



CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY®

VOLUME 07 - ISSUE 9 - OCTOBER 2007

Fall, Football, Fortissimo's: Fine Time To Be in HOA Country

by Jim Bagby, Lame-Duck Director



I wonder if people who are Missouri natives appreciate autumn here as much as those of us who came from somewhere else. I spent my early years in Colorado, which generally has wonder-

ful summers but a lotta snow in winter. That's great for skiing, but also means shoveling and often restricted travel. Then we moved to Oklahoma, which has, well, wind, heat, wind, ice, wind, tornadoes, wind, blistering heat, wind, floods, wind, drought and wind. Great people, though. And, as some of my chapter members might have heard me mention on occasion, Oklahoma has Big Red football!

Now Missouri has more than its share of heat and some snow, too, but come fall the weather makes up for the rest of the year. It's delightful around here, and the mild season coupled with the arrival of the college football season ought to brighten anyone's outlook. My job for more than 30 years was to cover Big 8 and then Big 12 teams, so I cheer for them when they play anyone except Oklahoma.

And for us barbershoppers, we have the added excitement of being tonsil-deep in the contest season. In Kansas City, that's heightened by hosting the Central States District convention as well as competing in it, so we couldn't be much busier unless we were doubling as talent scouts for the Chiefs' offensive line. On a personal level, I've been fortunate enough to be on the road coaching a half-dozen CSD choruses; sometimes Joann and I both have to check our calendars to see if she's driving me to the airport or going along to keep me company and awake in the car.

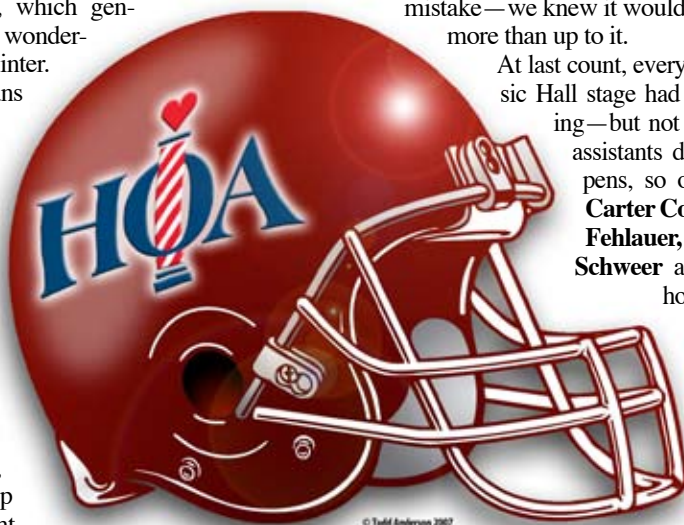
In short, it's been a great start to the fall season, and I'm really

excited about the *Heart of America Chorus* and our contest package. **Mike Louque** and the Presentation team have come up with some innovative and nostalgic ideas for the set. I thought at first that changing ballads between Denver and the fall contest might be a mistake—we knew it would be a challenge—but *HOA* has been more than up to it.

At last count, every member who signed up for the Music Hall stage had qualified, and that's always gratifying—but not surprising. Our section leaders and assistants do yeoman work to assure that happens, so once again my deepest gratitude to **Carter Combs, Jerry Garrard, Mike Neff, Al Fehlauer, Grant Hunget, Doug Brott, Keith Schweer** and **Dennis Kinghorn**. Just think how many hours they invest in you.

And I know from listening to some of our fellow chorus competitors and hearing about how vigorously they are preparing, that we need to keep working as hard as our Music Team if we want to improve on our Denver performance, stay ahead of most of the field and put up the numbers we can be satisfied with.

Aside from the numbers alone, I'll be happy to hear the sound that *HOA* has been making for MOST of our rehearsals of late; if that happens, and the performance has the energy and involvement we've discussed, let the results fall where they may. (Continued on page 2 ♦♦)



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INSIDE OUR OCTOBER ISSUE:

- Page 4** - **First-Ever HOA Scramble: A Success!**
- Page 5** - **From Ol' Dan: Tone-Henge gets Antique**
- Page 6** - **Craft Corner: Chord Basics: Part I**
- Page 8** - **A Rehearsal Guest who journeyed 8,116 miles**



HARMONOTES

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

Heart of America Chorus

Chapter meets at 7 p.m. each Tuesday night, at:

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
110th & Holmes · Kansas City, Mo. 64105

Chorus Director - **Jim Bagby**

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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, 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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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!

HOA Website: www.hoachorus.com

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Chorus Manager & Webmaster - **Vince Perry**

Chapter Telephone: (816) 221-7888



Fall, Football, Fortissimo's: Fine Time To Be in HOA Country

(Continued from front cover)

I'm sorry to report that not every chapter takes that approach. We expect at this writing to have about 15 groups in the fall contest, but one of our top CSD groups has dropped out of the fall jousting—on grounds that it won't score as many points as it wants to, or could be embarrassed by placing behind some of its rivals. If that's the only reason we go to compete, there can't be much joy in it—and sharing the camaraderie of the contest stage with your fellow competitors is one of the things I enjoy most.

I hope that whether you're in a chorus or quartet, you always have a chance to compete, always take advantage of it and always strive to enjoy the entire experience, no matter where you place. As a member of a gold medal quartet that was 22nd in its first contest, I can attest that you appreciate the heights a lot more if you've experienced life on both ends of the scoresheet. We in HOA have certainly had our ups and downs over the years, too.

So let's do make the most of that October weekend in Kansas City.

And it occurs to me I've been a little harsh on the Oklahoma weather. The winds generally does NOT blow in August; then it stops and the place just sits there like a 110-degree oven. ♥

A Little Can Mean A Lot

by Tony Strub, HOA President



I believe that the strength of any not-for-profit organization is found in the commitment and dedication of its membership. When our guys in HOA step up and help out or take on a responsibility, we can accomplish some awesome things.

The success of our recent golf tournament is a perfect example. **Kent Miller's** knowledge, experience and leadership were vitally important to the project. However, Kent will be the first to tell you that without the participation and work of many of our members, we would not have been as successful as we were.

In our survey, we said that we wanted to become better singers and performers. Our music team has stepped up and designed an educational curriculum to improve our singing. They have made some subtle changes in the use of our rehearsal time that has helped us stay more focused and use our time more efficiently. All of these efforts will pay off in the future.

Two years, ago there was a small group of members who put the risers and equipment away each Tuesday night. Today, a large percentage of our membership participates in putting away the risers, chairs, tables and sound equipment. A member has to pull the duty just once every three weeks. When I saw **Frazier Allen** at our retreat on the back end of a fourth step riser helping to load it on the trailer, I realized that we no longer had a riser problem.

There are many more examples of our members stepping up to lend a hand with the chapter support work which allows us to sing, perform and entertain. That is what all of us in our society love to do. Your help is important to our success. So, when you are asked to help out, just say *yes*. ♥



Harmony Foundation Report by Jim Porter



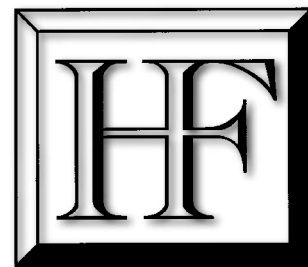
PORTER

Note that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. Half of the proceeds is designated to Harmony Foundation. **Please note** that the Board at its September meeting passed a proposal that **Duane Lawson** presented in August. As a result, 50% of the funds designated for Harmony Foundation will instead be given to the Central States District to help promote its programs to support and encourage Young Men in Harmony and other youth programs.

If you wish to donate directly to the Central States District programs, you may do so simply by telling me your intentions at the time you make your donation. 100% of such donations will then go to the district.

As of Wednesday, Sept. 26, and 45 drawings:

- The total raised for Harmony Foundation in the past month is \$278.
- The total raised for this year (since Nov. 14, 2006) is \$2,018.
- Last year, the total raised to this point was \$4,234.
- In 2005, the total raised to this point was \$2,062.



John Erwine is our latest jackpot winner, taking home \$725 from the drawing Sept. 25! ♥

Saturday Session Success

by Jim Bagby, Chorus Director

We had serious reservations when we scheduled a day-long coaching session two weeks before contest without an outside coach. It turned out to be a busy Society week-end, when the coaches we wanted were either judging or competing, but the *HOA* Music Team decided to go ahead with the "Mini-Retreat" using our in-house folks—and it turned out to be a very productive day.

Attendance was less than we hoped, but the 50-plus guys who showed up gave it their all. We had extended section rehearsals, then combined section rehearsals. Lone wolf tenors **Anthony Fortino** and **Brad Dawdy** performed as if they were a roomful, and Anthony filled in with the *New and Used Parts* teaching quartet in the absence of Helzberg-captive section leader **Carter Combs**.

Section leaders **Mike Neff**, **Keith Schweer** and **Al Fehlauer** cracked the whip, we got out-front coaching from **Bruce Wenner**, **Darrell McCune** and **Mike Schumacher** and the *Heartbeats* provided a great lunch. And **Rich Huyck** ran the video camera as well as all the playback equipment—he was a one-man tech army!

One of the highlights was a row-by-row performance competition, and the Pizzazz Award goes to Row 5! Showing the best faces, energy and enthusiasm were **Kent McClean**, **Tony Strub**, **Bruce Wenner**, **Jerry Garrard**, **Carter Combs** (who arrived just in time for this), **Mark Fortino**, **Al Fehlauer** and **Rich Huyck**. Of course, that's what we expect from our *Men in Back*, and they did not disappoint.

Honorable mention went to Row 4: **Don Peck**, **Jim Kemper**, **Brad Dawdy**, **Jon Gathright**, **Mike O'Dell**, **Jim Page**, **Frazier Allen**, **Steve Starr**, **Gordon Coleman** and **Tom Forsythe**. ♥



Saturday, October 13

**Location: Olathe Bible Church
13700 W. 151st St., Olathe, Kansas
(just West of Pflumm on 151st)**

**Chili at 6 p.m.; Show at 7 p.m.
Afterglow to follow on site.**

- **Quadrio** will perform
- **Jim Bagby** will Emcee
- **Show theme: "The Music Man"**



Hackers of America UNITE! by Kent Miller

Cold and wind and rain—oh, my! “Well, Toto, I guess that’s what we get for scheduling what may be an annual *Heart of America* golf fund-raiser in Kansas in September.”

I wrote this article about the *HOA* golf “scramble” a dozen times in my head before Sept. 10, the day of the event. Every time it started out, “the weather was perfect.”

Actually, the day began with less-than-perfect but acceptable weather. It was overcast and cool, but most of the players were dressed in shorts and were comfortable. As the day progressed, however, the temperature dropped, and the wind increased, resulting in a significant drop in the wind chill factor. People were scrambling for jackets and rain pants instead of golf balls. With three holes left to play, Mother Nature decided we were not cold enough and added some hard rain to the mix. So much for “the weather was perfect.”

In spite of that, it was a great day and a great event. We had 16 teams and 61 players. The format was a “scramble,” in which each player hits a tee shot, then the team selects the best one, and all players then hit from that spot. They continue in this fashion, until the ball is holed out.

The day started about 10:30 a.m. with registration. Players could visit several tables to purchase mulligans, raffle tickets, skins, barbershop CDs, and sign up to get information about *HOA* and our upcoming events. Television sets were showing DVDs of different International contests.

The tournament began with a shotgun start at 12:00 noon and finished at 4:45 p.m. After some announcements, the flight prizes and hole prizes were

announced. Dinner was started, during which we drew for door prizes and then raffle prizes. After dinner we were entertained by “Command Performance,” one of *HOA*’s fine quartets.

Counting hole prizes, door prizes, and raffle prizes, participants walked away with an amazing \$1,700 worth of prizes!

Virtually all of *HOA*’s active membership contributed to this very successful “scramble.” It was so successful that plans are already being made for an annual tournament, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 2008. We are issuing a challenge to other barbershop chapters in the area to enter a foursome. We plan to have a “tournament within a tournament,” with a traveling trophy given to the winner each year. Start arranging your foursomes now!

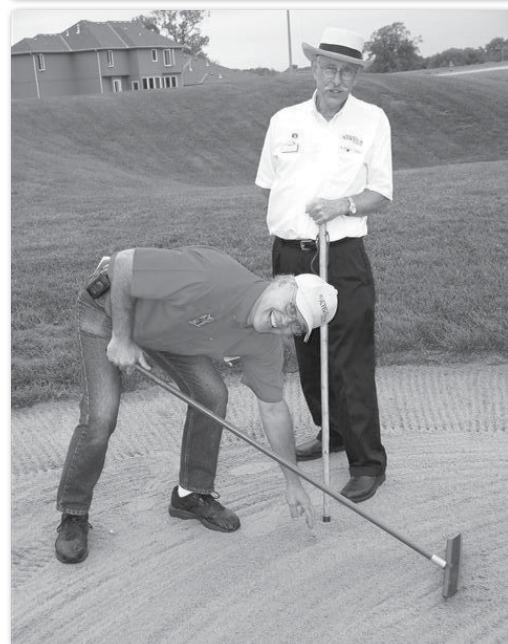
If you would like to be on the list for information on the 2008 tournament, e-mail me at kmiller268@aol.com. ♥

Photos at left, top to bottom, courtesy of Don “The Duffer” Fuson:

On a deceptively flat green, Kent Miller and company watch to see if his birdie landed in the cup. Can you believe this putt missed the entire hole?

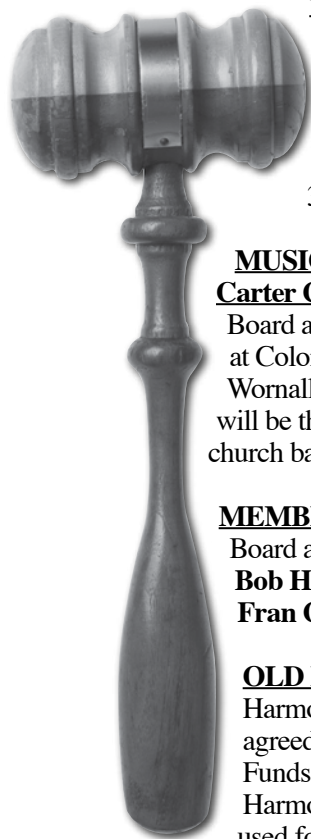
Don Young, Jana Henderson, Harding Schumacher and son Mike Schumacher got down close to view the hole sponsor, Shacklee.

Marty Oldehoeft points to the spot where an errant ball buried itself in the trap, as John Erwine supervises the repair work.



Summary of September 2007 Board Meeting

By Rick Foreman/Ron McIntire



TREASURERS REPORT:

Ron Fortino

Operating fund \$1,357.92,
Members Fund \$7,948.21,
Total Restricted funds \$7,477.26.
Revenue from Golf Tournament
3,327.11.

MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE:

Carter Combs

Board accepted a performance opportunity at Colonial Presbyterian Church, 95th and Wornall, Saturday, March 1, 2008. We will be the entertainment following an all-church banquet.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Bob Murphy

Board accepted two new members:

Bob Hammel, bass

Fran Gangel, lead.

OLD BUSINESS:

Harmony Foundation Funds: Board agreed to split the Harmony Foundation Funds generated by HOA, 50/50 between Harmony Foundation and CSD to be used for local and youth programs.

Point System: Board agreed that **Tony Strub** would investigate and draft a point system to reward chorus members for participation in chorus chores and responsibilities.

NEW BUSINESS:

Retreat Contract: A committee will be going to Lake Donavon facility to discuss and draft a contract for the Spring retreat. The contract will be reviewed by the board at a later date.

Spring Show Quartet Contract:

The contract was submitted and discussed, no action taken. ♥



Tone-Henge Gets Antique

by Ol' Dan



Yeah, we know. We're *already* antique, right? We readily admit that we can remember when the Joshua Tree was only a seed, but our age is not the point of this bit of prose. Nope. We want to tell you we bought some strange, old, weird-sounding instruments called, "Angklungs!"

Remember those "Deagan Organ Chimes" the *Humdingers* played on our show last March? Well, it seems **Mr. Deagan** based the construction of those chimes on bamboo instruments created in Indonesia l-o-o-o-n-g before Mr. Deagan, or even *Tone-Henge* was born. We're talking really old bamboo here.

Now if you want to get technical, the two-octave set we bought isn't really old, but is exactly patterned after the ancient jobs. Even so, you're not going to get a set of these at K-Mart for a buck-ninety! Fact is, the expense blew our beer budget to smithereens!

So, you're asking, "Why? What'd you old coots do that for, anyway? Those pipes are bad enough, and now you're going to rattle bamboo in our ears?" And we answer, "OK, we admit to the 'old coots' part. And as to the 'why,' lemme 'splain."

We're not sure how it happened, but we've been invited to appear on the Holiday Harmony Spectacular again. I think the invitation must have been intended for some other quartet, but be that as it may, the number of seasonal songs in the *Tone-Henge* repertoire is extremely limited. You have to admit we've worn "Christmas Chopsticks" to a nub!

So, on the Holiday Spectacular, ancient *Tone-Henge* will be singing a new-to-us but ancient tune, accompanied by ancient angklungs.

And that show will probably be ancient history before we are invited back! ♥



CRAFT CORNER

Chord Basics: Part I by Bruce Wenner



WENNER

You may recall my 2005 series of articles titled “Barbershop in Fifths.” Some of you expressed your enjoyment of the articles, but others were unable to understand them because they lacked basic knowledge of chords and intervals. That inspired this article, in which we backtrack to look at the basics. If you already know the basics, the article is not for you. If you don’t, please open your copy of *That Old Quartet Of Mine* before reading on—we will be referring to chords in OQ in what follows.

To understand chords, you just need to recognize two kinds of intervals. To do that, all you have to do is count “half steps.” A half step is the interval between two adjacent piano keys, black and white. An octave of 12 half steps lines up like this, starting at C and going up from there:

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

Okay, now we can look at the two important intervals in chord recognition, the major third and the minor third. The major third interval is the sum of four half steps, and you can use the diagram to count them. A major third starting at C is—well, the first half step is C to C#, the second is C#-D, the third is D-D# and finally D#-E—we ended on E, so the interval from C to E is a major third. Now start on E and add the four half steps. E-F, F-F#, F#-G, G-G#—this major third is E-G#. How about a major third starting on A? To count the last of the four half steps, add “-C#” to the right end of the diagram (that’s fair—you can add as many notes as you want, using the left end as a guide); now we end on C#, so the major third is A-C#.

The minor third is even easier—it is the sum of only three half steps. C to D# is a minor third (and, since D# = E♭, so is C to E♭). Similarly, we get E to G as a minor third, as well as A to C.

Now we are ready to look at the simplest of the chords, the triad. A triad is a chord consisting of three notes: (1) the starting point, called the root, (2) a note up a major third or minor third from the root, and (3) another note up a major third or minor third from the second note. Examples of C-triads (we name the chord by its root) are C-E-G, C-E♭-G, C-E♭-G♭ and C-E-G#. An example of a G-triad is the first chord of OQ, on “Sit”—the three notes in the chord are G (in both the bass and bari), the lead’s B (up a major third from G) and the tenor’s D (up a minor third from B).

This chord is an example of a special class of triad, the major triad. A major triad is built from the root by a major third, then a minor third, so the long name for this chord is “major-minor triad”; we barbershoppers shorten it to “major triad” or simply “major” (chord)—these terms all refer to the same kind of chord. In our example from OQ, the triad is built from the root (G) by a major third (to B), then by a minor third from B to D. So it’s a G-major triad, or a G-major chord, or (even more briefly) simply a G-chord. This triad has a bright, joyous, very consonant sound to it, with no hint of tension. The physicists will tell us the reason—the harmonics, or overtones, reinforce each other well within our hearing level and they do not clash.

The next most important triad is the minor triad, or the “minor-major triad.” This one is built up from the root by a minor third, followed by a major third. In measure 3 of OQ we have E-minor triads, or E-minor chords—from

the E root to the lead’s G is a minor third, followed by a major third to the bari’s B. Only three notes in this chord, since the bass and tenor are both on E, the root. [Aside: this is the voicing we will usually see in a three-note chord sung by four parts—two parts sing the root. The E-minor chord keeps coming back in OQ (on “-tet” in meas. 14, “hope” and “pray” in meas. 22, for example), and each time the root is doubled. This voicing is also used for major triads—in our example from measure 1, the bass and bari double on the root G.] The minor triad has a different feel to it, darker than the major, with a melancholy tinge. This time the overtones do not reinforce each other nearly as well as they do in the major chord.

There are two other ways to build triads. The minor-minor construction is called the diminished triad. In barbershop harmony, this triad is rarely sung without a fourth note, which tends to be a flatted or double-flatted seventh. In the first case, we call the chord a half-diminished seventh—the other is called a fully-diminished seventh. More about these chords next month. For now we will find a couple diminished triads within diminished-type chords in OQ. Want to look for the first one before reading on? (Warning: that’s a trick question).

The first one is on “and” in measure 6. The root is the bari’s E, then a minor third to the lead’s G, then another minor third to the bass’s B♭. The fourth note (the D in the tenor) is a flatted seventh up from the root E, so this chord is an E-half-diminished seventh. The next diminished chord is on “of” in measure 7; each of these notes is a minor third above another, so it is a fully-diminished seventh (if you hear the term “diminished chord”, this is the kind of chord that’s being cited).

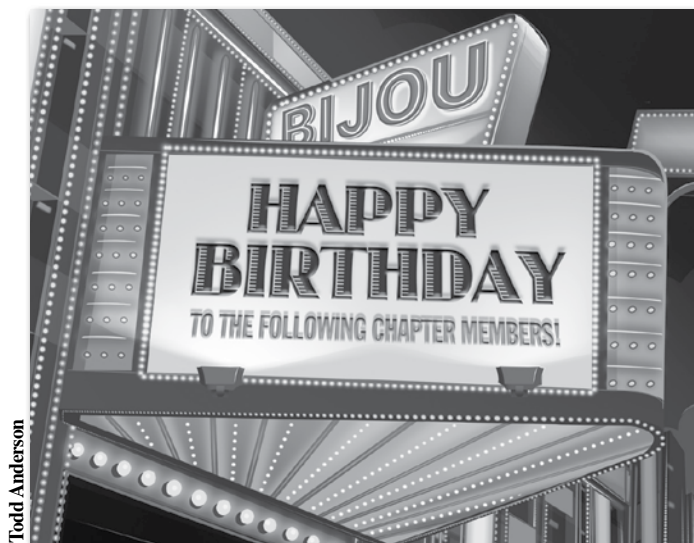
(Continued on page 7 ♦♦)

(Continued from page 6)

“Wait”, I hear you say. “I found one earlier—first chord of measure 2.” Yes, there is a diminished triad in there (D#-F#-A), but the chord is not built on the D#—it’s actually a barber-shop seventh rooted on B! More about that next month. For now, we will simply leave it at this—if a chord does have a major or minor triad in it, that triad will name the chord, even if it also contains a diminished triad; the strong triad takes over from the dissonant diminished triad when we hear it.

The last of the triads is built on two major triads—we call this the augmented triad. This triad is rare in our music and when it appears it comes as a complete chord, called the augmented chord. In OQ we have to scan all the way to “Just” in measure 52 to find one: the root E is doubled (bass and bari), up a major third to the tenor G#, and up another major third to the lead C. We hear a kind of open, hollow quality to this one, right?

“Wait” again. “You called this Chord Basics—isn’t the barber-shop seventh one of our basic chords—and you haven’t even gotten to that one.” Well, we’re just about there. Tune in next month for Part II—that is, if you’ve read this far. ♥



October 1	John Landry
October 3	Rich Rusche
October 6	Jim Harford
October 12	Jim Kemper
October 13	Dwight Herric
October 14	Brad Dawdy
October 27	Rob Varney

C.P.: What IS It? by Monty Duerksen



One measurement of successful entertainment for an audience is defined by the emotional responses from the listeners. Eye contact with people in the audience provides the fastest picture of success, or failure.

From our first performance as a quartet, *Command Performance* has tailored our music and announcements to fit our audiences. The entertainment aspect has been our primary theme for each singing engagement. Our expected audience response: favorable, enthusiastic and motivated.

Are these people receiving a command performance? Just what is that? A standing ovation, of course. But it could be tears in the eyes of military retirees during the singing of “The Armed Forces Medley.” It could mean multiple requests for business cards and/or CD’s after a performance. How about a repeat birthday party performance, because last year’s performance was appreciated by the person who continued to add another unexpected 365 days to her life? It could be as simple as people singing silently with us, forming the words as we sing.

If we borrow the phrase “gold medal moments” from **Jim Henry’s** Harmony University keynote address and define command performance as providing gold medal moments for the listeners as well as the performers, we quickly understand the driving motivation of **Jim Bagby, Carter Combs, Mike Neff, Darell McCune**, our music team, choreography team, plus the Board—striving for a command performance every time we sing!

We can also commend **Mark and John Fortino** for adding gold medal moments to their quartet audiences with their new quartet, *High Definition*, and the members of our current international quartet champs, *Max Q*, adding to their experiences. The list is endless.

As for *Command Performance*, we plan to include gold medal moments in every singing engagement. Our goal is to keep excellence foremost in all of our endeavors, always striving for a “command performance.” ♥



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

OCTOBER 31

September Saw Visitors from Near and Far

by Bob Murphy, Membership Vice-President



We have good news for membership. At the last Board Meeting, the following two new members were approved.

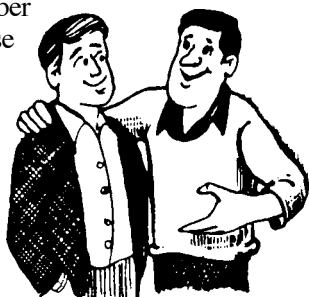
John Hammel is a new bass; **Bob Murphy** sponsors him.

Fran Gangel is a new lead. **Dick Korek** sponsors him. (Make a point to learn more about these new voices on page 9.)

Look at this strong list of folks who visited HOA last month:

- **Hans Fuson** from Eugene, Ore., Hans is the son of HOA member **Don Fuson**.
- **Dave Baehr**, from Overland Park, Kans. Dave is a returning guest.
- **Tom McCurdy** from Overland Park, Kans.
- **Roger Abbott**, from Kansas City, Kans. Roger is a returning guest. **Stew Grosser** has been encouraging Roger to become a member.
- **Steve Lewis**, from the St. Louis area. He is a student at the Kansas City Art Institute. Steve has sung with the *Ambassadors of Harmony*.
- **Phil Williamson** (shown at right) has come the farthest to visit HOA; he is from Wellington, New Zealand! His wife is singing with the *Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adeline's* at the International Competition in Calgary.
- **David Hentschel** (shown to the right) is from Lowell, Mass. and sings with *Gentleman Songsters*. He was in Kansas City on business.
- **Jerry Shapiro** (shown to the right) was a guest of his cousin, **Harvey Shapiro**.
- **John Delzel** was also a guest of **Harvey Shapiro**. John is the son of Gold Medalist bass **Joe Delzel** of the *Four Pitch Hikers*.

So we've had a tremendous list of visitors and gained two new members. I would say September was a good month. Keep those guests coming, gentlemen! ♥



Don Fuson

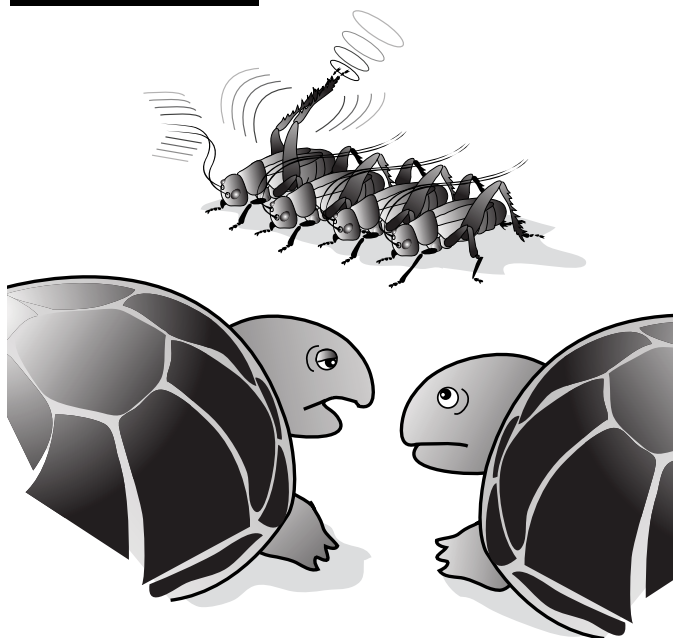
From the left (visitors to HOA on Sept. 18, 2007) Jerry Shapiro, cousin of Harvey Shapiro from Overland Park, Kansas, Phil Williamson (from down under), and David Hentschel from the Lowell, Massachusetts chapter



Don Fuson

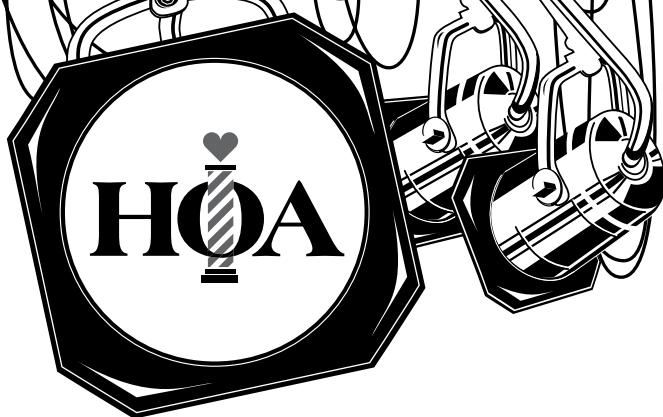
Left to right: HOA member David Stoddard, New Zealand native Phil Williamson, and HOA's Rick Huyck and Chuck Ames.

Four-Part Funnies by Todd Anderson



"TENORS!"

ANDERSON
© 2007



We Shine the Spotlight on our New Members!

by Ron McIntire

Here's your chance to learn more about our new members of the Kansas City, Missouri, Chapter!



Fran Gangle

Francis (Fran) Gangle is a 12-year barber-shopper living in Lenexa, Kansas with his wife **Lorraine**. His musical background includes singing in his church choir, community choir and barbershopping. He is a retired from construction and pipeline maintenance. He sings lead in the *HOA chorus*.



John Hammel

John Hammel is a research and development scientist dealing in molecular diagnostics detecting infectious diseases. He's a first-time barbershopper and lives in Leawood, Kansas with his wife, **Susan**. His musical background includes singing in the church choir. He will sing bass in the *HOA chorus*. ♥

HUZZAH and WELCOME! More voices added to HOA's increasing family!



New member photos courtesy of Ron McIntire

"High Notes"

by Carter Combs, Tenor Section Leader



COMBS

As I'm certain almost everyone has already noticed, there have been many changes in personnel in the tenor section recently. Most of the younger lads have decided to take a break from the chorus, concentrating instead on their studies, sports and other school-related activities. We wish them well, and look forward to their return.

The notable exception is our venerable, veteran lad. **Anthony Fortino** was the first of his generation to join the chorus, so now has several years of barber-shop experience under his belt and has decided to stay active with us. Anthony has also recently won the lead role in his high school production of "My Favorite Year." Proud papa Mark notes in passing (to anyone who will listen!) that Anthony was selected over several upper-classmen who had done lead roles the last few years. *Congratulations, Anthony!*

Our section also is glad to have **Tom Elefson** and **Fred Hangartner** back on the risers. Tom is skillfully manipulating his work schedule to allow him to participate with us in contest this fall. Fred is now car-pooling in from St. Joe with chorus manager extraordinaire **Vince Perry**. Great to have you guys back with us!

To round out the section, we have converted one of our newest members from lead to tenor. (No surgery was needed!) Shortly after our appearance at International in Denver, **Brad Dawdy** started working with the tenor learning CD. I'm proud to announce that he has already proven himself up to the challenge, and we welcome Brad as a fine addition to the elite tenor ranks.

Anyone else out there think they have what it takes to join the few, the proud, the tenors? ♥





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



DEXTER

TEN YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER, 1997

Not having a September 1997 issue of *Harmonotes* to search for news for this segment, I peeked into the Oct. 1997 edition to see if I could find something there. Once again, as has happened numerous times since I've been an *HOA* member, the contents of that issue were overwhelmingly indicative of what can be expected of a large, active, highly motivated and well-managed chapter.

Right there on the front page was an item by **Mike Neff**, who was co-chairman for *HOA*, announcing the coming of the "Holiday Harmony Spectacular," the very first collaborative Christmas show with the Kansas City Sweet Adelines to be held on Dec. 6 at the RLDS Auditorium in Independence. This performance has been an annual presentation ever since.

Then **Don Peck** filed a story about the great success of the fourth annual *HOA* retreat at the Mount Conference Center in Atchison, Kansas, on Sept. 12-14. The coaches were **Marty Lovick**, a Presentation judge and a member of the Harmony College faculty, and former *HOA* member, **Don Kahl**, also a former *HOA* member, at that time a four-time gold medalist (with the *Vocal Majority*) and tenor with the international champion *Rural Route 4*.

And that's not all! There's an account of a trip by the *HOA* chorus to Manhattan, Kansas, to be part of the show scheduled after the first CSD Southwest Division preliminary quartet contest. Seventy-four singers piled into two buses for the trip. Author **Don Peck** explains, "By all accounts, this very first quartet preliminary in the new format was a success." Did I miss something? Wasn't the division organization of the district discontinued some time before

this event took place? Apparently it wasn't considered that much of a success because the system is no longer used.

And, oh, yes, even our beloved "Heartbeats" were busy planning for their ninth annual Christmas Party/meeting/auction at St. Peter's church of Christ on December 9. Wives, daughters, mothers and friends were invited.

But not all the news was good news. Away back on page 13, in less than half a column, **Dale Neuman** reports on something probably nobody else wanted to write about—the third-place finish by *HOA* at the district contest earlier in the month. To my recollection, it was the only time that a **Bagby**-directed *HOA* chorus ever placed lower than second place. But it was close; the "Barberboys" of St. Joseph beat them by only nine points.

TWENTY YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER, 1987

You know, I don't ever remember this one. *The Heart of America Chorus*—my chorus—was booked for a show at the Granada Theater in Kansas City, Kansas, on Sept. 12. The theme was "Quartets...and All that Jazz," with the *New Red Onion Jazz Babies*, the *Rural Route 4*, the *Jubilee Transfer*, *Just Friends* and "Dr. Marvin Faulwell at the Magnificent Grand Barton Organ." I couldn't have forgotten it, because I put a bill that occupied an entire page in MY bulletin! Did anybody see me there? I'll cry myself to sleep tonight.

FORTY YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER, 1967

On the last page, away down in the lower right-hand corner, almost forgotten, is a small announcement of the passing of **Edgar E. Schlieb** on Aug. 17. Eddie was a member of the Kansas City chapter for 27 years, during which he founded the *Gamboliers* and sang lead with that quartet for many years. ♥

Come to your new home for a grand Homecoming event! 2008 International convention in Music City USA Attend "HOMECOMING 2008" - June 29 – July 6, 2008

Celebrate "homecoming" at the 70th international convention in Nashville, Tennessee, home to our new Society headquarters. Be among the first to experience the beautiful facility and all the special concerts, and many more chances to sing. For registration info, log on to www.barbershop.org/web/groups/public/documents/pages/pub_nashville_home.hcsp. ♥



Drew Ellis



It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year! HOLIDAY HARMONY SPECTACULAR: December 1, 2007

by Kent McClean, Holiday Show Co-Chairman



The 10th annual Holiday Harmony Spectacular is Saturday, Dec. 1, once again at Unity Village.



HOA will sing 25 minutes on our own plus eight songs with the great *Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines*. And if that isn't enough, we have SA medalist quartet *ZING!* and our own International Champion *Rural Route 4*.

We'll know by Nov. 1 what uniforms the chorus will wear. That info will also be shared in the Nov. issue of *Harmonotes*.

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

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

The Healthy of America

by Todd Anderson, *Harmonotes* Editor



Our chapter has been blessed as of late not to have anyone suffering major health problems. That's tremendous! I recall times in the past when **Jerry Snyder** would have to post a long laundry list of folks recuperating from surgeries or illnesses.

I'd like to say "Let's keep this trend up!" except none of us really has any control over what the future might bring.

I'm writing this because we tend to forget that *Harmonotes* has a section called *Sunshine Report*, manned by **Roy Manade**, for the express purpose of posting health news about our HOA family. For now, the report lies dormant, empty of names. *Huzzah!* However, should you learn of someone who is undergoing a spell of poor health, please contact Roy at rmanade@sbcglobal.net. He will make sure the news gets to me for insertion into the next bulletin. That way readers can be educated and respond with well-wishes and prayers.

Many thanks for helping us keep our fingers on the pulse of HOA! Stay healthy! ♥

Flare Man by Carl Turlin, Program Vice-President



I know it's a weird title and I'll explain it in a minute. Meanwhile, about this PVP thing, I just couldn't find a concise job description, even in the Society policies, so I asked **Jim Bagby**, **Don Young** and **Jerry Garrard**. You'd think those Barbershop cheerleaders would know, wouldn't ya?! Well, come to find out that it's basically a job description by committee, that committee being the board and the music team of the chapter in which you're a member. With that kind of ambiguity as a foundation, I attended COTS with **Dick Korek**, **Doug Brott** and **Kevin Tritsch**, hungry for information about my responsibilities.

On a biting cold Jan. 13 this year, we journeyed to St. Joseph where I attended a COTS class entitled, "Chapter Development," instructed by the dedicated and slightly goofy, but always energetic, **Bob Cox** (a former Evergreen District president). Through his stories, his Powerpoint presentation and our stories and questions, I began to see the framework of the PVP job through the snowy mist.

Those responsibilities include ensuring that the rehearsals run according to the schedule (more on this later), constructing, copying and distributing the *In-Tune*, with input from the director and members who have announcements, attending music team meetings and board meetings (and performing liaison between the two when appropriate), promoting quartet singing and singing skills, and being available for activities that chapter leaders are generally expected to help with.

Developing programs to support singing skills and quartet singing can include activities that involve focused training and fun, such as our "Potluck, Practice and Pool." Supporting the chorus by fundraising isn't out of the question and can include activities like the golf scramble or a walk-a-thon. I'm particularly interested in the educational aspect of singing, so our program committee is looking at ways to get the most out of our in-house coaching buck.

One of the most consistent and challenging aspects of the PVP job has been trying to run the rehearsals according to that night's schedule. The various directors get on a roll and sometimes they don't see my signals that their time is nearly over for their allotted time slot on the warmups or a song. Even though I sometimes stick my arm out with the remaining minutes, put my hand against my chest with the minutes left, mouth the minutes, wave my hands, all in an effort to not distract everybody on the risers from the director, each night continues to be a challenge in this area. So, I'm changing tactics.

Henceforth, I shall not be called the PVP, I shall be called FLARE MAN! I will hold out a safety flare when their time is nearly up! (Pay no attention to the man with the flare!) I will decide on the spot whether I will ignite the flare, but don't worry, just keep on singing, like nothing happened, ok? With that, the rehearsal will continue, on schedule, with the next director calmly clipping the little microphone onto his shirt and we'll sing the next song, and everybody's happy, right?

Sounds good to me! ♥



Ways To Remember

by Dale Neuman, Board Member Emeritus



Recent e-mails have proposed ways to recall the words—and their order—in the songs we sing. Mnemonic devices sometimes require as much or more effort than the item one is trying to keep clearly in mind. So sometimes they work; other times they don't. But I'm not writing of ways to help you remember words to songs but, rather, of ways we can all help remember those who have been in this hobby with us but are now gone, other family members who have supported us in this hobby but are now gone, and those neighbors, friends and acquaintances known to have enjoyed barbershop harmony while with us. I'm writing about the idea of named memorials. And just as there are different ways to remember words, there are different ways to honor the memories we hold dear.

As members of the Kansas City chapter of the *Barbershop Harmony Society*®, we already have opportunities to do so through the *Harmony Foundation* and the *HOA Foundation*. We can remember **Orval Wilson** when we help the *Heartbeats* support the Harmony University scholarship fund named after Orval. Our annual awards banquet helps recall men who contributed significantly to the successes of *HOA* through awards in their names. Sometimes, there have been donations to the President's Fund as a memorial. So we are not without ways to do what I'm proposing. What I am suggesting is, however, a little different, and it builds on the recent efforts of **Dick Korek** to create an endowment fund based on "Friends of *HOA*" contributions.

What if, in addition to the donations generated by this program, we also started to use it to receive memorial donations of the kind mentioned in my first paragraph, estate bequests, other instruments of endowment, or just plain unrestricted donations? How much more quickly could that endowment grow to provide support for a vital *HOA*? And, then every time we performed—whether in front of 15 or 1500—*HOA*'s music becomes a live memorial to all who shared in whatever ways in keeping *HOA* strong!

I was brought to write this because **Wade Dexter** has made a major donation to *HOA* to be used as a named memorial to his late wife, **Joyce**. He sent the correspondence to me and I forwarded it to our treasurer. I also called to thank Wade and visit with him about how his wishes could be best honored within the several opportunities to do so at *HOA*. After we talked at some length, he indicated that the idea of the endowment fund seemed closest to his hope because it would be an on-going rather than a one-time thing. This led me to reflect that maybe more of us would like to think along those same lines when we make our next donation or re-visit our wills and estate plans. ♥

Barbershopper of the Month!



Ron McIntire

Harvey Shapiro

Above: *HOA* President **Tony Strub** (right) presents **Harvey Shapiro** with the August 2007 BOTM award which reads: In grateful appreciation for your hard work and dedication to promoting and selling the 2007 Entertainment Coupon books for the Kansas City Missouri Chapter. ♥

Xtra Mile Award Winner!



Ron McIntire

Darrell McCune

Above: *HOA* President **Tony Strub** (right) presents **Darrell McCune** with the August 2007 Extra Mile award which reads: In recognition for your work teaching vocal techniques, sound production and visual presentation to improve the performance of the *Heart of America Chorus*. ♥

Sponsor Spotlight

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



A Pulte home scored big with HOA member.

A sense of quality and comfort made that first impression as the **Koreks** visited what became their new home, in 2005. Moving "out West" has proved to be a good experience and no outside maintenance frees up a lot of time. **Joan** enjoys a single-level complete home as **Dick** enjoys similar space in his lower level studio/gallery. "Thanks, Pulte Homes, for being a Sponsor for HOA."

FedEx Kinko's supports HOA!

The FedEx Kinko's folks at Metcalf and College Boulevard in Overland Park, Kansas, recognize the needs of HOA. As an in-kind donor, the chapter has appreciated a variety of promotional pieces printed or copied by them. Whenever you need their professional services you can count on FedEx Kinko's to do it right! ♥

A TIP OF THE HAT!

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

Tip O' The Hat kudos to the 20 basses who met at **Steve Carruther's** office and to the 11 leads who met at **Carl Turlin's** house for extra curricular work on the contest music. We offer a special nod to Steve and Carl for sharing their facilities.

A hearty Hats Off to **Dick O'Dell** and **Jim Davis** for their work on the Runnin' Wild train. Dick rebuilt the train and Jim did the repainting.

A Tip O' The Old Noggin' Cover to Lake Quivira for providing the venue for the annual *Heart of America* picnic. And a special hurray to hosts **Don Peck** and **Harry Stewart** for taking many of the group on boat rides around the lake; to **Carl and Marci Turlin**, whose cooking was superb; and to **Tone-Henge** for some fun singing. And who could forget to Tip the Topper to the 40 to 45 folks in perfect weather who enjoyed an afternoon of good food? Unless it is a well-guarded secret, we haven't heard than anyone fell in the lake. *Is that a blessing or what?*

A big Tip O' The Hat to **Kent Miller** and all who helped him put together the first-ever HOA Golf Tourney. Taking in a little over \$3,400 is super for the first outing. ♥



Heart of America Chorus

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HOAs 2007 Picnic: *A Good Time Was Had By All!*

by Carl Turlin

Burgers, boat rides, hot dogs and tons of fun were in abundance at Lake Quivira on Sunday, Sept. 23 at the annual HOA Picnic. 51 folks ate, drank, sang tags, and shared time together at the shelter house next to the swimming beach there from 4 p.m. to dark, and we really did leave it cleaner than we found it, and it was in good shape when we found it!

Members **Don Peck** and **Harry Stewart** sponsored our use of the shelter house for the second consecutive year, accompanied by late summer weather of breezy 80° temperatures, perfect for

the pontoon boat rides that they piloted under billowing clouds.

This year, all the local chapters were invited, but schedules did not allow for their participation. We'll try again next year, and with more notice and hype, hopefully, we'll visit with more barbershoppers. Thanks especially to our cooks **Alex Scott** and **Mike Mathieu**, and all the member families who not only brought side dishes and desserts, but also kids, grandkids, sons and daughter-in-laws and friends. ♥



Above:

Skipper and co-host Don Peck heads out with a boatload of waving HOA passengers from his Lake Quivira dock.



At left, top to bottom:

Enjoying the sunshine and hospitality with Rob Mathieu were Dessie and Jon Gathright; Haley and Rob Mathieu make sure Dane gets some pre-picnic chow; David Miller (left) and Brooke Meyers enjoy some liquid refreshment.



At right, top to bottom:

CSD First Lady Linda Fuson (left) gives incoming HOA First Lady Sharon Brott some pointers on how to mug for the camera; the guys with the most important jobs at the picnic (from left) Val Putzier, Mike Mathieu and Carl Turlin; Fran Gangel, Jon Gathright, Gordy Coleman, Val Putzier, Alex Scott and Mike Mathieu enjoyed the aroma from the grill!



Photos courtesy of Vince Perry, Don Fuson and Carl Turlin

HOA FIRST CLASS

To all HOA members:

I can't tell you how much I enjoyed the picnic at Lake Quivira last Saturday. And it wasn't just because it was such a pleasant venue on an unusually beautiful evening. It provided me with the opportunity to re-acquaint myself with fellow members—and their spouses—whom I've been out of touch with for so long. And I was especially pleased to meet face to face with new members who, until that evening, were just names in the chapter bulletin.

There's no longer any point in attending one of your strenuous rehearsals on Tuesday evening. I simply cannot handle the long periods of standing on the risers, perfecting songs for shows or contests. But be assured you will find me at many more of the splendid chapter functions such as the picnic. The next event will be the convention on Oct. 19-21. See you all then. ♥

With fond memories,

Wade Dexter



Photodisc



Vince Perry

Wade Dexter (left) and CSD President Don Fuson enjoy quality fellowship during the recent HOA picnic



Chorus Uniform for the CSD Contest:

Black Tux, Black Shoes, White Banded-collar Tux Shirt, Rhinestone Button Cover and Vest.

Vests should look classy with a tux, such as what a good quartet would wear to a contest. Ideally, it would be best if no more than three or four look alike to emphasize the quartet image. If you have questions, you may contact **Carter Combs** at ctcombs@helzberg.com. ♥

HOA Responds, Sings Farewell to Former Member

by John Erwine

Former HOA member **Quinton Bowles**, died on Aug. 22 at his home in Overland Park, Kans. He was 72. Quinton received his bachelor of science and master's degrees from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and his doctor's degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering from the Delft University of Technology, Delft, the Netherlands.

Before his retirement, Quinton was associate dean of the Coordinated Engineering Programs at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, as well as professor of mechanical engineering. He had been recognized by NASA and wrote numerous papers.

A big round of thanfrom G, especially from his wife, **Peggy Bowles**, and daughter **Lisa** and the rest of Quinton's family, and also from those of us in **Cardio Jam**, **Jim Bagby's** non-barbershop mini-chorus at the St. Luke's Rehab Facility, is due the HOA group who responded on short notice to sing at Quinton's Monday morning service on Aug. 27.

It was pretty easy to get to know Quinton and become his friend. A few of you may remember him from HOA in the '60s and early '70s as a member who loved barbershop. Although he worked out at St. Luke's South, he drove from Overland Park to the Plaza to practice and perform with **Cardio Jam** at our Christmas party and summer picnics. One day he even produced an old beat-up tape (not a CD) of the *Rural Route 4* to show us. He attended HOA performances and send-offs when he could.

He was very laid back, enjoyed a good story and, as one of our *Cardio Jam* members said, "He could roll those big eyes like no one else to make a point, or to be just an ornery old curmudgeon."

His doctoral dissertation was titled, "The Role of Environment, Frequency and Wave Shape During Fatigue Crack Growth in Aluminum Alloys," which he dedicated to his family. It was also reported that he recently framed and presented to his wife, "Peg o' My Heart."

The celebration of his life service began with **Dean Martin's** "Memories are made of This," and closed with **Harry Connick, Jr.'s** "A Wink and a Smile." The following HOA members sang the BHS arrangement of "I Believe," with **Carter Combs** capably subbing for Jim, who was out of town. ♥

Ron Abel
Frazier Allen
Chuck Ames
Jim Davis
x-John Erwine
Tom Forsythe

Don Fuson
x-T. Max Graham
x-Gene Hall
x-Fred Harvey
Al Higgins
x-Gary Mehl
Marty Oldehoeft

Harry Stewart
Tony Strub
Carl Turlin
Bruce Wenner
Lyle Wyly
Don Young

x-Member of Cardio Jam

Heart of America Chorus Calendar

Oct. 4	HOA Extra rehearsal, 7 p.m., Paseo Academy, 47th & Paseo
Oct. 8-14	Sweet Adeline International Convention, Calgary, Alberta
Oct. 13	Olathe Chili Supper, 6 p.m., Olathe Bible Church, 13700 W. 151st St.
Oct. 19-21	CSD Fall Convention, Kansas City, MO
Oct. 29	Joint Holiday Show Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Kansas City Sweet Adeline Hall, Metcalf South
Nov. 6	Joint Holiday Show Rehearsal, 7 p.m., St. Peter's
Nov. 18	Joint Holiday Show Rehearsal, 3:30 p.m., Kansas City Sweet Adeline Hall, Metcalf South
Nov. 27	Joint Holiday Show Rehearsal, 7 p.m., at HOA

Todd Anderson

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



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