

HARMONOTES



Kansas City, Missouri's Heart of America Chorus

CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY®

VOLUME 09 - ISSUE 3 - MARCH 2009

Excellence In All We Do

by Doug Brott, Chapter President



BROTT

Singing Valentines, our first major project for the year, is complete. A huge *Thank You* to **John Erwine** and his team for their perseverance in the face of adversity. They all had very long days and nights leading up to Feb. 13. Even though there were some major issues they had to deal with, the information we as quartets received was everything we needed. John has already put together a team that will look at systems and processes so that the problems of this year will not be repeated. A great big *Thank You* also to all the men who sang in quartets this year. Obviously, the project can't go anywhere without you singing. I hope everyone had wonderful experiences. I know I did.

Our next projects are Harmony Explosion and, of course, our annual show. Harmony Explosion is our future. Getting young people involved in singing harmony means new members down the road. Let's show them all what excellence means.

Singing Valentines and the annual show are our major fundraisers each year, and, since we all LOVE to perform, the most FUN. The funds generated from these events the chapter must be able to continue forward. Given the state of the economy, 2009 will be a difficult year. Many people don't have the discretionary income they have had in the past. Unfortunately, entertainment is one of the first things to be cut when budgets become tight. So we need to be working that much harder to sell tickets. We have already seen smaller numbers with our Holiday Show and Singing Valentines. We need to make sure that does not happen with our annual show. Sell, Sell, SELL. It is never too late, even the day before the show, to talk to people and tell them what we will give them. We need to reach out to new people to make up for our past patrons that may not be able to attend this year.

Thanks to you all. Remember: Excellence in All We Do! ♥

Direct From the Front

by David Krause, HOA Chorus Director



KRAUSE

By the time you read this the show may be over. After our recent rehearsals, I have high hopes it will have been a very good one. We have lots of great music and the chorus is making great progress on it. And, of course, we should have some great quartet performances from our chapter groups and two quartets from the top groups at International last year. In addition, we've already had one really good coaching session this year with **Mike Slamka** and will work with the bass of his quartet, **Jim Henry**, in mid-April. Some other exciting plans in the works for some interesting work involving several of the area chapters but details are a bit sketchy as of now. Hopefully, that will all come together soon and will probably be reported to you through other channels before you read this. If you haven't visited a meeting for awhile, please feel free to come anytime you can. We understand that all can't attend each week, but would love to have you when you can make it. In fact, we've added a few new members and have had some great singing guests in recent weeks! ♥

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HARMONOTES

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

Heart of America Chorus

Chapter meets at 7 p.m. each Tuesday night, at:
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 St. Thomas More Church, 118th & Holmes, Kansas City, MO 64131. Chapter members are welcome!

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HOA Financial Corner

by Kent Miller, Financial Committee



MILLER

When I began this column in 2007 the title of the second article was "Why Didn't the Rest of us Know?" The article explained that all expenses a member incurs by going to contests – travel, lodging, meals, etc. – are tax deductible as a charitable expense, if you itemize deductions. I mentioned that based upon the results of my very informal poll, perhaps 80 to 90 percent of you were not aware of these deductions.

Recent discussions indicate that new members would like to know about the deductions and that older (longevity) members may need a refresher.

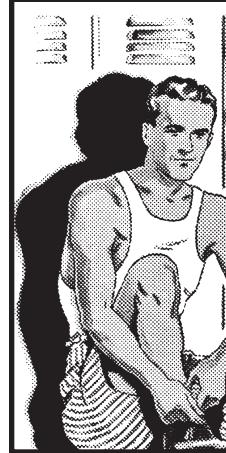
You may deduct the expenses because you are being educated. Section 5.4 of the Chapter Treasurer's Manual says: "...IRS regulations state that an educational organization is one designed primarily for the 'improvement or development of the capabilities of the individual.'"...The main part of a chapter's activity is directed toward improving and developing the capability of the individual to sing barbershop harmony."

These expenses are deductible because barbershop chapters fall under Section 501C(3) and are only deductible as charitable expenses. They are limited to 30% of the amount on Form 1040, line 38 (adjusted gross income). You must itemize deductions on Schedule A to use them.

You may deduct expenses associated with public appearances including contest, shows and other public appearances, and attendance at inter-chapter, area and district meetings (but not including chapter meetings unless you are specified officers). You may deduct expenses connected with travel such as travel fares, meals, lodging and expenses incident to travel unless you are only a spectator.

You must have very good records of your expenses in case you are audited. Also the IRS sometimes has trouble locating our organization in the IRS Code. The Chapter Treasurer's Manual gives explicit instructions on how to locate it (it is listed as SPEBSQSA). ♥

HOA GOLF SCRAMBLE!



You can now sign up for the HOA Golf Scramble at www.hoachorus.com. Remember, it's Saturday, May 2, 2009 at Falcon Lakes Golf course. Sign up as a single, foursome, or somewhere in between, but get your players signed up NOW so they don't commit to something else!



Oly's Angels Find SV Thrills Again, More Quartet Fun and Growth

by Jim Porter, Erstwhile Tenor

For the third year in a row, "Oly's Angels" got together to deliver Singing Valentines to grateful ladies (and one fellow) in various places across our area (400 miles in two days). We delivered 14 Valentines on Friday and 11 more Saturday, and each stop was its own story.

We gloried in the acoustics inside the Centropolis underground complex. We sang in schools, shops, restaurants and homes, from William Jewell University in Liberty to the Legends in KCK; Parkville to Independence, Excelsior Springs to Lee's Summit, Grandview to Johnson County (two successive house parties, four couples each time). We made such a hit in a Gladstone bank singing for all the tellers that the bank manager who ordered the Valentine placed a second order for his wife, which we fulfilled later in the afternoon.

All in all, it was a wonderful experience. We got our share of hugs, kisses and invitations to do more. It was such a privilege to be ambassadors for *Heart of America Chorus*, I only wish we could do this more often than once a year.

Our quartet has **Kevin Trisch** on lead, **Marty Oldehoeft** on bass, **Rod Flater** on bari and I sang tenor. After three years, we are getting to know one another pretty well, and we are singing together pretty well. We spent an evening with **Jon Gathright**, who coached and helped us considerably. He asked us why we didn't sing together more often. In most of our stops, we were honored by the compliments we heard about our singing. That is really encouraging, since none of us sing regularly in a quartet, nor are we recognized as "quartet singers." Our repertoire is limited by the fact that I am outside my usual part and Rod is not active with the chapter. Except for our younger lead singer, we'd be a "senior" quartet. Bottom line: four guys, two from the northland and two from Olathe, have found fellowship in song and it's been a wonderful experience.

I really believe more of you should seek to have the experience of quartet singing. I encourage you to give it a try. The big step, of course, is finding three other guys to sing with who can agree to meet together at a particular time and place to practice. Once that hurdle is overcome, you have the opportunity to really get to know three other guys in a way you could never do just seeing them at chapter activities. Chances are you'll find someone who is knowledgeable enough to take the lead while the group is practicing. (Rod is the man with our group.) It'll make you a better singer as well. You can't really say you know a song until you can sing it in a quartet.

It is a challenge to sing in harmony with three other guys, as our human nature is such that we tend to sing for all we're worth, as if we were doing a solo, and not pay much heed to what the other guys are doing. Give it some time and patience, and you'll see the difference. If most of us were to do this, then I am sure the level of performance of the chorus as a whole would improve significantly, and we could once again be planning on International appearances each July. ♥

Heart of America – Annual Spring Show

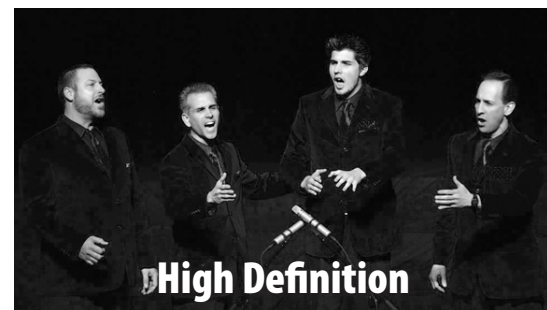
by Brad Dawdy, Marketing & PR V.P.

Winter is thawing and the *Heart of America Chorus* is hard at work preparing to welcome Spring with voices joined in harmony. HOA's spring show, "Swing N' Blues" is set for March 14, at Yardley Hall. The show features the *HOA Barbershop Chorus*, or course. HOA has several new songs as well as old favorites to share. Show times are 2 and 7:30 p.m.. Tickets can be ordered on line at the HOA website: www.hoachorus.com.

Headlining the show will be *3 Men and A Melody*. Entertainment guaranteed with these bright, young voices from the Kansas City area. District champs and one of the Barbershop Harmony Society's top quartets, *3 Men* offer variety in harmony, a comedic approach and a sound that lights up the stage!

High Definition will be there as well. *Heart of America's* own district championship foursome returns to thrill you with the buzz and personality that makes them an audience favorite everywhere. If you liked *12th Street Rag* quartet, you'll love barbershop in *High Def*.

And don't forget, the show always has performances from our chorus quartets; including the exceptional young men's quartet, *3rd Generation*. Music is in the air, and harmony will fill the night. See ya all there. ♥





Can We Keep 'Em?

by John Erwine, VP Membership



ERWINE

We've been blessed over the last number of weeks with quite a number of guests. Some continue to return regularly, others return as their schedules permit and some have not. Two have submitted their applications: **Jonathan Andrews** and **Dane Montgomery**. I believe more of these same guests will.

Now the question: what do we need to do to keep them all coming back? Up pops that old "retention" word again. Actually there are several things we can all do. Some are the obvious, like making them feel at home, making them feel important and needed, helping them with those puzzled looks that you may notice, talking with them about their backgrounds, families and friends. Ah, talking to them...approaching them. That might mean we'll have to break away from our regular crowd and spend time with someone we don't know. That's a hard one. I'm not trying to kid anyone; it's difficult for me too. What else?

There're other things perhaps not quite so obvious. How about the way we perform? I started to use the word rehearse, but if you remember this is part of our stated desire...to change our culture. So I changed my wording. How about our riser etiquette? How about our homework each week so as to show improvement from this week to the next? I somehow imagine this has as much to do with retention as anything. If they can see that we're demanding yet not overbearing, critical yet not demeaning, proud yet not aloof, serious but embellished with the fun of singing and fellowship, they may just keep coming back.

How about doing our best to make sure every hole on the risers is filled each week? Do you notice who isn't standing in front, behind or to the side of you this week that was there last week? Sure there are things that happen. But if this appears to become a consistent thing, what message are we now sending to these guests..."Hey, it's not that big a deal?" Maybe they're wondering if they'd rather be doing something else a little more rewarding. Grab the phone and call your riser buddy. Tell him you need him in your ear. Tell him you're a little worried he may not be able to keep up with us. Tell him he needs to come hear this new guy standing beside you. Tell the new guy you're darned glad he's here!

I know I'm "preaching to the choir," and I'm preaching to myself more than anyone. I know there are 150 more things we can do to help make our guests happy they chose to spend their Tuesday evenings with us. We have to retain to grow, and to do that we have to *keep 'em coming!* Remember: *Imagine, Inspire and Influence. It's Your Chapter.* ♥

Command Performance Keeps Busy!

by Carter Combs



COMBS

I'm not quite sure how it happens, but we always seem to have something going. This last month, though, has been one of "best laid plans..."

We started the year right, with a plan to take our wives out for a fancy feed, to show our appreciation for letting the boys go out and "play" every week. I say "plan" because, well, it didn't quite work out. On the appointed night, three couples had gathered at the American Restaurant, when we got the news that **Shirley** had slipped on the ice and hit the deck pretty hard. She and **Monty** decided they'd better stay home, just-in-case, so the rest of had to suffer through the evening without them. I'm pretty sure we ate (and drank?!?) most of their share, but managed to send home a "doggie bag" filled with desserts.

Singing Valentines is, without a doubt, our favorite two days of the year. Days full of laughing and crying, and that's before we even get out of the car! This year we also had a gig booked for the evening before the Valentine deliveries started. But, as in any good "best laid plans" story, the gig 'twas not to be. **Jon** had been fighting a cold all week and, on the fateful day, discovered he had no voice. A flurry of emails and phone calls later, we had coerced, um, convinced, uh... we were delighted that *Tone-Henge* was able to cover for us. *Thanks, ol' friends!*

Next day, Jon was well enough recovered to deliver 15 Valentines, though with some vocal distress along the way. By the end of the day, we realized we had probably pushed recovery beyond reasonable limits, and requested HQ release us from duty for Saturday. We are grateful they were able to accommodate.



This morning, we received a request to sing for a 98th birthday for this afternoon! Somehow, we all just happened to be able to shake free to do it. Then,

this evening was a return visit to the Westport House, where we sang for **Marie George**, ex-president of the Kansas City Sweet Adelines, who turns 100 in a couple months. (See photo above, courtesy of Rich Huyck)

So, keepin' busy... one of these days we might even get a chance to rehearse... learn that new parody... ♥



Singing Valentines Bring Letters

by John Erwine, 2009 Singing Valentine Chairman

What a hectic weekend this was. There were 120 Valentines delivered this year and 120 happy recipients. Although sales were not nearly what we had hoped for, those we delivered had as much love in them as always. And, as always, those who participated in the deliveries and in the support effort were greatly rewarded by the reactions of the recipients:

*"Just wanted to send a note of appreciation re. my order for **Sally Schrader** (my mother) at Vallen Springs. Had a phone call from her and she was absolutely and completely thrilled. I knew she would be at a brunch with some 25 (or more) other residents of the complex so the "Valentine surprise" was a huge delight of entertainment for not only my mother but many others. She thinks it may have inspired some additional attendees to your spring show, which she and I are definitely looking forward to. She and I wanted you to know just how much pleasure they all received. My Dad (**Elston Schrader**) was a long-time barbershopper (HOA, Harrisonville and Overland Stage), always had two quartets and we went to every International. Even though he is no longer with us, Mother and I still love Barbershopping and attend what we can when we can. Thanks again to you and all the HOA members. Our best to **Jim Bagby, Dan Henry, the Rural Route 4, Tone-Henge** and any other of the "more mature" barbershoppers I have forgotten. You all provide much happiness and GOOD entertainment for many" Most Sincerely, **Bev Silvious***

"Bless you for being obtainable with such short notice and thank you for singing at our luncheon, it was absolutely charming. My mother-in-law lost a member of her family and the funeral was yesterday. For her, it leaves her as the last of the Mohicans and rather sad. I am sure this is just the thing to lift her spirits and let her know she is loved. Thanks again for your prompt service." Karen Grantham, Secretary

The Speech and Hearing Rehabilitation department of Children's Mercy Hospital will be contacted within the next few weeks and a gift will be presented to them in the name of the Heart of America Chorus made possible by those Singing Valentines.

Were it not for community support of great sponsors such as Helzberg Diamonds, Russell Stover Candy, Flowerama, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, A l a d d i n Holiday Inn, DoubleTree of Overland Park and Hilton President of Kansas City, it would not have been possible. The success of this event year after year is a direct reflection on our good name in the Kansas City Metro area, thanks to the level of commitment to quality by you, the members of HOA.

Pictured above is the very happy winner of the Helzberg Diamond ribbon pendant, **Veronica Jackman**. The quartet 4Score presented the original Valentine. However due to time constraints, **Tone-Henge** agreed to make the winning presentation. ♥



PHOTOS!



TOP TO BOTTOM: Back row, left to right in picture: Don Fuson, Alex Tate, Mark Yeokum and Carl Turlin serenade a 90-year-old recipient in her home in Raytown; The same foursome croons to another happy Singing Valentine recipient! Photos courtesy of Don Fuson

Photo courtesy of John Erwine

Help! We're Old Guys

by Ol' Bruce



February 11-18 - what a week! *We're old guys* - why do we do this stuff?



Wednesday the 11th. For some reason our misguided Marketing VP thought that people might buy Singing Valentines after hearing *Tone-Henge* sing. So it's an early Wednesday morning (still feeling the afterglow) at Channel 5 to sing to the morning show folks. You know what we sound like when we're warmed up - well, now imagine how we sound at that time of day.

And with a last-minute change of plans. We were going to use the pipes, but one of us forgot to bring his (hint: he sings bari), so we had to substitute on the fly. The staff did a great job of pretending they liked it.

Thursday before Valentine's Day. We're doing the sensible thing for old guys, resting up for a big day tomorrow singing Valentines. Then we get the word that our good friends in *Command Performance* have a couple of evening gigs and an ailing voice, so we cover for them. Off to KMBZ radio, where we deliver a SV to **Darla Jay** on the air in the middle of her talk show. Paid off - she gave us some good plugs then and later on the show. Then off to do a full show for 150 seniors at their Valentine dinner. By nine o'clock we're finally ready to start resting up for tomorrow (*we're old guys*).

Friday, early. On the road to deliver eleven SV's. We actually found everybody at their places of employment, and managed to inflict maximum embarrassment on most of them in front of their co-workers. This is where it really pays off to use the pipes - it's a great distraction from the quality of our singing. (Maybe some of them meant it when they said they enjoyed it.) Two of the recipients were repeats - we know them well, and sing for them every year. Not the hardest day we've had delivering SV's, but we were ready for some rest after we finished. *We are old guys*.

Saturday evening. Our annual *Tone-Henge* Valentine's dinner with the *Hengettes*, this year at Zest Restaurant in Mission Farms. Had a great dinner, and when we had finished we sang "Happy Birthday" to **Jim** (prompting another patron to request similar treatment), followed by a rendition of "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" to our wives. That one brought down the house. It also brought the management, who requested that we do the same song for the main dining area. Done, and the place went wild. You can't get a better audience than that for this song - they're all out with their sweethearts for a Valentine's Day dinner. The owners offered us free drinks if we'd stick around and sing some more, but we actually declined. Time to get some rest - after all, *we're old guys*.

Wednesday noon. We had the pleasure of delivering the diamond pendant to the lottery winner - also sang her a couple numbers and gave her a second rose and box of candy. She's already working on next year - how she can make her guy feel obligated to top this year. Travel plans were mentioned. Hope this guy is saving up. And now back home to rest up again - we are old guys, after all. And we're not through yet - the next afternoon we head for Columbia to lead their chapter's musical program for a recruiting meeting at which they hope to have 100 men - they call it their annual 100 Man Night. We've done this in previous years, and it's always a lot of fun. But tiring - remember, *we're old guys*. ♥

The Handful Goes North

by Tony Strub



It is a rare occasion when our HOA brothers visit the north side of THE MIGHTY MO, but on Jan. 26, the *New Harmony Handful*

were welcomed at the Liberty home of John and Nancy Erwine for great food, drink, hospitality and a very productive rehearsal. We greeted Tom Elefson as a new member of our group and added some new material to our repertoire.

On Feb. 2 at the Overland Park Marriott Hotel Grand Ball Room, our mini-chorus sang the National Anthem, under the direction of Jim Davis, for the annual banquet dinner of the Hotel and Lodging Association of Kansas City. The emcee of the event thanked the Association for its support of the Kansas City Chapter's "Harmony Explosion" program, and informed the audience about the NHH, what we do and how to contact us.

He also told the audience about *The Heart of America Chorus*, our 63rd annual show at Yardley Hall and about the Barbershop Harmony Society bringing the international convention to KC in 2011. The crowd really liked that news.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, the NHH will venture north of the river again on Feb. 23 to Betsy and Tony Strub's Happy Rock (that's Gladstone to you foreigners) home for more food, drink and barbershop singing. Our brothers from the south, east and west were informed that if they were to come north for a third event in a single calendar year, they would be eligible for a Northland Green Card.

DON'T FORGET, *The New Harmony Handful* is always looking for opportunities to sing and promote HOA.. ♥





Win A FREE TRIP FOR TWO To Anaheim!

Register for Anaheim by March 31st for a chance to win FREE roundtrip airfare for two, five nights' accommodation at the convention hotel of your choice and tickets to three incredible shows!

THE PRIZE PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Roundtrip economy class airfare for two to Anaheim/Los Angeles for the convention
- Five nights' accommodation at the convention hotel of your choice
- Two tickets to the Harmony Foundation Presents... Show (Featuring the Vocal Majority with Max Q, Masters of Harmony with OC Times, Ambassadors of Harmony with Vocal Spectrum & the Harborlites!)
- Two tickets to the Association of International Champions Show
- Two tickets to the World Harmony Show & Dinner

The following restrictions apply:

- All ticket purchasers that register for the convention by March 31, 2009 are eligible to win
- Max airfare reimbursement is \$400 per person
- Once booked, itinerary cannot be changed or transferred
- Barbershop Harmony Society & Harmony Foundation employees are not eligible

If you have already registered for the convention, your name will be put into the drawing along with everyone who purchases a registration by March 31st, 2009. The winner will be announced on April 3rd, 2009. ♥

Make An Effort To Patronize Our Sponsors!

Heart of America CHORUS SPONSORS

The Heart of America Chorus membership owes it to our sponsors to be aware of their support. Please use and/or support their products/services whenever possible and make an effort to let them know that we are thankful for this support!





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



DEXTER

TEN YEARS AGO:

MARCH, 1999

Of course, it was "Singing Valentines" time, and the Spring issue of *Harmonotes* contains a few articles regarding the SV activity this year.

In an article on the front page from Music Director Gordon Lankenau, he describes an incident that involved his quartet, "Four Hearts."

"(My quartet) had a wonderful experience delivering joy and surprise in the barbershop style to many unsuspecting recipients. Anyone who missed out on this fun opportunity has really missed a major thrill our hobby can provide. We even had the unexpected opportunity to meet and sing for **Lisa Calvert**, Vice-President for Development at "HEARTSPRING," one of our Society projects. She happened to be in town with her husband. Some of his associates at one of our delivery locations noticed our attire and music and inquired whether we could sing for her at dinner. Thanks, **John, Dick and Darrell.**"

TWENTY YEARS AGO: MARCH, 1989

The 20-page March 1989 issue of *Harmonotes* was chock full of good stuff, which is not surprising for a large and greatly active chapter such as the Kansas City bunch. The late **Gil Lefholz**, who was the chairman of the 1989 International convention to be hosted by Kansas City had an excellent article that described in precise detail the entire program for this highly important event. The convention headquarters were to be in the Westin Crown Center, and the quartet and chorus contests were to be held in the Kemper Arena. One of the events was a dinner hosted by International President **Jim Richards**, with lots of help from First Lady, **Ebie**. According to Gil, "A theme party, where they hope everyone will come dressed as a song title, should be a lot of fun." What do you think of that?

FORTY YEARS AGO: MARCH, 1968

Only two pages in this edition of *Harmonotes*. And not much stuff that is especially interesting. Editor **Don Thorne** reminds all of the chapter ticket sellers that the program for the annual show will feature the *Nighthawks* of London, Ontario, Canada; the *Vigortones*, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and our own *Skyliners* and *Merry Mugs*. Quite an interesting program, don't you think? Also, Don includes a very brief note as follows, "The Rudy Fick Royalties," after 15 years, had "finally gotten their picture framed and hung in the sacred halls of Harmony Hall at Kenosha." ♥

Sheridan's

FROZEN CUSTARD

MADE FRESH ALL DAY



Top, left to right: Monty Duerksen (sometimes known as Sir Montrose of Doiksen) enjoys his cold treat; Dick Korek and Jerry Sheridan with helper dishing out frozen custard; longtime member Dick Krueger (bass). Now sings in Harmony Handful; Don Fuson helps Dick Korek with the Fiz; Charles Ramirez and Bruce Wenner chat it up over frozen custard. Photos are courtesy of Ron McIntire



Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter

WE HAVE A WINNER!



Left to Right: Jim Porter and Stew Grosser pose with Stew's record-setting raffle winnings!
Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire

Stew Grosser claims a record jackpot of \$2,541 on Feb. 10!

It took more than a year and 47 drawings, but the record set by **Bruce Marston** Aug. 15, 2006 (\$2,100) finally fell after 10 consecutive drawings with the minimum four marbles in the bag failed to produce a winner. *Congratulations, Stuart!* It is a record that may stand for a long time into the future.

Note that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. One fourth of the proceeds are 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 Feb. 17, after 11 drawings (4 since last report):
The total collected for Harmony Foundation since the last report is \$608.
The total collected for the year to date (since Nov. 10, 2008) is \$2139.
The total for the previous year was \$385.
The total in our best previous year (2006) was \$1589. ♥



March 4 **Ron McIntire**
March 6 **David Krause**
March 16 **Eric Weber**
March 17 **Don Young**
March 23 **Charles Ramirez**
March 29 **Jerry Meier**

**A special
THANK YOU
goes out to the
Heartbeats for all
your hard work
sewing new magnets
into the riser skirts.
I appreciate all you
do for the chorus!**
— David Miller, Operations VP



A TIP OF THE HAT!

The Tip O' The Hat is recognition to both members and non-members who have made a recent contribution in time and effort to the betterment of the Kansas City, Missouri Chapter.

A big Tip 'O The Hat to John Erwine and his Singing Valentine HQ crew: **Ron McIntire, Pat Ross, Mike Templar, Mike Mathieu, Marti Schutte,** and **Marlin and Beverly Weidler.**

Hat's Off to *Tone Henge* (**Jim Bagby, Keith Schweer, Dan Henry and Bruce Wenner**) for standing in for the *4 Score* (**Brad Dawdy, Jim Davis, Doug Brott and Kent Miller**) quartet to present the Helzbergs diamond ribbon pendant to **Veronica Jackman**, Feb 16 (pictured on page 5).

A Tip Of The Hat to the 14 quartets who delivered Singing Valentines to the 120 happy recipients on Feb. 13 and 14. To paraphrase an old saying, "You Da Men."

Hats off to the *Heartbeats Sewing Team*, shown above at right, for spending time in early January to sew magnetic strips into the *HOA* riser skirts: **Mary Fortino, Mary Jo Miller, Marilou Coleman, Jana Henderson, Jeffi Combs and Linda Schumacher.** ♥



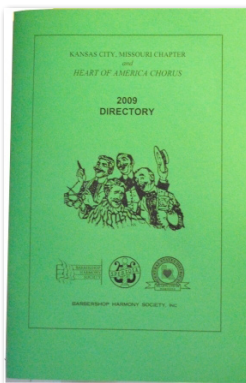
Above: the Heartbeats Sewing Team hard at work adding magnetic strips to the riser skirts.

Not pictured - Jeffi Combs

Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire

Chapter Directory

by Ron McIntire



The 2009 Chapter Directory is out and the color is green. If you haven't picked yours up, see Ron McIntire or MVP John Erwine. A new addition to the directory is a three-page General Information section in the back of the publication. The section includes information on what to do if bad weather looms and a rehearsal is threatened with

cancellation, chorus performances, Salvation Army Caroling Caravan, awards and much more. It will clarify and answer questions for both current and new chapter members. ♥

Barbershopper of the Month!



Ron McIntire

Mike O'Dell - January 2009

Above: *HOA* President **Doug Brott** (right) presents **Mike O'Dell** with the January BOTM Award!

In grateful appreciation for your ongoing work as *HOA* Music Librarian to distribute, maintain and otherwise keep track of and watch over the music for the *Heart of America Chorus*.



Summary of February 2009 Board Meeting

by Vince Perry/Ron McIntire



FINANCE REPORT Harvey Shapiro:

- **Ron Fortino** has started the annual treasurer financial audit.
- As of 01/31/2009
Operating fund - \$16,212.44
Restricted Fund - \$7,350.32
- Revenue from the Installation/Awards Banquet - \$2,175

VP MARKETING/PUBLIC RELATIONS Brad Dawdy:

- Spring Show/Singing Valentine Four Person Scramble flyers with correct telephone number for Spring Show tickets will be mailed this week.
- New pocket cards are being printed and will be available for quartets to distribute while delivering Singing Valentines.

VP OPERATIONS

VP David Miller:

- Magnets have been sewn into the riser skirts by the Heartbeats and pre-numbered for easy installation. Because the riser skirts were sewn by hand, "ripping them off is no longer an option."

VP MUSIC & PERFORMANCE Kent McClean

- The music team is trying to get **Jim Henry** for a Tuesday coaching session.
- Choreographer **Cindy Hansen** seems agreeable to doing the choreography for "If I Were A Bell" and "Basin Street Blues" and coaching the chorus. Details are in progress.
- Music In The Park Concert 2009 will be a 90-minute program scheduled for July 12, 2009. The fee will be \$600.

VP PROGRAM Carl Turlin:

- InTune format has changed to make it easier to read and clearer to distinguish major event announcements thanks to input by **Jim Bagby** and **Todd Anderson**.

- Special lead practices were held but with very limited participation.
- As suggested by the Music Team, all verbal announcements during the entire chapter meeting will be eliminated; guests will be introduced at the start of the meeting; birthdays and membership renewals will take place after the rehearsal. These suggestions are on a trial basis for several weeks pending acceptance by the chorus.
- A venue search for next year's Installation Award's Banquet has begun.
- Singing 4 Life Blood Drive is scheduled for May 16, 2009.

VP MEMBERSHIP John Erwine:

- Special Guest night is planned for Feb. 17. Sheridan's Frozen Custard treat afterward.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Four-Person Scramble Golf Tournament EVP Kent Miller:

- Flyers are available and the web registration page is near completion. There are possibilities for publicity with Channel TV5 and Channel TV4.

Harmony Explosion! (HE!)

Past President Tony Strub:

- *The Heart of America Chorus* will perform two songs at HE! Saturday morning, March 7.
- A network of schools within 150-mile radius of Kansas City has been established. Positive interest has received from as far away as Salina.
- Changes in judging and awards format will conform to Kansas State High School Activities Association, provide earlier registration opportunities and learning media incentives.

NEW BUSINESS:

T-Bones National Anthem President Doug Brott:

- The Olathe Chapter has invited *HOA* to sing the National Anthem with them at the start of T-Bones game, June 19, 2009. It will be preceded with an inter-chapter

pot luck dinner. Discounted tickets would provide an opportunity to sing in the chorus and see the game.

Metro Area

Inter-Chapter Performance's President Doug Brott:

- All local BHS Society Chapters including Topeka and St Joseph are invited to participate in a Metro Area Inter-Chapter targeted for June 27, 2009. The program rules are:

Each chorus may sing two songs;

Combined choruses may sing two or more songs.

Central States District (CSD)'s 2009 International quartet qualifiers may sing on the show.

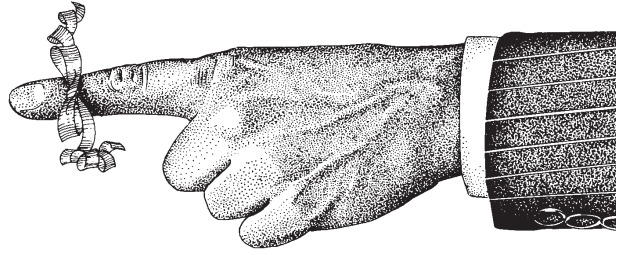
Each chapter will sell tickets at a venue to be selected.

Use of chapter risers:

- The board agreed to allow the *Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adeline's* the use of the *HOA* risers and trailer for their Regional Contest April 2-4, 2009. ♥



Heart of America Chorus Calendar



- March 7** Harmony Explosion at Olathe East High School, 14545 W. 127th St., Olathe, Kans.
- March 14** 63rd Annual Show at Yardley Hall in The Carlson Center, in the Johnson County Community College featuring *High Definition* and *Three Men and a Melody*
- April 24-25** CSD Spring Convention, Springfield, MO
- May 2** 3rd Annual HOA Golf Tournament at Falcon Lake
- May 16** Singing For Life Blood Drive
- May 16** Overland Park Chapter Show, featuring *Rural Route 4*
- May 30** Annual Tag Party at Joe Mathieu's

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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