

Harmonotes

June 2004

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2004, Issue 6

TOP TEN? SEZ WHO??

by Jim Bagby, Ye Olde Arm-Waver

Everyone who thinks his chorus will make the top 10 in Louisville take one step forward. Not so fast there, HOA...

Whaddaya mean? We're not a shoo-in for the top 10? Didn't you hear all those great things **Dwain Brobst** and **Don Kahl** said about us? Even down-to-earth **Bill Biffle** talks about our potential.

Yep, we've got a lot of that. But without intending to impose anything other than a realistic view, let's look at what's happened in international chorus competition since we were last there in 1998—and at the other wanna-be's and already-are's.

By my count, without factoring in HOA, there are at least 14 contenders for the top 10. Most observers would agree the top 3 should be our AOH brothers, *North-ern Lights* and *New Tradition*—in whatever order you wanna believe. The medalist *Alliance* and *Midwest Vocal Express* choruses return. So do perennial medalist *Great Northern Union* and former medalist *Big Chicken*.

If you're keeping score, that's seven. New to the scene and getting rave reviews are the champs of the always-potent Far Western District, *Westminster*. Top ten regular *Tampa* is under the new leadership of **Randy Loos**, a Sweet Adeline gold medal arm-waver. How fast will his *Heralds of Harmony* advance?

Speaking of question marks, how can you discount former chorus champs *Alexandria* and *Cincinnati*? Both with talented directors just barely into their second year of new regimes. Then there's on-rushing *Denver*, a 100-plus chorus under former HOA member **Darrin Drown**; the *Sound of the Rockies* took seventh a year ago.

And two more previous top 10 finishers are back in the *Saltaires*, under veteran and determined **John Sasine**, and *Houston*, under a new and relatively unknown director. That's, uh, 14.

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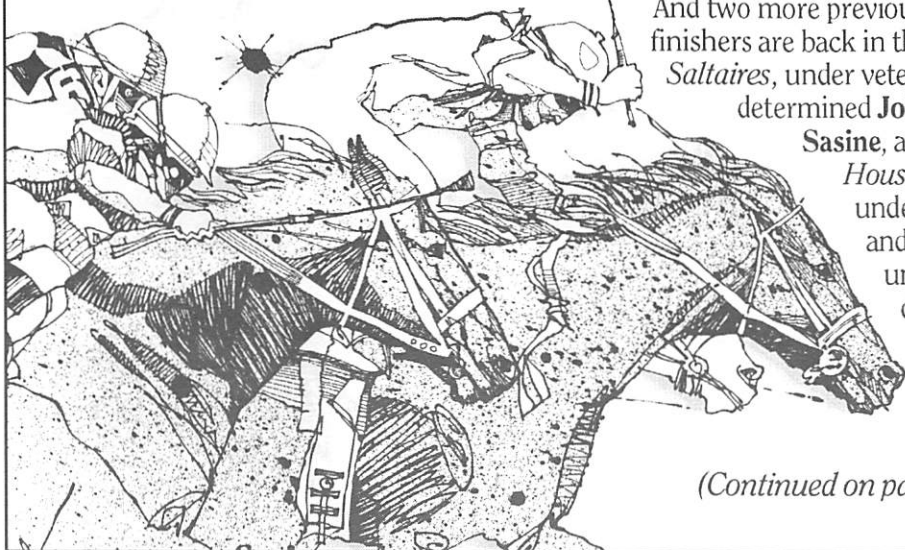
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Harmonotes

...is published by the board of directors of the Kansas City, MO., Chapter of SPEBSQSA, Inc., a non-profit organization. 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

The Kansas City, MO. Chapter S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.

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

The utmost care was used in preparation of this newsletter. However, should you notice erroneous copy, please let the Editor know! Comments/submissions may be made to:

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Heart of America Chorus

ELEVEN-TIME Central States District Champion!

CHAPTER QUARTET CHAMPIONS

- Rural Route 4 - 1986 International Champion**
Don Kahl (tenor), Calvin Yoder (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Willard Yoder (bass)
- Gentlemen of Note - 2001 International Seniors Medallists**
Rod Rule (tenor), Jon Gathright (lead),
Rich Huyck (bari), Monty Duerksen (bass)
- HyPower Serenaders - 1948 Central States District Champion**
Don McPherson (tenor), Ben Franklin (lead),
Bert Phelps (bari), Dale Warrick (bass)
- Gambolliers - 1952 Central States District Champion**
John Dooley (tenor), Eddie Schliebs (lead),
Orval Wilson (bari), Jimmy Byrnes (bass)
- BMA Gambolliers - 1957 Central States District Champion**
Barney Wasson (tenor), Eddie Schliebs (lead),
Orval Wilson (bari), Harold Robinette (bass)
- The Kippers - 1962 Central States District Champion**
*Ken Gabler (tenor), *Tom Taylor (lead),
John Goldsbury (bari), Don Page (bass)
- The Four Kippers - 1966 Central States District Champion**
*Ken Gabler (tenor), *Byron Meyers (lead),
John Goldsbury (bari), Gil Lefholz (bass)
- The Morning Times - 1974 Central States District Champion**
Dave Snook (tenor), Roger O'Dell (lead),
Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)
- Comer Quartet - 1981 Central States District Champion**
Don Kahl (tenor), Lance Heilmann, (lead)
Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)
- Harmony Spectrum - 1982 Central States District Champion**
Gene Bowers (tenor), David Krause (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Willard Yoder (bass)
- Special Touch - 1984 Central States District Champion**
*Rick Kready (tenor), David Krause (lead),
*Bud Clark (bari), Matt Moore (bass)
- KC Connection - 1986 Central States District Champion**
Rod Rule (tenor), Wayne Lankenau (lead),
Rich Huyck (bari), Larry Wilson (bass)
- 12th Street Rag - 1994 Central States District Champion**
*Rick Kready (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead),
John Fortino (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

OTHER CHAPTER QUARTETS

- 12th Street Rag - 2000 International Semi-Finalists**
*Micah Jeppesen (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead),
John Fortino (bari), *Barry Moore (bass)
- Arpeggio**
Marlin Weidler (tenor), Rick Dunaway (lead),
Ralph Tallmon (bari), Don Newman (bass)
- Crosstown Four**
Dale Neuman (tenor), Gordon Coleman (lead),
Ron Abel (bari), Val Putzier (bass)
- Gentlemen of Note**
Mike Mathieu (tenor), Jon Gathright (lead),
Rich Huyck (bari), Monty Duerksen (bass)
- Grandstand**
Rob Mathieu (tenor), David Krause (lead),
*Jeff Veteto (bari), *Adam Veteto (bass)
- Mother's Guys**
Rob Mathieu (tenor), and Mike Mathieu lead
Rick Mathieu (bari), Joe Mathieu (bass)
- New and Used Parts**
Jerry Garrard (tenor), Mike Neff (lead),
Grant Hunget (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)
- Sound Alibi**
Tom Elefson (tenor), Jerry Garrard (lead),
Shawn Jeffries (bari), Darrell McCune (bass)
- Sounds Like Treble**
Niel Johnson (tenor), Rob Varney (lead),
Al Fehlauer (bari) and *Bill Bay (bass)
- SureFire!**
Carter Combs (tenor), Mike Neff (lead),
Grant Hunget (bari), Don Young (bass)
- Tone-Henge**
Bruce Wenner (tenor), Dan Henry (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

*Member of other chapters

TOP TEN? SEZ WHO??

(Continued from front cover)

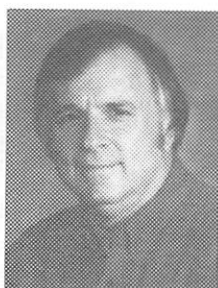
Without mentioning any of the other district champs with the same goal we have—knock somebody off—and the affiliates, who are always unknown quantities.

So should we take down that banner with the big red letters hanging in our meeting hall? Not so fast, pitchpipe breath. Let's poll our members about what they want—and what they're willing to do to achieve it.

There are some encouraging signs: every lead, baritone and almost every signed-up member turned in a tape by the first recording deadline. Many passed their first tape. The section leaders and music team have given unselfishly of their time to qualify others. At this writing, we still have over 80 on the risers.

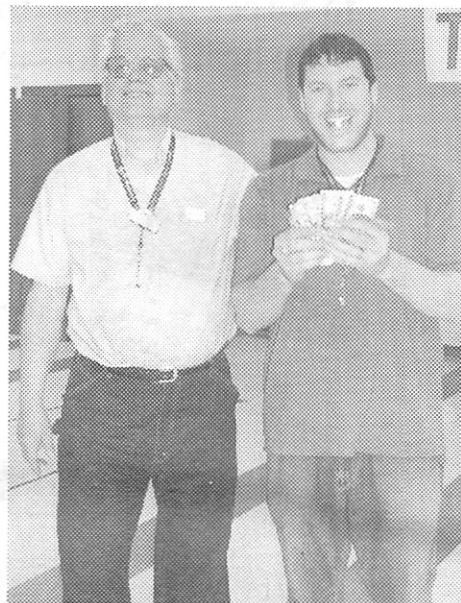
So I suggest those four minutes a day—at least—become very important. For everyone. And the dedicated attitude indicated by that commitment is key. The five-time champion *Masters of Harmony* say "All it takes is all you've got, all the time." For HOA, at this stage in our climb, I ask—on behalf of the chorus—that you get away from your comfort zone. Practice and perform with all you are capable of giving now, physically and vocally.

When that happens, the one-step-forward command will be followed by "That means you, HOA!" ~



IT ONLY TAKES ONE TO WIN...

by Jim Porter / Photo by Ron McIntire



Jim Porter helps Rob count his "winnings" from the drawing May 4 (No, Rob's tongue isn't pierced. He's holding the winning white marble with his teeth!)

LIGHTER IN LOUISVILLE

by Phil Veltkamp

I want to thank all the guys in the chapter who have offered me encouragement and kind words during the "Lighter in Louisville" contest. Losing weight is more than day to day, it is minute by minute—recommitting yourself to living and eating differently than you have in the past. I lost over 50 pounds in 1989 and over 40 pounds in 1999. This is my third go around. I really and truly believe that this is the last time. I won't bore you with the details, but eating less is a huge part of it.

Does any of this translate over to barbershop singing? I believe so! Get out of the comfort zone that you are in. You know—the one with old habits, no improvement noticed by others, and going weeks or months without doing some exercises, looking in the mirror, or tracking improvement with tape.

What ya gonna do with your half o' de pot? Glad you asked. It has been about 25 years since I have done any serious angling. I am going to buy a Quantum Energy PTi spinning reel, a St. Croix Premier rod, some bait, tackle, and miscellaneous equipment and do some fishing with my boys.

Thanks again. "See you in Louisville" lighter...yeh, true, but lookin' forward to someday sportin' some heavy medal pinned to my chest. ~

On Tuesday, May 4, **Rob Mathieu** claimed the 3rd-largest Harmony Foundation jackpot in the past four years when he defied odds of more than 2,000 to 1 and drew the white marble.

For years, Rob has been buying just one ticket occasionally, saying "This one is the winner," and that Tuesday, indeed it was as his one ticket was drawn from the bucket with more than 200 tickets in it. He then strode forward and drew the white marble from the bag with 8 blues and 2 reds still in it to claim the \$612 jackpot.

Congratulations to Rob, and enjoy your time in Louisville with your winnings!

Total donated to Harmony Foundation so far this year: \$1,142.

Total donated at this point last year: \$1,343. ~

A GREAT PARTY by Dick Korek

WOW...a HOA picnic, birthday party, friends, neighbors, family and members of the *Heart Of America* chorus. Weather, perfect! Eats, fantastic! Music, tremendous...from **Rob Mathieu** and his band to the fantastic sounds of *Grandstand* and the neighbors helping the "birthday boy - **Stew Grosser**" really enjoy a special day.

If you missed it, believe me...you missed it.

John Landry and friend showed up after a seven-mile horseback ride...tied up their horses and enjoyed a couple hours with the group. **Eileen** and family made certain that there was a ton of food, drink and all were treated to being in the atmosphere of "PONDERGROSSER." WOW, what a beautiful location and a home that shows the pride of an artistic family. Nick nacks, bric-a-brack and Eileen art and creations are all over the place.

The kids loved the hayride and a smattering of early fireworks added to the festivities.

Grandstand members **Jeff Veteto** along with his son, **Adam**, (who both managed to drive all the way up from their homes in Springfield), along with **Rob Mathieu** and **David Krause** entertained all those in attendance

The "event" lasted well into darkness, which actually never came because of the massive fireworks display followed by a gigantic bonfire... Rob playing guitar and singing...and marshmallows available for everyone. A WOW event to never to be missed in the future!

Thanks, Stew and Eileen and family for a great event and Happy Birthday, Stewart. ~

FELLOWSHIP FOREVER!

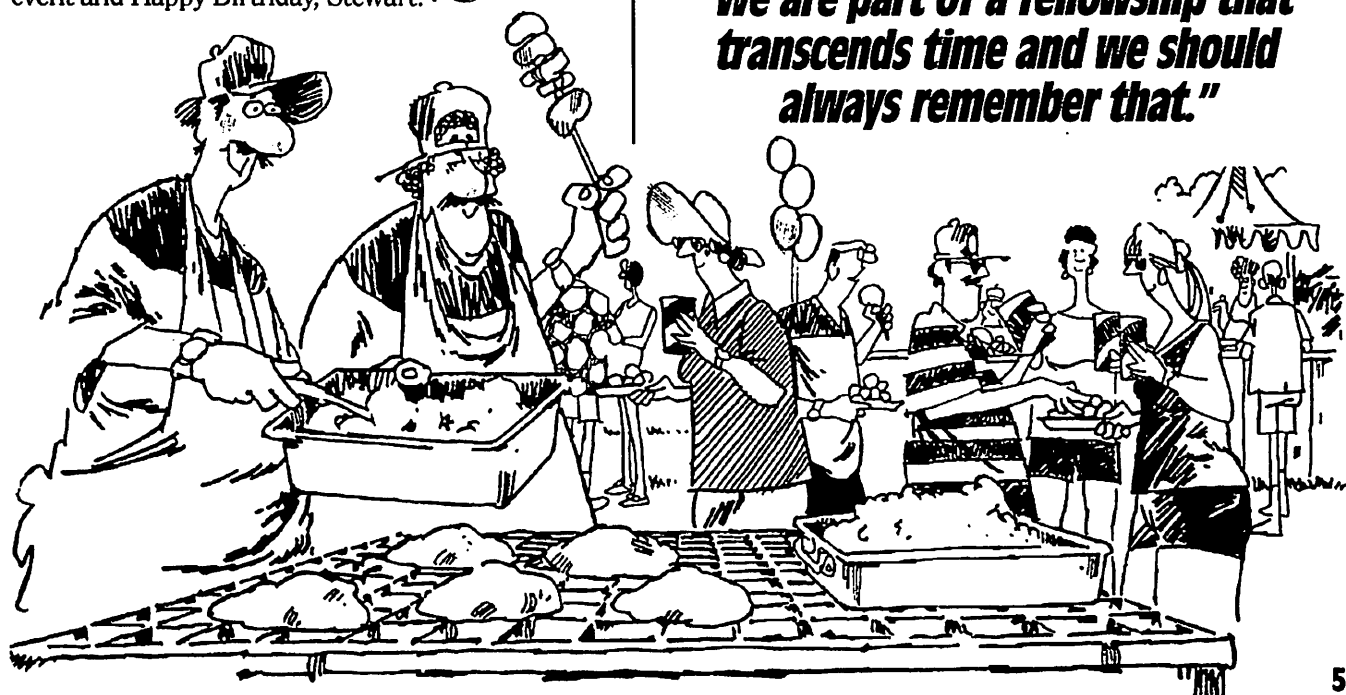
by Dale Neuman

This past year has found me with other members singing at funeral services for a number of our men who have passed on. The most recent was the service for **Howard Dyke** whose health had caused him to stop singing with us more than 15 years ago. As I looked around the warm-up room where we were working on the music to be sung, I was impressed with what I saw.

Yes, there were a number of us who had known Howard, enjoyed his friendship and had sung with him—some in a quartet, others in the chorus. But there were others who were too new to have known Howard and the joy of his company. But they still came from work or from home; from nearby or from the far side of the metro area to sing our kind of harmony one more time for Howard and his family. I did a quick calculation (with estimates to be sure) and some of the singers had only been members for one, two, or three years, others had been with HOA for one, two or three (or more) decades. It made no difference as our voices lifted in song. We are part of a fellowship that transcends time and we should always remember that. Maybe we should amend our motto to read: "Drawn by Harmony, Bound by Friendship, Striving for Excellence—Forever!" ~

Editor's Note: HOA members who sang at Howard Dyke's funeral included Ron Abel, Steve Carruthers, Jim Davis, Tom Elefson, Tom Forsythe, Rich Huyck, Gary Mahalic, Dale Neuman, Mike O'Dell, and Keith Schweer

"We are part of a fellowship that transcends time and we should always remember that."



EVERYTHING I KNOW I LEARNED... IN PERFECT HARMONY

by Cynthia Jacobsen

As observed by Dr. Cynthia Jacobsen while waiting to receive the check from HOA. She was impressed with the HOA work ethic and saw fit to share this with others.

Although some of us think, as the popular book tells us, that kindergarten teaches us all that we need to know, I learned a lesson just recently, decades removed from kindergarten.

As I watched a rehearsal of the *Heart of America Barbershop Chorus*, I learned that through perfect harmony, hearts are touched, love is shared and much, much more.

The first remarkable lesson I learned was the truth of "you shall teach them diligently unto your children." Up on the risers, were three generations of families—grandfather, father and son—all singing with joy and enthusiasm. What better way to form relationships and love of learning together?

As an expert in dyslexia, and children's language disorders, I was struck how the choral director used all the tricks of good teachers and therapists. He formed teamwork by providing a start-up note and gaining attention and commitment. He used multisensory learning, so important in reaching different kinds of minds. He combined hand signals, rhythm cues and pacing signals so that all could benefit from instruction.

I thought about the importance of rhyme in getting children to hear the sounds of language. Here was an example of how music and rhyme could be combined to aid memory and integration of new material. There was a lot of repetition, and times to consolidate new learning into long-term memory.

The choral director used kinesthetic learning, knowledge of how the body and the voice worked in concert. When the men overworked one muscle part, such as the head, he brought it to their awareness. I thought of the children with dyslexia, whose bodies curve over as they attempt to write, unable to separate eye and hand. The director encouraged relaxation by letting the singers "shake it out." At Children's Mercy Hearing and Speech Clinic, it is also the practice to make learning fun, to provide stress-free learning. Children with anxiety have decreased memory. Likewise, adult learners also need to relax, and experience the present moment.

Frequent praise and feedback were provided as well, all critical for improved performance and change. If all of us could continue to learn in our adult lives, in these methods, demonstrated by the *Heart of America* Barbershoppers we would continue to gain in confidence and skills, and satisfaction.

The barbershoppers do more than teach. During the past 10 years, they have contributed a portion of the money raise through Singing Valentines. That's another lesson...gifts come in many forms and it's incumbent upon us to share them. ~



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Cynthia Jacobsen, Ph.D., is the director of the Hearing and Speech and Cleft Palate clinics at Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics. On April 27, 2004 Cynthia received a check for \$3,065 from the Heart of America Chorus.



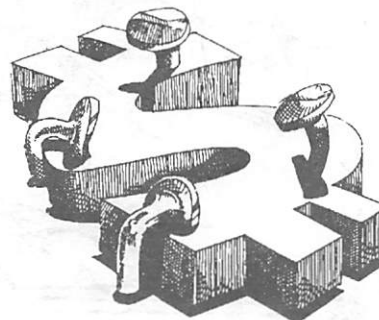
SUPER SELLERS!!!

by Dale Neuman

We are now well into selling our second 1,000 CDs. And I appreciate the constant flow of orders that I fill every Tuesday night. We are still negotiating with other venues to market our CD and hope that things will work out.

But I want to remind those who may not have noticed how often and much **Jeanne Snyder** and **Roberta Porter** have helped in this enterprise. They sold at Bell Ringing; they sold at the Music Hall; they sold at the Harmony Market Place at the CSD Convention.

Their joint efforts account for over \$5,000 in HOA sales as well as somewhere around \$3,000 in combined sales for *12th St. Rag* and *RR4*. Next time you see them, please tell them thanks! ~



SCALES by Carter Combs

At our typical Tuesday night chorus rehearsal, if anyone says "scale," I will usually think "do, re, mi..." and wait for the starting pitch.

Now, if we're out fishing and just landed a beautiful rainbow trout, and you say "scale," I might reach for the tackle-box to start working on that fish. "Do, re, mi" never even pops into my brain.

Or, if we are at our Mt. Everest base-camp, and our sherpa says "scale," I would most likely check my climbing gear and head for the nearest rock wall. Unless it's a scientific expedition and I'm taking measurements, in which case I'd simply reply "meters".

So, responding to the same word, I reacted four different ways. Why? Simply put, my brain put the word "scale" in context, based on my surroundings and the current situation, allowing me to respond in an appropriate fashion.

Now, more importantly, why should that matter to us, a performing, competing chorus? Consider our typical performance venue: on stage, on risers, in tuxes, under stage lights, singing multiple songs covering many themes and emotions. We have a very limited ability to change the environment to help the audience put our music into context. We certainly can't physically transport them to a stream or mountain, or to that tumble-down shack in Athlone, or even to a train platform.

Our alternative is to transport them mentally; to trick the audience's collective brain, by using every method and talent we have. We want to slyly convince their subconscious emotions that they really are seeing a group of guys excitedly waiting to board that train for Dixie, or recalling and toasting our old friends.

It's simply not enough to use only the words and music... that's like saying "scale" in the dark... it takes much too long to figure out how to respond. We establish the emotional context (set the mood) visually. So all those things we do, the press, reset, prep, step, smile, arm sweep, eyebrows, glance in, ticket wave, marching band, spread... are not moves. They are opportunities for us place the music in the desired context, to share the story with our audience, to make the emotional connection.

When we do that, the audience loves us, and the scores take care of themselves. ~



Photo by Matt Bostick

NO HARMONOTES IN JULY!

by Todd Anderson, *Harmonotes* Editor

Your bulletin editor's personal calendar is causing some problems with the month of July. I find that time is so scarce that it will impact my production efforts for the July issue.



For a moment I considered moving *back* the deadline for articles and photos to be turned in, to about June 11. But I knew in my heart that with all this chapter has on its plate right now, the idea of forcing you all to scurry around wouldn't be right.

I wrote to **Marty Oldehoeft** and **Jim Bagby** and told them of my situation. I mentioned that in my humble opinion, we ought to "skip" July and plan on a whiz-bang August edition, complete with all manner of strong photos and articles regarding HOA's appearance at Louisville. I'll wager that many of you would have an arsenal of great input if we did that. Marty and Jim agreed.

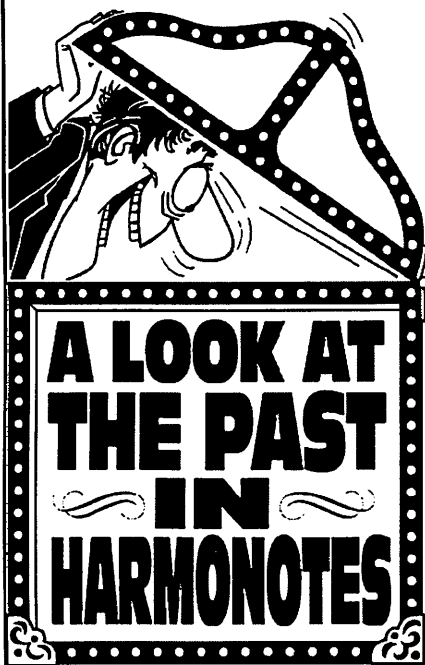
So, let's look at the calendar.

You all focus on the task at hand, which is the upcoming July horse race (see front cover). When you return, plan on getting all those August article(s) written and photo(s) turned in to yours truly no later than July 20.

All you shutterbugs: remember film/disks are cheap. Take loads of photos. When you come up with something that captures some of the international experience, please share it with *Harmonotes* readers! **Ron McIntire** and **Matt Bostick** are always providing us with great snapshots, but they'd be the first to tell you...the more the merrier when it comes to providing those Kodak moments.

What a super opportunity you have coming up. I will be living vicariously through you guys in spirit, trust me. Can't wait to hear, and read, all the results!

So, go get 'em in Louisville, and remember that July 20 deadline! ~



By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus
jedexter@mailstation.com

(baritone), and **Keith Schweer** (bass). Judges were **Jim Bagby** (Presentation), **Jim Beutel** (Singing), and **Bruce Wenner** (Music).

John Fortino hardly concealed his excitement over the qualification of the *12th Street Rag* for competition in the International competition in Pittsburgh in July. This was to be the first experience at that level of competition for John and Mark.

Chapter President **John Pennington** announced that our first-ever retreat was scheduled for September 9-11, at a yet to be determined location (probably Atchison). It appears that the event had been set up on an earlier date but had to be canceled because of lack of interest. John reveals that "we had to pay for the rooms that we blocked out because the hotel was unable to sell them on such short notice. The bottom line is that it cost us \$1,870. That hurts!"

Forty Years Ago: May 15, 1963

Anybody ever hear of an outfit called the *Kansas City Suburban Chapter*? Well, Editor **Warren Edmonds** writes that this group showed up in force for a visit with the Kansas City Chapter on June 2. They took the stage, under the direction of Bob Tracy, and sang "Ramona." Seems I remember hearing the HOA chorus sing that one on one of their shows back a few years ago.

Editor Warren explains that the KC Suburban Chapter had not met for six or seven months and many of those present had not sung in the group for over a year. But Warren assured his readers that "these fellows are Barbershoppers all, and proved it."

Ten Years Ago: June, 1994

HOA Quartet Development Chairman **Monty Duerksen** reported that 18 quartets participated in the 1994 "Spring Fling" Quartet Contest. The winner was the *Velvet Tones* (shades of **Mel Torme**), with **Marlin Weidler** (tenor), **Rick Dunaway** (lead), **Rick Huyck**

Warren goes on to tell how a fellow from Tulsa by the name of **Morris Rector** (does that ring a bell?) who happened to be visiting in Kansas City took over the combined group and taught them the tag from "In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree." Must have been quite an evening. According to Warren, "Morris threatened to pack his bag for permanent residence in Kansas City." If anybody knows anything about the KC Suburban Chapter, let me know (e-mail: jedexter@mailstation.com) and I'll put it in this column in the next issue of *Harmonotes*.

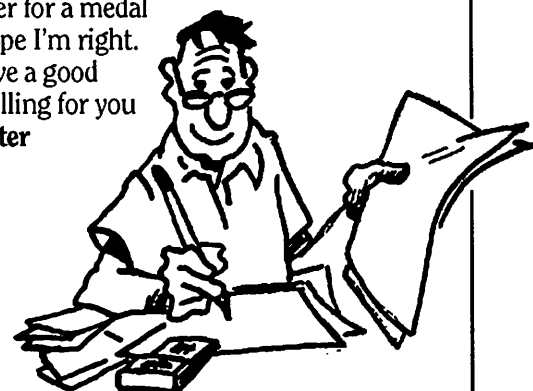
Here's one guy who ought to know something about the Kansas City Suburban Chapter. In the June 15, 1964, issue of *Harmonotes*, there's a brief announcement that **Ron Abel**, formerly in the personnel department at Standard Oil, had been promoted to the post of district analyst. We learn that, "The promotion, effective May 1, allowed another change for the better. Instead of working downtown, Ron just skips over to 7926A State Line. Lots of luck from 'Harmonotes,' Ron." ~

Dear HOA friends:

Just want those of you who were at the Saturday coaching session with **Dwayne Brobst** on May 17, when I walked in, to know how much your warm welcome meant to me that morning. After having been out of the loop for over 10 years, I was afraid I'd be run out of the place as an unwelcome interloper. It's been over a month now, but the buzz still hasn't worn off.

Jim's offer to let me sing the tag to "Apron Strings" and the presentation of the 40-year renewal card by your secretary (I don't even know his name) were especially heartwarming. All in all, it was one of the most memorable experiences of my 39 years with the Society.

Sorry I had to leave the meeting early, but I'd heard enough to make me even more wishful that I could make the trip to Louisville with you. I was with the chorus a few years back when we competed there, and **Joyce** has always said that of all the venues we'd been to with HOA, Louisville was the most pleasant. As I recall, we finished in seventh place. After hearing and watching you guys that Saturday morning, I'm convinced that once you have the entire chorus present, you'll be a strong contender for a medal this summer. Hope I'm right. So, everybody have a good time. We'll be pulling for you here. - **Wade Dexter**



MUSICAL NOTES

by Keith Schweer, Music Vice President



This may be this last edition of *Harmonotes* prior to our going to Louisville. As of this writing we have 5 Tuesdays and 3 Thursdays left. We have come a long way, but we still have a long way to go. The initial feedback from the section leaders is that the

qualification taping is going pretty well. Folks are turning in better tapes earlier and that's a good sign. Our rehearsals will be more productive when we finish the taping process and can concentrate on polishing our two songs. We have coaching sessions remaining with **Bill Biffle** (June 1) and **Dwain Brobst** (June 15). So, everything looks good as far as Louisville preparations are concerned.

Now, if everyone will take it upon themselves to devote some time at home to your individual preparation, then we should be in good shape for July 3 at Freedom Hall. A few minutes every day, say twice through the set, will make a big difference. That Saturday in July will be the culmination of months of preparation for all of us in HOA. I know we're going to give a performance that we can all be proud of. ~

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the following chapter members!

Phil Youngs	June 6
Bernie Brink	June 7
Burdett Tordoff	June 11
Tony Strub	June 14
Bob Coleman	June 14
Don Peck	June 17
Jack Selby	June 19
Rob Mathieu	June 23
Reed Alberg	June 25
Al Fehlauer	June 25
Barry Sanders	June 28
Keith Schweer	June 29



***"Together, let's
continue to
press on toward
our goal!"***

Marty Oldehoeft
HOA President

HEARTBEAT HIGHLIGHTS!



by Sharon Oldehoeft, 2004 Heartbeat President

We have made our plans for the Louisville Send-Off June 22nd. **Sarah Fortino** and **Mary Jo Miller** are our leaders for this project. Watch the internet for a special Tuesday Fun Night in June to make special preparations for our guys. If you have the night free, come and join us. Also, we will be setting up a snack table at the Send-Off and would much appreciate any salty or sweet snack you can provide. Thank you in advance. Thank you, Sarah and Mary Jo, for sharing your special talents.



Charles Ramirez

We send our congratulations to **Charles Ramirez** for being selected as the recipient of the 2004 **Orval Wilson** Memorial Scholarship to Harmony College. The *Heartbeats* are happy to present this award each year to a HOA Barbershopper. We wish we could give all applicants a scholarship, but unfortunately we are

unable to do that. We thank **Mary Fortino** and **Sarah Fortino** for leading us in this project.

We thank **Marilou Coleman** for hosting our May 11 meeting. Our next regular meeting will be Sept. 14 at **Dessie Gathright's** home with **Carol Ramirez** co-hosting. Join us for a potluck picnic and some *Heartbeat* fun. For you who don't like to drive at night or don't know where you are going (like me), we will meet at the church at 6 p.m. and carpool. Mark your calendar now for Sept. 14.

The *Heartbeats* will be setting up their own e-mail address web site. If you would like to be included, send me your e-mail address or give me a call.

Hope to see you at the Send-Off and in Louisville. ~

TEAM UP by Dick Korek

Keep your eyes open to what may be available from any company you or a family member or friend may work for regarding: GRANT MONEY or COMMUNITY AFFAIRS funds. Many companies have budgets set aside for this specific

use. That money MUST BE SPENT on an annual basis in the community.

Gentlemen, it's time to work together to locate financial resources for HOA. Here are just a couple current major expenses.

- ✓ **Coaching for the year** - \$12,000
- ✓ **Rough totals for 82 men to attend International in Louisville:**
 - Registration - \$10,000
 - 3-4 Hotel nights - \$30,000
- ✓ **What else costs?**
 - Retreats • Insurance • Hall Rental
 - Riser Maintenance / Replacement
 - Music / Performance Use Fees
 - There's more...

Important to know:

The Kansas City Chapter of SPEBSQSA (home of the *Heart of America Chorus*) is a 501(c)3 organization under IRS Rules. Therefore financial contributions qualify as a "charitable contribution" and are a legitimate tax deduction.

Any ideas, questions...please call **Dick Korek**, and the committee will work with you to deliver an informative presentation regarding HOA, performance quality, chorus work ethic, community involvement (Salvation Army, Children's Mercy Hospital, Harmony Explosion, dedication to youngsters).

Many members have said, "We're the best-kept secret in the city." Well, that may be true, but it's up to everyone of us to do something about it. We need to be professional in our approach to companies and individuals for funding.

Help is out there, funds are available. Just keep talking and performing with quality and pride. ~

Dick Korek may be reached at 913-888-7370. Email: dkorek@everestkc.net

12TH STREET RAG: STRIKE STRESSED by Mark Fortino

I don't think this quartet has ever been this stressed out. You might think it's because we're preparing for our return trip to the International Stage and hope to post our best numbers yet. NOPE!

We have been dealing with one of our busier show seasons and literally facing the unknown of IF we will have a bass to sing with each and every weekend.

Barry's company, SBC, is facing a possible strike from it's Union. If a strike is called Barry would have to report for strike duty on a moment's notice. This has put our entire show season in jeopardy and we have had to come up with contingency plans for each and every show. I have spent countless hours on the phone with basses as far away as Illinois to see if they could fill in if Barry couldn't make it. **Keith Schweer** was kind enough to rehearse with us three times and even learned some of our latest repertoire to try and put a show package together. His airline ticket for our show in Albuquerque was even purchased, but at the last minute, the union announced that it wouldn't strike over the weekend, and Barry was able to go. Keith, we can't thank you enough for all that you did to be ready to perform with us.

As I write, we are faced with a school tour and two shows in Allentown/Bethlehem, PA this coming weekend again facing the unknown of IF we'll be able to be there. We have no available replacement basses for this show, but we have purchased airline tickets for *Vocal Spectrum*, our college international qualifiers to fill in for us. Trying to work with these chapters has not been an easy thing. Think about what HOA would do if we found out 3 or 4 weeks before our show that our headline quartet might be questionable for appearance? We've all lost A LOT of sleep over this whole thing and we will be thankful when this is all settled...WE HOPE before JULY!

On a positive note, we had some good feedback from **Bill Biffle** while we were in Albuquerque, and **Joe Connelly** came in to work with us this past week. We are excited about some of the changes he made to our contest tunes. Wait till you hear the new tag to "Tree In The Meadow"...Joe is just a genius when it comes to this kind of stuff! Hopefully we can sing it the way he envisioned it! If you don't like it, Barry arranged it! :)

Please keep us and these chapters in your prayers...if we make it through this, Internationals ought to be a piece of cake! ~



TONE-HENGE: WE TRY HARDER by Ol' Bruce

Our big event of the month was a trip to Colby, Kansas, to headline their chapter show. Know where Colby is? About as far west as you can go without hitting Colorado. Too far to drive—for a bunch of old guys—so we flew most of the way and drove the rest. The plane was a twin-prop, with each row consisting of two window seats separated by an aisle that was accessed only by walking sideways. The flight attendant doubles as the co-pilot—doesn't matter, since there is no passenger service. Going through a cloud will put you through the roof if you're not belted in. We touched down in Dodge City before bouncing on to Garden City.

From there we had 105 miles to drive to Colby—the host chapter had arranged for a car rental. Getting the car was an adventure—we don't often get one of our comedy routines turned around on us. The Garden City airport hums along with a staff of one. While she unloaded the luggage, we strolled over to the one and only car rental desk—unoccupied, of course. The staff finished unloading, and started manning (womanning, actually) the ticket counter, which was across from the Hertz desk. She clued us in to the rental routine.

You call the downtown Hertz office from a phone sitting on the desk to get instructions—meanwhile the staff unlocks a drawer for you from behind the desk. In the drawer are blank contracts—you take one out, but you have to take it 10 miles to the Best Western in downtown Garden City, where the desk clerk doubles as the Hertz rep. Of course, that means you have to get the car first. So, in the master drawer you pick up a car key, and go out in the parking lot and look for a car whose license plate matches the hand-written number attached to the key. For a one-horse airport, this parking lot has A LOT of cars. We fanned out to scan the lot; no PSI-372 anywhere. OK—back to the phone.

The Hertz rep says that, whoops! We must have gotten the key from the bottom of the drawer, which means that it goes to a “dirty car”—i.e., one that has just been turned in. We need to get a key from a

different place in the drawer. But the drawer is now locked, and the staff is off cooking and waiting the table in the restaurant, so the rep gives us the combination on the phone. Unlock, grab key, look for car. *Bingo!* Jump in the car and head for the Best Western, where we do the paperwork.

By now we're running out of time. (Can you imagine the temptation to just stiff the Hertz rep and head for Colby!) We had calculated that we would arrive at the show venue well before showtime—we're not on stage until well into the second half. But now we've lost an hour, and we

haven't had lunch yet. OK—fast food. Not.

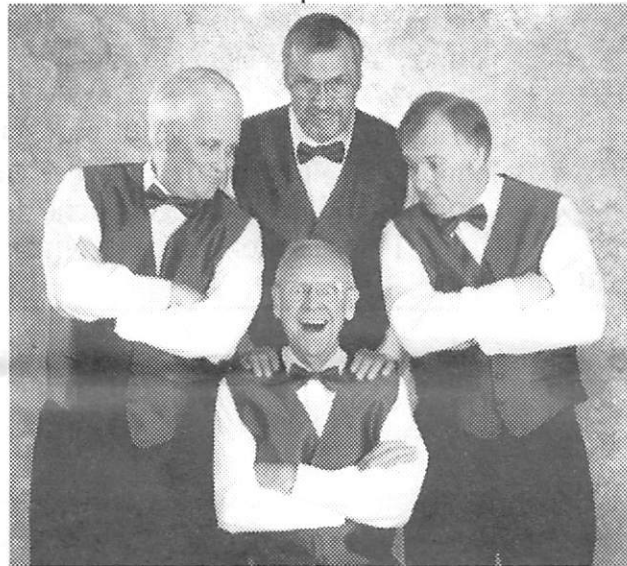
The Hertz rep says the best we'll do is at the restaurant across the street—they can give us food to go. They did, but it took another 35 minutes for four burgers and cokes. Thirty-five minutes we didn't have.

Finally we're on our way, eating as we go.

Fast! **Leadfoot**

Schweer got us to Colby just before the second half started.

Quick change (in an open backstage area—no dressing rooms as we know them), hear the last couple numbers of the other guest quartet, and we're on. The other guest quartet is a senior quartet from Colorado Springs, called *Yesterday's Heroes*; their bass is **Cliff Pape**—some of you know him from the *Jax of Harmony*. Nice quartet, and good guys—we enjoyed hanging out with them. Matinee and evening show, then a (DRY!) afterglow in a community college cafeteria. Great audiences at both the evening show and the afterglow. Another guy you might know took good care of us—**Don Kready**, who directs their chorus and sings in a chapter quartet. Don's son and grandson were present—son **Rick** (of *Special Touch* and *12th Street Rag*) and grandson **Jeff**, who emceed the show. They had to drive back to Topeka after the afterglow, to get Jeff a couple hours of sleep before directing his church choir next morning. ☺





Heart of America



A Sneak Peek At Summer!



- | | |
|------------------|--|
| June 1 | Bill Biffle coaching session |
| June 10 | Extra HOA Rehearsal |
| June 15 | Dwain Brobst coaching session |
| June 17 | Extra HOA Rehearsal |
| June 22 | Louisville sendoff |
| June 24 | Extra HOA Rehearsal |
| June 27 | |
| to July 3 | 67th annual SPEBSQSA Convention, Louisville |
| July 17 | Mass chorus, Shawnee Mission Theater in the Park |
| July 28 | Society Category School, Missouri Western, St. Joe |
| Aug. 1 | Harmony College, Missouri Western, St. Joe |



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