



Heart of America Chorus Calendar

- Oct. 17** 7 p.m. - HOA Weekly Meeting - GUEST NIGHT!
- Oct. 24** 7 p.m. - HOA and KCSA Joint Rehearsal for Holiday Show
- Nov. 5** 1 p.m. - HOA and KCSA Joint Rehearsal for Holiday Show
- Nov. 11** All day - COTS - CSD Sioux Fall, SD
- Nov. 30** 7 p.m. - HOA and KCSA Joint Rehearsal for Holiday Show
- Dec. 1** 6:30 p.m. - Holiday Show Tech Rehearsal
- Dec. 2** All Day - Holiday Harmony Spectacular



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.

2005 CENTRAL STATES DISTRICT BULLETIN OF THE YEAR • 2006 THIRD PLACE INTERNATIONAL CONTEST WINNER

HARMONOTES



The Monthly Bulletin of Kansas City's Heart of America Chorus

CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

VOLUME 2006 - ISSUE 10 - OCTOBER 2006

HOA, Quadio Soar at CSD Fall Contest in Wichita

by Jim Bagby, Chorus Director

It was a memorable time for the Kansas City Chapter at the Central State District's 60th anniversary convention in Wichita!. The first weekend in October saw the *Heart of America Chorus* pull down solid-A scores that likely will earn us a return invitation to international competition next summer in Denver, if we choose to accept the berth. More about that in a moment.



BAGBY

their customary mic-testing 11th-place spot in the field of 22 quartets.

All In! just missed B-level scores in finishing 18th, one step ahead of *Escape!* in a battle of the exclamation marks. *All In!* is composed of chapter members **Kip Mathew, Duane Lawson, Mark Meyer and Don Young.** Included in *Escape!* are KC-Leavenworth, KS. dual members **Mike**

Owen and Keith Owen.

And *Quadio* became Kansas City's 10th CSD champion quartet, giving baritone **Grant Hunget** back-to-back victories, since he also was a member of last year's winner, *Take 4*. Grant is joined in the new champs by fellow *HOA* members **Rob Mathieu** on tenor and **Matt Moore** on bass, with **Michael Troyer** from St. Joseph on lead. It's the first quartet title for Rob and Mike, while Matt sang with 1994 champion *Special Touch*.

Kansas City veteran **David Krause** was lead of the fourth-place finisher, *Saturday Night Special*, with **Jeff Veteto** from Springfield, MO.; **Scott Spilker** from Beatrice, NE., and **Rick Kready** from Topeka, KS., who also sang with *Take 4*. Our *Command Performance*—**Carter Combs, Jon Gathright, Rich Huyck** and **Monty Duerksen**—grabbed what they jokingly refer to as

The chorus contest was a runaway for the *Ambassadors of Harmony*, who put 146 on stage and averaged 93.3 points in opening defense of their 2003 international championship. The St. Charles Saturday night Harmony Showcase presentation, capped by their "Man of La Mancha" spectacular, was one of the high-lights of the weekend.

Rounding out the top five in the chorus contest were third-place St. Joseph, with 72 on stage and averaging 78 points; Fremont, NE., fourth, with 54 singers and a 76 average; and Beatrice, NE, 68 sing-ers and a 71 average that also made the *Homestead Harmonizers* the Plateau AAA most-improved chorus. (Continued on pg. 2 ♦♦)

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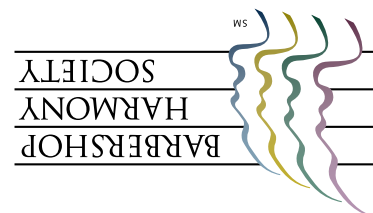


Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire

(Continued from front cover)

Lincoln, NE., claimed the AA Plateau title, while Springfield was most improved in AA.

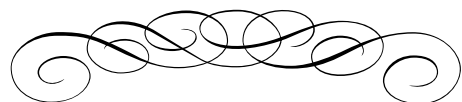
But of vital interest to *HOA* is not just that our scores in all three categories ranged from 80 to 85, but that they came in the midst of a major change in our sound. You recall that retreat coach **Mark Hale** warned us we'd have to be prepared to take a step backward. In fact, he had advised fellow Music Judge **Aaron Dale**, who was on the Wichita panel, that it should be interesting to judge *HOA*, to see where we were in our stage of development (Aaron told me after the contest).

And those of you who attended the chorus evaluation session heard Singing Judge **Chad Guyton** say we are making great sounds, led by warm basses and lyric leads. What we are NOT doing is being consistent, particularly in maintaining the target sounds once we land on them. He said they don't have the same duration, creating distractions in the sound—the leads disagree on when to turn diphthongs, or when to go to the “nds” ins “friends,” for instance. So the lead sound will disintegrate on any given sound, with the bari sound right behind it.

Later in the judges' suite—the place where **Joann's** potato soup and Sloppy Joe's have GOT to be worth a point or two along the way (but you didn't hear that from me) — Chad described the chorus sound as “pristine” and only a “muscle memory” away from an 85 or 86 or 87. Now some of that, obviously, is encouragement rather than pure fact, but he doesn't go around the Society telling every chorus that. No judge does, or our credibility would be shot. So we need to pay heed to some of the exercises he suggested to improve that muscle memory, and to clean up the synch issues that all three of the judges mentioned in our evals.

I hope you see why we should be encouraged that this 82.1 can be regarded as better than any previous 82 we scored. It came in the midst of a singing overhaul, on a ballad of which we're tired of, and on an uptune we've still not begun to get out of all that we can. We'll have a new ballad for Denver (if we go), I suspect some enthusiastic new members and we'll all be more comfortable with the new sound.

Meanwhile, I hope you agree the first priority should be to get everyone into the fold for the Holiday Show. We've got great music, four-and-eight-part, not all that much new to learn and some wonderful new spring show songs chosen beyond that. What a great time to bring back the missing, incorporate the new folks and remind folks why this harmonious calling is so inspiring! ♥



Quadio Takes First in Wichita!

by Grant Hunget



Quadio members Rob Mathieu, Michael Troyer, Matt Moore and Grant Hunget en route to their CSD win! Photo courtesy of Jayne Morden

Singing second in the Top-10 lineup at the CSD Fall Contest in Wichita seemed like great positioning, but it sure was a long wait until **Jim Bagby** revealed the results about 2 hours later! We felt great about how we'd done on Friday night, but Saturday night hadn't seemed quite as strong, and so we waited. You see, our goal in Wichita was to score at least the minimum (76.0) which will be necessary next April to qualify for International in Denver. Well, we missed that slightly (with a 74.6), but we're headed in the right direction (71.6 in Iowa City, last April). The idea of winning the contest was only a distant thought, as we knew there were tough contenders comprised of some guys with LOTS of experience! And so, when Jim said, “and in 1st place with (I didn't even hear the points!), *Quadio!*”, WE JUST WENT NUTS - huggin' & high fivin' each other! WOW, WHAT A FEELING!

This is a first “1st” for **Michael & Rob**, so it's extra special for them. They even played “Rock, Paper, Scissors” to see who would get to take the big trophy to their house for the first stretch of time. This is the second championship for **Matt** (*Special Touch*, 1984) and **Grant** (*Take 4*, 2005). After taking a short breather, we'll be fired up about getting to work on some new contest tunes for prelims next April!

THANK YOU to **Chris Droegemueller** (Tenor, *3 Men & A Melody*) and **Jim Bagby** for some valuable coaching over these past few weeks leading into contest!

THANK YOU to all of the members and families of *Heart of America* and *Voices of America* for your continued support!

We are looking forward to performing on the *HOA/KCSA* Holiday Shows on Dec. 2 at Unity Village. ♥

DONORS

Members and Friends Of HOA!

Yep, charity begins at home, and for members of *HOA* it just makes sense to get excited about putting our charitable dollars to work for our very own chapter. Did any member, prior to *HOA*, ever believe that they would appear on stage in some of the most prestigious auditoriums and arenas in the country? Support for your chapter helps make our various activities affordable for all.

Be included in the listing below.

Gold Heart
(\$1,000 & Up)
Thom Tisdall

Silver Heart
(\$400 - \$999)
Don & Donie Peck

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

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(Up to \$99)
Richard and Gloria Haberkorn

The Heart of America Chorus is a 501(c) (3) organization. Donors will receive a receipt for Tax purposes.

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

Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter

We have our chapter raffle each time we meet in our regular location. Half of the proceeds are designated to Harmony Foundation. You can, of course, give money directly to Harmony Foundation any time we are together, just let me know.

As of Wednesday, Sept. 27, and 42 drawings:
In the past month, our chapter has raised \$157 for the Harmony Foundation. The total raised for this year (since Nov. 19, 2005) is \$4,234. Last year, the total raised was \$2,062. In our best year (2003), the total raised was \$2,359. The ENTIRE YEAR total in 2003 was \$2,935. (There was a big winner in Oct. 2003) ♥



Heart of America Chorus

SPONSORS

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



DAVID F. HOKANSON FAMILY FOUNDATION



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

Checks should be made out to:

**Kansas City Chapter/
Barbershop Harmony Society**

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Doing a Few Things *WELL*, Rather Than a Lot of Things *OKAY*

by John Fortino

As some of you may have heard through the rumor mill, I have decided to take a leave of absence as an assistant director of the chorus for an undetermined amount of time. I do not make this decision lightly. The reasons are simple: my family needs more of my time and so does my quartet. My children are getting older and they need more of Dad's involvement in their activities. One, which is visible, is Jonathan's quartet, which requires customized *Raisin' The Bar* arrangements and learning tapes not to mention coaching. And then there is MY quartet whose time commitment has increased by two-fold.

When **Mark** and I joined the society in 1984, we watched the Harrington Brothers, who at that time were our age, medal in St. Louis. Since that time, we have continued to strive to sing at that level. However, it has become evident to me that to achieve that kind of success requires the kind of individual vocal work outside of rehearsals that is time-consuming. When you hear stories of any of the great Olympiads, one common theme is the daily commitment to working out to acquire strength and agility in their bodies so that they can compete in their sport. If you believe, as I do, that barbershopping is more than a hobby but a way of life, and you have the desire to achieve a level of excellence commensurate with those of a gold medallist, then you must be willing to DAILY commit the time. I'm speaking of 30 minutes to an hour a day of vocalizing. I'm talking about closing the door to your bedroom, away from your loved ones, and working on your voice. Think

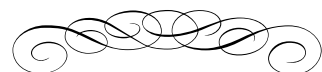
about it long enough and you will realize that from the time you come home from work to the time you go to bed, that one-hour is a BIG chunk of time.



This time spent is aside from that actually learning the quartet music. As many of you may have read in one of Mark's *Harmonotes* articles a couple of months ago, *12th Street Rag* has embarked on changing over almost its entire contest repertoire. Frankly, perfecting five new songs is a considerable task. Finally, top all that off with rehearsals and weekends spent out of town for shows. All modesty aside, I just want you to have some idea of what one signs up for when one decides he is going to be part of an international caliber ensemble. But the extra time has to come from somewhere.

Frankly, as an assistant director, my responsibilities to the chorus wane in comparison to those of other music team members. However, because I have songs I direct, it means I have to be at every rehearsal unless there is a really good reason, and I have to be at every performance. I can't just say, "I need to get something else done tonight so I'm not going to chorus rehearsal", or "I need some time away so I'm not going to sing for a particular chorus performance."

While I will not be an assistant director, I'm still going to sing with the chorus for most performances. However, I am planning on not singing on the Holiday Show. I will also continue to coach the chorus when I'm at rehearsals. Always remember, I love this chapter, but I only have the time to do a few things well. ♥



HOA: *Happy Together*

by Doug Brott,
CD Project Chairperson

The new *HOA* CD is progressing. 88 men in two sessions focused on the task at hand and sang their hearts out to record the new songs for *HOA-Happy Together*. Now comes the studio work by **Dan Israel**, **Mark Fortino** and a host of other people, of mixing and finalizing the songs as they will appear on the CD. The artwork for the cover is in progress. Soon songs, artwork, etc. will be off to the production facilities in Nashville, and come March 2007, we will have the CD available for sale.

For those who have pre-purchased CDs, thank you. You are in for a real treat. If you have not pre-purchased CD's, it is not too late. See **Jim Porter**; he is happy to help.

We have had numerous members provide gifts and interest-free loans to help with the up-front costs and we thank each and every one of them for their generosity. While we are close to covering our up-front costs, we still need additional funds. If you can and are willing to help, please see **Mike O'Dell**. He will be happy to provide the information you need. ♥



One More Time!

by Tony Strub, HOA President



It was about 9:15 p.m. on Saturday of the retreat when we finished our last contest set. **Mark Hale** and **David Leeder** had scored our performance and given us advice on how we could improve. I did my best to be attentive, but the various pains from several parts of my body were serious impediments to my ability to focus. At the end of the critique, the coaches and directors gathered at one side of the basketball court while the rest of us, feeling a sense of relief that we had finished our work for the day, massaged our aching muscles. At about 9:25 p.m., Mark approached the risers and said to us, "I think that you can perform your contest set one more time." My first reaction was, "ARE YOU CRAZY?" As many of us continued to grumble to ourselves, I saw **Don Peck** go back to his position on the risers. **Frazier Allen**, who was next to me, struggle to his feet. I saw **Ron Abel** with his familiar smile return to his spot on the front row. I felt like a real wimp and a bit ashamed of myself. Slowly, those of us who were still present returned to the risers.

We received our instructions, shook it out and performed our contest set one more time. When we finished, the coaches congratulated us, scored us at 82 and said that it was our best performance of the night. Perhaps they were being very kind, but to me, it wasn't our score or how well we performed. It was what we did. Every man on the risers gave everything that they had. I felt very proud to be a member of the *Heart of America Chorus*. We were winners in every sense of the word.

I returned to my room completely spent, physically and emotionally but feeling that I had personally achieved something very special with a group of very special people. I took a significant portion of my 86 proof medication and put my aching bones to bed. As I was falling asleep, I thought of **Ron Abel**, **Frazier Allen** and **Don Peck**. I hope that some day I can be just like them. ♥



From left to right: Don Young, Ron Abel and Frazier Allen enjoy a breather at the recent retreat in Atchison. Photo courtesy of Don Fuson

"Passion"

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



"*Passion*" is the marketing theme for 2006-2007. It's what we're all about. A color version of what you see below will soon

be e-mailed to every member to printout and use to help you:

1. Be informed about *HOA* in a new way and talk to potential donors or sponsors.
2. Get that prospective sponsor list to me.
3. Inject a new sense of pride in every performance.

Our Chorus performs with "passion." It's what makes a performance great; it's what makes winners at society contests. ♥

The Heart of America Chorus



It's the passion to sing.

It's the passion to interpret the message of a song
with emotion and style.

It's what singing 4-part barbershop style harmony is all about.

The *Heart of America Chorus* (HOA)...

...performs to deliver the message of the music, to entertain.

As one of over 800 choruses in the Barbershop Harmony Society, *HOA* has the distinction to be one of the elite performing choruses in this world-wide organization, the Barbershop Harmony Society, which boasts a membership of some 30,000 men from pre-teens to granddads. Weekly rehearsals and participation in district and international competitions help *HOA* develop and master its singing and performing skills.

The result is a chorus that performs and entertains audiences

with passion and dynamics, fun and emotion
and, after a typical show individuals leave...

...with a smile on their face
and a song in their heart!

Now you can help *HOA* to maintain its high standards by becoming a Sponsor. This 501(c)3 organization represents the Kansas City Metro area wherever they appear throughout the country. For more information call Dick Korek, Marketing & PR V.P. at 913-768-4747

Leavenworth Chapter Show "Socks It To Me!" by Jim Porter



PORTER

Some of you who are around my age may have remember the *Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In* TV show from the '60s. One of the characters was **Ruth Buzzi**, who played the little old lady—moving with such tiny steps and always so cold and judgemental—and **Artie Johnson**, the fellow who always was trying to get through to her and show her some love. *The Cody Choraliers* brought back these memories and more as they presented their annual show in Leavenworth Saturday, Sept. 23. "Owen & Martin's Sing-In," written by **Al Fehlauer**, was a big hit with the audience.

When the curtain opened, **Keith Owen** was dressed in a loud 1960s hippie outfit adorned with peace symbols, and wearing an outrageous black mop of a wig. The 25 or so guys all were similarly dressed, each one different, all together quite a sight! As they opened with "Make 'Em Laugh," the song was interrupted several times as they passed a square frame around (one of the TV show's features) and told one-liners. Another song was a parody of "Lulu's Back In Town" where they had a female character on stage dressed for the part while they sang "Goldie's Back In Town." Remember **Goldie Hawn** from the show? This was followed by a parody of "Banana Boat Song," complete with bananas flying around. Then "Hello, My Baby," where most of the fellows had a cell phone (the rest used the bananas) to call their lover. The songs were mixed with short skits in-

volving the aforementioned characters, all of which warmed up the audience to uproarious laughter. Then came "How Deep Is The Ocean," where many props related to the deep sea appeared, including several fish heads, reminding those of us who were at Indy of the *Midwest Vocal Express*. They closed their part of the show with "You're in Love with Everyone" as Artie finally got Ruth to tiptoe off-stage with him. The key was a rose, one that looked like a leftover from Sing-in Valentines Day.

The second half was a parade of five quartets, each

performing one song. If you haven't seen **Al Fehlauer** in a sleeveless black leather jacket, well you just have to imagine that. His quartet, *Purely Harmonic*, sang a parody of "Y-M-C-A" called "A-A-R-P." Truly appropriate given the age group! The first quartet "Misfortune", was introduced as a pair of twins. The first pair was the biggest guy in the chorus (**Scott Edwards**) with one of the smallest (**Cecil Shade**). *Escape* sang their one song about prison in their convict striped outfits and **Bill Campsey** had his last chance to perform with *Possum Holler 4* before heading off on a Russian trip to Kiev. **Keith Owen's Heartland Harmony** rounded out this set.

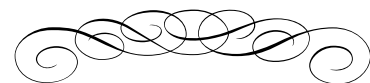
Then it was time for the featured quartet, *4's Company*, a Sweet Adelines group from Kansas City. If you have not heard this group perform, you should certainly not miss the next chance. They are a laugh riot!

Their tenor, **Kimi Ruder**, played the "dumb blonde" role to a "T." One of the best moments? One of the others gets next to her to tell her a joke. She pushes Kimi and asks "What am I?" Kimi shrugs. She pushes her again and asks again. Still no response. Then she says "I'm a *dope* pusher!" Kimi lights up and says "Hey, that's great! I have to tell that one!" She approaches

one of the others, gives her a hard shove and asks "What am I?" The other looks annoyed and says "I dunno. What are you?" "I'm a drug dealer!" Later, they put a pair of "magic" glasses on her that is supposed to get her to

think like a chemical engineer. The group then sings the "chemical elements" with Kimi taking the lead. Yes, she's quite capable! (She said later it took her six months to get that one down.) Later, they did a parody of "My Wild Irish Rose" called "My New Pantyhose" during which Kimi puts on a pair of stretch pantyhose that her friends helpfully pull it up to her neck with her arms inside and her pitch pipe visible just above her ankle! As the quartet sang the song and moved about, Kimi fought to go along but was frustrated by the strait-jacket she was in! Before the group sang the finale, they lifted up Kimi's leg to blow the pitch. Needless to say, we were all in stitches when they were finished! Before they stepped off stage, they invited everyone in the audience to come to our Holiday Show in Lee's Summit. Here's another reason to look forward to that show!

The finale was the chorus again, now in their show tuxes. They did a very credible job, had fun and the audience experienced two wonderful hours of fun. Don't miss this show next year! ♥



The Trauma Cycle

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As humans, when we experience a traumatic event (death of a loved one, breakup of a close relationship, lost love, etc.), we go through a variety of emotions.

In psychology, this trauma cycle is called a variety of terms. The one I use is **DABDAI**—an acronym to make it easy to remember. **Denial**, **Anger**, **Bargaining**, **Depression**, **Acceptance**, **Integration**. Depending on our personalities, we move through these states at different speeds. Some of us will skip over one or more. Sometimes, we retreat backwards. The human spirit is such that we get through all of them to the integration stage, at which point we can move forward.

Some ballad songs we sing are of broken hearts, lost love or loss of a loved one. By examining the lyric and understanding what state we are in, it should influence the delivery of the lyric.

Denial – "I can't believe it's over, I can't believe it's true". "Goodbye, can you really say goodbye?". "Twas yesterday when life was gay, you said you loved me". Intros, or first phrases of songs where we have lost the love of our life.

Anger – Our hurt over the event. "How could you..." Angry doesn't sing very well for men (women sing it

better). If or when it arrives in the music, it will show up mid-verse or just after the start of the chorus. I can't think of examples where anger will start a verse or a chorus of a ballad; at least with men.

Bargaining – Now that the initial hurt is over, we want to make things the same as they were before. Generally, the bargaining will start at the end of the verse, and be most poignant at the start of the chorus. The transition between the verse and the chorus is critical. "Please, come back to me," "I'd give up a Million Tomorrows, for just one yesterday," "Do anything, but don't say goodbye."

Depression – How can I go on with life? "There's nothing left for me to do." Often, the lyrical moment of depression occurs at the start of the 3rd stanza/phrase of the chorus. "The nights are long and lonely".

In life, it is entirely possible to regress back one or more stages at any time. Sometimes songs do the same thing. Many climaxes and tags go back to bargaining. "Please be mine" type statements. "You'll always have a place in my heart". Sometimes we never get to acceptance or integration. You can use acceptance physically in the release of the tag. Pleading with her, release the sound, and realize she isn't coming back. Allow acceptance to come in the physical recovery of the ensemble.

Acceptance – This state generally comes towards the end of the song. We determine that it's over. She isn't coming back. Generally, acceptance comes towards the climax or the tag. It stands to reason lyrically that you have said what you have to say, and now you can carry on. It is a natural resolution to the story.

Integration – Integration represents how we now live our lives, now that things are resolved. Difficult to find in songs. Once we've accepted our fate, the audience is ready for the song to be over.

For every phrase, find the state. If the arranger has done his/her job, you should find musical devices to help you transition between state to state. Swipes are used to create musical tension and release. Chord choices highlight differences in feelings. To add to this, you may increase the tempo passages of higher urgency (bargaining, anger), and slow it down during depression (don't make it dirge-like or maudlin). These musical choices enhance the lyrical theme.

Recognizing where you are in the lyric will encourage you to make these states obvious to the audience. They will dictate a visual plan, and a vocal color plan, enhancing your ability to create an artistic performance. ♥



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



DEXTER

TEN YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 1996:

This issue of *Harmonotes* was replete with reports on major activities that had taken place during September. **Don Peck's** nearly two-page minute-by-minute account of the third annual retreat at the Mount Conference Center in Atchison during the weekend of Sept. 13-15 had me enthralled for a good 15 minutes. And **Todd Anderson's** report (in his inimitable style of layout; it's no wonder he became the full-time *Harmonotes* editor a year later) of HOA's first-time participation in the annual Santa-Cali-Gon celebration over the four-day Labor Day weekend, indicated it was a complete success, with an estimated 70 to 80 men who expressed a genuine interest in joining the chapter. And three outstanding photographs by Don Peck during the annual HOA picnic on Aug. 24 confirmed the fact that a rousing good time was had by all participants.

Other articles reflected planning for the district contest in Springfield, a ride for everyone in the American Royal Parade and the coming "Bush League" quartet contest in November. Talk about an active chapter!

Other articles reflected planning for the district contest in Springfield, a ride for everyone in the American Royal Parade and the coming "Bush League" quartet contest in November. Talk about an active chapter!

TWENTY YEARS AGO: OCTOBER, 1986

The big news in this issue, right there on the front page, was the highly successful, almost a full house, performance of

the first "Quartet Follies" (quartets only) show at the Folly Theater on Sept. 6. The guest quartet was *Four Under Par*, an excellent comedy quartet from the Mid-Atlantic district. Local HOA foursomes were *Special Touch*, 1985 CSD champions, and *Rural Route 4*, recently crowned the International quartet champions. There was a question whether the chapter board would agree to continue this show as an annual event. Seems the consensus was that it would be "too much of a good thing." Wha-a-a-t? Is there such a thing as too much good barbershopping?

FORTY YEARS AGO: OCTOBER, 1966

Harmonotes Editor **Warren Edmonds** had this to say about the age-old argument about who should sing with the chorus in competition and who should not:

"Our director and some others say they do not want a picked or selected chorus. They say that everybody who pays his dues deserves to sing in the chorus contest. *BOSH!* If a guy doesn't learn his part and (isn't) able to sing it, or he doesn't show up for rehearsals, he doesn't deserve to sing in the contest. In fact, he should have enough loyalty to the chapter to eliminate himself from the contest and thus give the chorus a better chance of winning."

The chorus was preparing for the district contest to be held in Topeka. Later in this issue, President **Gil Lefholz** mentioned the fact that HOA finished only five points behind the winning *Pony Expressmen* of St. Joseph. HOA had to hold on for another 12 years before it won the trophy. ♥

Musical Notes

by Keith Schweer, Music Vice President



SCHWEER

Congratulations to HOA for your performance in Wichita. I just have to thank all those involved: Music Team, directors (**Jim Bagby**, **Mike Neff**, **Carter Combs** and **John Fortino**), chorus manager **Vince Perry**, our administrative leadership team headed by president **Tony Strub**, the *Heartbeats* and every last man on the risers.

Now, we turn our attention to what's ahead. We have new music to learn for both the Holiday Show and our March show. Some of the new songs are already available on learning CDs – others are on the way and you should have them

soon. I know you're going to enjoy the new music the Music Team has chosen. There's some really fun stuff and a dynamite new show opener.

In Wichita, we were a lean, mean 73 strong. That was great, but wouldn't it be even better to be 100, still mean and clean, only bigger and stronger? Shouldn't we share this hobby with as many as possible? I know there are quite a few members who, for one reason or another couldn't be with us in Wichita. And, there are others who are paying their dues, but aren't actively singing with us. We're going to be contacting those folks and encouraging them to sing with us on the Holiday Show and beyond. If you know of someone that fits these descriptions, you can help by letting them know we would like to have them join us. Maybe a call from you would be just what was needed to get one of our inactive singers to re-join us on the risers. It'll only take a minute! ♥



The Evening of Giving

by Eilene Campsey, Heartbeats President



CAMPSEY

Ticket sales have begun for the *Heartbeat's* next fund-raiser, *The Evening of Giving*, a special, private evening of shopping at Independence Center Mall on Nov. 19, from 6:30 to 10 p.m. On that night, the shopping center offers discounts, entertainment, and drawings for prizes. The mall is closed to anyone who does not have a ticket. Even if a person can't attend, you can still buy a ticket and have a chance at the drawing for prizes.

Tickets cost \$10 with the *Heartbeats* keeping \$7 from the sale of each ticket. If you would like to buy a ticket or help sell some, please contact **Carol Ramirez** 816-373-9311. All money and/or unsold tickets must be returned to Carol on or before our next meeting Nov. 14 at the church.

At our next meeting we will work on Christmas clothespin ornaments for the chorus, elect officers, and talk about ushering for the Dec. 2, combined chorus holiday show. Your slate of officers should arrive by e-mail two weeks before the Nov. 14 meeting. Thanks so much to past presidents **Sharon Odelfoehl** and **Carol Ramirez** for serving on the nominating committee. If you have any ideas for clothespin ornaments please e-mail me so that I can provide the required supplies. The web site has already begun to take reservations for the holiday show. Don't forget to get your tickets as early as possible!

At the November meeting we also will have a cookie exchange and ornament exchange. Please bring two-dozen cookies along with the recipe to share. We'll make our own holiday cookbook! Also, bring your ornament wrapped and we'll work out a fun "exchange" program for everyone.

Thanks to all of you for the support you have given this chorus throughout the year. Hope to see you all in November and wrap up a great year! ♥

"You can say any foolish thing to a dog,
and the dog will give you a look that says,
'Hey, you're right! I never would
have thought of that!'"
— Dave Barry



The Songs We Sing

by Wade Dexter; Source: Wikipedia



Irving Berlin's Early Years

Irving Berlin was born to a Jewish family that migrated in 1893 to the United States where Irving's father became a rabbi. After his father died, Irving found work at street jobs selling newspapers and "busking," earning money as a singer and strolling entertainer in public places.

The harsh economic reality of having to work or starve was to have a lasting effect on the way Berlin treated money. While working as a singing waiter at Pelham's Cafe in Chinatown, Berlin was asked by the proprietor to write an original song because a rival tavern had had their own song published. "Marie from Sunny Italy" was the result, and it was soon published. Although it earned him only 37 cents, it brought him a new career and a new name. **Israel Baline** was misprinted as "I. Berlin" on the sheet music. ♥



...to the following chapter members!

October 1	John Landry
October 6	Jim Harford
October 12	Jim Kemper
October 13	Dwight Herrick
October 27	Rob Varney

**DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER
ISSUE OF HARMONOTES:
OCTOBER 31**



ATCHISON

**SOME MEMORIES
FROM OUR
2006 SESSION...**

• FOCUS • DETERMINATION

**A GREAT
WEEKEND!**

Retreat Photos courtesy of Don Fuson

RETREAT

HARMONY & FELLOWSHIP!

The 10 "Kwazy Quartets" in the Kwazy & Wild Harmony Contest!

The one quartet not
photographed was
Mahukima
comprised of
Rob Mathieu,
Mike Mathieu,
Grant Hunget
and Dennis Kinghorn



2006 HOA Retreat HONOREES:



Rookie of the Year:
Steven Duncan

**Hero
Section Leader:**
Marty Oldehoeft

Inspiration Award:
Frazier Allen

Inspiration Award:
Don Peck

Frolic Leader:
Al Fehlauer

Mr. Personality:
Ron Abel

Best Face:
Dick Korek

Groaner:
Mike Owen

Not Pictured:
Most Improved: Brooke Meyers
Front Row Star: Jerry Meier



HOA FIRST CLASS

Connie & I would like to express our sincere thanks to all of the members of HOA who sent cards and messages for our 50th Anniversary. All total, we received 175 cards! We are truly proud to be associated with all of you, and really consider your chorus as our "Second Barbershop Home."

See you in Wichita in October, and since River City isn't in the lineup, we'll be 100% for you!

Phil Hunget



Thank you so much for allowing me to be a part of such a wonderful weekend. I never thought that I would be looking forward to going back to Texas to cool off! You are very protective of your chorus and what you have accomplished. I know that you would not let just anyone mess with them. I am deeply honored to be entrusted by you. We are a mutual admiration society.

The best to the Heart of America. I hope that this event will be a springboard for growth, rejuvenation, and continued success. They have certainly proved that they have plenty of heart. I would put Saturday night up to the charge on San Juan hill!

David Leeder

It was completely my pleasure to work with you and your guys last weekend. It's such a nice atmosphere you've built there where you blend the fun family environment with a more serious side when necessary. I was amazed at the stamina the guys displayed at the end of the night on Saturday and that kind of work will lead you to your biggest payoff. As you're aware, it's the things you tell the guys EVERY week that affect how you come across the most so keep them honest on the height in their sound and the more narrow vowels. Outside of that, focus on the big picture now so that you get maximum impact. You need for that ballad to jump right off the stage in order to come up to the power of your up tune and that will take some personal work by some of your performers. I will be eagerly awaiting the results to see how close you can come to your highest scores. It's a goal well within your reach.

Sorry I had to go so early as well but duty called. I'm happy to report that our show came off without a hitch although I was a little bleary eyed afterward.

All the best,
Mark Hale



12th Street Rag Family Grows

by Mark Fortino

As we look toward Wichita and the *Show of Past Champions* we breathe a little easier knowing that we will definitely be there. My baby's due date was Oct. 10 and therefore had my plans for Wichita up in the air. But thanks to our new barbershopper **Matthew Francis** making a month early entrance into this world, all signs are a go for me to be in Wichita with both *12th Street Rag* and *HOA*!

The last couple of months have been pretty crazy for me personally, completion of the construction of our new home, selling our old house, moving, having a baby, Dad having by-pass surgery, and trying to stay on top of everything else in my life that normally goes on; I'm ready for a vacation, or at least a Barbershop Convention!

The quartet's finish at Internationals has brought us more show bids and next spring we will be traveling to Casa Grande, AZ and Saskatoon Canada for shows. Saskatoon will be the first time we've been a show headliner outside of the states and we are very excited about that. We are also performing at a Youth Day event in Lincoln, NE in March, and headlining some shows around the Central States District that we haven't done for years. You can check out our calendar on our website at www.12thstreetrag.com.

That's all from *The Street*! ♥

"My Mom said she learned how to swim when someone took her out in the lake and threw her off the boat."

I said, 'Mom, they weren't trying to teach you how to swim.'
— Paula Poundstone

Weatherman's Picnic

A *Tone-Henge* article by former weatherguy Ol' Dan

Sept. 10, 2006 proved an old adage: I think it goes, "Any time a weatherman is even remotely associated with picnic plans, bring waders." or sumpin' like that. I'm surprised the *HOA* picnic has not been cancelled more frequently whenever yours truly plans to attend. Anyway, this year's rainy picnic cancellation resulted in a *Tone-Henge/Hengettes/Taylor's* impromptu gathering that was a real blast! *Hengers* and wives **Estyl, Joann** and **Connie (Francie)** couldn't make it), plus 58-year *HOA* member **Dennis Taylor** and wife **Jane**, all gathered at the Bowser Lack-Of-Manners Manor, slightly oiling the tonsils with available libation and nibbling on picnic fare whilst tuning on tags! 'Twas one fantastic time!



So next year, Ol' Dan will announce loudly that he ain't going to the annual *HOA* picnic, and that'll ensure no rainout so that all members and favorite others can enjoy the outing. Then I'll show up later...with waders in hand. ♥



EDITORIAL: Don't Forget the 9-1-3!

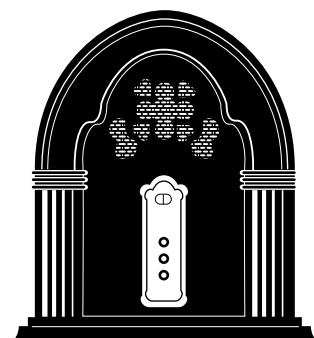
by Todd Anderson, *Harmonotes* Editor



Have you heard the **Bob Hamilton** Plumbing radio commercial lately? It ends with the Kansas City Chapter of Sweet Adelines singing the jingle, which includes Bob's phone number!

It's memorable, entertaining and probably has Bob's phone ringing a lot. Shoot, I don't even *need* a plumber and I want to call him. That's one compelling ad.

I wish the ads that feature the *Heart of America Chorus* were that good, don't you? Hmm. Hold on just a second. Now that I mention it, there *aren't* any ads that feature the *Heart of America Chorus*!



Whoa! A light bulb just turned on inside my pointed head. Why isn't *HOA* marketing our internationally-ranked choral sound to prospective advertisers or ad agencies? And please don't tell me that just plumbers are the only ones that would benefit. What about

Helzberg Diamonds or Russell Stover Candies? You can't tell me that an ad campaign that includes *HOA* wouldn't increase their sales and add some revenue to our own coffers. Besides, those two businesses are already married to us each year during Singing Valentines! It's a match made in heaven!

Our area is ripe with other G-rated products whose ads would be energized by an infusion of barbershop sevenths. Sheridan's Frozen Custard, Applebee's, Kansas City's Convention and Visitors Bureau, banks, real estate companies, grocery chains. Think bigger—Kansas City sports franchises. Go ahead and chuckle at the notion, but I'm telling you...if a plumber can use tight harmony to reach an audience, then anyone is fair game [within reason].

This reminds me of a movie where actor **Michael Keaton** carried a tape recorder and spoke into it every time a great idea popped into his head. He had all kinds of zany ideas. Stuff like, "Speed up sandwich-making. Force-feed mayonnaise to tuna."

The point is, there are *great* ideas...and then there are *some* that need to be polished a bit. This ad concept may be the latter. After all, who would do the legwork on such a venture? It'd take planning and lots of seed-planting. I'm not sure we're willing to tackle such a project.

Oh, well. Perhaps this whole idea seems as crazy as force-feeding mayo to tuna. Then again, maybe it's even *crazier* not to tap the harmonic oil well we're sitting right on top of? ♥

HOA on Risers: Committee Says We Can Do Better!

by Rich Huyck, Chair: Riser Discipline Committee

The *HOA Chorus* Riser Discipline Committee met on Aug. 30 with the purpose in mind of defining a few simple procedures to address the issue of time wasted while the chorus is learning music and polishing performance and competition material.

The Music Team and the Board are in agreement that we can make more productive use of our time whenever the chorus is on the risers. While behavior of each chorus member is very important while on the risers, there is also an important consideration of minimizing disruption to activity on the risers by members who must complete chapter business at the regular meeting.

Even though the defined start time for singing on the risers is 7:10 p.m., the presentation team is frequently providing choreography review for members beginning at 6:30 p.m. All chapter business should be conducted in the entry hall and not in the room where the risers are situated.

The chorus is quite fortunate to have an excellent sound system that can be used very effectively to facilitate a professional approach to all aspects of the meeting. At 7:05 p.m. the Program Vice President (or his appointee) will use the sound system microphone (no shouting over the din) to alert the members and directors that there are five minutes remaining until all are expected to be on the risers. At 7:09 p.m. a reminder again using the sound system that all chapter business is to be conducted in the entry hall and that all singers are expected to be on the risers and ready to sing. At 7:10 p.m. the designated director or music team member will begin the evening with quality singing warm-ups!

*"It takes a great man
to be a good listener."
- Calvin Coolidge*

During the announcement period and introduction of guests, all speakers are expected to make use of the sound system and all members are expected to extend the courtesy of not talking to their neighbor while on the risers.

During the course of the rehearsal, the director or musical leader will always use the sound system to communicate to the men on the risers. While there is a director or leader or coach active in front of the chorus, it is expected that EVERYONE on the risers will give that person undivided attention. Conversation with your neighbor while the leader is working with the chorus is distracting to the group. When the leader is conferring with a coach or designated member of the music team, it is permissible to engage in conversation with your riser partners. When the leader is ready to proceed again, he then deserves your undivided attention.

In recent weeks we have adopted an informal signal, raising the hand, when it is apparent that a reminder to cease chatter is called for. This simple signal has proven to be fairly effective and the committee recommends its continued use.

The committee believes that all of the *HOA* members really want to make maximum use of our time on the risers and are ready to make riser discipline a HABIT!

*"The greater man,
the greater courtesy."
- Alfred Lord Tennyson
(1809 - 1892)*

To summarize the Riser Discipline Committee recommendations:

1. All chapter business should be completed in the entry hall.
2. At 7:05 p.m. and 7:09 p.m. the PVP will announce the beginning of the singing part of the meeting which will start promptly at 7:10 p.m.
3. The music director will begin the quality singing warm-up at 7:10 p.m. All Board members and Music Team members will provide the leadership by being on the risers ready to sing at 7:10 p.m.
4. The directors will all make use of the sound system to communicate to the men on the risers when out front.
5. All men on the risers are expected to give their undivided attention to whoever is out front providing direction. If your neighbor wants to chat, just ignore him.
6. The simple raising of the hand by any and all on the risers is the signal that undivided attention to the leader is required.
7. All speakers making announcements or introducing guests should use the sound system to communicate to the men on the risers.

You can help *HOA Chorus* become more successful by building new habits that will allow us to maximize the impact of the tremendous musical leadership that we are very fortunate to have!

If you have any suggestions for further improvement, please let me or any member of the committee know. We need your help. ♥

Committee members: Tony Strub, Jim Bagby, Keith Schweer, Doug Brott, Kent McClean and chaired by Rich Huyck

Orientation Program to Begin

by Stew Grosser, Membership Chairman



A new orientation program will begin Oct. 10, which will include all leadership in the Kansas City chapter.

As a new member—or even a member of two to three years—the information presented will be helpful in knowing who to contact, what is expected and a good, through understanding of how everyday business is handled.

There will be two sessions, each one hour long, with short presentations from current officers, section leaders, music team, board members and uniform and presentation team. You will also learn about our philanthropies with the Salvation Army and Children's Mercy Hospital.

For those needing polecat music and CD's, this will also be part of the program. Make plans to attend! ♥



Special Guest Night: October 17

Put your best foot FORWARD! Bring a guest who will get a kick out of singing with the Heart of America Chorus!



WHEN: OCTOBER 17
6:45 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
WHERE: St. Peters Church
110th & Wornall
Overland Park, KS
WHAT: A FUN NIGHT FOR GUESTS!
Refreshments will be served

- Everyone is encouraged to wear a team football jersey.
- Guests will receive a souvenir of singing with HOA!

MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITY:
Sign up a new member and receive credit on your 2007 dues!

QUESTIONS? Call Stew Grosser at 913-548-6234 ♥



New Member Spotlight

by Ron McIntire

With this column, we introduce new members of the Kansas City, Missouri Chapter!



Chris Smith

Christopher "Chris" Smith is a first-time barbershopper but sang in a barbershop quartet for two years in college. He will graduate from Central Missouri State University in the Spring of 2007 with a degree in Music Education. He hails from Independence, MO, and sings bass in the *HOA* chorus.



John Stock

John Stock is business analyst living in Kansas City, Missouri with his wife **Maria**. Though he is a first-time barbershopper, he has watched his past *HOA* member father, **Leroy Stock**, perform on spring shows. He sings in his church choir and sings bass in the *HOA* chorus.



Bill Wheeler

William "Bill" Wheeler's musical background includes singing in the church choir and performing with the National Touring Company in the 1950s. He's a first-time barbershopper and sings bass in the *HOA* chorus. He's a retired bank consultant living in Olathe, KS, with his wife, **Marilyn**, and confesses he was a middle linebacker for the Chicago Bears in the 1950s. ♥



**GREAT guys!
GREAT voices!
Welcome, Gents!**

Defining the HOA “Corporate Culture”

by Mike Neff, Associate Music Director

You’ve probably heard the term “culture” used when talking about the atmosphere or environment of a particular place, company or organization. Frequently, companies talk about their corporate culture, meaning: what attributes define their organization, leadership and style of behavior? How are they perceived by outsiders? Or, how are they perceived by themselves? Have you ever thought about the corporate culture of the Kansas City Chapter and HOA? What do you perceive it to be? What do others perceive it to be?

I posed that question to **Mark Hale** on the way to our retreat. He was a bit taken aback and then said, “You know, that’s an interesting question.” His response? “When the curtain opens, I see an ‘everyman’ chorus. Many ages, a big sound, and a group that looks like it has fun and sings with a lot of heart.” A very appropriate answer, I thought. He took his response a step further and added, “I also hear differing sounds from the chorus at times, it can be a bit edgy in places, and overall, there tends to be noise in the sound.”

So I thought about his answer, our culture, and how I think they reflect our current state. I would agree with Mark’s opinions completely, and the positives in his reply are exactly what he said first. Something for everyone, a big sound, and singing with emotion and feeling. And, the opportunities he noted to improve are on the mark, too (*pun not intended*).

How do we get better are matching our corporate sound? How do we get the edge out of our voices, and keep it out? How do we eliminate any “noise” in our sound? If we practice, reinforce and retain what we’ve been



NEFF

taught by our most recent coaches (**David Leeder** and **Mark Hale**), I believe we can accomplish those things.

But, there’s the rub. Does our current culture allow us to work on those

things and make them a focal point for the chorus? Face it, this is a chapter that is very active. We do a LOT. We do shows, have quartets, extracurricular activities, non-singing events, lots of committees and meetings, made another CD and next, we have a holiday show coming up. Then Singing Valentines, then the March Show, and hopefully, a trip to Denver (we’ll have an idea by the time you read this article). There is never a “break.”

So my question to you is this: Do you, individually, want to spend more time each Tuesday working on becoming a better singer? That means spending time doing some additional section work, self-evaluation using a high-quality digital recorder and having the musical leadership focus on singing in tune, with great vowels and using physicality in the things we do. Or, do you like the direction the chapter is going in right now and wouldn’t change a thing? Keep it fun, varied, lively and fast paced?

Well, don’t answer my questions. Instead, DO answer the survey that the chapter leadership is developing and sending out to you in the near future. That tool will help us continue to shape the culture of the chapter and chorus, and provide an environment that our membership wants it to be. There is no wrong answer. The only wrong thing is to not provide your input, so please, tell the chapter leaders what you want your barbershop experience in Kansas City to be. We want, and need, to know. ♥

Finding The Right Tape Recorder! You Mean I Can Sound Better, Cheaper?

by Kevin Tritsch, Chapter Secretary

During our last meeting there were some members that wanted to see a list of recorders, like the one I own. Here are some with basic features such as recording time. The price I include is the suggested retail price (SRP). (*Editor’s Note: A good place to shop for recorders is www.overstock.com*)

Olympus Digital Recorders

Model: VN-960PC
Recording Time: 16 hrs.
SRP: \$69.99

Model: VN-2100PC
Recording Time: 36 hrs.
SRP: \$59.99 “new model”

Model VN-3100PC
Recording Time: 72 hrs.
SRP: \$69.99

Olympus Digital Stereo Recorders

Model: DS-2
Recording Time: 22 hrs.
SRP: \$129.99

Each of these models include software and a USB cable allowing you to download the music directly to your computer.

For more info on each model, visit: www.olympusamerica.com ♥



Waddayawatch? by Carter Combs, Assistant Director



I can still hear the voice of **Coach Dunbar** saying “Combs! Waddaya lookin’ at?” as he surveyed my feeble attempts at one-on-one defense in gym class. “The ball, Coach,” I

hollered back, just as the ball slipped effortlessly past me to become yet another pass, shoot, score.

Of course I was watching the ball... that’s where all the action was. Wasn’t my job to steal the ball, or make sure the other guy couldn’t shoot!? The ball was naturally the center of my attention.

Coach pulled me from the scrimmage and gently explained: “You idiot! The ball’s the last thing to move! You gotta anticipate! You gotta figure out where it’s goin’ before the other guy does! That’s the only way you can get ahead of him!” (Coach always talked in exclamation points!)

“But Coach,” I stammered, “I can’t read his mind...”

“Obviously! You gotta watch him!”

“But Coach, I was watching...” I gulped, “Waddayawatch?”

“Watch his gut! He can’t do anything without his gut going first!”

Now I’ll be the first to admit I never mastered Coach’s gentle advice for basketball. I spent much more time in choir and band than on the court or in the field. But I found

that the question “Waddayawatch?” kept popping up, and often I had to figure out the answer myself.

“Tenors, you’re entrance was late!” the director says.

“But we were watching, Coach, um... I mean, Director.”

“Watch closer next time!”

Really, we were watching, and watching closely, but perhaps we’re not watching correctly?

Let’s step back and think about what a Director does. His job is to “play” the chorus, just like a musical instrument, to make music. He has to know what he wants the music do, and know what the chorus is capable of, and know what movements to make to cause the chorus respond the way he wants. To do that, he has to think far ahead, so that his own body moves early enough to signal the chorus. Our job is to see, interpret and respond to his signals at the correct time. If a Director ever responds to what he hears, it’s too late, the moment is gone. At that point he’s just trying to recover, to recapture the music.

In addition, each Director has his own unique style of directing. Some stand quite still and make precise moves, others are whirling-dervishes, and everything in between. They are not machines, so their style will often change based on the type of song, and also on their own level of energy, time of day, climate, meals, lighting, etc.

So, with all that variety going on... *waddayawatch?*

In my experience, you watch the eyes. “Eyes are the window to the soul,” and our job in the chorus is to express the music in the director’s soul. The slightest flicker of the eyebrows is enough to tell you he hears a crescendo coming up, before he even has a chance to move his hands or raise his elbows. And as soon as he perceives that we are already responding to that, his mind is free to add

that little embellishment, that slight tug on a key word that adds critical meaning to the lyric. The crinkle around the edges tells us we are heading for that funny part, and the wink says “yes, thank you, that was exactly right.”

While watching his eyes, we’ll still see the hand movements that precisely signal entrances and cutoffs, but that is incidental, since we are already reading each others’ minds.

Then why does the director move around so much? That’s for the audience... call it “acting with the back.” Body moving back and forth, arms waving, they can tell he’s involved, but they can’t see his eyes.

For the audience, the chorus is the window to the music within the director’s soul. ♥



Carter Combs

Heart of America Chorus

THIRTEEN-TIME Central States District Champions!

CHAPTER QUARTET CHAMPIONS

- Rural Route 4** - 1986 International Champion
Don Kahl (tenor), Calvin Yoder (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Willard Yoder (bass)
- Quadro** - 2006 Central States District Champion
Rob Mathieu (tenor), Michael Troyer (lead),
Grant Hunget (bari), Matt Moore (bass)
- Gentlemen of Note** - 2001 International Seniors Medallists
Rod Rule (tenor), Jon Gathright (lead),
Rich Huyck (bari), Monty Duerksen (bass)
- 12th Street Rag** - 1994 Central States District Champion
*Rick Kready (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead),
John Fortino (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)
- KC Connection** - 1986 Central States District Champion
Rod Rule (tenor), Wayne Lankenau (lead),
Rich Huyck (bari), Larry Wilson (bass)
- Special Touch** - 1984 Central States District Champion
*Rick Kready (tenor), David Krause (lead),
*Bud Clark (bari), Matt Moore (bass)
- Harmony Spectrum** - 1982 Central States District Champion
Gene Bowers (tenor), David Krause (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Willard Yoder (bass)
- Corner Quartet** - 1981 Central States District Champion
Don Kahl (tenor), Lance Heilmann, (lead)
Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)
- The Morning Times** - 1974 Central States District Champion
Dave Snook (tenor), Roger O'Dell (lead),
Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)
- The Four Kippers** - 1966 Central States District Champion
*Ken Gabler (tenor), *Byron Meyers (lead),
John Goldsbury (bari), Gil Lefholz (bass)
- The Kippers** - 1962 Central States District Champion
*Ken Gabler (tenor), *Tom Taylor (lead),
John Goldsbury (bari), Don Page (bass)
- BMA Gamboliers** - 1957 Central States District Champion
Barney Wasson (tenor), Eddie Schliebs (lead),
Orval Wilson (bari), Harold Robinette (bass)
- Gamboliers** - 1952 Central States District Champion
John Dooley (tenor), Eddie Schliebs (lead),
Orval Wilson (bari), Jimmy Byrnes (bass)
- HyPower Serenaders** - 1948 Central States District Champion
Don McPherson (tenor), Ben Franklin (lead),
Bert Phelps (bari), Dale Warrick (bass)

OTHER CHAPTER QUARTETS

- 12th Street Rag** - 2006 International Semi-Finalists
*Micah Jeppesen (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead),
John Fortino (bari), *Barry Moore (bass)
- Command Performance**
Carter Combs (tenor), Jon Gathright (lead),
Rich Huyck (bari), Monty Duerksen (bass)
- Crosstown Four**
Dale Neuman (tenor), Gordon Coleman (lead),
Ron Abel (bari), Val Putzier (bass)
- New and Used Parts**
Carter Combs (tenor), Mike Neff (lead),
Grant Hunget (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)
- Tone-Henge**
Bruce Wenner (tenor), Dan Henry (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

*Member of other chapters



Experience Barbershop History First Hand

taken from *On the QT* newsletter/Barbershop Harmony Society

A wise man once said “(Music) history is similar to the rearview mirror of a car. You won’t know where you’re going if you do not know where you’ve been!” Preserving a part of music history is something that is taught in every music program at every music school in the world. They study composers like **Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms**, and even **John Cage** to see how music has transformed over the last several hundred years.

That is what the *Buffalo Bills* Era Contest is all about; Studying and experiencing our barbershop history during an era where quartets really came into their own. The quartets of the 1950s started down the path leading to barbershop quartet singing as we know it today. That is why we are offering a new way to celebrate barbershop harmony at the Midwinter Convention in Albuquerque...sing the way the quartets did in the *Buffalo Bills* Era. Experience the excitement of “chord worshipping” the way our pioneers did. Woodshed your own arrangements of a Public Domain song. You’ll understand why the barbershop “bug” spread like wildfire throughout the 50s and beyond.

This is another exciting way to enjoy your barbershop experience and a great way to start out the “Year of the Music Man” the Society has chosen as its theme. We hope you’ll join us for our first-ever *Buffalo Bills* Contest.

Visit www.barbershop.org/id_074589 for more information about the contest. ♥



The Buffalo Bills, from left to right: (Tenor) Vern Reed, (Lead) Al Shea, (Bari) Dick Grapes and (Bass) Bill Spangenberg. Grapes is only surviving member, but although he was original, he sang with them a relatively short time. He did not want to quit his job and move with the Bills to Broadway, so Scotty Ward replaced him, did the “Music Man” play and 1958 movie. When Spangenberg died first, Bob Jones replaced him on bass toward the end of the Bills career.

Photo courtesy of the Barbershop Harmony Society



Summary of September 2006 Board Meeting

by Kevin Tritsch, Secretary/Edited by Ron McIntire

Treasurer’s Report: Ron Fortino

Operating Fund as of 8/31/06 - \$5,087.09

Retreat Update: Al Higgins

63 members will attend. 11 are unsure and 10 will not attend but plan to sing in Wichita.

Holiday Show Update: Kent McClean

- Ticket prices have been raised by \$2 across the board. \$12 - \$17 - \$22
- Group tickets are \$14 for the \$17 tickets
- Tickets are on sale.
- Performers are lined up.
- Extra rehearsal dates are set for Oct. 24, Nov. 5, and Nov.13.
- Show will open Dec. 2 with performances at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Membership report: Stew Grosser

- Plans are being made for Oct. 17 Guest Night. They include a football theme and will involve taping of guests singing a song.
- Current Orientation Program Set-up.

Operations: Chuck Ames

- Board agreed to give the Presbyterian Church \$150 for allowing us to use their facility.
- Riser repair: Cost of buying four new riser steps is \$310 if desired. A temporary fix was suggested and will be considered.

Nominating Committee: Ron Abel, Don Young, and Bob Rutherford

The board agreed to set up a membership committee to assist the Membership VP. The team would include board members, music committee members and the presentation team. This committee will be a standing committee every year and will take effect with the new board in January, 2007.

Marketing and PR: Dick Korek

- Approximately 30 sponsors are signed up.
- Have new prospects for sponsors and conventions coming to KC in the next 18 months.
- Design for new “Flyer” and “pocket cards” for the Holiday Show are complete and will go to the printer by Sept. 25.

Music and Performance Report: Keith Schweer

- Retreat Plans are in place. Clinicians are **Mark Hale** and **David Leeder**.
- Wichita Preparations. No Thursday rehearsals. Qualification taping: Seven people did not qualify. 75 members are qualified for Wichita.
- Learning CDs. Section leaders are cutting the learning CDs for the holiday show and repertoire music.
- Chorus CD Progress. Second recording session completed Sept. 27.
- Control track recording sessions to be scheduled after district convention.

Old Business:

- CD Revenue: \$10,160 in gifts and advance sales and loans.
- CD Current expenses - \$2,400. Production costs are lower than predicted.
- CDs will be available for Spring Show.
- CD art is in progress.
- **John Fortino** is stepping down as an assistant director but will continue to coach and be an active member of the chorus.

The HOA Board of Directors meets at 6 p.m. on the second Monday of the month, at the Johnson County Car License office, located at 6000 Lamar Avenue. Chapter members are welcome! ♥

“New Adventure Quartets” Have Blast on Guest Night

by Jerry Garrard, Program Vice President



“Why on earth would you have a fun lovin’ quartet contest on a guest night?” asked many HOA members. And only one answer came to mind. It’s a blast! Just ask our 16 quartets and 61 individual singers.

That’s right, over 75% of the active chorus members were in a quartet for this event.

Sure, the timing was questionable, but here’s the deal. Of the prospective members wanting to join HOA, all of them seemed to enjoy the fact that we were average singers that could come together and make a WOW sound as a group!

The quartets were made up of a good mix of talent. All but the winning quartet, who was known as *The Fire House Five Minus One*, hinting to the fact that they all are loud-mouths (just funnin’ ya guys)! They did an outstanding job ringing the most chords and don’t forget the only reason they won the contest is the fact that they out scored their tied brothers *Musical Marauders* in the Singing Category only. *Musical Marauders* can hang their hats on a well deserved Presentation win. That’s right! Presentation Judge **Jim Bagby** scored higher in Singing than he did in Presentation. What does that say for his dedication to the “Singing comes first” motto that he carries as his banner?

Many quartets entered this contest and had a wonderful time. We look forward to more fun lovin’ contests like this in the future. So, if you are interested in working a little harder than normal to organize a contest or any other fun events, just talk to your Program Vice President **Jerry Garrard** and he will give you all the rope that is needed to successfully introduce a new style of fun, or hang yourself—which is a different level of fun all together. ♥



Above, from August 8:
New Adventure winners strike a pose for photographer Ron McIntire



Enjoy the 2006 Holiday Harmony Spectacular

by Mary Olson and Kent McClean,
Holiday show co-chairpersons

Get the holiday spirit with beautiful holiday music presented in four-part harmony! Invite your friends and family to join us Saturday, Dec. 2 for our annual Holiday Harmony Spectacular. There are two tremendous shows to choose from—2 and 6 p.m.—both plenty of great seats available.

The 2006 Holiday Show will take place in the wonderful performance theater at Unity Village, where there’s not a bad seat in the house.

This December classic will feature the *Heart of America Barbershop Chorus*, 13-time Central States District Champions, and the *Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines*, current third-place international medalists! But that’s not all! You’ll also enjoy fantastic quartets such as:

- *ZING!* 13th Place 2005 Sweet Adelines International Semi-Finalists
- *12th Street Rag*, 11th Place 2006 Barbershop Harmony Society International Semi-Finalists
- Plus local quartets *Command Performance*, *Quadrio*, *Primo!* and *All That*.

Tickets are \$12, \$17 and \$22, and may be purchased by calling 816-765-5371 or by visiting the HOA website at www.hoachorus.com/holiday_show.htm

Do you have a group that could benefit from special rates on 10 or more? If so, just call Monty Duerksen at 913-268-1064. But call soon. The best seats are selling quickly. We hope to see you at the show! ♥

Where Are They Now? by Ron McIntire



Frank Lasta has been a member of 10 barbershop chapters—twice in the Kansas City Chapter.

He was born in Chicago, two months before FDR was elected to his first term as President. Shortly thereafter, his parents returned to the Kansas City area, and that’s where Frank grew up. “I graduated in 1949 from Northeast High School,” he recalls, “and worked for a couple of years in construction. I knew the job I was working on would end soon and I would be laid off, so I joined the U.S. Coast Guard. The Korean War was going on then and I didn’t want to wait for the draft.”

After he left the service, he earned his BS degree in Mechanical Engineering at Finley Engineering College in Kansas City and signed on with Black and Veatch Corporation. Travel and moving around a lot played a big part in his job in those days and it explains why he was a member of so many chapters. He retired in 1998 after 39 years with Black and Veatch and now lives in Orlando, Florida. His recreational hobby is golf, so working part time at Orlando area golf courses is a natural for him. He doesn’t play on the weekends though. “It’s too crowded,” he says, “I only play during the week.”

Musically, Frank sang in the a cappella chorus in high school and has sung in three barbershop quartets: *K-O Connection* in Northern Kentucky, near Cincinnati, Ohio, and in High Tide and his most recent Senior Quartet, *C-Breeze*, both in Orlando. Though he sang lead in HOA, he now sings baritone in both *High Tide* and *C-Breeze*. An interesting note, he says, is that the tenor in one of his previous quartets was **George Evans** of *Confederates* fame.

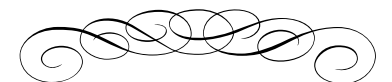
Frank joined the Society in Kansas City in 1961 so he’s been around awhile. With his easy-going, quiet personality, he has made a lot of friends, especially in Kansas City. He drops in to see us now and then. One of those times was in December, 2003 when HOA sang for the Salvation Army at Metro-North Mall. One of his most vivid barbershop memories, he says, was in 1978 when HOA won the CSD chorus contest for the first time and he got to sing on the International stage in Minneapolis in 1979.

His address is 450 Club Dr, Winter Springs, FL, 32708, ph. (407) 484-4783, so if you’re ever down Florida way, give him a call. He would enjoy hearing from you.



Above: Frank Lasta’s current Senior’s quartet *C-Breeze*, with Frank on the far right, Bottom: Dan & Estyl Henry and friend pose with Frank in this 2003 photo taken by Ron McIntire

“Charlene and I like to travel,” he says. “We try to take a trip twice a year—sometimes out of the country, usually in the spring and the fall. We’ve been to Thailand, China, several other countries in Europe—Spain and Portugal, Germany, Switzerland and Austria and Ireland.” ♥



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 recent contribution in time and effort to the betterment of the Kansas City, Missouri Chapter.

A tip of the old topper to...

...Quadro members **Rob Mathieu, Matt Moore, Grant Hunget** and **Michael Troyer** on taking first place at Central States!

...**Bob Rutherford** for keeping up with the Holiday Show ticket sales.

...to **Carl Turlin** for his numerous attempts to assemble the chapter picnic.

...to **Jerry Meier** and **Mike Schumacher** for their early choreography work to help prepare the chorus for district contest in Wichita, KS.

...to old faithfuls **Al Higgins** and **Vince Perry** who took care of negotiations with the conference center for the chorus retreat rehearsal; to **Al Fehlauer** and **Mike Owens** for arranging the Saturday evening program; and to **Mike Neff** for picking up **David Leeder** at the airport.

...to the never-failing **Vince Perry** for coordinating the district contest registrations, pictures and hotel registrations and putting together the contest package so everyone knows when and where to go; and to **Jan Mathieu** for collecting money for the chorus dinner in Wichita.

...to the 2006 HOA Retreat Honorees:

Rookie of the Year: **Steven Duncan**

Most Improved: **Brooke Meyers**

Front Row Star: **Jerry Meier**

Hero Section Hero: **Marty Oldehoeft**

Best Face: **Dick Korek**

Mr. Personality: **Ron Abel**

Inspiration Award: **Don Peck and Frazier Allen**

Frolic Leader: **Al Fehlauer**

Groaner: **Mike Owen**

Coaching Experts: **David Leeder and Mark Hale**

A special *Tip Of The Hat* and an extra flick of the brim to outgoing uniform chairman **Brooke Meyers**. It's a tough, thankless job, and you did it with style.

A *Tip Of The Hat* to the 60 HOA'ers and two quartets who turned to sing for St. Peter's United Church of Christ. And a special thanks to **Rob Mathieu** for filling in on tenor for the unavailable *Command Performance* tenor, **Carter Combs**.

A *Tip Of The Hat* to our invincible and ever-talented Section Leaders: **Carter Combs, Mike Neff, Grant Hunget** and **Keith Schweer** and **Mark Fortino** who put together the Christmas Show learning CD; Librarian **Phil Veltkamp**, **Mike O'Dell** and **Rich Huyck** who did their part to duplicate them. A special thanks to **Mary Fortino, Jean Snyder** and **Roberta Porter** for watching over the distribution of the CD's. ♥

**CONGRATULATIONS,
Central States District,
on your 60th Anniversary!**

Barbershopper Of The Month!



July: Harvey Shapiro

Above: HOA President **Tony Strub** presents **Harvey Shapiro** with the July 2006 BOTM award, which reads: In grateful appreciation for your hard work and effort planning, recruiting and organizing quartets for the 2006 Adventure Quartet Contest, August 8, 2006. ♥

Barbershopper Of The Month!



August: Doug Brott

Above: HOA President **Tony Strub** presents **Doug Brott** with the August 2006 BOTM award, which reads: In grateful appreciation for your outstanding work in coordinating, scheduling and organizing the production of the 2006 *Heart of America Chorus* CD. ♥

Xtra Mile Award!



Above: HOA President **Tony Strub** presents **Jerry Meier** and **Mike Schumacher** with the August 2006 Xtra Mile Awards, which read:

Mike Schumacher

In recognition for your hard work and infinite patience helping the hero section of the chorus prepare for the 2006 CSD Chorus Competition in Wichita, Kansas

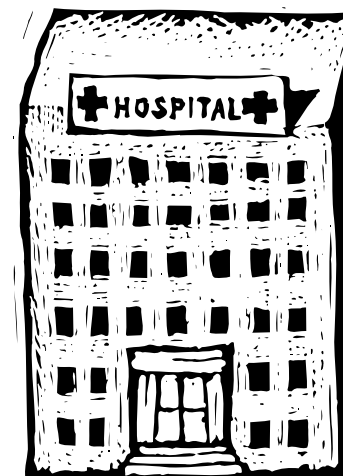
Jerry Meier

In recognition for the time and effort you spent helping the front row learn new choreography for the 2006 CSD Chorus Competition in Wichita, Kansas ♥

HOA Family on the Mend

Jim Davis is home and making great progress after his recent surgery. He is taking it a day at a time and hopes to be back on the risers soon!

Ron McIntire is headed home after being hospitalized with chest discomfort. His wife **Brenda** tell us a heart cath procedure proved to the doctors that open-heart surgery will be needed at a later date. Ad to all that, Brenda herself is having to deal with retinal problems. So to say the McIntires are enduring some tough times is an understatement. As extended family, we lift Ron and Brenda up in our prayers, and hope they both receive top care for their health issues! ♥



HARMONOTES

...is published by the board of directors of the Kansas City, MO., Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, a non-profit organization. Unless accompanied by a byline, all articles have been written by the Editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the officers and members of the chapter. Space will be made available for opposing points of view.

Heart of America Chorus

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Staff Reporters	ALL Our Chapter Members!

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, content and spelling).

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!

Comments/submissions may be made to:

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Chapter meets at 7 p.m. each Tuesday night, at:
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The HOA Board of Directors meets at 6 p.m. on the second Monday of the month, at the Johnson County Car License office, located at 6000 Lamar Avenue. Chapter members are welcome!

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