

HARMONOTES

The monthly newsletter of Kansas City's

Heart of America Chorus

The second-oldest chapter in the
Barbershop Harmony Society



*Drawn by Harmony,...
Bound by Friendship,...
Striving for Excellence!*

Another HOA Competition: *How Motivated Are You?*

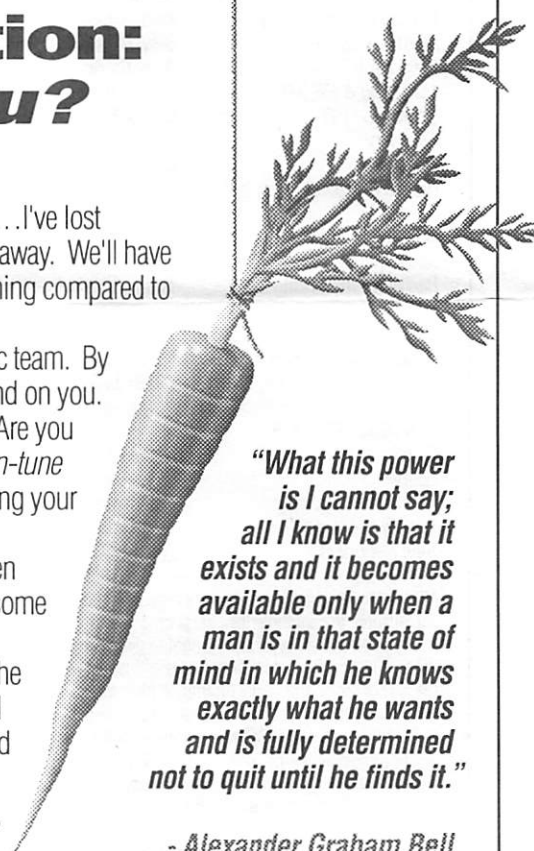
by Jim Bagby, Ye Olde Arm-Waver

It's almost here: the *Heart of America Chorus* is headed for our 14th or 15th or 16th... I've lost track... international competition. By the time you read this it will be barely a month away. We'll have almost 100 men on stage—the largest contest chorus in HOA history. And that's nothing compared to how big we'll be by this fall!

So how will we do? I have no idea. Right now, a lot depends on me, and the music team. By the time we hit that huge, wide-open stage in Salt Lake City, almost all of it will depend on you. So my question is, how motivated are you? How much homework are you doing? Are you one of the early staging workers with **Mike Schumacher**? Are you on the risers, *In-tune* digested and ready to sing at 7:10 every week? Do you ever leave early? Are you doing your homework? Are you encouraging everyone else to do the same?

And what motivates you to do all that? I ask because a few weeks ago, a half-dozen HOA members attended that giant motivation seminar at Kemper Arena. We heard some of the nation's biggest names: **Rudy Giuliani**, Gen. (Ret.) **Tommy Franks**, **Jerry Lewis**, Coach **Dick Vermeil** and **Zig Ziglar**, still going strong at age 78. In fact, the only ineffective presentation, oddly enough, was by the seminar president. We heard sales experts you see on TV: **Tom Hopkins**, **Bryan Flanagan**, **James Smith** and **Dan Israel**—look alike **Phil Town**.

These are the guys like the ones I've been drawn to for years at fairs and carnivals, selling choppers and knives and amazing decks of cards and magic tricks. Whatever they sold, I either bought, or listened to their pitch with thorough enjoyment. Because they are masters; they can sell anything to almost anyone. (continued on page 3 ♦)



*"What this power
is I cannot say;
all I know is that it
exists and it becomes
available only when a
man is in that state of
mind in which he knows
exactly what he wants
and is fully determined
not to quit until he finds it."*

- Alexander Graham Bell

■ **Page 3**
MUSIC 101
*Dennis Kinghorn will
revive these valuable
music lessons after
International!*

■ **Page 4**
WHAT'S NEW IN SLC?
*Mike Mathieu gives us
an update on what to
expect in Salt Lake!*

■ **Page 6**
DON WEBB TRIBUTE
*Former HOA director
Don Webb was
honored during our
May 3 meeting!*

■ **Pages 10**
**FINAL PERFORMANCE OF
THE GAS HOUSE GANG**
*A long, sweet journey
reaches its end.*

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.

2005 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD

<i>President</i>	Marty Oldehoeft
<i>Immediate Past President</i>	Dick Irwin
<i>Executive V.P.</i>	Steve Carruthers
<i>Chorus Director</i>	Jim Bagby
<i>Associate Director</i>	Mike Neff
<i>Assistant Directors</i>	Carter Combs, John Fortino
<i>Music/Performance V.P.</i>	Keith Schweer
<i>Membership V.P.</i>	Stew Grosser
<i>Program V.P.</i>	Jerry Garrard
<i>Marketing & PR V.P.</i>	Dick Korek
<i>Operations V.P.</i>	Chuck Ames
<i>Secretary</i>	Kevin Tritsch
<i>Treasurer</i>	Charles Ramirez
<i>District Delegate</i>	Marty Oldehoeft

SECTION LEADERS

<i>Tenor - Carter Combs</i>	<i>Lead - Mike Neff</i>
<i>Bari tone - Grant Hunget</i>	<i>Bass - Keith Schweer</i>

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Doug Brott	Kent McClean	Bob Howard
Rich Huyck	Harry Stewart	Brian Seydlitz

HARMONOTES STAFF

<i>Editor Emeritus</i>	Wade Dexter
<i>Editor</i>	Todd Anderson
<i>Distribution Manager</i>	Dick Irwin
<i>Special Correspondent</i>	Ron McIntire
<i>Staff Reporters</i>	ALL Our Chapter Members!

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, phrasing, and spelling).

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:

Todd Anderson
17905 East 24th Terrace Court S
Independence, MO 64057-1332
(816) 373-8633
Harmonotes@comcast.net

Chapter meets at 7 pm each Tuesday night, at:
St. Peter's United Church of Christ
110th & Holmes - Kansas City, MO 64105

The HOA Board of Directors meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of the month. Place TBA. Chapter members are welcome!

HOA Website: www.hoachorus.com
Web Address: webstaff@hoachorus.com
Chapter Telephone: (816) 221-7888

"Get It Done!"

by Todd Anderson, *Harmonotes* Editor and so-so Lead



I've sprinkled some energetic quotes throughout this issue, in hopes that it will help propel all you active chorus folks toward great heights in Salt Lake City.

You may have already sounded some kind of battle cry. Creative folks like **Mike Mathieu** and **Dick Korek** are slick at coming up with motivating slogans. But whatever you may already have, you could easily add the following motto to your own personal arsenal of encouragement. I wish I could take credit for it, but I can't. It's the motto of the 110th Combat Engineers Battalion (above right), and it's a strong one. "GET IT DONE."

Dwell on that a moment. Think of the positive attitude it generates! It doesn't say DO YOUR BEST, or TRY, TRY, TRY. It just assumes victory—that positive results will appear IF the motto bearer focuses on the task, then does his part to make it happen. That's classic!

On behalf of members like myself who are unable to join you, remember that we will be rooting for you—our chapter brothers—this July. GET IT DONE! ♥



HOA PATRON/SPONSORS

Remind your family and friends to direct business to all our sponsors! It's the best way to say "THANKS!"

FRANK ANCONA
HONDA
1000 North Rogers Road
Olathe, KS 66062
913.782.3636

Marriott
KANSAS CITY
DOWNTOWN

First Watch
BREAKFAST • BRUNCH • LUNCH

- 9916 College Blvd
- 7305 W. 95th St.
- 4117 W. 83rd St.
- 12040 Blue Valley Pkwy
- 2800 W. 53rd St.
- 11112 Shawnee Mission Pkwy
- 1022 Westport Rd.
- 409 Armour Rd.
- 19321 E. Hwy 40

overland park
convention & visitors bureau
The Natural Choice™

kinko's®
FedEx Kinko's
Office and Print Center
College & Metcalf
913-661-0192

Sheridan's
FROZEN CUSTARD
MADE FRESH ALL DAY

HELBURG
DIAMONDS

AIR CARE
Complete Heating & Air Conditioning
913-362-5274

SAM'S
Club

THE GREEN
COMPANY, INC.

15550 West 109th Street - Lenexa, KS 66219
913-888-8880 - bills@the.greencompany.com

(Continued from front cover)

And when they finished their Kemper presentations and made their one-time offers of books or investment or real estate seminars, people literally ran to sign up. That's motivation.

One of the best lines of the day came from Ziglar: "When we catch a glimpse of potential, passion is born." If we're not passionate by now about this unbelievable hobby, we're probably in the wrong hobby. And if we're not passionate about these two wonderful songs, the musical leadership probably isn't doing its job.

HOWEVER, I still believe that motivation, to be effective, must be intrinsic—from within. We can't make you love or believe the lyric to "Apron Strings," unless you find a way to make it your story.

And Flanagan must have conferred with **Kevin Keller**, because he talked about "unconscious competence," or being able to perform at the highest level without appearing to work at it. That ring a bell? Kevin called it "transparent artistry."

If you—personally—are motivated to achieve that level of artistry, by applying and giving and sharing, and by answering "yes" to those questions I posed earlier, I can say "Yes, I have a pretty good idea how we'll do in SLC."

Thanks for motivating me. ♥



Music 101 by Dennis Kinghorn

About a year ago we had classes to improve our musical knowledge. We had six classes with an average attendance of 20. Many have asked if we are going to school again. Yes. We'll start school after international. We'll probably meet upstairs in the choir room at 9:30 pm every Tuesday. Everyone is invited—even the musical geniuses! The subjects we'll learn are:

1. Melody - Includes identifying what and where the notes are in both clefs. Ledger lines, accidentals, key signatures and how to know what keys songs are in. The order of the sharps and the order of the flats.

2. Rhythm - or beat, swing or throb of the music. Includes time signatures, note values, rests, tied notes, melody and rhythm combined, and directing.

3. Harmony - Includes unison, intervals, types of chords, how to identify chords, inversions, extended chords, combining melody, rhythm and harmony, and relative minors. (I asked Bruce about relative minors. He said a relative minor is a cousin under 21.)

Come join us and you'll soon be able to impress your friends with your musical genius! ♥

President's Corner

by Marty Oldehoeft, Chapter President



I would like to begin my contribution to the *Harmonotes* by saying, I am thankful for answered prayers, excellent medical staff and good timing that has led to the "textbook perfect" recent surgery on our music vice president **Keith Schweer**. I must say we missed his "following week" reminders from our latest coaching session. My wish for Keith is continued and speedy recovery.

We wait for your return to the chorus.

Yes, we had a coaching session! **Kevin Keller** came from St. Charles. I don't know how he came. He had most transportation choices known to man since between St. Charles and Kansas City we have the Muddy Mo., Bumpy I-70, limited air service, Amtrak and, even the Katy bicycle trail that starts in St. Charles and comes this way to at least Sedalia. The point is he was here on May 10 for what proved to be another SUPER evening of learning from one of the societies best music coaches. The ongoing goal to improve our singing skills got a definite boost for both the veteran members of the chorus and the newer members.

Speaking of new members, the board approved nine new singers to our chorus at the May board meeting. Included are **Jake Wozniak, Tom Wenner, Robert Murphy, Mike Bums, Bill Cunningham, Adam Keener, Richard O'Dell, Rodger Faherty** and dual member with *Heart of America* and *Sons of Liberty*, **Duane Lawson**. Welcome to the HOA family and good singing to all of you.

Brian Marston is going to Columbus, Ohio. **Mary Fortino** announced Brian as the winner of the **Orval Wilson** Memorial Scholarship provide by the *Heartbeats*. Brian will attend Harmony College, which is in Columbus this year from July 31 thru Aug.7. Congratulations, Brian!

Mike Schumacher and **Don Young** held an extra rehearsal for dance and wiggle (staging) polish on what was likely the most perfect weather day of the spring. The great turnout for this learning session is indeed a sign that individual dedication and contribution to the improvement of the chorus very high. Thank you very much gentlemen! ♥

Harmony Foundation Report For May by Jim Porter

In the past month, our chapter has raised \$171 for the Harmony Foundation. So far this year (since Nov. 20, 2004), we have raised \$1384. Last year at this point, the total raised was \$1245. In our best year (2003), the total raised at this point was \$1416.

Thank you all for your interest and participation! ♥

"Step up the stairs or stare at the steps."
- Ralph Nichols

What's New In SLC?

by Mike Mathieu

If you haven't read all the details about Salt Lake City, (SLC), you're either going to be a witness to one of the greatest conventions in Society History, or your going to miss one of the greatest series of Events the Society has ever sponsored. The verdict is up to you!

Start out your week Monday with a brand new Taste of Barbershop Event at Gallivan Plaza. Around 4 pm we will start with food vendors, a concert stage featuring quartets, local entertainment from SLC, capped off with a fireworks display after dark. All this totally free.

Tuesday we'll have the Harmony Foundation Concert featuring *Chanticleer*, *Gotcha*, and the *Denver Acapella Project*. DAP is an mixed voice octet that includes **Darrin Drown**, ex-director of the *Barberboys*, current director of *Sounds of the Rockies*, former bass of *Freefall*, current baritone of *Storm Front*, and great friend of HOA.

Wednesday will kick off with a brand new concept, the Opening Ceremony. We will have an event similar to what is held at the Olympics. Every competing group is invited to join in the festivities. Hopefully we will have many members already there to get involved in the festivities. You may carry banners, flags, posters, or any other piece of paraphernalia that represents our group. Make sure you're in SLC by Wednesday morning early, as this event starts at 10 am sharp, followed by the first round of the Quartet Quarter finals at 11 am.

Thursday will mark the Wild Card Chorus Contest, a first time event for this convention. At 1 pm twelve choruses will strut their stuff for the right to compete again in the Chorus finals on Saturday. Included in the field are three choruses that have medaled in the past, two that have been International Champions, and our neighbors to the north, the *Barberboys*.

Thursday night is the gala Association of International Champions Show, and our own *RR3* of **Yoder, Yoder and Bagby** will be included in a chorus that you have to hear to believe, along with an unbelievable lineup of gold medal (AIC) quartets.

Friday will feature the College Quartet Contest at 11 am, and a special Chorditorium Friday night featuring College quartet participants in the H/Q hotel, the Grand America. World Harmony Jamboree is Friday afternoon at 2:30 pm, in Abravanel Hall.

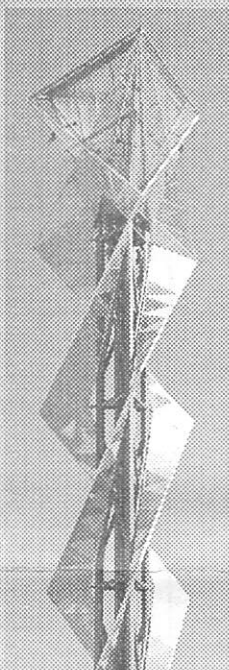
At 6 pm last year's champion chorus the *Ambassadors of Harmony* will put on an hour-long concert prior to the Quartet semi-finals, which begin at 7 pm. Admission to the AOH concert is your ticket to the College Quartet Contest. What a day!

Saturday is the day we are all looking forward to, when we strut our stuff for the best audience in the Barbershop World. After the contest and dinner, we head over for the Quartet Finals, followed by a mega chorus afterglow in the Grand America.

Up and at 'em early Sunday for the Sacred Gold Concert that will feature 600 Barbershop Gold Medal winners, and the 360-voice Mormon Tabernacle Choir. 10:15 am is the start time, ending at 11:30 am. I get goose bumps just thinking about the emotion that will emanate from the LDS Conference Center.

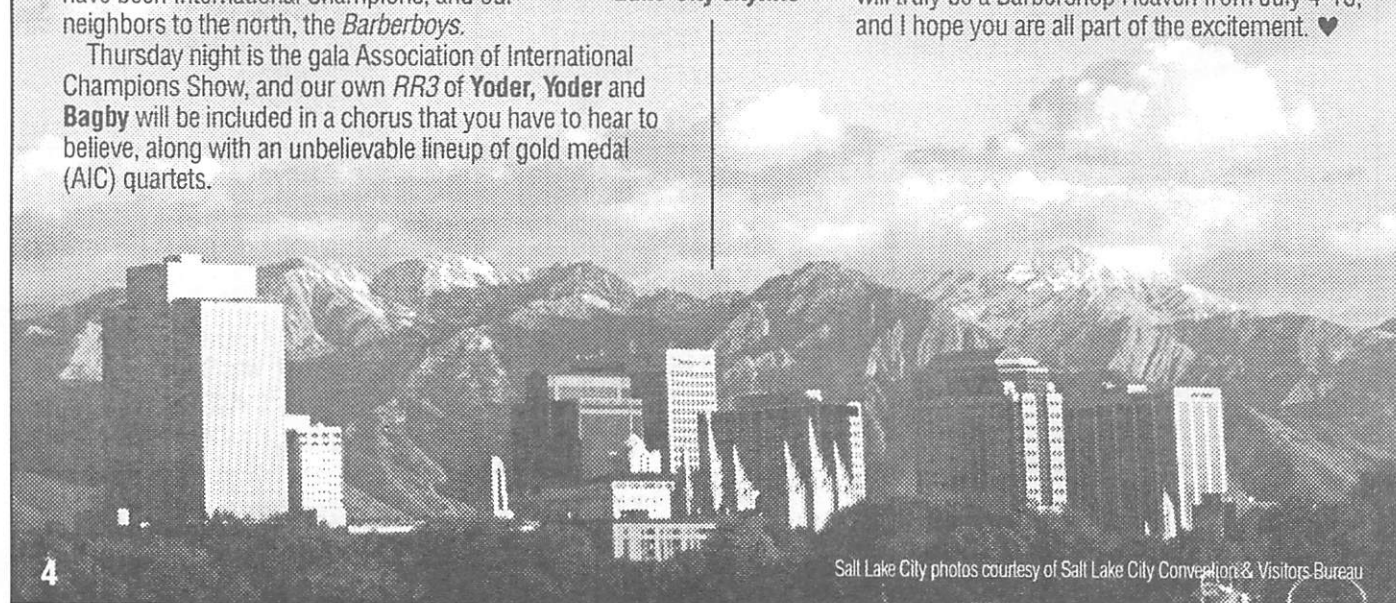
All contests will be in the LDSCC. The chorus contest will be a barnburner as usual, with two of the last four International champions competing, along with two or three potential champions in the mix. Our district will have two choruses competing, along with the past International Champion AOH bowing out as champions. In the quartet arena, our District has the potential to have three quartets in the top ten. Looks like GSD is building a dynasty!

There are probably some other exciting things going on that haven't even been announced yet. Keep in touch to hear the latest. Looks like SLC will truly be a Barbershop Heaven from July 4-10, and I hope you are all part of the excitement. ♥



Above: The Olympic Torch is a reminder of Salt Lake's sports history.

Below: The Rockies provide a majestic backdrop to the Salt Lake City skyline



Salt Lake City photos courtesy of Salt Lake City Convention & Visitors Bureau

Rewind! Is Going To Salt Lake City!

by Dick Irwin



In a surprise development, *Rewind!* is going to Salt Lake City. "What the heck is he talking about?" you may ask. Our bass, **J.B. Witham** joined the *HOA* family earlier this year while maintaining a dual membership with the *Sons of Liberty* chorus. He petitioned the society to be allowed to participate with *HOA* in the International contest in Salt Lake City and his petition was approved. Now all four of us are going to Salt Lake City as part of the *HOA* competition chorus. We are excited! This will give us a chance to spend some time together, maybe sing a few songs and who knows, maybe somebody will give us the hints we need to become a better quartet. No matter what, we will be together on stage with *HOA*.

Thom Tisdall, our lead, has also shown great improvement from his recent knee surgery. He wants to thank each and every one of you who lent your support and prayers for a successful surgery and quick recovery.

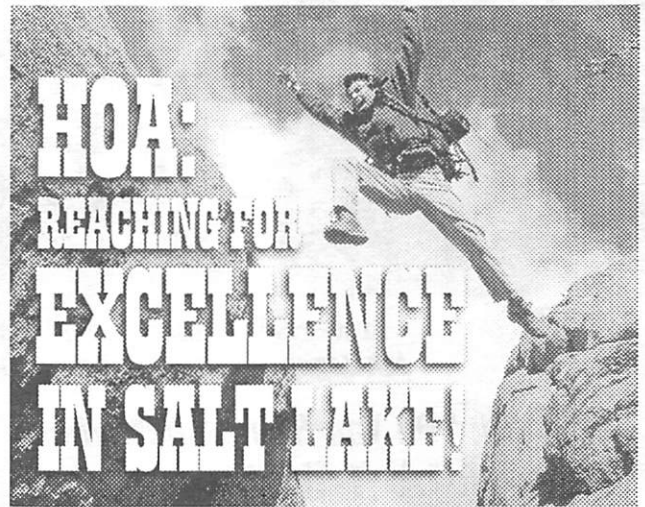
To the rest of our *HOA* family, *Rewind!* says "Follow us. We're going to Salt Lake City." ♥

Take 4 Takes Off!

by Grant Hunget

Jeff Kready, lead from Topeka, has been to International with 2 different College quartets. **Rick Kready**, tenor from Topeka, had 5 trips to International with *Special Touch* & 5 more with *12th Street Rag*. **Aaron Burkland**, bass from Omaha, had 3 visits with *Sibling Rivalry*. They twisted my arm into singing bari even though I've never been to the show with a quartet. "Guys, I promise to do my best, and not make you look bad!"

Starting from scratch on repertoire, it's taken a few weeks to get some tunes solid, but things are coming along nicely. We're meeting every 1-2 weeks, and having a lot of fun. Jeff will be in Illinois on a Summer Theatre job through mid-August, so we'll be meeting in the middle somewhere, as we work towards Fall Contest. ♥



Big Time For Tone-Henge

by Ol' Dan



Big Time #1 - Us Ol' guys got to headline the Overland Stage show on April 30. Not only a great time doing matinee and evening performances, but got to hob-nob with lots of long-time barbershop pals in the Overland Stage Chapter. And the afterglow gave us the opportunity to

deliver **Keith's** recitation of "Reincarnation" for the first time in public. The grins/giggles/applause convinced us that it's a keeper.

Big Time #2 - Speaking of Keith, he ain't "all there" any more. Of course arguments concerning his mentality still occur, but we're talkin' 'bout the rest of him. As you are aware, recent surgery tossed out some bad parts and he's recuperating nicely, making every effort to be ready for Salt Lake, but quartet activities have slowed to an absolute cease. Think zero beer. Some brewers are worried as sales slump.

Big Time #3 - You probably know that Ol' Dan turned 80. (and you thought he was closer to 90) His Daughter **Kathy** and bride **Estyl** surprised him with a bash to end 'em all... about 80 friends in a pub no less! An Irish pub b'gorrah, and a foine toime it twas. Sure and *Tone-Henge* got to sing a couple even! We know the invitation for us to do so was a result of the beer, but we ain't complainin'.

Big Time #4 (This should be #3, 2 or 1) - Bagby retired!! After 127 years with Associated Ironers Ol' Jim pulled the plug, and after a quartet and wives lobster dinner to celebrate, the other retirees welcomed James to what is politely called *Financial Doom*. You'll now hear Ol' Jim repeating these words to Bruce, Keith and Dan: "We gotta get more pay dates!!" A couple of us retirees have already worn that phrase slick. ♥



Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire

Above: HOA Chorus and guests to welcome **Don Webb** at the May 3, 2005 meeting. **Jim Bagby** directs the chorus runthrough of new music "I'll Never Pass This Way Again."

May 3rd: "Do You Remember When?" Don Webb Tribute by Ron Abel, Oldtimer

Through the years HOA has been blessed with outstanding chorus directors. On May 3 we had the honor and privilege to pay tribute to our most senior of these former directors, **Don Webb** and his wife, **Lorraine**. Done served as our chorus director for 14 years, from August, 1957 through 1971, following the late chapter and society legend, **Joe Stern**. In addition to serving as HOA director, he also served as chapter president from 1959 to 1960, and named Barbershopper of the Year in 1963.

Yours truly, attired in the chorus uniform of the 60s, had the pleasure of introducing the "oldtimers" in attendance, who sang under Don Webb's direction over 30 years ago. They included:

Nile Abbott	Dick Krueger	Harold Robinette
Ron Abel	Frank Leone	Harold (Sam) Solomon
Jim Bagby	Steve Leone	Dennis Taylor
Dany Henry Bowser	Kent McClean	Bob Tracy
Warren Edmonds	Tom Millot	Barney Wasson
Sal Ianzzo	Al Moritz	Bruce Wenner



Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire

Above: Former HOA director **Don Webb**, and wife **Lorraine**, during his May 3 visit to HOA.

Messages were also received from several others now residing out of state. In addition to Lorraine Webb, other wives in attendance included **Reva Abbott**, **Ann Abel** and **Millie Robinette**. A display of chorus pictures was present and thanks to Ann Abel, treats were provided at the conclusion of the evening. Don directed us in the tag of "Pal Of My Cradle Days" and at the conclusion, "Keep The Whole World Singing." Here are his comments on the evening:

"Just a short note to thank you for your outstanding efforts in the contacting of some of the "good old boys" who sang with us many years ago. Believe me, I have not dropped off "cloud nine" yet! What a night!

To the chorus, I shall always be grateful for the opportunity given to "wave an arm" before this great chorus, and to feel the hackles on my neck "stand at attention" once more!

If anything could excel over the sound of a "locked in" barbershop chord, it would possibly be the caliber of people who sing it! Gentlemen, I thank you for the tribute you paid me on 5/3/05. I am truly honored! I wish you all the best in the pending contest, and again, I thank you!"

Yours in a Chord,
Don



Photo courtesy of Dale Neuman

Above: **Ron Abel** introduces **Don Webb** and past HOA members who sang under his direction. (Amazing! Ron's old tuxedo from the 1960s still fits!)

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

submitted by Kevin Tritsch, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by **Marty Oldehoeft** on Monday, May 9, 6:30 pm at the Johnson County License Bureau.

In attendance were: President – **Marty Oldehoeft**, Immediate Past President – **Dick Irwin**, Director – **Jim Bagby**, Membership VP – **Stewart Grosser**, Program VP – **Jerry Garrard**, Operations VP – **Chuck Ames**, Treasurer – **Charles Ramirez**, Secretary – **Kevin Tritsch**. Board Members at Large: **Doug Brott**, **Harry Stewart**, **Rich Huyck**, **Kent McClean**, **Bob Howard**. Not in attendance: **Steve Carruthers**, **Keith Schweer**, **Dick Korek**, **Brian Seyditz**.

Music and Performance: Jim Bagby - 95 people, plus the director, have signed up for Salt Lake City, that's including those that haven't qualified. If we have all 95, it will be the largest competing HOA chorus in recent history.

In the last Music Team meeting it was discussed what our goal would be for Salt Lake City. The main discussion was to make Top 10. Based on our current attendance for practices, making the making the Top 10 would be very difficult. We don't have everyone attending each week.

On May 23, the Music Team will again meet and make a consensus on what our goal should be.

Coaching sessions are here with **Kevin Keller** on May 10. The final all day coaching will be on Saturday June 25. Extra rehearsals will be May 26, June 23 & 30.

During the Music Teams' May 23 meeting, they will be deciding on the music for the Holiday show. **Mel Knight** will be arranging two new 8 part songs for the show.

Program: Jerry Garrard - Breakout sessions - We need to retrain the chorus that the weekly chapter meeting runs from 7-10 pm, the 9:30-10 pm time is used for the breakout sessions. Jim stated he will make himself available for repertoire teaching. Other areas being covered during the breakout sessions are vocal coaching, wedge working, and front row, plus anything good for the chapter.

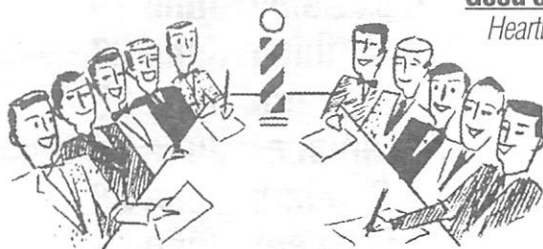
Jerry passed out a sheet showing where each member is placed on the risers. Jerry suggested that the board members contact those members that aren't showing up. Sometimes we don't know who we stand next to on the risers and this list will help provide that information which will help with the follow-up. This list will also be helpful in lining up for windows.

Operations: Chuck Ames - The Operations team has worked out an arrangement with the Double Tree. On June 28 there will be a send off party for Salt Lake City at the Double Tree.

New Business: A Prop Committee has been formed for making props for Salt Lake City. Marty moved to spend up to \$200 for props. Doug and Jerry seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Good of the chapter:

Heartbeats are having a Garage/Book sale in the near future. Let's support their efforts. Remember to wear your nametags at each chapter meeting. ♥



Using The Breath For Musical Effect

It's more than just oxygen—it's a part of the musical experience. Music judge and coach Kevin Keller explains how in this piece taken from the QT newsletter from the Barbershop Harmony Society.

There are a number of things that make a group "musical". One of the primary tools is the delivery of the breath. Yes, the delivery of the breath. The breath is the most important part of each and every phrase; more important than any note that you sing. Furthermore, the breath concludes the musical phrase rather than starting it.

When the breath is the most important part of the phrase and it concludes the phrase, you must energize the end of the phrase to raise the musical value of the breath. You will also sustain the energy through the phrase and build it, as opposed to plodding along and falling into chord worshipping (whether you intended to or not!). This reinforces the lyrical message of the song. Musically, you can sing louder, softer, faster, slower, more/less color, more/less texture. Just about anything you believe will work actually will work. You manage your breath better, because less air is expended needlessly at the beginning of the phrase. You improve your synchronization on attacks and releases. When the breath is "ordinary" (re: a place to get air), all that you can do is exactly what you were doing with dynamics, texture, color, tempo, etc. This is not musically appealing!

Take one of your repertoire songs and perform this exercise. Sing 32 bars where the breath is ordinary, a place to get air. Then sing those same 32 bars and focus on making the breath the most musically interesting part of the phrase. See what results you get and which you like better.

There are a host of other things you will discover a focus on the breath will bring. Enjoy! ♥

**"Genius is the gold in the mine;
talent is the miner who
works and brings it out."**

- Lady Blessington



A LOOK AT THE PAST IN HARMONOTES

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

TEN YEARS AGO: JUNE, 1995:

The 69 HOA members who performed on stage during the 1995 international chorus competition in Miami Beach came home with a ninth place finish, and they certainly must have eaten well while they were there. Convention coordinator **Mike Mathieu**, reporting on his "fam" (that's "familiarization") visit to Miami Beach, describes in the May *Harmonotes* the plans he had made for special meals while the guys and their families were there. On Thursday evening of convention week, they were to attend a "Beach Party/Bar-B-Que" at the Eden Roc Hotel. The menu was to include potato salad, a half-pound hamburger, baked beans, corn-on-the-cob, Wisconsin shredded cheese, sweet onion, and assorted pies, all for the low price of \$12, which included tax and tip (Wow!). They were to be joined by the *Big Chicken Chorus* from the Dixie District, the *New Mexichords* from Albuquerque, and the *Ambassadors of Harmony* from St. Charles, MO. On Saturday morning, Mike had negotiated an \$11 breakfast buffet for the entire chorus. Mike says that the normal price for this spread would be over \$22. On Saturday evening, dinner was to be at the Doral Hotel, where most everybody was staying. The menu for this event included a pasta bar serving five different types of pasta and herb garlic bread, a full-line salad bar featuring many salads and all the fixin's, a fajita bar with marinated chicken and beef, sauteed onions and peppers, flour tortillas, salsa, guacamole and condiments, and a dessert bar to top it all off. All this for only \$20, tax and tip included. Is it any wonder that we've picked this guy for the "fam" visits for nearly every international convention we've been to over the past ten years?

TWENTY YEARS AGO: JUNE, 1985:

Editor **Dale Neuman** reported that **Keith Schweer** had accepted the chapter board's appointment as president pro tem for the remainder of the term of **Rich Huyck**, who had been forced to resign because of the pressure of added job responsibilities that prevented him from carrying out the duties of chapter president. Keith had served an elected term back in 1981, and this was the second time that he had stepped forward while the board sought a candidate for replacement of the elected president. (Dale didn't mention who was replaced the first time.) As I recall, Keith eventually served out the entire remainder of Rich's term.

Found this item in the "HOORAYS AND HOWCOMES" column (there's no byline, but I suspect that **Jim Bagby** was the author): "HOORAY for the rumor there's a new HOA quartet working, tentatively called the *12th Street Rag*. HOWCOME they haven't sung for the chapter?" Doesn't seem like 20 years, does it?

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO: JUNE, 1970

Does anyone remember a fellow named **F.M. Davisson**? F.M., as he was apparently called (surely he must have had the usual two given names that all the rest of us enjoy), was also known as "Mr. Hornblower" because he was the guy who could always be depended upon to blow the right pitch every time the chorus was about to sing a song. He was one of the guys who was a regular chorus member who seldom missed a chapter meeting or public performance. He was our perennial music committee chairman and music librarian and was always the first one to arrive at a chapter meeting and the last to leave, helping House Committee Chairman **John Cross** to leave the meeting room in proper order. As Editor **Dick Hamm** explained it: "One bad thing about F. M. is that he is so dependable and uncomplaining that it is sometimes easy to take all he does for granted." So it's apparent that, being a bunch of sentimental fools, the chapter presented the 1970 "Barbershopper of the Year Award" to none other than F. M. Davisson. The ceremony took place during the annual Ladies' Night dinner that was held at the Armour East Restaurant. Isn't it great to be a sentimental fool? ♥

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following chapter members!

Kevin Tritsch	June 4
Phil Youngs	June 6
Michael Walker	June 10
Don Fuson	June 11
Burdett Tordoff	June 11
Bob Coleman	June 14
Tony Strub	June 14
Shaun Whisler	June 16
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

Precious Lord: Which Dorsey Wrote It?

by John Winfield



Rich Huyck posted a background story on how the song "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" was written. If you are like me you jumped to the conclusion that the author

was big band leader **Tommy Dorsey**. According to **Robert J. Morgan**, the author was actually Thomas **Andrew Dorsey**, the son of a black revivalist preacher. The following is quoted from Mr. Morgan's book *Then Sings My Soul*:

Thomas was born in a small town in Georgia in 1899. When he was about eleven, the Dorseys moved to Atlanta where Thomas was quickly enamored with the blues and began playing piano at a vaudeville theater. Later the family moved to Chicago where he attended classes at the College of Composition and Arranging. Soon he was on stage under the name "Georgia Tom," playing barrelhouse piano in one of **Al Capone's** Chicago speakeasies and leading jazz bands.

Thomas was converted at the National Baptist Convention in Chicago in 1921, and began writing gospel songs and trying to get them published. It was discouraging at first. He later said, "I borrowed five dollars and sent out 500 copies of my song, 'If You See My Savior,' to churches throughout the country... it was three years before I got a single order. I felt like going back to the blues."

He didn't, and gradually his reputation grew and his work became known.

Morgan then relates the story of his wife and child's death and the writing of "Precious Lord" much the same way that Rich shared with us. Dorsey wrote hundreds of gospel songs including "Peace in the Valley." ♥

Musical Notes

by Keith Schweer, Music Vice President



We're down to our last few rehearsals before our trip to Salt Lake City. To help us assure that we are prepared to give our best on the contest stage, we have our regular Tuesday

meetings, extra Thursday rehearsals and special coaching sessions planned and scheduled, including special chorus rehearsals after we get to Salt Lake. What else can we do? Are there other things we can do to help us give our very best on Saturday, July 9 in Salt Lake? Well, I hope each one of us will devote some extra individual time to HOA between scheduled rehearsals. We all have room for improvement in the singing and performance aspects of our contest set. Taping yourself at rehearsal and then taking that tape home and listening to it with a critical ear and making improvements is an excellent way for each of us to do our best. Practicing the staging in front of a mirror is another excellent technique. We have put a lot of time and effort as a group so far into our preparations and still have more planned, but if each man could spend some extra individual time working on the 2 contest songs, I believe it would make a difference. What do you say? Is 30 minutes a day too much to ask? Do you think it would make a difference if all 95 men would devote an extra 30 minutes per day to HOA?

I want to thank all of you for your support during my surgery and recovery. The well-wishes, cards, visits and prayers were very much appreciated. It's wonderful having a family the size of HOA behind you when you need them. Hopefully, by the time you read this, I'll be back on the risers making final preparations for Salt Lake City. ♥

Heartbeat Hilites

by Sharon Oldehoeft, President

Members of *Heartbeats* met May 17 for an enjoyable evening of business and fellowship.



Sarah Fortino announced **Brian Marston** as the winner of the Harmony College Scholarship Award. We congratulate Brian and send our wishes for a beneficial and fun filled week in Columbus, OH.

We thank all who contributed items for the Book Sale fundraiser held June 4 at **Jeffi Combs** home. If we find this fundraiser to be a success, we will ask you to save your books throughout the year.

Do you have your plans made for Salt Lake City? Some of us are flying and some are driving but we are all excited to be there to support HOA and cheer them to victory. HOA Sendoff is June 28. We hope to see you then.

The Friendship Basket was won by **Mary Fortino**. We were all happy for Mary since she was also celebrating her birthday.

Our next meeting will be a Pot Luck, Sept. 13, at **Jan Mathieu's** home. We hope the ladies of HOA will mark that date on their calendar and join us for good food and good fellowship.

The *Heartbeats* are planning a fundraiser Oct. 8. We will be ushering and taking tickets at the Music Hall for the **Billy Joel** show. We will be allowed to watch the show after our work is done. Mark your calendar if you think you might enjoy helping at this event. More details will be forthcoming.

Have a great month and we will see you in Salt Lake!!! ♥

*"The important thing is
to dare to dream big,
then take action to
make it come true."*

- Joe Girard

Iraqi Update For June

by Dr. Neil Johnson, LTC, MC Chief, Clinical Operations

Here's an Iraq update from *HOA-forward*...

Life goes on, day by day. Nothing too exciting to report back on lately, from a war perspective. The insurgents hate us, the Iraqi civilians love us, and we all just want to get the heck outta here. That about sums it up.

I recently visited the Abu Ghraib prison. What a mess that place is. What truly impressed me was how the docs and nurses managed to keep their spirits up, despite the "clientele" and all the political hoopla still surrounding that place.



I got to meet **Toby Keith** (above) during his USO Tour. He did a live feed from our camp for the Country Music Awards show back home (did you see me?). It was a great show. I happened to be over at their hotel the next day helping the other guitarist with a back problem, and we got to watch the delayed feed on Armed Forces TV with the band. Suffice it to say Toby wasn't too happy about not winning Entertainer of the Year.

From a singing perspective, a lot is going on. Kenosha recently sent us the "Star Spangled Banner" sheet music for the *Hard Corps Chorale* in Iraq. We started learning it the night we received them. I even recorded all four voice parts for our learning CD, which helped get them up to speed even faster. The singers clearly enjoy this version better than the SATB version that we had before, as the SPEBSQSA version is geared more towards amateur singers and it has a lot better harmony. I'll send an MP3 file when we get it together.

The HCC is planning a big performance later this month in support of the new Iraqi Army's transition. What this means is that our top Army leaders will be handing the reins over to the top Iraqi warfighters. It's a big deal, as the key to us getting out of here is getting the Iraqi Army up to speed themselves. There will be a ceremony, and we will be singing **Joe Liles'** "America the Beautiful with Overlay," "You're a Grand Old Flag," "The Star Spangled Banner," and "Muwtini—The New Iraqi National Anthem." The latter is brand-new, never-before sung here. Before the fall of **Saddam's** regime, they had a different national anthem, one that was forbidden to be sung by the majority of Iraqis. After his ousting, the people decided to come up with a new anthem, one all the people can sing. Ironically, it's an adaptation of an old Palestinian folk song. Anyway, I got a hold of a translation of the song and the melody, and began arranging it in 4-part harmony. I can't wait til it's finished.

As always, I appreciate your keeping me in the loop about *HOA* and the preparations for SLC. Despite the 7,035 miles that separate us, I really can feel the energy building and can share the moment. It's going to be a great contest! ♥

A Long, Sweet Journey Reaches Its End Final Performance Of The Gas House Gang

by Jim Porter



Saturday, May 8 was the occasion of the 58th annual show for the *Pride of Iowa Chorus* in the grand, old-style theatre setting of Hoyt Sherman Place Theater, which would be the last stop of an 18-year journey for **Jim Henry** and **Rick Knight**, together with **Kipp Buckner** and **Mike Slamka**, as one of the best quartets this Society will ever see, the *Gas House Gang*. My wife and I were in the audience to say farewell and shed a tear or two, but came away blessed, not only by the *Gang*, but also by the *Pride of Iowa Chorus* and several of their quartets, who together put on a very excellent and entertaining show.

The chorus of 80 to 90 men opened the show, just as we did in Music Hall, but the men were casually and colorfully dressed, and arranged casually on stage on randomly placed wooden platforms rather than the standard riser arrangement. They would remain in place throughout the show, which was planned to go without an intermission, but there was one anyway, just before the *Gas House Gang* did their set.

While the *Gang* sang, all of the *Pride of Iowa* men were there to hear it, and were sitting casually and relaxed to enjoy the performance. Jim Henry noted that seldom when they did chapter shows were the chorus guys on stage with them and noted that they didn't have the best view -- but they were able to hear everything that the *Gang* sang. I thought that was a wonderful idea, and would welcome being able to do that in a *HOA* show.

We expected the *Gang* to make a presentation appropriate for a final performance, including a tribute to Rob, but that was not their style. Instead, they offered a mixture of their old favorites, up tunes for the most part, including their **Ed Sullivan** package, the Lone Ranger song from their early days, and "Eine Kleine Nacht Musik", sung after Jim Henry FINALLY quit talking about Beethoven!

The tearful farewells came after the show. We had a chance to talk with and thank each of the guys in the *Gang* and several in the chorus before leaving, knowing that while we won't be privileged to hear this wonderful quartet do a show again, its individual members would still be with us at various Society events. The Des Moines fellows thanked us for coming, and are prepared to show us all a *Pride of Iowa* welcome when we come to Des Moines in October. ♥

**"Performance, and performance alone,
dictates the predator in any food chain."
- SEAL Team saying**

FOCAL POINT

Up Close And Personal!



Ronald A. (Ron) McIntire hails from Arkansas City, KS where he graduated from Arkansas City High School and attended Ark City Jr. College. He went on to Wichita University

(now Wichita State University) and finished his degree in Mechanical Engineering at Kansas State University.

He was senior engineering manager at Fike Corporation in Blue Springs when he retired from there in 1993 after 20 years. He lives at Lake Tapawingo, MO with **Brenda**, his wife of 35 years.

He has sung in the *HOA* Bass section since 1981. His most vivid memory was his first International convention in Seattle, WA in 1983. "That year *HOA* waited outside the rehearsal room in the hotel for the *Phoenicians* to finish their practice. When the doors opened and the *Phoenicians* filed out, they each shook our hands and wished us well. That made an impression on me. Barbershop chorus competition is not a closely guarded secret. Everyone really does wish you well."

Ron's major hobby has been researching his family tree. When he and Brenda travel to Maine in late August every year, he seizes every opportunity to scour town records, roam through cemeteries and visit the home towns of his ancestors.

Ron has always wanted to sing in a quartet but it never worked out. So, five or six years ago when Singing Valentines quartets were assembled and there was an over abundance of basses, he learned the tenor part and has sung in a Valentines quartet ever since. ♥

**DEADLINE FOR THE
JULY HARMONOTES:**

**MONDAY,
JUNE 20**

A TIP OF THE HAT!

A well deserved TOTH goes to **Ron Abel** for his work to organize and assemble as many inactive and former *HOA* members, as he could, who sang under the direction of past *HOA* Director **Don Webb**. Don directed the chorus for several years including the 1960's.

A TOTH to **Don Young, Mike Schumacher** for organizing and conducting a 2-hour extra choreography rehearsal at the Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church, May 15 with help from director **Jim Bagby**. And, kudos to the 48 chorus members who attended the rehearsal. In the words of Don

Young, "Everyone sacrificed a beautiful day to work extremely hard for the entire two hours we had scheduled."

A TOTH to the Music Team for bringing in **Kevin Keller** to provide coaching for the chorus on "Apron Strings."



Extra Mile Awards Go To:



April 2005

Jim Porter (at left) - In recognition of his devotion to helping the Kansas City Missouri Chapter support Harmony Foundation by collecting money each week for the Foundation.

March 2005

Some of the Extra Mile recipients are singled-out for the work they did on the 2005 Singing Valentine program (Below, l to r) **Jon Gathright, Gordon Coleman, Vince Perry, Ron McIntire, Phil Veltkamp, Rich Huyck, Marty Oldehoeft, Al Higgins, Mike Mathieu, Dick Korek.** ♥



Photo taken by **Don Fuson**

"The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual."

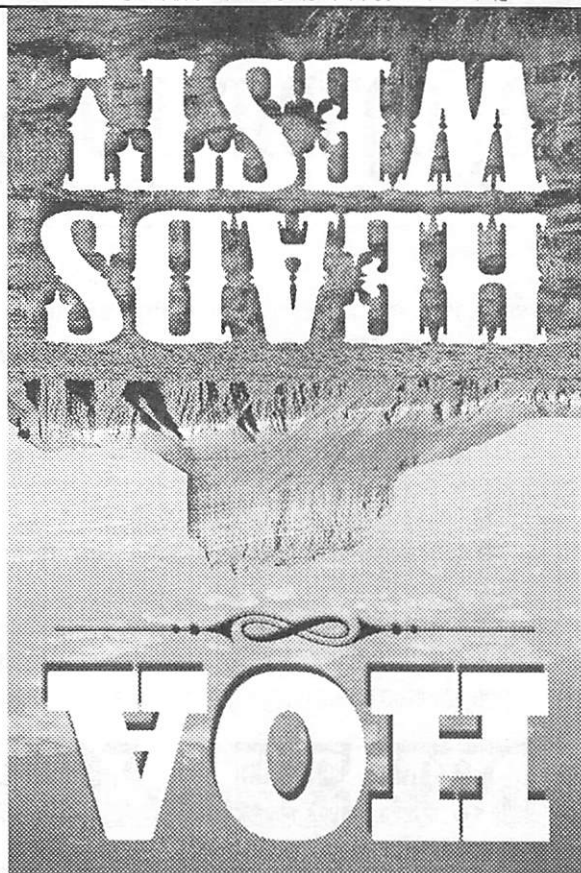
— **Vince Lombardi**



Society for the Preservation and Encouragement
of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America
Kansas City Chapter, Inc.
210 West 100th Terrace - Apt. #204
Kansas City, MO 64114-4431

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kansas City, MO
Permit No. 1215

Photo courtesy of Salt Lake City Convention & Visitors Bureau



- June 4 -** CSD Pop Gun Quartet
Coaching School, St. Joseph
- June 23 -** HOA extra rehearsal
HOA Sendoff, 8:30 pm,
Doubletree Hotel, Overland Park
- June 30 -** HOA extra rehearsal
International Convention in
Salt Lake City, Utah
- July 31 -** Area Chapters Picnic/ Concert
in Shawnee Mission's Theatre In The Park

Heart of America
CALENDAR