

Harmonotes

The Quarterly Bulletin of the
Kansas City Heart of America Chorus

CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

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LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

by Barry Sanders, Chapter President



As I write this article for *Harmonotes*, I note (nostalgically), that this will be the last article that I will write as your *HOA* president. I look back on 2018 with some joys, some sadness, and with continued pride in our chapter and our performing chorus. We are still a proud and very community-minded chorus. We are approaching the holiday season where we will have an opportunity to, once again, make a strong

impression on our community with our upcoming HHS show, singing with KC Chorus, and with our Caroling Caravan, both events in December.

Our chorus went to district contest in St. Charles and performed to our best, considering we were only able to take about 26 guys to sing in the contest. However, I think we proved to ourselves that we can still have a GREAT time singing together, and trying to sell a message with our singing and the story so masterfully created by **Carter Combs** and implemented by our director, **Bob Velazquez**.

Your *HOA* Board just held a special meeting to “brainstorm” a variety of ways that we can begin to re-build our *HOA* membership. We quickly concluded that there is no “silver bullet” to get us growing again. However, we also noted that there are some things that each of us can do.

(Continued on page 2 ➡)

HARMONOTES

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.

Chapter meets at 7 p.m. each Tuesday night, at:
8715 Holmes Road - Kansas City, MO 64131

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All chapter officers and quartets are expected, and chapter members encouraged, to contribute their ideas on a regular basis. 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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HOA Board meetings take place at 6pm on the second Monday or Tuesday of the month, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 100 East Red Bridge Road, Kansas City, MO 64131. Chapter members are welcome!

HOA Website: www.hoachorus.com
Web Address: webstaff@hoachorus.com
Chorus Manager & Webmaster - Vince Perry



(Continued from front cover)

We need to be continually on the alert (watching) for opportunities for us to find prospective new members. We are going to print business cards and ask each guy to carry some cards with him to hand out whenever a prospective new member is identified, and asking each member to follow-up with those prospective members to be sure that we get them to attend an *HOA* meeting, whether it be a guest night or just a regular Tuesday evening practice session. We are going to look for places to publicize that we are looking for new members, including purchasing space in programs of other performing groups, and at our own performances. We are looking at an update to the *HOA* web-site that will attract more people to our chorus. We are looking at social media and other online (Internet) sites, including MeetUp.com where we can advertise our wonderful hobby to others that are interested. Finally, we are going to be looking for other groups where people with an interest in singing in the barbershop style can be identified, such as church choirs, educational institutions, etc., etc.

This has been a very fun year for our wonderful *HOA* Chorus! Our chapter AND our BHS society have experienced our 80th year anniversaries of singing, and we did it up WELL, especially the April 11 event at the Hotel Muehlebach, where each of the seven barbershop choruses (both men and women) in the metropolitan area participated. We put on an exciting annual show. We traveled as a group – twice – to St. Charles, once for a very rainy weekend, but for a very fun coaching experience at the new H.E.L.P. session with a tremendous staff of well-known and talented coaches, and the other time, as mentioned above, for Fall contest. We moved our practice venue to Center High School and we are enthused with all of the great facilities that are now available to us! We have, once again, done ourselves proud with our Harmony Explosion experience for continuation of our wonderful hobby with middle school and senior high school singers! We have performed several other times for various audiences that love to hear us sing! We put on a GREAT golf tournament and made almost \$7,000 profit for the chorus, thanks to wonderful efforts by **Harvey Shapiro, John Erwine, Dave Hokanson**, and others.

This is a GREAT hobby, which I love very much! I also love all of the guys in *HOA* and it has truly been a pleasure being your president for these past two years. I will miss it, but I must admit that it is now time for me to “get my life back” and for me to “pass the baton” on to the next guy to lead this group on to bigger and better things! Thanks for the opportunity, and I will be there with all of the rest of you as we look for ways to share our wonderful hobby to others and keep the *Heart of America* chorus in the forefront of entertainment and commitment to everyone in Kansas City! *Thank you!* ❤️



Above, left to right: After the chorus evals, this “double quartet” gathered in the Embassy Suites reception area to host a few and toast our chorus’s competitive efforts in CSD chorus contest. **Bob Velazquez** (directed both songs this year!), **Barry Sanders**, **John Erwine**, **Wally Thornton**, **Vince Perry IV**, **Frank Lasta**. Photo taken by **Vince Perry III**.

AWARDS BANQUET SLATED FOR SATURDAY JAN. 5, 2019

by Jerry Meier



The *Heart of America Chorus* will host its annual Awards Banquet at 6:30pm on Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019 in the Private Dining Room at Cinzetti’s “All You Can Eat Italian Feast” Italian Market. You will like the price and you will LOVE the food and desserts. Here are the details at a glance:

Time: 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm
Date: Saturday, Jan. 5, 2018
Location: Cinzetti’s Italian Market (Private Dining Room)
Address: 7201 W 91st St, Overland Park, KS 66212 (southwest corner of 91st and Metcalf in OP)
Dress Code: Somewhere between formal and casual

We will enjoy an unlimited selection of Italian food from a dozen cooking stations, representing foods from the various regions of Italy.

The cost will be \$28 per person (all-inclusive of tax, service charge, and tip). Cash Bar is extra. Please support your chapter by attending this event.

Plan to arrive after 6 pm to partake in the full service cash bar. Dinner will begin at 6:30 pm, with the events starting promptly at 7:30 pm. We will complete all presentations and speeches by 9:30 pm. Your 2019 Board of Directors will be installed and your annual awards will be announced: the John Cross Award, the Oz Newgard Award, and the Barbershopper of the Year Award. Stay tuned for additional. Make plans to attend. ❤️



Harmony Foundation Report by Jim Porter



Note that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. All of the proceeds of the raffle not given as prizes or used for expenses of the raffle goes to

Harmony Foundation at the end of each year. In return, we are able to have the Foundation designate up to 30% of the funds given to chapter activities such as Harmony Explosion.

As of Oct. 31, after 43 drawings (17 since the last report):

- The total collected for Harmony Foundation since the last report is \$402.
- The total collected for the calendar year 2018 is \$1,024.

The carry-over jackpot amount stands at \$17.

Charlie Ramirez hit the jackpot for \$222 on Aug. 7.
Tony Strub hit the jackpot for \$100 on Sept. 18.

NEW LOCATION FOR HARMONY EXPLOSION!

Changes coming to Harmony Explosion! 2019

NEW LOCATION - Olathe West High School, 2200 W Santa Fe, Olathe, KS 66061 (West of K-7 on 135th Street / Santa Fe). We will take advantage of Olathe's newest High School and utilize their Large Auditorium, Flex Theater and Commons Area. It will be very exciting for the students, the parents and the volunteers!

NEW TITLES - the Boy's Division is now called the BHS Division (songs arranged in the Bass clef). The Girl's Division is now called the SAI Division (songs arranged in the Treble clef).

10 am - Quartet Performances by Middle School and High School groups, in the Main Auditorium and the Flex Theater. These performances will be judged. Students will earn Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals based on their performances. All audience members welcome!

2:30 pm - Chorus and Parade of Quartets Concert in the Main Auditorium -- open to EVERYONE! All Gold Medalist quartets from the morning session will be invited to perform again in the afternoon "Parade of Quartets." All students will be invited to sing in the BHS Student Chorus or the SAI Student Chorus, regardless if they sing in a quartet in the morning session. Tell your friends to come and enjoy this FREE CONCERT starting at 2:30 pm.

Can you be a Harmony Explosion! 2019 Volunteer? YES!

1. Can you be an Enthusiastic Audience Member? Yes! Make plans to attend as an audience member, even if you do not receive a specific work assignment. Your presence gives the kids moral support when singing for a larger, loving audience!

2. Wanna be a Judge (you get simple, basic instructions)? Can you operate a laptop and operate Excel? Wanna help set up / serve lunch? Can you operate a video camera? Wanna hang signs

inside the building? Can you help the kids find the Warm-up Rooms? Wanna help back stage? These are just some of the simple but important assignments that make Harmony Explosion! run. Please notify Jerry Meier if you can help -- it's appreciated by everyone involved.

3. Can you be a Quartet Coach? It's easier than you think!

Simply share your barbershop knowledge with the students -- it's the most beneficial service that we can provide. Your presence with a young quartet will help the students practice their songs with a purpose. Just one or two days prior to Feb. 16 is all it takes -- usually during the day or immediately after school (sometimes at 7:15 am). Just 30 minutes of coaching can make a huge difference in a student's ability to sing on stage. Don't you wish that someone would have coached you when YOU were in school? Please talk to **Jerry Meier** in person to get more information.

All Harmony Explosion! volunteers (those of you with a specific work assignment) must complete the online Youth Protection Training. Details will be sent to you by email.

Harmony Explosion! 2019 on Saturday, Feb. 16 at OLATHE WEST High School (new location!)

- 9:00 am** Opening Session with the featured quartet, *BoomTown*
- 9:30 am** Vocal Warm-ups and song rehearsal
- 10 am** Quartet Performances
- 12:30 pm** Quartet Performance by the mixed quartet *Date Night*
- LUNCH** - Catered by Olive Garden (\$5 suggested donation)
- 1:30 pm** Afternoon song rehearsal
- 2:30 pm** BHS Student Chorus / SAI Student Chorus and Parade of Quartets Concert and Awards
- 4:30 pm** Curtain Call Performance by *BoomTown*



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HEART OF AMERICA CHORUS

Photo courtesy of Read Photography

12TH ANNUAL HOA FOUR-PERSON GOLF SCRAMBLE

September 27, 2018

Falcon Lakes Golf Course, Basehor, KS

Photos by Rich Huyck - All group shots are shown left to right



**Getting in those important
practice putts!**



**Tony Strub, Martin Oldehoeft,
John Erwine, Steve Keisker**



**Jim Porter, John Braden,
John Erwine, Vince Perry III**



**Vince Perry III, Steve Keisker,
Tony Strub, Martin Oldehoeft**



Otis Stewart



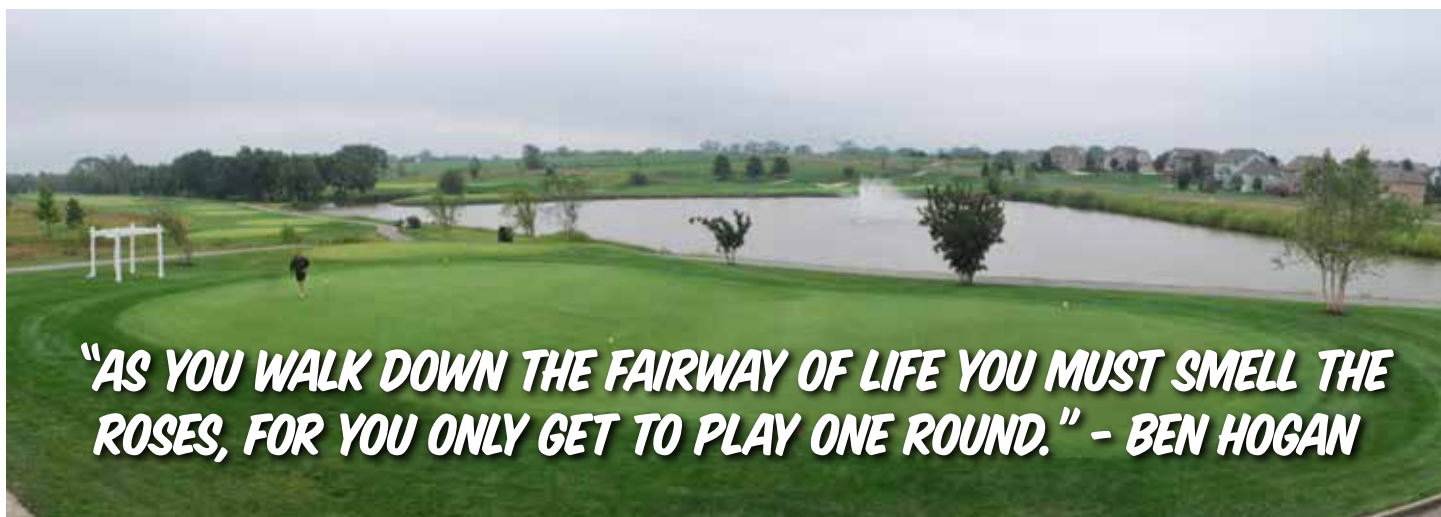
Steve Keisker



Harvey Shapiro



Weldon Harris



***"AS YOU WALK DOWN THE FAIRWAY OF LIFE YOU MUST SMELL THE
ROSES, FOR YOU ONLY GET TO PLAY ONE ROUND." - BEN HOGAN***



**John Caton, Bob Frazier,
Bruce McClelland, Dave Hokanson**



**Tracy Dame, Sandy Dame,
Bob Hurla, Bill Bay**



**Jerry Garrard, Eric Johnson ,
Bronson Garrard, Mo Hale,**



**Barry Thompson, Kyle Forbes,
and Ray Young**



**Dustin Odell, Mike O'Dell,
Chuck Quesenberry, Stu May**



**Barry Sanders, Johnnie Huff,
Jim Evans, Mark Raines**



**Tom Tritsch, Kevin Tritsch,
Carl Turlin, Robert David**



**Cliff Donnell, Mike Osborne,
Gary Zirkle, Frank Lasta**



**Don Young, Jana Henderson,
Kevin Schumacher, Mike Schumacher**



**Weldon Harris, Steve Keisker,
Otis Stewart, Harvey Shapiro**



**Jim Harstad, Rex Schneider,
Mark Johnson, Mike Alexander**



Martin Oldehoeft

“Little White Ball,” a Scramble Friend of Mine

by John Erwine

You’ve heard it said, and maybe you’ve even said it yourself. . . *who in their right mind wants to go out and chase a little white ball all over the pasture?* Then they end up being mad at themselves for not being able to do whatever it was they were supposed to do in the first place. Go figure because they do it again, and again.

Well, in our case that little white ball has proven to be HOA’s best friend, lending itself to being our biggest annual fundraiser in recent years. And a special *thank you* to the 44 players in this, our 12th annual **HOA FOUR-PERSON GOLF SCRAMBLE**, Sept. 27, 2018. Kuddos to Harvey Shapiro for corralling them.

First before going any further, I’d like to give special thanks to **Kent Miller**, who took on the task of being its’ chairman for the last eleven years. This was his baby, and he had it honed to perfection. Secondly, I’d like to thank those who stepped in quickly when Kent decided to take a rest from *HOA*. This event not only carried on, but reached new record heights, bearing no reflection upon Kent. **Barry Sanders** quickly formed a committee, after first soliciting **Dave Hokanson-Harvey Shapiro** as co-chairs. He then brought on board **John Erwine**, **Mike Schumacher** and **Vince Perry**. We have all been a part of the tournament in years past, so had a fair understanding of what needed to be done. With a bit of extra coaching from Kent as we went along, we successfully pulled the rabbit out of the hat.

With lots of great effort from all, we ended the day with just over \$3,200 in total prizes – the most ever. The chapter also was the recipient of the greatest bottom line net profit in the tournament’s history!

Special thanks goes to **Dave Hokanson** for enticing Creative Planning to donate a \$2,500 sponsorship (see their ad on page 5), **Frank Lasta** for donating a \$1,000 sponsorship in the name of World Travel Service, and **Bob and Jane Rutherford** for their \$1,000 sponsorship. There were also twelve, \$100 Hole Sponsorships donated. This, my friends, is also historic!

Falcon Lakes Golf Club was at their usual finest by providing an excellent course to challenge us, a wonderful buffet dinner and offered all the help needed. **Mike Schumacher** was a great MC, also announcing prize winners. We were also entertained by *Priorities* from Leavenworth and Kansas City mid-way through prize announcements. They’ve still got it! As usual **Vince Perry** was responsible for seeing that every dollar went where it was supposed to go.

Also extremely important – we have again proven that events such as this are vital to the success and growth of our chapter. We also recognize that it couldn’t have taken place without the help of chapter members, spouses and family members. And while there are too many names to mention, we thank you all as well as sponsors and donors.

For all you readers out there, I am completely convinced that this Kansas City Chapter is doing something right with all the proven evidence presented to you. Now I say to you, C’m on 2019!

So, *HOA* members – promise never again, will you stand for anyone criticizing that “little white ball.” ❤️

[Ed. note: the author was one of the hardest workers in putting the 2018 Scramble over the top]





Moving Forward

by Bob Velazquez

We have some exciting opportunities ahead of us. Saturday we will sing at the Kansas City Chorus 70th Anniversary celebration. Five weeks later the

KC Chorus will join us at our Holiday Show along with the new Queens of Harmony, "Class Ring". On Dec. 15 we will support the Salvation Army on our annual Caroling Caravan. These are some wonderful opportunities to share Barbershop in our community.

As we move forward, we can grow from our experience at contest. Although our scores were not what we had hoped for, we did some good things. The evaluations were very productive and informative with each judge giving us strategies that will help us improve. While, some of it may seem repetitive, we can all stand to hear it again and apply it to our craft. Each of us can ask ourselves "what can I do?" to help us reach our goals and expectations.

One of the areas that I would like to see us grow in is better use of time. This applies to not only better use of time at rehearsal, but each of us committing to a better use of practice time. If each member learns his music away from rehearsal we can spend more time on the interpretation of the song. That would be huge!

Looking forward to continuing to grow in harmony. ❤️

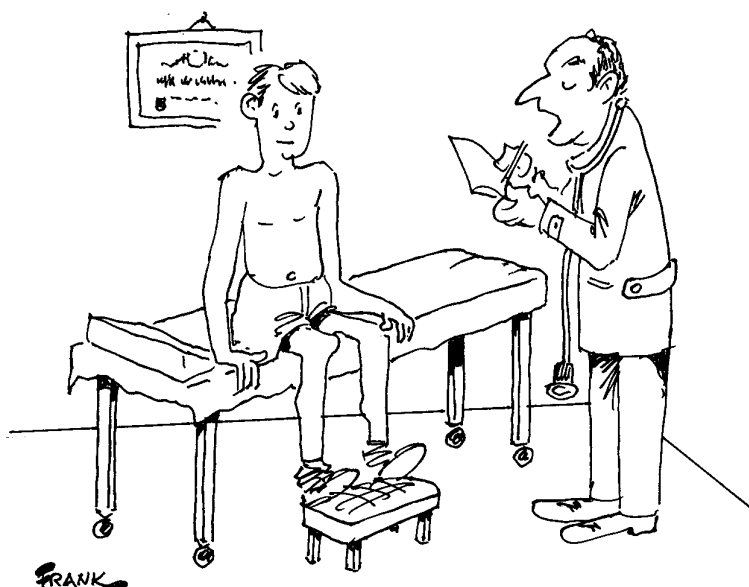
**THE ENTIRE HOA FAMILY OFFERS
CONDOLENCES TO
BOB AND JANE RUTHERFORD
ON THE SUDDEN DEATH OF
THEIR SON, WES.**

**A SERVICE AND CELEBRATION
[OF LIFE] WAS HELD
FRIDAY OCT. 26, AT THE
LEE'S SUMMIT CHRISTIAN CHURCH.**



ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT:

***HOA guys ready for the contest stage!*
Wally Thornton, John Erwine, Marty Oldehoeft,
and Kevin Tritsch**



***"I'M TAKING YOU OFF THE PILLS
AND SWITCH YOU FROM TENOR
TO LEAD!"***



Carter Combs

In grateful appreciation for organizing and compiling the slide presentation during the Heart of America Chorus Spring Show, June 16, 2018, at the Bell Center.
Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire.



Wendell Shaffer	October 1
Steve Keisker	October 2
Lucas Pherigo	October 5
Bart Bartholomew	October 9



Mike Mathieu

In grateful appreciation for your work organizing and planning the After Glow on very short notice following the 2018 HOA Spring Show, June 16, 2018.
Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire.

Tom Gray	November 8
Kent Miller	November 10
Dick Korek	November 20
Dick Henderson	November 26
Todd Anderson	November 28
Vince Perry III	November 28

Jim Davis	December 7
Ron Fortino	December 9
Darrell McCune	December 24
Nate Harper	December 28

HOA/Handful Members Offer True Tales Literally from the Heart

The road to and from St. Charles provided some medical drama involving two Kansas City members that's truly newsworthy. One is a rookie and the other is HOA's icon, a Joe Stern awardee with 66 years of Society membership. Both stories have happy endings – one might even say heart-warming! Both are members of the *Heart of America Chorus* and vital cogs in the *New Harmony Handful* mini-chorus that's celebrating it's 11th year together. We'll let them tell you all about their experiences. ❤️

92-Year-Old Veteran Has Great Time at CSD Convention until Lights Suddenly Go Out

By Ron Abel



I had an unexpected weekend in St. Charles. All went well until Saturday evening, when I was watching the show in the back of the hall, at which time I passed out. They tell me there was a commotion and that our **Steve Keisker** was the first to get to me. An ambulance was summoned.

Greg Busch, who drove me to St. Charles, followed me to St. Joseph Hospital a couple of miles away. I subsequently spent three days there, undergoing numerous tests in controlling blood pressure, thyroid concerns and the fact I was badly dehydrated.

Numerous chapter members called and visited, offering rides home through Sunday, but the time of my release kept being unknown. My daughter and son-in-law eventually drove up to get me home.

I'm currently following up with my Cardiologist for a stress test, heart monitor and I eventually may require a pacemaker. In the meantime, I must have someone staying with me day and night. I feel fine, and what frustrates me is I'm not permitted to drive until a final decision is made on stabilizing my blood pressure.

It's great becoming a senior, senior citizen, . . . I guess! ❤️



Laughter and Song: The Best Medicine Available

By Bart Bartholomew



ME volunteer to write an article about *New Harmony Handful* happenings? No way! I'm the new 'kid on the block' and I've been absent more than I've been present. Oh well, I'll write about my experiences during one of my extended absences.

I was invited to join the *Handful* in late Spring and attended one of their meetings. On 29 July I visited two church services where they sang. They looked like they were having fun and the congregations certainly appreciated their music. On Aug. 9, sporting my version of their well-known mulberry-colored shirts, I sang with them in two retirement centers north of the River. I was 'hooked'; I was ready to get a shirt of the correct color and become an active member of the *Handful*.

Since 2012 my friendly cardiologist and I had been monitoring the progression of my heart's aortic stenosis. In 2014 I was treated on my birthday with a brand-new stent inserted in a badly blocked left anterior descending artery on my heart (the nurses call this artery the "Widow Maker"). As the results of follow-on scans and echocardiograms flowed in during this past spring and summer, it became apparent that my severe aortic stenosis was now more severe and that my Birthday Present Stent was closing in with scar tissue. It was time for action, and, before I knew it, I was scheduled for aortic valve replacement and a single cardiac bypass surgery using the good old-fashioned open-chest method on 28 September. The surgery went well but in the process I managed to suffer a slight stroke affecting my right side.

After a few days in The University of Kansas Hospital's Center for Advanced Heart Care I was transferred to their Inpatient Acute Rehabilitation Center. Shortly after I arrived at the Rehab Center I met my alter ego, Patient Y. We immediately learned that we had a lot in common: former math teachers, spoke German, studied computer science in the days of Hollerith (IBM) punch cards and we liked to laugh. We 'bonded' immediately. The next time we gathered in the meal room we found that the other patients who previously sat with sullen faces awaiting their tray of food were laughing at our antics.

Our antics continued throughout my stay in the center. He even managed to organize a 'Birthday Parade' to celebrate my birthday on Oct. 9. The laughter of the onlookers was, to say the least, contagious.

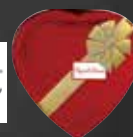
After waiting a long time for our breakfast to arrive one morning, I decided that, should that happen the next morning, it would be a perfect time to ask the gathered patients to sing a few songs. I knew that I had sheets with the lyrics of old well-known songs in a filing cabinet at home; I asked my daughter to bring them in. I was then set for the next time breakfast was late. Breakfast was late the next three mornings, and we sang! The patients in my midst perked up and had smiles on their faces, staff members passing by in the hallways stopped and listened, and when we finished a song, applause erupted from the surrounding areas. I am firmly convinced that singing was good 'medicine' for all of us. An example of the healing by laughter and song I feel certain took place in Patient X. The first day we met her she was angry: she didn't want to be there; the food didn't suit her; she was uncomfortable; nothing was right. The last meal we shared with her she was smiling and actively engaging in lively conversation with all of us.

Ah, the power of singing! I am glad that I had an opportunity to make a small contribution in support of our motto "Keep the Whole World Singing." I look forward to many opportunities to help deliver the harmonious sounds of the *New Harmony Handful* in the future. ❤️

MEDICAL SIDEBAR: Leaving St. Charles Saturday night, baritone **Wally Thornton** tripped over a curb on the way to the parking lot and went sprawling, sustaining cuts and bruises on his face and hands, and a sprain to his left wrist. He was bandaged but back at the following Tuesday meeting and afterglow.

MAKE AN EFFORT TO PATRONIZE OUR SPONSORS!

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



HEART OF AMERICA CHORUS CALENDAR

Nov. 13 (Tue): Joint Rehearsal with KCCSA at Center HS (7pm)

Nov. 18 (Sun): Joint Rehearsal with KCCSA at Center HS (2pm)

Nov. 27 (Tue): Joint Rehearsal with KCCSA at Metropolitan Community College, Longview Campus (7pm)

Dec. 1 (Sat): Holiday Harmony Spectacular at Unity Village (2pm)

Dec. 15 (Sat): Caroling Caravan

Jan. 5 (Sat): HOA Awards Banquet at Cinzetti's in Overland Park (6:30pm)

Feb. 16 (Sat): Harmony Explosion! 2019 at Olathe West High School

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.