



CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING  
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE  
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

VOLUME 11 - ISSUE 9 - NOVEMBER 2011

## My First Year in HOA

by Dave Jobe, At Large



**D**o you remember when your children went away to summer camp for a few weeks or so? And, if you were lucky, your son or daughter may have written you a letter and it said something like:

"Dear Mom and Dad, I'm here at summer camp and I'm really having fun! We are having a great time, fishing, swimming, building stuff and we have ice cream and cookies every night! They let us have as much as we want too! Please can I go next year?"

Well do you remember? I'd like to say this, "My first year as a member of *Heart of America Chorus* has been like having as much ice cream and cookies as I want. I like ice cream and cookies, a lot." That's pretty much the explanation for the title, "At Large."

As some of you may remember when I first came to the chorus, my motivation for coming was mainly to make friends. I didn't know many people outside of my new employment. My goal was to sing as well as I could. I was hoping dearly that I would not hurt any performances if I made it to the risers.

And then something happened. I suddenly remembered how much I missed singing barbershop harmony. I had not sung in over 15 years. I suddenly remembered how the music does something to my soul, healing me in a crazy sort of way. And then in an unrealistic expectation

of myself, I wanted to be better than I could possibly be — yesterday! However, I almost quit when I listened to a recording of myself the first time. "That sound was not the sound I was hearing?"

A little background may be in order. In the beginning months, I stood on the risers mostly next to **Carl Turlin** and **Jerry Garrard**. Soon I began to think of them as saints for being patient with me, especially after the recording I heard. You see, when I was younger, I could do this with relative ease, and that recording almost scared me away.

And then something else happened. I talked to **Carter Combs**, and he had a reasonable explanation. I trusted his advice and his calming influence.

And then something else happened, The Holiday Harmony Show and then the Singing Caravan, and then the Spring Show and all of a sudden...there I was on the stage side of the curtain at The Sprint Center on an international convention stage. I thought of **Harry Carey**: *Holy Cow!*

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# HARMONOTES

...is published by the board of directors of the Kansas City, Mo., Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society®, a non-profit organization. Photographs that are not attributed are the work of our photographers at large. Unless accompanied by a byline, all articles have been written by the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the officers and members of the chapter. Space will be made available for opposing points of view.

## Heart of America Chorus

Chapter meets at 7 p.m. each Tuesday night, at:  
St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
110th & Holmes • Kansas City, Mo. 64131

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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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(Continued from front cover)

Suddenly, the curtain opened up and all I could see was **David Krause** smiling back at me. Oh well, "Let's do this!" And then something else happened. We sang "Love Me and the World is Mine" like I have never heard us sing it! That song sounded so good that it caused me to hyperventilate with joy. I couldn't get air.

And suddenly afterwards, something else happened. I realized that I am hooked on this hobby, forever. Oh yeah, then something else happened. CSD district convention at the Hyatt. Feeling totally confident knowing that I have given all of the effort possible, I proudly walked onto the risers and gave it my best. I knew in my heart that I had given everything that I had to give in the past year, I was all in.

And then something else happened. We finished with a score that we earned. Yep you guessed it, something else happened. I found out that I cared more about the scores than I was aware and I thought I cared a great deal.

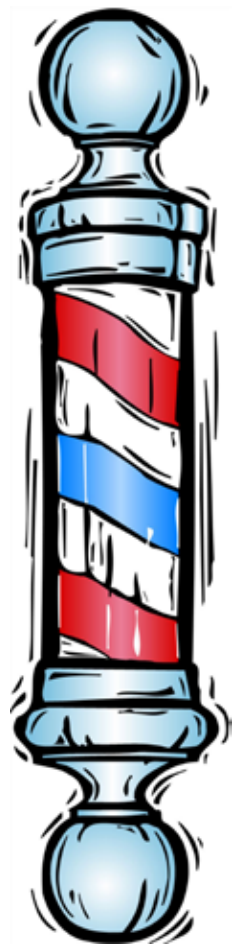
If I get the opportunity to get on stage at Portland, I will attain a new level of effort. In Portland, there will be a front row behind the front row, behind the front row! Honestly, I am optimistic about our future. "Build it, they will come." The groundwork is in place and I can't wait to see what the future holds for our chorus.

If I may, I hope everyone will take this comment in the spirit in which it is offered. Our rehearsals are beginning to feel like the rehearsals I remember when I was singing as a guest with *AOH* and *St. Louis Suburban*. I don't know how to explain it other than we are now spending more time on tags and I can hear and feel the ring. I can also see that collectively we care.

After walking off the stage following the feedback at CSD, the silence spoke volumes. And then something else happened. The following rehearsals were fun again.

So in closing, guys I just want to say thank you to each and every single one of you. Each of you has had an amazingly positive influence on me. I look forward to my next year. I guarantee *HOA* will be repaid in full.

Quick note to **Mark Fortino** and **Carter**: next time you have a suggestion for practicing with wine bottle corks behind the molars, maybe you should recommend not drinking both bottles and singing with the corks in the same night.... I'm just saying! I felt the pain. ♥





## HOA Going to Portland! by Vince Perry, Chapter President



Just a few hours ago this article would have been entitled *HOA Competes & Hosts Again!*, as that was the latest and greatest news from the home front. But all that changed yesterday when we received our official wild card invitation to compete in the 2012 Int'l Chorus Contest on July 6th in Portland, Oregon.

HOA's *Performing Chorus* (PC) members were promptly informed of the invitation and given an online form in which to answer survey questions about the chorus going to Portland. Within a few hours we had heard the voices of over half of the regular PC members which I thought was an excellent sampling. Many thanks to all those who responded in such a timely fashion; your input and comments were invaluable in the decision making processes that followed.

After the chapter meeting last night the Music Team, lead by Music/Performance Vice President **Mark Fortino**, met to discuss the issue. The chapter was given less than three days to make the decision, so it was now or never and could not be put off until the next scheduled MT meeting. The MT very systematically talked about the pros and cons of competing and a consensus was reached in short order. I gave the Board members the luxury of witnessing the MT meeting. When you get to hear veterans like Past President and Past Music/Performance VP **Keith Schweer** express his opinions and reasoning it's a real benefit to us on the current board who would ultimately be asked to make the final decision. After the MT meeting the Board was convened and considered the MT's proposal of accepting the invitation. I was very proud of the both the MT and Board for their service to the chapter last evening and am pleased to announce that the Board voted in favor of accepting the wild card invitation to compete in Portland next July! ♥

## LEAD'S CREED

Submitted by Dave Jobe

1. We will not flaunt in front of others the fact that we have the best voice in the group (unless the music calls for it, which, come to think of it usually does).
2. We will do our best to stay in tune, but don't worry too much about that since the other guys have to follow us anyway.
3. As consummate gentlemen, we will continue to let the Basses feel like they're the most important part of the group, even though without the melody they would have nothing to harmonize.
4. As we focus on shaping and caressing the song, if we forget a word (or all of them), we won't worry too much since the other guys have to follow us anyway.
5. We will never allow a baritone to sing louder than us, even when we're on the seventh. The melody must be heard!
6. We will be sensitive to the Tenor's need to feel special. We won't overdo it, though.
7. In a chorus, although we will do our best to follow the director, we realize that we have to take advantage of all the opportunities in a song to show off our wonderful Lead voice. After all, that's what the audience has come to hear, right?
8. We will do our best to cover the fact that the Baritone has a weak, emaciated instrument, otherwise he'd be singing Lead.
9. When in doubt, pitch it up!!!
10. When a Coach/Director advises us that we are under pitch, or too loud, we will always nod appreciatively, all the while knowing that we were doing what the Composer/Arranger originally intended (even if the Director IS the Coach/Arranger).

## TH Still Active...Sorta

by Ol' Dan



You may have missed the performance of *Tone-Henge* at the CSD convention afterglow. If so, "Congratulations!" It wasn't what you might call "bad," but then it didn't have the normal sparkle that we're accustomed to, (Dan murmured with tongue imbedded in cheek.)

Anyway, a week or so later we set a new record that solved the problem; **two** actual rehearsals within a 24-hour period! Well, the results caused us old coots to raise what's left of our eyebrows in amazement! Ringing chords? Well, bless our souls! Balance? Blend? Honest musicality? All them-there good rarities actually lasted all the way through **an actual performance!** I should mention that the performance was in a church. It helped to have the presence of the one who invented harmony!

We have another gig in mid-December. The chances of repeating that double-rehearsal record are about the same as the life of the proverbial snowball in a place with no churches. Anyway, we're living proof that you're never too old to learn how...to learn how! ♥

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

**NOVEMBER 23**

## Caroling Caravan Ready to Roll on Saturday, Dec. 17

by Bob Burdick

Plans are now in place for Caroling Caravan VI to travel to six retirement homes on Saturday Dec. 17. We will be singing a thirty minute concert at each place with our emphasis on entertaining the people AND raising money for the Salvation Army.

Please mark you calendars to join us for the full day which will begin with warm-ups about 9:30 am and end after our last performance about 5 pm. More detailed instructions and information will be coming out in early December - but for now please plan on joining the chorus for a day of fun and successful fund raising. In the last five years we have raised more that \$38,000 for the Salvation Army and we look to add significantly to that total this year. ♥



## New Harmony Handful News

by Tony Strub



Our latest performance was on Oct. 9 at John Knox Village. The *Handful* along with four other male singing groups put on a show for about an hour and twenty minutes to an audience of 700 – 800 to raise money for their food pantry. We were the only truly barbershop group in the show. **Jim Bagby** commented that our performance was the best ever and the reaction of the audience was very enthusiastic. We hope to have a repeat performance at John Knox again next year.

Our group continues to meet once a month for two hours to improve our singing and performance skills. We continue to promote singing in the barbershop style and the *Heart of America Chorus*.

For the future, we are discussing expanding our repertoire and performance to attract singing opportunities for holidays and special events. ♥

## BCQ News by Rob Mathieu



**Above: BCQ members from left to right:  
Rob Mathieu, Brian Marston, Matt Moore and Tom Wenner**

**BCQ**, Heart of America's newest foursome, recently competed for the first time at the 2011 Central States District Contest in early October, and quickly made headlines, placing third in the contest after just eight rehearsals. All members of BCQ enjoyed working double duty at the contest, singing in the quartet contest, and with Heart of America in the chorus contest on Saturday afternoon.

BCQ, formed at a recent **Beer Club** gathering in August 2011. BCQ is made up of four gentleman with strong roots in the *Heart of America Chorus*. The members of BCQ include: **Matt Moore** (35 year member of *HOA*) singing Bass, **Tom Wenner** (seven year member of *HOA*) singing Baritone, (Tom's Dad, **Bruce Wenner**, has been a member of *HOA* for almost 44 years), **Brian Marston** (eight year member of *HOA*) taking the Lead role, and **Rob Mathieu** (23 year member of *HOA*) singing tenor. Rob's Dad, **Mike Mathieu** has been a member of *HOA* for 30 years.

BCQ would like to thank our two coaches for taking the time to get us to a point where we were ready to compete in such a short time, Bruce

Wenner (Tom's Dad), and **Jim Bagby**. Both gentleman seem to have a strong knowledge of how to sing and perform in the barbershop style, so we think we might keep 'em on board ; ) Thanks guys!!

BCQ will be representing *HOA*, along with our very own **Ray Young**, at the Kansas Association of Activities Directors Conference this month, and was also recently invited to perform at the CSD Leadership Academy Afterglow in Feb. 2012, at Missouri Western State University in St Joseph, Mo.

At this point, if you're thinking that our name stands for **Bruce the Coach Quartet**, **Barbershop** is our **Calling Quartet**, or **Bagby** is **Cool Quartet**, you are wrong. Keep trying. ; )

Our true acronym is hidden somewhere in this article, but you can find us online, and join the club, at [www.barbershopclubquartet.com](http://www.barbershopclubquartet.com). ♥



## Make Reservations Now for Midwinter!

Taken from *LiveWire*!

**C**ome to sunny Tucson for the 2012 Midwinter Convention January 17-22, 2012, and tack on a few days before or after to enjoy the unique beauty of southern Arizona! Visit Saguaro National Park, play some golf, check out an old cowboy movie set, and just feast your eyes on the scenery along Arizona's highways!

Housing reservations are now available. The best rooms will go fast, and Tucson in particular may be a sell-out, so make your reservations now!

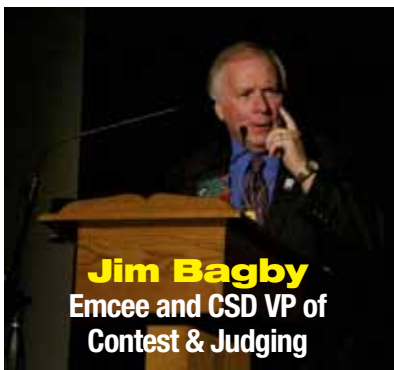
We can't wait to see how many young men will take part in the Fifth Annual Youth Chorus Festival! And it's always a treat to enjoy the Seniors Quartet Championship.

Register at **TUCSON MIDWINTER**. Check out the Tucson Visitor's Website at [www.visittucson.org/visitor/about/visitorcenter](http://www.visittucson.org/visitor/about/visitorcenter).



# 2011 CSD CONVENTION

The Heart of America Chorus with David Krause directing



**Jim Bagby**  
Emcee and CSD VP of  
Contest & Judging



**Voices Unlimited** - Your 2011 CSD Quartet Champions!  
Micah Jeppesen-tenor, Mark Forino-lead, Shaun Whisler-bass, John Fortino-bari



**BCQ** (3rd Place)  
Rob Mathieu-tenor, Brian Marston-lead,  
Matt Moore-bass, Tom Wenner-Bari



**State Line Rivals** (5th place)  
Tom Elefson-tenor, Grant Hunget-lead,  
Alex Scott-bass, Dan Cassamatta-Bari



**Last Call** (9th Place)  
Rob Mance-bari, Matt Richardson-bass,  
Duane Lawson-lead, Brandon Yarbrough-tenor



**7th Avenue Revue** (12th Place)  
Bill Lamme-bari, Mike Petry-bass,  
Brad Dawdy-lead, Dale Clary-tenor



**Dominant Seventh** (14th Place)  
Brad Dawdy-tenor, Eric Weber-bass,  
Jerry Garrard-lead, Doug Brott-bari



**Homeward Bound** (23rd Place)  
Mark Yeokum-tenor, Carl Turlin-lead,  
Alex Tate-bass, Don Fuson-bari

All photos are from the Oct. 7-8 Convention at the Hyatt Regency at Crown Center  
All photos courtesy of Jayne Morden, CSD Webmistress/[www.websitecreations.ws](http://www.websitecreations.ws)

# Reflections of CSD Convention Weekend

by Mark Fortino (an email to the HOA Chorus Net)



**A**s I reflect back on the weekend I am so proud to be a part of this chapter. Hosting yet another convention in championship style and at the same putting a great performance on the stage was a great accomplishment.

I know you're not supposed to talk about your competition but I don't care, I always have because it helps me get better individually. I thought *Central Standard* sang beautifully on the Saturday night show. **Rob Mance** did a great job directing them and the guys responded well to his direction. As I was listening to them and loving the sound they were producing I couldn't help but take pride in the fact that we posted the exact same singing scores and the exact same presentation scores as they did. That is really awesome guys and it's just the honest truth!

I think it's sometimes very difficult to mentally do what judges do, tie a number to a performance. But when you hear or see one that you like, it's at least a good reference point to see what number was put on it and then compare it to what the same judges gave you. It's not an exact science but I think there are things to be learned. For example, the purity and clarity in *Central Standard's* tone is really awesome! The resonance and richness of *HOA* is our strength which is why we score as well as we do. After listening to our rehearsal on Thursday night, as well as comments from people I trust about our contest set, I'm excited to work especially on our leads. We have to bring more **Central Standard**-like clarity to our tone while singing through a still taller resonant chamber. While we sing with pretty good resonance, we haven't tapped even 50% of our potential.

Many of you know that I have been taking weekly voice lessons for just over a year now. Biggest change in my vocal production is the amount of space I sing with. I never knew my jaw could stretch, unhinge this much. Try singing with corks in your molars for 10 minutes a day and you'll feel my pain! :) **Mike Slamka** and **Brandon Guyton** have focused a great deal of their time on getting *Voices Unlimited* as a whole, but primarily **Shaun** (ed's note: **Whisler**) and me, to sing with more space. The comments from the judges and others this weekend was just how incredible the **SIZE** of our sound is. Now sure, our score improved a little from Internationals, when one

would think it should have really taken a **BIG** step forward. However, despite what some believe, you can only make major changes in so many areas at a time, and while our sound was **BIG** this weekend, we weren't as musical as we know how to be, nor was our presentation at the level we know how to do. Why? We focused on what we know will pay dividends in the future. Our goal for the next year will be to maintain that space and get everything else up to that level. Only then will mid 80's scores and more be possible.

So what is the point of this long email? It's to simply say that I know from talking with some of you that you may be discouraged by our placement and score. I'm not! (ok maybe a little) But, I'm energized about what we can learn from this experience and improve!

Back in the mid 1990's when *12th Street Rag* was placing 36th, 36th, 37th, 43rd, **John** (ed's note: Mark's brother) asked me one night, "Why do we want to keep doing this? Do you ever think about throwing in the towel?" I will never forget my response. "As long as I am personally improving and getting better, I will never give this up." It may seem selfish, but I want to learn from the best, I want to try to be the best. Even if I never am the best, the journey of learning is what it is all about!" That is the **FUN** part. It's never been about the contest. That is a motivator and good measuring stick, but that's about it. The experience is what it's all about.

Had I given up after all of those contests that didn't turn out like I wished, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to win my third district championship this past weekend and be surrounded by all of you, a chapter that I love! I also probably would have dropped out of barbershop all together.

Never give up, embrace your competition, and learn, learn, learn.

Congrats to all Kansas City Area Choruses and their quartets! It was indeed a weekend to remember! ❤

**Mark (Fortino)**

Heart Of America Music VP

Voices Unlimited - Central States District Champion

## The Good Times Returned to KC in 2011 by Vince Perry, President



The great *Heart of America* Chapter has done it again! We have hosted our second convention while competing within the last three months!

I know everyone in the chapter was relieved come that Sunday afternoon after the last risers were unloaded and the rental truck returned. It has been one of the busiest times in our chapter's history I'm sure. And at least for me, despite the pressures that came along with the jobs of being president and chorus manager simultaneously, it has been very satisfying. Why I've already had thoughts about eleven years down the road and doing it all again. Of course I will have aged to at least 150 by then and will be unable to stand on the risers let alone lift a riser section to help out **Tony Strub** and his infamous riser crews!

The CSD Convention was really an awesome experience for everyone. Many thanks to *HOA* Convention Co-chairman **Bob Burdick** and **Mike Mathieu** for their untiring efforts to organize and manage their second convention this year! Also I would like to thank the CSD Conventions Coordinator (and *HOA* member) **Don Fuson** for his expertise in organizing the CSD side of hosting the convention. And special thank you to **Mike and Linda Schumacher** for running the contest patterns for all three contest sessions. You two are awesome!

The staging experience in the ballroom, despite a few glitches, actually came across very well. Oh yeah, it would have been better had the stage been higher and the lights hadn't blinked off and on so much. But the sound was really very good in the audience and on the stage. The absence of curtains was not an issue save the one quartet who tried to exit through a partition curtain. Seems like they were all decked out in white, but for the life of me, I can't remember who exactly they were. I do remember thinking that only a championship caliber quartet could pull off an exit with that high of a difficulty factor! The lasting impression I got from the ballroom venue was it was a non-factor. Once the lights came down in the audience and the lights came up on the stage we were magically transformed into a wonderland of barbershop harmony. Thank you CSD and *HOA* for making this ballroom experience a unique and memorable barbershop experience.

Gold medal moments for me this convention included the dinner **Melladee** and I had with **Fred and Connie Hangartner** and Fred and Judy Allen at Lidia's Italy restaurant. (For you *HOA* vets, that's **Paul Allen's** brother.) Also gold was watching **Voices Unlimited** command the stage in both of their performances. I was so exited and especially happy for **Micah Jeppesen** and **Shaun Whisler** for winning their first CSD Championship. Shaun was beside himself right after and was being mobbed by family and friends so I didn't get to congratulate him personally but I did get to give Micah a congratulatory hug for me and *HOA*. In **Dick Vitale's** words: "It was awesome, baby!"

Other great moments of pride for me happened every time someone from *HOA* performed in a quartet or another chorus. *HOA* had seven quartets in the contest with three in the top five and four in the top ten. Congratulations to all our chapter quartets: **Voices Unlimited** - new 2011 CSD Quartet Champions with **Micah Jeppesen**-tenor, **Mark Forino**-lead, **Shaun Whisler**-bass, and **John Fortino**-bari. **BCQ** (3rd place) with **Rob Mathieu**-tenor, **Brian Marston**-lead, **Matt Moore**-bass, and **Tom Wenner**-bari. **State Line Rivals** (5th place) with **Tom Elefson**-tenor, **Grant Hunget**-lead, Alex Scott-bass, and Dan Cassamatta-Bari. **Last Call** (9th) Rob Mance-bari, Matt Richardson-bass, **Duane Lawson**-lead, and **Brandon Yarbrough**-tenor. **7th Avenue Revue** (12th) with Bill Lamme-bari, Mike Petry-bass, **Brad Dawdy**-lead, and Dale Clary-tenor. **Dominant Seventh** (14th) with **Brad Dawdy**-tenor, **Eric Weber**-bass, **Jerry Garrard**-lead, and **Doug Brott**-bari. **Homeward Bound** (23rd) with Mark Yeokum-tenor, **Carl Turlin**-lead, Alex Tate-bass, and **Don Fuson**-bari. You all made *HOA* very proud.

Also congratulations to the many members of *HOA* who also sang in other choruses. A special tip of the hat to *HOA* Director **David Krause** for staying with us up to the very last minute in the contest pattern before making his way onto the stage to perform with the **Ambassadors of Harmony**. Also a special congratulations to *HOA* Assistant Director and Leavenworth **Cody Choraliers** Director **Jerry Garrard**. It was a thrill to see all my buddies from Leavenworth on the fall contest stage as the reigning CSD Plateau A Champions! Way to go, guys!

Not many bummer moments for me this convention save not getting to see my son **David** perform with the Des Moines Pride of Iowa Chorus. Dang!



One more moment of gold for me before I wrap this article up was just hearing the voice of **Dan Henry Bowser** when he introduced “The Heart of America Chorus” for the contest. I (we) love him so much! It was really a magic moment to hear our introduction in Dan’s familiar upbeat timbre that we’ve heard so often. Thanks Daniel, you are the man!

Finally singing in *HOA* with my son **Vince** was definitely the gold medal moment for me! As I mentioned in the Board meeting last night, let’s not dwell on the score we received, let’s remember the feelings we had when the lights came down after our contest performance. That’s what it’s all about! At least for those short minutes we were a team, drawn by harmony, bound by friendship, striving for excellence. It was *HOA* at its finest: singing every note, every song, from the heart! It’s great to be a barbershopper in *HOA*! ♥



## to the following HOA MEMBERS!

November 3 **Larry Colburn**  
 November 3 **Ken Neujahr**  
 November 7 **Al Higgins**  
 November 8 **Tom Gray**  
 November 10 **Kent Miller**  
 November 20 **Dick Korek**  
 November 23 **Brooke Meyers**  
 November 24 **Mike O'Dell**  
 November 28 **Todd Anderson**  
 November 28 **Vince Perry III**

## Adventures in Quartetting

*Command Performance* is scheduled for a 1pm gig. 12:15, the phone rings.

**Rich:** Hey, Carter? Yeah, this is Rich. Hey, I just wasn’t sure if you were going to meet us at my house, or at the venue.

**Carter:** What venue?

**R:** You know, the, uh, Gladstone Community Center, for Margie’s 90th birthday party.

**C:** When’s that?

**R:** Uhhh... today at one... in about 45 minutes. (long pause) You remember, we talked about it at rehearsal Thursday?

**C:** Is that today?

**R:** Yeah! At one today! Don’t you remember talking Thursday about what we’re wearing? (long pause) Can you make it?

**C:** Well, I’m kind of in the middle of something right now...

*Doorbell rings.* Carter walks into Rich’s house. Jon, Monty & Carter laugh. Rich (almost) recovers from pseudo-stroke. Carter apologizes for being late due to I-70 being closed. We go sing “Margie” for Margie’s 90th birthday, and Monty wows ‘em with his “Memories.”

Just another day in the life of *Command Performance*. ♥



## At Large Extra! by Dave Jobe



**B**ig Shout-Out to the guys and gals that make things happen in new ways! Thank you **Joe Mathieu** (new technology emeritus) for recently creating a Twitter account to work in tandem with our Facebook page. On Twitter, we are **@HOAChorus**. Thank you to **Ray Young** for producing the

logo without notice and in quick fashion. Those of us on the marketing team would greatly appreciate everything that each of you do to promote our events, our activities, and in support for this wonderful hobby. In the passion of your daily life, on Twitter, and on Facebook, know that your support is appreciated. In a few short weeks, **@HOAChorus** has a direct connection to well over a thousand followers, indirectly through a network of others.

Guys, I know this will take time but, it will be worth the effort. Our "following" continues to increase each week. We are continuously in search of a proper mix of social media which will increase attendance at our events, our chorus membership, and awareness in the barbershop community. It takes only a few minutes to connect with us. Please take the time to join the community network, stay in contact with our guys in college and, reach out to the people who care about what we do. And for the fun of it,...let's see if we can get **#DavidKrause** trending! ♥



**Heart of  
America  
Chorus**

## Summary of October 2011 Board Meeting

By Rich Huyck/Ron McIntire

**N**o regular board meeting was held in October due to conflict with hosting and preparation for CSD Convention in Kansas City.

### IMPROMPTU BOARD MEETING OCT 25, 2011- President Vince Perry

**QUESTION:** Should *HOA* accept or decline the wild-card bid to participate in the International Chorus Contest in 2012 in Portland, Oregon?

**MUSIC TEAM RECOMMENDATION:** The *HOA* Music Team recommendation was to accept the bid.

**BOARD ACTION:** Board agreed to accept the bid to participate in the 2012 International Chorus Contest in Portland, Oregon. ♥



## Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter



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

As of Oct. 28, after 38 drawings (four since last report): The total Harmony Foundation contribution since the last report: \$90.

The total collected for the year to date (since Jan. 3, 2011) is \$869.

The total for the previous year was \$1602.

The total in our best previous year (2009) was \$3,489.

The total in 2006 (our best full year) was \$4,147.

The total in 2002 (the lowest year of the past decade) was \$1,102.

The progressive jackpot stands at \$495. ♥

## Good Things Come to Those Who Are Patient (and Persistent!)

by Vince Perry, President

**R**emember this article from the May-June edition of the *Harmonotes*: (*HOA Needs Your Help - Second Plea*)? Here's the opening sentence modified for brevity:

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

After several months I am happy to announce that we now have all of these important positions covered (plus one not mentioned above) by some very dedicated individuals. On behalf of the entire chapter I want to personally thank the following for accepting these important jobs and the unique challenges they each represent:

Thank you to **John Erwine** for assuming the job of the Chapter Sunshine Chairman. He's been on the job for a several weeks now and we already are thankful we have someone keeping us in the know about the special needs of our membership. Thank you, John!

Thank you to **Marty Oldehoeft** for assuming the job of Chorus Uniform Chairman. He's a veteran at this job and has returned for a one year stint to help bridge the gap while we train another capable and willing person. I foresee lots of uniform decisions in our near future and it's comforting to know that he will be there with his expertise. Thank you, Oly!

Thank you to **Dave Jobe** for accepting the challenging job of Chapter Music Librarian. He told me just last Tuesday that he's already found a pile of music that needs to be sorted. So he's on the job but will need all of our support to help him get settled in a workable comfort zone. Thank you, Dave!

Thank you to **Kent and Cindy Miller** for accepting the job of Chapter Annual Show Co-Chairs. If you recall this was my wish all along to find a couple such as them to take on the job. I've seen Don and Peggy Ransom do it with great success in JoeTown and think it's a win-win for HOA to have a Kent and Cindy running the show. Kent already assures me that their committee is already finalized and already at work! I mean, wow! Thank you, Cindy and Kent!

Finally, thank you to **Mike Schumacher** for assuming all the logistical parts of the chorus manager's previous job description. By the time you read this I'm sure Mike will be our 2011 Chapter Operations Vice President Elect. As president (and chorus manager) I was finding it impossible to find someone to take on the job of chorus manager. So I decided to follow the *AOH* model and split up the job. The business of registrations, hotel reservations, and chorus photos will be assigned to the chorus business manager position to be named later. The logistical side which includes making all the physical arrangements for the chorus will become the responsibility of the Operations VP. I couldn't get Mike as the chorus manager but he was very pleased to accept the nomination for the newly defined Operations VP position. Thank you, Mike! You will make a great chorus manager. Oops, sorry, I mean, contest/show operations coordinator. For now I will continue as the business manager until we find Mister Right. I think there is one person already interested in this job but haven't gotten a solid yes. So if you are interested in this challenging position please let me know.

So, good news for *HOA*! Please welcome and thank the above named individuals. Please be slow to criticize but fast to compliment as they perform the work of the chapter.

They will all need your help so let's make their jobs as easy as possible by our cooperation, understanding, and volunteering.

Finally, many thanks to all the men, women, family members, and friends of *HOA* who continue to support the *Heart of America Chapter* in so many ways. Without your love and support it would not be the great hobby it is! ♥







# 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 **Carl Turlin** for all his work in organizing and cooking for the recent *HOA* Guest Night and to **David Krause** for the great way he presented the chorus and kept the guests in-the-know throughout the whole evening of the *HOA* Guest Night!

Hats off to **Tony Strub** for again organizing all the risers needed for yet another convention in such a meticulous manner and to **Kevin Tritsch** for setting up and running the *HOA* sound system during the Past Champions Show and the Afterglow at the recent CSD Convention!

And one last tip of the hat to all the unnamed *HOA*ers and *Heartbeats* who unselfishly worked so hard to make both the recent guest night and CSD Convention such huge successes including all the trips to and from the airport picking up and returning all of our honored judges! ❤️

## Barbershoppers of the Month



### Bob Burdick and Mike Mathieu October 2011

John Erwine (right) presents **Bob Burdick** (left) and **Mike Mathieu** with the October 2011 BOTM Award which reads:

In grateful recognition for your work as co-chairmen of the CSD Barbershop Convention in Kansas City, Missouri October 7-9, 2011.

Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**

## Extra Mile Award Winners



### Mike and Linda Schumacher October 2011

John Erwine (left) presents **Mike Schumacher** with the October 2011 Extra Mile Award which reads:

In recognition for your combined effort coordinating and running the contest pattern for the CSD Convention, October 7 and 8, 2011, in Kansas City, Missouri.

Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**

## Portland, Via Dirt Angel's Hand by John Erwine, Executive VP



ERWINE

**N**ow it's official! We can start making plans, as if someone in my household hasn't already been planning for some months. As of last night you could still book a round trip flight for about \$268, sort of. By May or June who knows how many arms & legs it'll take. But in my case, who cares?

You see, we'll be behind the wheel making the trek across the great northern route to Oregon just as the pioneers those many 160 or so years ago did. Of course it should be more comfortable, but at this age and my back, it'll probably feel about the same.

I've flown to that region several times but have yet had the opportunity to drive it and take in all the wonderful sights in between. I can't wait to blaze my way through the Nebraska

Sand Hills, the Dakota Bad Lands, back down through Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. Then maybe relax around Sun Valley, or maybe north up and over the Bitterroot Range, and eventually over the Cascades to Portland and the convention.

Sound great. That's my rough draft. Now here's the other one. There's not much difference in the first 1,200 miles or so. As always these voyages consist of the proper antique rest stops. The deviation starts when we get near the "*promised land*." Medford, OR, is only 270 miles south of Portland. As luck would have it, **Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery** featuring alpine plants of the world is located there.

Back on the road about 175 miles to the north, at exit 148, is Rice Hill. There you'll find what the Oregon Trail

pioneers really came to find – the **K-R Drive In** featuring six scoops of Umpqua honey-glazed ice cream with swirled huckleberries and toasted hazelnuts!

On up "the 5" to Springfield where **Gossler Farms Nursery** is located, you'll find more conifers, trees & shrubs to your liking. It just keeps getting better. See, now we have to go on through Portland about 18 miles until we reach Scappoose. Did I say something about a convention? Here you'll find **Joy Creek Nursery** which has a delightful selection of

clematis, fuchsia and hydrangea. The view isn't bad either. It overlooks the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers.

Then just a few miles across the beautiful Columbia River Gorge is a little town called Battle Ground, WA. **Collector's Nursery** is there to show off their inventory of dwarf conifers, uncommon perennials and shade plants. So

what the heck – as long as we're still going north and Seattle is only another 125 miles or so, Chimacum is just up the road off Pudget Sound where **Naylor Creek Nursery** has lots more hostas. We can always use more of them.

And did I mention that **Little and Lewis** is just over there on Bainbridge Island? In this climate they grow gunnera as large as car hoods. They've got great statuary pieces in their gallery! Guess we should've brought the truck, huh?

As you see, I've got my hands full. These conventions can be a blessing and curse at the same time. As you've by now surmised, my wife – my Dirt Angel, does lead me via her strange sense of direction. Now where did I put that ticket agent's phone number? ♥





# ***Make An Effort To Patronize Our Sponsors!***

The Heart of America Chorus membership owes it to our sponsors to be aware of their support. Please use and/or support their products/services whenever possible and make an effort to let them know that we are thankful for this support!



## **Heart of America Chorus Calendar**

**December 3**

**Holiday Harmony Spectacular • 2pm & 7pm  
Unity Village Auditorium**

**December 17**

**Bell Ringing Caroling Caravan for Salvation Army**

**2012**

**January 7**

**HOA Installation/Awards Banquet  
Doubletree of Overland Park**

**April 14**

**HOA Annual Spring Shows  
Johnson County Community College**



*"The wind that makes music in November corn is in a hurry. The stalks hum, the loose husks whisk skyward in half-playing swirls, and the wind hurries on.... A tree tries to argue, bare limbs waving, but there is no detaining the wind."*

*- Aldo Leopold*

*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.*