



Photo courtesy of **Matt Bostick**

Heart of America Chorus

CALENDAR

- Oct. 7-9** - CSD Fall Convention, Des Moines, IA
- Oct. 18** - HHS Joint Rehearsal - HOA Meeting Hall
- Nov. 7** - HHS Joint Rehearsal - Mission Mall
- Nov. 17** - Greg Lyne Coaching Session
- Nov. 20** - HHS Joint Rehearsal - Location TBA
- Dec. 3** - Holiday Harmony Spectacular featuring HOA and the KC Chorus of Sweet Adelines

October 2005 Volume 05 - Issue 10

HARMONOTES

The monthly newsletter of Kansas City's
Heart of America Chorus

The second-oldest chapter in the
Barbershop Harmony Society



*Drawn by Harmony,....
Bound by Friendship,....
Striving for Excellence!*

WOW! WHATTA WEEKEND!

by Mike Neff, HOA Associate Director

By many accounts, the consensus after the fall 2005 retreat was that it was the finest HOA retreat we've had. Without a doubt, coaches **Dwain Brobst** and **Jim Henry** helped us get deep inside the music, the performances and ourselves. And in doing so, they helped move HOA forward to a new level.

As singers, Jim worked with us to improve the key elements of great singing—Pitch, Vowels and Synchronization. And he was relentless as he got us achieve a higher degree of singing in tune, with rounded, open vowel sounds, and the ability to sing with a connected, together, unit sound. The changes were immediately noticeable to everyone on the risers. It was like the moon and stars had aligned and all was right with the world.

Dwain brought out the natural, logical elements of the performance in each of us. He taught us how every part of the performance means something and must be communicated to the audience. We "LIVE" the music.

It was an awesome experience as a director, to watch our coaches work. With Jim Henry as our guide, and with **Kevin Keller** a few weeks before the retreat, all four of the HOA arm-wavers soon recognized how important our hand signals, body language and communication skills are to getting the chorus to follow us.

Just as we need coaching to sing, we need coaching to DIRECT too.

At the session with Kevin, it was obvious that the chorus followed us much better when we directed less and trusted everyone to follow. To me, that's the biggest challenge as a director. We want, so badly, for everyone on the risers to come together as one unit, execute the plan, and create a wonderful performance every time. And when a certain element of the sound, staging or plan doesn't come across like we hope it does, we usually compensate by over-directing, talking more or giving non-verbal signals that cause us to work harder and consequently, the performance of the chorus goes in the opposite direction we want.

It's a situation where we have to trust the chorus, but also, instill accountability in those on the risers to know their part, follow the arms that are waving in front, and be engaged with what is happening the minute the pitchpipe blows. When those things happen, we create magic!

As directors, I promise to you that **Jim, John, Carter** and me we will all do our best to let that magic happen and keep moving HOA forward as we "Advance The Dream!" Best wishes to all of you, for a wonderful performance in Des Moines. ♥

"It was an awesome experience as a director, to watch our coaches work."

ATCHISON 2005

HOA members attended the recent getaway to Atchison, KS. Choral progress was abundant under the guidance of **Jim Henry**, **Dwain Brobst** and **Jim Bagby**.

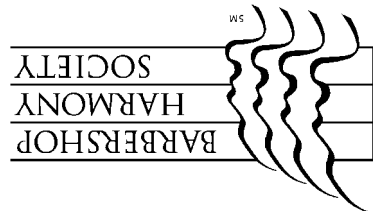
There was also time for quartet singing! At right, clockwise from bottom left: **Don Fuson** provides us with this glimpse of **Dennis Kinghorn**, **Grant Hunget**, **Brian Marston** and **Rob Mathieu**. . .tag singing from the bottom up!

Additional retreat photos can be found on pages 6 & 7!



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HARMONOTES

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Heart of America Chorus

The Kansas City, MO. Chapter S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.

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

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

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

The utmost care was used in preparation of this newsletter. However, should you notice erroneous copy, please let the Editor know! Comments/submissions may be made to:

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Chapter meets at 7 p.m. each Tuesday night, at:
St. Peter's United Church of Christ
110th & Holmes - Kansas City, MO 64105

The HOA Board of Directors meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of the month. Place TBA. Chapter members are welcome!

HOA Website: www.hoachorus.com
Web Address: webstaff@hoachorus.com
Chapter Telephone: (816) 221-7888



Count Your Blessings

by Todd Anderson, *Harmonotes* Editor



It's Friday night and I'm sitting at my computer, working on *Harmonotes*. I have music playing softly via the internet and, at the click of a button, I am instantly able to witness the radar loop of Hurricane Rita as it prepares to put a terrible hurt on Texas.

I watch the radar spin a bit, then switch over to FOX News and view wind-whipped reporters explaining how everyone—but themselves, apparently)—needs to heed the storm warnings and leave for high ground.

I have no way of comprehending what it would be like to lose every photo I own, or every stitch of clothing, or every important document. Worse yet, to live through a storm and then not know what happened to my family. I can't even fathom the frantic state of mind I'd be in. Yet there are so many who have suffered all of that. And their road to recovery is so far away.

I don't complain as much as I used to. Seems like with all the devastation that is going on south of us, suddenly my problems don't seem so large. I mean, I still have my sleep number bed. I can still go down and get a cold drink of water from the refrigerator. I even have roads to drive on. Things aren't quite as bad as I might have thought.

It's just too bad it takes such monumental storms to make me wake up. I get way too busy, it seems, to notice the glorious gifts that are all around me. No, I'm too busy whining because someone took a parking spot I wanted, or because the guy in front of me had 12 items and the checkout clearly says "ten items or less."

We who are on mostly dry land could stand to count our blessings (as the old hymn suggests, "...name them one by one."). The media tries to tell us otherwise, but there's no doubt that we are flat-out blessed. So blessed that most of the world would give anything to live here and enjoy the opportunities we have.

Let's support and pray for our southern brothers and sisters who have endured such terrible losses. Respond with donations, out of grateful hearts. Take inventory of all that is good in your life.

Maybe thanksgiving came early for me this year. Just maybe...it should flow from our hearts every day? ♥

"Got no check books, got no banks. Still I'd like to express my thanks -
I got the sun in the mornin' and the moon at night."

— Irving Berlin



President's Corner

by Marty Oldehoeft, Chapter President

By the reading time of this perhaps we have already been to Des Moines and know the results of our district contest. What we don't know yet is how far the coaching at our last retreat in Atchison will take us. As many stated at the retreat and later, this was one of if not the best experiences ever at our annual retreat. Going in I mentioned that we should expect three **bettters**. (1) Better equipped as singers (2) Better acquainted with our fellow singers and (3) "The reprimand" - Better pay closer attention to those out front. Well, I have no doubt we made the grade on all phases. We have some new tools to help make the adjustments necessary for better singing and performing, we had the opportunity, though somewhat abbreviated than years past to learn to know our fellow singers and even though Saturday was a long hard day I think our riser discipline was very good.

My hope is that we can look back in the next few months and say "WOW. That was a real turning point in the progress of our chorus." Lets keep the arrow pointing up! ♥

Attention All Members Of HOA!

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

DONORS

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

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

Silver Heart
(\$400 - \$999)

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

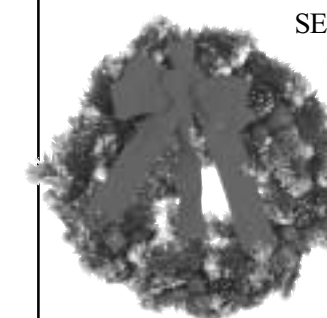
Donors will be listed in HOA's monthly bulletin and the March 23, 2006 Annual Show program. The Heart of America Chorus is a 501(c) (3) organization. Checks should be made out to: HOA Give to any HOA Board member or mail to: HOA, c/o Dale Neuman 816 W. 121st. St. · Kansas City, MO 64145-1011 Donors are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

Holiday Harmony Spectacular: December 3, 2005

Make your plans NOW for the 87th annual Holiday Harmony Spectacular.

Those of you who have been around a while know that this is always the most FUN event of the year. Here are the details:

- Joint show with the Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines (many time International competitor and Medalist).
- Saturday Dec. 3, 2005 – shows at 2 and 7:30 p.m. at the Unity Village Activities Center. Technical rehearsal Friday evening.
- HOA will sing 25 minutes on our own plus seven songs with the combined chorus.
- Guest quartets include *ZING!* (SA Regional Champions) and *Jubilee Transfer* (mixed gospel quartet with **Calvin & Willard Yoder**).
- Cast Party at Yellow Rock Barn (same as last year).
- Joint rehearsals Tuesday Oct. 18 (at our meeting), Monday Nov 7 (at their meeting), and Sunday afternoon Nov 20 (location TBD).



SELL TICKETS! This is the chapter's biggest money-making event, so we need a SELLOUT! Call 816-765-5371 to order tickets. Remember, all seats are reserved and the best seats always sell first, so order early. ♥

Take 4 Talk



Now that the CSD Fall Convention is behind us, I wonder how we did? And I wonder how our other Chapter Quartets came out? Did HOA win? Sorry we weren't able to get the guys to Atchison for some coaching & sing for the Chapter a bit. We tried, but schedules would not allow. Sept. 10, we appeared on the

Sunflower Harmony Sweet Adeline Chorus Shows in Topeka. **Susan Ives** (Lead of my wife **Michelle's** Region 7 Sweet Adeline Champ Quartet *Zing!*) directs the Chorus. The Chorus performed very well on the first half, then the last half was dedicated to *Kready Family* singers. Five different **Kreadys** belong to 4 different barbershop quartets & each one appeared on the Show. Let's just say there's a lot of barbershop talent & history in that family! Lots of fun!

Sept. 10 was actually the first time we'd been together to rehearse since late July. We managed 3 rehearsals prior to heading for Des Moines; 6 since May; for a total of about 10 since forming in April. Long-distance Quartets make it tough to rehearse often, but when we all do our homework, it's rewarding to hear the progress when we DO get together.

Someone said I never covered this, so here's who belongs to this foursome:

Rick Kready/Tenor from Topeka - 2 time District Champ (*Special Touch '84, 12th Street Rag '94*), 10 International appearances, once finishing 15th, 3rd generation barbershopper, and the oldest in our group - Sorry, Rick, had to do it!

Jeff Kready/Lead from Topeka - CSD Collegiate Champ (*Out of Class*), 2 College International appearances, 4th generation barbershopper.

Aaron Burklund/Bass from Omaha - District Champ (*Sibling Rivalry '99*), 3 International appearances, 1st generation barbershopper!

Grant Hunget/Bari from KC - I've placed anywhere 2nd-23rd in CSD contests with various Quartets, and am a 2nd generation barbershopper.

We've been having a lot of fun these past few months, and look forward to more good times! ♥



SONIC: Valuable Coupons!

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



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

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

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



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

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

Harmony Foundation Report For September

by Jim Porter



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

As of Wednesday Sept. 21:

In the past month, our chapter has raised \$143 for the Harmony Foundation. So far this year (since Nov. 20, 2004), we have raised \$2,062. Last year at this point, the total raised was \$2,135. In our best year (2003), the total raised at this point was \$2,261.

Thank you all for your interest and participation! ♥

Controversial Performances At Salt Lake City

by Richard Treptow, Presentation Category Specialist, taken from the Sept. 23 issue of *LiveWire*

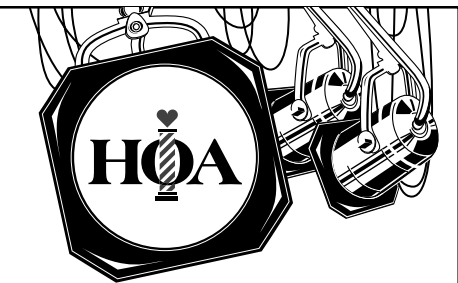
Many of our members have expressed curiosity about whether some of the SLC performances may have violated rules of the contest regarding taste, appropriateness, and the length of non-singing comment. Since these are all areas adjudicated by the Presentation (PRS) Category, as PRS Category Specialist, I would like to take the opportunity to address these issues.

Although there were no flagrant acts of "poor taste" that required penalty, there definitely were some performances that entered a gray area of "appropriateness," requiring judgment calls regarding whether a penalty should be applied. In fact, the PRS judges were split on several of these issues, with some of the panel members levying penalties while others did not for the same events. The penalty guidelines indicate that penalties should clearly be applied if the violations are also clear. But if the violations are not clear, each PRS judge makes a judgment call. For example, if the audience is split on a taste issue (like they were in SLC), it's likely the judges also will be split, because PRS judges both reflect and represent the audience.

The length of non-singing comment for some performances also entered a gray area. Some panel members felt they had exceeded "brief," and therefore levied a penalty, whereas others felt they indeed had gone up to, but stopped just short of the line. Some in the audience felt the talking was too long; while others did not, so the judges again reflected the audience.

The contest and judging system allows contestants to take risks, and potentially enjoy rewards, or at times suffering penalties, just like they did in SLC. Over the years, the risk/reward nature of the contest rules has provided some of our most exciting and controversial performances. Examples are TNT's Les Mis package, FRED's 1-1/4 minute entrance before singing a note, the Swede's tromping stereotyping and insulting performance enters a gray area, most of us enjoy becoming armchair morning quarterbacks. It's fun, isn't it? But hey, those guys down

through the judging area, and the Brits all mothers-in-law. Especially when a area, most of us enjoy becoming armchair morning quarterbacks. It's fun, isn't it? But hey, those guys down



New Member Spotlight

by Ron McIntire

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



Kent Miller is a 26 year barbershopper transferring to HOA from the Leavenworth Chapter for the challenge of competition.

He sings Bass in the chorus and lives in Leavenworth, KS with his wife, **Cindy**. He is a Stock Broker/Investment Counsellor.



Bob Murphy is a first-time barbershopper and sings Bass. He is a Deacon in the Episcopal Church and is semi-retired and living in Lee's

Summit, MO with his wife, **Kathy**. He has studied music in college and taught both voice and band in Kindergarten through college.

"Welcome, Gentlemen!"





"ADVANCING THE DREAM"

RETREAT 2005



At left, top to bottom: Jim Henry warming up the chorus in some chicken-neck stretching exercises; Jim Henry, Jim Bagby and Dwain Brobst addressing the chorus, but why is J. H. the only one sweating?; Jim Henry giving some "listen, learn and repeat the rhythm" clapping exercises.

Above, first row, l to r: *Sounds Like Treble* members Carter Combs, Rob Varney, Bill Bay and Al Fehlauer, *Fourmata* foursome Brian Marston, John Winfiel, Brooke Meyers, and Kevin Beauford. Above, second row, l to r: Brian Marston, Mike Neff, Jim Henry and Chris Meeks - the *Brian's Quartet* with Jim Henry rookie quartet; Anthony Fortino, Ron Fortino, Keith Schweer, and John Fortino - *3 WOPS* and a *Not* rookie quartet.

Below, Third row: l to r: Monty Duerksen, Thom Tisdall, Jonathon Fortino and Don Fuson - *Jonathon's Backups* rookie quartet; Carter Combs, Monty Duerksen, Jon Gathright and Rick Huyck - *Command Performance* with Monty recalling a troubled childhood.

Below, Fourth row: l to r: Kevin Beauford, Jim Kemper, Mike Louque and Marlin Weidler - *The Out of Towners* rookie quartet; Grant Hunget, Dick O'Dell, Mike O'Dell and Rob Mathieu - *Just 4 You* rookie quartet





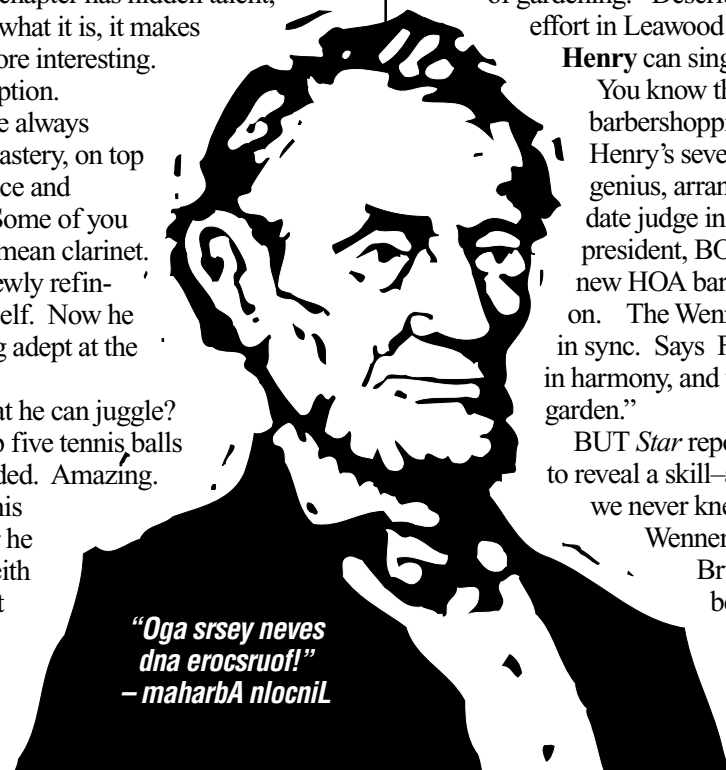
Tone-Henge Hidden Talents

by Ol' Jim

Every member of our chapter has hidden talent, and when we discover what it is, it makes them just that much more interesting. Our quartet is no exception.

Keith Schweer? I've always envied his computer mastery, on top of his musical excellence and organizational skills. Some of you have heard him play a mean clarinet. You ought to see the newly refinished deck he did himself. Now he and Connie are proving adept at the new Sudoku craze.

But did you know that he can juggle? Yep...the guy can keep five tennis balls in circulation—blindfolded. Amazing. He just never reveals this unusual skill until after he has nine beers. And Keith usually quits after eight beers.



*"Oga srsey neves dna erocsruof!"
— maharBA nlocniL*

Dan Henry...well, there's nothing he can't do. If we were to start listing just his known talents, **Todd Anderson** would have enough *Harmonotes* fodder for issues into 2010. They guy can use every tool—hand and power—known to man, plus write, compose, arrange, draw, paint, make stained glass artisans jealous...I mean the list goes on and on. He can even forecast the weather, and sometimes get it right! He may have the largest fan club in Kansas City, to this very day.

But I bet you didn't know he can recite the Gettysburg Address backward. Oh, Lord, he rattles it off in less than five minutes. Oh, and it's impressive the first few-dozen times. Try riding from here to a show in the middle of South Dakota. Sooner or later, even *Tone-Henge* runs out of tags to sing, and here comes the Sserdda Grubssytteg!

I've tried to think of some hidden talent I have. Unlike Keith, who is low-key, if there's something I can do, or think I can, you're probably gonna' hear about it. It does occur to me that I can whistle a nonstop melody for about 60 seconds. I don't know how unique that is, but I don't hear a lot of people doing it. Maybe they're too polite? *RR4* lead **Calvin Yoder** can whistle a duet, by twisting his tongue (it's not pretty), and hum a third note to make a trio out of himself. But everyone knows Calvin is pretty much a *Ripley's Believe It or Not* unto himself. I could tell you stories...but I digress.

My uninterrupted whistle is even longer on dry days. But that probably falls into the category of stupid human tricks, rather than hidden skills. May I suggest, however, it doesn't hold a candle to "Oga srsey neves dna erocsruof!"

But the best for last! Our own **Bruce Wenner** and his much better half, **Francie**, were recently featured in *The Kansas City Star*. The article was headlined "They Grow Together," about couples who share the labor and the love of gardening. Describing the Wenners' outdoor effort in Leawood as a garden is like saying **Jim**

Henry can sing a little bass.

You know that Bruce has been barbershopping just a little short of Dan Henry's seven or eight decades, is a math genius, arranger, three-part threat, candidate judge in the music category, past president, BOTY, Ozzie winner, father of new HOA bari **Tom Wenner**, on and on and on. The Wenners have found their hobbies in sync. Says Francie, "For us, the garden is in harmony, and we are in harmony with the garden."

BUT *Star* reporter **Marty Ross** got Francie to reveal a skill—a true artistic side of Bruce—we never knew. We take you straight to the

Wenner garden for this quote: "When Bruce digs a hole, it's a thing of beauty."

Even **Abe Lincoln** wouldn't try to top that. ♥

Musical Notes

by Keith Schweer, Music Vice President



After our September retreat, I was trying to decide what my next *Harmonotes* article should say. I thought it should have something to do with the retreat—something about the advancements we made—how we improved and how that would help us during our final preparations for the chorus contest in

Des Moines, IA in October. But, before I had a chance to write the article, I received an email from one of our chorus members. This person is not a member of the Music Team or the Board of Directors. He's not a very vocal guy, just a good solid chorus member that's been with HOA for a long time. Here's what he had to say:

Keith,

I'm guessing that you're getting lots of positive feedback from the coaching that we had this weekend, so I just want to add my own 2 cents worth...

I have never EVER felt that my own personal singing quality has improved as much as it did from 9:30 PM on Friday (when Jim Henry arrived) until

I left Saturday evening!!! That last session on

Saturday afternoon left me feeling "higher than a kite."

During that last session with Apron Strings, I felt that I was singing with more fullness, richness, and clarity than ever before in my entire life; and my voice felt like it was blending perfectly with all of the other voices around me that I could hear. It sounded to me like "one voice," which is the goal that we are all shooting for.

I'm hoping that somebody was taking copious notes from our coaching sessions, so that we can document the numerous positive things that we worked on, and therefore be able to re-enforce them at our upcoming Tuesday night practices.

That's a good segue into my main recommendation: I believe that somebody on the leadership team - not necessarily Jim Bagby - needs to constantly "hold our feet to the fire" the way Jim Henry did over the weekend. When we worked on a particular phrase or even a single word, Jim Henry didn't let go until we got it perfect (not just "good" - perfect). Then, if we later slipped back into our habit and reverted, he stopped us again and made sure that we re-enforced good habits rather than the bad ones. IMHO (in my humble opinion) this is the only way that we are going to break our bad habits, and we can't get there with just occasional coaching sessions - we need to function this way EVERY WEEK at our Tuesday evening practices.

Going back for a moment, I was just as disappointed as everybody else coming back from SLC, because I had felt that we all "busted our rears" in preparation for that contest and all we got from that contest was the same kind of scores that we usually get at competition - good scores but not nearly good enough to put us into a position to earn a medal. The future seemed pretty bleak to me as far as our chorus moving up to "the next level." With what Jim Henry did for our chorus over the weekend, it's now obvious to me that I have the innate ability within myself to sing much better than I have in the past. I also believe that same conclusion is true for nearly all of the other members of the HOA Chorus. We truly have the ability to be able to sing like those medalist choruses sing. We just need to find a successful way to make it happen.

We need somebody in our chorus to be a constant taskmaster—to force us to break bad habits and build good ones, like Kevin Keller or Jim Henry do for AOH. Right now, the best person that I see for that position would be John Fortino, who we all respect, and who appears to have the personality to be able to function in this capacity.

This e-mail message has become much longer than I intended, so I will stop rambling. Anyway, thanks for reading this, and I hope that the music team will consider doing whatever is necessary to permanently make us into the chorus that I heard singing at 5:30 Saturday afternoon.

Thanks, Keith!

I couldn't have said it better!!

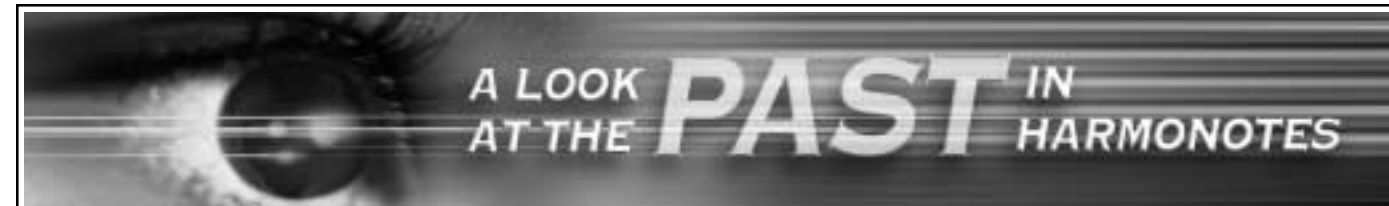
My Response:

- I feel exactly the same way.
- Lots of us did take copious notes.
- The Music Team is convinced that the techniques taught by Jim Henry will result in dramatic improvement in HOAs singing abilities if WE ALL APPLY THEM CONSISTENTLY.
- John Fortino will be "holding our feet to the fire." ♥

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the following chapter members!

John Landry October 1
Fuzzy Harford October 6
Joel Garber October 23
Rob Varney October 27



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

TEN YEARS AGO: OCTOBER, 1995:

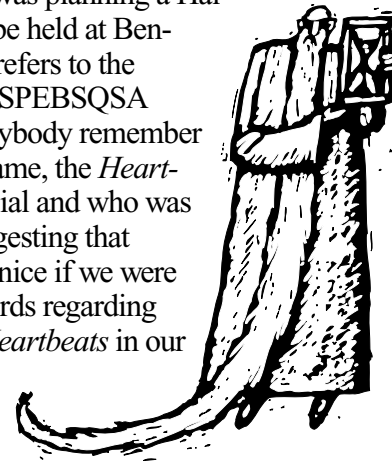
In the September 1995 issue of *Harmonotes*, we had published a photograph of a group of ladies and gentlemen who were attending what appears to be a dinner with another gentleman standing at a podium and asked whether anyone could identify the folks in the picture and the occasion. We indicated that the photo had been taken 30 years earlier in 1965. **Gil Lefholz** replied as follows: "In 1965, when **Dan Henry Bowser** was president of the *Heart of America* Chapter, I was Membership Vice President. We started the year with 89 members, and back in those days, it was quite a prestigious feat to be a 'Century Club' chapter (100 or more members). At the very first chapter board meeting, I asked Dan and the board if by Ladies' night in May we had 100 members, could we have the international president as our guest? Dan and the board agreed! By that date in May, we had 104 members." Gil goes on to confirm that the event was the annual Ladies' Night, held that year at the Golden Ox Restaurant, and that the speaker was, indeed, International President **Al Smith**. Others in the photograph are Al's wife, **Barbara** and **Bob Tracy**, **Lin Bellis**, and **Gil** and **Donna Lefholz**. Gil reveals that "we finished the year with 124 members."

TWENTY YEARS AGO: OCTOBER/NOVEMBER, 1980

Chapter President **Keith Schweer** tells how he and three other guys—**Dale Neuman**, **Jim Davis**, and **Jim Bagby**—sang just for the fun of it with a quartet named *Just for the Fun of It* in the CSD contest in Cedar Rapids. Although they finished in 22nd place, Keith describes how much he enjoyed this, his very first quartet experience. Boy, that certainly WAS a long time ago, wasn't it?

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO: OCTOBER, 1970

Millie Robinette informed everybody that the women's auxiliary was planning a Halloween Hayride to be held at Benjamin Stables. She refers to the organization as the SPEBSQSA Auxiliary. Does anybody remember when the present name, the *Heartbeats*, became official and who was responsible for suggesting that name? It might be nice if we were to include a few words regarding the history of the *Heartbeats* in our next column. ♥



The Songs We Sing

Article written by Bob Niedringhaus and reprinted with permission of the St. Louis Suburban *Bylines*, edited by John Conrad

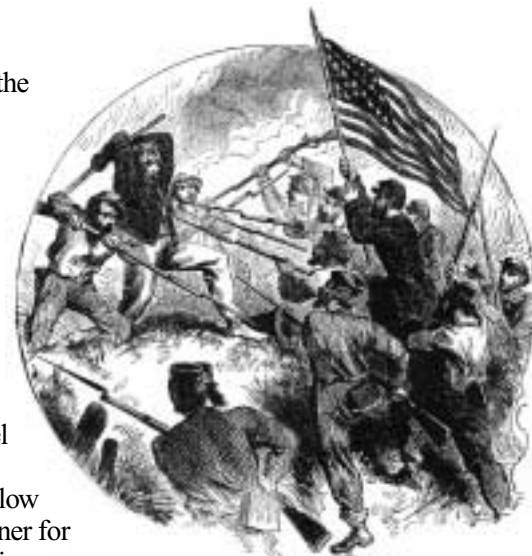
As barbershoppers, we sing many songs written in the late 1880's and early 1900's and beyond. Among these is one of our chorus favorites, "Battle Hymn of the Republic," written in 1861 and originally published as "Glory, Hallelujah."

This tune was also known as "John Brown's Body," and is a song from a Southern camp meeting of the 1850's. Incidentally, the original **John Brown** of the song, was not the fanatical abolitionist.

Another Society favorite is "You Tell Me Your Dream." This was written in 1899 by **Charles N. Daniels** and was introduced at a minstrel benefit in Kansas City and was an immediate hit.

Finally, "In the Good Old Summertime" was written in 1902 by a fellow named **Honey Boy Evans**. This gentleman once worked as an entertainer for the East Indian Moon Plant Company. But (he) gave it up as unpromising.

Isn't music fun and interesting? ♥



⚡ **SPONSORS** ⚡

Thank You For Making A Difference!
We gratefully acknowledge your generosity to the
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2005-2006

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Sponsors will be listed in the HOA's monthly bulletin and the March 23, 2006 Annual Show program. Sponsors will be listed for 12 months. The Heart of America Chorus is a 501(c) (3) organization.

Checks should be made out to:

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

**Old Cell Phones
Equal Cash for
Heartbeats**



Got an old cell phone? Bring it to practice any time during the month of October and drop it in the specially marked collection box. The phones will then be sent to a company in Oklahoma who will pay anywhere from \$1.00 to \$30.00 per phone, depending on the model. How simple is that? No accessories or chargers are wanted. Ask friends/relatives to help us out. Thanks to **Jan Putzier** who is heading up this fundraiser for the Heartbeats. ♥



**DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER
HARMONOTES**



**TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 21**

Cody Choraliers Anniversary Performance

by Jim Porter

The *Cody Choraliers* of Leavenworth marked their 35th anniversary as a SPEBSQSA chapter with their annual show Sept. 24. Several HOA men came out to support **Al Fehlauer**, **Bill Campsey**, **Rob Varney** and 25 of their singing buddies as they presented a selection of their favorites from the past 35 years to an audience of 200 or so (at their afternoon show) in a musty old theater in downtown Leavenworth. The drawing card was their guest quartet, our district champions *Vocal Spectrum*, but we came away delighted not only with the performance of this fine young quartet, but also by the *Choraliers*, who appeared on stage in a variety of singing outfits. At first, I was thinking they weren't in communication with one another about what to wear to the show, but it was intentional. Many of the different outfits they've worn for shows over the years were represented on stage that afternoon.

The first half of the show was entirely given to the chorus as they presented seven of their favorites interspersed with narration that allowed several of the members to tell the audience what drew them into barbershop, everyone from the charter members (three of them have been around all 35 years) to the recent additions. Many of them

were old timers, of course, but they had several young men among them, and all appeared to be having the time of their lives. Theirs was a very credible performance that the audience enjoyed thoroughly.

For the second half, they presented their chapter quartets, one after another, including *Sounds Like Treble*, each doing one song. There were FIVE registered quartets, every one of them fully manned by chapter members (except for **Carter Combs**, standing in **Neil Johnson's** place with *Sounds Like Treble*), which is remarkable for such a small chapter. Some individuals sang in more than one quartet (**Bill Bay** was in 3 of them), but this is a chapter that emphasizes the quartet experience. Every week they meet, a portion of their time is given to quartet singing. There was even a 6th group to kick it off, a quartet that hasn't yet been registered.

Then it was *Vocal Spectrum's* turn. Perhaps one could say that if you've seen them once, you've seen them, but one never grows tired of hearing this fine group sing. They kicked off with "South Rampart Street Parade" that ends with their marvelous tenor holding that last note for what seems like 5 minutes, then continuing with several other of their best songs, wrapping with their "Cruella DeVille" number that they had in their Salt Lake City package. Yes, the

bass told the story about taking his wife hunting one more time, but he presented it so well that we still laughed at it!

To wrap up the show, all barbershoppers in the audience were invited on stage to sing the closer "Teach the Children to Sing." I took them up on it, and climbed onto the risers, second row left, right behind the lead and tenor of *Vocal Spectrum*. I was offered a copy of the sheet music, which I accepted, then joined in as they presented this song as their closer. (It reminded me I should learn that song! We saw it one time a couple years ago at HOA, but never really learned it.) Afterwards, it was hand shaking, back slapping and congrats all around, and I now can say I sang on the same stage with *Vocal Spectrum*.

Afterwards, thanks to Al Fehlauer, who invited us and gave directions, we joined several of the *Choraliers*, some of the HOA guys and others at the High Noon Saloon for dinner and fellowship. It was a wonderful way to close out a memorable afternoon, and we came away knowing these men more as friends and less as strangers. **Jerry Garrard** even taught some of them the tag to "Friends" before we broke up, they to their evening show, my wife and I to return home. It is truly great to be a barbershopper! ♥



2006 Convention Features More Choruses Than Ever Before!

Your opinions count – and the 2006 convention in Indy will reflect your desire for more participation, more singing, and more fun.

Based in part on the results of a convention participation survey conducted last fall, the Society Board has opened the Indianapolis 2006 chorus contest to a whopping 30 choruses in the Big Show – the most we've ever put on the contest stage. Invited to the contest:

- 16 District Chorus Representatives
- 2 choruses representing affiliate organizations
- 12 at-large choruses from the pool of the top scoring choruses that accept the invitation to compete.

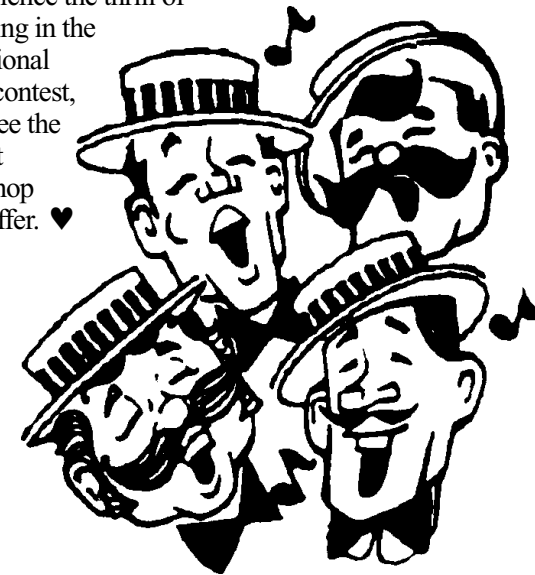
That means that every fall district convention this fall has implications beyond winning the international chorus preliminary. Twelve at-large slots are up for grabs, too, and the race goes to the finest.

New schedule to fit in the new events

"The ears can absorb what the bottom can tolerate," quoth the judges, and most audience members will agree. To accommodate seven hours of chorus contest, the event will be split into two sessions on Friday, July 7.

The college contest moves to Saturday, so still more singers will be able to see this increasingly popular event.

Every year a new adventure – a new way for members to experience the thrill of competing in the international chorus contest, and to see the best that barbershop has to offer. ♥



In Katrina's Wake

A letter from Rob Hopkins and Ed Watson

Fellow Barbershoppers, humanitarians and friends,

Our hearts go out to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Relief efforts are under way, and there will be much to do over the next few months.

We are heartened that there have been many inquiries by our membership as to what we can do to aid all the unfortunate victims. While the law limits what we can do as an organization, there is no limit to the aid and assistance we can render as individuals.

As time passes, the requirements for aid will change. Rebuilding efforts will take a while to develop; in the near term, we urge each of you to search your conscience and do what you are able as an individual to immediately assist those in distress. While many would like to donate clothing, shelter, and tangible assets, the biggest need right now is for monetary donations to the American Red Cross and similar agencies trained to give immediate and effective help. Please check carefully the agencies you use for donations, and stick with those known for reputable disaster relief.

Those of you closer to the devastation may have the opportunity for more hands-on efforts. Check with your local relief agencies.

Over time, as the rescue efforts become better organized, donations of time and talents to effective fund raisers and telethons may be possible. Perhaps a portion of show proceeds may be donated. Voluntary appearances and fund raising shows are an effective way to get money to relief agencies. Blood drives are certainly a good way to get what is needed to those who need it. Check with your districts and look for ideas from your fellow Barbershoppers. As we hear good ideas from you, we will pass them along.

Barbershoppers are a most generous and kind group of life-loving folk. We are proud to be members of this organization. We will continue to help, in the most effective way possible, the victims of this most recent natural tragedy in the weeks and months ahead.

Special thanks and recognition go out to *The Scarborough Dukes of Harmony* (Toronto, Ontario, Canada), who have donated CAN \$1,200 (more than US \$1,000) to the Red Cross to support the barbershoppers of New Orleans and surrounding areas, along with their friends and neighbors.

"You are in our thoughts daily and we wish you a safe and speedy return to your normal lives," writes **Dan Holbrook**, chapter president. ♥

Photo courtesy of The American Red Cross



FOCAL POINT

Up Close And Personal!

This month's subject is none other than **Dennis Taylor**, a 58-year barbershopper who, despite his years as a member of the Kansas City chapter, and like many other aging singers who can no longer tolerate more than five or 10 minutes on the risers, still shows up occasionally for special chapter functions.



Dennis Taylor

Dennis was born in Cuba, MO. At the age of three, his family moved to Morganville, KS, where he went through elementary and high school and graduated in 1943. In December of that year, Dennis joined the U. S. Army Air Corps, and served for four years as a flight engineer on B-29's, including a tour of duty on the island of Guam. He was honorably discharged as a first lieutenant in 1947.

Shortly after his discharge from the Army, Dennis was hired by TWA and retired 39 years later in 1986 as a captain on Boeing 767's. The last four years of his employment by TWA were spent on round-the-world flights. Dennis describes his retirement as "19 fun-filled years! Very, very lucky!"

Dennis' first exposure to barbershop singing occurred when he took a girl to a show in Topeka. He says he was "WOWED, by the music, not by the girl."

In 1948, Dennis moved his family to Kansas City where he joined the choir of the Linwood Methodist Church. By coincidence, the choir director just happened to be **Don Stephens**, who was the music director of the *Heart of America Chorus*. Don invited Dennis to a chapter meeting, and on that very evening, he met **Bob Gall** and **Frank Leone**, who had just recently joined the chapter. It wasn't until the 1950's that the three of them hooked up with a guy from Topeka, named **Dan Bowser**, and the foursome became longtime friends and quartet members. (Dennis' wife wants everybody to understand that their wives—**Charleen, Estyl, Harriett**, and **Jane**—are also still good friends).

Dennis has held several offices in the Kansas City Chapter organization and was the chapter president in the 1960's. He also sang tenor in several quartets—the *Innerurbans*, *Crosstowners*, *CrackerJacks*, and finally, the *Merry Mugs*, of which he became a member from 1960 to 1966. He says he had to retire from quarteting because of his promotion to copilot and his schedule would no longer permit him to sing with a group.

Dennis reveals that his greatest barbershopping memories were the trip to Guantanamo, Cuba, to perform for the military personnel stationed there. He also recalls with pleasure the "humming" with the *Merry Mugs* while "Ol Dan "did his thing." He says he can really relate to **Bagby, Schweer**, and **Wenner**.

Dennis' wife, Jane, says, "Dennis' memory may not be quite what it used to be, but his 'tenor' capabilities have not failed him. Barbershop harmony has been an integral part of his life for over 58 years, and he loves it now more than ever." ♥

Where Are They Now?

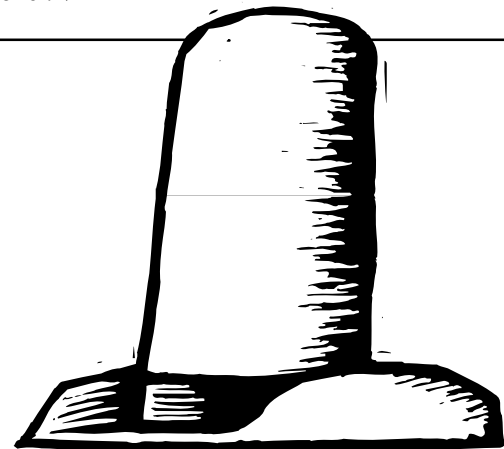
When we interviewed **Barney Wasson** for this item, he told us that his two most memorable barbershopping occasions were singing with the *Beaconaires* when they won the CSD quartet championship in 1957, and getting arrested for driving across the Canadian border during the 1981 International convention in Detroit with a concealed pistol in the tool box of the house trailer he was towing. He claimed he'd forgotten it was there, and he was jailed for a short period and then posted bail and was released.



Barney Wasson

Barney also sang with the *Kansas Citizens*, another fine HOA foursome, and more recently performed with the *Cross Town Four* in the International Seniors competition during the Society's midwinter convention in Arizona.

Barney's membership with the Kansas City chapter goes way back to 1949, although ailing health in recent years has prevented his taking an active part in chapter activities. He and his lovely wife, **Barbara**, are currently living in Lee's Summit where Barney is spending his semiretirement as an insurance broker. ♥



A TIP OF THE HAT!

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

A TOTH to Music Librarian **Phil Veltkamp** and his team for seeing to it that the Fall 2005 learning CD's were assembled, duplicated and distributed. ♥

Board of Directors September Meeting Highlights

by Kevin Tritsch, Secretary

MUSIC and PERFORMANCE: Keith Schweer

New Learning CD's with Christmas songs are being distributed.

The job of the new Administrative Section Leaders is still under construction but the first duty is tracking attendance. They will also help with new members, getting the music together and assisting the MVP with voice placement.

CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT: Stew Grosser

UCANSING2 – Eight guests attended the Guest Night festivities September 6. **Chris Mathew** and **Mark Meyer** were voted in as dual members.

PROGRAM VP: Jerry Garrard

To allow for variety, the Program VP will use anytime between the 7-10 p.m. rehearsal time for the breakout sessions.

OPERATIONS VP: Chuck Ames

The new riser sections have arrived and are being used. The Chapter will rehearse at Platt Woods Methodist Church Nov. 8.

Someone on the board will look into disposal of the large mirror acquired by the chapter several years ago. It is not being used and is taking up valuable space.

MARKETING VP: Dick Korek

The KCPT idea that **Rodger Faherty** presented will not be pursued. There are far too many issues and the options would be very difficult for **Vince** to handle.

The chapter received a check from Sam's Club for \$500.00.

TREASURER: Charles Ramirez

Current balance in the checking account stands at \$6,544.49.

NEW BUSINESS:

Singing Valentines 2005 - **Charles Ramirez** will cut a check for \$221.05 for the Sweet Adelines portion of the program.

Entertainment Books – **Harvey Shapiro** has declined to handle this project next year.

Singing Valentine's 2006 - **Rich Huyck** has declined to be chairman of the Singing Valentines 2006. ♥



Membership News

by Stew Grossman

Our July and September guest nights in support of the Society's UCANSING2 program brought in 30 guests. Of the thirty, five new members have been added to our ranks and five have indicated they were interested. The five new members are:

Jim Ballinger - former member of the Kansas City and Overland Park chapters. Lives in Kansas City, MO.

Jim Clark - Wife: **Mavis**, lives in Grandview, MO

Bruce Marston - Father to **Brian Marston**; Wife: **Sue**, lives in Raytown, MO.

Chris Mathew - Dual member with Liberty chapter; Wife: **Keri**, lives in Harrisonville, MO

Mark Meyer - Dual member with Liberty chapter; lives in Pleasant Hill, MO but not yet listed in Society database as of this writing.

As we review our large and small successes at increasing membership over the past year, it's clear that bringing in new members is not just a function of the UCANSING2 program. It must be coupled with ways to process the new members and bring them online as rapidly as possible. In the coming weeks and months, we will meet with **Keith Schweer** and the Music Committee to work out ways to reorganize and improve the voice placement and new member orientation functions. Longer range plans will focus on ways to encourage members to bring guests through contests, goal setting and tracking past guests to keep in contact with them;

In the meantime as the year draws to a close and the society UCANSING2 program winds down, it is incumbent on every member of the Kansas City Missouri Chapter to make that additional push to invite prospective new members every week. And, when the guest does visit, to follow up with phone calls and offers to bring him to the meeting.

Paraphrasing those oft-used words of every salesman in the world,
...INVITE!
INVITE!
INVITE! ♥

