



Heart of America Chorus

CALENDAR

- Nov. 7 -** HHS Joint Rehearsal - Mission Mall
- Nov. 17 -** Greg Lyne Coaching Session
- Nov. 20 -** HHS Joint Rehearsal - Location TBA
- Dec. 3 -** Holiday Harmony Spectacular featuring HOA and the KC Chorus of Sweet Adelines
- Dec. 17 -** Bell Ringing for Salvation Army, Location TBA

2005 CSD CHAMPS!

Photo courtesy of Matt Bostick

THIRTEEN-TIME CENTRAL STATES DISTRICT CHAMPIONS!

November 2005 Volume 05 - Issue 11

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!*

Sometimes It Does Seem Worth All The Effort

by Jim Bagby, Ye Olde Arm-Waver

Congratulations, HOA: our 13th Central States District championship! This one was especially rewarding, and difficult at the same time—which is probably appropriate, coming on the heels of mixed-message results in Salt Lake City.

We certainly sang better than ever in Des Moines, as our review of the performance DVD confirmed the following Tuesday. The scores did not all necessarily reflect that, but you and the music team could see and hear the improvement. And the standing ovation Saturday night in Des Moines for “Apron Strings” was virtually spontaneous, sustained and justly deserved.

Those are the moments we live for, because they prove we’ve made a musical and emotional connection—and they validate all the work you put in for so long. Even without the guys who couldn’t be part of the performing chorus that Saturday night, because they couldn’t stay or were occupied with other convention

duties, it was a memorable performance. I’m grateful to have been part of it.

Leading up to that moment, however, there were times to doubt. At one point we were losing one and two guys from the competition chorus every rehearsal. We went from an original signup of almost 95 to a final on-stage chorus of 83. We set rigid attendance requirements, because we didn’t want to go through the same hole-on-the-riser syndrome we experienced before SLC, and still we had nights where we started with two-thirds of a chorus.

Then our final home rehearsal, with Coach **Bill Biffle**, certainly sent us out the door with many wondering just how good we were. He refused to cheerlead or tell us of anything more than our potential. Some guys were mad, some were worried; some said this was just the motivation we needed. Regardless, when we gathered in Des Moines, we were focused and determined, and we saw the results.

(Continued on page 2)



Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire

HOA and the Kansas City Sweet Adelines assemble for their first joint Holiday Harmony Show rehearsal on Oct. 18!

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HARMONOTES

...is published by the board of directors of the Kansas City, MO., Chapter of the Barbership Harmony Society, 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:

Todd Anderson

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Chapter meets at 7 p.m. 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



Sometimes It Does Seem Worth All The Effort

(Continued from front cover)

There was no doubt it may have been the best retreat we've ever had, and one of the best-attended. Certainly we discovered with **Jim Henry** a sound we did not know we were capable of, and have re-created on occasion since. Now I hope we're fully aware of where we can go with the dedication—if we get it from EVERY singer—applied in the right direction.

So we did not score 87, nor are we an 87 chorus now. We did not score 85, although I really believe we could have if we'd maintained the momentum from the retreat—which would have taken more individual commitment and something approaching 100 percent attendance over rehearsals between then and contest. (You'll recall we had our first and only 100 percent the last night. Why directors get gray...) We certainly should have averaged 83, and would have except for some inconsistent scoring that I cannot explain. In fact, the number of variances among the members of this panel is a matter of continuing discussion—but is not an excuse for us.

So now we get to make our 18th (?) trip to international competition. Indianapolis is a great convention city, even though it will be our third trip there. But first comes what's shaping up to be a wonderful holiday show. Remember what I asked for as a Christmas present? Show signups are now under way; who can you pressure...I mean, encourage? And if we hit that 100-singer goal, who knows what we might do for the spring extravaganza at the Music Hall? Yep, sometimes it does seem worth all the effort! ♥



New Director Named

by Don Fuson, Past President, Overland Park Chapter



David Farris

David Farris of Mission, KS has been named the new choral director of the Overland Park, Kansas Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society by the chapter's Board of Directors. David will direct the Overland Stage Chorus.

Farris earned a Masters degree at the University of Missouri-Columbia where he was a graduate assistant in studio voice and opera production. He has led choral groups in public schools and churches and founded several touring musical troupes.

David is looking forward to his immersion in barbershop harmony and also bringing his considerable talents in teaching and coaching, supporting and leading from the director's position.

He can be reached on 913-522-1874 and is in the process of changing emails. ♥

Photo courtesy of Don Fuson



President's Corner

by Marty Oldehoeft, Chapter President

We Did It! Our goal this fall was to win the Central States District competition in Des Moines and so we did, albeit by a very slim margin over our friends up north with the new name (*Voices of America*). I attended my first evaluation session after the contest completion and must say that when the judging staff finished I didn't feel like a winner. Then on the following Tuesday, when the video was played, I realized these dudes are very special listeners and watchers. To "joe barbershopper" it was pretty good stuff. So I say "Well Done" and I'm proud to be a part of the experience.

Now it's on to the next big event so put a fresh set of batteries in the CD player and bone up on all the Holiday music that the music team has worked on so hard to get into our hands. It should be another singing high performing with the international Third Place Metal winning *Kansas City Chorus of the Sweet Adelines*. We will do our part to make the SHOW a big success. ♥

Attention All Members Of HOA!

Consider directing your tax-deductible contributions to *your very own* charitable organization...HOA!

As you can see, it has already started. Certainly not everyone has the financial ability to participate, but consider that this is an opportunity to know how your charitable dollars are being used. *Be included in the list below, and proudly support your chorus...HOA.*

DONORS

Members And Friends Making A Difference!
We gratefully acknowledge your generosity to the Heart of America Chorus 2005-2006

Gold Heart (\$1,000 - \$4,999)
Thom Tisdall

Silver Heart (\$400 - \$999)

Bronze Heart (\$50 - \$399)
Arthur Gibson
Dick & Joan Korek
Hugh & Nancy McCreery
Tony Strub

Donors will be listed in HOA's monthly bulletin and the March 23, 2006 Annual Show program. The Heart of America Chorus is a 501(c) (3) organization. Checks should be made out to: HOA Give to any HOA Board member or mail to: HOA, c/o Dale Neuman 816 W. 121st. St. · Kansas City, MO 64145-1011 *Donors are listed from June 30, 2005 through July 1, 2006*

The Pure Joy Of Singing

by Todd Anderson, *Harmonotes* Editor



Recently the air-conditioner in my car was on the blink, leaving my 9 year-old boy Barry and I with only one choice: *roll down the windows to get cool.* As the air whistled through the car, Barry became absolutely elated. I watched him giggle and chuckle at how the wind roared through our

vehicle. I guess he had never experienced 60 mph gusts before! So I, being his Jedi master, immediately launched into a dissertation of how, when when I was younger, we had "side vents" in the front windows of our cars that we could position to keep us cool, since we didn't have AC in our cars. Barry nodded, ...but I could tell he never heard a word about what I was saying, or could care less about "back then." For that moment, he was mesmerized, having discovered something amazingly simple and fun—air funneling through his hands and hair at warp speed.

Maybe this is a weak analogy, but I think that for many of us, discovering four-part harmony is sort of the same way.

When some folks discover a capella music, they're stunned by the simplicity and fun of it all. At that same moment, sage singers may interject their knowledge or *blow* about their musical prowess. However, I'd bet that a new guy would nod his head, but care nothing about such puffspeak. The joy of ringing a chord brings a simple delight, no matter your age or experience. And it's downright addictive.

I believe music, art and dance are the purest forms of expression, don't you? Sort of like those side vents on my old '69 Volkswagen bug!

Congratulations to all of you who competed at Central States—who expressed yourselves through music SO well, that you were rewarded with the 2005 district championship! *Well done, gang!* ♥

SONIC: Valuable Coupons!

by Dick Korek, Marketing & P.R. Vice-President



HOA now as easy way to raise cash. It's Sonic Cards! Do you realize that each coupon only costs \$5? And did you know that when you sell a coupon, that HOA receives the entire \$5? In return, Sonic provides the coupon holder with up to \$18.51 of savings. *Everyone wins!*

And as if the deal wasn't sweet enough, check out these incentives that are on the way:

- For the next few months there will be bi-monthly SONIC CARD sales winners
- At some, yet to be determined date, the top SONIC CARD sales winner will receive two nights at the Marriott downtown (Friday, March 24 and Saturday, March 25, 2006). That's the weekend of the March 2006 HOA Show at the Music Hall. *WOW!*



Do yourself and your friends a favor...look over these savings and the benefits for HOA with these SONIC Cards!

For your information, over \$1,200 has been turned over to our treasurer to date. At least that much more is out there on consignment. Keep selling! ♥

Harmony Foundation Report For November

by Jim Porter



Note that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. Half of the proceeds is designated to Harmony Foundation. You can, of course, give money directly to Harmony Foundation any time we are together, just tell me at the time of your intentions and I'll direct your gift 100% to the Foundation.

As of Wednesday Oct. 18:

In the past month, our chapter has raised \$138 for the Harmony Foundation. So far this year (since Nov. 20, 2004), we have raised \$2,200. Last year at this point, the total raised was \$2,296. In our best year (2003), the total raised at this point was \$2,880.

Thank you all for your interest and participation! ♥

Finding Excellence Within

by Bill Campsey



When I've directed a play, like most directors I give a little pep-talk before curtain. One doesn't have to do much to inspire actors just before curtain on opening night or on any night when you can hear the audience abuzz and healthy tension building.

However, Sunday matinees are typically smaller crowds and the actors would typically

rather be watching a football game or enjoying their lazy Sundays. It is then that the director's pep-talk needs to have a little extra oomph. My most successful Sunday afternoon talk went something like this:

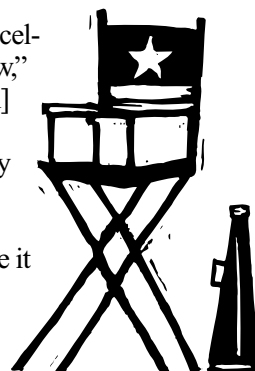
"Here you are on a Sunday afternoon with a million other places you might rather be. The audience is smaller, and generally the audience is older. They probably won't get as many of the jokes. You are set to just mail in your individual performance.

You deliver awesome performances when you can feed off the audience. But, the true performer won't always need the audience because the audience is not always there.

None of you showed up at auditions hoping to achieve mediocrity. None of you dream of performing merely adequately. Reach back now to that time you imagined how inspirational it would be to be a part of this production. If each and every one of you makes an individual decision that you intend to deliver an awesome performance, then the ensemble won't need the audience, you can feed off each other.

And when that curtain comes down, you can be proud that you didn't need anyone or anything besides your own commitment to excellence and that of your fellow performers."

If each of us believes that "Excellence begins right here, right now," then we've got this [competition] thing licked. The judges will be irrelevant, because we've already decided to bring the best of ourselves to the stage. They can just be there to enjoy it and make it a part of the record. ♥



Photos courtesy of Ron McIntire



2006 Chapter Officers and Board Elected

by Dale Neuman

The Nominating Committee (Jon Gathright, Dale Neuman and Bob Rutherford) is pleased to report that the election of the 2006 leadership team for the Kansas City Chapter has been completed. Contest preparation and the committee's deliberations pushed this year's election back by two weeks. But the resulting slate, with its mix of veteran and newer members, clearly continues the tradition

of strong leadership the Chapter has come to expect.

Here are the officers for 2006:

President:	Tony Strub
Executive VP:	Doug Brott
Immediate Past Pres:	Martin Oldehoeft
Secretary:	Kevin Tritsch
Treasurer:	Ron Fortino
Music VP:	Keith Schweer
Program VP:	Jerry Garrard
Marketing VP:	Dick Korek
Membership VP:	Stew Grosser
Operations VP:	Chuck Ames

The Board of Director for 2006 will be: **Bill Campsey, Rich Huyck, Kent McClean, Kent Miller, Harvey Shapiro and Harry Stewart.**

And, finally, under the new CSD organizational structure where the old House of Delegates is now the Council of Presidents, **Tony Strub** is the elected delegate.

Many of the officers will be attending the CSD COTS training seminars in Omaha in late November and all officers and Board members will be installed at the annual Installation and Awards Dinner in early January. The terms of office are from Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2006.

The Nominating Committee would be remiss if it did not express its thanks to those men leaving the leadership team at the end of this year. Your input and efforts have helped put HOA back in 1st Place and that is a fine memory to keep with you. And as many "former" officers and Board members will tell you, your turn will come again as the Chapter needs and brings back good men to take on projects in the service of our hobby.

So here is a tip of the hat to:

Outgoing Immediate Past President **Dick Irwin** who has been "immediately past" for almost four years if my count is correct. He served as President before the late **John Stucker.**

Outgoing Executive VP **Steve Carruthers** whose hectic work schedule in recent years did not keep him from also doing double duty as Membership VP for much of 2004.

Outgoing Treasurer **Charles Ramirez** who may have served longer in the office than any other in recent memory and got it right all the time.

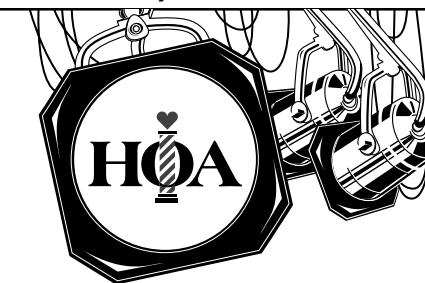
Leaving the Board are:

Bob Howard, a former President (and holder of other offices) who brought those talents as well as his skill at prop building to the Chapter.

Brian Seydlitz, a veteran member of the Barbershop Harmony Society but a relative newcomer to HOA, brought both perspectives to the Board.

And **Al Higgins**, who has served either as the elected delegate or designated delegate to the CSD HOD meetings for many years along with his other efforts for HOA, thanks again!

Thanks guys—but do not go too far away—there will be other jobs to fill in the future! ♥



New Member Spotlight

by Ron McIntire

With this column, we introduce new members of the Kansas City Missouri Chapter who have joined since January 2005.



Mick Burns is a first-time barbershopper and sings Bari in the chorus. He is currently studying music education with emphasis on

voice at UMKC and working in retail trade. His musical background includes the Chamber Singers in high school and a quartet with fellow barbershopper **Brian Marston** and two friends who attend Longview Community College.



Bruce Marston is a first-time barbershopper singing Bass with HOA. He lives in Raytown, MO with his wife

Sue and fellow barbershopping son **Brian**. Bruce holds a BME in Music Education and teaches piano and voice.

**Heart of
America
says,
"Welcome
Aboard!"**



Barbershop in Fifths, Part I

What Key Are We In? by Bruce Wenner

One interval, the fifth, plays a central role in barbershop, in common with most Western music. There are physical reasons for this in terms of the (sound wave) frequencies of the two notes; the upper note of a fifth interval is precisely half way from the lower note to the octave above. This has important consequences regarding reinforcement of the harmonics, or overtones, in chords that include a perfect fifth.

You get a fifth by starting on one note, say C, and going up five notes: C – D – E – F – G (note that in counting, the starting note is counted as one!); that gives us the interval C – G as a fifth. This works nicely in the key of C – no sharps or flats – because we started on C. But – if we started on B, we'd have a problem; B – F is not quite a perfect fifth. It would help to be in the key of B, which includes an F# — then our counting would give us the interval B – F#, which is indeed a perfect fifth.

That takes us to key signatures – those arrays of sharps or flats we find on the left of the staves. We're in the key of C if there aren't any – *Pass This Way* is an example. As we make the most natural key changes – adding just one sharp or one flat – we move by that same interval every time. You guessed it – a fifth. To add one sharp, go up a fifth from the old key to the new. That takes you to the key of G. The last sharp in the signature is the seventh, or leading tone, of the new key, so it's an F# that you add to the key signature for the key of G. That's the key of *O Holy Night*.

Same routine as you add more sharps. Add a sharp to the key signature of the key of G, and the new key is up a fifth from G – that's the key of D. (The second sharp goes on the leading tone to D, so it's a C#.) Keep going – another sharp takes you up another fifth, to the key of A, and the third sharp is the

leading tone G# (*Apron Strings* is in the key of A). Up five, and you get the key of E with the new (fourth) sharp on D. For five sharps, go up five to the key of B, and you know where that fifth sharp goes (do I hear an A?).

Now let's go back to the key of C and start adding flats instead of sharps. Recall that we went up five when adding sharps – well, flats take you down, so we go down a fifth to find the new key. So, from C we go down a fifth to F for the key that goes with one flat. And where does that flat go? Down another fifth! In the key of F, that's a Bb. At the end of *Dixie*, you'll see just one flat (Bb) in the signature, which means we're in the key of F.

More of the same to add another flat. From the key of F (one flat) we go down a fifth to find the key of Bb, and down another fifth to add the second flat on E – this gives us the key (Bb) of *Wedding Bells*, with a Bb and Eb in the signature. Now let's add a third flat. Down five from Bb lands us on Eb, the key *Dixie* starts in, and the new flat is down another five – that's an Ab. One more: down five from Eb takes us to the key of Ab – the key of *Love At Home* – and the flat we added was Db (down five from Ab). We could keep going this way, but you don't see more than four flats very often.

Recap. To add sharps, go up five and put the new sharp on the new leading tone. To add flats, go down five, and the new flat goes down another five.

Now let's look at a key signature on our music and try to figure out what key we're in. All we do is reverse the process we've just been through. Take *Apron Strings*, for example. We look at the last sharp (the one farthest to



the right) – it's a G#, and that's the leading tone for the key of A, so that's our key. How about *O Holy Night*? The last (and only) sharp is F#. If that's the leading tone (and it is!) then the key note is the next note up, a G. Key of G.

Keys with flats are even easier. Look at the start of *Dixie* again – three flats in the signature, with the last one an Ab. Go up a fifth to get the key of Eb – that's our key. (Note that Eb is precisely the second-to-the-last flat.) Now we look at *Love At Home* – four flats in the signature, the last being a Db. We find the key by going up a fifth, to Ab, and there we are – key of Ab. And isn't that an Ab in the signature just to the left of the Db? Might be a shortcut available. In fact, there is – if there are at least two flats in the key signature, the second from the right will give you the key!

This is just a taste of the importance of the fifth in barbershop music. Stay tuned next month. ♥

Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire

The Songs We Sing



by Bob Niedringhaus, borrowed from *By-Lines*, the St. Louis Suburban Chapter bulletin, edited by John Conrad.

There were many, many wonderfully entertaining Broadway plays (in) the 1920s and 1930s. Among them was the **Florenz Ziegfeld** production of "Show Boat," adapted from the book by **Edna Ferber**. This was also made into a great silver screen movie. One of the songs in this marvelous play was "Bill," with words by **P. G. Wodehouse** and **Oscar Hammerstein II** and music by **Jerome Kern**.

(Other tunes) from this Broadway gem (were) the famous "Ole' Man River" and "Make Believe," along with "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man of Mine," "Why Do I Love You," and "You Are Love." Oscar Hammerstein II and Jerome Kern were indeed brilliant writers!

Mr. Kern also produced the play, "Roberta," (and) along with **Otto Harbach** and **Bernard Dougall**, wrote the songs for this dandy play, including "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes," "Something Had to Happen," "Let's Begin," "The Touch of Your Hand," "Yesterday," "You're Devastating," and "I'll Be Hard to Handle."

All wonderful music! ♥

2005 Salvation Army Bellringing On The Calendar!

by Mike Mathieu



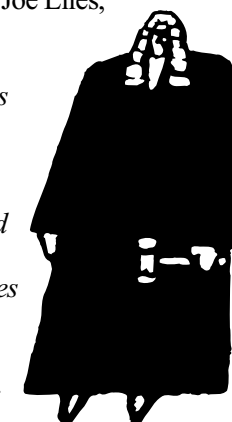
The Annual Salvation Army Bellringing is scheduled for MetroNorth Mall, Saturday, Dec. 17. With all of the catastrophes that have occurred this year, this should be a most rewarding, and hopefully profitable day for all involved.

Please mark your calendars and plan to help us out that day as much as you can. Truly a rewarding day at this most giving time of the year. You will receive more details as the day draws closer, but for those wanting to be involved the entire day, we will begin setting up at 9 a.m., and the last concert ends at 4:30 p.m. ♥

Singing Legal Music

Get some insight into copyright procedures!

by John Schneider, Society Legal Counsel & Joe Liles, Publications Editor



The following article reflects Society concerns that some of our choruses and quartets are using music for which they have not paid the copyright owner. These actions put the performer in an untenable legal situation, and if they occur in contests, there is also risk to the Society. The Society is preparing new rules to heighten contestants' awareness of their legal responsibility, and to reduce their own liability for possible violations by contestants. This will not affect the Heart of America Chorus. For many years we have been careful to obtain our new music legally—your chapter is operating in compliance with the copyright law, and will continue to do so.

For far too long, the Society has not enforced the requirement that choruses and quartets sing only legal music in our contests. Because of the potential liability for songs that we want to/have put on CDs and now DVDs, we can no longer put ourselves in an exposed position.

Therefore, effective immediately, we expect that all quartets and choruses will sing only cleared, legal music in all contests. We will expect that all choruses and quartets will completely fill out all the required contest entry forms in a timely manner and that they will have performed the required steps to make sure that all their songs are legal and that they have legal permission to sing every one of those songs.

Regarding enforcement- if it is determined prior to a contest that a song on their entry form is not legal and that they are planning on singing that song, they will not be allowed to perform. If it is determined after a contest that they have performed illegal music, they will be disqualified and will lose their placement and medal, where appropriate.

We ask that the CJ-20 form, paragraph 5, which says "**We certify that we have complied with the copyright law in the acquisition and learning of our contest songs/arrangements. We understand that ineligibility will be the consequence for violation of this statement**" be bolded on the form for purposes of emphasis.

Making this announcement now will give choruses and quartets sufficient notice of the enforcement aspects of this policy. If a song has been purchased from the published or unpublished catalog of the Society, it is legal. If obtained from any other source, it is the responsibility of the chorus and/or quartet to contact the arranger to determine if clearance has been given for the use of that music. If there is still a question after contacting the arranger, the chorus or quartet should contact the Society office for further assistance.

It is important to note that this is not just another empty gesture (you know, another warning that is never enforced). All it takes is one lawsuit to cause the Society much grief. We cannot allow that to happen. Maybe we've been lucky so far but we cannot depend on that good fortune continuing.

HOA Loses Former Coach, Ozzie Winner

by Jim Bagby

She was tough as nails and warm as a Christmas candle, as demanding as a school marm but with a laugh that could and did fill up the Music Hall. **Harriett Jean Gall** was the ultimate barbershopper: quartet member, chorus director, administrator and coach extraordinaire in *Sweet Adelines International* and the *Barbershop Harmony Society*.

The Kansas City Chapter will remember her as one of the *Heart of America Chorus* guiding lights when it came to improving our sound. She is the only female ever honored with our Ozzie Award for musical contribution, in 1998. But her association with the chapter dates to the 1950s, when her husband, **Bob**, first became active, moved on to become chapter president, Barbershopper of the Year and longtime leader, then Central States District president and, in 1969, Society president. When *HOA* made its first appearance on the international stage in 1979, Bob and youngest son **Jim** were one of nine father-son teams on the risers in Minneapolis. Jim is now a successful Seattle-based actor, who plays the Spirit of Christmas Present in the Missouri Rep's "A Christmas Carol." The older Gall sons are **Joe**, an Independence attorney, and **Jeff**, a history instructor at Truman State University in Kirksville.

Harriett died Oct. 11 at age 77, at the Regency Care Center where she'd been confined since breaking both hips in successive falls. That came on top of emphysema and other health problems dating back several years. But she had made an enthusiastic appearance at our June 28 sendoff for Salt Lake City.

Tone-Henge sang for her just a few days prior to her death. She told us she was discouraged at the prospect of needing full-time care, and being unable to return home. But her sense of humor was intact, as well as her ear, as she made reference to the quality of our "singing."

She had been in hospice care since Oct. 7, and was surrounded by family members and friends when she died peacefully four days later. As she



Above: This is Harriett with Jane Taylor, wife of 53-year Kansas City chapter member Dennis, at June 28 HOA sendoff for Salt Lake City. Dennis was the original tenor of the Merry Mugs, and Jane was one of Harriett's closest friends, as well as one of her constant caretakers over the last few years. Photo by Denise Davis.

requested, the *Rural Route 4, 12th Street Rag* and *Kansas City Sweet Adeline Chorus* sang at her funeral. A recording of the *Hallmarks* also was played.

Harriett was the primary coach of the *RR4* when we won in 1986, and at the time it made her the only woman who had ever coached international champs in both organizations. She was the Queen Mother of the *Hallmarks*, from the Jacomo Chapter, *Sweet Adeline queens* in 1979 (**Joann Karaff, Liz Robertson, Helen Shores and Jackie Harrison**).

In *Sweet Adelines*, she was Regent (same as district president) of Region 7, directed the Jacomo Chapter to an international chorus medal and served as executive secretary for *SAI* (comparable to executive vice president back then). It was the same year Bob, who died in 1995, was Society president, and they kidded their mailman threatened to quit. Later, Jacomo merged with the Independence Chapter I directed, with Harriett as director. I was sort of in-house coach and the two of us had so much fun we should have paid the chorus.

The *RR4* jumping to gold in '86 from fifth place the previous year was a major surprise to most—especially to us, because Harriett gave us no indication to expect anything like that. Harriett's coaching style is exacting, repetitious, demanding, consistent, encouraging but seldom "attaboy." I bet if you asked the other guys what they remember, it will be Harriett saying patiently "Don, loosen up... Calvin, sing pretty... Jim, not so loud... Willard, don't tuck your chin." And we should stress how important it was that she made herself available on a moment's notice to join me to drive down to the farm to coach us when the weather allowed the Yoders to suddenly be available—or to start a session here at 8:30 at night when they'd get out of the milk barn late, or a birthing would go wrong, or a hot wire would go down, or any other problem that makes farming such a challenge. When the quartet calloff was under way in Salt Lake City, and C&J Chairman **Ken Buckner** had gotten to third with no mention of *RR4*, Joann didn't know what to think—but was really worried. She turned to Harriett, who was calmly pointing up. 1986 was the first time we ever went to international, in eight trips, that we had six songs ready. Bless you, Harriett Jean.

Harriett coached so many other men's and women's quartets, including *12th Street Rag* and *4's Company*; it would be impossible to list them all. She also sang in several, including the *Couple Chords*—with **Bob and Frank and Charleen Leone**—and the comedic *Adora Gals*.

But I'm sure her toughest coaching test was *Hubbub*, which Bob and **Dan Henry** formed to perpetuate some of the old *Merry Mug* routines.

The other fortunate original members of the strictly comedy foursome were **Manley Vance** and me. This was in the early '90s, and even with his hearing aid, Bob could hardly hear a door slam. Manley wore two hearing aids, I needed one while sounding about as much like a tenor as a buzz saw. Dan's baritone still sounded the same as it did when he sang with the *Mugs*. We wanted to compete in the CSD senior contest, so Harriett was working with us, gritting her teeth and wishing for a Jack Daniels, trying to find a way to be helpful. After an hour or so, she said, "Well, you know, you guys are bound to be funny, let's leave it at that."

In the end, Harriett defies description. She was a lifelong Christian, beloved wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother of six, great-grandmother of one, a memorable cook, sports fan, proprietor with Bob of the highly successful Strike 'N Spare Bowl, board member at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, life of the party at her Fountains at Greenbriar retirement home, cat lover and legend in two barbershop organizations.

Rest well, dear friend. ♥

Tone-Henge News

by Ol' Dan



All of *Tone-Henge* and "Henge-ettes" were proud to cheer for so many *HOA* quartets in Des Moines! It's the first time in our (men's) ancient memories that so many competing 4-somes had all or partial *Heart of America* membership. How many quartets is that? A gazillion! And one of 'em won the gold! Congrats, *Take 4!* You

are now honorary members of *Tone-Henge*, like it or not.

Other news: *Tone-Henge* is learning a new song for the Holiday Show. Well, the song is one swiped from the *Kansas Citizens*, popular *HOA* quartet in the '60's, with modified lyrics. No, not "modified," unless you would say Vesuvius "modified" Pompeii. Ya gotta hear it. Well, maybe ya don't.

Final news item: *Tone-Henge* and *Henge-ettes* will participate in an annual Christmas dinner again this Yule season. Supplemental news item: At the conclusion of the evening, *Henge-ettes* will be very happy, *Hengers* will be happy that the *Henge-ettes* are happy, and the *Tone-Henge* treasury will be totally decimated. ♥

Barbershopper Of The Month



Jim Bagby - July 2005

In grateful appreciation for your hard work and directing effort in taking the *Heart of America Chorus* to the 2005 International Convention in Salt Lake City, UT July 3-9.



Carl Turlin - August 2005

In grateful appreciation for your work and effort planning, organizing and toiling over a hot barbeque pit at the annual *Heart of America Chorus* family outing and picnic at Lake Jacomo park Aug. 14.



Al Fehlauer - September 2005

In grateful appreciation for the work you did as Program Coordinator in planning and organizing the 2005 *Heart of America* Retreat in Atchison, KS Sept. 16-17.

Xtra Mile Award



Frazier Allen - July 2005

In recognition for the above and beyond manner in which you "bounced" back from your stumble and fall upon the hardest sidewalks to be found in Salt Lake City, UT



Mike Mathieu - August 2005

In recognition for taking it upon yourself to manage and control the cookout at the July 26 Guest Night festivities in absence of the Membership VP.



John Fortino - September 2005

In recognition for your work as Pitch Master of the *Heart of America Chorus* while we prepared for the 2005 CSD Chorus Contest Oct. 8.



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

TEN YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER, 1995:

A lot of HOA singers came home from the CSD fall chorus contest at Cedar Rapids with long faces because of our second place finish behind the Ambassadors of Harmony of St. Charles (we had to get used to it over the following years, didn't we?). HOA President Dale Neuman had this to say about our performance: "Those who attended the judges' critique of our efforts after the contest know that we lost performance points (or better, failed to get some that were there to be had) because we made mistakes, did not sing as clearly as those who want to be champions must sing, lost energy at critical junctures, and other things that our own music team had been drilling us on for months."

Dale also reported that two of the judges told us that the risers on stage in Cedar Rapids hurt our scores. Said Dale: "We also knew that was going to be a problem since there were two different types of risers at different heights and not linked together properly, factors that the heroic last minute efforts by the one-woman stage crew to shim up with several pieces of a broken yardstick could not overcome." Just goes to show you never can predict exactly what's going to happen at a contest.

New chapter members included 16-year barbershopper Raymond Schwarzkopf, who had moved with his wife to Overland Park from the Chicago area where he'd been active with the West Towns Chorus of Lombard (our old friend, Greg Lyne, was the director), and the New Tradition of Northbrook, directed by Jay Giallombardo. We also welcomed John Robinson, who had transferred from the St. Louis Number 1 chapter. John was sponsored by John Fortino.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER, 1980

The chapter was meeting on Tuesday evenings in Rooms 146-148 in the Federal Building at 601 E. 12th Street, in Kansas City, MO. Someone, probably Editor Joe Costigan, had inserted a plea for all members to try to get to the location early in order to be able to find a parking place, walk to the building entrance, and go through the security check and still arrive by 7:30 p.m., the meeting starting time. Apparently, this was not a favorite place for the members to meet, for one reason, that the risers had to be stored on a different floor, which required four men to maneuver the dolly on and off the elevator and around corners to the storage site. A big plus, however, was the fact that the use of the premises was FREE!

FORTY YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER, 1965

The Heart of America Chorus finished in fourth place in the CSD chorus competition at Des Moines (we haven't been that low in the district contest standings in a long time). First place went to the Pony Expressmen of St. Joseph (they were on quite a kick during those years), with Davenport and Cedar Rapids in second and third place, respectively.

Three HOA quartets: the Merry Mugs, the BMA Beaconaires, and the Intervals competed with 16 other entries in the quartet competition. The Intervals finished in 12th place in the semifinals, but the other two quartets made it to the top ten and the finals. In fact, although the Mugs and the Beaconaires found themselves in sixth and seventh place, respectively, in the semifinals, they exchanged places in the finals, and the BMA Beaconaires were the highest scorers of the three HOA entries. ♥

Inspirational CD Available by Mark Fortino



I have been working on a new recording project since January of this year and I just received shipment last Wednesday of "Holy Is His Name."

No, it's not a Barbershop CD, but rather a CD of me and a friend of mine, Ellen Tuttle, singing music we have sung together for many years at church and at weddings. We are accompanied by a Nashville pianist, cello, oboe, flute, acoustic guitar and drums. John Fortino, and a friend of ours, Steve Courtney, add background vocals on a couple of songs as well.

The CD was engineered by our very own Dan Israel, and was mastered in Nashville, TN. Copies are \$15.00. ♥

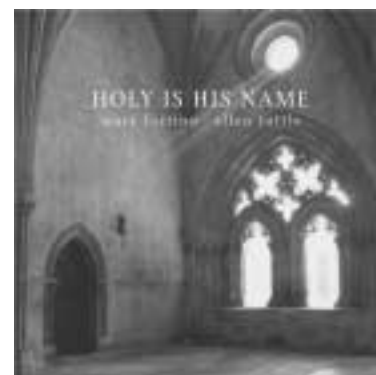


Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire

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Mail to: HOA, c/o Dale Neuman
816 W. 121st. St. · Kansas City, MO 64145-1011

Heartbeats Hilites

by Sharon Oldehoeft, Heartbeat President

Congratulations to the Heart of America Chorus for bringing home the trophy from Des Moines. We know you have worked hard to accomplish this goal. We give you our support as you continue to strive for excellence on the road to Indianapolis next summer.



Thank you to all who helped at the Music Hall, Oct. 5, by ushering and taking tickets. We hope you enjoyed the Billy Joel Music Show while helping the Heartbeats with this fund raiser. Thank you, also, to all who have donated used cell phones to the Heartbeats.

Our final meeting of the year will be Nov. 15, 7 p.m., at St. Peters Church (same place the men meet every Tuesday). Jan Putzier and Roberta Porter will be hosting and are planning an enjoyable evening for us. Please bring a wrapped Christmas ornament (limit \$10.00). We invite all ladies of HOA to join us for this combo Thanksgiving/Christmas party.

Hope to see you Nov. 15! ♥



Oly Oldehoeft graciously receives a check from the Heart of America Heartbeats representatives, (from left) Dessie Gathright and Sarah Fortino, during the chapter meeting on Oct. 4. This contribution is "foot-marked" to purchase a set of new risers in the near future. Photo courtesy of Don Fuson.

Fourmata Thanks You!

by John Winfiel



On behalf of Fourmata, I would like to thank all of you for the encouragement and support you gave to us leading up to, during and after our district contest performance.

Special thanks go to those who coached us: Jim Bagby, Mike Neff, John Fortino, Mike Louque, Jerry Garrard, Robbie Mathieu and Chris Meeks. Thanks to the other competing quartets who left cards for us wishing us well before the contest. That was a nice touch we didn't think of ourselves. ♥

Sounds Like Treble Perseverance Pays Off!

by Al Fehlauer

Sounds Like Treblers Carter Combs, Rob Varney, Bill Bay, and yours truly have just completed a wonderful weekend in Des Moines at CSD Fall Contest. Not in our wildest dreams did we think *Sounds like Treble (SLT)* would end up in a 5th place medalist position out of the strong field of 31 outstanding CSD quartets. And how about having SEVEN HOA quartets in the contest who all performed admirably!! We owe a debt of gratitude to all our risermates who gave us positive encouragement over the past months and the candid feedback from our music team members each time we have sung for the chapter. We hope to continue to make you proud of us down the road.

The Friday morning of Fall Contest found both our bass and baritone coming down with colds and some vocal concerns about enduring both the physical and emotional demands of the performances. As Friday night ended, we found out that Carter, our shared tenor with *Command Performance* was going to have to sing a total of EIGHT quartet songs on the contest stage, so we added our tenor to the prayer list! But, we found ways to persevere and managed to convince our lead (Rob Varney) to distract the judges by doing bird calls during our contest set... (just kidding). After studying his hero quartet *Tone Henge*, Rob suggested that *SLT* would probably ALSO sound much better without the baritone, bass AND tenor.

Seriously, Friday night performance was probably our best ever, and we could feel the overtones. The audience gave us such a big lift after our first song, *Showboat*, which in turn fed energy back to us for our second song, *Emaline*.

The four of us were ecstatic at the announcement of the Saturday night quartets and finding out that on our fifth try we got to finally sing on



Saturday night (Of course, the baritone had a brilliant back-up plan to just sing in the hospitality rooms on Saturday night regardless).

Saturday was a doubly special day. HOA successfully defended our CSD championship and SLT managed to get 2 more songs refreshed in our minds late in the afternoon before the Saturday night finals. When our call came, after getting the final word that Saturday evening emcee **Barney Alleman** (*Jurassic Larks*) would not let us use their hand-held mikes or make any inspirational speeches in between songs, we still enjoyed our second trip (and in Carter's case, fourth) across the contest stage. And this time we didn't try to knock the mike into the judges pit, either.

Competition at every Spring and Fall CSD contest has been a hallmark of our quartet since we formed in the summer of 2003. We have discovered that contests themselves not only are fun, but give us focus and give our weekly rehearsals a sense of purpose. We also consider contests great opportunities for feedback from some outstanding judges who know lots of stuff that helps us get better. We unexpectedly had to switch tenors for a very good reason early this year, but the talented Carter Combs re-energized us as we learned some new repertoire together. In *SLT's* first contest in Cedar Rapids (Fall 2003) we placed 24th in a field of 35. We followed this with placements of 14th, 15th, and 12th when we almost got to sing second night (we got to be mike testers for the 2005 CSD Collegiate contest). Six months later, we made the jump from 12th to 5th, so perseverance pays off!

What were some of the extreme measures that we employed to improve our scores? First, we tried to rehearse most every week on Wednesdays. Since this is the day after our Tuesday night HOA rehearsal, despite our advanced ages, we usually are able to recall specific points of emphasis from Jim, our outstanding HOA Music team, and our chorus coaches that we applied to our quartet songs. Believe it or not, we had only ONE outside coaching session in the months preceding this last contest, and it was back in June with guru **Bill Biffle**. We credit Bill for improving our vocal resonance matching and for putting the quartet back into a better lineup (though even he admitted he could do nothing to improve our looks). We occasionally perform for an HOA chapter meeting, and though you all might be tired of hearing our contest songs, we actually receive good constructive feedback from key members of the HOA music team that we try to take to heart. In September we performed on the Leavenworth chapter show and afterglow, and got to sing all 4 of our contest songs throughout the day in front of three audiences in two different venues.

On a side note, I got to hear "the fifth member" of our quartet, **Dr. Neil Johnson**, sing recently with a quartet in Baghdad, Iraq -via telephone! Neil was missing their baritone for a scheduled rehearsal and dialed in their rendition of *Love at Home*. Doc was upbeat as ever and I am sure he will write you all separately about his continuing adventures in Iraq.

We say to each of our newly-formed HOA quartets who competed for the first time, and may be wondering if it's worth it—persevere, and learn a few bird calls just in case!! ♥

Photo courtesy of **Don Fuson**

13th, 1st, 3rd, 1st, Retired

by Grant Hunget

Looks like a Powerball drawing or something! Well not quite, but Oct. 5-8 was a 4-day stretch of fun we will remember for a long while at the **Hunget** household, even though **Michelle** & I did not get to attend each others' Contest events, dangit! Here's a rundown-

Oct. 5, Michelle's *Sweet Adeline* quartet, *Zing!* placed 13th out of 50 at INTERNATIONAL. It is a MAJOR accomplishment to break into the "Top 15," and this was *Zing's* 4th attempt. With that, they automatically qualify for the 2006 Contest in Las Vegas next October!

Oct. 8, *Take 4* won the CSD Quartet Contest. This was my first "1st," and a huge thrill! Even with **Jeff's** summer employment all summer in Illinois, we were able to muster 10 rehearsals, 1 performance, and 1 coaching with **Kevin Keller**, since forming back in March. Being able to sing with **Aaron Burklund/Bass** (*Sibling Rivalry* '99), **Rick Kready/Tenor** (*Special Touch* '84 & *12th Street Rag* '94), and **Jeff Kready/Lead**, was a super experience for me!! Oh, and here's the icing—Thursday night, Jeff almost called off the whole thing because he had NO VOICE WHATSOEVER! I only learned this on Friday afternoon we met up to make the drive to Des Moines! But, by God's grace, and some good steroids, his voice "popped back in" about 3-hours before we were to walk on for the Friday night round. Good thing CSD doesn't test for "Roids!"

Oct. 8, the *Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines* finished 3rd at INTERNATIONAL! Heck, they've only finished OUT of the Top-5 once, since they started competing in the early 90's. Great Job Ladies!

Oct. 8, HOA won the CSD "AAA" Chorus Contest, earning a berth in the 2006 INTERNATIONAL Contest in INDY! It was a close one (again) with St. Joe just 9-points back, but they will surely earn a Wild-Card berth, and be right there with us.

The whole weekend, Michelle & I were playing phone tag to catch up with each other & report on how we did,

etc. Sure am glad the **BHS & Sweet Adelines** don't book their Conventions on the same weekends but every few years!

Incidentally, my Dad's *River City Chorus* (Mason City, IA.) was 1st Place among "AA" Choruses, and, **MaryBeth's** team won her Soccer game!! Steven isn't playing this season, but I'm sure they would have won, had he been there!

Although *Take 4* won our Debut Contest, we regret to report that it was also our Swan Song. Jeff has accepted employment in Florida with a Theatre Company, and Aaron has chosen to bow out of the Quartet to tend to family duties (Good Call, Dad!), more work responsibilities, and, it was quite a bit of travel distance for rehearsals. We all had a GREAT TIME together, and have

agreed that, should the situation ever present itself again somewhere down the road, that we would regroup. Circumstances and timing just don't make it possible for us to stay together at this time.

Thanks for all the GREAT support during our looooooong 8-month run as a quartet! ♥



Photo courtesy of Don Fuson



Photo courtesy of Matt Bostick

At top, left to right: 2005 CSD Champs *Take 4* members **Rick Kready/Tenor, Jeff Kready/Lead, Aaron Burklund/Bass, and Grant Hunget/Bari**
Bottom photo: *ZING!* came in 13th at the *Sweet Adelines International!*
Members: **LaDonna Cheatham/Bari, Susan Ives/Lead, Melynnie Williams/Bass, Michelle Hunget/Tenor**

Des Moines... A Couple Of Thoughts!

by Vince Perry, Chorus Manager



The chorus contest is already underway in the Civic Center. WE are in the pattern at the hotel with less than an hour to go until it's our turn. At this time we find out that the chorus risers we set up on the contest stage less than 24 hours earlier now have a chorus shell around them!! Yikes, how come we didn't get this information earlier? The HOA signage tech team goes on red alert to solve the problems that this will cause. Will our

signs fit under the shell? Can we move the shell? If it will be possible at all to set up our signs, how long will it take to get the signs mounted under these unknown conditions? And finally, if we get them mounted will they function as designed?

When the call came for HOA to take the stage we sent our finest problem solvers armed with nothing more than a couple rolls of duct tape. The rest of us stayed backstage and never knew the challenges they faced nor the solutions they created. When watching the contest DVD the following Tuesday, a big cheer erupted from us all when up the signs worked perfectly. It was really cool! We were all proud of the signs, their creators, their installers, their operators, and the great visual effects they added to our overall package.

"They lined up like bunch of kindergartners and followed one another quietly" is what I told Melladee about HOA and our "march" to the stage. She laughed and said I hadn't seen kindergartners lately! So, for what it's worth, we out-performed today's kindergartners in the line and file department! Still, it was nice to see order in our chorus movement and it seemed to me that there was a lot less stress on the HOA faces as they filed by me heading for the boards to defend our championship. My congratulations and thanks on a job well done!

Also, many thanks go to Jan Mathieu for all her help in arranging our Des Moines Chorus Dinner. We are really blessed to have her expertise on our convention committees! Thanks, Jan! And thanks also to Mike Mathieu for remembering that we had used the same site for the dinner the last time we were in Des Moines. (What a memory!) I received lots of positive comments upon having the dinner at the contest venue. It was a nice touch!

The HOA hospitality room got off to a rocky start but once again the great guys of HOA came through when the need arose to quickly clear away the unwanted risers from our room. The lights soon came down and under the leadership of emcee Jerry Garrard, we were all entertained for the next two hours by the great quartets of HOA and the District. At a quarter of two, Tone Henge stepped off the stage ending one of our finest hospitality rooms in many years. It was fun to see HOA party down...I think it speaks volumes as to the friendship we share in HOA!

Good bye Des Moines, Hello Indianapolis! Mark your calendars and free your schedules for July 7, 2006, HOA is on the way! ♥

Musical Notes

by Keith Schweer, Music Vice President



The recent hard work and dedication that HOA displayed in Des Moines was apparent and the results were terrific. I especially want to thank the Music Team for all their efforts. Here goes!

Jim Bagby – Director and Mr. HOA

Mike Neff – Associate Director and Lead Section Leader

Carter Combs – Asst. Director and Tenor Section Leader

Grant Hunget – Baritone Section Leader (and champion baritone)

Dennis Kinghorn – Bass Section Tape reviewer

John Fortino – Asst. Director/Pitch Master

Mark Fortino – Asst. Lead Section Leader

Bruce Wenner – Asst. Music VP/HOA arranger

Don Young – Presentation Team Leader

Mike Schumacher – Presentation Team

John Landry – Presentation Team

Mike Louque – Presentation Team

Harry Stewart – Presentation Team

David Krause – Presentation Team

Jerry Meier – Presentation Team

Phil Veltkamp – Librarian

Jerry Garrard – Member at large

Darrell McCune – Vocal Coach

WHAT A TEAM! Thanks to all. GREAT JOB!

We also have some new guys who are working with the Music Team—our new Administrative Section Leaders. We're in the process of defining their responsibilities. So far, they are keeping track of attendance within their sections (be sure and let them know if you have to miss a Tuesday night). We know we also want them to work between the Membership Team and the Music Team. Their responsibility here will be to help new members get oriented into the chapter and into their section. Do they have music? Have they seen Brooke about uniforms? We don't have this all worked out yet, but we're working on it. Your ideas are welcome. Here's the list:

Tenors – **Marlin Weidler**

Leads – **Mike Schumacher** and **Mike O'Dell**

Baritones – **Doug Brott**

Basses – **Walt Patterson**

Welcome aboard, guys!

Just in case you're wonder where we go from here, the Music Team's plan is to do everything we can to help HOA become a better performing chorus. Through the use of outside coaches and internal coaching and education programs, we want to make the *Heart of America Chorus* the best it can be. Does that sound like something you'd like to be a part of? ♥

Barbershop Podcast Debuts On The Web

taken from LiveWire!, the online newsletter from the Barbershop Harmony Society

Listen online at <http://4-cast.tv> to the sometimes controversial, always interesting online interview show.

Take a lighthearted fun approach to Barbershop Music (and all things Barbershop) with **Alan LeVezu** and **Eric Brickson**. Listen as these two long time Barbershoppers share their humble opinions and stories with each other and their guests.

Their website promises: "We will be talking to executives, coaches, directors and never forget- Joe (or Jane) Barbershopper, about membership, goals, education, top choruses and quartets and Barbershop life. If you love Barbershop e-mail list and groups, and want more than just typed words, you owe it to yourself to listen to &4 Cast, the only podcast dedicated strictly to Barbershop Harmony."

What is podcasting? Podcasting is a way of distributing audio files over the internet automatically. When a site (like this) offers a podcast feed, you can subscribe to the feed using podcasting software and any new items will be automatically downloaded to your computer. As the name implies, if you have a portable audio player, the files can also be copied to the player.

However, and this is a common area of confusion, no iPod or other MP3 player is required. You can listen to the audio on your computer just as you would any MP3. In fact, with our feeds you don't even need podcast software. Just click the feed link and download the show you want directly.

If you decide you want to listen to a show every time it comes out, you might consider using a podcasting client. Think of it as Tivo for Internet audio. You subscribe to content you want by visiting the web site and getting the podcast URL. Your podcast software automatically downloads any new shows and copies them to your MP3 player.

Visit Wikipedia for more information about podcasting. You'll find directories of available podcasts and a list of some of the more common podcasting software on the software page at ipodder.org. ♥

So What's With The Ballcaps?

by Vince Perry, HOA Website Guy



In response to ever increasing literature on Internet security, the HOA website has been upgraded to be more secure in a couple of areas.

As you might already have noticed we are now supporting the little lock at the bottom of a form page indicating that a secure connection has been established between computers. You will also note that next to the lock is our website address (depending upon which browser you use) www.hoachorus.com plus in the url address at the top you can verify the secure connection by the letter s in https://. All this simply means is that any information received or transmitted between your computer and the hoachorus.com server (computer) while in this mode is encrypted so that a 3rd party can not intercept it. This type of security is called SSL or Secure Socket Layer and is the information security standard on the Internet at this time.

We are also just beefed up the security on our Members Page which contains all our mp3 music files, a copy of the chapter directory, and other data that is intended "for our eyes only." The way it has been until now, we had a simple password system that could be compromised by anyone with just a little knowledge of HTML coding. Under the new system, no one (or no machine) will be able to anonymously view the contents of our members-only files. Even if they have the exact url to a particular page, they will not be able to open it directly. Everyone, including members, must go through the user name and password page to gain access to our private data. At present we will try using one user-name and password for all; but if need arises we can and will issue unique user-names and passwords for each HOA member. Security of HOA information is our goal!

The Internet is a growing monster and the security of information will always be at the top of every web designers list. The above security measures will definitely go a long way to provide you with a safe and secure website experience.

Oh yeah, the cool ball caps with the HOA logo, what's the deal with them? In a nutshell, the HOA Technology Committee had no money to purchase the licensing, certificates and software needed to bring the HOA webpage security up to a respectful standard. So the HOA Chorus Online Store decided to offer apparel and gifts bearing the HOA Logo as a means of raising money to cover the operating expenses of the HOA website. The campaign started with HOA baseball caps in September. We sold several dozen hats and are well on our way to reaching financial independence for this year. Very soon we will be offering HOA long sleeve demon shirts. We are also planning to offer some HOA casual shirts & maybe light weight jackets in months to come depending of course upon the success of other sales and the anticipated need by the membership. If you have something you would like offered please let the Tech Committee know about it. In the meantime, thanks to all for supporting the HOA Website! Buy HOA and keep HOA Secure and Online! ♥

Hat Photo courtesy of Vince Perry

Over the Hump

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



Greetings once again from Operation Iraqi Freedom!

All is well, and I wanted to give a little update of what's going on with me and the *Hard Corps Chorale*.

But first, I want to say congratulations to all my friends in the *Heart of America Chorus* for another outstanding performance on the contest stage! You can bet I was thinking about you all while you were there, and I am very happy to know that it was, as we say here: "Mission Accomplished!"

Congratulations also to all the quartets who came out in big numbers to compete in the contest. Kudos especially to *Sounds Like Treble* with a 5th-place medal! I am so proud of you guys, I can't tell you how much I wish I could have been there to see it. Keep it up! (Patient #1 was impressed also-Ask AI)

As mentioned in the title, I am well over the hump with this deployment. Some units are already rotating out after their year, so it won't be long before we're next. For the *Hard Corps Chorale*, this has meant saying farewell to several regular singers, including our bass, **Brian Toll**. He has thoroughly enjoyed himself in the chorale and has also been an outstanding bass in our quartet, the "High & Tights." He is joining the Denver Mile High Chapter when he gets home, and we're already conspiring for the quartet to reunite in Indianapolis in July. As for the vacancies in the HCC, fortunately, most have put the word out to the incoming units and we've already had about 6 new voices start

coming regularly. The biggest adjustment is having to go back and re-learn music rather than tackle new stuff, but it's all good. Lately we've been having 12-14 singers at rehearsals.

We've had a few opportunities to perform lately. One particular performance was for the "9/11 Remembrance Ceremony." This was a very-well attended event with a lot of VIPs in the audience. We sang our "Armed Forces Hymn" and the "Star Spangled Banner," but the highlight was when we sang "Mansions of the Lord" as a group of firefighters re-enacted the raising of the American Flag over Ground Zero. This was one of those precious moments where the music brought the crowd to tears and time stood still. A post-production video with excerpts of some of the speeches overlain on the music was made and you can see it on the *HOA* website.

This week we start the "Christmas Chorale." Basically all I'm doing is switching one of our two rehearsal nights to focus just on Christmas music. We're going to use the Yuletide Favorites book for starters and see how it goes. I got the music directors from the church choirs behind me in this effort, so there is a potential for a lot of interested voices-we'll see.

That's it for now. Like I said, I'm extremely proud of the chorus and the accomplishments as of late. It's too early to be looking at the light at the end of the tunnel, but I'm in the tunnel looking for it.

Top photo: *Hard Corps Chorale* members (Neil is second from the right)

Bottom: 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony



Elevating Our Presentation

by John Landry, HOA Presentation Team

I have perused the *HOA* chorus photos from Des Moines and see some fantastic faces. *HOA* has come a looong way. Great faces, great expression, great attitude.

Now look at the back cover photo (above) that appeared on the new *Harmonizer*: Check out the faces in the *Masters of Harmony*. Now ask yourself: Am I doing as much as I can?

We have always heard, "When you are doing too much, someone will let you know." I haven't heard any admonishments lately toward anyone on the risers.

If you want to elevate your presentation to the next level, it is time to befriend "Mr. Mirror." Do your daily vocal work in front of the mirror and try new things each day...brow lifts, smiles, expressions (sad, happy, morose, pensive, ecstatic), cheek lifts...just experiment and do whatever you can think of that's different than what you may be doing now. Go over the edge and be a performer. Then check out that picture of the *Masters* and see how *you* would fit into that photo. ♥



HOLIDAY HARMONY SPECTACULAR!

STARRING

- THE KANSAS CITY CHORUS OF SWEET ADELINES
- THE HEART OF AMERICA CHORUS
- ZING! • JUBILEE TRANSFER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3
UNITY VILLAGE AUDITORIUM
PERFORMANCES AT 2 & 7:30 P.M.

FOCAL POINT Up Close And Personal!



Frank Leone

It's interesting to note that nearly all of the old-timer barbershoppers have such unusual stories to tell about how they were first introduced to our barber-shopping hobby. Take **Frank Leone**, for instance. It was back in 1949, and Frank's daughter, **Dixie**, was attending Paseo High School where one of her teachers was **Mr. Don Stephens**, who at the time was the music director of the *Heart of America* barbershop chorus.

He happened to be talking with Dixie one day about barber-shop music, and Dixie, with obvious pride, announced that her father liked to sing. Frank was invited to a meeting of the Kansas City chapter, but the bug didn't bite at that time. But after serious urging by Dixie brought no response by her dad, she told him one day, "Dad, if you don't go to a meeting, Mr. Stephens is going to flunk me!" Being the good father that he was, Frank made it a point to take in the very next Monday evening meeting, and joined the chapter immediately!

Frank Leone was born and raised in Kansas City and graduated from Central High School. He claims to have no musical background, "but I really enjoy music and singing." In due time, Frank married his lovely wife, **Charleen**, who caught sight of Frank one day when he made a sales visit to the company in Carrolton, MO, where Charleen worked. She persuaded her boss to introduce her to this "good looking fellow," and the rest, as they say, is history. And just like many of us, Frank says, "I have a very understanding wife who also loves barbershop music. She was a member of the *Sweet Adelines* for over 30 years."

Frank's contribution to the Kansas City chapter over the years is quite substantial. He served on the chapter board of directors and was chapter president in 1972. He also served as chairman of the committee that hosted the 1952 international convention.

Frank's quarteting background was quite impressive. He sang with the *Crosstowners*, with **Ben Franklin**, **Dennis Taylor** and **Bob Gall**, and with the *K.C. Moaners*, with the same personnel except **Mike Michel**, who was a new member. But Frank's chief claim to fame was as the lead singer with the *Merry Mugs*, one of the Society's best known comedy quartets. He says that his most memorable barbershop experience was singing with the *Merry Mugs* on a USO Tour of Cuba, where they sang for American servicemen at Guantanamo Bay. He also recalls a Far East tour where the *Mugs* sang in overseas military hospitals during the Vietnam War.

Frank worked for many years as a sales representative for a company that manufactured laundry and dry cleaning supplies. He's retired and he and Charleen live in Kansas City. We wish them the best of health, and many thanks to Frank for his "unique" story about how he got started in barbershop. ♥

Where Are They Now?

by Wade Dexter



Ed Sundermeyer

In case you've been wondering, **Ed Sundermeyer** is now living in a newly constructed assisted living facility in Washington, DC, six blocks from the residence of his son, **Mike**. We had a nice telephone conversation with Mike on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 9, and he told us it's difficult to contact Ed by telephone because he spends very little time in his apartment. Mike says

he likes to visit with other residents in the commons area and even plays a nine-hole round of golf now and then. Can you imagine that, at 89 years of age?

A long-time member of the Kansas City Missouri Chapter and a 30+ year barbershopper, Ed sang with the *Harmony Handfull* in the 1980's and sang Lead in the *Cross Town 4* when they were the first Central States District Seniors Quartet Champions in 1989. The *Harmony Handfull* was an *HOA* singing group of fewer than 20 men devoted to filling in for church choirs during the summer months. One of Ed's most significant contributions to the chapter was chairing the ticket sales committee for the *HOA* annual show on several occasions.

If you'd like to write to Ed, you can reach him in care of Sunrise on Connecticut, 5111 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC, 20008. ♥

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following chapter members!

- Kenneth Neujahr** November 3
- Albert Higgins** November 7
- Fred Lockard** November 10
- Dick Korek** November 20
- Colin Smalley** November 20
- Dick Winter** November 21
- Tom Millot** November 22
- Jerry Snyder** November 23
- Brooke Meyers** November 23
- Mike O'Dell** November 24
- Todd Anderson** November 28
- Vince Perry** November 28
- Paul Winans** November 29

Board of Directors October Meeting Highlights

by Kevin Tritsch, Secretary

TREASURER: Charles Ramirez

Cash on hand: \$20,815

Includes: Checking, Marbles, President's Fund, New Riser Acct, Fall Retreat, Speaker and Microphone Acct.

Membership Dues (coming in): \$2,650

Major Actual and Projected Expenses

Fall retreat expenses: \$4,800

(\$500 shortfall pending checks not cleared and credit cards not billed).

Vince Perry trip to Indianapolis: Unknown

Holiday Show costs: Unknown

Rehearsal hall: \$1,500

Harmonotes: Unknown

(\$450 budget remaining, \$500 Projected shortfall through end of year.)

Sonic Campaign activity has currently added \$1,800 to the chapter general account.

MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE: Keith Schweer

Upcoming decisions by the Music Team will be to determine the path the chorus takes toward improvement. Current discussion includes the continuation of lots of coaching, possible changes in coaching staff and coaching plan. The most improvement can be achieved within the chorus by using the 9:30 to 10 p.m. time frame to re-enforce craft and the mechanics recommended by the coaches.

MEMBERSHIP: Stew Grosser

UCANSING2 - CSD is very close to winning the \$10,000 for membership. It's important we get any new members signed up before the end of the month.

OPERATIONS: Chuck Ames

HOA has received \$1,100 for the riser fund.

OLD BUSINESS:

An anonymous person has donated money towards a new speaker and sound system. **Rich Huyck** was appointed to handle the funds.

Riser fund: Dick Irwin

Total funds received toward new risers is \$2,700. Any residual fund money will be used to buy additional risers.

The plan is to continue using the 3 sets of borrowed risers until we can purchase the new ones.

Singing Valentines Chairman:

Attempts to find a chairman for the 2006 Singing Valentine Program is underway but has been unsuccessful thus far. A chairman must be in place by mid-November to begin working out answering service, headquarters hotel, pricing scheme and other details.

NEW BUSINESS:

A variance in the *Harmonotes* budget of \$500 was approved to make up for the projected shortfall in the budget for a 12th publication. ♥



A TIP OF THE HAT!

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

We in the *Heart Of America Chorus* TIP OUR HAT to you, **Mike Schumacher**, **Don Young** and **Harry Stewart** for keeping us on the right choreography track for contest. And to **Don Fuson**, we say thank you for video taping the chorus rehearsal so the choreography crew can study faces and choreography.

A big TOTH to those unsung heroes of the Music Committee who made sure **Keven Keller** was on hand for the Sept. 30 coaching session and **Bill Biffle** was here for the Oct. 4 *HOA* final coaching and *HOA* contest sendoff.

A belated TOTH to MVP **Stew Grosser** for his hard work on *HOA's* final UCANSING2 membership Guest Night, Sept. 6. His is a demanding and important job and one that never gets enough praise. Without the dedication of the Membership VP and those who assist him, our chapter membership would suffer greatly.

A TOTH once again to *HOA Chorus* Manager **Vince Perry** for putting together the District Convention chorus registration packages for Des Moines.

Nominating Chapter Officers for the upcoming year deserves a giant TOTH. So, to **Dale Neuman**, **John Gathright** and **Bob Rutherford** we congratulate you on a job well done. ♥

DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER HARMONOTES

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18