

# Harmonotes

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2000, Issue 9

*"Drawn By Harmony, Bound By Friendship, Striving For Excellence."*



## KANSAS CITY CONTRIBUTES

The Kansas City Chapter works diligently during each year to provide donations and services to our charities such as *Children's Mercy Medical Center* and *Heartspring*. Many of the special activities we participate in are planned for just such efforts.

Activities such as our Singing Valentines program from which we gain donations for *Children's Mercy Medical Center* Speech and Hearing program. Our weekly marbles program provides income for our general contribution fund which is gathered during the year and presented to the Central States District at COTS in the fall of each year.

Kansas City also participates in the annual *Salvation Army* Bell Ringing effort by contributing our time to performing at least one Saturday in December. We are also very proud of our *Harmony Explosion* program which gives students throughout the area and across the states of Kansas and Missouri an opportunity to learn and experience our wonderful hobby through expert coaching and singing opportunities.

Gentlemen, we your elected officers and board members recognize the contributions each of you make to these very worthwhile efforts and we want to thank ALL of you for your kind generosity. With your support we look forward to continuing to be an active part of our community. ~

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# Harmonotes

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

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

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

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

**Todd Anderson**  
17905 East 24th Terrace Court S  
Independence, MO 64057-1332  
(816) 350-3377

## CHAPTER INFORMATION

Chapter meets at 7:00 PM each Tuesday night, at:  
St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
110th & Holmes  
Kansas City, MO 64105

HOA Website: [www.hoachorus.org](http://www.hoachorus.org)  
Web Address: [jmathieu@hoachorus.org](mailto:jmathieu@hoachorus.org)  
Chapter Telephone: (913) 221-7988

Member Of



# FROM THE TOP OF OUR HEART

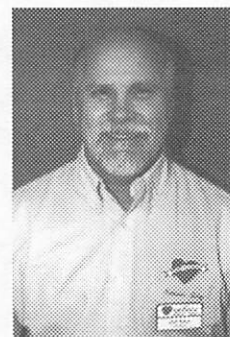
By Dick Irwin, HOA President

This past month has been an extremely trying and difficult time for me and my family. We have been observing a very emotional custody battle involving our daughter and grandson. I want to thank each of you who have been kind enough to listen to my ramblings about the situation and for all of the kind thoughts and words. It's times like this that only help to prove my belief that we are one very big family and that families always help each other.

Speaking of help (the first paragraph was not intended to be a lead in for this...but, hey!) There are a few members of this chapter and chorus who have been instrumental in making things work. These men have somehow mixed their personal lives with their obligation to the chapter and taken on the responsibilities of jobs like chapter officers and show chairs and uniform manager among others. These members have kept this chapter running for the majority who seem to think it's just fine to let somebody else do the job.

I'm here to tell ya guys, it just don't work that way! When you joined this chapter you agreed to participate in running the chapter. It is each members' obligation, I emphasize OBLIGATION, to step forward and be on a committee or chair a show or do something to help make this chapter run. Singing with the chorus is NOT a job.

I hate being negative especially when I think this chapter is on the verge of becoming something very special. But, we the few who have been holding up you the majority are tired of being the only ones working. We're tired of watching the majority have a good time on us. If you expect us to continue to help you, you had better start helping us. Come forward and accept a position when asked. Fulfill your obligation to this chapter. ~



# 2000 AWARDS UPDATE

The Kansas City Chapter has selected and presented the following awards to members during the first 7 months of 2000:

	BSOTM	Extra Mile
JANUARY	Dan Henry Bowser Dale Neuman	Gordon Lankenau
FEBRUARY	Dick Sutton	Ron McIntire
MARCH	Mike Schumacher Monty Duerksen	Al Higgins
APRIL	Jim Bagby	None selected
MAY	None selected	None selected
JUNE	Dick Korek	Mike Neff
JULY	Lud Einess Mike Mathieu	None selected

Congratulations to each of you and thank you from the bottom of our hearts! ~



# CSD RECEIVES TOP-NOTCH REPRESENTATION AT HARMONY FOUNDATION AUCTION!

At every International convention, each district donates a gift to be raffled as a benefit for the *Harmony Foundation*. Something valuable and "unique" usually garners the most interest and raises the most money for the Foundation. Since KC2000 was the first convention to have a theme, it seemed appropriate for Central States to donate an object that was representative of that theme, and *Tone-Henge* grabbed the ball and ran...as fast as eight old legs would let 'em. Being the slowest runner in the quartet, I got the job of creating the object, but the idea of making a stained glass reproduction of the wonderful convention logo, was that of CSD's gift-guy, **Leonard Purvis** and **Jim Bagby**. We're delighted to say that the *Tone-Henge*/CSD gift took in the most money for the foundation. There was another gift in the CSD package donated by **Gil Lefholz**; a baseball autographed by some guy named **George Brett**. That could have had something to do with CSD raking in the most money, well, maybe just a little. Of course if each member of *Tone-Henge* had signed that ball, it'd REALLY be worth something. ~

—Dan Henry

(Editor's Note: Unbeknown to most folks Dan spent about \$300 of his own money to create this wonderful item for auction! Great job, Dan!! That's a "glass" act!)



*Hi Dan,*

Very interesting story regarding the stained glass *Music Man* logo. A Barbershopper from Florida won it and the **George Brett** baseball. You may not recall how much I coveted the logo when I saw it at convention. I even purchased \$100 worth of raffle tickets and put them in the CSD jar, knowing that I wouldn't win. And I was right, I didn't. **Lois** and **Larry** here at the office knew how much I wanted it, though. They followed up with the Florida Barbershopper and found that, while he thought it was very attractive, he did not have a place to display it. They "negotiated" with him and bought it from him out of their own pockets. They surprised me with it a couple of weeks ago. It now PROUDLY hangs in my office in my only window. It is beautiful.

You made one Barbershopper (and **Dan Henry Bowser** fan) very happy.

We do not count the number of tickets in each jar, but the CSD did have more than any other district, at least 30% more than the next closest and more than double several of the districts.

Dan, thanks for you artistry and craftsmanship. Your work will enjoy a long and honored home in my Society Headquarters office. ~

(Editor's Note: **Gary Stamm** is Harmony Foundation Executive Director and society External Affairs Director. He was one of the three finalists for the position of Executive Director when **Darryl Flinn** was hired. Folks here will remember him in his "music man" role when he emceed the Wednesday night quarterfinals. In the May/June *Harmonizer*, he also wrote the review of the Broadway opening night "Music Man," plus the article on **Meredith Willson**.)



# MY WEEK AT HARMONY COLLEGE

by Tom Elefson

When I went to the campus of Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph at the end of July to attend Harmony College for a week, I didn't know what I was in for, but I knew it would be fun and educational. After listening to **Lee Tubbs**, **Dan Bowser**, **Joe Mathieu**, and **Duane Lawson** talk about their prior experiences there, I knew I had to go and see for myself. I wasn't disappointed.

I was one of some 700 attendees there, from all over the world. Most of them were barbershoppers and barbershop chorus directors, but there were also some music educators and some high school ensembles in attendance. We all got together the first night for some singing and a keynote address from **Val Hicks**, 50-year society guy and arranger (he arranged the Ballpark song we're doing, among many others). He talked about several past "heroes" of our society who have made it what it is today, and finished with a "keep-it-barbershop" admonition. For me, his address set the tone for the week.

When we had pre-registered for the week, we had 50-plus classes to choose from, ranging from music theory to vocal techniques to stagecraft to physics (yes, physics) to writing and arranging. The Director's College that was in session simultaneously had another large list of coarse offerings. All these classes were taught by the very best teachers the society has to offer. There must have been about 75 faculty members. They filled a whole set of risers at one time. I recognized most of their names, either from the Kenosha home office, or as arrangers, or quartetters, or contest judges. I narrowed my class selection to *Arranging I*, *Vocal Techniques*, *How to be a Great Baritone*, *Physics of Sound*, and *Tag Singing*.

By far, my most enjoyable and educational experience was in the Vocal Techniques class taught by **Dave Calland**, the lead of *Uptown Sound* and director of *The Alliance Chorus* from Ohio. He took a rag-tag bunch of barbershoppers (about 35 of us) and turned us into a district champion level chorus by the end of the week, giving every member of the class a one-on-one voice lesson that lasted five to ten minutes along the way. He did a masterful job of helping us find our best voice and to optimize our resonance.

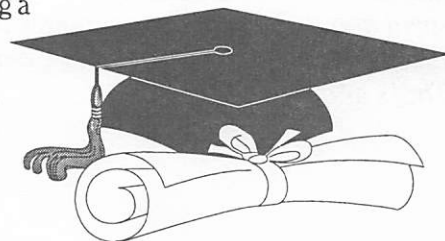
In terms of the more nitty-gritty learning, the arranging class with **Tom Parker** was well-suited to my personal hope to do some basic arranging. We started each day singing a tag, which we then dissected. Then

we got into chord recognition, understanding the underlying harmonic structure of a song, the circle for 5ths, voicings, leadings, what makes a song contestable, etc. I can now speak with authority on the subject of Chinese 7ths!

The other classes were great as well. **Dave Krause** did a great job with the tag singing class, with a surprise guest each day to teach a tag. **Dr. Greg Lyne** came to one class and tried to teach a tag by ear. When the class didn't get the parts right off, he decided we needed the notes written out for us on the chalk board. He wrote the notes as he taught, with incredible speed, always writing one note ahead of where we were singing, while simultaneously singing the prior note with the class. I don't know if I can explain just how amazing that was to see. The man is a genius!

**Dan'l Bowser** has talked to us before about the experience of singing with 700 men at the general sessions each morning. We were issued ten or twelve pieces of music when we arrived, and sang through them throughout the week. At times I would stop singing and just listen to the amazing sound. More than once I quit singing involuntarily due to a big lump in my throat and, as Dan'l puts it, "moisture leaving my body." That's an experience I hope to duplicate in years to come at future Harmony Colleges.

It was fun to participate in the well-established traditions while there. I could've done without the beanies, however. The tag-singing until all hours, the ice cream feeds, the beanie chorus contest, etc. added a lot of fun to the week. I strongly feel that every member of our chorus would benefit greatly from attending at least one harmony college. The social element is, of course, very worthwhile. But having a week of concentrated learning about how to hone your craft and become a better chorus member and/or quartetter is the most valuable aspect of the experience. I urge every member to consider taking a week off one summer to get a "shot-in-the-arm" for this hobby we love. ~





# WHERE DO I FIT IN MY CHAPTER?

by Tom Vizzi, Buffalo Billboard Editor, Buffalo, NY

What can we do to improve our chorus? Am I a Competitor, Leader, Hobbyist, Affiliator or a Tag-a-long? "Where do I fit in my chapter?" Every chapter's membership roster consists of individuals who fit into one or more of the categories below.

**Improve Chapter Membership** - Improve Chapter quality, attract singers, not just numbers. This is not one of those panic, browbeating articles but it is an article of enlightenment.

Last fall at the SLD COTS school, I heard a talk on the membership structure of our Chapters. This talk brought out the fact that each Chapter has members that fall into 5 categories;

**The Competitor**- He's the guy that wants to win! He is willing to sacrifice hard work to accomplish his goal.

**The Leader**- This guy is willing to be an officer, a committee chairman, section leader, and do anything he can to help out the Chapter. He's not too sure where he stands when it comes to competition.

**The Hobbyist**- This guy loves to sing. It's his hobby! He's been told that he has a nice singing voice and he probably does! He's not interested in competition, he just wants to sing!

**The Affiliator**- This guy just wants to belong. He comes to the weekly rehearsals, sings, and has a great time. He hardly ever volunteers to help the Chapter in anyway but, just wants to belong.

**The Tag-a-long** - This guy goes a long with anything the Leader says, does what ever the Hobbyist wants to do and just tags a long with the Chapter flow.

**What is your Chapter attitude and where do you fit in?**

Take a long look at your Chapter, see if you can recognize any of the above member types. Now ask yourself, "Where do I fit in?" Is there room for improvement?

A chapter full of competitors is a chapter that wants to go to a national convention. And why not!? In our lifetime, how many opportunities do we get to do something that really makes a difference. Think how exciting it would be to travel to a national convention and compete on stage with the best in the world. *Wow!* Win or lose, it's the experience that counts.

The non-competitors in our Chapters need to analyze ourselves and ask the question; Why do I belong to my chorus? Our common denominators are that we all love to sing, and entertain or we would not be here in the first place. Would our audiences rather hear the blah "Blahville Harmonizers" from Blahville, USA or the exciting *Vocal Majority* chorus?

**The Youth of the world are our future!**

Our youth today, want to win! They are growing up with competition. A chorus can not attract a youthful singer if they have the "Blahville attitude".

Our choruses must meet the new millenium with a year

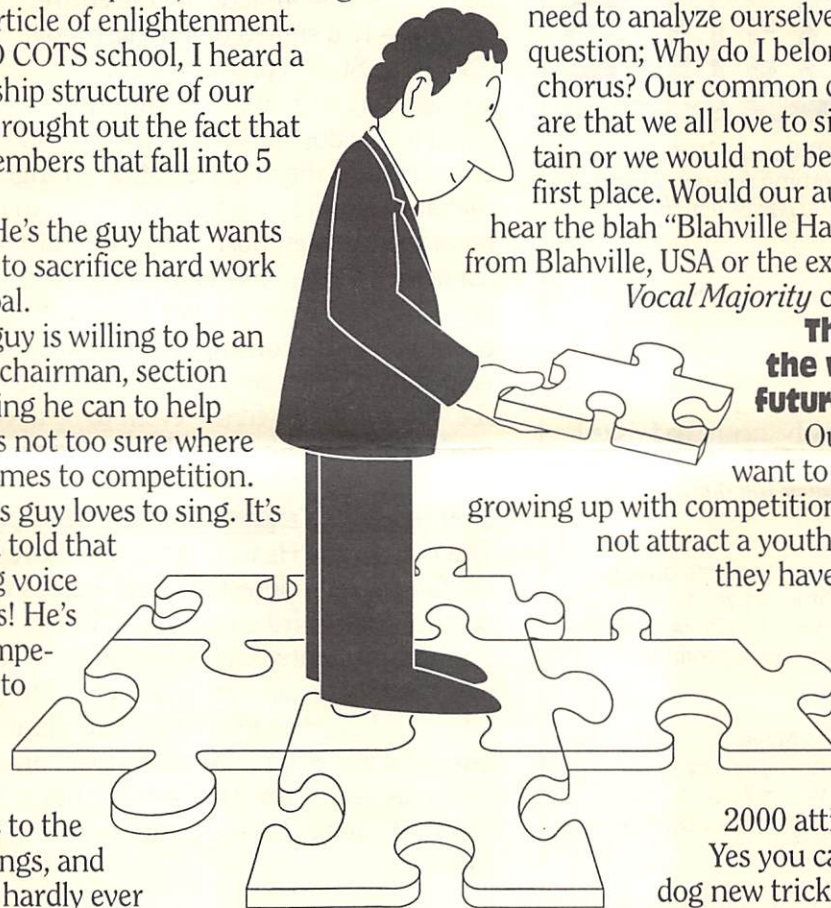
2000 attitude.

Yes you can teach an old dog new tricks. If we want to attract youth of the 21st

century, we must become a chorus, a District and a Barbershop Society of the 21st century.

Let's all sing with excitement, enthusiasm, focus, and then we will all have more fun. I for one have changed my mind about my attitude. I have decided to move up to the competitor level.

It seems to me, that if viewing a rainbow is exciting, imagine what it must be to find the gold. ~



# JUST FOUR FUN

Feel free to submit humorous anecdotes and/or thought-provoking quotes to the Editor!

## OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF ATHLETES

New Orleans Saint RB **George Rogers** when asked about the upcoming season: *"I want to rush for 1,000 to 1,500 yards, whichever comes first."*

Football commentator and former player, **Joe Thiesmann**: *"Nobody in football should be called a genius. A genius is a guy like Norman Einstein."*

**Shaquille O'Neal** on whether he had visited the Parthenon during his visit to Greece: *"I can't really remember the names of the clubs that we went to."*

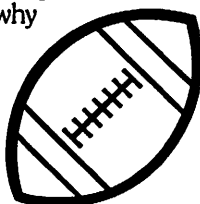
**Lou Duva**, veteran boxing trainer, on the Spartan training regime of heavyweight **Andrew Golota**: *"He's a guy who gets up at six o'clock in the morning regardless of what time it is."*

**Pat Williams**, Orlando Magic general manager, on his teams 7-27 record: *"We can't win at home. We can't win on the road. As general manager, I just can't figure out where else to play."*

**Torrin Polk**, University of Houston receiver... about his coach, **John Jenkins**: *"He treats us like men. He lets us wear earrings."*

**Shelby Metcalf**, basketball coach at Texas A&M, recounting what he told a player who received four F's and one D: *"Son, looks to me like you're spending too much time on one subject."*

Former Oiler coach **Bum Phillips**, when asked by **Bob Costas** why he takes his wife on all the road trips: *"Because she's too ugly to kiss good-bye."*

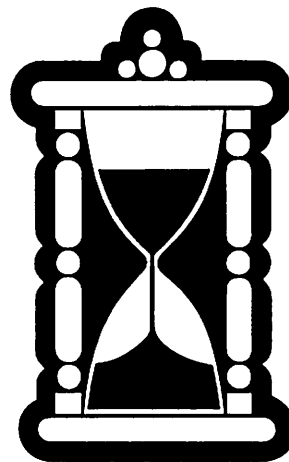


## A LOOK AT PAST IN THE HARMONOTES

By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

### **Ten Years Ago - September 1990**

**Mike Mathieu** extended a big "thank you" to those HOA members who responded to his request for volunteers to host 55 members of the Whittier, California, Chapter on the night of July 28. The group—practically the entire chapter—had signed up for Harmony College at St. Joseph but were informed they couldn't be accommodated in the dormitories on the MWSC campus until the next day. Mike arranged for the group to be met at KCI and brought to his home to freshen up and enjoy a bit of the Mathieu hospitality. After dinner, the whole crowd adjourned to the VFW Hall where Mike had arranged a surprise birthday party for **Jan**. What a surprise that must have been! The next morning, the various hosts saw to it that their respective guests were transported, bag and baggage, to St. Joe. Mike considered the event to be a "rousing success," but made it abundantly clear that he didn't want to do it again!



### **Twenty Years Ago - September 1980**

The men of the Heart of America Chorus were planning for the fall district contest at Cedar Rapids where they hoped to capture their third consecutive district trophy. Director **Jim Bagby** commented that since no extra rehearsals were planned this time, everybody needed to work harder. A new quartet, "Four-the-Fun-of-It," was planning to sing in the quartet competition. Members were **Jim Bagby** (tenor), **Dale Neuman** (lead), **Jim Davis** (baritone), and **Keith Schweer** (bass). We'll have to wait until next month to find out how they did.

### **Thirty Years Ago - September 1970**

HOA Chorus Committee Chairman **Ed Rooker** sounded the keynote, "No more second place," as the chorus prepared for the fall district contest at Davenport. Choreography session had been scheduled with **Betty Morgan** of the JaCoMo Sweet Adelines who had won their first regional contest. HOA was focused on winning their first district championship. In the interim, the men of HOA were planning a special appearance on September 13 at their regular meeting place, the Roanoke-Westport Community Center, to announce the fall opening of the center. ~



# 17 NEW MEMBERS!

by Grant Hunget

Please make an effort to call, or drop a "Welcome Aboard" card to a few of these 17 fellows who have joined the ranks of the Kansas City Chapter thus far in 2000. Put yourself in their place (if you had just joined, wouldn't it be neat to be contacted by a member of the chorus? ABSOLUTELY!):

- Wayne Crawford, lead, 400 Bellevista Dr, Independence, MO 64055, 816-836-4361.  
 Andy Crawford, tenor, same as above.  
 Harvey Shapiro, bass, 1117 SW Pacific Dr, Lee's Summit, MO 64081, 816-554-7998.  
 Stan Maxey, lead, ..... 7311 Sloan Ave, Kansas City, KS 66109, 913-334-3138.  
 Paul Nyman, bass, ..... 4304 NW Briarwood Dr, Blue Springs, MO 64015, 816-224-3878.  
 Jim Porter, lead, ..... 15120 S. Blackfeather Dr, Olathe KS, 66062, 913-390-0995.  
 Frank Sullivan, lead, ... 6841 W. 156 Terr, Overland Park, KS 66223, 913-685-9167.  
 Don Palmer, lead, ..... 1105 NE Westwind Dr, Lee's Summit, MO 64086, 816-246-8680.  
 Mike O'Dell, bari, ..... 105-L Lake Shore Dr, Lake Lotawana, MO 64086, 816-578-4895.  
 Warren Vincent, lead, ... PO Box 217, Tonganoxie, KS 66086, 913-845-3622.  
 Gerren Vincent, bass, ... same as above.  
 Tyson Lindsay, lead, ... 1709 NE Clubhouse Dr #101, NKCMO 64116, 816-471-7947.  
 Michael Hillenburg, lead, 1987 E. Tuff St, Pleasant Hope MO 65725, 417-267-4663.  
 Jake Pirner, tenor, ... 13220 W. 111 Terr, OPKS 66210, 913-469-0171.  
 Dominic Pedotto, tenor, 13310 W. 112 St, OPKS 66210, 913-661-9615.  
 Matt Harader, bari, ... 3915 Booth #4, KCKS 66103, 913-403-8629.  
 Ross Worth, bari, ... 1807 S. Lake Dr, Independence, MO 64055, 816-833-0525.

## They'll be happy to hear from YOU!

**INCENTIVE-BASED MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM REMINDERS:** Remember what's up for grabs for most points this quarter in the incentive-based membership drive? **1 PAID HARMONY COLLEGE REGISTRATION FOR 2001** (a \$425.00 value just to bring potential singers to meetings!) Most points by any man by Sep. 30 wins!! YOUR final quarter of play runs 10/1-12/31, and the high-point guy will claim: **2 PAID INTL. REGIS. TO NASHVILLE 2001, PLUS AIRFARE FOR 2** (approx. \$600.00 value)!!!! GO FOR IT, MAN!!!! POTENTIAL SINGERS BROUGHT BY YOU = POINTS; MOST POINTS = FUN STUFF !!! ~

*"Barbershop harmony really begins at the end and works backwards. If a quartet is well equipped with 'wicked' endings, the body of the song may be fairly conventional. It is the close that leaves the final fragrance of the barbershop, and if this be beautifully flavored with a nostalgic aroma, it matters little what has gone before. The most obvious harmonies are forgotten in a really subtle finish."*

Source: "Barbershop Ballads and How to Sing Them,"  
 Dr. Sigmund Spaeth, 1925)

# SUNSHINE NOTES

by Max Boise

We've got both sad and glad information to report this month. First, the sad...

**Virginia Davis, Jim Davis'** mother, passed away August 13. Services were held for her at Fairmont Christian Church on August 21. Our heartfelt sympathy to Jim and family.

Getting to the glad news, ... **J.B. Witham**, out for some time with a bum knee, has recuperated to where he was able to attend rehearsal, briefly, on August 15. *Good to see you, J.B.!*

Now for the best news, ... **Rick Dunaway** and **Keith Schweer** are both new grandfathers—with pictures to show I'm sure!

*See you next month!* ~



# TONE-HENGE

Well, *Tone-Henge* is hot on the competition trail again. We're in the middle of a grueling schedule in preparation for the District Contest in Des Moines. We've adopted an accelerated rehearsal schedule in an effort to reach our lofty goals. Why, just last week, we sang two whole songs—STANDING UP—without a break; ah well, no pain, no gain. And, if we can coordinate our schedules and clear it with our families, we're going to try to have at least 3 more rehearsals before Des Moines. Yes, we're serious. We've also committed to learning 2 new songs for contest, specially written and arranged just for us by some of the finest songsmiths in our society. Maybe we'll get a chance to perform them for you before we go to Des Moines. Boy, all this talk of work and sacrifice is making me thirsty—anybody gotta brew? ~



Please welcome Kansas City's newest quartet:

## Polecat Creek

Tenor - Tom Elefson

Lead - Wayne Crawford

Bass - Eric Weber

Baritone - Dick Irwin

The quartet plans to compete in the CSD Fall contest in Des Moines. This brings the number of HOA quartets competing to six!



Society for the Preservation and Encouragement  
of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America  
Kansas City Chapter, Inc.  
3323 Red Bridge Road, Apt. 3  
Kansas City, MO 64137-2145

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# Heart of America

September & October Performance Calendar

**SEPTEMBER 12** - Performance at Prairie Village Presbyterian  
**SEPTEMBER 19** - Sing With The Champs - RR3  
**OCTOBER 10** - District Quartet Entrants Send-off  
**OCTOBER 13-15** - Central States District Convention and Contests  
**OCTOBER 17** - Performance at New Hope Christian Church  
**OCTOBER 27-29** - HOA Annual Retreat with Tony Derosa