



CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING  
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE  
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY®

VOLUME 07 - ISSUE 10 - NOVEMBER 2007

## HOA, You're the Greatest! — 2007 District Contest

by Mike Mathieu, 2007 Convention Chairman



MATHIEU

**W**hat a convention! I hope you're all as pleased as I am with the great job that you all did in making this such a great time for all those that chose to visit our fair city. I haven't received the final results yet, but when they get all the numbers put together, I think we'll all be pleased, both statistically and financially.

Thirty quartets strutted their stuff across the stage at the Music Hall on Friday and Saturday during the two sessions of the quartet contest. We had over 1,435 total full registrations for the weekend. We then had 16 choruses take the stage, including the "Three Men and a Chorus" mic-tester. 765 singers in those choruses represented their cities proudly. The Central States District is alive and well!

It's impossible to thank all of you great workers in a short article, so I'll just say that you all contributed magnificently to the overall success of the weekend. Special thanks to **Bob Burdick**, convention co-chairman, who did many jobs behind the scenes and certainly made my job much easier than it would have been otherwise. Additional kudos should go out to the individual committee chairmen on the steering committee.

I think we achieved most of the goals we set out to accomplish. We rented almost 500 rooms at the Downtown Marriott, which allowed all of our conventioners to stay in one hotel, except for a few who had to check in next door at the newly refurbished Aladdin Hotel. This is the first time in my memory that we had the entire convention in one facility, and I think it worked wonderfully. Parking the car Thursday night and not having to get into it until almost noon on Sunday made for a hassle-free convention weekend.

The quartet contests on Friday went very smoothly and finished almost exactly on time. A condition on the microphones was fixed in time for the finals on Saturday night, thanks mostly to **Mark Fortino** and his marvelous microphones and placement expertise.

The chorus contest went very smoothly and finished within reach of our allotted time. The stage crew, headed up by **John Warrior**; the pattern crew chaired by **Mike and Linda Schumacher**, the house crew, and the ushers all performed admirably. The individual chorus warm-up rooms in Bartle Hall were the finest I've ever seen, and **Marty Oldehoeft** did an outstanding job in arranging those for the choruses. **Dale Neuman** and **Val Putzier** did a great job in coordinating the house, the auditorium and the Bartle Hall facilities.

The "Ladies' Breakfast" on Saturday morning served 89 breakfasts and broke the one-year-old attendance record by 19 people. Over 325 people attended our "Kansas City BBQ," and everyone raved about the quality and quantity of the food. Thanks to **Jon Gathright** for his "BBQ" efforts, and to **Jan Mathieu** and **Dessie Gathright** for their work as chairs of the "breakfast."

**Vince Perry** performed great service on the web-site, as the local contact for registrations, plus his efforts in arranging to have the registration booth at the headquarters hotel and at the Music Hall were commendable. If there is ever a job that you can't figure out how to get done, throw it at Vince and he'll have it done in an average of ten minutes. Vince also helped arrange for the mic tester chorus registration, shirt sales and any other things that no one else would tackle. Truly, what an asset he is to this organization!

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# HARMONOTES

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## 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. 64105

Chorus Director - **Jim Bagby**

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The utmost care was used in preparation of this newsletter.

Should you notice erroneous copy, please let the editor know!

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## 2007 Fall Convention Report

(Continued from front cover)

**Jim Bagby** pretty much does all the arranging for anything the judges need, he helps to fine-tune the contest needs of the convention, and he helps arrange anything else that needs to be done. Add to this equation **Joann Bagby**, with all the food she prepares, and all the hosting that she does for the judges, and it makes for one valuable convention and hospitality team.

**Mary Jo Miller** coordinated the "Ladies' Hospitality Room" and did a masterful job of obtaining door prizes galore and responding to the needs of that room. She was assisted by **Sharon Oldehoeft**, **Linda Fuson** and many other *Heartbeats* and wives. The location of this room made it convenient to walk across the hall to the "Harmony Marketplace" and find **Eilene Campsey**, our *Heartbeats* president, inventorying and selling the various goods sold there. Eilene and her co-chairman, **Barry Sanders**, **Bill Campsey** and **Mike and Margo Owen** pretty much manned the "Marketplace" the entire weekend and did a great job in selling our wares.

We heard many positive comments on the program that was put together entirely by Mike Owen, who created a great publication that was in everyone's hands all weekend. **Harry Stewart** coordinated the "roadrunner brigade," the guys who picked up and delivered the judges to and from the airport.

The person who coordinated everyone's schedule and duties was none other than **Ron McIntire**. Ron was ably assisted by **Bob Burdick** and **Vince Perry**. Thanks to **Carl** and **Marcie Turlin** for taking care of the Afterglow on Saturday night, and to **Kevin Tritsch** for manning the sound board both Friday and Saturday. Kevin also served as the committee's able treasurer for all of our monthly meetings. I was unable to mention everyone individually, but I did want to thank those that served in a chairman, or special assistant capacity.

I hope that we will have set the level for future conventions. Perhaps when the district again asks for bids for fall conventions, we will be ready, willing and able to accept the bid. I expect that our chapter will net somewhere between \$8,000 to \$10,000 of additional funds into our treasury. I'm sure we will find some wise disposition for the extra dollars.

Thanks to everyone for jumping in and providing the needed manpower that made the weekend so successful. You are truly a great bunch of people, and it's that attitude and cooperation that makes ours such a great hobby. ♥



Don Fuson

Thanks to **Mike Mathieu** and **Bob Burdick**, all of the members of HOA, the *Heartbeats* and other volunteers who came together to provide such a wonderful local convention team on behalf of CSD members attending last weekend's convention.

All I heard were good comments about the hard work and great planning to provide a fun convention to those who came and shared our hometown harmonies and food.

Plan now to go and enjoy the Spring Convention, April 18-20, 2008 in Iowa City. ♥

*Don Fuson*

Central States District President





## High Definition Born - 2007 Central States District Quartet Champions

by John Fortino, Baritone



FORTINO

When you start a new quartet with the aspirations of it being of international quality, the coaches whom you speak with for advice will ask questions such as: "Who are you guys? What is your image? What do you want people to think when they see you, and is that image real to who you are as individuals?"

Many times the answers to these questions are difficult to put into words. However, it is easy to think of quartets that have distinct images: *Rural Route 4*, *Acoustix* and *OC Times*, for example. For a new quartet, the answers to these questions are not brought into focus until you have been together for awhile. But a blurry image should be well established initially when four guys are choosing each other as quartet brothers.

So for those who might think that *High Definition* is just a new version of *12th Street Rag* for brother **Mark Fortino** and me, I think you will realize as the quartet gets more exposure that it really isn't. Sure, you will see some similarities, but Mark and I are finding that we're not the same performers in this quartet as we were in the old. It's not a better or worse kind of thing—it's just different.

Consider what happens when you bring to the table a talented young man (young enough to have been my son, by the way) who is very bright, a second-generation barbershopper, has great ideas about what makes music come alive, is handsome and has a golden bass voice that melts peoples' hearts. The expectation is that things WILL be different. Now, add to that another guy who also is a second-generation barbershopper, has a voice that would allow him to sing any part he would like, can sing sweet tenor melodies and can apply full-voice tenor down low. Your expectations are that even more drastic differences are going to occur.

**Adam Veteto** (bass) and **Rob Mathieu** (tenor) are what make *High Definition* an "A Cappella Experience." Their voices and their personalities bring forward a different part of **John** and **Mark Fortino**.

In July, at the international convention, when all the members of *12th Street Rag* were realizing that perhaps the time had come to go our separate ways, the good Lord stepped in again as he always does and pointed the Fortino brothers in a new direction. As the word traveled in Denver about *12th Street's* retirement, people began inquiring and even suggesting new foursomes before we ever left the contest venue on Saturday night. At the time, it was frankly the last thing any of us wanted to think about.

Mark came back, hired a golf pro and played four rounds of golf in one week. A new quartet developing anytime soon was just not likely. Then, in very short order we found out that Adam was interested in quarteting and had been trying to form a college quartet, but just couldn't get three other guys to commit. Rob expressed interest in singing with us and wanted to at least hear what this would sound like.

None of us really thought anything was going to happen any time soon. How good could it really be? Mark and I weren't sure that we were ready to put in the time and effort to build another quartet from the ground up. Sure, we knew everyone had a good voice, but the key is how good would the match be among the four voices, and how well would the personalities gel with a 20-year-old, a 30-year-old and two old guys in their 40s?!

So on Aug. 3 and 4, we gave it a test drive. We even caught **Bill Biffle** on his way to the airport from Harmony University to listen to it to see what he thought. What happened that day was something I don't think any of us will ever forget. The raw sound was beyond anything any of us could have imagined, and we knew something very special was happening. After sending MP3 files off to various coaches and getting "WOW" comments and feedback, we made the formation of *High Definition* official and had our first rehearsal on Aug. 13.

If you count the Aug. 3 weekend, we had a total of 11 rehearsals prior to hitting the contest site. During that time, as we made audio and video recordings of ourselves, we guessed that we had moments where we were singing in the 80s. My hope was that we would score in the 80s at the district contest. However, I knew, as did all of us, that with so little time to get used to each other, sustaining that level for two contest sets, or even one set or even one song was uncertain. When **Jim Bagby** called out our score of 2,940 or an 81.7 average, I knew we had accomplished what I had hoped for. After just 11 rehearsals, we had achieved a score that would have placed us 17th at this past International contest in Denver.

Our parents always told us: "for those who have been given much, much shall be expected!" We understand that with this kind of a start, there will be high expectations for this foursome. Rob, Mark, Adam and I are all very excited about

those expectations and know that with the Lord guiding us, and with the support of our brothers in the Kansas City and Springfield chapters, it's going to be an exciting new journey!

The success of any quartet depends greatly on the support of the families. The three wives have hit it off right from the start, and I don't think we could have asked for better families to be associated with. Many of you probably didn't know this, but Rob and his two brothers, **Rick** and **Joe**, with their dad **Mike**, were singing in *HOA* when Mark and I first joined the chorus back in 1988. In addition, Mark and I began our "Barbershop Journey" in the Joplin chapter back in 1984. We used to sing tags with Adam's dad, **Jeff**, every summer when many of the area chapters including guys from *HOA* would gather for "Tune's, T-Bones and Trotlines" in Shell Knob, Mo. The **Vetetos** are a wonderful family and, most important, their name ends in a vowel! Actually, so does **Mathieu**! All I can say is, restaurants beware when the Vetetos, Mathieus and Fortinos all come to eat at the same time!

We will do our best to represent you as well as we can for many years to come. *Thanks for your continued support!* ♥



*High Definition members (left to right) Rob Mathieu, Mark Fortino, Adam Veteto, John Fortino*



## Convention Bittersweet for Lame Duck HOA Arm-Waver

by Jim Bagby, Chorus Director



**B**ack in my sports-writer days, I had a colleague whose daily column was titled “Last Look at the Arena.” I think that’s an appropriate description for my musings in the wake of our recent venture into the 2007 fall Central States District chorus competition, and the entire convention so ably hosted by our Kansas City chapter. It was some weekend!

Getting the less-than-happy news out of the way, the *Heart of America Chorus* certainly didn’t bring home the scores we had hoped for in my final outing on the contest stage. Our marks ranged from the mid-70s and the mid-80s, so you can take your choice as to whether we were underscoring or overscoring; obviously, everyone always likes to believe the high judges were right. After analyzing the DVD, I found things at each end to agree with, and things I wish I’d done differently as a director.

The good news for CSD, of course, was that our Missouri cousins, the *Ambassadors of Harmony*, cranked out a 93-plus average and are top-seeded going into Nashville. Now, they and we thought they should have scored higher, but that was the theme of the fall contests, it appears. Even with our almost-80 aver-

age, we outscored SIX district champs, so it was—for some reason—a low-scoring fall season.

There were extenuating circumstances, including a couple of high-scoring regulars who did not compete and a penalty of almost 100 points in another contest. So we can’t get too excited by the fact that we’ve apparently earned another wildcard bid with much lower scores than we normally put up. But you can take some satisfaction that the *HOA* streak of qualifying for international competition continues, even though our effort for this contest was complicated by hosting and by less-than-spectacular chorus attendance.

But let’s move on to the other good news—and there was lots of it. The quartets that included our chapter members were very much in evidence, starting with new CSD champs *High Definition*. Lead **Mark Fortino** is an ongoing *HOA* regular and was on-stage with us in the contest; other KC members in the quartet are former *HOA* assistant director **John Fortino**, who also sang with us in Denver, and tenor **Rob Mathieu**. The bass is Springfield member **Adam Veteto**. Placing fifth, with *HOA* veterans **Tom Elefson** and **Jerry Garrard** on tenor and lead, respectively, was *Mighty Fine*! The other half of the foursome are **Don Suffron** and **Guy Anderson** from Topeka.

Convention Chairman **Mike Mathieu** and his team, starting with right-hand man **Bob Burdick**, did a great job. And it was Mike, in cahoots with *AOH* Director **Jim Henry**, who provided me with what will have to rank as one of my all-time barbershopping highlights. And you know exactly what it was, because it seems that everyone who’d ever been a part of *HOA* was in on it.

First, Jim Henry started his flowery speech about me, slathering it on as only he can, playing fast and loose with the facts. Then maybe a couple hundred *HOA* members started pouring out of the audience—at 11 o’clock at night. Even **Dan Henry** was still there, although he couldn’t be persuaded to go on stage. It would have been overwhelming enough if the combined choruses had just sung “Keep the Whole World Singing.” But when Jim started “Friends,” I was toast. Soggy, but toast. I should have had the presence of mind to decline when he motioned me over to direct half-way through, but by then I had almost no mind at all.

So, although I understand you guys didn’t know exactly what was coming, but were instructed to “stick around until the end,” I want to thank you for what had to be the most moving tribute I’ve ever received. It was an indescribable moment. I have tried to thank Mike and Jim, but it took all of you, along with our great CSD friends, to make it so special. I am grateful beyond words. ♥

## Search Committee Making Progress In Quest of New Music Director

by Doug Brott, Search Committee Chairman



**S**ince the surprise announcement of **Jim Bagby’s** impending resignation as *HOA’s* faithful leader, the search committee has been working hard to get the word out and find the person who can fill those big shoes. We’re happy to inform you that we have a number of good candidates in both local and other parts of the bar-

bershopping world.

The next steps will be for the committee to conduct phone interviews with each applicant and select two or three final applicants. Those will each be interviewed face to face, and will be given the opportunity to conduct the chorus for an entire rehearsal, so we all can see their “stuff.”

During that rehearsal time, chorus members will also be given the opportunity to ask questions of the candidate.

The committee wants feedback from chorus members so we can all be confident in the final selection.

If all goes as we plan, we’ll use the time in December—after the “Holiday Harmony Spectacular”—to have the candidates in for their “test run.” We’re hopeful that we’ll be able to announce our new director—after board approval—around the first of the year.

In the meantime, if you have questions, please do not hesitate to talk with me or any of the search committee members. ♥



## The Host With the Most

by Tony Strub, HOA President



**HOA!** You did it well! What a great fall convention weekend for the Central States

District! The hard work and leadership of **Mike Mathieu**, his committee and all of the volunteers paid off big time!

Our *Heartbeats* did a superb job managing the "Harmony Market Place" and arranging the Ladies' Breakfast. The "Ladies Hospitality Room" and the "Welcome Baskets" helped to make our CSD guests feel right at home in Kansas City.

The competition went smoothly, and the singing just gets better every year. *HOA* was well represented by *Mighty Fine* finishing fifth and *High Definition* taking first place in the quartet contest. Our chorus finished second among the choruses and scored high enough to once again be invited to international.

We were all thoroughly entertained at the "Past Champs Show" and the afterglow. We owe special thanks to all those who participated. The emotional tribute to **Jim Bagby** on Saturday night was a highlight in our convention weekend. I don't believe there was a dry eye in the Music Hall.

Let's not forget the Saturday "Bar-B-Q" in Bartle Hall. The food was wonderful, and the price was right. I hope this innovation will catch on at future CSD conventions.

Another **Mike Mathieu** innovation was the "Mic-Tester Chorus." It provided an opportunity for non-competing CSD members and youth from the five-state area to be a part of the entertainment package of our convention. We should spread the news about this opportunity and hope that it'll happen again next year. Great work, *HOA!* You are the best! ♥



## Harmony Foundation Report



by Jim Porter



**Note** that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. One fourth of

the proceeds is designated to Harmony Foundation and one fourth will be given to the Central States District to help promote their programs to support and encourage Young Men in Harmony and other youth programs.

As of Oct. 31, and 51 drawings:

- The total raised for Harmony Foundation in the past month is \$199.
- The total raised for this year (since Nov. 14, 2006) is \$2,217.
- Last year, the total raised to this point was \$4,432.
- In 2005, the total raised to this point was \$2,274.

**Jim Bagby** is our latest jackpot winner, taking home \$100 from the drawing on Oct. 4! ♥

## The Most Wonderful Time

by Carter Combs, Tenor Section Leader



**Y**es, it IS that time again. Another year is nearly gone, and we are once again ramping up for the holiday season. Personally, I'm looking forward to another round of tryptophan, mistletoe and midnight smooches. Even better than that, though, is our up-coming, quasi-annual, barbershop extravaganza!

The Holiday Harmony Spectacular starts the season on (intentional pun alert) just the right note. What could possibly beat 200 voices ringing our favorite holiday tunes? How about ringing those tunes for two sold-out performances? Yes sir, that would make Marketing VP **Dick Korek** and the rest of the board glow brighter than the mayor's Christmas tree on steroids!

We certainly have all the right ingredients for an unforgettable show: top-notch quartets, great music, fabulous quartets and an excellent venue. Topping the list of both choruses' many fine quartets, is the return of Sweet Adeline International medalists *Zing!* And I just can't wait to hear what our own gold-medal *Rural Route 4* have up their crushed velvet sleeves. (Wait, overalls don't have sleeves.)

A week or two after the Holiday show, we'll continue our six-decade tradition of Bell-ringing for the Salvation Army, re-christened last year as the Caroling Caravan. Final details are still in the works, but I have no doubt we'll raise another record-breaking sum for this worthy cause.

While all this is going on, your Music Team is busy preparing for next year. As usual, at the top of the list is selection of new music, and we welcome your suggestions. We also have many other changes in the works. In short, we have an exciting year ahead of us. To paraphrase the proverb, "we live in interesting times!" ♥



# CRAFT CORNER

## Chord Basics: Part II by Bruce Wenner



WENNER

Last month, in Part I, we discussed intervals of major and minor third and how they build triads.

The triads are three-note chords; to sing them in four-part harmony, one of the notes (usually the root) is doubled; i.e., sung by two parts. This time we will look at four-note chords that we could encounter in barbershop music. It would be good to have Part I available for reference, as well as OQ ("That Old Quartet Of Mine"). *Ready?*

**OK. The basic chords in barbershop harmony come in six varieties:** (i) major triad, (ii) minor triad, (iii) barbershop seventh, (iv) minor seventh, (v) half-diminished seventh, and (vi) diminished seventh. We have already studied the first two – they are built with major-minor intervals and minor-major intervals, respectively. The other four are built with three major or minor intervals. We shall take them in turn.

**Barbershop Seventh**, also called the "dominant seventh," or just the "seventh," is the chord that defines the barbershop style. Every contest arrangement must consist of at least one-third barbershop sevenths. This chord is built from 1 as the root as 1-3-5-7b, so in intervals it is built as a major third, then a minor third (so far we have a major triad), then another minor third. Let's look for one in OQ, and use the following chart to help us – this chart looks like the half-step chart we had in Part I, but we expand it this time.

A A# B C C# D D# E F F# G G# A  
A# B C C# D D# E F F# G G#

Now for a chord. How about the first chord in measure 4? It sounds barber-shop. Let's mark the chart with the four

notes in the chord; from the bass up, the notes are G, B, F, and D. With these notes marked, the chart looks like this:

A A# B C C# D D# E F F# G  
G# A A# B C C# D D# E F F#  
G G#

Now look for a major third – that's 4 half steps. There's only one – G to B. Is that followed by a minor third? Yes – B to D is three half steps. So it's some kind of major G-chord. And – is this minor third followed by another? Yes again – three half steps from D to F. So this is a G barbershop seventh, or simply a G7 chord. It's spelled G-B-D-F as the 1-3-5-7b; the root is G, B is the superhuman 3, D is the high five, and F is the flatted seventh (we want to know all this so we know how to tune the chord).

**Just for fun, let's try another.** First chord of measure two. Mark the notes on the chart so it looks like:

A A# B C C# D D# E F F# G  
G# A A# B C C# D D# E F F#  
G G#

**Four half steps?** Just one place – from B to D#, so that's the only major third. It's followed by a minor third from D# to F#, and another from F# to A. So we have a B7, B-D#-F#-A; B is the root, D# the third (tenors tune it super-high), F# the fifth (basses tune this one high), and A the flatted seventh.

**Minor Seventh.** The remaining three chords occur less frequently in barbershop arrangements than the first three. This one is similar to the barbershop seventh, but it is built on a minor triad instead of a major triad. It goes 1-3b-5-7b, and it's built by intervals with a minor third, followed by a major third, and finally a minor third. Let's look

for one in OQ. They are somewhat rare, aren't they? We have to go all the way to the third chord in measure 21 (on the word "pray"; let's mark the notes on the chart, which now looks like this:

A A# B C C# D D# E F F# G G# A  
A# B C C# D D# E F F# G G#

Here we find the major third interval (C to E) is both preceded and succeeded by minor thirds. The preceding minor third starts with A, so we have an A minor seventh chord.

**Half-diminished Seventh**, or simply the Half-diminished chord, is the minor seventh chord with the fifth flatted, so it goes 1-3b-5b-7b. It is built by intervals as a minor third, another minor third, then a major third. The fourth chord of meas. 6 (on "and") looks promising; let's use the chart, which looks like this (remember that Bb = A#):

A A# B C C# D D# E F F# G G# A  
A# B C C# D D# E F F# G G#

The major third (four half steps) is A# to D. The two preceding minor thirds, G to A# and E to G, begin at E, so we have an E half-diminished chord.

**Diminished Seventh**, also called a Fully Diminished Chord, or just a Diminished chord, is the last of the basic barbershop chords. It is rarely used as anything other than a passing chord, and is built by minor thirds only – that makes it 1-3b-5b-7bb – you analytical types will notice that you get to the diminished chord from the half-diminished chord by "diminishing" (i.e., flattening) the flatted 7th. Let's look for an example in OQ. Try the passing chord on "of" in meas. 7, and mark the chart thusly (remember that the key signature tells us the lead note is F#):

(Continued on page 7 ♦♦)

(Continued from page 6)

A A# B C C# D D# E F F# G G# A A# B C C# D  
D# E F F# G G#

Every interval is a minor third. So it's an A diminished chord. Or is it a C diminished? Or a D# diminished? Or an F# diminished? The answer is yes. Every note in a diminished chord can be considered the root.

These are the basics. A few other chords are worthy of mention. Sometimes barbershop music uses the sixth chord, 1-3-5-6, which actually has the same notes as a minor seventh (note that the A minor seventh we found in OQ could be looked at as C-E-G-A, a C sixth!). We also use the minor sixth chord, 1-3b-5-6, which has the same notes as a half-diminished chord; the E half-diminished chord we found in OQ can be spelled G-Bb-D-E, a G minor sixth. We could go on with more of this, but it's beyond the scope of this article. Could be material for a future article? If you're interested, just let me know. ♥



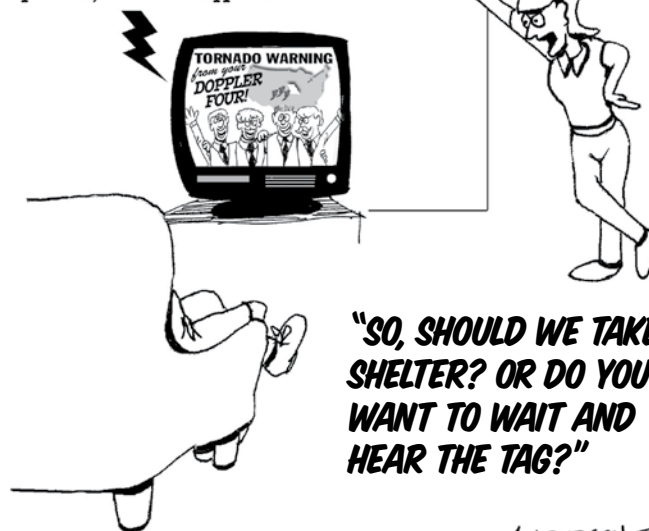
Todd Anderson

November 3	<b>Ken Neujahr</b>
November 7	<b>Al Higgins</b>
November 10	<b>Kent Miller</b>
November 20	<b>Dick Korek</b>
November 21	<b>Dick Winter</b>
November 22	<b>Tom Millot, Sr</b>
November 23	<b>Brooke Meyers</b>
November 23	<b>Jerry Snyder</b>
November 24	<b>Steve Starr</b>
November 24	<b>Mike O'Dell</b>
November 28	<b>Todd Anderson</b>
November 28	<b>Vince Perry III</b>
November 29	<b>Paul Winans</b>
November 30	<b>Jim Page</b>

## Four-Part Funnies by Todd Anderson

### BILL BECAME CONFLICTED WHEN THE LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST CHANGED ITS FORMAT.

"Severe weather has flooded homes and wreaked havoc throughout our region. And now, power radar has picked up deadly tornadoes HEADED OUR WAY! Bringing you warnings you can trust, in four-part harmony, here is your storm-tracking, low pressure, Action 12 'Doppler Four' Funnel Team!"



"SO, SHOULD WE TAKE SHELTER? OR DO YOU WANT TO WAIT AND HEAR THE TAG?"

ANDERSON  
© 2007

### A Top-Notch Afterglow!

by Don Fuson, CSD President

In a move to foreshadow a potential future CSD quartet contestant, the youthful quartet known as *Top Notch* entertains at the CSD afterglow.

Bringing 49 years of singing to the stage, *Top Notch* sang a quick tune and won the audience. Make that 49 years of living and some 14 years with the Society. This foursome, comprised of (from left to right below) **Jonathan Fortino**, **Anthony Fortino**, **Steven Duncan** and **Dan Fortino**, appeared confident on the stage and were rewarded with loud applause and a standing "O" at the end of their set. ♥



Don Fuson

## A Harvest of Visitors for October!

by Bob Murphy, Membership Vice-President



As with everyone with HOA, our major concentration in October was getting ready for the Central States District contest. I believe our results were very positive.

Visitors during the month of October have been the following:

**Phil Williamson** visited HOA in early October. He's from Wellington, New Zealand and sings with the *Harbor Capital Chorus*. He was in our area with his wife, who was singing with the *Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines*.

**Steve Gordon** is new to the Kansas City area. He comes from Vermont and has sung with the *Curbstone Chorus*.

**Dan Eubanks** (pictured below) visited us on Tuesday after our contest weekend. He is from St. Charles, Mo. and sings with the *Ambassadors of Harmony*. Dan was just traveling through the area, and is a youth minister at a church near St. Charles. It was good having him sing with us.

**Rick Hershey** (pictured below) has visited with us twice. He sings with the Leavenworth chapter. He is a strong bass and would like to sing with HOA on our holiday show. He will apply for dual membership the first week of November.

**Mike Templer** visited HOA on Oct. 30. He came to us as a result of seeing our performance during the Central States contest.

**One final note**, all the membership would like to thank **Jerry Sheridan** for bringing his wonderful frozen custard for our pleasure on Oct. 23.

I will be forming a new membership committee after the first of the year. If you'd like to become involved, please contact me. ♥



Don Fuson

**Rick Hershey (left)** sings with the Leavenworth Chapter, **Dan Eubanks**, from St. Charles, Mo., sings with the *Ambassadors of Harmony*. Both men attended HOA's Oct. 25 rehearsal

## Update from Quadrio!

by Michael Troyer, Lead

Now that my family has settled in Colorado, and all the dust has cleared from the move, I thought it might be nice to give **Grant** a break and provide an update on *Quadrio*.

First, we would like to thank the Kansas City Chapter for hosting yet another memorable and awesome weekend of barbershop harmony. Also, we would like to congratulate everyone (quartets and choruses) who competed. They did an amazing job. It was a different experience to sit in the audience and not compete, but I don't regret it one bit. We had a blast singing at the Past Champs Show, and then for our Swan Song Saturday night.

Secondly, with only three rehearsals under his belt, **Rick Kready** did an amazing job getting up to speed with our current repertoire and a few more new songs in time for CSD convention weekend. Since my move to Denver, *Quadrio*'s rehearsal schedule has changed just a bit. OK, a lot! We now meet once a month for a weekend of singing, and possibly a few frosty libations.

If you happen to be in Hutchinson, Kans. on April 26 or Denison, Iowa, on May 10, we will be performing on both of these chapter shows next spring.

Our website has been updated. If you have some free time, check us out at: [www.harmonize.com/quadrio](http://www.harmonize.com/quadrio).

Lastly, thanks to everyone for your support over our championship year. It went by quickly, and we encountered a few changes along the way, but be on the lookout next April for *Quadrio* sightings in Iowa City. We hope to represent you well and qualify for Nashville next July!



Go Chiefs! Down with the Broncos! ♥



Don Fuson

*Quadrio* members strike a pose with Society Executive Director Ed Watson, during the recent Central States District convention. From left to right: Rick Kready (tenor), Michael Troyer (lead), Ed Watson, Matt Moore (bass) and Grant Hunget (bari). Photo courtesy of Don Fuson



## HOA Qualifies for International in 2008 by Jim Porter

When the *Heart of America Chorus* finished second in the Central States District contest with a score of 79.8 percent, it was disappointing at the time. That was below last year's 82.1 average and left us thinking we had failed to qualify for a wild card bid to the international contest in Nashville. Last year, the lowest wild card chorus scored 80.1.



However, when all district scores were in, *HOA* emerged with the 19th seed (10th of 12 wild cards), compared to the 16th seed last year, and is eligible to compete at International. [Ed. note: the

*invitations have not gone out, and the board had not discussed by Harmonotes deadline if the chapter will accept*].

*What happened?* Three choruses (two of which would have been wild cards) that certainly would have scored higher than *HOA* chose not to compete this year. Five choruses that were wild cards last year also scored lower this year, behind *HOA*. Just three choruses that were behind us last year finished ahead of us this year.

Overall, the average score last year for the 29 choruses that competed in Denver was 83.1. This year, the average for the 16 district champions and top 12 wild cards was 82.3. The judges were tougher this year Society-wide.

Some choruses, however, bucked the trend and showed significant improvements. The Most Improved Chorus award for choruses that made the cut goes to Bloomington, Ill., which increased its score by more than four percent and qualified for the International for the first time. Three percent or higher gains were shown by Bay Area Calif., Phoenix and Ottawa, Ontario. Gains of two percent or higher more were shown by *Heart of Texas*, *Atlanta Vocal Project* and Tampa's *Heralds of Harmony*. Denver, *Ohio Alliance* and the *Saltaires* registered gains of one to two percent.

In the quartet competition, *High Definition*, with Kansas City's **Mark and John Fortino** and **Rob Mathieu** singing with **Adam Veteto** from Springfield easily won the district championship with the second-highest score (81.7) among all quartets competing in the fall district contests. Rob duplicated the feat of fellow *HOA* member **Grant Hunget** by winning the district contest in consecutive years with two different quartets. *Glory Days* in Southwestern was the only quartet scoring higher than *High Definition* (85.5), a number that places them in the hunt for a medal at Nashville.

All of the district scores are available on the Barbershop Harmony Society website: <http://www.harmonize.ws/HarmonetReporter/scores/2007/scores07.htm> ♥

## Strategic Plan Report Reveals Success in All Four Initiatives

by Tony Strub, Chapter President



This is the first progress report on the *HOA* strategic plan that was completed in March of 2007. The report contains information about activities and progress, or lack thereof, on each of the four strategic initiatives.

**Strategic Initiative No. 1:** The music team has created a vocal education and development curriculum designed to improve the quality of our singing in order to meet the more stringent qualifications for the performing chorus. Increased use of video, small group coaching and private home sectional rehearsals are part of our new efforts. The marketing VP and the chorus manager are working to schedule additional chorus performances.

**Strategic Initiative No. 2:** Efforts are under way to create a small chorus of *HOA* senior members to entertain, educate and spread the word about our music, our Society and our chapter. We believe that informing our community about who we are, what we do and how well we do it will be an effective strategy to recruit new members and market our fundraising activities. The new member mentoring program is going well. We have had no success in achieving greater diversity in our membership.

**Strategic Initiative No. 3:** The "Friends of *HOA*" campaign has been a great success. Efforts are under way to invest the funds for the future of our chapter. Our *HOA* golf tournament was very successful and is now being scheduled as an annual event. We continue to recruit new sponsors and establish connections with local foundations.

**Strategic Initiative No 4:** The "Singing Valentines" program planners have organized the operations portion of their project in June and will start the promotional work in early November. The "Holiday Bell-Ringing Caravan" organizational activities will also begin in November. The "Harmony Explosion" campaign has established an e-mail and FAX communications network with vocal music teachers in public, private and parochial schools in Missouri and Kansas. **Vince Perry** has setup "Harmony Explosion" on the *HOA* web site making an advertisement poster, an information document and a registration form available as downloads for teachers. We hope that this new communications network will increase the number of schools that participate in 2008. ♥



## HOLIDAY HARMONY SPECTACULAR: *Update on Performance Uniforms and Ticket Sales*

**H**armonotes has learned what *HOA* members will be sporting on stage during the 10th annual Holiday Harmony Spectacular which takes place Saturday, Dec. 1, at Unity Village.

During the portion of the program where *HOA* sings with the *Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines*, they will wear the following ensemble:

- Formal tux with banded collar shirt and black button on the banded collar
- Silver vest
- Silver hanky

When the *HOA Chorus* entertains alone on stage, they will wear:

- Formal tux
- White shirt with regular collar
- Red tie
- Red vest

A full weekend is planned, starting with the rehearsal Friday evening, plus a very busy Saturday and ending with the afterglow (right at Unity Village this year).

Reserved seating can be ordered by contacting **Bob Rutherford** at 816-765-5371. Bob states, "Right now the matinee is 60% sold and the evening performance is 45% reserved. Our prime \$22 seating is totally gone, but we have tremendous seats still available at the \$17 and \$12 range."

Bob admitted that as time gets closer, the phones will light up and sales will pick up. So tell everyone you know that *now* is the time to call the ticket hotline. When the seats are gone, they're gone! We expect a sellout. It's just a matter of when that occurs. ♥



**Tickets Are Still On Sale! ACT NOW!**

## 2007 *Holiday Harmony Spectacular*



*Experience the Holiday Spirit with beautiful music  
of the season presented in four-part harmony!  
Invite your family and friends to join us.*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2007  
UNITY VILLAGE PERFORMANCE THEATER  
TWO SHOWS: 2 p.m. & 7:30 p..m.**

### *Featuring*

**THE HEART OF AMERICA  
BARBERSHOP CHORUS**

13-Time Central States District Chorus Champions

**KANSAS CITY CHORUS OF SWEET ADELINES**  
Current third place International Medalists

**RURAL ROUTE 4**

1986 Barbershop Harmony Society  
International Quartet Champions

**ZING!**

5th Place

2006 Sweet Adelines International Semi-Finalists

*PLUS:* Outstanding Local Quartets

Available seating is \$17 and \$12 and may be purchased  
by calling 816-765-5371 or visit the *HOA* website at  
[www.hoachorus.com/holiday\\_show.htm](http://www.hoachorus.com/holiday_show.htm)  
For Group Rates (10 or more),  
contact John Erwine at 816-781-8542



**REMAINING SEATS ARE SELLING QUICKLY!  
Act now!**





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



DEXTER

### **TEN YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER, 1997**

At this time, ten years ago, *Harmonotes* was going through a period of transition. As the result of his heart attack, which was followed by two weeks in the hospital for triple by-pass heart surgery and the insertion of a defibrillator, along with the deterioration of his devoted wife's general health, our editor—that was me—found it necessary to hang up his glue stick and turn over the editing job to—yup, you guessed it—the guy who's always ready to step in and carry the load until a new editor can be found, old reliable **Dale Neuman**. **Joyce** and I had moved from Lawrence to Liberty in order to be closer to **Paul** and his family in the event of a real medical emergency. With lots of help from **Todd Anderson**, the guy with all the design and layout experience turned out the first edition of a totally revised and improved issue of our chapter bulletin. Gone were the days of cut and paste.

Since there was no November issue, I referred to the December edition for something to report at this point. On the front page, Chapter President **Don Young** reminded the membership that the chorus would be representing the district at the international contest in Atlanta the following summer. He announced a couple of new developments in the preparation for this event, to wit, the chorus contest would be on Friday afternoon of the convention, instead of Saturday afternoon, as in the past, and also the unhappy news that each member would have to pay his own reg-

istration fee, with the possibility that the payment might be refunded later, depending on the financial success of the holiday harmony spectacular. More on that next month.

### **TWENTY YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER, 1987**

As Music Director **Jim Bagby** put it, the Proud Image of Waterloo, Iowa, “did something at the Central States District convention in Des Moines...that no other chorus has been able to accomplish in 10 years—finish ahead of Kansas City.” *The Heart of America Chorus*, all 74 members, had to be satisfied with a nine-point difference in second place. And our two competing quartets didn't fair too well, either. *Sound Alternative* sang up a storm and came out in a very respectable 12th place. And *4 Ever Pals* finished in 15th place and took top honors among the novice quarters.

About the only interesting occurrence for *HOA* was the presentation of the 1987 CSD “Award of Merit” to **Wade Dexter** for his accomplishments as editor of the CSD *Serenade*. Since Wade was absent from the district convention—the first time in 18 consecutive years—the award was accepted by his son, Paul, who sang the tenor with the *Chairman of the Chord* of Lincoln, who finished in seventh place in the quartet competition.

### **FORTY YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER, 1967**

Not much of interest in this issue. New officers for 1968 were **Ed Rooker** (president), **Dave Larson** (VP, Membership), **Gerrie Kelly** (VP, Program), **Bernie Geier** (Secretary) and **Joe Costigan** (Treasurer). **Don Thorne** was the *Harmonotes* editor. ♥

## **New & Improved! Same Low Price!**

by Carter Combs

**We've** seen those come-ons too many times to count, about everything from dish soap to the latest model cars. I'm here to tell you it's all true! Well, at least when applied to our **Holiday Harmony Spectacular Afterglow**.

**New?** How about a brand-new location, so convenient that you won't even have to move your car! Unity Village has completed its “Spirit Life Center,” right across the street from the theater. This sparkling facility is a combination hotel and conference center, and we have reserved a room there large enough for 200—nearly double last year's capacity.

**Improved? You bet!** We'll have a raised stage so you can actually see the performers, and a top quality sound system so you can hear every golden chord!

**Same Low Price?** Yes sir, still only \$5 per ticket for snacks and entertainment by some of the best quartets in the area.

**So what are you waiting for?** After a long, rewarding day of entertaining our audiences, the Afterglow is a wonderful opportunity to kick back with your friends and family, relax and ring a few more chords just for ourselves. What a perfect way to finish the day. ♥



## Summary of October 2007 Board Meeting

by Rick Foreman/Ron McIntire

### Treasurer's Report, by Ron Fortino

Operating Fund: \$5,700.63, Members' Fund: \$7,974.21, Restricted Fund: \$8,277.26

### Marketing/PR Report, by Dick Korek

Three thousand, six hundred pocket cards have been printed and distributed to the membership for promoting the "Holiday Harmony Spectacular." Holiday show programs will be in the mail shortly.

### Strategic Plan by

#### Tony Strub, President

A summarized progress report will be included in an article in the November *Harmonotes*.

#### Old Business:

*HOA* Endowment - **Kent Miller** will form an ad hoc committee to present financial options for the endowment fund and to be presented at the November chapter board meeting.

Director Search Update - Letters and e-mails have been sent to choruses and chorus directors looking for a director. Little or no responses have been received so far.

Holiday Harmony Spectacular Update - Ticket sales are exceeding 2006 sales at this time. Show fliers will be mailed by mid-October.

#### New Business:

COTS - Fees for all registrants will be paid by the board. Trip and lodging expenses are the responsibility of each individual. ♥

## Xtra Mile Award Winners!



Don Fuson

### Four Winners!

Above: *HOA* Executive Vice President **Doug Brott** (far right) presents (from left to right) **Harry Stewart, Carl Turlin, Mike Mathieu** and **Don Peck** with the September 2007 Extra Mile Award

#### Carl Turlin

In grateful recognition for planning, organizing, setting up and cooking dogs 'n patties at the Annual *HOA* Picnic at Lake Quivira, September 23.

#### Mike Mathieu

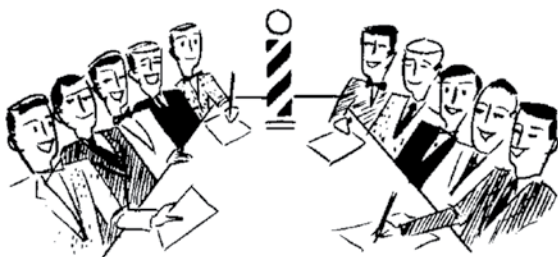
In grateful recognition for sharing the culinary duties of cooking hot dogs and flippin' hamburgers at the Annual *HOA* Picnic at Lake Quivira, September 23.

#### Harry Stewart

In recognition for helping to arrange the venue, entertaining the crowd and providing boat rides at the Annual *HOA* Picnic at Lake Quivira, September 23.

#### Don Peck

In recognition for helping to arrange the venue, entertaining the crowd and providing boat rides at the Annual *HOA* Picnic at Lake Quivira, September 23. ♥



**DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER  
ISSUE OF HARMONOTES:**

**NOVEMBER 28**

# Sponsor Spotlight

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

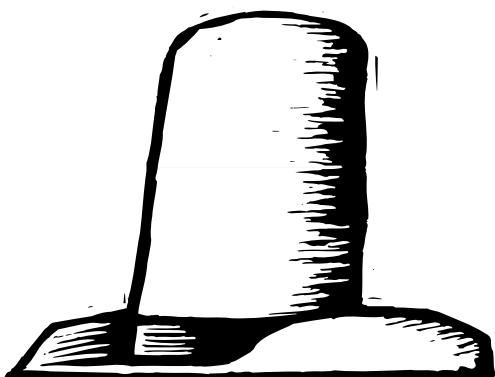


## First Watch Restaurants mean consistent quality

As supporters of the *Heart of America Chorus*, First Watch continues to support HOA with “brunch bucks” certificates that have been used for drawings and for promotional “thank you” opportunities. Anytime you dine at First Watch, let them know that you appreciate their support. Check out their “consistent” quality of service and food.

## Helzberg Diamonds and the Singing Valentine program

Many thanks to Helzberg Diamonds for helping to make the Singing Valentine Program a major success. Helzberg Diamonds has consistently contributed the major prize for the annual Valentine drawing and helps make that very fortunate winner know just that she is very special. ♥



## 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 the 75 guys who competed on the Fall CSD Contest stage Oct. 20 in Kansas City. What a valiant effort you made.

A Tip O’ the Topper to the unnamed crews who helped muscle the risers from one room to another, up and down stairs and back and forth to the truck. You were indispensable.

Hats off to **Mike Mathieu** and all the committee chairmen who chaired the district convention and contest and made everything hum like clockwork; and to the ladies who manned the “Ladies Breakfast,” the “Hospitality Room” and managed the ushering during the contests. We are eternally grateful. ♥

# Heart of America Chorus

## SPONSORS

*We call on our sponsors for support, so let's give them OUR support every way that we can!*



DAVID F. HOKANSON FAMILY FOUNDATION



**The Heart of America Chorus is a 501(c)(3) organization.**

**Checks should be made out to:**

**Kansas City Chapter/**

**Barbershop Harmony Society®**

**Mail to: HOA, c/o Dale Neuman**

**816 W. 121st. St. • Kansas City, Mo. 64145-1011**

## Ol' Bruce Now Certifiable, Heating Up T-H Schedule

by Ol' Jim

Those of you familiar with *Tone-Henge* may have a hard time thinking of four old coots staying busy, but we actually have been maintaining a pretty regular practice schedule of late. One reason is our latest prop, those dad-blame bamboo angklungs **Dan Henry** mentioned in last month's *Harmonotes* that we're going to debut on the Dec. 1 "Holiday Harmony Spectacular."

When you see them, your first impression will be, rightfully, that shaking 'em can probably be learned without being a musical genius. But pretty dang quick we started asking how those guitar and banjo folks sing one note and play something else—especially at our age. I get a headache at rehearsals, and that's before we break out the beer...

Complicating our schedules has been the rigorous training that tenor **Bruce Wenner** has been going through—actually for the last three years. But now you can all chant with us: "Here comes the judge!" As of the Central States District convention here the third weekend in October, Ol' Bruce was officially certified in the Music Category by the Society Contest and Judging Committee.

Bruce completed most of his work at the Society Category School this July in St. Joseph, then did some wrapup evaluation work with CSD quartets in Kansas City. Since I also re-upped as a Presentation judge this year, the other members of *T-H* now like to suggest that half of the quartet is certifiable.

To celebrate Bruce's success—and the 38th anniversary of **Keith** and **Connie Schweer**—we had a delightful gathering of the eight of us on a recent weekend, hosted by **Ol' Dan** and his much better half, **Estyl**. And of course we spent part of that planning for our annual Christmas dinner, which is where a good part of the quartet budget goes!

Then it's on to Singing Valentines and several spring shows. One of these days, we DO have to slow down! ♥



## HOA FIRST CLASS

### Dear HOAer's,

I just wanted to say how much of a privilege it was to watch a first-rate ensemble like you this weekend. Your performance in the chorus contest was stunning! I was extremely entertained, and your sound brought me goose bumps just like *AOH* did! You guys are an excellent model of showmanship, hardwork, and integrity. *Back in Business* had just a wonderful time interacting with all of you. We thank you for all of your support this past weekend. My fiancé and her parents, who are first barbershop watchers, enjoyed the weekend thoroughly and thought your performance was AWESOME! The hospitality that you all showed this convention was phenomenal. *Back in Business* wants you to know that we are all members of your chorus at heart and we all want to transfer our memberships eventually when we can commit to being a part of the chorus on a regular basis.

Thank you all so much for your continued support and generosity!

Sincerely,  
**Shaun Whisler**  
Bass of *Back in Business*

### A Big Thank You

Just wanted to give a big thank you to all of the more than 100 volunteers who helped make the recent district competition a great success. Nearly every chorus member worked multiple shifts together with many outside the chorus including spouses. An effort of this size only works when everyone pitches in, and that certainly was the case.

On behalf of **Mike Mathieu** and myself, thank you.

**Bob Burdick**



### Thanks for the Cookies

I want to thank EVERYONE who contributed to making our "Ladies Hospitality Room" at the convention such a success. First of all, everyone—who brought cookies, please know how much we appreciated them. Even when we ran out of coffee for the day, we had so many cookies we were able to accommodate all of our guests. We hope you enjoyed the excess on Tuesday night after rehearsal.

Next, we had so many wonderful donations to our door prizes that we even gave door prize tickets to the men who came with their wives.

Last, but not least, the "Best of Kansas City" basket was a huge success, thanks to all of you who so generously contributed and solicited area businesses. The basket had a value of over \$400, and we were able to sell a lot of raffle tickets because of the contents.

I'd like to thank **Sharon Holdehoeft** and **Linda Fuson** for putting the basket together so beautifully. Again, without all of your help, our job would have been much more difficult. It's nice to know that when help is needed, *HOA* steps up to the plate and hits a home run every time. I really believe the statement on my scrolling pen. It says, "*HOA* has Heart."

**Mary Jo Miller, Heartbeats**



## Plans Under Way for Annual Salvation Army Caravan

by Bob Burdick

Plans are being made for our second annual singing caravan to retirement homes for the benefit of the Salvation Army. The date is Saturday, Dec. 15, and the times will probably be similar to last year, starting in the morning and finishing in the late afternoon. We are again planning on singing for six different retirement homes.

Some of the locations will be the same as last year, and we're also exploring a couple of new locations, with the objective of raising the most we can for the Salvation Army. We're also providing a route that we can manage in case there is challenging weather.

We'll provide information as soon as it's available regarding a gathering place and a specific schedule. With the help and support of the chapter membership, we're looking forward to another successful day of singing and fund raising.

*(From Mike Mathieu: Please mark the date on your calendar, and make plans to join us for one of the most fulfilling days of the year. We are looking for a bus to use for the event, and if anyone would have an interest in sponsoring the bus, contact Bob Burdick to get the details. One last note, our singout uniform will consist of black pants, belt, and shoes, white shirt without a button-down collar, red chorus vest and red chorus necktie.) ♥*



## Zing! CDs Make a Great Gift

by Grant Hunget

**Zing!**'s very first CD is now available! You can purchase your very own copy for \$15 each, from me at HOA meetings.

If you need one mailed, please contact **Michelle Hunget** (Add \$3 ea. for S&H):

913-764-8755/home  
zingtenor@kc.rr.com

**Zing!** is currently the seventh-ranked International Sweet Adeline Quartet.

For those unaware, my wife **Michelle** sings tenor in this fine quartet. ♥



## A Great Primer for Future Chapter Bulletin Issues

by Todd Anderson, *Harmonotes* Editor



This is one of those classical articles I wish I could say I wrote. It's author is **Mark Axelrod**, editor of "Blue Chip Chatter," in Teaneck, N.J. Mark does a creative job revealing pitfalls involved with penning a story. *See if you agree!*

## Rules for Correct Spelling, Grammar and Usage

1. Don't abbrev.
2. Check to see if you any words out.
3. Be carefully to use adjectives and adverbs correct.
4. About sentence fragments.
5. When dangling, don't use participles.
6. Don't use no double negatives.
7. Each pronoun agrees with their antecedent.
8. Just between You and i, case is important.
9. Join clauses good, like a conjunction should.
10. Don't use commas, that aren't necessary.
11. Its important to use apostrophe's right.
12. It's better not to unnecessarily split an infinitive.
13. Never leave a transitive verb just lay there without an object.
14. Only Proper Nouns should be capitalized.
15. a sentence should begin with a capital and end with a period
16. Use hyphens in compound-words, not just in any two-word phrase.
17. In letters compositions reports and things like that we use commas to keep a string of items apart.
18. Watch out for irregular verbs which have crept into our language.
19. Verbs has to agree with their subjects.
20. Avoid unnecessary redundancy.
21. A writer mustn't shift your point of view.
22. Don't write a run-on sentence you've got to punctuate it.
23. A preposition isn't a good thing to end a sentence with.
24. Avoid clichés like the plague.
25. Correct spelling is of the utmost importance. Be carefull. Use your dictionary.
26. And one last aggravated assault on the language: If it's wrong to say a twenty-five year birthday, why is it correct to say a twenty-five year anniversary? If you said either is correct, you must stay after school every day for the rest of your life. ♥





Todd Anderson

*The Kansas City chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society® is a singing fraternity whose mission is to learn, teach, and perform the highest-quality, entertaining, a cappella music that embraces the barbershop style through the Heart of America Chorus and its chapter quartets, to bring about a spiritual and emotional response from the performer and the audience. ♥*



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Kansas City Chapter, Inc.  
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