

May 2005

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!*



Photo courtesy of Matt Bostick

LAST LOOK AT THE SHOW ARENA by Jim Bagby, HOA Chorus Director

I can't recall a Tuesday night after our annual spring show when at least one enthusiastic Kansas City Chapter member didn't get up and declare it, without reservation, "our best show ever!" Usually more than one. It's happened in some years when most of the leadership knew we shoulda stayed at home—but still somebody would jump up and say "boy, my sister-in-law said it was the best..."

This March, there were a bunch of folks, both chorus participants and audience members, who wanted to make that claim. And this time, I was one of them.

Modesty aside, last year's show, with the *Rural Route 4* coming out of retirement after 10 years, was hard to beat. But this year, the difference was the *Heart of America Chorus* stole the show.

Our chapter quartets, every one, did a great job. The Harmony Explosion quartets were appealing and well-received. The family chorus was so good I go back to watch the DVD just to hear "Love at Home." *Power Play* may not put on the best show of any headliner we've ever had, but they sing like the champs they are, they are extremely personable, the audience ate 'em up, and they interacted with the chapter all weekend.

But start to finish, the best sound, the best songs and the top performances came from *HOA*—the star of the show. I can't remember when I've been so proud: of you, my fellow arm-wavers and the music team.

In fact, the only real downer to the show weekend was the size of the audience. And that's a major consideration in evaluating a show. (continued on page 3 ♦)

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HARMONOTES

...is published by the board of directors of the Kansas City, MO., Chapter of SPEBSQSA, Inc., a non-profit organization. Unless accompanied by a byline, all articles have been written by the Editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the officers and members of the chapter. Space will be made available for opposing points of view.

Heart of America Chorus

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

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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:

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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

LIFE IS GOOD IN KANSAS CITY!

by Marty Oldehoeft, Chapter President



I was awakened again at the "group exercise" portion of the Spring Convention House of Delegates meeting. Well, I wasn't asleep so maybe I was made aware or reminded. At COTS last fall I had a similar experience, so this time I'll get it off me chest. We have a chapter we can rightly be proud of. Many of the problems and chapter related talk seems at first to be "small" chapter related. Things like who will direct, music leaders, skills coaching, learning media. Not too many years back we as a larger chorus suffered from some of these same ills. Which brings me to my point. (I know I've been a while getting there.) We are most blessed at this juncture in our chapters history. We have multiple talented directors, in chapter weekly coaching, new music teaching quartets, new music learning CDs, computer geek mp3 files and yes, a distinct champion chorus headed for another exciting trip to the international stage in July. I suggest then that we have a lot to offer and a lot of talent to draw from. Lets use it to its potential. It's truly GREAT to be a Kansas City Chapter barbershopper. ♥

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

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(Continued from front cover)

Audience response is a part of the "best" equation. And about one-third of a house (the Music Hall seats around 2,400) for each show means the place is not going to come tumbling down with applause, no matter how enthusiastic the crowd.

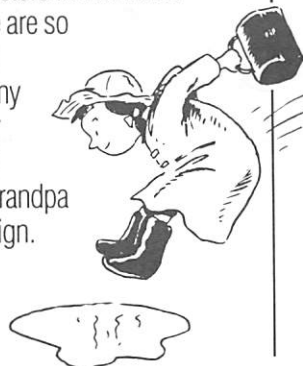
As usual, we had strong competition from other downtown events. Parking is a challenge. Just drawing people downtown is a problem. But in a metro area our size, those are not the real reasons the Music Hall is not full—because it is for other events, including many where ticket prices are three to four times what we charge.

We have to shoulder the burden of selling tickets. You and I. Not the central ticket office or our ticket hotline. Not **Dick Korek** or the marketing or PR people. Not the top two or three sellers whose names you read in the last *Harmonotes* (if a dozen more people had sold what they had, we'd have had about half of what the Music Hall would hold).

So an HOA group is meeting this month to brainstorm how we can market and sell better. Another possible venue likely will be part of that discussion. Any ideas you have should be passed along to outgoing Show Chairman **Grant Hunget** (if you look in the dictionary under dedicated, or perhaps long-suffering, you'll probably find his picture), his successor, **Jerry Garrard**, or perennially creative **Korek**.

There was one person who may have enjoyed the show more than my three brothers and I did (we had a ball; thanks for the great reception on the afterglow!). That was my seven-year-old grandson and tenor extraordinaire **Landon James**, whose mother passed along this entry from his school journal:

"I went to Kansas City for spring break. I sang a song called *Love at Home* in front of millions of people. The chorus I sang in was called HOA chorus, it stands for *Heart of America chorus*, but a lot of people call it HOA. That's all they say. My grandpa is one of the best directors in the world. He directed me. That's why we are so good. I got a backstage pass. I shared a dressing room with my grandpa. The sign on the door said old keith old peat and old jim...that's my grandpa! My grandpa let me right my name on the sign. I wrote young Landon. The end." ♥



BLACK INK CAN TURN INTO GOLD

by Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus



Todd Anderson is regularly putting out by far and away one of the finest chapter bulletins in the entire Society, certainly in the Central States District. It's good reading, it's good looking, and it contributes to good morale in the chapter by providing an excellent means of communication between and among the chapter administrators and the general membership. I imagine that

everyone, like me, looks forward to the arrival of each month's edition and reads every word right down to the bitter end.

Todd is doing such a great job, despite his busy schedule with his graphic arts business and the fact that he's unable to attend any of our chapter meetings, that he deserves every bit of credit that's available. But a small group of us is determined that Todd shall have an opportunity to achieve an editor's highest accolade, the CSD "Bulletin Editor of the Year," which will qualify him to compete in the international bulletin editor contest and bring home the international trophy.

We propose to provide coordination between Todd, as editor, and the people in the chapter who are in a position to provide appropriate material for each issue of *Harmonotes*. Many of these people—chapter officers, key committee chairs, and members themselves—are already doing a fine job of providing these materials. But there are some areas that the judges will be looking for that have been missing, and it's our purpose to make contact with those individuals to ensure that the items are made available to Todd.

We have targeted the October, November, and December issues as those we will be entering in the district competition in January of next year. So we have five months to get into the swing of providing Todd everything he needs to turn out championship bulletins for entry in the contest. With the super job that Todd is doing now, plus the extra help from every member of the chapter, we are confident that Todd Anderson will become the next international "Bulletin Editor of the Year." ♥

(Editors Note: Who doesn't enjoy nice words being said about them? Wade's zeal has certainly humbled me. In fact it reminds me of the Bible verse: "Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another." (Pr 27:17) Wade's determination and winning heritage will help raise the bar on our monthly publication. We are fortunate to have him in the trenches.

I'd love to win accolades for HOA via Harmonotes. Now that some vital pieces may be coming together, it'll be a hoot to see what upcoming issues will produce. If gold is on the horizon, it'll be because of wonderful readers like you who provided the verbage/photography to make it happen, not because you have a pointy-headed graphic designer for an editor. Here's to future publications. I pledge my best to match your best. - Ed. Todd)



HOA IS BLESSED WITH GREAT SPONSORS!

by Dick Korek,
Marketing & PR Vice President

Well, gang, the 2005 HOA Show is history but the need for sponsorships, for financial support, is ongoing. We have appreciated help from a variety of companies and the best way for us to say thanks is to give them our business when possible.

Frank Ancona Honda, First Watch Restaurants, Sheridan's Frozen Custard, The Green Company, FedEx Kinko's, Air Care, Overland Park Convention & Visitor's Bureau, Helzberg Diamonds and the **downtown Marriott Hotel** are our current hero sponsors.

Find out more about these great folks, check them out on the HOA website (hoachorus.com - sponsors). Let your friends, family and work associates know who supports HOA. Don't hesitate to say "thanks" to these companies for their support. ♥

NOTES FROM IRAQ

by Dr. Neil Johnson

The *Hard Corps Chorale* performed at an Easter Music Festival last week, sponsored by the local Baptist choir. About 500 attended and it was SRO+ in the Grand Ballroom. Eight groups performed a 10-15 minute set each, and the HCC was the clear audience favorite. Ever since that night, people come up to me several times a day and say how much they enjoyed our part of the show. We sang the *Armed Forces Hymn*, *Irish Blessing*, and *America the Beautiful with Overlay*. Everything went perfect except the audience got behind us (or we got ahead) on ATB. I attribute this to the fact that the singers (mostly new guys) still had music in their mitts and weren't watching me for the adjustments. I'll fix that. Naturally, no one in the audience noticed anyway, and when we nailed the tag it was one of the few moments when tears were rolling in the audience. It was also the first and only spontaneous standing ovation of the night.

Oh, the war is going fine, too. ♥



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2005 ANNUAL SHOW FINANCIAL REPORT:

by Grant Hunget, 2005 Show Chariman

INCOME:

Ticket Sales \$27,696

EXPENSES:

Sound System Rent	\$1,825
Backdrop Rent	\$548
Bus/Shuttle Svc	\$110
Deaf Interpreter	\$200
Postage - Mailer	\$654
ASCAP/BMI fees	\$200
Meal - Music Team	\$43
Stagehands	\$3,467 (City)
Ticket User Fee	\$1,682 (City)
Other (City) Expsns	\$804 (Event Staff, Box Office, Treas Fee, Tech Svc)
Light Rental	\$192 (Music Hall)
Music Hall Rent	\$1,800 (City)
Ticket Printing	\$265
Credit Card Svc Chg	\$535
Quartet Talent Fees	\$3,250
Quartet Expenses	\$1,537
Hotel Rooms	\$340
Advertising	\$5,477 (TV, Radio, Print)
Programs/Inserts	\$645
Flyers/Handouts	\$790
Quartet Shell Maint	\$53
U.S.A. Flag Rent	\$50
Afterglow	\$353
Ticket Chair Expsns	\$232

TOTAL: \$25,052
(+) = \$ 2,644



Three large factors contributed to our not doing so well this year:

1. After a HUGE savings last year (Thanks to the *Rural Route 4!*), we returned to normal Headliner Quartet Fees this year.
2. We sold 356 (fewer) tickets this year.
3. In 2004, we had \$4,750 in Sponsorship Monies not received for 2005.

These 3 items account for over \$13,000 in Revenue.

We'll hope for a better (financial) outcome next year. ♥

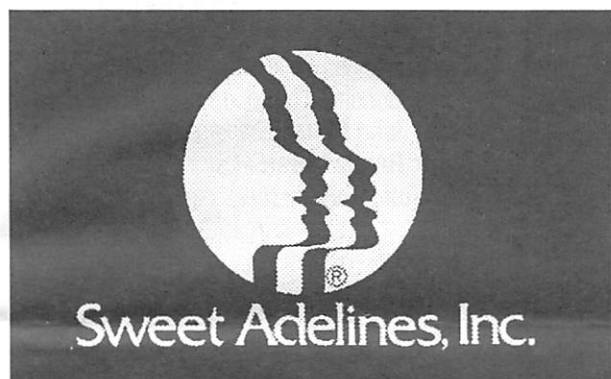
LOGO—NO GO!

by Hardin Olson, Editor, Minneapolis *Chordi-inator*
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Checkout the Society's **new** logo:



Check out the **old** Sweet Adeline logo:



Any similarities?

It seems to me that what wasn't good enough for our sister organization is being considered the millenium in Society PR by our International Headquarters staff.

The advent of a new chief executive office in virtually any organization usually results in sweeping changes in its structure and direction. The traditions and comforts of the past are frequently lost in transition, most often without the advice and consent of the rank and file.

A logo is probably not very important in the overall scheme of things but at the very least I, for one, think it should refelct at least a small token of our special heritage. I would wager that the graphic artist who designed the new logo was also not versed in barbershop tradition and further that it was probably not cheap.

The few (or many?) barbershoppers who feel as I do would have welcomed an open competition for a suitable design that would have not looked so much like the one tossed away by another musical group.

Onward and upward! ♥



THERE'S NO HARM IN TRYING AGAIN

by Todd Anderson, *Harmonotes* Editor

I'll be the first to admit I hate change. When I came home one day and found that my wife had rearranged all the furniture in our living room, my heart sank. I tend to grow comfortable—even attached—to the old way of doing business.

That's why, when it came time to replace our venerable Society logo on the front cover—with the "new and improved" model—I had a pit in my stomach. I'm sure the logo's creator had great intentions. But I wondered, is this the best we could come up with?

Now let me say up front, I'm *not* Walt Disney. And I'm certainly not the final word when it comes to great design. Lord knows some of my own creations have stunk up the very pages they were trying to help. But I must agree with **Hardin Olson** (his article appears to the left), the new Society logo falls way short of what I have come to enjoy. The older model (at right), to me, contained much more strength and polish—especially the four-color version. This new one is downright anemic.

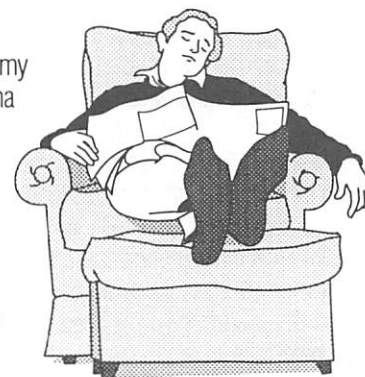
As you know, our country is enjoying new commemorative quarters that highlight each state in the order they became part the union. Each state has been given the chance to come up with a design that speaks to its own heritage. Missouri, for example, asked its residents to submit ideas. Those ideas were whittled down to about eight. Out of that, we as residents were given the chance to vote on what we liked. That way we all felt an ownership in the process, by choosing what we liked.

To me, that same procedure would have worked perfectly in this case. In fact, we could have cast our votes via the *Harmonizer*. That way, even if you and I didn't get what we might have liked, we could have supported the majority much easier. But this project feels like someone way up the barbershop foodchain made the choice for us. And they may have made it too quickly.

Hardin mentioned that a logo "is probably not very important in the overall scheme of things. . . ." Some of that is true. But I also know that first impressions count. I think that applies to art as well. After all, how memorable the icons are for McDonalds, Nike, Coke, Apple, IBM or even the Olympics? I'll wager our esteemed marketing vice-president, **Dick Korek**, would even agree...huge amounts of time and money are spent by ad agencies who strive to present a product, service—or an organization—in the best light possible.

OK, I'll quit whining now.

Still, deep down, I'll cross my fingers and hope that Kenosha will rethink this graphic and develop something that sports a stronger look. Or, maybe I need to simply accept the logo. . . just like I had to get used to where my wife put my favorite chair. ♥



ONE VOICE, DIFFERENT VOICE PARTS: ADJUST YOUR VOICE TO DIFFERENT PARTS

by Don Barrick, two-time quartet gold medalist

Surround yourself with good singers and anything is possible; I'm a case in point! I was lucky enough to be at the right place at the right time to sing tenor, baritone, and bass in three different quartets. Each presented unique challenges for me (each voice part, not quartet, Randy). A lot of technique allowed me to keep up with the other guys in the quartets. I'll explain how I approached singing each part.

In singing any of the parts, I tried to apply the four basic rules for volume relationships in barbershop chording:

1. The higher one sings, the more softly one sings, relative to the melodic line
2. The lower one sings, the more loudly one sings, relative to the melodic line
3. Roots and fifths of chords are sung slightly louder
4. 3rds and 7ths of chords are sung slightly softer

TENOR - My tenor voice was predominantly falsetto and head voice, so it wasn't too difficult for me to sing softer on a part that was supposed to be sung softer anyway, at least for the barbershop style. The tenor's role is to be "complementary" to the melodic line; it's not a "feature" part except on some great tags. What I did was concentrate on the vowel sound "tone color." Just as higher notes are generally sung more softly, the vowel sounds should be somewhat darker to avoid sounding strident, thin or screechy.

The darker tone color also afforded a better blend (match) with the overall ensemble sound. To get the darker vowel color, my approach was to sing the basic vowel sound (with good open-throated quality and good mouth shape) and then just lower the bulk of the tongue slightly.

Another area that I tried to "master" was the transition from falsetto and head voice to full voice & #8212; the vocal break. There were times when the notes were too low to effectively sing in falsetto (thanks, Jay!), so it meant switching. What worked for me was to exercise vocal glisses up and down through the break. Those exercises, and being well warmed up vocally, allowed me to make the vocal switch without noticeable "yodelling."

BARITONE - Singing baritone, of course, took me out of the "predominantly falsetto" voice into the more natural "full voice" range as a way of life. The baritone still sings his share of 3rds and 7ths, but there are more roots and fifths, which need to be balanced effectively. I felt I had more influence in the ensemble sound when singing baritone because of the nature of the voice part, so I took the opportunities to sing stronger when singing roots and fifths, as long as it stayed within the guidelines of good volume relationships mentioned above. I also had to be more sensitive to the "changing vocal environment"; sometimes above the lead melody, sometimes below; and how that dictated the volume relationships and tone color. I had to be more aware of precisely where I was, note-wise, in relation to the melody singer.

Like the tenor part, it's considered a "tuning" harmony part, though not as natural to sing, and definitely not as noticeable (exception: Tony). However, I enjoyed "completing" the chords and singing those weird musical lines.

BASS - The bass part was probably the most challenging part for me in terms of vocal production, primarily because I think my natural voice part is better suited to baritone. Obviously, it's the lowest voice part of the ensemble, and in our style of singing needs to be "ever present" in terms of volume without overshadowing the melody line. With the help of an excellent vocal coach, **Jim Casey** (Okay, Jim, ya' owe me \$20), I was able to concentrate on creating a lot of "inner space" in singing in the lower range. I had to learn to trust the concept of not "forcing" the sound, or trying to sound "like a bass." Loads of practice helped build the confidence to sing in a relaxed manner, which allowed me to sing lower notes with good quality and still be in balance with the ensemble.

Although I received more one-on-one vocal instruction for the bass part, good, "outside-the-ensemble" vocal coaching for any voice part is a must for the serious singer.

Singing in a quartet provided me with the best of times, especially since I was surrounded by good singers: **Hank Brandt, Jay Giallombardo, John Miller** (*Grandma's Boys*), **Harold Nantz, Dave LaBar, Randy Loos** (*Sidekicks*), **Roger Ross, Joe Connelly, and Tony DeRosa** (*Keepsake*). They are nine of the most talented, creative, musical, and personable individuals that the Society has to offer. Each quartet afforded exceptional learning sessions, wonderful musical experiences, amazing accomplishments, and unforgettable memories that I cherish. ♥

MUSICAL NOTES

by Keith Schweer, Music Vice President



Our preparations for Salt Lake City have started. We have scheduled coaching sessions with some of the finest talent in the barbershopping world. **Rosemary Calderon** gave us our new staging for Dixie on April 5 and it should really be fun—thankyuhvurrymuuuch. Then we've got **Bill Biffle, Kevin Keller** and **Dwain Brobst** all coming back to Kansas City—some more than once—between now and July. The

coaching schedule is designed to help get the chorus to its peak performing level by the time we get to Salt Lake. Coaching is a very important as we get ready for the International Chorus Contest. But, the most important ingredient in our preparations is you. That's right. In order for us to do our best, we need everyone's participation at every scheduled rehearsal. Every voice is important. If the guy that stands next to you or behind you is missing, it's just not the same chorus as far as you are concerned. Let's give ourselves the best opportunity to achieve our goals by being on the risers for every Tuesday (and Thursday and Saturday) rehearsal. ♥

A NICE, RELAXING WEEKEND

by Ol' Bruce



One of the funnest things we do in *Tone-Henge* is sing on another chapter's annual show. We get to travel to new places, sing for audiences that haven't heard our routines before, and meet lots of interesting people. We had one of those good times earlier this month in Milbank, South Dakota, headlining the *Milltones*' show. For a bonus, we had some real adventures in getting there and back—the dark side of these

excursions.

We booked what looked like the best way to get there. One Northwest Airlines flight to Minneapolis, another to Sioux Falls, and a rental car for a two-hour drive due north to Milbank, getting us there mid-afternoon. Plenty of time to check in at the motel, get an early supper, and have time to relax before the evening show. In theory.

We got a rude shock when we got to Minneapolis—Northwest had canceled our connecting flight to Sioux Falls. (They said they didn't have a crew available, but we suspect they just hadn't sold enough seats to make it worth their while. We were beginning to understand why the locals refer to the airline as "Northworst".) Not to worry, though—they had re-booked us onto a 4:45 flight that would enable us to arrive in Milbank right about the end of the show. Obviously a non-starter. We'll have to rent a car in Minneapolis and drive four hours across the entire state of Minnesota in order to make it in time to sing the show.

OK, but we'll need our luggage. Three of our four bags have not appeared, and Northworst can't find them anywhere. It takes a half hour to even get to talk to an agent—they've done this to some other folks, too. They send people out to look for them, and they keep coming back to tell us that the bags were sent to the carousel we're standing at. After three hours of this our time margin has disappeared, and we're contemplating taking off to do the show in blue jeans and sneakers. Finally the bags reappear—the Northworst people said that they nipped them off a Kemosabbee Airlines (or something like that) flight just before they took off for suitcase Valhalla.

We made the long drive in time to cram down a quick supper and hustle over to the show, afterglow, and glimmer (where we finally got a long-awaited beer). The only remaining excitement was at the end of the trip. We went back Sunday the way we had come—back across Minnesota to catch a flight from Minneapolis to KCI—we didn't take a chance on getting to the Sioux Falls airport and finding the connecting flight canceled again. At KCI, Northworst struck again—one of the bags didn't show up! Fortunately it didn't take them nearly so long to find it—it had come in on a different flight.

So that was the weekend. A little stress here and there, but hey, we got to travel to a new place, sing for people who haven't heard our routines before, and meet lots of interesting people. ♥

ANNUAL TAG PARTY INFORMATION

by Joe Mathieu

Here's the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How:

Who: You and your barbershop buddies! Spouses are invited and encouraged to join us!

What To Bring: A side dish, lawn chairs, card table and chairs if you have it, and poker chips. We're going to have a Texas Hold 'Em tournament, an air hockey tournament, and a lawn dart tournament, among other things. We'll probably find time to sing a few tags as well! A lot of people have already expressed interest in Texas Hold 'Em, so I think we may have as many as three games going at once. I'll cook some burgers and hot dogs and provide the beer, pop, water, etc. If you're a mixed drink fan, you may want to bring your own. Also, don't forget your tag book and pitch pipe!

When: Saturday, May 28, 6 p.m.. (End time is whenever **Jerry Garrard** leaves, which is usually about 5:30 a.m. or so on Sunday. You don't HAVE to stay that long, but you're welcome to!)

Where: 529 N. Winwood, Gardner, KS, 66030. For those of you from North Kansas City, contrary to popular belief, we are not as far south as Wichita. We're just south of Olathe!

Why: Why not?

How to Get Here: The best way to get directions is to go to www.mapquest.com. Just type in your address and our address and the directions will take you right here. You can also e-mail or call 913-856-7811 for directions.

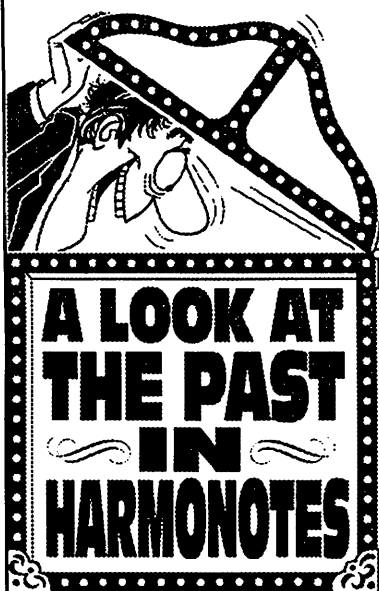
Please RSVP to me via e-mail or phone. I need to know how many kegs to get and how much food to buy. The usual suspects will all be there so I can guarantee a great time will be had by all! If you don't know who the usual suspects are, you'll just have to show up and find out! This is the 8th year of my tag party. There are a couple guys who have made almost every one of them (maybe every one of them), I can't quite remember. You know who you are **Duane and Rob!**

This is a great opportunity to sit back and socialize with your great barbershop friends. It's also a great opportunity for me to catch up with everyone since I'm not around lately nearly as much as I'd like to be!

Let me know if you have any questions. Hope to see you all on the 28th!

Don't forget to RSVP! Thanks! ♥





By Wade Dexter,
Editor Emeritus
wadeliberty@aol.com

TEN YEARS AGO: MAY, 1995:

The Kansas City Chapter was well represented at the CSD spring quartet contest, hosted on April 7 and 8 by the Overland Park Chapter (with lots of help from the KC guys). The top scorer, with 2,820 points, was the *12th Street Rag* with all four members, to wit, the **Fortino** brothers and **Keith Schweer**, plus **Rick Kready**, who held dual membership with the Topeka club, all members of the *Heart of America Chorus*. In second place, 148 points

behind the *Rag*, was *Freefall*, with HOA member **Darin Drown**. The other two members were from the St. Joseph and Beatrice, NE chapters. That was a total of seven HOA members who represented both the *Rag* and *Freefall* in international competition in Miami Beach the following summer. The third-place quartet and the alternate for Miami Beach, was *Upbeat* with HOA members **David Krause** and **Matt Moore**. That was a total of eight HOA members who sang with the three quartets that qualified for the international quarterfinals at Miami Beach the following summer. Quite an accomplishment, don't you think?

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO: APRIL/MAY, 1980

Singing with their brand new lead, **David Krause**, the *K.C. Chord Classiques* pulled off a second-place finish in the quartet quarterfinals held right here in Kansas City in April. According to Editor **Joe Costigan**, "**Stan Grossman**, (bass), **Steve Leone** (baritone), and **Don Kahl** (tenor), gave Dave full support, and their confidence was ably rewarded." Joe goes on to reveal that the *K.C. Chord Classiques* out-pointed two past district champions in qualifying to represent the Central States District at the international the following summer.

And **Leo Erickson** had a nice article in which he tells how 14 HOA members attended a HEP (that's "Harmony Education Program) School. If I'm right, I was there, and so was **Bob Johnson**, who was then the Society Director of Music Education and Services. I recall how Bob positioned himself on the landing halfway up the four-way staircase in the main lobby, and taught a song to the entire student body. Bob was

never what you might call a shy and reticent person.

And there was quite a gathering of Society luminaries as members of the HEP school faculty. Bob himself taught a class on barbershop craft to a group that included our own **Wayne Lankenau**. And **Joe Liles**, Bob's assistant taught a class on chorus directing to a large group of 25 students (seems everybody wants to become an arm-waver) that included **Ron Abel**, **Walt Bates**, Leo himself, **Dick Huyck**, **Gordon Lankenau**, and **Fred Whisman**. Leo says that Joe taught them a new song in 12 minutes! I believe it! After all, they were all experienced barbershoppers!

Then **Burt Szabo** was there and passed on to a group that included the **Don Stewart** and **Lin Bellis** some of his secrets for turning out arrangements such as "My Missouri Home" and "Goldmine in the Sky." And **Wayne Lankenau**, **Kevin Huyck**, and **Kent McClean**, along with **Leo Erickson**, sat in on the late **Val Hick's** session on arranging, during which Val taught them his arrangement of "The Star Spangled Banner," which Val had taught my class at Harmony College way back before the arrangement had even been published.

And finally, **Jim Davis** and **Bob Haupt** took classes in show production. The instructor isn't named.

FIFTY YEARS AGO: JUNE, 1955

In the "Fifty Years Ago" segment of this column in the March *Harmonotes*, we mentioned that HOA member **John Goldsberry**, who sang the baritone part with the *Kippers*, who won the CSD quartet championship in 1962 and again in 1966 (did John sing with both quartets, anyone?), had brought four young fellows who were students at Kansas City Junior College as his guests to a recent chapter meeting. They had formed a quartet they called the *Gloom Chasers*, and the name of one of them was **Ross Arnold**. We asked if anyone recognized him, or any of the others, and whether they ever joined our chapter.

Well, for a change, one of our queries finally got a rise out of somebody, and his name is **Sal Iannazzo**, who, if anyone, really qualifies as an HOA old timer. We don't see much of Sal any more, but I can remember when he sang the lead with one of the first HOA quartets I ever heard, and the only other thing I recall is that the bass was **Joe Costigan**. (Joe had a way of "standing out" over everybody else, you know.) Sal is now a retired dentist and he explains that way back in 1963, Ross Arnold was one of his patients.

At that time, Ross was an insurance salesman with Kansas City Life and a member of the old North Kansas City Chapter. He invited Sal to a meeting one evening, and Sal at that moment incurred that life-long affliction known so fondly by all of us as barbershop harmonitis.

When the North Kansas City chapter folded, Sal, along with such HOA luminaries as the late **Gil Lefholz**, **Warren Edmonds**, **Joe Costigan**, **John Goldsberry**, **Jim Hilleary**, and **Bob Tracy**, all gravitated to, as Sal describes it,

that "high-class chapter in KC." Sal tells us that Ross did not transfer to our chapter. Shortly after that, he moved to Oklahoma City, and Sal lost track of him. Sal suggests that our own **Jim Bagby** might remember him. How about it Jim?

So now you can see what could happen if you were to offer a comment on one of my infrequent but abbreviated queries, such as "Can anybody help?" or "How about that, somebody?" or "Need a bit of help here," or "How about it, Jim?" Thanks a lot, Sal, for your interest. ♥

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING CEO DON HARRIS

*A message sent on behalf of
Society President Rob Hopkins*

The Board of Directors of the Barbershop Harmony Society (SPEBSQSA, Inc.) has accepted the resignation of CEO **Don Harris**, effective April 20.

"We are grateful for the new perspectives that Don brought to us, and for his many efforts to move the Society forward during a period of significant transition," said President **Rob Hopkins**. "We wish him well in future endeavors," he said.

President Hopkins named Past President Roger Lewis as the interim CEO, pending the completion of a search for a new CEO and the appointment of same by the Society Board of Directors. ♥

FLASH!

12th Street Rag qualify for
Salt Lake City with straight-A scores,
...join **Vocal Spectrum** and **3 Men &
and Melody**. More in next issue!

***Did you hear about the
Barbershop Bulletin Editor who:***

...spent 20 minutes looking at the orange juice
can because it said "Concentrate?"

...missed bus #44, so he took bus #22 twice?

...tried to put M&M's in alphabetical order?

...sent a fax with a stamp on it?

HEARTBEAT HILITES

by Carol Ramirez, Heartbeat Board Member.

What's the latest Heartbeat fundraiser? It's a used book sale including CD's, cassettes, and sheet music. Since this is the heart of the spring cleaning season, start at your book shelves, pulling volumes you would love to recycle. Add a few CD's, tapes, and sheet music no longer in use and tote them all to practice by May 31. Hand them off to either **Carter Combs** or **Charles Ramirez** and you have just helped the Heartbeats with their sale.

The actual sale will be June 4 at the home of **Carter and Jeffi Combs** when their neighborhood in Lee's Summit has its annual garage sale. **Roberta Porter** has also agreed to set up a table to sell "From the Heart." We'll put up an HOA banner and give the chorus as much publicity as we can to those who stop by. Who knows, perhaps some quartets might even volunteer to swing by and give a live performance—a sure way to attract lots of attention. Start cleaning those shelves now!

Thanks to all those who brought refreshments to Guest Night. The men appreciate our providing goodies occasionally.

The next *Heartbeat* meeting is May 17 at 7 p.m. at the church. All ladies are welcome! ♥

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following chapter members!

In the March issue of Harmonotes, we had no room to list our March birthdays! However, your editor found sufficient space in this issue to help us all celebrate both March and April!

Chuck Ames	May 1
John Starcke	May 2
Wade Dexter	May 5
Anthony Fortino	May 6
Carter Combs	May 7
Dan Bowser	May 9
Stew Grosser	May 12
Kevin Beauford	May 13
Dale Neuman	May 20
Walt Patterson	May 21
George Park, Jr	May 22
Joe Mathieu	May 24

MINUTES FROM THE HOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

submitted by Kevin Tritsch, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President, **Marty Oldehoeft** on Monday, Apr. 11 at 6:35pm at the Johnson County License Bureau.

In attendance were: **Oldehoeft, Grosser, Korek, Garrard, Tritsch, Ramirez, Brott, Stewart, Seydlitz**
Not attending: **Irwin, Carruthers, Schweer, Ames, Huyck, McClean, Howard**

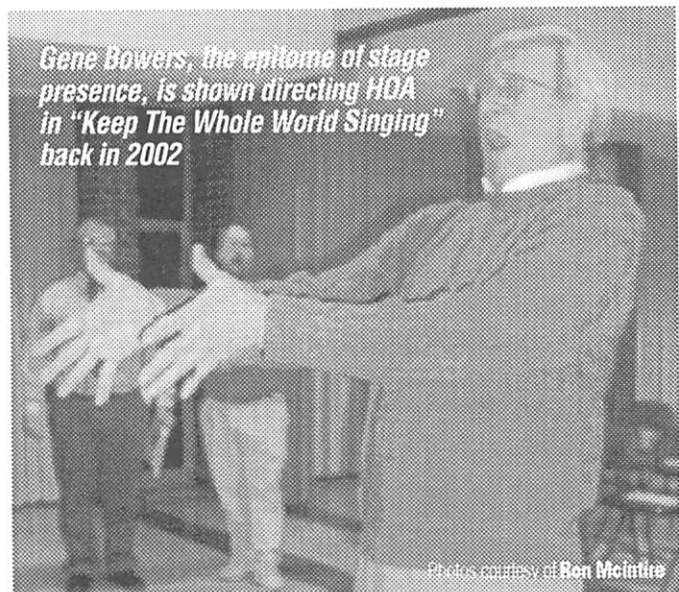
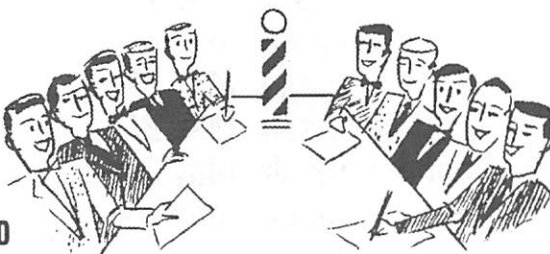
VP of Membership: Because of the highly successful Guest Night, the chorus needs to ensure we follow-up with the guests and ask them back. We need to make sure the guest knows that they are welcomed to come back every week. Several guests asked for and turned in new applications. A procedure was determined on what steps to take on handling the new applications. First step is to do a preliminary voice placement to determine what part the applicant can sing and their vocal skills. After they have completed this procedure the guest will be given an application, which will be turned in to **Stew Grosser**. Stew will then present the application with the voice placement form to the Board to vote on accepting the applicant.

Program VP: On April 30, the chorus will hold a brainstorming meeting for next year's show. Several areas will be discussed with the main focus on income and marketing. What can be done to increase both areas?

Marketing and PR: It was discussed on how does the chorus become more visible to the public. Performing at church services was one recommendation. Another idea was to offer our performance for a high visibility group. Getting the chorus in front of people without them having to purchase a ticket can be very beneficial.

Also discussed was leaving part of a person's estate to the HOA Foundation. Articles will be placed in the *Harmonotes* on the steps to take in completing this process.

Good of the Chorus: As the chorus prepares for International, we remind everyone that we are a championship chorus and it is important that everyone gives 100%. Distractions need to be eliminated from the chapter meetings. It was suggested to help the chorus stay focused and not be overwhelmed, we offer two minute breaks throughout the meetings. This will also help to reduce the unneeded conversations on the risers. ♥



Gene Bowers, the epitome of stage presence, is shown directing HOA in "Keep The Whole World Singing" back in 2002

Photo courtesy of Ben McIntire

GENE BOWERS 1929-2005

Gene was an HOA trivia contest unto himself. Did you know he was a CSD quartet champion from our chapter almost 25 years ago? Did you remember he was a onetime assistant chorus director? Chorus and quartet coach? Society judge? Show emcee? Master of accents and impressions? And if you got all those, did you know he was one of the youngest members ever to join the Kansas City Chapter?

In fact, if **Eugene H. Bowers** had maintained his membership, he'd have been well over a 50-year member. But he dropped out when he started his family and rejoined later. Wanna go way back? Did you know he went to Westport High School with the one and only **Earl Moon**?

Gene died March 22 after a long battle with cancer, at age 76. He was a 31-year Society member, all in Kansas City. He sang in several quartets, including the Kansas Citians, and won the CSD championship on tenor in 1982 with *Harmony Spectrum*, with **David Krause,**



Willard Yoder and Jim Bagby.

He was a certified Stage Presence judge, and a longtime coach of the HOA chorus. He had retired after a long career as a sales executive for Continental Bakery, then became a crossing guard for the Shawnee Mission School District.

He and his second wife, **Chris Ann**, were married 33 years. Between them they had 4 children, 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. At Gene's services, at 10 o'clock on a Monday morning,

more than 50 chapter members showed up to sing, and the funeral parlor resonated with the sound of "Friends" and "Auld Lang Syne." ♥

BIFFLE-IZED BARBERSHOPPERS!

by Dick Irwin

We have done been Biffle-ized again... or is that elffiB-ized?

Whichever it is, the fabulous talent of **Mr. Bill Biffle** has once again encouraged this chorus and shown it how to create sounds that can make us one of the greatest. Bill worked very hard, as did Jim, to help us learn about singing loosely, lightly, with feeling, instead of simply slamming through the words and notes to get to the tag. They worked very hard to help us learn how to make notes and chords "explode" without being out of control. They worked very hard... period! We worked hard too and sometimes we were able to create the sound and feeling Bill and Jim were striving to draw from us.

But, Bill has left the building. Now it's time for us to really go to work. We must work individually on learning to make the sounds and control the breath, work on learning them so much that it becomes awkward to sing any other way. We must work together, listening and matching and blending so that we ARE a unit sound. Our audience doesn't want to hear loud, they want to hear full and rich.

We have shown many times in the past year or two that this chorus can create sound and feeling that rival even the VM... at times. This chorus CAN BE great. It has shown moments of brilliance. It needs to accept and understand just how good it can be and make that the norm instead of the exception. This is a hobby, one that can be work, one that can be hard, one that can be more rewarding than just about anything else you do. The hardest part about this hobby is learning... you simply never stop learning! ♥



Bill Biffle



RECENT RE-UPS!

Monty Duerksen	56 Years
Ron Abel	47 Years
Richard Krueger	4 Years
Kent McClean	35 Years
Jim Davis	31 Years
Bob Burdick	24 Years
Dick Irwin	12 Years
Niel Johnson	11 Years
Todd Anderson	10 Years

A TIP OF THE HAT!

These folks all get a tip o the hat for assisting with the March Annual Show!

Risers:

Mike Schumacher, Chuck Ames, Tony Strub, Walt Patterson, Martin Oldehoeft, Mike O'dell.

Show Committee:

John Warrior - Stage & Light Guru, **Mike Schumacher** - Ushers, House, Buses for Groups, **Vince Perry** - Ticket Chairman & Chorus Manager, **Dick Korek** - PR & Marketing, **Dick Irwin** - Afterglow, **Al Higgins** - Harmony Explosion, Group Solicitation, Backstage signage & room assignments, **Jim Bagby** - just about everything!

OUR WONDERFUL HEARTBEAT ORGANIZATION - Ushering & Ticket-taking!!!!, **Linda Schumacher, Staci Schumacher, Jana Henderson** - CD table attendants for quartets, **Sheri Hart** - choreography, **Shelley Irwin** - Afterglow checkin table, **Jeffi Combs** - Usher coordination, **Joann Bagby** - best sloppy joe's in the region for music team between shows, **Dan Henry & Al Moritz** - Quartet Shell Maintenance, **Chuck Ames** - riser crew, **Doug Brott** - coordinating hearing-impaired Interpreters, **Marvin Faulwell** - outstanding organ concerts, **Don Fuson** - Afterglow checkin table & post-show "slideshow", **Carter Combs/Mike Neff/John Fortino** - Directors, **Mike Mathieu** - Marriott rooms & assist with Afterglow planning, **John Starcke** - camera & filming for green room, **Randy Carney** - USA flag, **Brooke Meyers** - uniform Guru. ♥



**DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE HARMONOTES:
FRIDAY, MAY 20**



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

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May 3 - Don Webb Night
May 10 - Kevin Keller (Coaching)
May 27 - Retirement Party for David Krause
May 28 - Joe Mathieu Tag Party
May 31 - Dwain Brobst (Coaching)
June 3-4 - CSD Harmony Happening (HEP School), St. Joseph



MAY-JUNE CALENDAR



Heart of America