

HARMONOTES



Kansas City, Missouri's Heart of America Chorus

CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY®

VOLUME 09 - ISSUE 10 - NOVEMBER 2009

Metro KC Records Historic Victory: Skyline Tops Quartet Field CSD Barbershoppers Mob Lincoln for Fall Convention, Ripper Gold Medal Tribute Show

by Jim Bagby, District C&J Administrator



BAGBY

For the first time since the Central States District established the plateau system in 1990, a Plateau A chorus contestant has claimed the CSD championship. *Central Standard*, with 32 singers on stage, became the

first non-AAA winner Oct. 10 in one of the highlights of a busy, entertaining and highly successful CSD fall convention at Lincoln, Neb.

It was a championship sweep when *Skyline*, representing the same Metro Kansas City Chapter, Kansas City and Greendale, Wis., claimed the 2009 CSD quartet title. Members of the new champs, top down, are **Jake Pirner**, **Tim Zielke**, **Josh Umhoefer** and **Mike Louque** (rhymes with duke).

Fremont, Neb., was runner-up in the chorus contest, claiming the first AAA title in the Pathfinder history, close behind *Central Standard* and just ahead of *HOA*. **Mike Neff's** winning group averaged 81.5, **Pete Stibor's** Fremont forces 80.3 and *HOA* 79.3, putting both in line for possible wildcard bids to the 2010 Society convention next July in Philadelphia.

Other honors during the weekend included the Novice Championship being claimed by Indigo Nights from Mason City. The quartet is anchored by veteran *River City Chorus* director **Jayson Ryner**, showing his range on bass, but with three of his students competing for the first time: **Charles Carrier**, **John Chambers** and **Brad Willman**. The quartet finished 10th in a field of 31 competitors to top a field of eight novice quartets.

Qualifying tops among eight senior foursomes and earning the right to represent CSD at the January 2010 Society

Mid-Winter Convention in Tampa, Fla., was a brand-new and widespread quartet, *High Mileage*, composed of **Lyle Wyly**, Kansas City; **Gary Drown**, Kearney, Neb; **Jim Bagby**, Kansas City, and **Dale Comer**, Lincoln.

The 2009 Hall of Fame inductee announced by last year's honoree, **Bill McLaurine** of St. Charles, is immediate past CSD president **Don Fuson** of *HOA* and Overland Park chapters. Don continues as district events and financial review chairman, but even a partial list of his chapter, district and Society accomplishments would take many more pages than this bulletin offers.

The weekend built to a logical and thundering conclusion that was the brainchild of District President **Don Blank**, who wanted to present and honor the St. Charles gold-medal tandem of the *Ambassadors of Harmony* and *Crossroads*, following their historic victories on the same day and night this July in Anaheim. That meant compressing the Saturday competition schedule in Lincoln, which was complicated by the large number of quartets in the Friday field (even after two scratches).

But the judges soldiered gamely on. Given the opportunity to rest up Saturday night before the final quartet evals or take in the lollapalooza show, every member but one of the triple panel showed up to join the repeated standing ovations for the gold medalists. (Continued on page 2 ♦♦)

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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. 64131

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

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Permission to reprint articles is granted to barbershop editors as long as the author and *Harmonotes* are acknowledged.

The utmost care was used in preparation of this newsletter.

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

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The HOA Board of Directors meets at 6 p.m. on the second Monday of the month, at St. Thomas More Church, 118th & Holmes, Kansas City, MO 64131. Chapter members are welcome!

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Metro KC Records Historic Victory: Skyline Tops Quartet Field

(Continued from front cover)

Vocal Spectrum, the third member of the AOH "Four Horsemen" musical attack, joined brilliantly in the performance piece de resistance. (Basso/arm-waver **Jim Henry** alone can be considered the fourth Horseman, and I'm sure **Frank Leahy** would be delighted to have him!)

The show featured three separate sets by AOH, sandwiched around dazzling five-song performances by *Crossroads* and *Vocal Spectrum*, plus the championship shots by *Central Standard* and *Skyline*. The 2,300-seat Lied Center was virtually full, including a few hundred Youth in Harmony guests of the hard-working host Lincoln Chapter.

Rounding out the top five in the chorus contest were Mason City, which took home the Plateau AA trophy, and Linn County Metro in fifth place. Fremont also claimed the most-improved title in AAA. In AA, Davenport was the most-improved winner by an eyelash over Kearney.

Des Moines was just six points back of Linn County in sixth place. And from my perspective as the C&J guy, the best news was that none of our 14 choruses scored lower than a 61. That's a solid B. I go to other districts with a comparable size chorus field and know that there will be at least several C-level (or lower) choruses. And we don't have any qualifications for our fall contest.

The same can be said of the quartet field. The average scoring range from top to bottom, 31 quartets, was 79.5 to 49.8. That's just under an A to no worse than mid-C at the lowest. The law of averages says there ought to be a train wreck in there somewhere. Mid-C is the judging rule of thumb for a quartet you'd be generally be glad to have on your chapter show. In other words, although we probably can use more coaching in CSD, the judges were happy with the scoring level and the response of all our competitors.

District history ace **Jim Nugent** confirms one other note of interest: *Central Standard* is the smallest chorus to qualify for international since the *American Barberboys* earned a wildcard berth in 1997. The St. Joseph chorus had 28 on stage, then went to Atlanta with 37 singers and placed 11th. ♥



Above: CSD Chorus Champs for 2009!
Central Standard directed by Mike Neff.



At left: Skyline members Jake Pirner, Tim Zielke,
Josh Umhoefer and Mike Louque.
Photos courtesy of Jayne Morden



"And the winner is...*High Mileage!*"

by Lyle Wyly for **High Mileage**, 2009 CSD Seniors Champion Quartet

What a ride so far. *High Mileage* is thrilled and excited to have won the Seniors contest in Lincoln in October and to represent CSD at the International Qualifying Contest in Tampa next January.

We began as an idea by **Jim Bagby**, who asked me, **Dale Comer** and **Gary Drown** if we would be interested in developing a Seniors quartet and compete in Lincoln. I, of course, immediately said yes because who wouldn't want to sing on a competition stage with a gold medalist? Dale and Gary also agreed and we began the arduous planning to find days and locations for rehearsals. Since Gary lives in Kearney, Nebraska and Dale in Lincoln we settled on Nebraska City, which is about halfway between KC and Kearney. **Dean Thomson**, director of the Nebraska City chorus, volunteered his church for our use. When we arrived there for the first practice, we found a funeral service and reception were planned for that day so Dean graciously opened his house to us. *Thanks, Dean.*

We had a total of four (4) rehearsals to polish(?) our performance as cast-off sailors. One Cornhusker game Saturday Gary's son **Darren** came over from Denver and gave us some free coaching which was invaluable. What an excellent coach!

I will modestly take credit for our name as it occurred to me we were obviously running up the miles on our vehicles as well as all of us having already traveled the road of life for a good spell.

If you ever have a chance to get to Nebraska City you must enjoy a meal a Valentino's Buffet. It has every kind of Italian food imaginable at very reasonable prices. Jim and I ate there after all four rehearsals. Nebraska City is known as the Arbor Day Capital but more famous is the annual Applejack Day festival and parade. We were forced to take a long detour to get out of town because the parade had all the downtown streets blocked.

Well, we put together two songs and enjoyed every minute rehearsing and competing. Heartfelt thanks to our wives, friends, relatives and everyone in Kansas City, Kearney and Lincoln who supported us in this competition. On to Tampa! ♥



Photo courtesy of Jayne Morden

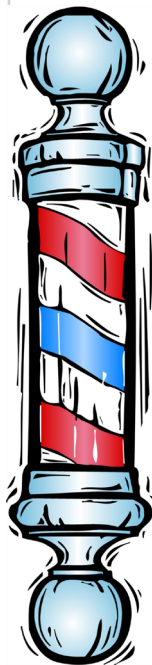
High Mileage members, from left to right: Jim Bagby - Kansas City, MO, Dale Comer - Lincoln, NE, Gary Drown - Kearney, NE and Lyle Wyly - Kansas City, MO

Direct From The Front

by David Krause, HOA Chorus Director



Congratulations to all of the guys who helped the *Heart of America Chorus* show improvement at the contest in Lincoln. There were several positive accomplishments to report.



First, we had over 80 guys and were almost the largest chorus there. And, 16 of those were first time competitors with HOA. And, we really did about as well as we could on stage that day. We were best in our category we've focused the most on, singing. In fact, our score on *Dreamer* was A and only one point behind the highest singing score in the contest!

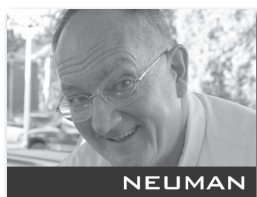
Still, I'm guessing most of us want to do better. And, many of the comments shared by our members Tuesday night certainly point that direction. Believe me when I say that your music team is now considering which changes we need to make to help us achieve exactly what we wish to achieve as a chorus in our near future. One of the main focuses seems to be membership. I think that is awesome. I'm still hoping we will have over 100 members perform with us on some stage some day. I'm pretty sure it's never happened in our long history. What if we could make it happen by our spring show? If half of us get serious about the actions which have been discussed since Tuesday I think it could easily happen. Wow. How much fun would that be?

Now, to another issue I discussed last Tuesday. As a group, individually, we did not work hard enough for that contest to score A's. As I told you all Tuesday, I knew that back in July. It takes a major commitment to improvement for longer than our group managed to pull off A's. Notice only one chorus did so that weekend, if you don't count the Ambassadors, of course. Now, are all of us individually willing to work hard enough in the future so that A's will always occur? If you look at our scores carefully you'll notice we pulled off several A's in each category. Certainly an improvement. So, we're going the correct direction. Something we should all feel good about and build upon. ♥



The Holiday Season is the Giving Season

by Dale Neuman, Administrator, *HOA Presidents' Fund*



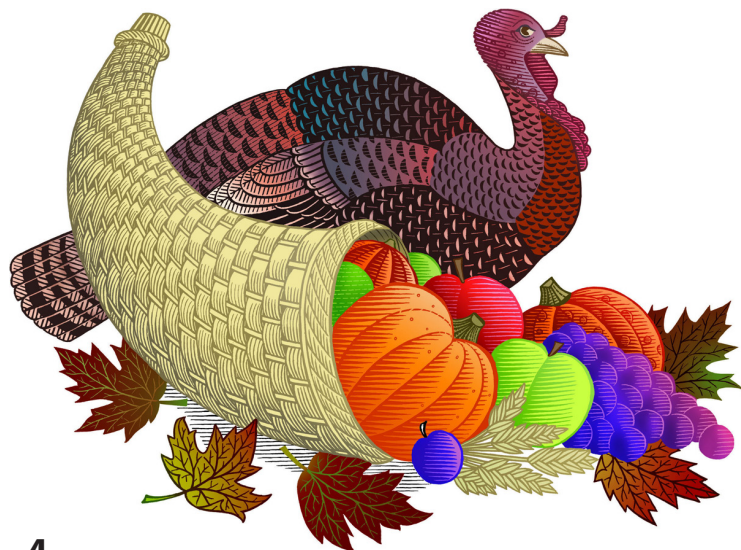
The Fall and Winter holidays are all about giving and being thankful for the gifts we've been given. If you want to think of the unexpected holiday presents you found under the tree as a kid or the wonderful gift we've all been given to be able to sing four part harmony with friends—you are free to

choose what best brings to mind that sense of joy and thankfulness we find this season of the year.

And both the pleasant surprise at receiving a gift and the joy giving a gift are parts of the legacy of the Presidents' Fund—the fund that helps *HOA* members who, for reasons beyond their control, find themselves financially unable to take part in all of our activities. Those activities that hit the pocketbook hardest tend to be the out-of-town competitions in the Central States District and at International. And it seems in some ways unfair that some who, as members, have helped to get us to where we can go to these venues may have to stay home because the costs may be beyond their means. That is where the Presidents' Fund comes in.

Donors who are able have had the joy of sharing by contributing to the fund. And they can get a “gift” as well: their donation is tax-deductible, since *HOA* is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation under IRS regulations. Men who are the beneficiaries of the fund can have the joy of sharing in the esprit of the competition and the many activities for those who can attend that take place at the same time. And it means we all share in the fellowship of all, rather than in the fellowship of some who were there at other *HOA* events in the year.

So this is my annual request that men who might be possible donors to the fund consider making a year-end gift—in any amount they are comfortable in giving—to the *HOA Presidents' Fund*. The treasurer will give you a receipt for tax purposes. *Happy Holidays!* ♥



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



TO THE FOLLOWING HOA MEMBERS!

| | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| November 3 | Ken Neujahr |
| November 3 | Larry Colburn |
| November 7 | Al Higgins |
| November 8 | Tom Gray |
| November 10 | Kent Miller |
| November 20 | Dick Korek |
| November 22 | Tom Millot, Sr |
| November 23 | Jerry Snyder |
| November 23 | Brooke Meyers |
| November 24 | Mike O'Dell |
| November 24 | Steve Starr |
| November 28 | Vince Perry III |
| November 28 | Todd Anderson |
| November 29 | Paul Winans |
| November 30 | Jim Page |



Poor Health, Bad Football Keep Most of Tone-Henge Feeling Blue

by Sometime Bari Jim Bagby



Regular *Harmonotes* readers will recall from this space last month that fearless leader **Dan Henry** was

down with back surgery, followed by some recuperative complications that should never see light of day in a family publication. And as Dan noted, neither should his reaction. Anyone every have shingles? Wanna ask Ol' Dan where they were?

Like we say, that's another story. Suffice to say, we had to cancel our scheduled appearance headlining the Olathe show, but *ListenUp!* helped fill in admirably. We did miss Dan at the CSD convention in Lincoln. **Bruce Wenner**, **Keith Schweer** and I thought the least we could do was gather in the judges' suite and toast our absentee partner with a beer or two or three.

Dan is back in action and *Tone-Henge* is off to Elkader, Iowa, and Waterloo, Ill., for shows in the next few weeks. By the time you read this, we might even have gotten in a, uh, whadaya call those things...oh, yeah, *practice!*

The shows have to go better than our rooting for our respective favorite Big 12 football teams. The week after Lincoln, where my better half always puts in twice as much work as I do running the hospitality suite (and on her birthday weekend, to boot), we decided we deserved a Saturday doing nothing but lounging in front of the teevee to watch football.

Well, it seemed like a good idea. Joann and I watched or kept up with six games from morning to night, starting with my OU Sooners in the annual Texas showdown at Dallas. The game had hardly

gotten under way before Heisman Trophy quarterback **Sam Bradford** went down on his bad shoulder and departed to the sidelines for good. The Longhorns squeaked out a victory over the turnover-prone Big (little?) Red, and the tone was set for the day.

We pulled for Kansas, Bruce's adopted school, over Colorado. Upset city. I thought Missouri, where Keith used to roam the campus, had a shot to upset Oklahoma State. Another disappointment. Southern Cal sure doesn't need any more glory, so I kept **Mike Mathieu** and past Society President **Tim Hanrahan** in mind, pulling for Notre Dame. Take a seat.

Arkansas dangled near got by high-and-mighty Florida, where too-good-to-be-true QB **Tim Tebow** apparently is over his concussion. (You may have seen the story the previous week that LSU rooters held up foam hands with the middle finger extended and signs asking "Tebow: How many fingers do you see?") Another miss for the Hogs. We had to root for Nebraska over Texas Tech, now that I'm singing in a quartet (High Mileage) with two Nebraskans. But the Huskers, who had looked so good the previous week against Mizzou, joined the parade of Big 12 North Division flameouts.

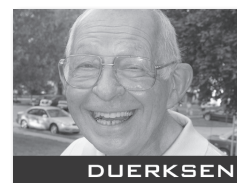
So guess which was the only *T-H* member able to dance a jig at the end of day (well, maybe he just hoisted a Pale Ale)? Yep, Dan "Every Man a Wildcat" Henry. Kansas State made one of the most amazing one-week turnarounds in school history and blitzed poor Texas A&M. And I never thought in my lifetime I'd write "poor" and "Texas A&M" in the same sentence.



It was such a strange day that just 24 hours later, the Chiefs won. ♥

Commanders in Action

by Monty Duerksen



Congratulations to all *HOA* competitors for your hard work, and

your positive reaction to the experience in Lincoln. Let's continue our quest for excellence by building on the influence our Music Team has established for us.

Also, congratulations to *Central Standard* for your Performance at the CSD contest. We now have two Choruses ranked in the top three in the District. NOT TOO SHABBY!

Since our last "Communique", we enjoyed entertaining an enthusiast audience at the "Waldo Festival" in mid-September. That same weekend, we fulfilled a request from **Aileen Beard** that included singing at the funeral of a Barbershopper from Colorado. Aileen is the wife of **Paul Beard**, a former member of *HOA*.

The family of **Gordon Sears**, a former member of our chorus, invited us to sing at Gordon's 80th Birthday Party. He was duly surprised and the family told us that we lifted him out of a deep depression. We invited him to sing with us. *Wow!* He remembered the bass of some of the "Polecat" songs. Quartetting is fantastic! ♥





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



DEXTER

TEN YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER, 1998

"After five years, over 250 rehearsals, 14 appearances on a competition stage (including a district championship and five trips to International) the release of a recording, a lot of fun

shows and a host of other experiences that any Barbershopper would treasure, **Mark, Joh, Micah** and I evaluated our goals and agreed that it is time for a change." That's the way bass **Keith Schweer** began his swan song resignation from the *12th Street Rag*, one of the finest quartets ever to be formed within our chapter. But Keith assured us that his space would be filled by another fine bass, **Barry Moore**, who was member of the *Ambassadors of Harmony*.

TWENTY YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER, 1988

The selected "Barbershopper of the Month" for November 1988 was **Paul Beard** who "unquestionably earned his award by handling all of the leg work involved in the purchase of our new riser trailer. He contacted the vendor, picked up promotional literature and other data, negotiated for an acceptable (to the chapter board) price, and then took the whole package to the board for approval.

"And he's not finished! He's trying to sell the old trailer (asking price—\$500)! And who do you suppose hauled the loaded trailer all the way to Davenport and back? And is prepared to do it again when asked? Now do you see what it takes to make BOTM?"

What a hustler this guy was!

FORTY YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER, 1968

Harmonotes Editor **Don Thorne** announced that the featured quartet for this issue was a foursome known as the *Missouri Pewkes*. This quartet was formed away back in 1967 when three members of the Kansas City chapter attended the inter-

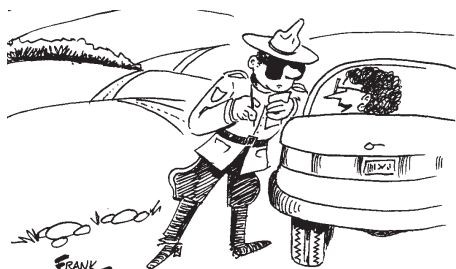
national convention in Hawaii. They were joined by another chapter member, a tall bass named **Joe Costigan**, and were invited to attend a meeting of the Honolulu chapter, where they participated in a pick-up quartet contest and, surprisingly, finished in second place.

About that name, the *Missouri Pewkes*...Here's the way Don explains it: "The name 'Missouri Pewkes' has a very authentic and historical meaning. During the 19th century, many families took the advice of **Horace Greeley** to 'Go West, young man, go West.'" The migration was on. People from Indiana were nicknamed the 'Hoosiers.' From Illinois, the 'Suckers.' From Kansas, the 'Jayhawks,' and the migrants from Missouri were nicknamed the 'Missouri Pewkes.' What more significant name could these four Barbershoppers from Missouri, visiting our newest state, select for the name of their quartet." (Yeah, but what the heck is a "Pewke?" I've looked everywhere—even the Internet, where all I could find was something about a woman named Zulah. E. Pewkes—with no success. Anyone got the answer?)

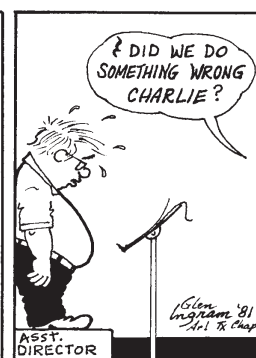
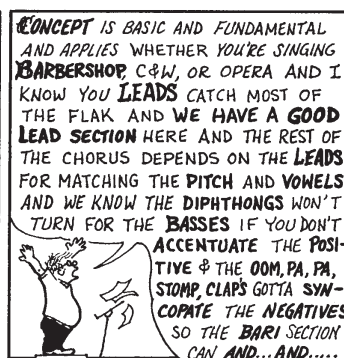
Don goes on: "After returning to Kansas City, Joe Costigan looked to greener singing pastures and joined up with the *Heights of Harmony* quartet. After many, many applications had been examined...a new bass was initiated into the group."

Don said that, "Every one of the present foursome is a past president of the HOA chapter. Every one has achieved the "Man of the Year" Award. The total years of barbershopping of the four add up to a staggering 93 years. Let's not add up their combined ages!"

The members' names were **Bill Wall** on lead, **Ed Eichman** on baritone, Don himself on tenor and **Orval Wilson** singing the bass. Quite an illustrious group, don't you think? ♥



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2009

HOLIDAY HARMONY SPECTACULAR



Photos by Matt Bostick

Come join the *Heart of America Barbershop Chorus* and the *Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines* in a musical start to the fun and exciting holiday season! Featuring *High Definition*, *ZING!*, *Listen Up!*, *Back in Business*, *Black Tie* and *4's Company*!

**Saturday, December 5 • 2:00 & 7:00 pm • Unity Village
1901 NW Blue Parkway (350 Highway & Colbern Road)
Call for Ticket Reservations: 816-326-8413**

Call John Erwine (816-520-5708) or Marti Shutty (816-587-0733) about discount prices for groups of 10 or more! Check the HOA website: www.hoachorus.org

Ticket Prices:

Front/Center Section; \$22 • Back/Sides: \$17 • Balcony (stair access only): \$12

Come join us at the Afterglow, too! Just a short walk right across the street from the Auditorium. See the night's quartets sing extra selections as well as other chapter quartets that were not on the show. Tickets in advance are \$6. Tickets at the door are \$7.50. To order advanced Afterglow tickets, call Therese at 816-456-8011.



The Lines Are Open!

by John Erwine, VP Membership



ERWINE

Since the CSD Convention in Lincoln, there has been a renewed emphasis on recruitment. I wish I could say I was the driving force behind it, but I certainly was not. Actually it began at the most likely of all places: within the membership itself. And that's as it should be. When a spark ignites a flame, the flame only remains alive with substance to feed upon mixed with the oxygen surrounding it. In this case, the substance is the product we have to offer, and the oxygen is the membership surrounding it. As the flame is nurtured to stay alive, become brighter and increase its reach, so does the excitement, action and results of the membership.

Today there are so many ways to communicate with friends, relatives, business contacts and neighbors that it's difficult for me to envision the need for them all in the competing market place, much less understand them. That's the "old guy" in me. It's also difficult for me to accept that we no longer have front porches or gather around a lake and picnic area on Sunday afternoons. That's also the old guy in me. But here we are with My Space, e-mail, BlackBerry, Face Book, snail mail, HOA business cards, Space Book, Twitter, HOA blue informational cards, and once in awhile a "Howdy" and a handshake. I guess I like the last two the best, as they seem to compliment each other and produce pretty good results.

Okay, so now I have to admit it. There's a whole lot of that new-fangled stuff I don't know much about yet. That doesn't mean it isn't useful. The thing is that whichever method you use you are opening the lines of communication to grow the flame, and that's what's important. Now is the perfect time to recruit like crazy, as we are beginning to work on our Holiday Show music. Now is also the time to make sure we're able to stay close to our guests, insuring they come back to join our ranks. Some of our recent ones have indicated that they wouldn't return until after we finished rehearsing for the district contest. They enjoyed our singing, but didn't want to commit their time until they felt like they could be more a part of the group. One was pretty intimidated by having to memorize the music, as he's

always been in organizations where they held it. Guess what? We had both scenarios back as guests the following week.

So here we have several things to consider and give our attention to. **Chuck Greene's** seminar that some of us attended, "Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meetings," addressed some of these challenges. You may have noticed subtle changes during our meeting time: face coaching by chorus members out front, arc or circle singing for blending, changes in the way announcements are given, restarts with a five-second coaching comment, the director personally calling each new guest. If you missed Tuesday night, Oct. 20., we had a 12-minute breakout session where the chorus broke into VLQ's and found a room in the church and just sang tags or Polecats as it must have been done back in the day. I found myself in the boiler room with a couple of guests. We introduced ourselves to a riser mate and shared a little background about ourselves, learned a very long tag by **Freddie King** and even applied a gentle massage to our neighbor. The idea here is to make each rehearsal a bit different, yet accomplish the same desired results while having fun. Having fun is the key to a new guest and for the retention of current members.

Whether we are a performing and competing chorus or one that prefers to gather each week and sing for the fun and camaraderie, the challenge is the same: to attract viable guest candidates and retain current members,

all the while having fun doing it. The challenge is to do this at whatever level we are performing or rehearsing at, and be able to keep the intimidation level low or nonexistent so that regardless at what point they join us, they'll want to come back. I believe that recognition is there among our leadership, and that we are beginning to make progress.

Do you have ideas as to how to change up the pace and rhythm of our rehearsals? I'll bet your PVP, Music Team or director would be glad to hear from you. How do we make guests feel comfortable and wanting to return when we are in a contest or performance mode? Fun, with variety, yet with purpose may just be the answer. How can we do this? Perhaps that is one of our larger unsolved tasks. How can you – we -- keep that flame reaching higher? Remember: *it's your chapter.* ♥

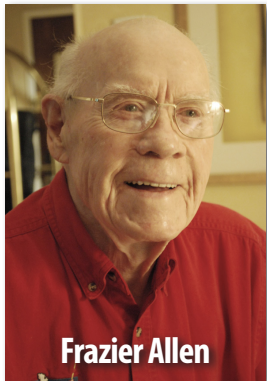




FOCAL POINT

by Ron McIntire

I had the great fortune to room with Frazier Allen at the 2009 district contest in Lincoln, Nebraska. Over the three-day weekend, we talked about barbershopping, flying military airplanes in WWII, and a few milestones in his life. During our interview, I was surprised to learn that he enlisted in the Army Air Corps at Strother Field, an Army air field near my home town of Arkansas City, Kansas. I was six years old at the time.



Frazier Allen

Frazier Allen and his friend **Bill Rose** heard the *Orphans* (1953 CSD Champions from Wichita) sing one night in 1954 and

thought it was the most beautiful sound they had ever heard. That prompted them to check out a meeting at the Broadview Hotel in Wichita and, not long after, they both joined the Wichita Chapter. Frazier sang in two or three short-lived quartets after that but in late 1956, he, **Bill Rose** and **Byron Bittain** sang a few songs with **Monty Duerksen**, then in the Newton, Kansas Chapter. They all liked what they heard and, though it took some arm twisting and cajoling, they convinced Monty he should be in a quartet. They called themselves the *Four Cavaliers*. Since both Frazier and Bill Rose worked at Boeing, many of their rehearsals were in the men's room, lunch room and hangar at Boeing during the lunch break. Monty sang with the group until mid 1958 and competed at district twice, taking second place in '58 but he left in 1958 to finish his college degree. That's when **Jay Bond**, from the Wichita Chapter stepped in. The new quartet went on win the 1959 CSD

quartet contest in Wichita then went to International where they missed fifth place by one point.

The *Cavaliers* stayed together until 1960 when Frazier was transferred to the Boeing facility in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Work got in the way then and he dropped out for a time. He resumed his barbershop career in the Frank Thorne Chapter in about 1989 and eventually joined the Kansas Chapter in 2001, singing tenor in HOA until it became easier to sing lead.

Frazier was born on a farm not far from Udall, Kansas in 1924 and, with four brothers and a sister, grew up in the Udall area. He attended his first six years of school in a one-room school house called Bushnell School close to the farm then enrolled in the seventh grade in Udall. "There were three students at the school when I left Bushnell," he recalled. He graduated from Udall High School in 1942.

In 1943, he was drafted into the Army and he and a brother went for their physicals. Because they had already enlisted in the Army Air Corps, their paper work was changed to reflect Aviation Cadet but during the physical, the doctor said his brother had a heart murmur so Frazier went alone.

Frazier never saw combat but spent the last two years of WWII stateside, flying AT-6's, P-40's, P-51's and the "Jug," the popular name for the P-47. Toward the end of his enlistment, he was an AT-6 instructor pilot. He mustered out of the service in 1947.

Frazier is not a name one hears a lot. When asked how his parents chose it, he said his father was a core driller for Shell Oil in the 1920's and he named Frazier after a good friend whose last name was Frazier. If there's ever a constant, it's Frazier Allen. Yeah, he's retired after 41 years at Boeing (1948-1991) but what does that mean? A betting man would lose if he said

Frazier would slow down anytime soon, or miss a Tuesday rehearsal a district contest or an International convention.

Asked about his most memorable barbershop experience, "It was the night the *Orphans* won the International quartet contest in Washington, D.C. in 1954," he said. "It was fantastic."

Frazier and his wife **Patricia** married in 1945 and have four grown children. They make their home in Leawood, Kansas.

His friends would be surprised to know that although he doesn't fly now, except commercially, he still holds a valid pilot's license issued in 2001. ♥



At top: Cavaliers Portrait c. 1959
Left to right: Frazier Allen, Bill Rose (in back), Byron Bittain, (in front), Jay Bond.

At bottom: 4 Cavaliers in 2003
Left to right: Frazier Allen, Jay Bond, Bill Rose, Byron Bittain.



Photo courtesy of Jayne Morden

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Philadelphia, "Let Freedom Sing!"

by Mike Mathieu



Let 2010 be known as the convention before **The Great 2011 Kansas City Convention**. Hopefully next year in Philadelphia we will all gather and have a good time. Singing, greeting old friends, touring one of the most historical cities in our country, and watching the re-birth of the Barbershop Harmony

Society 10,000 attendee conventions, all reasons to look forward to being there.

We hope all of you are planning on going "out east" to watch the fine Philadelphia convention team, as we learn what it takes to put on the new convention. If you think it is the same as always, think again. **Dusty Schleier**, (pronounced Schly-er) is the new Society convention guru, and he has many new and exciting things planned, and the format could be changed drastically before next July. In order to learn our plans for 2011 we should all be there.

When I served on the Society Events committee, it was one of our duties to select convention cities. In my 40-plus years of being a member, I had not remembered a convention in Philadelphia, so that was a big plus in helping to choose "Philly." We hadn't been there in a long time.

In addition, the hotel room rates were relatively low. All the hotels were pretty close together in downtown, thus reducing unnecessary busing, and saving the Society tens of thousands of dollars in busing costs. A new hotel was being built, and it is now open and also included in our block of hotels. The economics and the finances had a big impact on choosing Philly. Sounds like a very economical large city.

Last year a decision was made to hold the contest in the Philadelphia Convention Center, which is across the street from most hotels, and certainly within walking distance of the entire convention block of hotels. Head out there, park your car, and never get into it until you are heading home, or fly there and once you are at your hotel, just walk everywhere you are heading. What a relaxing convention!

Then the committee checked the calendar and that was the big final factor in choosing Philadelphia. Our convention will end basically on Saturday July 3. Can you imagine a better place to spend the fourth of July than the "cradle of liberty?" Just about everyone will have off on Monday July 5 since the fourth is on Sunday. Why not book your hotel room through Sunday, then head home on Monday July 5? What a super way to end a convention. Another reason why we should all head to Philly!

On top of all that, who knows what exciting things will happen on the contest stage? It will be tough to beat Anaheim last year, with *Crossroads* and *AOH*, but we know the competition will be unbelievable. The *VM* again. *Westminster* again—Wow! Will Old School take all the other to class, or will some upstart quartet come out of nowhere to capture the gold? The only way to find out first hand is to be there in the concert hall.

Get your tickets early, as the sooner you order the better your seats are. Hope to sing with you there, and pick up all the pointers we can as we strive to create a true convention to remember on our home turf in July of 2011. Together let's create another historical event in Kansas City, our hometown! ♥

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. 21, after 45 drawings (four since last report):

- The total collected for Harmony Foundation since the last report is \$202.
- The total collected for the year to date (since Nov. 10, 2008) is \$3,489.
- The total for the previous year was \$2,303.
- The total in our best previous year (2006) was \$4,390.

The progressive jackpot has grown to \$596 at the time of the report. ♥

Caroling Caravan to Ride Again on December 19

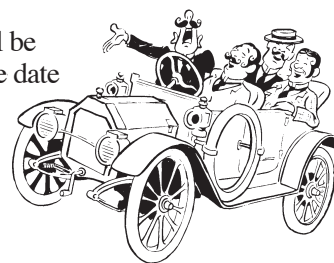
by Robert Burdick



Again this year *HOA* will be touring retirement homes to raise money for the Salvation Army. The Caravan is scheduled for Saturday Dec. 19. We will be visiting six different homes and giving a 30-minute concert at each location

while at the same time giving our pitch for contributions. Last year was a record for fund raising and we look forward to the challenge of raising even more money this year.

All the details will be forthcoming as the date approaches, but please keep the date open. ♥



Heart of America Chorus Calendar

December 5
Holiday Show
Unity Village



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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