that we sing "Sarah Jane."

When we got over that stunning news, we even found time one afternoon late in the week to gather and practice that very song. Ah, but it was not to be. And it was all my fault.

The aforementioned reception begins at the same time as the AIC reception for the newly crowned quartet champs, and Joann and I had already committed to that. And

of course, we wanted to greet our good friends, *Storm Front*, as they were escorted before their new gold medal brothers. That's nearly always an indescribable scene, just as it was last year when our own *Crossroads* and all their family and followers exploded into the AIC room.

As soon as President Biffle and AIC President **Rob Menaker** had led the champagne toast to our giddily beaming new champs, Joann and I headed for the President's Suite. By now, the contest had probably been over about an hour and a half and it was well past midnight. As we headed up the escalator, coming down the other side was a worn-out Dan. He had enjoyed all of the presidential hospitality he could stand for one night.

My week in Philly ended as part of a group of about 70 barbershoppers marching in the Sunday 4th of July parade, directed by Society music man **James Estes**. As we marched — and in quick time — we sang "The Star Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America." Try that while you're walking, let alone walking fast. Then try it in 97-degree heat. But it was all worthwhile, because people stood and waved flags and cheered — and most of them sang along. **Jim Nugent**, our Central States District historian from Bella Vista, Ark., was among the red, white and blue-clad throng of patriotic Society singers. ♥



## June 12th Coaching with Mike Slamka!

From left to right: Mike Schumacher, Shaun Whisler, Anthony Fortino, Mike Slamka, Jerry Garrard and Jonathan Andrews. Photo courtesy of Don Fuson.









*HOA Chorus photos courtesy of Lorin May and owned by the Barbershop Harmony Society*

## HOA Works for 2011 in Philly

by Mike Mathieu and Bob Burdick

**A** big thank you goes to the more than thirty *HOA* members and wives who worked in the preregistration booth in Philly. We had a very successful 1,085 registrations for next year; a successful sale of the 2011 pins, and generated a lot of excitement and interest with the TV raffle and the daily awarding of free nights at hotels in KC for next year.

Now the work continues on the convention for next July. One of our first efforts will be to start signing up volunteers as will need nearly 300 people to adequately staff the convention. We hope to have online sign up available by the end of August and we will let you know when that happens.

With the Sprint Center as our venue we are certain it will be enjoyable for the spectators. We will keep you advised as the work progresses for next year. ❤



## HD Retires After Three Great Years

by Mark Fortino

**H**igh Definition formed three years ago this August. The four of us have enjoyed singing together and have had three incredible years: a district championship, international qualifiers all three years and this year we posted our highest score ever, finishing 12th as an International Semifinalist.

Add to that CD “entertainment” being awarded “Best Barbershop Album” of the year by the Contemporary A Cappella Society of America and I’m not sure we could have asked for a better three years.

Sure a TOP 10 finish would have capped it off nicely, but frankly I’m one for counting my blessings, and we sure were blessed with a lot; the friendships that grew among the four of us and our families, our kids enjoying each other during barbershop conventions, getting to have a young man like **Adam** as “part of the family” and of course we all adored his lovely girl friend, who became fiancée and now bride, **Kristin**!

Yep, it has been fun, but all good things must come to an end. **Mike Slamka** summed up our quartet when it first began. AAA - *All About Adam!* Adam, as many of you know is newly married and off to medical school. It’s just not possible to sing in a quartet this active and go to med school. Without Adam, we have just decided to hang it up for now. We have a lot of interested basses who wanted to fill Adam’s shoes, but we think a break may be a good thing, at least for the time being.

Don’t be surprised to see us possibly making an appearance at the CSD Past Champ Show this fall, depending on Adam’s schedule. In addition, watch for **John, Rob** and me to show up with various family members in three other quartets this fall. We are all talking about taking family members separately to contest and just having a great time. Who knows, one of you may be in the quartet! Just remember, once you’re in the family, you’re IN THE FAMILY! ♥



Above: High Definition performing in Philly! Photo courtesy of

8 Lorin May and owned by the Barbershop Harmony Society

## Ultimate Singing Machine

by Chorus Manager Vince Perry



I wasn’t so worried about the similarity of our Philly shirt logo to the BMW logo as I was about the pretentiousness of touting us as *The Ultimate Singing Machine*. As it turns out we were the CSD Ultimate Singing Machine in the Philly Chorus Contest. And it felt very good!

On contest day, I noticed a real calm about the chorus during the pattern that I can’t recall feeling in contests past. Maybe it was confidence, maybe it was preparedness, maybe it was 59 guys ready to take no prisoners and let it all hang out. On stage it wasn’t reckless abandonment either as I heard no heroes. And it wasn’t guys choking as I heard no one dropping out. It was what it was and it was great. I remember **David** telling us in our last rehearsal: “that was great and probably as good as we can do, let’s try to do that well on stage, nothing more, nothing less”. I remember thinking “I can do that!” and I did, we did!

As soon as the curtain closed my son (**Vince**) and I hugged as we both knew this was a special moment in time. It really didn’t make any difference where we came in. It’s all about the feeling you have about your performance and we were both completely satisfied. Of course when he called me in my hotel room to tell me our ranking I was elated. It seemed to validate at least a little the whole process the chorus had gone through since last December. So Philly was a real ride for me. **Melladee** and I went out early and made sure we experienced Independence Hall, saw the Liberty Bell, and ran (walked) up the Rocky steps singing “Gonna to Fly Now.” We also went to see *Fiddler on the Roof* at the famous Walnut Street Theatre. A side trip to Hershey, PA on the way home was like chocolate on a sundae on the Fourth of July!

I hope everyone in HOA had an equally gratifying trip as the **Perry**s three!

Many thanks to all for your patience and help in getting the registrations, room reservations and photo orders done in such an efficient manner. I hope our preparations for district contest in Mason City, IA this October go as well. More about Mason City later...stay tuned! ♥





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



#### TEN YEARS AGO: JULY, 2000

This issue of *Harmonotes* was a special commemorative edition for the fourth International Convention to be hosted by the Kansas City Chapter.

There are only ten pages, counting the front and back covers, but they contain a great deal of history authored by HOA members who had been attending the conventions almost from the first one in 1938. As you might expect, our own **Mike Mathieu** provided an article in which he described what was scheduled for each day during the convention, which was chaired by the late **Gil Lefholz**. Then **Jim Bagby**, who explained that this “will be my 38th and the 31st in a row.” Jim wrote that **Gil Lefholz** probably had attended more conventions than that, and that **Doug Miller** “is working a string of 35 or so in a row.”

#### TWENTY YEARS AGO: JULY, 1990

The headline on the first page of this issue of *Harmonotes* carries the huge title that “**Jim Bagby** New HOA Director,” as though he’d never directed our chorus before. All of HOA was shocked by the totally unexpected announcement of the resignation of our musical director of two and a

half years, **David Krause**, who had taken us to second place finishes in CSD competition in 1988 and 1989. Jim, was a veteran of 10 years as the HOA arm-waver and one of the finest barbershop chorus directors in the entire Society. In his acceptance article in this same issue, Jim says “I resume the most honored position in the chapter after a seven-year absence with both eagerness and trepidation. I feel a little like **Elizabeth Taylor’s** sixth husband — I know what I’m supposed to do. I just hope I can make it interesting.”

#### FORTY YEARS AGO: AUGUST, 1970

“The *Heart of America Chorus* took one of our most enjoyable trips in recent years on July 18 when we drove to Joplin, MO, to put on a show for the new Joplin Chapter. The Barbershoppers in Joplin were very appreciative of the show we put on and for our acting as sponsor of their new chapter. In addition to the *Heart of American Chorus*, the show included the *Digits*, **Percy Franks**, **Dan Henry** as M.C., and as a special treat, the *Travelaires* from western Kansas. Although about only 38 members from Kansas City were able to make the long trip, the chorus was well-balanced and did a very fine job.” ♥



## 2010 Honors Flight by Ron Abel



A few years ago AMERICANS REMEMBERED, INC. was formed to give WWII veterans an opportunity to visit the WWII Memorial in Washington D.C. I was privileged

to be selected as part of the 2010 Honors Flight in early June for a 1-day all-expense-paid trip, together with 50 other veterans and sponsors, to make this trip. Honor Flights are totally supported by donations from individuals or firms who view this as a truly worthwhile cause.

Memorials visited, in addition to the WWII Memorial, included the Lincoln Memorial, changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Korean Memorial, and



Arlington National Cemetery, among others as time would permit. Representatives from all branches of the military service greeted us at the terminal with each individual offering their special “thank you” for our service and welcome to Washington D.C. In addition, there were in excess of 100 persons in the terminal also offering their “thanks” for our service in WWII and welcome. Truly an experience to remember.

AMERICANS REMEMBERED, INC. was formed a few short years ago to offer as many veterans as possible to visit the WWII Memorial (shown at left) which was dedicated in 2004. Many WWII veterans will never have the opportunity to visit this memorial inasmuch as most are in their upper 80’s or in their 90’s and it has been determined that in excess of 1,000 are dying each and every day. ♥

# THE STORY OF THE MUEHLEBACH PLAQUE(S)

by Ol' Dan



Most Kansas City area barbershoppers are well aware of the historical plaque hanging in the original Muehlebach Hotel lobby, indicating the location of the chance meeting that resulted in the Society we all cherish. But wait! There's another one hanging right under it! More about the second one later.

The Kansas City, Missouri Chapter of SPEBSQSA, Inc., under president **Nile Abbott**, decided there should be an official "marker" to tell the world. "This is where the world's largest, all-male singing organization began." I'm not sure which chapter member contacted the Muehlebach for permission to hang a plaque there but an educated guess would most certainly be **Gil Lefholz**, who would later become the President of the entire Society.

The hotel has a policy preventing any plaques, ads etc. from being stuck on columns and walls, but the magnetic attraction of the plaque we had in mind was explained.

"It'll be an historical "marker" establishing the Muehlebach Hotel lobby as a national landmark".

The hotel's manager in 1963, Phil Pistilli, immediately recognized the potential of such an endeavor, and lifted the ban, *just this once*. So, on the Society's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in April of that year, we hung a beautiful, bronze plaque on one of those gorgeous, walnut columns in the old lobby, a ceremony highlighted by the harmonies of a proud *Heart of America* chorus.

Later came the hotel's remodeling and renovation. About this time Gil is wondering if the plaque is safe, and drives to the Muehlebach, only to discover that the plaque is **missing**! After many inquiries it's determined that it must be in that pile of debris in the basement. Good grief! Gil runs to the pile and after hours of on-the-knees digging through plaster, granite, tile, lumber and you-name-it, finds the plaque! It's much the worse for wear, so he has it cleaned and polished (he paid for all that) and to further insure its safety, sends it to Society HQ for safekeeping **until the Muehlebach's renovation and reconstruction is completed**. There is a reason that last phrase is in bold letters. Read on.

OK. When Muehlebach construction is shiningly completed, Gil calls Society HQ:

**Gil:** "We need to have our plaque returned so we can re-hang it."

**HQ:** "What? That's not YOUR plaque ! It belongs to the Society! It's OURS!"

**Gil:** "The H--- it is! WE had it made, WE paid for it, WE contacted the Muehlebach and made all arrangements to place it in the lobby, hung it there in 1963! From the beginning, the idea and its fruition all came from Kansas City and !!@#\*^%!! it, we want it back!"

I may have created a few misquotes, and the conversation's tone may have varied a bit from my re-creation. But you get the idea, and we got the plaque...**after**...HQ made an exact duplicate that now hangs in our Nashville building.

Now Gil calls then-Society historian **Dave Krause** and yours truly and says, "Let's have *another* plaque made; a re-dedication. I have contacted the nice lady that manages the Muehlebach now, **Carol Pecoraro**, and she has agreed to let us re-hang the original and put a new one below it. You want in on the ceremony and expense?"

Well, obviously we both said, "H---, yes !" ...or words to that effect. Believe it or not, we found the original screw holes that held the original plaque, and as a hotel worker re-hung the original *and* the new one beneath, he was observed by the sum total of four folks, namely **Carol, Gil, Dave** and **Dan**. Big ceremony.

So, here's an invitation to the new members of our chapter. Go to the old, (east side) world-famous lobby of the Muehlebach and read both of the *only* plaques hanging on a column there, and when you're finished, enjoy the pride you'll feel along with the knowledge that you're standing in the same spot where **O.C. Cash, Rupert Hall** and a couple of other guys started it all on a stormy April night in 1938.

Then, when you're hosting the International next year, ask the guests you meet if they've seen the plaques. Most will say, "Yes." But if they haven't and they want to see 'em, you'll be a knowledgeable and proud guide. ♥





## NHH Goes Back to Church

by Jim Davis

Summer is finally here and that means the *New Harmony Handful* can get busy again. Busy that is, as in the Sunday morning church services we have scheduled for June, July and August. Although we include several secular songs in our repertoire, our forte' is sacred music, so it's good to have the opportunity to again "do what we do best!"

Although not all of us are in the competition chorus, some have been busy preparing for the contest and convention in Philly, and attended, either as competitors or as participants (or both) in preparing for next year's convention in KC. And speaking of Philly, congratulations to **Dave Krause** and the *Heart of America Chorus*! The hard work of Dave and the music team, plus the dedication of the members paid off as they achieved the goals they had set for themselves! Great work, guys. We hope you continue the progress you made. And who knows, maybe some of us that didn't go to Philly will be able to "tag along" when you compete in Mason City this fall at district!

The *NHH* will be getting together this month for what may become an annual event: dinner at The Canoe Club, followed by a boat ride (and some practice) at the Lake Lotawana home of the **Dave Hokansons**. Singing (and eating) is good for the soul!

Although we primarily do summer choir fill-in duty, we will consider church services or special event gatherings that are conducive to our size (number of singers) and repertoire, so if your church or small group is in need of some barber-shop-style entertainment on a smaller scale, keep us in mind. We also try to be available for daytime civic groups, etc. although with the economy the way it is and several members still working, those have been a little more difficult. If you or someone you know is interested, contact **Tony Strub** and we will do our best to accommodate you. ♥

## HOA Scoring Analysis from Philadelphia

by Jim Porter, Chapter Treasurer

The *Heart of America Chorus* improvement in Philadelphia from district competition in October was 3.43%. The district score was a .94% improvement over our 2008 district score.

Our Philly score was our best in a district or international competition in five years. We scored 2,498 points in Salt Lake City in 2005, 83.27%, our best performance this century. The best performance by *HOA* in the 1990s was in 1997, when the chorus scored 2,526 (84.2%). Scores prior to 1994 are not comparable to current results (*Ed: because of a different scoring system.*)

*HOA's* best district score this century was in 2003 (1,492 pts, 82.89%) followed closely by 2004 (1,490, 82.78%). Note that in Philadelphia we virtually matched these results with our 2,483 score (82.77%). The best district score was in 1996 (1,511 pts, 83.94%).

Looking at all of the 27 competing choruses in Philadelphia, the average of all improved 2.24%, so we are above the norm, but it is clear that a lot of other choruses also did better.

If there were such a thing as a most-improved award at the international level, it would go to Bolton, England, which improved 5.89% from its own convention qualifying score. Not far behind was the *Toronto Northern Lights* chorus, which improved by 5.82%. The *Westminster chorus* also improved its district score by 5.32%.

*Brothers in Harmony* from the Mid-Atlantic District showed a 4.23% gain, while the *Salem Senate-Aires* came up 3.89% (passing us in the

process). The *Midwest Vocal Express* showed a 3.80% improvement with their package.

Beyond that? We beat 'em all. Ours is the seventh-best improvement among all of them from fall to international. Did you notice where traditional powerhouses *New Tradition* and *Big Apple Chorus* finished? Yep, behind us. Believe it!

Looking at the quartets, comparisons are to their scores at the spring prelims in most cases.

Give gold medalist *Storm Front* credit, they improved their score by more than 5% over their performance in April, while *Old School* improved only slightly. *Old School* was over 4% better than *Storm Front* last spring.

The average improvement of all 50 quartets over their spring performances was 1.83%. Only seven quartets posted a lower score in Philly than they did last spring. The top 10 quartets showed a 2.46% improvement on average, while the second 10, including all three CSD quartets, showed a 3.11% improvement.

*High Definition* posted a 3.27% improvement, taking 12th place after being seeded 14th in the spring. *Skyline* posted a 4.16% improvement, finishing 18th after being seeded 30th in the spring.

Give credit to *The Party*, seeded 50th and last, they improved 4.10% and took 38th. *Maverick* improved the most. Seeded 47th, they improved 5.24% and took 24th. In the top 20, most improved (other than *Storm Front*) was *'Round Midnight*. Seeded 21st, they finished 15th, improving 4.41%. *Skyline's* improvement was third-best among the top 20, and *High Definition's* was fifth-best. In the top 10, the best improvements (just over 3%) were *A Mighty Wind* and *Musical Island Boys*. ♥



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the  
following  
HOA MEMBERS!



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July 11 **Mike Templer**  
 July 12 **Al Moritz**  
 July 18 **Matt Moore**  
 July 20 **David Stockard**  
 July 21 **Mike Neff**  
 July 22 **Harold Clark**  
 July 22 **Calvin Yoder**  
 July 23 **Ed Grape**  
 July 25 **Tom Wenner**  
 July 26 **David Miller**  
 July 30 **Vince Perry IV**

August 2 **Lyle Wylly**  
 August 4 **Gary Jordan**  
 August 7 **Monty Duerksen**  
 August 7 **Gordy Coleman**  
 August 7 **Jonathan Fortino**  
 August 9 **Dennis Kinghorn**  
 August 18 **Harry Stewart**  
 August 19 **Mark Fortino**  
 August 20 **Dick Irwin**  
 August 20 **Carl French**  
 August 20 **Jonathan Andrews**  
 August 25 **Charley Drake**  
 August 30 **Mike Schumacher**  
 August 30 **Michael Hillenburg**  
 August 31 **Carl Turlin**



Photo courtesy of Lorin May  
and owned by the Barbershop  
Harmony Society

## Philly Competition Travel Draws Down Fund

by Dale Neuman



NEUMAN

Ordinarily, I pen my plea for donations around the end of the year when the holiday spirit and year-end tax plans help motivate donors. But I just got a glimpse of the remaining balance in the Presidents' Fund and we cannot wait to replenish it! It was modest going into the year and the Philly trip found some men in need of assistance. Now it needs a big boost as we prepare for District in Mason City in October. Yes, we will not have travel expenses to International next year since it is here in KC. But in 2012, as we continue our international competition tradition, we will need to go to Portland, Oregon. So we must build up the Fund starting now and watch it help us take 75 or more to Oregon in 2012.

Donations of any size are welcome and should be made out to Kansas City Chapter, SPEBSQSA, Inc. In the memo section write: Presidents' Fund. The treasurer will give you a letter of acknowledgement/receipt for tax purposes. Thanks in advance. ♥

## Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter



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 June 16, after 21 drawings (5 since last report):  
 The total collected for Harmony Foundation since the last report is \$133.  
 The total collected for the year to date (since Jan. 5, 2010) is \$1,193.  
 The total for the previous year was \$2,532 after 21 drawings.  
 The total in our best previous year (2006) was \$2,054.

The chorus did not meet for practice June 22 or 29, and will not meet again until July 20. The drawing will resume at that time. The progressive jackpot stands at \$158. ♥



# Good Medicine!

by John Erwine, Membership VP



**W**hat a great feeling it was coming off the stage in Philly! I think the entire chorus knew we

had accomplished what we had come to do, and that was to do our very best at that moment in time. Further proof was when **Jim Bagby** met some of us as we were returning to the floor. He was so excited he was almost beside himself, jumping, hugging and wanting to whoop and holler. I don't think his smile could have been any wider.

Later at the hotel, after a shower and shave, I went downstairs to the lounge where several guys were discussing the performance and overall results of the day. **Keith Schweer**, through his white beard, said something to the effect "I'm still smiling from when I found out our scores. It was a great week and a great day for HOA. In my mind it validates all the hard work and pain we went through with the audition process, etc. Wonderful!"

The next morning in the lobby, a very clean-shaven **David Krause** was having trouble sipping his coffee because his smile was so big. He said it was "one of my best barbershop moments ever." The following week I ran into **Vince Perry IV** in the grocery store. He said "I've been in lots of performances and competitions, but this is the first time I forgot we were being judged. I was just enjoying the moment." I'll just bet that most of us felt exactly the same way during those seven minutes. And there are so many more similar comments from many of you in your emails; it's very exciting.

We all remember the difficult decision made earlier in the year that was going to require implementing some tougher guidelines in the qualification process if the quality of our singing was going to improve. It's still fresh in all our minds. At the time it seemed like a hard pill to swallow. It was going to be lots of hard

work and painful. But isn't everything that's worthwhile and in the direction that you've decided to embark on? And didn't Keith hit the nail on the head?

Last issue I quoted **Peter Drucker** regarding becoming a "change agent." He says, "The point of *becoming* a change agent is that it changes the mind-set of the entire organization. Instead of seeing changes as a threat, its people will come to consider it an opportunity."

We now have *our* perfect opportunity to use *our mind-set* as a tool to recruit new members and improve the retention rate of existing members. **Brian Seydlitz** recently wrote, "The fireworks on the Delaware River Saturday night just capped off a fabulous feeling of accomplishment that every one of us experienced on that stage. Can we do better? You bet and we will. **This is a great time to recruit new and former member/participants.**" I think Brian and Peter must have known each other.

I know that at this point you're probably thinking I'm addressing my verbiage directly to those 59 that went to Philly. Not so! Yes, there is that excitement that's still

smoking hot. But there is also an excitement within those that weren't able to go, for whatever reason. Regardless of your personal activity within the roster of some 150 members of Chapter A048, there is reason to be proud of the opportunity to help promote the betterment and growth of the Kansas City Chapter. Each member has equal standing when it comes to this, without question. This is a shared position.

For more years than I can remember, Ford Motor Company has stated: **Quality is Job 1!** Until we can solve our membership/retention problem, **Membership is Job 1** for each and every one of us. As your Membership VP, this is my charge to lead. I admit that this has been a challenging year for me. However, with our new mantra, with each of us taking personal responsibility working as a unit to invest personal effort into the solution of this problem, we can make Peter proud. We've had some pretty good medicine to improve our health. And that certainly provides the incentive for a continued healthy, singing quality regimen. *And yes, you are making a difference.* ♥



From left to right: On June 15, **Mike Mathieu, Duane Lawson, Vince Perry** received their "Big 10" certificates representing reaching the 10 Man of Note level for ten members recruited into the Society. Photo courtesy of **Don Fuson**.

## 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

**August 15 - 7 PM**  
**Music in the Park**  
**Sante Fe Commons Park**  
**Overland Park KS**

**August 20-22**  
**HOA Retreat- Lake Doniphan**



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*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.*