

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 08 - ISSUE 8 - SEPTEMBER 2008

Harmony University Experience

by Doug Brott, Chapter President



BROTT

First of all, a huge *Thank You* to the committee for selecting me as the **Orval Wilson** Harmony University Scholarship winner for 2008. What an experience! I only hope that I can attend again and again. If you have never attended HU, please give it

serious consideration. It is so close and such a resource for you to be able to improve your craft.

This year's HU had the most attendance in a number of years. And to top it off, the average age decreased significantly. That hopefully means the work BHS is doing to generate more interest among the younger set is working. There were many young (high school, college and recent post college) attendees. They certainly added to the overall experience with their enthusiasm to stay up late and sing tags.

I attended HU and participated in the first Extreme Quartet Brigade experience, at Harmony University. For the Brigade experience we had to learn 10 songs and be ready to perform in a quartet without any music. Some of the songs were "If I Only Had A Brain," as performed by *4 Voices*; "Too Marvelous for Words" and "Blue Skies" as sung by *Michigan Jake*; the *Gas House Gang* Version of "Lullaby" and "Mam'selle," as sung by *Vocal Spectrum*.

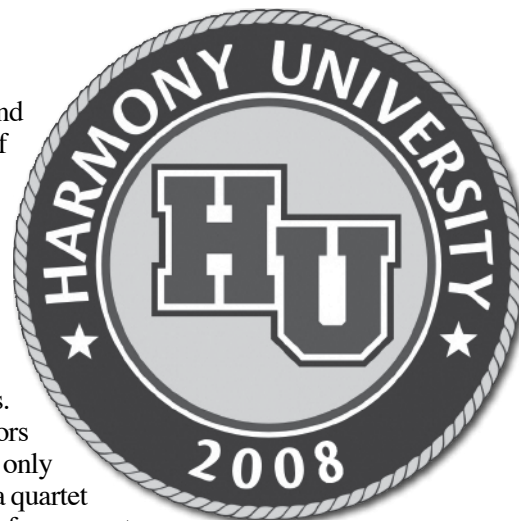
The Brigade experience did not start until Friday morning, so prior to Friday, I attended classes such as "Music Fundamentals," "Vocal Music Techniques," "How To Be A Great Baritone," "Effective Warm-ups" and "Effective Quartet Rehearsal Techniques." I was very pleased with both

class content and instructors. All of the instructors are very experienced with the subject matter they were teaching, as well as long time BHS members.

Of the instructors for my classes, only one did not have a quartet or chorus medal of some sort, and three had quartet and/or chorus gold medals. I learned a lot and am applying it all to my singing. One important thing the experience made me realize.

To get better, we constantly need to learn more. Personally, I need to learn more about the music so that I know when I am on the fifths, thirds and sevenths, I know just how to blend with the other voices, be it a quartet or chorus. So that is my challenge.

(Continued on page 2 ♦♦)



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HARMONOTES

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Heart of America Chorus

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

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

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!

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Harmony University Experience

(Continued from front cover)

When Brigade started in earnest on Friday morning, we were finally able to meet all the participants. Only a handful of us had been there all week. Throughout the week those of us there had formed quartets and sang the songs. It is quite an experience to be able to just put 4 voices together and sing an entire song well. **Brad Dawdy** also attended HU and was a Brigader, so it was fun to be able to sing with him frequently.

They ended up with about 50 Brigade participants. This was quite low for a Brigade weekend. The Atlantic and Indiana Brigade weekends usually attract several hundred. But what we lacked in numbers we certainly made up in enthusiasm.

There are several levels to the Brigade experience. First, you have to qualify. You are given five songs at random, and you have to sing for the song checkers. The rub is one song checker can only qualify you on at most two songs, and they can only qualify two members of the quartet at a time. This process forces you to sing with multiple roups. There is also a contest to see who can sing with the most Brigaders. The winners are the ones that sing with all the participants and prizes are awarded. The most fun is the "contest." Quartets were assigned at random, and two songs were pulled out of a hat. Once the quartets were announced you had about 90 minutes to go practice. Then we had a contest with the top 6 quartets advancing to the finals. While neither my or Brad's quartet made it to the finals, we still had a great time. The weekend ended with the Brigade chorus singing first on the Saturday show. 50 some guys sang a three number *Michigan Jake* set with an hour and a half practice and we sounded like we had been together for years.

So, what did I take away from my HU week? Well, besides what I have already said, the week showed me that the current *HOA* approach is the correct path to follow. If you learn your music on your own, perfect, so that we do not have to spend rehearsal time learning, then rehearsal time can be spent polishing the performance. Just think how much fun it is to be able to learn a song and be able to sing it extremely well the first time we sing it on the risers. That to me is the epitome of what we should be doing all the time. ♥



Last month's guest night also included a moment to celebrate Harmonotes' first place win at International! HOA's Doug Brott (left) and CSD prez Don Fuson (right) present Todd Anderson with the award for 2007 Bulletin Editor of the Year! Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire



From the Prez

by Doug Brott

Sitting here in the hospital with my son the last two weeks has given me a lot of time to reflect on what is important. Of course sustaining life (food, water, shelter and air to breath) is at the top of the list. In my book, family is next. Friends are right up there, and many of you have shown great friendship with your support through this ordeal. A job is important if only to help provide the things for the top of the list.

So where does barbershop fit in? For me, it is quite high on the list. I am so very happy that **Sharon** encouraged me to start singing again in 2000. I am sure she did not expect me to get quite as involved as I am, but she does not discourage me either. She knows I am better for it.

For me it is therapy. Several times a week I can concentrate on singing and at least for a little while, get away from other concerns. It is a source for good friends who provide support whenever it is needed and for whom I can provide support when they need it. I have more and better friends now than I have had in a very long time. It is a source of pride. I get to sing in a top rated chorus. Just like in the Olympics, even if you don't win the glory that goes along with a medal, you can still hold your head high being one of the best in the world at what you do.

So, what does singing mean to you? Is it therapy, a source of pride, or just a means to get out of the house once a week? I contend the effort you put in to our hobby (or calling) is paid back multiplied significantly. So the next time our leaders ask you to learn a new song by a certain date, will you learn and be able to sing without music the first time, or will you let your riser mates down?

When our director gives an instruction to help us sing better will you remember it the next week or make him say it again? The next time your leaders ask you to take a leadership role in chapter activities or just participate, will you do so with enthusiasm or let your fellow members down? Will you do all you can

to improve your own skills to make the whole chorus better? I certainly hope you answer all these questions with an enthusiastic YES! With that attitude, there is no telling where HOA, CSD and the BHS can go. ♥



Guest Night Draws a Crowd!

by Bob Murphy, Membership Vice-President



In late July or early August, **Carl Turlin** came up with a wonderful idea as a possible way to bring school age young men into *HOA*. He called it several things, including a back to school night. Eventually it was called something else, but I can't remember what it was.

The evening included hot dogs, chips and soft drinks on the church patio. He also put together some "back to school packets" with appropriate items for the guests.

I am pleased to announce that on the designated evening, August 19, we had a total of nine guests. Of these guests nine guests, six were of school age. These school age young men are listed below with who brought them (when known):

Samuel Brown, with **David Krause's** help. Sam was "Winthrop" in the *Music Man* this July.

Kory Gilmore, guest of **Dylan Mathieu** (this was the second time for Kory).

Lucas Pherigo, guest of **A. J. Meier**.

Heath Higgenbotham, **Jacob Fischer**, and **Michael Paiseno**, guests of **Mike Louque**.

The adult guests were:

Jeff Miller, guest of **John Delzel**.

Stan Grossman, guest of **Vince Perry**.

Craig Wilcox, who has visited at least three times and has submitted an application for membership in *HOA*.

Overall, it was a very successful evening, and we should all give a big *Thank You* to **Carl Turlin**. ♥



Photo courtesy of Matt Bostick



Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter



PORTER

Note that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. One fourth of the proceeds is designated to Harmony Foundation, and one fourth will be given to the Central States District to help promote their programs to support and encourage "Young Men in Harmony" and other youth programs.

As of Wednesday, July 16th, and 32 drawings so far: The total raised for Harmony Foundation in the past month is \$234.

The total raised for the year to date (since Nov. 15, 2007) is \$1,406.

Last year, the total raised to date was \$1,740.

In 2006, the total raised to date was \$4,077.

The last year with a lower total to date was 2002, it was then \$1,034. ♥

Heart of America CHORUS SPONSORS



September 5	Thom Tisdall
September 6	Jerry Garrard
September 8	John Braden
September 10	Rich Huyck
September 11	Willard Yoder
September 12	Ken Hennix
September 13	Walt Bates
September 14	J.B. Witham
September 15	Ron Abel
September 16	Sam Solomon
September 23	Phil Veltkamp
September 24	Frazier Allen



Watch for an announcement for Sheridan Frozen Custard to be served this late summer! Yes, **Jerry Sheridan** will make an appearance with a wonderful selection of toppings to satisfy all cravings!

**DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER
ISSUE OF HARMONOTES:
SEPTEMBER 21**

HOA FIRST CLASS

Hello from Salina! For those of us who participated in the trip to Nashville, I would like to share with you some thoughts that I personally experienced. As most of you know I am a dual member with the *Salina Crossroads Chorus* and *HOA*. I joined *HOA* in 2003 and had the opportunity to compete with *HOA* in Louisville and Salt Lake City under direction of **Jim Bagby**. My experience for competitions, district, Christmas, special events and annual shows were nothing short of my best experiences in barbershop. Every practice was a learning experience. *HOA* has always been known for its organization and excellence in progress mentality. That is what brought me *HOA* experience. Great music team, sound leadership, programming, demanding chorus practice and great chorus quartets within the *HOA* that add so much to the chorus's quality.

When the decision was made to move back home to Salina, I was, first of all, lost as to how I could fill the void with the *HOA* family of friends that developed over the years. So many of you were so supportive of me while I lived in KC, and I will never forget those special moments in time of sharing.

Having access to the learning media, I am able to sing with you often. My experiences have improved my singing and performance a great deal. This past April **Mike Mathieu** called and asked if I would consider singing with *HOA* in its quest for Nashville. I said I would only consider it if the music team, new director **David Krause** and *HOA* membership felt I could add to the performance. I was sent the music and learning media and I learned the music in a week or so (easy when you are retired) and then never missed a trip to KC May-July. Once the commitment was made (wife agreed to let me out), I knew I was in for a real great experience. Numbers were down from when I sang with chorus last but I can tell you the chorus has made some changes that I sensed (most members agree) have increased the desire to increase membership, quality of singing and performance. I have watched the whole director search, with David Krause being the *HOA* choice. It was a joy to sing under direction of David and with my *HOA* family.

I leave you with just a note to those who get the opportunity to sing with *HOA*. Performance is really what we all like, but it is the JOURNEY that total makes the hobby we love. I look forward to seeing you soon and let the JOURNEY to district competition be memorable to all in the *HOA* family. *Best regards,*
Barli-A-Tone – **Gary Jordan**

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST

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The Saturday Evening Post Features Barbershop Harmony Society

The September/October edition of *The Saturday Evening Post* (the magazine, not the quartet) has a substantial feature about barbershop music and the Barbershop Harmony Society! **Alanna Nash**, a well-known music journalist and author who has written a number of biographies, including several about **Elvis Presley** and **Dolly Parton**, spent an afternoon at headquarters interviewing **Ed Watson**, **Todd Wilson**, and **Rick Spencer**, and also did a number of phone interviews with Society members. The SEP descended from *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, which was founded by **Benjamin Franklin** in 1729. It was first published as a four page newspaper and then as a magazine, and launched the career of artist **Norman Rockwell**, whose "Barbershop Quartet" cover illustration graces many a member's wall. Prominent editor **George Lorimer** discovered Rockwell, then 22, in 1916 and commissioned two covers from the unknown artist, as well as an additional 322 cover and numerous illustrations until 1963. Go to www.saturdayeveningpost.com/, as the entire article will be posted soon on the website. ♥



Rockwell's "Barbershop Quartet" graces the exterior of the Barbershop Harmony Society headquarters in Nashville
Photo courtesy of Don Peck



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



DEXTER

TEN YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER, 1998

I thought this was interesting. The September 1998 edition of *Harmonotes* contained a report that several of our chapter members had been inducted into AHSOW, the “Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders,” at the 1998 international convention in Atlanta. The recipients of this honor where **Keven Beauford, Rick Dunnaway, Don Newman and Danny Wellman**. The announcement reported that only 38 new members Society-wide had been accepted, and every one of our guys qualified on all three harmony parts! Quite an accomplishment, don’t you think?

TWENTY YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER, 1988

The “Getting To Know You” column in this issue of *Harmonotes* announced the transfer from the St. Joseph chapter of **Vince and David Perry**. Vince, who has been one of the hardest working and most dedicated members of the Kansas City chapter, had joined the *Pony Expressmen* away back in 1963, and had held most of the chapter offices and had been the chorus manage and show chairman for that outfit. He had also served a stint as Missouri Division vice president for the Central States District. Vince had taught Algebra at Central High School in St. Joseph, and his wife, **Melladee**, also taught at the elementary level. David was a sophomore at Central High School, and had joined the St. Joe chapter only a year earlier. Wonder where he is today, 20 years later.

One of the guests featured in the “Welcome, Guests,” column was a fellow by the name of **Monte Duerksen**, who had been a member of the Emporia chapter, with roots that went

back to the mid-1950s when he sang with a quartet called the “Spring Singers” out of Colorado Springs. And we all know that Monte may join **Vince Perry** as one of our most valued members. Remember “Singing Valentines?”

THIRTY YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER, 1978

There’s a big gap in my collection of back issues of *Harmonotes* after the August 1968 issue, so I must move this segment up to thirty years ago. Hope that’s okay with you.

In the September 1978 issue, I find an article by one **Jeanine Davis** in which she is attempting to form a group of “Teens” to support the efforts of *HOA* to host the CSD convention in October of 1978. Here’s her pitch: “This is the year we’re gonna bust our buttons with pride for our pops. We’re going to show our support by making ourselves available to help in whatever capacity we can (on) Friday and Saturday. We’re going to enforce our cheering section. And hopefully, we’re going to dress similarly to the (“Heartbeats”). Jeanine went on to describe a “Teen Glow” of their own on Saturday evening, with refreshments and music (disco type) to “have in a big room to ourselves to dance or just rap in.” Wonder how their plans came off. Perhaps **Jim** can help us.

Guests who were introduced in this issue were the late **John Stucker** and his son, **David**, who transferred from the Leavenworth chapter. John worked as a supervisor in the Civil Service for the Army at Fort Leavenworth, and David was on educational leave from his job as an associate nuclear engineer with Westinghouse to get a master’s degree from Kansas State University. ♥

The Songs We Sing: “I’ll Take You Home, Kathleen”

Words and Music by Thomas P. Westendorf

Contrary to a common misconception, this was not a ballad from the Emerald Island. In 1876, composer **Thomas Westendorf**, a school teacher living in Plainfield, Indiana, penned this affectionate love song when temporarily separated from his wife — only her name was **Jennie**. The piece was written in the form of an “answer” to a then popular ballad, “Barney, Take Me Home Again.” ♥



“TOO TALL TO BE A JOCKEY AND TOO SHORT TO PLAY BASKETBALL, I TURNED OUT TO BE EXACTLY THE RIGHT HEIGHT TO SING IN THE CHORUS.”

TONE-HENGE Trades Tonsorial for Travel

By Ol' Jim Bagby



It's been a summer of few performances and fewer practices for *Tone-Henge*.

And that's a sad

state of affairs, since fewer get-togethers mean a decrease in those sociable half-price happy-hour gatherings with our wives prior to rehearsals that we find help make our chords so much more palatable — especially when accompanied by a suitable quantity of appropriate beverage.

The schedule has been complicated primarily by individual travel. Usually this foursome picks on me, but bass **Keith Schweer** has been the biggest culprit of late. We were all in Nashville, but our different chorus and judging demands there precluded us from singing even one tag during the week — geez!

After our return, Keith was gone for a week in mid-July to the Lake of the Ozarks with his daughter, son-in-law and of course his delightful grandchildren. In early August, he and Connie spent another week at Lake Tahoe and Sacramento. There also were several weekends trips to **Connie's** hometown of Coffeyville, Kans.; to Lincoln, Nebr., and southern Missouri for family gatherings.

On top of that, come early October, the **Schweers** will return to their roots, for one week cruising the Rhine River in Germany, then another week touring the Swiss Alps by train.

Tenor **Bruce Wenner** has gotten most of his travel in solo, for his trips as a

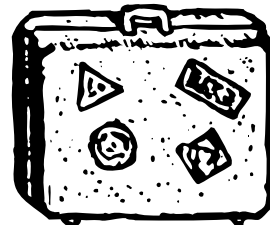
Music Judge. But he and Francie have been highly involved with "Grandparent Camp" at their spacious home, including keeping either four or five grandkids at a time for two weeks immediately after Nashville. That meant getting the gaggle — ages 7 to 15 — to swimming lessons, art class, climbing class, golf lessons and a multitude of miscellaneous activities. Yikes! At our age, no wonder they didn't contemplate another vacation.

Bruce agrees. "It's definitely taken 'til now for us to recover. We'll be doing this again next year, but DEFINITELY not right after we get back from International!"

Dan Henry has been to his and Estyl's southeast Kansas home area couple of times, too, but the biggy is coming -- again. It's a September trip to Ireland with friends and relatives, including daughter **Kathy** and son-in-law **Mark Hornsby**, producer of the "Welcome to Nashville" CD that "features" *Tone-Henge*. (Howzat for a subtle plug?) There will be 12 in the Ireland group, led by veteran travel agent **Rosemary Stipe**, who has booked enjoyable trips for other members of our foursome.

This will be the **Bowers'** 11th (eleventh) trip to the Emerald Isle! Says Dan, "that may point to the fact that we like the place, but may also say we ain't too bright!" He also notes this assemblage has enough singers in it that it's likely to belt out a ringing chord now and then. And Dan notes, "Usually such activity is readily cheered by all Irish folks in

earshot, especially when those involved have a pint or two within reach."



I've had some delightful coaching experiences recently in CSD and LOL. In May, **Joann** and I visited Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks in California. And we just returned from a wonderful return trip to the Black Hills, where for the fourth time I got to be the guest director for the *Harmony Happening* climaxing with a show at the Mount Rushmore lighting ceremony. This year we were joined by the *Beatrice (Neb.) Homestead Harmonizers*, directed by Scott Spilker, and *Ignition*, the comedic top-20 quartet from Denver. **Sharon** and **Marty Oldehoeft** from HOA also made the trip, along with other CSD folks.

It was a worthwhile swing out west again. Aside from the great trout fishing in that area and all the sights the Black Hills have to offer, the lighting ceremony at the Rushmore **Shrine of Democracy** is worth the trip alone! If you've never seen it, I urge you to put it on a future vacation or day-trip agenda. You can get to Rapid City, S.D., in about 9-10 hours. (Well, sometimes it takes longer; you'll have to ask Marty about that).

On a singing note, *Tone-Henge* did have two August performances, including the one at St. Peter's with HOA, and will be with the chapter for the big Sept. 6 show in Harrisonville. ♥

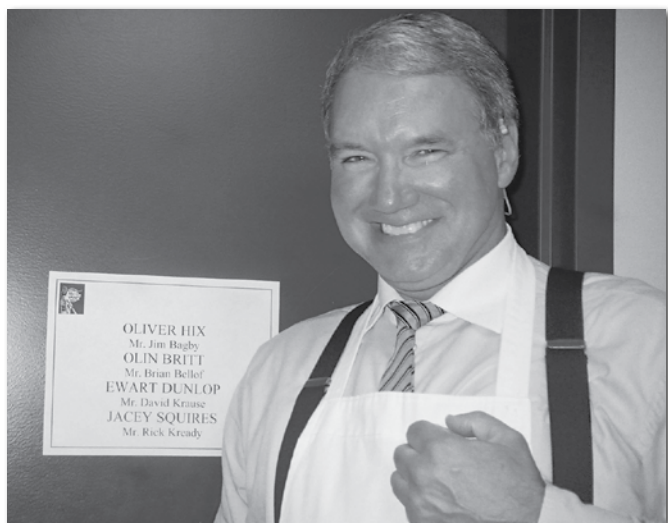




"MUSIC MAN"



Above: The self-styled "Starlight 4" played the school board at a professional production of "The Music Man" July 28-Aug. 3 at Kansas City's Starlight Theater. With just under 8,000 seats, it's the nation's second-largest outdoor concert venue (the Muny in St. Louis is No. 1). Members of the foursome were (from left) Heart of America members **Jim Bagby** and **David Krause**, who sang bari and lead, respectively; bass **Brian Bellof** of "3 Men and a Melody," and tenor **Rick Kready** of Topeka. Here they gather around the female lead, **Marian Paroo**, played by **Kate Fisher** of New York. It was the third time for Kready to appear in a Starlight production of **Meredith Willson's** 50-year-old musical, and the second time for Krause. The HOA director and Kready first appeared in 1985 as members of the CSD champion "Special Touch," with **Keith Schweer** on bass and **Bud Clark**, now of Joplin, on bari.



Above: The "Starlight 4" had their own dressing room (and their own dresser!). In his **Ewart Dunlop** grocery store proprietor costume, HOA Director **David Krause** indicates that the thespian life agrees with him. Tenor **Rick Kready** played livery stable owner **Jacey Squires**, bari **Jim Bagby** was banker **Oliver Hix** and bass **Brian Bellof**, late of the Liberty Chapter (but pledged soon to join HOA) was *River City Gazette* editor **Olin Britt**. Britt is famous, of course, for being able to hold "ice cream" for about 16 bars.

8 Photos and captions courtesy of Jim Bagby



Above: Three other members of the Kansas City Chapter were represented in the "Music Man" production at famed Starlight Theater. Singing in the chorus were (from left) **Barry Sanders**, **Kent McClean** and **Bob Murphy**, who posed here with fellow HOA members **Jim Bagby** and **David Krause**. But HOA also was represented twice on stage by the entire chorus for the national anthem, on opening and closing nights. The anthem was sung by area barbershop and Sweet Adeline choruses every other night except Friday, when our own CSD champion "High Definition" (**Rob Mathieu**, **Mark and John Fortino** and **Adam Veteto** of Springfield) wowed the crowd.



Above: The "Pick a Little" ladies in full array (from left) **Cheryl Hodges** (Mrs. Squires), **Kara Mikula** (Ethel Toffelmier), **Nancy Johnston** (Eulalie McKechnie Shinn), **Karen Errington** (Alma Hix) and **Licia Watson** (Maud Dunlop). Costuming was a major part of the production, and caused some interesting/heated moments for the quartet. All three of the "Starlight 4" outfits were three layers of either wool or polyester. During 11 days of rehearsals and the run of the play, temperatures were usually in the 90s, and the heat index sometimes well over 100. The dancers were losing several pounds per performance — and smiling all the while. The principal actors from the east coast complained more about having to drive on I-435 to their Overland Park hotel the one night we had heavy enough rain to wash out the play. In New York, they are not used to (a) driving, (b) freeways (c) 6-inch rains or (d) 18-wheelers rushing by as if it were dry, swamping the small rental cars of white-knuckled out-of-staters.



Summary of July 2008 Board Meeting

by Rick Foreman/Ron McIntire

TREASURERS REPORT: Harvey Shapiro

Operating Fund: (\$3,372.07)

Members Fund: \$8,129.75

Truman Heartland Foundation: \$10,000.00

Restricted Fund: \$7,500.32

PUBLIC RELATIONS VP: Brad Dawdy

Proceeds from Singing in the Park:

Sweet Adelines \$1,000.00

Heart of America \$2600.00

OPERATIONS VP: David Miller

A riser trailer tire blew out and tore off the fender on the way to Nashville. Val Putzier will take care of the repair.

MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE VP:

Carter Combs

Scheduled performances:

Singing in the Park, July 20,

National Anthem at Starlight July 28

National Anthem at Starlight August 3

Pay the Rent Concert August 28

Harrisonville Concert Sept. 6

Annual Picnic at Lake Quivira Sept. 7.

MEMBERSHIP VP: Bob Murphy

Branden Yarbrough was approved for membership in HOA pending voice placement. He will be a dual member with HOA and Black Hawk Metro Chorus in Waterloo, IA.

NEW BUSINESS:

Donor Edge: **Kent Miller**

Donors Edge portfolio is being updated.

Some Items included will be:

Presidents Fund: \$5,000.00

Riser Fund: \$3,000.00

Music Fund: \$1,000.00

Sound Equip: \$6,000.00

HOA Truck: \$15,000.00

New Uniforms: (to be specified)

Documentary: \$100,000.00

These are wish list chapter items for people to donate to. ♥



Summary of August 2008 Board Meeting

by Rick Foreman/Ron McIntire

TREASURERS REPORT: Harvey Shapiro

Operating Fund (includes Members Fund): \$9,034.59

Restricted Fund: \$7,700.32

PUBLIC RELATIONS VP: Brad Dawdy

Planning is underway for the program and advertising handouts for the Christmas show.

OPERATIONS VP: David Miller

We are looking into a lift system, wheel locks and wheel covers for the trailer when it is sitting for an extended period of time.

MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE VP: Carter Combs

On-line sign up is on the HOA website for the next performances.

VP PROGRAM: Carl Turlin

The Bush League Quartet was a huge success with the help of **Jerry Meier, Don Young, and Mike Schumacher.**

Next Guest Night will be "Guys Night Out" focusing on young men prospective new barbershoppers

Recommended, unless there is a definite commitment from the blood donor centers, the next "Singing for Life Blood Drive", should be cancelled.

Annual picnic is scheduled for Sept. 7.

OLD BUSINESS:

Black Tie KC: **Brad Dawdy**

Black Tie Kansas City, a website listing upcoming events in KC will be investigated to see if the website would benefit HOA. The website URL is <http://www.blacktiekc.com>.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fall Contest Registration: **Tony Strub**

The board agreed to pay the \$33.00 District competition registration fee for HOA chorus members for the convention in Cedar Rapids, IA.

PROBE Membership: **Tony Strub**

The board agreed to pay the \$30 membership fee for Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors (PROBE) for Bulletin Editor **Todd Anderson**

Travel Reimbursements: **Tony Strub**

The board agreed to a \$500 budget item for travel expenses to pursue sponsorships for HOA. Expenses over that amount are subject to board approval. ♥





Dick Van Dyke and *The Vantastix*

taken from LiveWire! and www.vantastix.com



Dick Van Dyke and *The Vantastix* have an eclectic new a cappella album, *Put on a Happy Face*. Van Dyke was inducted into the Society as an honorary member in 1999 and actively supports barbershop music and youth music education. *The Vantastix* quartet formed in 2000 in Malibu, after **Mike Mendyke** ran into Dick in a Starbucks and struck up a conversation about music, which led to many impromptu writing sessions around Van Dyke's piano. Quartet members **Bryan Chadima** and **Eric Bradley** are West Coast musicians with impressive musical pedigrees.

Mendyke, a former NASA engineer who also has a degree in music, founded a barbershop quartet called *Local Cheese*, who joined the Society as **Frank Thorne** members and won the 1991 Northeast District 6 championship. At the time, they were one of the youngest quartets competing, and they performed throughout New England.

The album contains 12 songs recorded in Chadima's Venice studio, including such well-known children's favorites as "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," "You've Got a Friend in Me" from the movie *Toy Story* and "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious," as well as standards such as "Put on a Happy Face" and "High Hopes." Thrown in are a couple of bonus Christmas songs. Chadima arranges most of the *The Vantastix* material.

For more information about this unique project, go to: www.vantastix.com. ♥



"I believe that hard work and planning are important if one wants to get ahead in life. That's fine. More important is leaving one's self open to the twists and turns, the wonderful surprises that life has to offer. If you can't bend with the wind, go with the flow, you're gonna miss some great adventures, my friends. These three guys walked into my life from out of nowhere and turned my Golden Years into pure platinum. It would be nice if they did the same for our album. it was created just for the sheer joy of it. I think you'll feel it too."
– **Dick Van Dyke**

Bush League Results!

Tuesday, July 22 approached quickly after HOA's performance on the International Stage. But that short time period did not prevent eight quartets representing three chapters from competing in the 2008 Bush League Contest. **Don Young** served as emcee for the evening and intermixed a few jokes between the announcements for the eight contestants (Tenor - Lead - Bass - Baritone):

1. *Pitch Hikers* - **Marlin Weidler, Rich Huyck, Don Fuson, Brandon Yarbrough** (HOA)
2. *Yippy Tie Eye O's* - **Calvin Yoder, Todd Anderson, Jim Bagby, Jim Davis** (HOA)
3. *The Sidebar 4* - **Jim Bliss, Tracy Dame, Rod Rivard, Al Fehlauer** (Leavenworth and HOA)
4. *Four Temps* - **Brad Dawdy, Jake Pirner, Steve Gordon, Doug Brott** (Central Standard and HOA)
5. *Fame & Fortune* - **Carter Combs, Mike Mathieu, Steve Carruthers, Joe Mathieu** (HOA)
6. *Last Free Exit* - **Harold Clark, Tom Gray, Bill Bay, Carl French** (Leavenworth)
7. *Four Tune Hunters* - **Dale Neuman, Matt Bostick, Mike Templer, Don Fuson** (HOA)
8. *Overtone Construction Company* - **Tom Elefson, Duane Lawson, Mike Louque, Grant Hunget** (Central Standard and HOA)

After 45 minutes of quartet singing and judging by the highly esteemed panel of **Chuck Ames, Rob Mathieu, Jerry Garrard, Val Putzier, Steve Leone**, and **Dick Korek**, the results were announced by Contest Administrator **Mike Schumacher**.

Third Place Bronze Medalist Quartet:

Four Tune Hunters (**Dale Neuman, Matt Bostick, Mike Templer, Don Fuson**)

Second Place Silver Medalist Quartet:

Four Temps (**Brad Dawdy, Jake Pirner, Steve Gordon, Doug Brott**)

First Place Plaque Quartet (sorry, no gold medals):

Overtone Construction Company (below, left to right: **Tom Elefson, Duane Lawson, Mike Louque, Grant Hunget**) ♥



JUNE 2008

Barbershopper of the Month!



Ron McIntire

Left: *HOA* President **Doug Brott** (left) presents **Mike Mathieu** with the June 2008 BOTM! In grateful recognition for your work chairing, promoting and officiating at the 70th Birthday celebration of the founding of the Kansas City Missouri Chapter and *Heart of America Chorus*.

Xtra Mile Award Winner!



Ron McIntire

Above, left to right: **Bruce Wenner**, **Keith Schweer**, **David Krause**, President **Doug Brott** (presenting the awards) **Carter Combs** and **Mark Fortino** (not shown) In grateful recognition for your work preparing the *HOA Chorus* for the 2008 International Chorus Competition in Nashville, TN, June 29-July 5,

JULY 2008

Barbershopper of the Month!

Carl Turlin - In grateful appreciation for your work in planning and organizing the 2008 *Heart of America* Bush League Quartet Contest, July 22, 2008

Xtra Mile Award Winner!

Don Young, Jerry Meier and Mike Schumacher In grateful recognition for your work with the 2008 *Heart of America* Bush League Quartet Contest July 22, 2008



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.

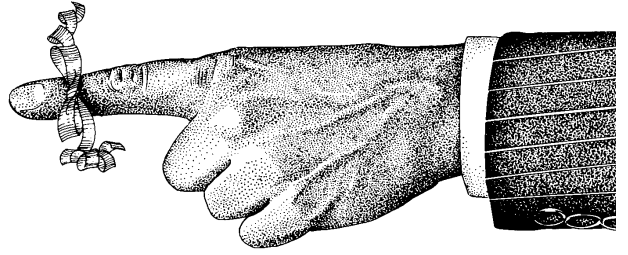
Last month, we inadvertently listed **Mike Schumacher** as the person who organized the 70th anniversary bash at the Muelbach Hotel in June. While Mike Schumacher is a great guy, we should have stated that it was **Mike Mathieu** who actually was the guru that crafted the great time that everyone experienced. Thanks, Mike! Sorry for that faux pas!

And a belated WELL DONE to the Nashville Make-up Committee of **Carl Turlin**, **Kevin Tritsch** and **Mike Schumacher**. ♥



THINK "NEW MEMBERS!"

Heart of America Chorus Calendar



- Sept. 6** 7:30pm - Two-hour performance @ Harrisonville High School Performing Arts Center
- Sept. 7** Annual HOA picnic at Lake Quivira; 6 other choruses have been invited to attend!
- Oct. 10-12** CSD Fall Convention @ Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Oct. 18** 7pm - Two-hour performance @ John Knox Village
- Dec. 6** Holiday Harmony Spectacular, Unity Village Auditorium, Unity Village, MO
- Dec. 20** Salvation Army Caroling Caravan

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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