



CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

VOLUME 11 - ISSUE 5 - MAY/JUNE 2011

HOA Needs Your Help - Second Plea

by Vince Perry, Chapter President



The Chapter needs your help! We have three very important positions that need to be filled as soon as possible. Please take a moment and consider if you have what it takes to do one of the following jobs.

Sunshine Chairman - The Sunshine Chairman is responsible for sending cards, flowers, or donations according to the guidelines approved by the Board of Directors. It's really a very important job and a very rewarding one. Our past chairman, Roy Manade, was very good about calling people and their families to get up to date and accurate information to pass on to our *HOA* family. I hope a caring chapter member will take this job right away.

Uniform Chairman - You can be this guy if you feel comfortable talking to new members about what they need to do to get geared up for *HOA* performances. It may require a trip now and then to our uniform provider's store to pick up uniform attire. One of the big parts of the job is just being available to assist existing members in updating their uniforms. Uniform parts are lost, misplaced or outgrown (surely not!) and we need a goto-guy to help ease the panic that comes with those last minute realizations! *(Continued on page 3 ➡)*

HOA Golf Fundraiser: May 12, 2011

by Kent Miller



HOA's 5th annual golf tournament is history and by now we should be used to weather questions. Once again we had rain in the forecast but those of you who were there know we escaped and had an absolutely beautiful day!

Although we were short on golfers this year we sure weren't short on prizes! Most shared in the over \$2,000 worth of prizes, including a Callaway Driver and six nights in various area hotels. The food was plentiful and the fun was abundant.

This tournament could not have happened without the help of chapter members, spouses, and their families, and while we cannot possibly include all of the names, we extend our thanks and appreciation to all who helped in this event. ♥

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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

2011 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD

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	Jerry Garrard
	Mark Fortino
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SECTION LEADERS

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Baritone - Jonathan Andrew • Bass - Shaun Whisler

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Editor Emeritus	Wade Dexter
Editor	Todd Anderson
Photographers at Large	Matt Bostick, Don Fuson, Ron McIntire
Staff Reporters	ALL Our Chapter Members!

All chapter officers and quartets are expected, and chapter members encouraged, to contribute their ideas on a regular basis.

The editorial staff reserves the right to deny publication of material deemed inappropriate for *Harmonotes* and to edit all submissions for reasons of space and clarity (grammar, 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!

Comments/submissions may be made to:

Todd Anderson (Editor)

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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!

HOA Website: www.hoachorus.com
Web Address: webstaff@hoachorus.com
Chorus Manager & Webmaster - Vince Perry
Chapter Telephone: (816) 221-7888



(Continued from front cover)

The uniform chair also leads the charge when it comes to upgrading or changing the chorus's uniforms. Again, we have several guys who are experienced in this area to assist you in this job.

Show Chairman - Assistant Director **Jerry Garrard** is stepping down from this important position after (I think) five years! This is a job for a real manager. But it's a pretty cool job. You basically get to run the show from start to finish and it's all encompassing. The job officially begins when the curtain drops on the final performance of our spring show Gold & More Gold! The St. Joseph Chapter has used an experienced husband (barbershopper) and wife (former Sweet Adeline) team as co-chairs for their annual show. This really worked well and they had a blast doing it. This could work extremely well in HOA as I know we have several dynamic duos out there with the experience and expertise to make it happen. The venue is already contracted for the next three years, which is huge! Many thanks to Music VP **Mark Fortino** for making this possible. The quicker we can get a show chair(s) for 2012 the better as it's already time to start contracting next year's guest quartet. Our chapter is blessed with several people with great experience as past show chairmen, so you won't be alone. Matter of fact most of the sub-jobs that go along with the annual show production have experienced people already in place. Here's your chance to take center stage!

Chorus Manager - The chorus manager is what I've been doing for a number of years now. If you are person who would enjoy making arrangements for the chorus including registrations and hotel rooms; if you would like taking photo orders and arranging practice rooms at contest; if you would like doing all the little jobs that have to do with a busy chorus on the move then you might just be the fellow for the job. Some chapters split up the job into a couple of managers. That's always a possibility for us. I can foresee a housing manager, a registration manager, and contest coordinator. Whatever! What's important is that all these jobs and tasks will need to be done if our chorus is going to continue to thrive. Ye old chorus manager needs some relief especially while being your president. Have you got what it takes to the next HOA Chorus Manager? Think about it!

Gentlemen, your chapter is in need. How are you serving your chapter at this time? Our most pressing needs are those jobs unfilled at this time: 2012 Show Chair, Sunshine Chair, and Uniform Chair. Please contact me and let's get you going in your new leadership role in the great Kansas City Heart of America Chapter! ♥

We have three members graduating from high school this weekend:

Anthony Fortino
Saint Thomas Aquinas

Bronson Garrard
Olathe Northwest

Price Carter
Kearney High School

Congratulations!
HOA is proud of your accomplishments!



Ambassadors Report by David Krause, HOA Chorus Director



I've visited the *Ambassadors of Harmony* five times

now since January and felt compelled to write a report, as briefly as possible, for those who might have an interest. So, feel free to read this if you wish but don't hesitate to skip it if you'd like.

Just so you'll know, I'm writing this report as a part of the educational process for our chapter and myself. I had asked the board to allow me to use the money they would have spent sending me to Harmony U. again to, instead, allow me to join the *Ambassadors of Harmony* and learn by being a riser guy in that group. What a great idea that was, at least in my opinion. I've already learned a tremendous amount which, I'm sure I'll be able to share as we rehearse in the near future. I just attended my third rehearsal in a row so I was able to audition (and pass) and fill out the paperwork needed to be a dual member. I'm almost officially a member of their chorus but, of course, have only had time to learn about 6 or 7 songs so far and partly learn another 6 or 7. I'm not sure when I'll first perform with them. Might be their show, but more likely, their show at International or next fall's CSD contest.

Here's the first part of my report on how they compare to our chapter. They have a very full music leadership team, with at least two section leaders per section. Their section rehearsals tend to be fairly infrequent and mainly seem concentrated on fixing notes. It

seems they have most section leaders at most rehearsals. They start at 7pm with one half hour of warmups. Those move very quickly and progress from unison and physical warm-up to scales, vowels, tags, etc. Very fast paced and always done by asst. dir. and bari section leader, **Mr. Moroni**. At 7:30pm they work through 1 or two songs for about an hour or so. Often very tedious work. Often the same phrase over and over, part by part, vowel by vowel, etc. They are very picky. And, yet, they seem to really have fun doing this tedious work. Many put themselves in performance mode at various times as they work, but only rarely, for brief times, do they all go there. They relish the few moments when artistry is achieved and they are at a level where they notice when they actually get it. Of course, it's not always. But there are moments of 90s at each rehearsal. During these work sessions, **Jim Henry** is almost totally in charge with **David Wright**, usually, the only other one giving very brief comments. Sometimes a section leader will be asked or will volunteer a comment also.

They break at 9pm for about a half hour. Then they work hard again til 10:30, or just after. They do approx. that schedule every Thursday all year except that they always take at least 2-4 weeks off in mid-summer, after their show and International, and the same after their early Dec. Holiday show. They also do several weeks of two a week rehearsals prior to their shows.

They do struggle with similar issues as all with attend. etc. For instance, they have a chorus of about 160. Well, at 7pm last Thursday they had 50 guys there. So they struggle to get guys there on time and have similar problems each week. They also have guys

leave early sometimes. Generally though, by 7:30 they are close to full strength and certainly have enough guys that even when several are gone it is not very noticeable in their quality or ability to accomplish things. Wasn't quite like us missing most of our bass section last Tuesday!:)

Their riser discipline, behavior, and dedication to musical excellence is of the highest rank. All seem to be listening all of the time, although they don't always visually give clues to complete attentiveness. If they are not, they are at least quiet.

They've pretty much conquered the singing in tune thing. They rarely struggle with pitch, except going sharp. And, they are quick at stops and starts. They always have a pipe or two handy to sound at a moment's notice, but can often work and restart in tune without it. They simply have stored that key note thing like crazy!!!

OK. Probably enough for now. But, I'll try to share some more again sometime as I feel it's appropriate. My plan is to attend the majority of Thursdays between now and next fall's contest. One of the benefits of being an old retired guy. I'll probably ride the KATY trail each Thursday and Friday also during that time so I'll most likely do the whole thing about four times this year! But, I have to admit, while I love singing, a quartet, two barbershop choruses, and two church groups is a little much. Kind of glad most of these two a week barbershop chorus events happen during breaks in the church group season!

Thanks for reading if you made it through. ♥

Kansas City 2011 International by Chorus Manager Vince Perry

Usually at this time of the year I am busy researching the International Convention city and preparing my Convention Handout Booklet. Not so this year. Hopefully everyone knows KC and all the great opportunities that we have here. Really all you need are the basic contest information & schedules and you should be good to go. Besides my available time to produce such a document is basically non-existent after agreeing, well after much arm-twisting by Convention Co-chairs **Bob Burdick & Mike Mathieu** and Coordinator **Carter Combs** for talking me into being the convention transportation guru for the convention. I remember Mike saying "Oh, being president is nothing; you can do that and do transportation easy!" *He lied!*

At present it looks like we will have 53 on stage in KC this summer. I had hoped for more but many of our contest-only members have found out, you just don't start learning *Yes, Sir, That's My Baby* seven weeks before contest. Maybe if they start now they can be up to speed for District Contest this October right here in KC.

The rehearsal schedule for International week was approved by the Board at our last meeting. It is important that everyone try their best to make as much of these rehearsal times as possible. As everyone knows from our Philly experience, the preparation we do the week of international is very important to what we actually accomplish on the contest stage. Here's the schedule to plan towards:

HOA Rehearsal Schedule

Sunday, July 3:	2pm-4pm
Monday July 4:	No rehearsal
Tuesday July 5:	Regular rehearsal (probably will be downtown)
Wednesday July 6:	No rehearsal
Thursday July 7:	3:30pm - 5:30pm
Friday July 8:	9am - 10:30am 2:30pm - 4:30pm Enter pattern around 6pm.

Just a few minutes ago I received the order form for the chorus pictures for the KC2011 convention. It looks like the prices will be the same as last years with an 8"x10" costing \$16, 5.5"x14" at \$23 and the 8"x20" at \$30. You will be receiving a web site address soon to sign up and pay for these in advance.

This is going to be a great convention and a great contest for HOA.



We also have a new HOA t-shirt that will be available before contest. Many guys have asked for a t-shirt that isn't so contest oriented in content. I think everyone will really like this year's design. Each member in the HOA KC2011 contest chorus will get one prior to contest. I will also have them available online for purchase at a later date.

As everyone knows each contestant must have a convention registration. I think most everyone has one already but if you don't please see me about purchasing one. Also everyone must have their dues paid in full prior to the contest. As chorus manager I have to complete a form that goes to the judges that lists all the HOA PC members. If your dues come due June 30th please, please, please pay by the first of June as I will be asked to submit our list shortly thereafter. It's easy to pay by credit card online with Ebiz. If you haven't figured out Ebiz yet and want me to pay your dues online please give me call.

This is going to be a great convention and a great contest for HOA. Go HOA! ♥

From the *Panhandleaires* to the *Crosstown Four* by Gordon Coleman

Reading a recent on-line *Livewire* I saw that **Wendell Heiny**, tenor of *The Four Hearsemen* had died at age 92. This brought back so many fond memories for me since he was the one most responsible for my interest in barbershop singing.

In 1952, in Amarillo, Texas I was one of four guys who had been transferred there as part of a team to start up a new manufacturing facility. We heard a group called the *Blackburn-Shaw Quartet* singing on the radio. They mentioned that they belonged to a group that met weekly at the Herring Hotel. Since the four of us enjoyed singing we decided to check it out.

We met a group of thirty men and were introduced to the barbershop style. The quartet that was responsible for our being there was introduced as the *Four Hearsemen*, an apt name since Wendell was a Funeral Director at the Blackburn-Shaw funeral home. After checking our singing capability, he told us that we would make a great quartet and invited us to come to “the home” and he would introduce us to the hobby and get us started. So we made the date and learned our first song “Bright was the Night.” He told us that at “the home” we would always find an appreciative, if not very responsive, audience.

The first order of business was to pick a name for our quar-

tet. Our first thought was *Atomic Bums* because that was to be our new job activity. Wendell didn’t think that would be a good choice. Then we picked *Four Flushers* but said that would suggest that we were only a comedy quartet. Although our first efforts were somewhat comedic it was not by choice so we picked *The Panhandleaires*.

We practiced regularly and got a lot of coaching from Wendell and became good enough to have a few gigs in Amarillo and other surrounding towns—a lot of PTA’s, Rotary, Kiwanis, etc. and even did a radio bit. Our chapter also had annual shows—*Parades of Quartets* as they were known then. Choruses were not a big thing, at least for smaller chapters.

In 1956 we were all transferred to various locations and there was no more quartet. I returned to Kansas City but did not resume barbershopping because of various family commitments with five kids, coaching football, baseball, track and softball. After retirement in 1985 I saw *HOA* singing at Ward Parkway, talked with **Mike Mathieu** and joined up. Who says you can’t go home again?

So here I am, back in a quartet—*Crosstown Four*—all because Wendell, and others over the years, took an interest.

Rest in peace, Wendell, and thanks for the memories. ♥

RR4 Working Hard for International by Jim Bagby, Bari



BAGBY

You could say the *Rural Route 4* got a tremendous boost from our reception on the April *HOA* show, and that has made us even more determined to be ready for our 25th anniversary doings when the Society convention hits town in a coupla months.

We get a full spot on the Association of International Champions (AIC) show Thursday night of convention week (July 7), so we’re certainly looking forward to that. We’re also mic testers for the Wednesday night quartet quarterfinals at Sprint Center, and plan to resurrect the scarecrow routine there.

Other *RR4* events during the week will include Sing with the Champs on Saturday, followed by a “meet and greet” at the special AIC booth that honors the *Suntones*, celebrating their 50th anniversary, and the *RR4*. We’re also doing the Good News gospel sing on Thursday and the church service on Sunday, both of those with **Wes Yoder** on tenor. **Don Kahl** will be with us for all the other slots.

One other major event for us during the week will be the appearance of the AIC “Masterworks Rural Route 4” CD, which has 28 cuts and represents a lot of work by *HOA* friend and engineer **Dan Israel** of First Run productions. It will be available later in the week at the AIC booth in the Harmony Marketplace area. Come by and we’ll autograph one just for you! ♥



HOA GOLF TOURNAMENT MAY 12, 2011

Photos courtesy of Vince Perry





GOLD & MORE GOLD!

Spring Show pictures courtesy of Linda Fuson



Rural Rural 4: Jim Bagby, Calvin Yoder, Willard Yoder and Don Kahl WOWed the crowd!



ListenUp! foursome Carter Combs, David Stockard, Jerry Garrard and Grant Hunget



Voice Unlimited members Micah Jeppesen, Mark Fortino, Shaun Whisler and John Fortino



Harmony Explosion participants Riptide from Wichita West High School appeared during HOA's spring show

Gold & More Gold! Was Gold! by Vince Perry, Chapter President

This chapter is amazing! Here it is the middle of May and we've already done so much! The annual show, Gold & More Gold!, was fantastic. I'm not sure who came up with the idea of having two international champion quartets on the same show, but in hind site it was a stroke of genius. I say hind site because I wasn't really for the idea when I first heard about it. The way it played out with each champ headlining their own half was really cool. Many thanks to Assistant Director and Show Chairman **Jerry Garrard** for a job well done. This was Jerry's sixth consecutive year as chairman and sadly his last. During his tenure we have changed our venue two times. This is no easy task. *Great job, Jerry!* As a side note, many thanks to our Music and Performance VP **Mark Fortino** for his work in securing a three year contract with Johnson County Community College (JCCC). Yep, we are now locked into their beautiful facility for the spring of 2012, 2013 and 2014. Now if we only had a show chairman, we'd be all set. Well, we also need a top flight guest quartet for 2012 too. If you have any suggestions please let me or Mark know asap.

The *Rural Route 4* was totally awesome! My brother-in-law said "I never get tired of those guys. I hear the same jokes and laugh just as hard as the last time. They are ageless!" And so they are. We are so blessed to have these four great guys, **Jim Bagby, Calvin Yoder, Willard Yoder** and **Don Kahl**, as *HOA's* gold medal brothers. Thank guys for giving us more *RR4* gold medal moments on April 16!

Then came *Vocal Spectrum!* As chorus manager I should have set up chairs behind the curtain for the chorus since most of the guys were glued to the risers to hear VS. To sum up the effect VS had on our audience I only need to tell you about our director, **David Krause** standing behind the curtain with his head tilted back, eyes closed, and living the lyrics of *Bring Him Home* being sung by VS's **Tim Waurick**. As the song concluded David wiped the tears from his eyes. A gold medal moment for all of us for sure.

I also witnessed *Vocal Spectrum* stop and talk with our Harmony Explosion kids outside the backstage doors. You would have thought the *HE!* kids were the International Champs the way VS treated them. It was pretty sweet to watch! *Thanks, VS!*

The afterglow was probably the best afterglow in recent memory! Many thanks to **Jeffi Combs** & the *Hearbeats* for organizing this great event!

Finally let me mention a few more people that made this year's spring show such a marvelous success: **John Warrior** produced the annual show again for the umpteenth time! He's awesome. **Ray Young** did the publicity, the mailings and the program layout. **Larry Colburn** did the advertising for the program. And **Rich Huyck** was the ticket chair. Great job and many thanks to all these guys and to everyone in the chapter and auxiliary who made this year's show so great! Let's do it again next year! ♥

New Harmony Handful's May 14 Sing-Out by Marty Oldehoeft



Was it for a birthday party,...a funeral,...or a celebration of life? *The answer is YES!*

Over a year ago a gentleman (**Earl**) that I've know for over 40 years from my church asked if "my group" (*New Harmony Handful*) could sing some songs at his 85th birthday party. That one question was the beginning of a list of preparation questions I was greeted with every time I saw him for the next year! Questions like: Do you need a piano? How many are in your group? Will you need mics? How much room will you need? Earl took care of all the details for his own party holding the number of party guests to 130 (the limit set by his wife).

Earl's health had been very poor for several years and a couple of months ago it took a turn for the worse. That being said he still insisted he would hang around to celebrate his 85th birthday party. I'm sad to report that he missed his objective by 10 days. When I heard the news of his passing, I emailed the *NHH* group canceling our performance. When **Sharon** and I went to see Earl's wife, she said "Not so fast with the party stopping. Earl worked too long planning this to cancel now. We will have his party!"

Earl's funeral and graveside service were in the morning followed by a pot luck lunch in the church fellowship hall. It was in this same church fellowship hall as planned by Earl that *NHH* entertained the crowd for about thirty minutes. Earl had his party and just like he had planned there were 130 in attendance. Everyone understood about Earl's celebration. It was very special for Earl's family and friends. And very special for the *New Harmony Handful*. For it's moments like this that really makes what we do sure seem worthwhile! ♥

From Whence Blessings Come...

by John Erwine, Executive Vice-President



On May 2, Carter and Jeffi Combs gathered with family and friends at the East Independence Community of Christ Church. This was to celebrate the life of Carter's father, Coral H. "Corky" Combs, who passed away on April 29.

This was quite a celebration. This is a large family – a close and supportive family. It's also a very musical oriented family. There were so many memories and experiences shared that evening. All had a lesson in them, tying together the soul of this man.

One specific request Coral had expressed to the family was that he wanted the song "I'll Walk With God" to be sung at his service. This was granted, as an HOA representative VLQ sang it from the choir loft.

I've been to many services such as this, yet none at all like this. As the service was drawing to a close, the entire Combs family was asked to rise for the Benediction. I, as the rest of the guests, were preparing for a blessing upon the family. There was a blessing, but not as expected.

All 60 or so family members rose and sang in perfect barbershop harmony style, "The Lord Bless You and Keep You." They presented that blessing to each other and to us. We were in total awe of what just had happened. This had been a very moving and meaningful moment such as I've never witnessed.

Carter tells me the family has been doing this for 30 or 40 years whenever they get together, and before they depart. You never know where your next blessing will come from or how it will be presented. This is the stuff of life.

From Carter and Jeffi Combs...

"Thank you all for your condolences & encouragement as we have dealt with the loss of my Dad, Corky Combs. Your thoughts, words of support, and presence have lifted us up and helped us get through these past several days. A special thank you to the members of the ensemble who sang at Dad's memorial service last night. Your rendition of "I'll walk With God" was the perfect a cappella contribution to our memorial celebration. We are blessed and feel very fortunate to be a part of such a caring barbershop community." Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!
In harmony, Carter & Jeffi Combs

Special thanks to the VLQ: Monty Duerksen, Mike Mathieu, Rob Mathieu, Don Fuson, Jim Bagby, Matt Moore, Matt Bostick, Brian Bellof, David Krause, Jeff Wolff, and Mark Fortino. ❤️

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING HOA MEMBERS!

May 1 **Chuck Ames**
May 2 **John Starcke**
May 4 **Bob Murphy**
May 5 **Wade Dexter**
May 6 **Anthony Fortino**
May 7 **Carter Combs**
May 9 **Dan Henry Bowser**
May 12 **Jim Moynihan**
May 12 **Keith Owen**
May 12 **Stew Grosser**
May 13 **Kevin Beauford**
May 16 **Ted Simon**
May 16 **Dave Ball**
May 20 **Dale Neuman**
May 22 **Scottie Haines**
May 22 **Jeff Garrard**
May 24 **Joe Mathieu**
May 27 **Mike Owen**

June 4 **Kevin Tritsch**
June 6 **Phil Youngs**
June 11 **Maurice Smith**
June 11 **Duane Lawson**
June 11 **Don Fuson**
June 14 **Tony Strub**
June 15 **Dave Hokanson**
June 16 **Shaun Whisler**
June 17 **Don Peck**
June 18 **Rod Rivard**
June 20 **Bill Bay**
June 23 **Rob Mathieu**
June 23 **Dylan Mathieu**
June 25 **Al Fehlauer**
June 28 **Barry Sanders**
June 29 **Keith Schweer**

Barbershopper of the Month



Rich Huyck - March 2011

Vince Perry (left) presents Rich Huyck with the March 2011 BOTM which reads: In grateful appreciation for organizing and coordinating the ticket sales for the 2011 Heart of America Spring Show at Unity Village.

Barbershopper of the Month



Jerry Garrard - April 2011

Vince Perry (left) presents Jerry Garrard with the April 2011 BOTM which reads: In grateful appreciation for handling the many challenges of moving the 2011 Heart of America Spring Show from Johnson County Community College to Unity Village.

Extra Mile Award



Dale Neuman - Board Member Emeritus

Vince Perry (right) presents Dale Neuman with the January 2011 Extra Mile Award which reads: In grateful recognition and appreciation for maintaining the chapter's 501 (c) (3) status through numerous legal documents with the State of Missouri and the Federal Government. The Kansas City Missouri Chapter and Heart of America Chorus hereby presents this award to you for the month of January 2011. (Note: Perry also indicated in his presentation that Dale has been doing all the Chapter's legal type paperwork for many years, working behind the scenes while receiving little or no recognition.)

Extra Mile Award



Larry Colburn - March 2011

Vince Perry (left) presents Larry Colburn with the Extra Mile Award for March which reads: In grateful appreciation for heading up the 2011 Heart of America Chorus annual spring show advertising program at Unity Village.

SUMMARY OF MAY 2011 BOARD MEETING

By Vince Perry/Ron McIntire



FINANCE REPORT -

Jim Porter

As of May 9, 2011

- Spring Show ticket sales received - \$21,206
- Spring Show expenses - \$15,705.
- Received \$1000 check from Harmony Foundation for 2011 Harmony Explosion efforts.
- IRS tax forms have been completed and mailed.
- The finance report is as follows:

Operating/Social fund was \$3,561.48

Restricted Fund was \$1,147.60

MARKETING/PUBLIC VP - Ray Young:

- Completed program and marketing activities for Spring Show
- Fundraising project letter completed and delivered to the post office May 3rd.
- Activities include:
- Assist **Kent Miller** with sponsorship program
- Promotion of United in Harmony Show
- Assist with Applebee's fundraiser
- Prep for Chapter's 75th Anniversary
- Creating social marketing position

MUSIC & PERFORMANCE VP - Mark Fortino:

- Contest songs selected for KC2011 International Contest are: *Yes, Sir, That's My Baby* and *Love Me and the Whole World is Mine*.
- **Kevin Kell** (AOH) has completed the arrangement of *Rudolf The Red Nosed Reindeer* Medley.

PROGRAM VP - Jerry Meier:

- Music In the Park concert is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 14 in Overland Park.
- Plans are underway for the 2010 Installation/Awards Banquet. The OP Doubletree is holding January 7 & 14. Other downtown hotels are being researched to see if they can produce a better deal than the Doubletree.
- The Board agreed to give away the following from the closet:
- HOA Short Sleeve Bowling Shirts.
- HOA long sleeve red stripe Texaco shirts.
- Cassette learning tapes (1987-1992, 1994, 1995).

OLD BUSINESS:

Singing Valentines: John Erwine

- 112 Total SV delivered; 16 by Sweet Adeline's
- Grand total for Children's Mercy Hospital is \$1,468.26
- Grand total to KC Chorus of Sweet Adeline's is \$403.54
- Grand total to HOA \$2,741.25

Uniform, Music Librarian, Show Chair and Sunshine Chairmen - Vince Perry

- **Dave Jobe** has agreed to be Music Librarian.
- **Roy Manade** resigned from Sunshine Chairman
- Uniform Chairman - open
- Show Chairman - open

Sunshine Guidelines – Vince Perry

- After much searching the guidelines currently in place for the Chapter's Sunshine Program have been located by **Roy Manade**.
- The Board agreed to accept the following Sunshine Guidelines:
- Death of A Chapter Member - A \$100 donation from the Chapter to the charity of the Family's choice or the Harmony Foundation (if the family does not specify a charity) and HOA members sing at funeral if requested by family to do so.
- Death in the Family of a Chapter Member - A \$50 donation from the Chapter to the charity of the Family's choice or the Harmony Foundation (if family does not specify a charity) for any immediate family member of an HOA member; wife, significant other, mother, father, sister, brother, son or daughter. For any other family member, a condolence card will be sent to the chorus member and family.
- Serious Illness (hospitalization) of Chapter, Member or Immediate Family - A get well card will be sent; Chapter will be informed to encourage calls and visits.
- Wedding of Chapter Member and other special cases
 - Request donations from members and present as a cash gift, a gift from the wedding registry list, or a other know item of specific need: seconded and passed.

NEW BUSINESS:**Garage Sale/Picnic - Vince Perry:**

- Garage Sale is planned for this year.
- Date is not set but expected to be the middle of September.

HOA Picnic was discussed may not be a viable option this year.

PCI Compliance & SquareUp - Vince Perry

The Chapter is in PCI Compliance until May 2012. New technology called SquareUp is being tested. Via a credit card reader, attached to a smart phone, one is able to accept credit card payments. HOA has established an account with the company and test runs have been made successfully. The system will be tried out upcoming HOA Golf Tournament.

Break After International

The Board agreed that the chapter will not meet July 12 and 19 following International 2011.

Program Advertising Sales - Larry Colburn

- Total advertising sales for the Spring Show - \$3,947
- Total advertising sales for the United In Harmony Show - \$1,275

Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter



Note that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. By Board resolution, this year all of the proceeds from the raffle not given as prizes goes to Harmony Foundation. In return, the board is able to have the Foundation designate up to 30% of the fund to chapter activities such as Harmony Explosion.

As of May 18, after 19 drawings (7 since last report):
The total Harmony Foundation contribution since the last report: \$147.

The total collected for the year to date (since Jan. 3, 2011) is \$452.

The total for the previous year was \$1,142 after 19 drawings.

The total in our best previous year (2009) was \$2,441.

The total in 2006 (our best full year) was \$1,942.

The total in 2002 (the lowest year of the past decade) was \$498.

The progressive jackpot stands at \$230.♥



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 Mr. Golfer, **Kent Miller**, for putting together the 2011 HOA Golf Tourney at Falcon Lakes Golf Course and all the troops who pitched in to help. If you've never been there, if just to help, you've missed a great outing.

A Tip O' The Old Noggin' Cover to **Carl Turlin** for subbing as Program VP while **Jerry Meier** was absent. See, Carl, we told you that those four years of PVP training would come in handy one of these days.♥

**DEADLINE FOR
THE COMBINED
JULY/AUGUST ISSUE
OF HARMONOTES:
AUGUST 1**



United In Harmony

with Heart of America Chorus, Vocal FX Chorus, Musical Island Boys,
Moxie Ladies, Zing, OC Times, Vocal Spectrum, & Storm Front

with Afterglow Included

July 3rd - 6:30 pm

THE MIDLAND

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A Look at Scores of Quartets Competing in KC

by Jim Porter, Chapter Treasurer

In theory, every quartet that competes in a spring event is eligible to compete at the Society's international convention—all they need to do is to score at least 76 percent, or be the best in their district. (Pioneer and Southwestern districts sent their best, but the quartet scored under 76.)

At this writing, you can go online and see the scores for yourself, for each of the districts, and a summary of all quartets in order of percentage score. Results are there for all 17 North American districts, but for scores from BABS or SNOBS, you must visit their respective Websites. (The other affiliate associations have not posted their contest score sheets on their sites.)

I have gathered all results for the 17 districts, SNOBS and BABS into one spreadsheet and linked them to prior year's results. All quartets that competed in a district are put together in one pool, whether they be collegiate, seniors or regular. Read on for what I have observed from these results.

Our district (Central States) continues to show itself well among all, sending five quartets to international, more than any other district. (None, however, cracked the top 10.) In addition, *ListenUp!* finished in the fifth spot among wildcard possibilities, but did not get an invitation this year (none of the wildcard possibles was invited at this writing, as 46 quartets made at least the 76 score, compared to 42 last year.)

The International field is 53 quartets, the 46 with at least 76 from the North American districts, two from Sweden and three from Britain also over 76, and the best quartets from Pioneer and Southwestern that were under 76. Note that nothing is known about the other affiliates, it is reasonable to expect that at least we will add *Musical Island Boys* from New Zealand, perhaps others as well.

Of these 53, just 32 quartets competed last year in Philadelphia, one (Prestige) competed in the collegiate contest. Three of these were wildcards last year, all scored

over 76 this year. Three others competed in 2009 but not in 2010. Seventeen quartets in this year's lineup are there for the first time.

An additional 57 quartets scored at least 69.8. Three of these competed last year in Philadelphia. First-time competitors totaled 26; another 25 competed in the prelims last year and failed to make the cut, and three are back after competing in 2009 but not last year.

Of last year's top 20, the most significant absence was *Ringmasters*, last year's 3rd-place medalist. Also out this year (none competed in the spring) are *McPhly*, *Lucky Days* and *Zamboni Boys*. (Note that last year's *High Definition* is this year's *Voices Unlimited* with a couple of personnel changes.)

Up-and-coming quartets to watch (these showed substantial improvements since the competitions a year ago) include *A Mighty Wind* (up over 4%), *Forefront* (up nearly 5%), *The Crush* (up 3.5% since 2009), and *'Round Midnight* (up 4.5%). Our own *Skyline* is up 2.5%, one of the best improvements by a quartet in the second 10. *After Hours* improved 5.5% to qualify after missing the cut in 2010. Our own *ListenUp!* improved 4.5%, just missing the cut. Lower down, consider *Xtreme Measures*, up 16.7% to 71.5% and *Carolina Quadraphonic*, up 12.4% to 69.9%.

Overall, 31 quartets that competed both last spring and this spring showed an AVERAGE net improvement of almost 2%. It does demonstrate that the field is improving and that this year's competition should be among the best ever.

As before, I also compared the district averages to one another. The problem here is that the districts each have their own rules for determining what competitions take place when. Some districts qualify their collegiate quartets in the fall, while others qualify them in the spring. The same is true for senior quartets. The one constant is that everyone qualifies quar-

tets for International in the spring, and past district champion quartets are in these competitions (but not in the fall competitions). That said, the spring results were determined by choosing the top five quartets from each district (throwing the collegians, seniors and the rest together in one pool), then a second time with the top 10 quartets in each district.

Central States District continues to show a depth of talent in its district, averaging second-best among all districts with the top 10 selected from each. With the top 5, CSD stands just 5th, the lack of top-10 quartets in our district causes this average to be lower. Mid-Atlantic is No. 1 with the top 5 (including Old School) and Dixie is first with the top 10 (including A Mighty Wind). Dixie is second in the top-5 list, followed by Far Western and Johnny Appleseed. This year, Far Western has little depth compared to previous years, its top-10 average is just 16th. This is quite a come-down from previous years. Johnny Appleseed has the fullest competition -- 33 quartets competed in this year's contests (CSD was second with 21 competitors).

Overall, this year 298 quartets competed for an aggregate average of 67.6%. A year ago, 307 competed, the aggregate average was 66.7%.

All in all, we are privileged to host what should be one of the best quartet competitions ever, then again in the fall as one of the strongest districts in our Society convenes to crown a new district quartet champion. ♥



Children's Mercy Hospital Donation

by John Erwine, Singing Valentine's Chairman

Today, May 19, culminated many months of planning and execution of the Singing Valentine's project, which was born in 1991 in this chapter. The first two years a concert was held at the Northland Cathedral to help benefit the Children's Mercy Hospital Hearing and Speech Clinic. Thereafter, the true Singing Valentine project as we know it today was implemented to continue that effort.

This year I was pleased to present checks in the amount of \$1,468.26 to **Jo Finney**, Manager, Speech-Language Pathologist of the Hearing and Speech Northland Clinic. This followed a 30 minute tour of the facility explaining exactly what and how they accomplish their tremendous works.

The sound proof testing room was appealing to even me; maybe because when you respond you get a reward? In conjunction with using headsets, if a child really doesn't want to wear them they have great speaker systems in place. When a sound is detected in either ear, the child is rewarded with lighted bears and monkeys jumping up and down on the side of the sound. This is part of their validation system. Sounds like fun to me!

One of the new advances they are implementing is called "phonological awareness." It is the understanding that our language can be broken down into parts, units, or sounds which can be manipulated regardless of meaning. It includes such skills as rhyming; and breaking down language into words, syllables, and individual speech sounds; beginning and final sound recognition/production; and letter/sound correspondence. Sounds a lot like our warm-ups, right?

This recent advance is all about reading. Phonological awareness is an essential part of learning to read. According to Jo, research has shown that children with language disorders are at significant risk for later reading difficulty. Research also indicates that phonological awareness can be taught, and phonological awareness instruction has a positive and significant influence on reading success. To learn more go to www.childrensmc.org.

I would like to thank all of you who participated in this fund raising event in any way. You made it a total success. As far as rewards; today was mine! Next year we hope to have additional Singing Valentine delivery options;

those that will include some of our newer social media technology, so stay tuned.

By the way, as I left today, Jo stuffed a handful of earplugs into my hand and said "use them!" Yes, Mom. ❤️



Above: Front row, left to right - Tyler and Trevor Stevens; Back row, left to right - John Erwine, Jo Finney and Janelle Stevens. Janelle is a Speech Pathologist at Children's Mercy Northland, and her children are participating in the Phonological Awareness program as are many others



Above: Soundproof hearing testing lab with lots of fun rewards. Photos courtesy of John Erwine

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Heart of America Chorus Calendar

May 12

HOA Golf Tournament at Falcon Lakes in Basehor, KS

July 3

International Harmony Festival Show at Midland Theatre

July 5-9

BHS International Contests & Convention

"Long stormy spring-time, wet contentious April, winter chilling the lap of very May; but at length the season of summer does come"

- Thomas Carlyle



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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.