



CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY®

VOLUME 08 - ISSUE 6 - JUNE 2008

Goals to Shoot For Along the Way by David Krause, HOA Director



KRAUSE

This message pertains to our prep for Nashville, and beyond. My goals are evolving from my initial comments to many of you. I said I thought we should plan to average an 84 score. I'm no longer in that mind-set. I'm hoping for more. And, it's not really

about points or placement. It's simply about striving to learn and be the best we can be as a chorus. If we all *INDIVIDUALLY* dedicate ourselves to doing the best we can to improve in the next several weeks, an 84 average will be easily attained and left behind. Of course, that sentence started with *if*.

Does it matter what your director does in the next few weeks? Of course. I probably have the most improvement needed of all of us. I promise to really work on it. The director is the most important performer on stage in a chorus performance. Therefore, guys like **Greg Lyne** can develop great choruses seemingly at will. I have lots to do.

But that doesn't let you off the hook. In fact, I mentioned Greg for a reason. As I was doing some of my homework about directing recently I came across Greg's 10 steps to a better singing and performing chorus from a master class he presented in 1997. It's in our most recent manual to improve directors but, it all focuses on you. It's all about the *individual* chorus member improving. I want to share it all and hope you will take it to heart. If each of us works on all of this individually the results will be phenomenal.

I'll begin with his last four of the 10 steps as I feel they are the most important. They're not the technical things.

Bring the whole singer.

Bring all that you have to offer to every experience in life, including the rehearsal. Be in the moment, be attentive, be alert, be energetic, contribute to the whole. "Be all that you can be."

Expect to grow.

Expect every rehearsal to bring personal and corporate growth. Come with the expectation of learning. Come expecting musical leadership to have something to teach you. Treat time spent not gaining knowledge as time wasted. Mean to improve.

"I'm talking to you!"

Not to the man behind you, not to the man on either side, not to the man in front, but to you. Every comment is meant for you. Be prepared to change instantly when the musical leader asks for a change. Don't think he means someone else. He means you! Do it now! Only you can change the way the chorus performs!

Look, act, be successful!

When you're a little down, your back or feet hurt, or you wish you were somewhere else, try acting the way you'd like to feel. Stand up straight, smile, elevate your chest, look someone in the eye.

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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.

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
110th & Holmes, Kansas City, Mo. 64131

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All chapter officers and quartets are expected, and chapter members encouraged, to contribute their ideas on a regular basis.

The editorial staff reserves the right to deny publication of material deemed inappropriate for *Harmonotes* and to edit all submissions for reasons of space and clarity (grammar, content and spelling).

Permission to reprint articles is granted to barbershop editors as long as the author and *Harmonotes* are acknowledged.

The utmost care was used in preparation of this newsletter.

Should you notice erroneous copy, please let the editor know!

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The HOA Board of Directors meets at 6 p.m. on the second Monday of the month at the Johnson County Car License office, located at 6000 Lamar Avenue. Chapter members are welcome!

HOA Website: www.hoachorus.com

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(Continued from front cover)

If you look successful and act successful, success will follow. Take charge of your experience and make it something wonderful! (Obviously, developing this habit pays off everywhere, not just at our events.)

Now, once we've mastered these attitudinal things, the rest will happen easily. I know that even though this is long, you now want to know the first six things you need to do. They are the technical things you guys already do fairly well. But, just like the four steps above, they are the keys to growth and we can *always* improve. That's what makes this so much fun.

Singer's posture

Always sing with one foot slightly in front of the other, weight comfortably forward, **chest comfortably up in a proud position**, shoulders resting comfortably down and a little back, head in line with the body. Stand tall. **Controlled relaxation** is the goal, an attitude of readiness for anything. Everything in perfect equipoise! (There's a word you don't see every day!)

Active Face

Always sing with an involved face! (Wow, some of us need to read this many times and actually spend our individual time away from the chorus working on this. It will not happen for some of us with attention only on Tuesday. Or even with lots of extra rehearsals. It's an individual responsibility to the team. This is currently one of our weakest areas. I sincerely believe it is an individual responsibility which some of our gold-medal quartet singers don't even take seriously enough. Oops, didn't mean to interrupt Greg for so long!) Lift the cheek muscles a little, raise and lift the upper lip a little, energize the eyes a lot, get involved facially. **No tortured looks**, just energize the facial muscles.

Vowels that look right

Make an "oh" vowel look like an "oh" and "oo" like an "oo," etc. Keep all the vowels vertical, not horizontal. Notice that a slight animation of the upper lip (a "lift" off the teeth) can contribute to increased resonance.

In-line singing

Make all the vowels sound similar to each other. That is, no single vowel should "pop" out at the listener. They should all have a similar character. While an "ah" is certainly distinct from an "oh" or an "ee," it should not be vastly different in the way it's placed, vocally, or in its inherent resonant characteristics. This is achieved by consistent vocal production, consistent placement, and a consistent approach to the musical line. At its best, there should be a continual, uninterrupted resonance (ring) throughout the entire vocal line, through the full range of word sounds and pitches.

Focused singing

The sound is simply focused into a resonant point, about where the point of the unicorn's horn would be. Start with the chorus with their hands held wide, shoulder high, and have them sing a unison pitch while slowly bringing the palms together in front of them. Have them listen to the "focusing" of the sound. This is related to No. 4, above. They will feel the tone placed behind the eyes or a little higher. The tongue position is critical. The tongue should be relaxed with the tip touching the lower gum ridge. This should be carefully taught and carefully monitored. Tongue tension is counter-productive. (Continued on page 3 ♡)

(Continued from page 2)

Know the characteristics of your part.

There are many ways to relate the different roles of each part to the unified whole. I like the car analogy: The chorus is a finely tuned, extremely expensive racing machine (say, a Lamborghini). The basses are the engine: smooth, velvet, powerful, unrelenting in it's supply of *EFFORTLESS*, masculine power. The baris are the transmission: shifting from gear to gear in a smooth, *EFFORTLESS* motion. The leads are, of course, the *EFFORTLESS* (I added the word that time) drivers. They are in control of both the speed and direction of this well-constructed machine. And the tenors are, well, how about the paint job? Brilliant yellow, fire engine red? (If they are really good, we'll let them add wax!)

Of course, any descriptive approach to part characteristics (foundation from the basses, dignity from the baris, personality from the leads, shimmer or sparkle from the tenors works very well.

Now, if you think that took a while to read, you should have typed all of this adding emphasis, etc. I'm really hoping some guys didn't quit reading this several paragraphs ago. If so, that tells us all something, and I sure wish I had a way of knowing. Well, maybe not. But, we should all reference this always. What if a director or clinician could just say one of the headings, like in-line singing, and the chorus immediately focused and did all of the things described in that paragraph!

I'm betting you'd agree that Greg is the master director. Some of you have been lucky enough to work with him. I have been in his classes several times and consider him a good friend with the best hands in our business. Easily. He used to coach us some. Maybe we can get him back soon. He is picky about who he visits and won't return if he doesn't sense a real dedication to learning and improvement. Doesn't like to waste his time (see that in his list of tips). If we got him to come coach us it would be an indication of his recognition of our direction, commitment, etc.

Believe it or not, there is more to this. Again note the subject above. Individual attention to all of this in this e-mail will replace many extra rehearsals. We only have one extra rehearsal, not counting our retreat, until Nashville and that is our send-off. My objective is to keep the extra rehearsals to a minimum so we get more guys at the ones we do have. So, again, the individual commitment to improvement becomes crucial. You have to work a bit, even just thinking about the stuff away from the team.

Do you know the two contest songs pitch and word perfect yet? That means you'd be able to start almost anywhere in the song upon request and not screw up the next lyrics, notes, etc. My guess is the answer is *no*. The answer must be **yes** as soon as possible. Again, your responsibility, not the music team and not the director. Speaking of that, we'll have a new really tough song soon for all of us to start learning. **Mark, Keith** and I almost have it done. It's a stretch piece. May be the toughest song you've ever tried to learn as a chorus. But I think we need the challenge and you'll rise to it.

Next individual challenge. What if we ended the retreat this weekend after hours of singing and hard fun (not work!) and every guy was in perfect vocal health? Is that possible? *Might not be*. If you are not used to singing a lot in an effortless fashion and don't often vocalize except on Tuesdays, then I would say it's not possible. But why not try? Vocalize a bit each of the next few days concentrating on the relaxed easy, effortless, on air singing we often talk about. No muscle in the sound. Then do that all weekend. Don't let yourself sing any other way. Of all of my many quartet experiences over the years I only achieved this type of singing one time for just a couple of months. We could rehearse for five or six hours and not be vocally tired at all. We were easily singing at a top 10 level. But, a contest didn't happen in those two months and it went downhill from that peak quickly. Doesn't take much to weaken a team effort. And if you're not improving you're getting worse. What if guys actually warmed up on the way to rehearsal so that when we sang "The Old Songs" it stayed in key, we sang all of the word sounds, etc. without having to work on it for 15-20 minutes? Think it's possible? I'd sure like to try. Then we'll start calling warm-ups "tune-ups," and they'll last about 10 minutes!

One last thing I've meant to say to you guys for weeks and haven't found the time. Some guys think I talk too much at rehearsal anyway, and that's probably correct. So I've been meaning to explain why I think it's so important for us to get to 100 guys in our group. It's not mainly to help us score better, etc. It's simply because as a barbershop chorus with our tradition and dedication we should have at least that many members in a city this size. I know there are other chapters in town guys can join, but we should easily be the best. We should attract all guys of all ages who enjoy singing and help teach them and learn from them and involve them in this great hobby to the extent they choose. We shouldn't require them to attend but inspire them to attend. And if they want to simply sing with us once a year that's OK. If they want to sing with us every Tuesday, even better. If they can't make it to Nashville, that's OK. We should encourage and accept whatever degree of involvement they wish.

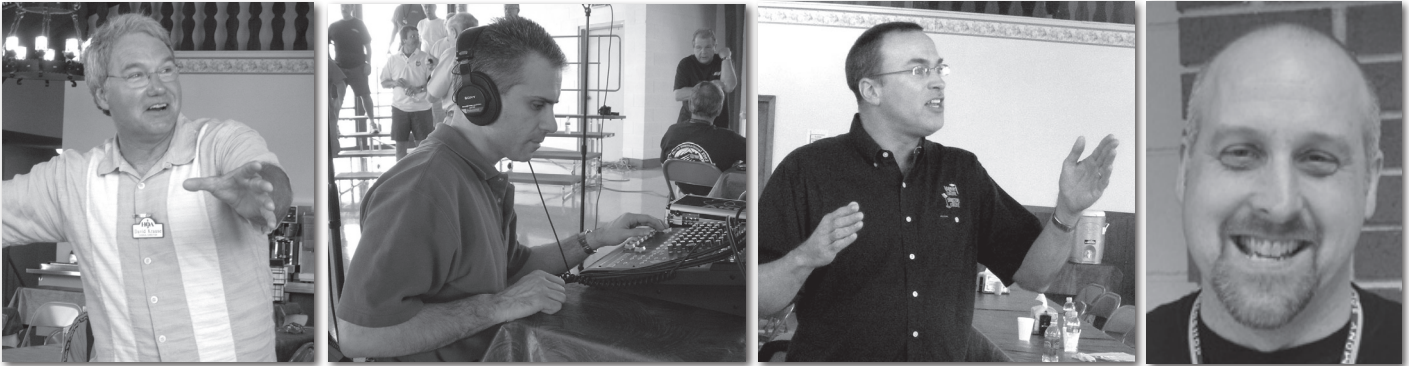
As always, feel free to let me know what you think. And check with other guys to see if they read this. If not, encourage them to do so. ♥





THE GREAT DONIPHAN LAKE RETREAT '08!

Photos courtesy of Dick Korek



Top row, left to right: Director David Krause; Mark Fortino recording entire event; Kevin Keller directs / comments; this year's "Retreat Rookie," Brad Dawdy

At right: Kevin drives home a point

Second row, left to right: Former HOA member/guest John Goldbergy (John sang bari for years with Gil Lefholz in the *Kippers* quartet); Jerry Snyder shares turkey dinner with Anthony and Jon Fortino; Wade Dexter, spent entire Friday evening and Saturday with HOA

Bottom row, left to right: Dinner servers, Carter Combs, Rick Foreman, Mike Schumacher; HOA attendees relish a great turkey dinner, complete with apple AND cherry cobbler and ice cream for dessert! Hats off to Dick Korek for providing these photos!



"St. Charles, Here We Come!"

by Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

That shout came from one of the interested observers at the 2008 annual retreat the weekend of May 16 and 17 at the Lake Doniphan Conference & Retreat Center at Excelsior Springs.

The 60-plus HOA members on the risers (where were the rest of you who plan to join the chorus at Nashville for the international contest next July?), under the direction of our new music director, **David Krause**, with our talented clinician, **Kevin Keller**, (who happens to be a member of the *Ambassadors of Harmony* of St. Charles; wonder what he thought of that outburst) right at his elbow, had just turned out a goose-bumping rendition of the last eight bars of "You Make Me Feel So Good" that exceeded the efforts of any previous performance of this song by the HOA chorus! You had to be there to really appreciate it.

This year's session was held at the Lake Doniphan Center for the first time, after several years at the Heritage Conference Center at Atchison, Kans. Both Retreat Coordinator **Al Higgins** and **David Krause** felt that the two venues were quite suitable for our purpose. But the Lake Doniphan site is noticeably closer than the Atchison center, and Al says it's a bit less expensive. The bedrooms were small —barely capable of accommodating the two double beds—and we were a bit nonplussed when we realized that we had to make up our own beds and ask for towels at the registration desk. And there was a problem in the large dining room in the Main Lodge where the risers were set up and the chorus was rehearsed. Most of us shivered away the entire day, and next year, it's recommended that you take a sweater or a light jacket.

Meals were prepared by the center food service employees, and we received a totally acceptable breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday. Of course, a small group of HOA members had to serve on the cafeteria line, but they're all to be commended for doing an excellent job, with minimal spilling or dropping.

Our thanks go to **Kevin Keller**, who coached our chorus just as though it was his own outfit at St. Charles. A nice fellow with a great sense of humor. Hope we can get him back again.

And kudos to our own **Al Higgins** for coordinating all of the arrangements for the retreat. I expect you'll get the call again next year, Al. Better be prepared. ♥

New Faces and Voices Within HOA

by Bob Murphy, Membership Vice-President



I am please to inform all that we have two new members, **John Delzell**, singing tenor, sponsored by **Harvey Shapiro**, and **Larry Colburn**, also singing tenor sponsored by **Jon Gathright**.

I have neglected to also say that young **Dylan Mathieu**, son of Joe is singing tenor. I know he is doing a great job as he stands next to me.

I am pleased to report that we have been doing a great job of bringing guests to our meetings. We've definitely witnessed an increase over the last four months.

During the month of May, we have had the following guests:

Dennis Randall from Overland Park, Kans.

Steven Brown from Peculiar, Mo.

Ken Pace from Lee's Summit, Mo.

Dan Casamatta from Kearney, Mo.

Joel Stockard, so of David Stockard from Lee's Summit, Mo.

John Burke from Kansas City, Mo.

Roger Claypool from Kansas City, Mo. ♥

HU Scholarship Selection Completed

by Carol Ramirez



Congratulations to **Doug Brott**, HOA Chapter President, for being selected by the Heartbeats Scholarship Committee as the 2008 recipient of the Orval Wilson Harmony University Scholarship.

Doug, who has been with HOA for five years and sings with *4 Score*, stated that he "has wanted to attend Harmony University since joining the Society in 2000." He also mentioned that he "intends to apply for the Quartet Brigade activities and participate in any other opportunities that will enhance his singing and performance abilities and then transfer that knowledge to both his chorus and quartet activities."

In addition to being the current chapter president, Doug has previously been the executive vice president of HOA and a board member-at-large. Projects he has worked on include chairperson of the director search committee and the *Happy Together* CD project director.

Congratulations, Doug, from the Heartbeats and best wishes for a wonderful learning experience at Harmony University! ♥



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

TEN YEARS AGO: MAY, 1998

Boy, was I wrong! And **Jim Bagby** has been quick to straighten me out! Says Jim, "I did not withdraw my letter of resignation in 1998. I was replaced by **Gordon Lankenau**, who directed until 2001." At that time, Jim was reappointed as the chorus director. And I don't remember any part of that transaction! All I can do is apologize to those who were misled by my mistake. I hope it'll never happen again.

The Kansas City chapter entered the cyber age with the establishment by **Rich Huyck** of a network mailing list that enabled each member to send e-mail to every other member on the network. Not only that, **Joe Mathieu** had put up and was running a WEB site for the chapter. There was even a suggestion that *Harmonotes* would no longer be needed.

There is good photographic coverage, thanks to **Dale Neuman**, plus a good summary of the festivities at the "new" Muehlbach Hotel in downtown Kansas City when the Society "Founders' Plaque" was restored in its place where it had hung since April of 1963. **Raymond Schwarzkopf's** article reports that the program included historical bits presented by **David Krause**, CSD historian, **David Wright**, of the St. Charles chapter and society historian, about the meeting of **O. C. Cash** and **Rupert Hall** in the hotel lobby that led to the formation of our Barbershop Harmony Society. Raymond reports that Kansas City Mayor Pro-Tem **George Blackwell** insisted on singing with a quartet, so three HOA members, the late **Gil Lefholz** on bass and **Kevin Beauford** on baritone and Raymond singing the tenor got together with the mayor singing the lead. Raymond comments on the mayor's "AMAZING VOICE."

TWENTY YEARS AGO: JUNE, 1988

In his monthly "Commentary," your bulletin editor announced that 25 members of the Kansas City chapter were committed to attending Harmony College that summer, probably a record number of attendees from the same chapter. This can probably be attributed to the fact that our chapter board of directors had earmarked \$3,000 of chapter funds to be used to subsidize (up to a maximum of \$100 per participant) the cost of the tuition for each member who wanted to go. But the board asked that each participant consider that whatever knowledge and skills are acquired at Harmony College ought to be such as can be put to good use for the general benefit of the chapter as well as the individual.

FORTY YEARS AGO: JUNE, 1968

The late **Gil Lefholz** was awarded the chapter's award for outstanding service to the chapter, district and international society. Twenty-one members had been honored since the award was originated in 1952.

Mr. Bob Johnson, Society Director of Musical Activities, was in town on May 7 lecturing at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and our chapter meeting, which was held at the same time at the UMKC. Our chorus and quartets gave a thirty-minute program and then acted as guinea pigs for Bob in his demonstration of how to teach nonreaders how to read music. Music Director **Steve Leone** reported later that the Conservatory faculty was greatly impressed with our performance, and that the student body particularly enjoyed Bob's appearance as guest lecturer at some of their classes. ♥



Above: HOA group at North Kansas City Center - 27 shown plus photographer plus two others who were present at earlier stops = 30! Photos courtesy of Don Fuson.



Volunteers Needed for Nashville 2008

by Patrick Thomas, General Chairman,
2008 International Convention

We realize the week of the International Convention will be quite busy for many of you. We understand how much organization, dedication and hard work that goes into making a top chorus function. So, you will understand this note with our request for volunteers at our convention. For those who have not worked a convention before, it takes an amazing amount of volunteer man-hours to put this shindig on. It takes 50-60 people to just cover the doors of the arena during performances and to keep the outside world quiet for competitors such as yourselves to be successful. We estimate it will take between 300-400 volunteers to make this convention run optimally. All work and no pay (except a shirt)? *Sounds too good to be true!*

If as many as possible could find time to work one or two shifts over the entire course of a week, we will be more than covered in all areas. For those men who are bringing wives, please urge the wives to also give of their time to help make this a fantastic convention.

We have a website at www.nashville2008.org that is available to sign up for volunteering, and you can also download a volunteer form and FAX it to us if that suits you better.

Every year, men from other chapters have given of their time to make these conventions happen on your behalf. Don't miss an opportunity to give back and make it a great convention for them, too! ♥

Singing For Life by Don Fuson

Don Fuson



Some 30 members of HOA Chorus—*many shown at left*—got out and “sang for blood” on national *Singing For Life* day, May 10, 2008.

Under the direction of **Jerry Garrard, Carter Combs** and **Jim Bagby**, the stalwart HOA group sang at three blood centers in the Kansas City area (Overland Park, Midtown, North Kansas City).

Two quartets, *4Score* and *Command Performance*, also filled in with additional harmonies. Above: *4Score* (**Brad Dawdy, Kent Miller, Mike O'Dell** and **Doug Brott**) bring a bit of harmony to a blood donor! ♥

High Definition Looking Toward Nashville

by Mark Fortino



Not much to report from our last article except that we've had a great time since qualifying for International on April 19. We had two great shows

in Green Bay, Wis. on the 26, then a show in Springfield, Mo. on May 3, a show in Miami, OK on May 4 and a show in Denison, Iowa on May 10. Our next performance is in Newton, Kans. on June 14th. It was awesome coming out of prelims with some great feedback from the judges and going on the road doing performance after performance trying to implement their comments and suggestions into a live performance. I know many people don't usually compliment judges {wink} but I dare say it was one of the best set of evals I've ever been a part of. We believe we have already made great progress since prelims and we are very excited about our first International experience together.

Show bids continue to come in for this fall and next spring and it looks like it's going to be a very fun year. In addition, we already have a list of new songs that we want to begin learning soon after Internationals and are considering a recording project in the next 12 months. Time and money will dictate the progress and future of a *High Definition* CD.

Many of you have asked what our goal is for Internationals. Show up? Top 20? Top 10? Medal? GOLD? The answer to that question would be...**YES!** We'd take any and all of those things. Just like HOA, our success in Nashville will be dictated by each member's dedication and commitment to the music we plan to put on that stage. I know I have a lot of time that I need to put into our contest tunes outside of quartet rehearsal if I hope to sing at a Top 10 or medalist level come July. I'm not **Joe Connelly**, or **Mike Slamka**. I can't just roll out of bed and sing at that level...**YET!** But just like each of you and your individual contribution to HOA's quest for a Top 10 finish in Nashville, if you have enough desire, it's amazing what you can accomplish.

I'm personally very excited about singing on the International stage with two friends who've never been there before. I'm also very excited about being a part of HOA and reaching new levels of excellence on the biggest stage of the year! If we all (HOA and HD) stay committed to excellence for the next month, we are going to have the time of our lives in Nashville, Tenn.! ♥

Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter



Note that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. One fourth of the proceeds is designated to Harmony Foundation and one fourth will be given to the Central States District to help promote their programs to support and encourage Young Men in Harmony and other youth programs.

As of Wednesday, April 23, and 21 drawings so far: The total raised for Harmony Foundation in the past month is \$163.

The total raised for the year to date (since Nov. 15, 2007) is \$723.

Last year, the total raised to date was \$1049.

In 2006, the total raised to date was \$2147.

The last year with a lower total to date was 2002, it was then \$605. ♥



June 4 **Kevin Tritsch**
 June 6 **Phil Youngs**
 June 11 **Maurice Smith**
 June 11 **Duane Lawson**
 June 11 **Don Fuson**
 June 14 **Tony Strub**
 June 15 **Dave Hokanson**
 June 17 **Don Peck**
 June 18 **Rod Rivard**
 June 23 **Rob Mathieu**
 June 25 **Reed Alberg**
 June 25 **Al Fehlauer**
 June 28 **Barry Sanders**
 June 29 **Keith Schweer**

Summary of May 2008 Board Meeting

by Rick Foreman/Ron McIntire



TREASURERS REPORT: Harvey Shapiro

Operating Fund: \$17,656.01

Members Fund: \$9,550.25

Restricted Fund: \$7,677.26

MARKETING VP:

Brad Dawdy

Dick Korek will handle promotion for the July 20, Music in the Park event.

Promotion and sponsor packages are being put together for the Harrisonville concert and the Lee's Summit concert at John Knox Village.



OPERATIONS REPORT: David Miller

Transportation has been arranged to take the risers to Lake Doniphan for the retreat.

Transportation of the risers to Nashville is almost complete.

The Board agreed to accept \$75 per riser from the Hastings chapter.

The Board will draft a thank you letter to **Tom Tisdall's** mother for the generous donation that enabled us to purchase new risers.

OLD BUSINESS:

Golf Tournament: **Kent Miller**

• Gross income was \$7,455.00

• Net income was \$3,531.50.

Singing for life: Carl Turlin

32 singers came to the Singing for Life campaign.

Quartet Coordinator/HHS Chairman: Doug Brott

• **Rich Huyck** nominated as Holiday Show ticket chairman,

• The Holiday Show chairman has not been chosen yet.

NEW BUSINESS:

HOA Nashville Assistance: **Doug Brott**

• \$3,000.00 will be sent to the chorus from CSD to help the chorus go to Nashville.

• The Board agreed to give each member going to Nashville \$80.00 to help with expenses.

**DEADLINE FOR THE JULY ISSUE
OF HARMONOTES:**

JUNE 24

HOA Financial Corner

by Kent Miller, Financial Committee



MILLER

I keep promising to write an article about Gift Annuities, but again we have a more urgent matter to discuss.

Since International will quickly be upon us, we need to talk about the President's Fund. The President's Fund was established to help HOA members who are in some kind of financial need participate in district and international contests. Our avocation (I prefer not to call it a "hobby") can be an expensive one and it's understandable that some may require financial assistance to be able to attend these contests. If you have such a need the procedure is to contact **Dale Neuman, Carter Combs, or Doug Brott** and explain your circumstances. Procedurally, Dale reminded me that we need lead time to determine total need, a reasonable allocation, and cut the check.

We know that most people are reluctant to admit financial difficulties, but since most of us were not born with the proverbial "silver spoon" we have all "been there" at one point or another in our lives. Remember, the people (or person) with whom you will discuss the issue will be kept at the absolute minimum (need-to-know basis).

My main reason for writing about the President's Fund, however, is to discuss the **funding** for this fund. The *only* source of income for this fund is donations. We currently have a little over \$2,000 in the fund. We have been fortunate in the last couple of years in not having multiple requests, but I have now learned from Doug that we already have several requests for this year that may deplete the fund.

Please consider helping your fellow barbershoppers by giving a donation specifically to the President's Fund. The donation is very obviously a tax-deductible donation and would be designated strictly for the President's Fund and would not be used for any other purpose.

International is near and now is the time to act if you are able. ♥



THINK "NEW MEMBERS!"

"Kinder, Gentler HOA"

by Doug Brott, Chapter President



BROTT

For those who attended our recent retreat, you know what my article title is all about. For those that were unable to attend please read on.

Just prior to the retreat, **David Krause** sent a video link to the entire chorus about sportsmanship and team spirit. If you did not watch it, the video told the story of a young woman, a college Senior attending a small school in the state of Washington playing in what might have been her last career softball game. In all of her years of playing she had never hit a home run. Now comes the good part. She finally hit a home run. With two other base runners to boot. So she hits the home run and in her excitement she missed stepping on the bag as she rounded first base. As she turned to go back her leg buckled, and she ended up with a fractured bone.

Now what to do. Rules of the game state she could not have a pinch runner nor could any of her teammates help her. So, two young ladies from the opposing team asked if rules prevented them from helping. The answer was no. The two young women then picked up the injured player and carried her around the bases stopping at each base so the batter could touch her good leg on each base, thus completing the home run. A tremendous example of sportsmanship made more poignant by the fact that this home run and the associated RBI's were the winning runs for the game. Not only sportsmanship but sacrifice as well. *What a story!*

What does that have to do with *HOA*, you ask? *EVERYTHING!* Sportsmanship like the above should be a constant part of our life in *HOA*. We need to help each other and our brothers in other chapters. When **David Krause** became our director one of the first things he said was he wanted to see a kinder, gentler *HOA* (I sometimes get tongue tied on *kinder*, thus the title above). We now have less attendance and taping requirements and more individual responsibility to learn the songs and choreo to be ready for our performances. We all have other requirements in our lives. We may not be able to attend every rehearsal or even every performance. But no member should ever be made to feel "unworthy" if their life gets in the way. As long as we are fully responsible and we know the music and choreo, missing rehearsals will not be a problem. This is the attitude we all *must* have *all* the time. And that attitude must extend to our brothers in other chapters. We have several events in the future that will involve other chapters. I for one am looking forward to meeting and getting to know some of these men. It is important for their chapter, for *HOA* but most important, for the Society as a whole. We must continue to encourage and foster excellence in our singing across the society. We must change that picture in the minds of most people of four drunks singing (poorly) under the lampost. ♥



Barbershoppers of the Month!



Bob Burdick December 2007

Above: *HOA* President **Doug Brott** (right) presents **Bob Burdick** (left) with the December 2007 BOTM! In grateful appreciation for your work organizing and managing the most successful ever *Heart of America Chorus*, Salvation Army Christmas Caroling Caravan, December 15, 2007.



Marlin Weidler February 2008

Above: *HOA* President **Doug Brott** (right) presents **Marlin Weidler** (left) with the February 2008 BOTM! In grateful appreciation for planning, organizing and co-chairing the 2008 Kansas City Missouri Chapter and *Heart of America Chorus* Singing Valentine program



Jerry Garrard March 2008

Above: *HOA* President **Doug Brott** (left) presents **Jerry Garrard** (right) with the February 2008 BOTM! In grateful appreciation for your many long hours of hard and exacting work organizing and chairing the 2008 *Heart of America Chorus* Barbershop Show, March 29, 2008

Xtra Mile Award Winners!



Brad Dawdy January 2008

Above: *HOA* President **Doug Brott** (right) presents **Brad Dawdy** (left) with the January 2008 Xtra Mile Award! In grateful recognition and appreciation for your work on the Director Search Committee to find, interview and evaluate a new director for the *Heart of America Chorus*



Tom Forsythe and Jim Clark March 2008

Above: *HOA* President **Doug Brott** (center) presents **Tom Forsythe** (left) and **Jim Clark** (right) with the March 2008 Xtra Mile Award! In grateful recognition for always being on hand to help with the chorus risers before and after the Tuesday night rehearsal



Jon Gathright February 2008

Above: *HOA* President **Doug Brott** (left) presents **Jon Gathright** (right) with the February 2008 Xtra Mile Award! In grateful recognition for being a member of the sound crew that faithfully does the work of maintaining, transporting, storing, managing and setting up the sound system

CONGRATULATIONS!



Ron Abel

On April 29, 2008, Ron received his 50 Year Membership Card! *Congrats, Ron!*

Ron McIntire



Ron McIntire

John Erwine and Marlin Weidler

present check for \$1600 April 29, 2008 from the proceeds of Singing Valentines to **Dr. Cynthia Jacobsen** of Children's Mercy Hospital.

The Songs We Sing

provided by Wade Dexter

Source: *A History of Popular Music in America*, by Sigmund Spaeth

"Avalon"

Actually, it was **Puccini** who supplied the melodic line of "Avalon," a song made famous by **Al Jolson**, who divided the claim of authorship with **Vincent Rose**. It was easily proved that the tune came right out of the tenor aria, "E Lucevan le Stelle", in Puccini's "Tosca," and the case was quietly settled out of court, with a reputed payment of \$25,000 and the complete wrecking of a phonograph company deeply involved in records of the song. ♥



Heart of America CHORUS SPONSORS



FRIENDS OF HOA - 2008

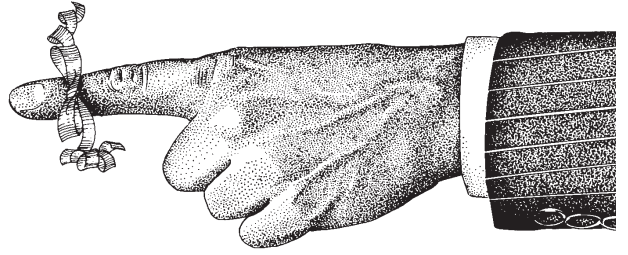
We're off and running for the new year. Two members, Dick O'Dell and Keith Schweer, have come forward with investments of \$100.

A new display will show-up shortly with the famous "glass bowl." "FRIEND OF HOA" pins are available for all \$100 and up donors, AND names will be drawn from the bowl of names before the MUSIC-IN-THE-PARK concert on July 20 for:

- Night and breakfast at the Downtown Marriott
- First Watch certificates
- Sheridan certificates

**Let's get on board
the promotion!
WE ALL WIN!**

Heart of America Chorus Calendar



July 1-5 2008 Barbershop Harmony Society International Chorus Contest, Nashville, Tenn. (HOA sings 6th in the afternoon on Friday, July 4)

July 20 Concert in the Park (Overland Park Gazebo)

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.

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