

HarmonOtes

Monthly Update of Kansas City's Heart Of America Chorus

"COMBUSTACHORDS" SPRING FLING CHAMPS

By Jim Bagby, Quartet Promotion Chairman

The 2000 HOA Spring Fling was a fitting chapter capstone to the Society's annual Harmony Week, drawing 15 quartets for the April 11 competition.

That's from a field of 23 appointed foursomes. Some fellers put in more effort than others in assembling their guys, but we got a lot of effort and fun from the 60 guys who crossed the stage. About one-third were making their first public appearance in a quartet, and guys like **Mark Fortino**, **Ralph Tallmon** and **Darrell McCune** switched to tenor.

The impressive winners were the *Combustachords*, who left the Barber Pole Cat ranks far behind with an impressive rendition of "I Will Pass This Way But Once", featuring a dandy solo by new member **Wayne Crawford**. **David Glastetter** was the tenor, **Tom Elefson**, bari, and **Eric Weber**, bass. These guys say they plan to stay together—presumably with a better name than the one assigned!

After their performance midway through the contest, Emcee **Keith Schweer** quipped, "Well, looks like we might as well go to the afterglow now."

Second place went to the part-switching *Four by Four*: **Matt Moore**, **David Krause**, **Joe Mathieu** and **John Stucker** (two of those were replacements from the original appointees). The brightly costumed *Tune Twisters*, complete with props and a clever "Lucky Old Sun/KC Convention" parody, took third with **Jim Porter**, **Mike Mathieu**, **Rick Dunaway** and **Dick Korek**.

Rounding out the top five were the *Wyly Ones* and *Travel Tunes*. **Lyle Wyly**, **Carl Turlin**, **Dick Irwin** and **Barry Sanders** took 4th with an engaging "Singing Valentines/Part of Part/Let Me Call You Barbershop" parody. And the 5th-place *Travel Tunes* presented "Down Our Way," complete with patter.

Members were **Dick Winter**, **Stan Maxey**, **Al Higgins** and **Monty Duerksen**. Judges were Chairman **Vince Perry**, visiting former Society PR man **Robb Ollett** from San Francisco, **Chris Kinghorn**, **John Renfro** and veteran **Warren Edmondson**. **Jim White** did a super job of tallying all the scores, and **Tyson Lindsey** served as pattern coordinator. **Joann Bagby** made Shrinky-Dink medals for the top five and participant certificates for everyone. Thanks to all who took part!

Let's start planning now for another big time at the fall Bush League contest. ■



Express

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Harmonotes express

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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 Express* 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 Express* 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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CHAPTER INFORMATION

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Member Of



FROM THE TOP OF OUR HEART

On Tuesday April 11th this chapter held it's annual "Spring Fling" quartet contest. This is a night when quartets that have been formed for fun have a chance to show-off for the rest of the chorus. This was my second or third "Spring Fling" since moving to KC. I gotta tell ya, this was without a doubt the most exciting and fun evening I have had with this chorus! Who could have guessed that we would have over 100 people show up on a Tuesday evening! Who would have expected that we would have so many quartets (fifteen, I think) cross the stage. What a performance by all of them and especially by one of our newest leads, Mr. **Wayne Crawford!** The gentleman hasn't even been with us for a year and he already has a first place "medal". Congratulations to each and every quartet member!

April 11th was also a night for reunions. We had many non-active members either in quartets or in the audience. It was really great to see so many faces that needed to be explained (Who is he? Is that guy a member too?). What a thrill for me as president to have the opportunity to welcome so many friendly people. This evening was fantastic! And we owe a very hearty THANKS to the man who made it happen - Mr. **Jim Bagby!!!!** On behalf of the chorus Jim, *Thank You* for helping to make one April evening such a great experience for so many people.

So, where do we go from here? Well, our next performance is Old Mission Methodist on April 29th. This performance is special. In fact, every performance we do is special! But, this one is special for a couple of reasons. First, this is a 200 in 2000 performance. We are "selling" this chapter/chorus/hobby to people who may never before have experienced barbershop music. Remember, there is only one chance at a first impression! Ours MUST be a good one. Everybody should be signing up to be in this performance. Secondly, this is the church where our very own 200 in 2000 man, Mr. **Dan Henry**, is a member! Are we gonna let the old geezer down? *I think not!* Get your name on the list and be there on Saturday, April 29th!

Don't forget to sign up for the June 10th performance at Yardley Hall. We will be sharing our stage with the *American Barberboys* and one of the Central States District International quartet qualifiers, *Sibling Rivalry!* This should be a sell-out show. Push those tickets! It doesn't get any better than this!!!!



WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

by Dick Irwin, HOA President

This question has to be one of the most needed and usually least asked questions in our society, "What can I do to help?". I read several chapter bulletins each month and the theme is very common all across the nation. I guess the thing that bothers me the most about this problem is that so few are willing to step forward to help change the trend. This problem is not restricted to our society. I belong to another "fraternal" organization where I see the few helping the many.

It's like I used to tell my kids when there was work to do "Don't wait for me to tell you what needs doing! Look around and see what you can do! *You live here too!*" (I must be getting old! I keep relating to stories about my children when they were young.)

In every chapter there are literally dozens of jobs that scream for someone to step up and help. Most of these jobs can be handled with very little effort and time. Obviously, there are some jobs that will require more effort (show chairman or uniform manager for instance). Every single job that needs doing is essential to a chapter, YOUR chapter. No chapter can run smoothly or otherwise without someone to get the jobs done.

Wouldn't it be great if more people stepped forward to help?



Now, I know every person in the Kansas City Chapter/Heart of America Chorus wants this organization to be the very best. We love when people compliment our performances or chapter meetings. Wouldn't it be great if we could be recognized as one of the best operating chapters in our society? Wouldn't it be great if more people stepped forward to help? Would you like to know how this can happen? It's

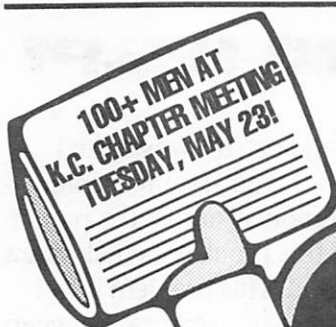
simple...don't wait for me to tell you what needs doing!

Look around and see what you can do! ***You live here too! ■***

by Grant Hunget, Membership Co-Vice President

Wouldn't that be a great headline the next day?! WOW! Wouldn't YOU like to be able to say you were part of it?! **WOW!** Men, there's not a darn thing special about May 23, 2000, except for the fact that you could end up being "part" of a very large, exciting sound! **AND YOU ARE INVITED!**

What's going to happen you say? **BIG** numbers of Kansas City Chapter Barber shoppers on the risers—what more do you need?! Come out and either remember, or discover how great it sounds to sing with over 100 guys on the risers. **HOLY COW!!** We'll sing some oldies & goldies, perform a little reper-



MARK THE CALENDAR NOW. SEE YOU TUESDAY, MAY 23 AT 7:00PM. St. Peter's Church, 110th St. and Holmes!!! All current members please attend.

toire, and generally have just a whoppin' **GOOD TIME!!**

Now, in order for this to happen, we need **YOU** to show up. **YOU.** If there's anything that normally keeps you away from meetings on Tuesday nights, see if you can rearrange it just for one night, for the sake of allowing yourself to have a **GOOD TIME** with the rest of the members of the Kansas City Chapter. **MARK THE CALENDAR NOW. SEE YOU TUESDAY, MAY 23 AT 7:00PM. St. Peter's Church, 110th St. and Holmes!!! All current members please attend.**

We've had a large number of guests at recent meetings, and a number of them are joining in the fun! As a result of the Spring Show, Ads placed for "Guys Nite Out" on March 28 (the next "Guys Nite Out" is scheduled for JUNE 13th), and many members bringing guests recently, our new member number now stands at 10, and another 7-8 are coming 'round the bend! Things are heating up, and look to continue that way, as we move into a string of "200 in 2000" performances. **Dan Henry Bowser** has been hard at it setting things in motion with that program. Thanks to Dan, and thanks to all you members who continue to introduce singers to our great hobby! ■

OPENERS-FOR THE EYES AND EARS

by Max Boise



First for the EYES - Can you imagine what happened to this ol' 1947 graduate of Wellington, Ohio

High School (Is that school still standing, Max?) when my EYES saw page 14 of the Jan-Feb, 2000 issue of the society's *Harmonizer*? The article about **Burt Szabo** caught my attention big time! As for the other three fellows in the **SILVER LININGS** quartet, I remember each of them also.

For six weeks Burt (known as **Albert** then) and I were the high school band's baritone section. His normal partner in that section made me (reluctantly) go back to the cornet/trumpet section after recovering from an appendectomy. My sister (who attended our '99 show) saw Burt last year at their 50th high school graduation reunion and shared some of the conversation with me. The *Harmonizer* article further piqued my interest enough to call Burt.

I couldn't find a phone number for Burt so I called **Jim Bagby**. He had mentioned at the meeting on Feb 22 that he'd recently seen Burt.

Success! He had Burt's number and shared it with me. My EARS heard some fine barbershop conversation with Burt Szabo. He confirmed plans to be at both the International

Convention in Kansas City and at Harmony College in St. Joseph in August.

If you've not yet met Burt, take the time to do so. (I plan to see him at least in Kansas City.) You'll find him to be the same unassuming, but talented person I first met over 50 years ago. ■

AND THE BEAT GOES ON

by Dessie Gathright, Heartbeats President

A super year 2000 began for the Heartbeats with a transitional planning meeting of officers in the month of January. **Dessie Gathright**, President, **Joan Korek**, Vice-President, and **Sandy Rule**, Secretary-Treasurer met and formulated goals, objectives, and operational procedures for the ensuing year. Lots of excitement and hard work are the order of the day for the first seven months!

In February, your ladies had their kick-off meeting and found business galore on their plates! Of course, convention is the mammoth item we face but more immediately we had to get ready for the luncheon for our fellows' spring show; man the Harmony Explosion with helpers; discuss the Harmony College Scholarship; etc. etc. etc. Membership is a crucial item this year—we need lots of participants to hostess the various activities of convention. Besides the January officers' meeting, we scheduled meetings in February, April, June, September, and November. (These are always preceded by my official newsletter, "And the Beat Goes On," which is mailed out the week preceding the imminent meeting.)

Heartbeats are never short of activity or "something to do." Heartbeats are always ready, willing, and quick to be of service (all of our ladies have talents and positive attributes)—and with that, I would like to pay a special tribute to two ladies: **Betty White** and **Sharon Oldehoeft** are truly "Heartbeat of the Year" twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week! Whether they have just had major surgery or suffered a devastating loss of a loved one, these beautiful ladies are always there to serve or give of themselves to help others! To know them and call them friend is indeed a privilege. Betty and Sharon are kind, gentle, strong of heart, always positive, never have a negative word to utter—and I could go on and on with unparalleled positive adjectives. The next time you see one of them, extend a hand, give them a hug, and say, "Thank you" for being! What wonderful role models they are for us. We appreciate them sooooo much.

And, praises to **Bev Weidler** who showed up and spent all day helping at the Harmony Explosion at Olathe East High School—above and beyond the call of duty.

I would like to reiterate our goals for the year: to have fellowship, fun, and provide service as a ladies auxiliary organization. This must be first and foremost in our minds and hearts—and is, as evidenced by the examples noted.

The last two meetings of the year (September and November) are strictly reserved for FUN—probably a picnic and an end of the year party, respectively. We invite all ladies to join in our camaraderie and fellowship! Positively, **Dessie**



FROM THE HEART

We were thrilled to compete at Spring Prelims this year and finished 6th in the contest. What a FUN weekend! After a couple of hitches getting up to Lincoln (including car trouble in Mound City), we arrived at the HQ hotel at 5:30, grabbed our registrations, lost Gordon en route to our hotel across town, literally got out of the car, into the shower, dressed and did makeup, warmed up for about 10 minutes and were into the contest pattern by 6:45; it was NUTS! Somehow, we kept our cool and gave it our best shot.

Saturday found us with a lot more time to rest and relax, and the chance to visit some friends from around the district, plus take in the College Quartet contest. *Millennium* (the winner) was AWESOME, and the Andover-Tones, who won our Youth Outreach event, were great too.

We'd like to extend our gratitude to a couple of people who helped us out TREMENDOUSLY on really short notice. **Jo Kraut** and **Jim Bagby** both shared their time and talents with us over the last few weeks, so to them we say "THANK YOU!" And some more thanks to the gang who went along to support us:

- **Becky Lankenau** and her mom, **Virginia**, **Jill Bostick**, and **Grant's** parents,
- **Phil and Connie Hunget**, who drove over from Mason City to cheer us on. It was great to have them, plus several others from the chapter, out in the audience, rooting for us.

Congrats to *12th Street Rag* on a great performance, and to *Gentlemen of Note*, who did a fine job as well. It was really neat to have three quartets representing the chapter at prelims. Good Luck to *12th Street* and *Sibling Rivalry* as they represent the CSD this summer in Kansas City!

RE: the June 10th show

Don't forget, HOA shares the stage with the *American Barberboys* and our 1999 CSD Quartet Champs, *Sibling Rivalry*, on June 10th at Yardley Hall, on the JCCC Campus. This promises to be a fantastic show, especially since our guest quartet just qualified for International in Lincoln a couple weeks ago. There's only one show, 7:30 p.m., so order your tickets now. Call the JCCC box office at 913-469-4445. Ticket prices are \$6, \$11, \$16, and \$21.

There are only about 1,250 seats in the theater, so get your tickets early! It's bound to be a sellout! ■

DID YOU KNOW?

The music to "*Take Me Out To The Ball Game*," 1908, was written by **Albert Von Tilzer**, brother of **Harry Von Tilzer**, who gave us many barbershop songs. When Albert wrote the music, he had never seen a baseball game. (Source: PBS radio broadcast)



ACTUAL COMMENTS ABOUT BARITONES

Source: *Big D Bulletin*, December, 1998—Grant Carson, editor

Actual comments about baritones, trust me, the editor wouldn't lie.

"Out of his depth in a parking lot puddle."

"Has delusions of adequacy."

"Sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them."

"Is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot."

"Should go far—and the sooner he starts, the better."

"Not the sharpest knife in the drawer."

"Got into the gene pool while the lifeguard wasn't watching."

"A room temperature IQ."

"Got a full six-pack, but lacks the plastic thingy to hold it all together."

"A gross ignoramus—144 times worse than an ordinary ignoramus."

"A photographic memory but with the lens cover glued on."

"Bright as Alaska in December."

"One-celled organisms out-score him in IQ tests."

"Donated his body to science before he was done using it."

"Fell out of the family tree."

"Gates are down, the lights are flashing, but the train isn't coming."

"Has two brains; one is lost and the other is out looking for it."

"He's so dense, light bends around him."

"If brains were taxed, he'd get a rebate."

"If he were any more stupid, he'd have to be watered twice a week."

"If you stand close enough to him, you can hear the ocean." ■

(Express Editors Note: This article is simply "filler" and in no way reflects the Editorial Staff's actual opinions of any HOA baritone, past or present. In the spirit of fair play, every effort will be made to offend the other three parts in the month's to come. We're not sure if we can come up with as MANY derogatory remarks about the other sections, but we'll do our best (who knows, maybe we'll discover MORE!). Baritones are certainly encouraged to assist us in this process.)





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(Editor's Note: We are so grateful for friends like Jerry and Jeanne. We all look forward to Jerry's quick recovery. Events like this only go to prove that this society is nothing less than a family, a very loving and caring family.)

*— Jeanne Snyder
We do thank you.*

Jerry and I want to thank the chorus for your calls, visits, cards, gifts and especially your prayers during our recent health crises. When you do not have family, you must depend on your friends for help and support and I am especially grateful for all of you for being there for Jerry at this time when the need was great.

THANK YOU



Wade Dexter, Harmonics Editor Emeritus and 1988 HOA BOTY, recently learned he was a member of AAA (that stands for Abdominal Aortal Aneurysm) for which he received a stent insert to repair the damaged area. He entered St. Lukes Hospital and was discharged the next day! Quite a tribute to Wades' exercise regimen of walking at least a mile and a half every day!

HOA lost one of its' oldest members April 15th when **Bill Wall** passed away. Bill was HOAs BOTY in 1961 and President in 1962. He was also known as one of HOAs greatest ticket chairmen! Visitation was April 17 and his funeral was April 18 at D.W. Newcomers in Overland Park. Our sincere prayers go out to all of Bills' family and friends in this loss. ■

SUNSHINE NOTES - by Max Boise