

Harmonotes

September 2002

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2002, Issue 9

HIP, HOORAY! HOA IS ON OUR WAY!

by Al Higgins



We're the 2002 Buckeye Invitational men's Chorus Champions! *How sweet it is.*

A weekend in Columbus, Ohio was just the medicine that HOA needed to get itself back on track for International competition. The Buckeye Invitational was the perfect showcase for the *Heart of America Chorus* to unveil its new and enthusiastic singing style and demeanor.

Singing second in a group of eighteen men's and women's choruses, HOA energetically sang the package of "I'm Gonna Live Til I Die," "I'll Be Seeing You," "I'm Beginning To See The Light," and "There's Gonna Be Some Changes Made" in a confident and exciting manner to the early morning audience. We sang at 10:00 am (that's 9:00 am Kansas City time).

Featuring Arm Waver Jim, "Little Anthony" (without the Imperials), Cameron and his "sweetheart Josh", the chorus performed in such a way that everyone knew they were having the most fun singing and dancing their way through the entertainment package.

When the results were announced, HOA stood proud and tall. In the Judges Panel Score, HOA was 4th (the only men's chorus in the top 5), the Entertainment Panel (the audience), HOA was 3rd (the only men's chorus in the top 5), in the Mens Overall category, HOA was #1 (nuff said), and in the Grand Championship category, HOA was 3rd (again the only mens chorus in the top 5).

A tip of the top hat to *Tone-Henge* who finished 2nd in the Comedy Quartet contest. Doing their familiar stuff, they performed with perfection, skill, and great timing. **Dan Henry** was truly outstanding as the old sot in "Curse." He was so good that it made you wonder if he hadn't been on the sauce during the afternoon. They were so good that even with a time penalty they finished second.

And finally, Great big kudos go to **Jim Bagby** for his magnificent job of emceeing the first quartet session. Even though he is a seasoned performer and emcee, he stands two heads and shoulders (you must remember how tall he is) above all of the other emcees for the weekend. Congrats Jim, you're the best!

It was truly an outstanding weekend where HOA accomplished what they wanted to do and then some. A tone has been set and District is clearly in our sights. So...LOOK OUT WICHITA, HOA WILL MAKE A SHORT STOP ON OUR WAY TO MONTREAL! ~

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TONE-HENGE CAPTURES SECOND PLACE

Even with penalty points, these guys put on a memorable show!

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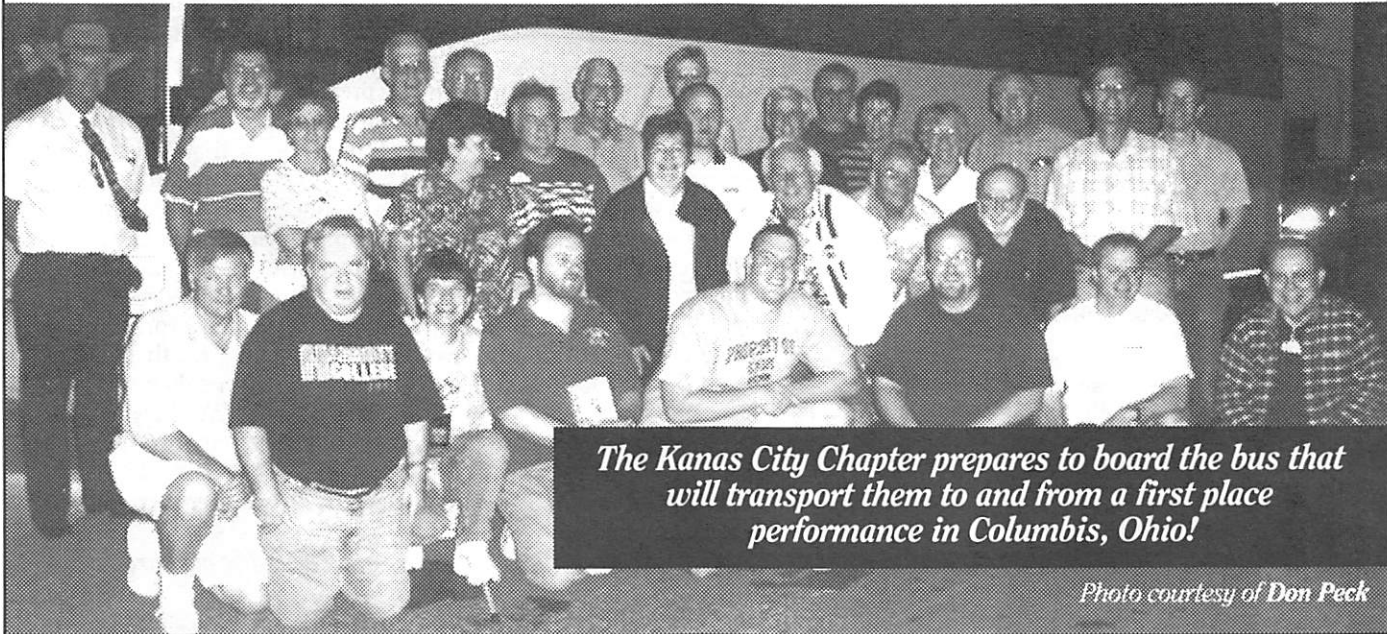
ARM-WAVER'S OUTLOOK

Director Jim Bagby talks about Buckeye and looks ahead to the future.

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SPECIAL CHAPTER MEETING REGARDING BY-LAWS

Dale Neuman educates us on what will take place!



The Kanas City Chapter prepares to board the bus that will transport them to and from a first place performance in Columbus, Ohio!

Photo courtesy of Don Peck

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:

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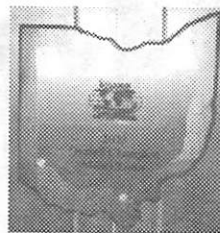
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Member Of



A VIEW FROM THE TOP

by John Stucker



It is with great joy that I pass on to all the HOA family that the 2002 Buckeye is now history and HOA walked off with the Overall Champion Male Chorus trophy!

HOA received an invitation to compete in the Buckeye Invitational way back last spring. The invitation came as a result of our second place finish in the CSD contest last fall.

Early Thursday morning August 15, some 47 HOA members headed out for Columbus, Ohio to participate in the Buckeye Invitational. I was one of 30 members and wives who got up much too early and left the Blue Ridge Mall at the ungodly hour of 6 AM on a charter bus. The day was uneventful and after the twelve-hour bus ride, we arrived.

The first event on the schedule was a Friday morning rehearsal. The rehearsal went well with us refining the entire package. The Buckeye rules for chorus competitors are somewhat different than we have at a district spring and fall contest. The chorus competitors present a complete entertainment package no longer than eleven minutes. Singing over eleven minutes results in a penalty. In the chorus package there must be two contestable songs included. The official judging panel consisted of men and women representing the Harmony Society, Sweet Adelines and Harmony, Inc. There was also an audience panel who judged the overall entertainment value of the entire package. Putting these two scores together got the overall score for each competitor.

Included in the Buckeye competition were quartets (male, female and comedy) and our own *Tone-Henge* walked away with second place in the comedy contest. The audience was laughing so hard after Dan's line about squeezing the canary that it took the quartet quite a long time to continue. Maybe that's how they got the time penalty.

We had the opportunity to talk with **Paul Wigly** who used to direct the Mason City chapter and now directs the Minneapolis Commodores. Paul reminded us of all the times Mason City finished second behind HOA and that this time it was going to be different! He said something about kicking something! Their competition ballad was the same as ours (*I'll Be Seeing You*). I didn't get a chance to talk with Paul after the contest, but suffice to say we still prevailed.

The positive outcome of this endeavor would have been much different had it not been for several folks who went above and beyond. Shawn Jeffries worked very hard in assisting use all in learning the plan for "There'll Be Some Changes Made". Shawn had to withdraw at the last moment but was instrumental in the preparation. At the risk of leaving someone out, I thank all those who helped in any way.

Finally, the guy who was everywhere, did everything, thought of all possible snags before hand and without whom we simply could not have accomplished the goal was **Vince Perry**. Vince made all the travel arrangements, booked the bus, prepared a comprehensive itinerary, had the bus available to get us to and from the theater and all the little things that no one but Vince would even have thought of. The next time you see Vince, please thank him for the effort. It really worked!

What is next for HOA after this win? How about you guys, that for all good reasons could not go to the Buckeye, get your names down on the list to compete with the chorus this fall in Wichita? We really need you. Just think, if we can score 73's with 47 people we could score mid-80's with 75-80 people (And by the way, have a lot of fun doing it). The contest package is much further along now than it has ever been in the past. Maybe we could even scare St. Charles. ~

PS: Ask me to show you the trophy we got. I would be glad to do it.

A REPORT FROM INTERNATIONAL

by Lud Einess



Betty and I returned from another fantastic International Convention in Portland, Oregon.

Portland is a beautiful city and the Portland convention team, and the Society's Events Committee did an outstanding job in planning and presenting to us one of the best conventions ever.

The Society board spent a total of three days in various meetings, and I want to share with you some of the topics discussed during our meetings.

A proposal was put forth that all "A" choruses will compete at International competition. Because much more information is needed, the proposal was referred to the C&J and Events committees, and information gathered will be presented to the Society Board at Midwinter for further discussion.

It was moved and passed that the Society adopt the practice of regularly representing the Society as "The Barbershop Harmony Society," accompanied with the subtitle "doing business as SPEBSQSA, Inc."

The Multicultural Task Force has met and reports good initial progress. One suggestion is that the task force create a Power Point presentation to use at civic, fraternal, and other clubs, schools and YMIH events, to promote the Barbershop style of singing to all ethnic groups.

There has been much discussion and concern regarding the condition of the CSLT program. A survey conducted by the CSLT Advisory Panel to determine the needs that can be addressed by Society/Districts was distributed. Much of CSLT's planned activities, including on-line reporting has been temporarily suspended, awaiting results of the Advisory Panel's study. The consensus is that CSLT is viable, and will continue with some modification.

YMIH concern is continuing lack of collegiate quartet competitors in many districts. In my opinion, there should be a YMIH VP or chairman in all chapters to seek out, promote, and organize collegiate quartets on the local level, and I ask all chapter's to seriously consider the appointment of qualified men to serve in that position.

Membership loss is still a major concern for the Society, districts and chapters. I would encourage all chapters to initiate an on going orientation program for all new members. Part of that program should be to determine what new members want and expect from the chapter, and, what expectations the chapter has from a new member.

It seems that the main focus the chapters have is recruiting, and within a year, we lose 50% of the new members. Perhaps the loss of members would be a lot less if a great orientation program was in place. THINK ABOUT IT!

Heart of America Chorus

ELEVEN-TIME Central States District Champion!

CHAPTER QUARTET CHAMPIONS

Rural Route 4 - 1986 International Champion

Don Kahl (tenor), Calvin Yoder (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Willard Yoder (bass)

Gentlemen of Note - 2001 International Seniors Medallists

Rod Rule (tenor), Jon Gathright (lead),
Rich Huyck (bari), Monty Duerksen (bass)

HyPower Serenaders - 1948 Central States District Champion

Don McPherson (tenor), Ben Franklin (lead),
Bert Phelps (bari), Dale Warrick (bass)

Gambolliers - 1952 Central States District Champion

John Dooley (tenor), Eddie Schliebs (lead),
Orval Wilson (bari), Jimmy Byrnes (bass)

BMA Gambolliers - 1957 Central States District Champion

Barney Wasson (tenor), Eddie Schliebs (lead),
Orval Wilson (bari), Harold Robinette (bass)

The Kippers - 1962 Central States District Champion

*Ken Gabler (tenor), *Tom Taylor (lead),
John Goldsbury (bari), Don Page (bass)

The Four Kippers - 1966 Central States District Champion

*Ken Gabler (tenor), *Byron Meyers (lead),
John Goldsbury (bari), Gil Lefholz (bass)

The Morning Times - 1974 Central States District Champion

Dave Snook (tenor), Roger O'Dell (lead),
Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)

Corner Quartet - 1981 Central States District Champion

Don Kahl (tenor), Lance Heilmann, (lead)
Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)

Harmony Spectrum - 1982 Central States District Champion

Gene Bowers (tenor), David Krause (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Willard Yoder (bass)

Special Touch - 1984 Central States District Champion

*Rick Kready (tenor), David Krause (lead),
*Bud Clark (bari), Matt Moore (bass)

KC Connection - 1986 Central States District Champion

Rod Rule (tenor), Wayne Lankenau (lead),
Rich Huyck (bari), Larry Wilson (bass)

12th Street Rag - 1994 Central States District Champion

*Rick Kready (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead),
John Fortino (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

OTHER CHAPTER QUARTETS

12th Street Rag - 2000 International Semi-Finalists

*Micah Jeppesen (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead),
John Fortino (bari), *Barry Moore (bass)

Arpeggio

Marlin Weidler (tenor), Rick Dunaway (lead),
Ralph Tallmon (bari), Mike Griffin (bass)

Crosstown Four

Dale Neuman (tenor), Gordon Coleman (lead),
Ron Abel (bari), Val Putzier (bass)

Heartland

*Rick Kready (tenor), David Krause (lead),
Matt Moore (bari), *Dale Comer (bass)

New and Used Parts

Jerry Garrard (tenor), Mike Neff (lead),
Grant Hunget (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

Polecat Creek

Lyle Wyly (tenor), Wayne Crawford (lead),
Dick Irwin (bari), Eric Weber (bass)

SureFire!

Carter Combs (tenor), Mike Neff (lead),
Grant Hunget (bari), Don Young (bass)

The Musical Firm of Schwarzkopf, Anderson, Carney & Bray

Raymond Schwarzkopf (tenor), Todd Anderson (lead),
*Randy Carney (bari), *Burt Bray (bass)

Tone-Henge

Bruce Wenner (tenor), Dan Henry (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

Uranium

Dale Neuman (tenor), Charley Drake (lead),
Tom Steele (bari), John Stucker (bass)

*Member of other chapters

TONE-HENGE ENJOYS BUCKEYE!

by Bruce Wenner

We're just back from Buckeye, and what a convention it was for *Tone-Henge!* A national stage for twelve minutes—plus twenty-five unauthorized seconds, but who's counting?



ToneHenge takes second among Comedy Quartets!

With all our buddies whooping it up in the audience. It just doesn't get any better than that. No way we wanted to get off that stage. And then we got second place—we had our hearts set on fifth, but second is OK.

Sorry we were late getting back out to the audience after our set. As soon as we walked off stage, they started slapping **Dan** around and tried to pour hot coffee into him. We also had to talk our way out of a PUI citation - that's *Performing Under the Influence*. Guess we overdid our last number.

They presented the special awards backstage. (They used to give them out publicly, but they found it encouraged bad behavior by quartets.) Our most prized award was the MVP—yep, we were the *Most Vocally Pungent*. Then there was the *Least Improved Quartet* pin. We had to work hard for that one—we owe it primarily to having cancelled half our rehearsals, and bringing out the beer early when we did meet. The other ones came a little easier. We swept the two VIP's; yours truly got us the *Vocally Incompetent Professor* medal, and the *Vertically-Impaired Performer* medal was a lock after they had to special order a Podium Junior so that **Jim** could emcee. Then there was the Old Coot daguerreotype they gave **Dan** (if you don't know what that is, you're not old enough to qualify for it). He was the only guy his age who was still vertical.

Many thanks to all of you for the terrific support you gave us. We're still high from the weekend—including the thrill of joining the rest of the Buckaroos for that winning chorus performance Saturday. *Way to go, champs!* ~

SUREFIRE! LOGS FIRST GIG!

by Grant Hunget

After weeks of illness, vacations, Portland trips & vocal nodes, *SureFire!* has logged its first gig! We (tried) to start regular rehearsals about 3 months ago, then got sidelined, and are now on-track!! We are comprised of **Carter**



Combs-Tenor, Mike Neff-Lead, Don Young-Bass, and Grant Hunget-Baritone.

Approximately 200 residents at the Garden Village Retirement Center (up north on Barry Rd.) filled the joint with what most claimed was "the largest crowd which has attended a recreational activity at the Center in years."

Strong attendance resulted from a GREAT idea by coordinators (Al & Fay): They asked us to show up at the tail end of supper-hour & sing a 'teaser' song in the chow-hall, which would hopefully entice folks to attend the evening's entertainment. To our knowledge, everyone in that chow-hall showed up! GOOD IDEA!

And so, following an afternoon rehearsal & early dinner, we performed 35-minutes of chorus repertoire (THANK YOU H.O.A.!), plus a few bad jokes, and they all just loved it! There were so many nice compliments—kinda makes a guy want to keep doing this! Following the debut performance, we absorbed some fine scenery & libations at Hooters North. *What a hobby!*

Sidenote: There was one resident who remembered some outfit called the "Merry Mugs," and threw out such names as **Dan Henry, Barney Wasson, Harold Robinette, Dennis Taylor, and Nile Abbott**. Also, in chatting with folks, Mike visited with a resident who used to live in St. Joe, and knew his parents pretty well. Then, who walks in midway but **Charlie Drake**. His mother is a resident, and he'd seen the promos in previous weeks. Thanks for the support, Charlie!

Along with some other local gigs, we will be performing in the sauna-like temperatures of "Music in the Park," and are building towards contest in Wichita.

Until next time! ~

RR CD NO, TAPE SI

For those who asked, the *Rural Route 4* recording HOA is hearing as we learn "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder," is available on tape. But we've been out of CD's



for coupla years. In addition to "My Life, My Love, My Song," we also have limited tapes of "Friends and Relatives," which includes live Music Hall performance from 1987. See Jim. ~

ARM-WAVER'S OUTLOOK

by Jim Bagby, Director



If you wanna put absolutely the best spin on Kansas City's participation in the Buckeye Invitational, you could call it a near-sweep. HOA won the men's chorus competition, and *Tone-Henge* came within 11 points of the Comedy Quartet crown.

Without any gilding, it was a successful and enjoyable weekend. The music team and board had been adamant about getting the chorus to compete, for the fun, the experience and for the competitive effort. HOA sang well, we got to know each other better (especially those who rode the bus) and there was much socializing and fraternizing. So those goals were met. The 47 men who carried the HOA banner to Columbus are to be cheered and congratulated.

I do feel the need, however, to look at all aspects of the Buckeye experience. The most obvious statistic should be that we took about half the active chorus—indicating not everyone was as excited about the venture as the chapter leadership. And as much fun as it was to win, we'd be misleading ourselves to compare the field we competed against to what we'll face at Central States District.

One unusual aspect of the Buckeye is that the Sweet Adelines send some ripper choruses, while most of the men's entries are like us—trying to get somewhere we've not been before, or recapture past glories. Which is exactly why the Buckeye began 14 years ago. With the entertainment points (from the special audience judges) factored in, we were a credible third in the overall competition, behind two big-sound and very entertaining S.A. choruses.

Now our challenge is go gather those who were not with us—for whatever reason—at Buckeye, and turn our joint enthusiasm toward Wichita. The new chorus lineup should be out just before you read this,

but it's not too late to gather new folks and former actives—and achieve something memorable in October!

KEY CHANGES: Between now and the Oct. 18 competition weekend loom two key dates. And the HOA participation there will go a long way toward determining how joyful is our Wichita trek. Staging gurus **Bob and Rosemary Calderon** will be here for a day-long tuneup on Saturday, Sept. 21. And our annual retreat is in Atchison the weekend of Oct. 4-5, with **Bill Biffle** and **Dwain Brobst**. Mark your calendars!

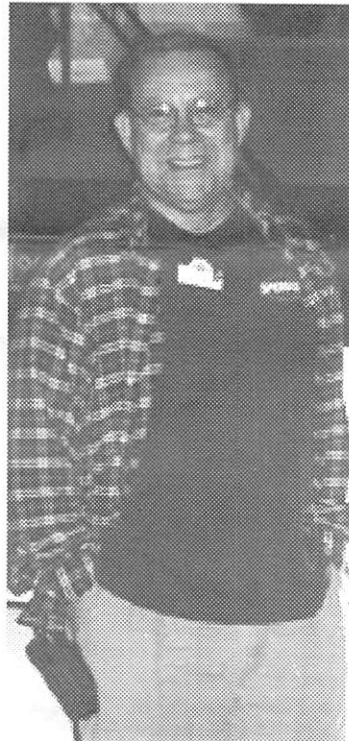
A big Arm-Waver's bow to the entire music team, for all you see them do and all they do behind the scenes. As we've discussed, our scores could have been higher in Columbus—and perhaps should have been—but we made a lot of progress in a relatively short time because of the work of this dedicated group.

Another hat tip to the *Flexible Forty-Six* on the risers, who got shifted one side to another and in and out, as the chorus that began at 60-plus lost folks virtually every meeting. That could have been a negative, but the response was always "put me in coach, I'll try from wherever you want me."

This issue probably is full of the name **Vince Perry**, and it should be. Unless you were along, you can't imagine what a one-man gang he was in planning and executing the Buckeye outing...pat him on the back and say thanks (and to **Melladee**) for the time and effort invested. Now about Wichita, Vince...

Our entertainment package designed by the **Calderons**, **Sheri** and **Mike** worked well, and much of the credit goes to scene-stealers **Anthony Fortino**, **Josh Wolf** and **Cameron LaBarr**. Can you imagine them, 40 years hence, describing

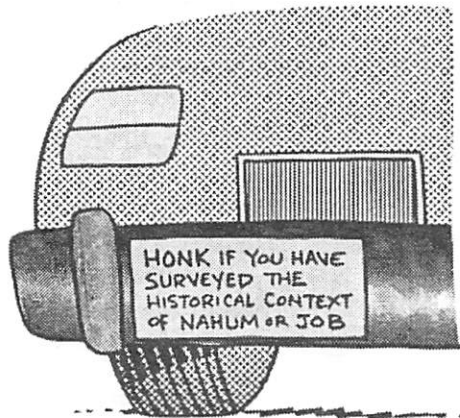
their first chorus competition? "I wore a char- treuse Elvis Wig." "Heck, I wore a slinky, red dress!"



Vince Perry did the work of 10 men in the planning and execution of HOA's trip to Buckeye!

JUST FOUR FUN

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



**NOT ONE OF THE BETTER-SELLING
BUMPER STICKERS**



In a moment of weakness, Rev. J. Harold
Weems trades his automobile for a set of
sermons on Godly wisdom.

Cartoons by Eddie Eddings

**DEADLINE FOR THE
AUGUST ISSUE OF
*Harmonotes***

Articles and photos are due by
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
For more information,
call Todd at 816-373-8633

A LOOK AT THE PAST IN *HARMONOTES*

By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

Ten Years Ago - September, 1992

HOA members were pleased and proud to learn that music director **Jim Bagby** and coach and tenor section leader **Don Newman** had been accepted for participation in the Presentation judging category—one of three new categories that would go into effect in June for the fall round of district contests in 1993. Wonder if they're both still active in the program?

HOA Chorus Manager **Jim White** announced that the chorus was committed to present a show for the benefit of Children's Mercy Hospital in order that they might purchase instruments and equipment for use in treating the speech and hearing impaired, something akin to our own international charity (at that time), the Institute of Logopedics. The performance would take place on Saturday, September 12, at the Northland Cathedral at North Oak and I-29.

In his "President's message," **Mike Mathieu** reported that the rent for our meeting place at *Unity Temple* on the Country Club Plaza had been increased 250 percent! (It was obvious they wanted us out of there so they could use a profit-making endeavor; I believe it was converted to a tea room. Unless my memory fails me, we moved out to Fred Wisman's "place," at 4th and Delaware in the River Front area. There were space (and security) problems there, so that was when we moved to *St. Peter's Church*, our current meeting place. Am I right?)

New members were **David Miller**, a lead, and 16-year-old **David Cuny**, who was sponsored by **Rod Rule**. **David Cuny** was a student with a Summer job at *Hardee's*. When we told him we wanted to get a picture of him for *Harmonotes*, he disappeared and was never seen again. wonder if **Rod** knows what happened to him?

The September *Harmonotes* featured three "Barbershoppers of the Month" (the board got a bit behind on the monthly selection). **Ed Sundermeyer** got the award for "the incredible job he did—and always does—managing ticket sales for our show; **Jim White** was recognized "for so efficiently getting us all registered and housed for the contest in New Orleans," and **Vic Stensrud** was picked for contributing "so much in the way of motivation and enthusiasm for New Orleans with his program of inspirational talks during the weeks prior to our departure."

Twenty Years Ago - September, 1982

Chapter President **Jerry Fullington** pointed out that HOA finished just 30 points out of fourth place at the international contest in Pittsburgh, and wondered how much better we might have done if we had competed with 90 men on stage.

In addition to the district convention coming up on October 8-9 in Omaha, there were a couple of other major activities scheduled for the coming weeks. **Jim Bagby** described the performance on the Twin Heritage Sweet Adeline show on October 16 at the Lyric Theater. HOA would be the headliner. Editor **Dennis Yeager** reminded everyone of, the benefit fund-raiser with the Northland Chapter of Sweet Adelines on September 25. This show was to benefit **Tami Hendrickson**, a 10-year-old Kansas City North girl who suffered from a rare and painful skin disease.

Thirty-Five Years Ago - September, 1967

The Kansas City Chapter was planning for the "First Annual Greater Kansas City Area Invitational Quartet Contest" to be held at the chapter's regular meeting place, the World War II Memorial Building at Linwood and The Paseo In Kansas City. **Jerry Kelley** was the organizer.

A recent guest was a fellow by the name of **Don Kahl**, who was planning to transfer to the Kansas City chapter.

Edgar E. Schlieb, a member of HOA for 27 years, passed away on August 17. Eddie was the founder of the *Gambolliers* quartet and sang lead with them for several years.

The following paragraph appeared in an article, presumably written by Editor **Don Thorne** since there is no byline; "Fellows, we need concentrated rehearsals. Therefore, I suggest that you do not bring your wives or your lady friends to chapter meetings. It does distract from our chorus rehearsals when ladies are present." How far do you think we'd get if an item like that appeared in a current edition of *Harmonotes*? ~

From the Heartbeats

by Carol Ramirez, Heartbeats President

Congratulations to the chorus for the great showing at Buckeye! We're really proud of you!

Ladies, please join us for the next official meeting at 7 p.m., September 17 with a pot luck at the home of **Estyl Bowser**, 6828 Woodson St., in Overland Park. We need to brainstorm how we can best support these Buckeye champs in Wichita.

Also, Estyl will give us some tips on investing for those who are risk-takers.

Then, of course, we're going to have some more sewing sessions to complete the rest of the vests for the chorus, so watch for further notice on when those will start. ~

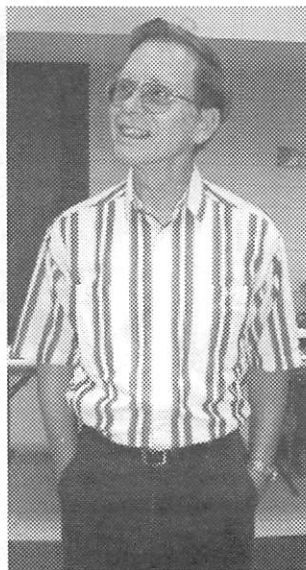
GOOD TO SEE YOU, FRED!

Former HOA member **Fred Jesse** was in town August 6 and stopped by for a visit.

Fred is a tenor in the *Harmony Handful*. He now lives in Ringgold, GA and sings with the Chattanooga, TN chapter.

He also sings tenor in two quartets—*Senior Sounds* and *Rock City 4* (not at the same time, however).

Fred is a quiet sort of guy, well liked and sang a pretty dang good tenor line back in the days when he sang with HOA. We all hated to see him move! ~



WHACHA THINK?

Test your barbershop trivia skills!

Question:

Out of the 18 quartets that have won gold the first time they competed, how many of them can you name?

Name 3 - Good

Name 6 - Pretty Good

Name 9 - Darn Good

Name 12 - Really Good

Name 15 - Amazingly Good

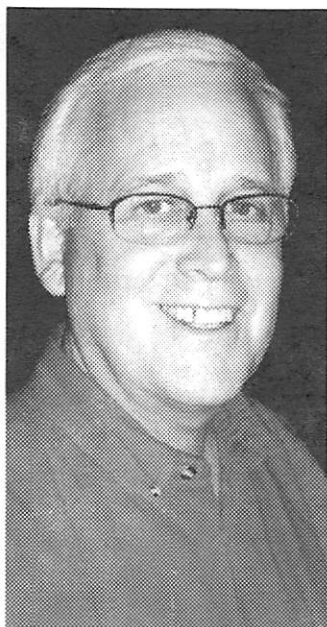
Name all 18 in order - **Get a LIFE!**

Answer:
Bartlesville Barflies, 1939 - Chord Busters, 1941 - Elastic Four, 1942 - Four Harmonizers, 1943 - Pittsburgers, 1948 - Buffalo Bills, 1950 - Schmitt Brothers, 1951 - Four Teens, 1952 - Orphans, 1954 - Suntones, 1961 - Gala Lads, 1962 - Dealer's Choice, 1973 - Happiness Emporium, 1975 - Most Happy Fellows, 1977 - Rapsallions, 1984 - The New Tradition, 1985 - Acoustix, 1990 - Revival, 1998.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the following members!

Jerry Garrard	September 6
John Braden	September 8
Hank Knaack, Jr.	September 9
Rich Huyck	September 10
Willard Yoder	September 11
Ron Abel	September 15
Sam Solomon	September 16
Wayne Crawford	September 19
Rick Dunaway	September 23
Phil Veltkamp	September 23
Frazier Allen	September 24
Kim Hoffman	September 24



MUSICAL NOTES

by Keith Schweer
Vice President
of Music and
Performance

WE DID IT!

Well, the Buckeye Invitational is over. We accomplished our goal. We are the overall men's chorus champion. Isn't it great to be a champion again?

Congratulations! You earned it! I was very proud of the way we went about our business in Columbus. Everything was well organized. We were well prepared and we all pulled together and achieved our goal. Plus, I think we all had a good time—I know I did. I want to thank every man that stood on those risers and helped us win that championship. We needed every one of you and I appreciate every one of you. Now, I'm hoping we can get a bunch of those that couldn't go to the Buckeye with us to join us in our next campaign—the convention in Wichita. Our goal for Wichita is to sing well enough to qualify for International in Montreal next summer. We need to raise some of our scores, but if we can maintain our momentum and use our success at the Buckeye as a springboard, we can accomplish that goal, too. ~

MY FIRST COMPETITION WITH HOA

by Brooke Meyers

Buckeye—WOW! I'm absolutely thrilled to be part of a group "drawn by harmony, bound by friendship and STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE." What a great opportunity to get to know some of the guys one on one. THANKS! The sound of some of the small chorus' knocked me over. The originality of presentation and near flawless execution of many groups was awesome. Leaving the greatest impression was the seemingly limitless energy and enthusiasm of the ladies. Yes, the bar has been set pretty high but I'm more pumped than ever! *Let's go CHAMPS!* ~

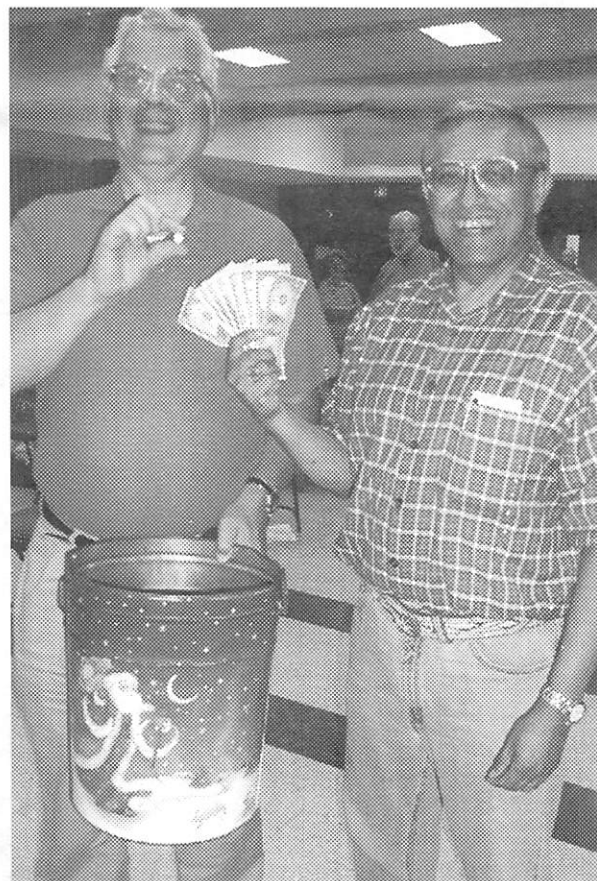
LATEST WINNER OF THE HARMONY FOUNDATION DRAWING: CHARLES RAMIREZ!

With just one ticket in the August 13th drawing, **Charles Ramirez** walked off with the jackpot of \$344, the first big winner since April—17 drawings ago. Maybe the next winner will be YOU!

Just a reminder, there is a drawing every week, so be sure to get to practice before it begins and see **Jim Porter** to get your tickets. Half of what you pay in goes into the jackpot, and half goes to Harmony Foundation.

\$1 for 1 ticket, \$2 for 3, \$3 for 5, \$5 for 10—the choice is yours. Come and join the fun, and support Harmony Foundation at the same time!

Note for those who want to support the Foundation but don't want to participate in the drawing, contributions are gladly accepted, and 100% goes to Harmony Foundation. Just let Jim Porter know your intentions. ~

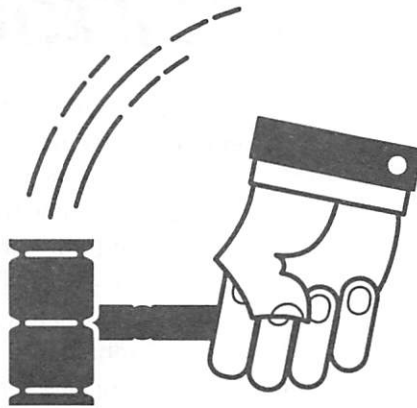


Jim Porter displays the winning marble picked by Charles Ramirez, who in turn displays his winnings! Congrats, Charlie!

ATTENTION CHAPTER MEMBERS!

by Dale Neuman

There will be a special meeting of the Kansas City Chapter SPEBSQSA membership at a regular Tuesday night meeting in late September for the purpose of adopting a new set



of by-laws for the Chapter. The Society has a standard set of by-laws for all chapters that we will be adopting with a few slight modifications to fit our needs. We have received tentative approval for these modifications from the Society's Laws and Regulations Committee if they are adopted. The standard by-laws in recent years have also come to include important elements required by most states for not-for-profit tax-exempt corporations. The Chapter Board has been working on this for the past year and is now prepared to bring its recommendations to you.

All members of record will receive a separate mailing that will announce the specific date, place and time along with a copy of the proposed by-laws. To alert you to the only substantive changes from current practice and/or the Society's template, here they are.

The number of Board members at-large (not officers) will be reduced from its current number of 10 to "not fewer than 4 and not more than 6 members." The elected office of "Executive-Vice President" will be added. And, a section on membership for men under 18 (or legal majority) will be added. Here our Board anticipated a policy that was just adopted in Portland to deal with the rush of those brought to our ranks through such things as the *Young Men in Harmony* Programs and our own "Harmony Explosion" work in the schools.

I have been the point person on this so if you have questions do not hesitate to ask me. But be sure to be on the lookout for your official notice that will come via the mail—one of the requirements for not-for-profits I noted earlier. ~

HOA HONORS 20 YEARS OF *FOUR DIMENSIONS*

by Jm Bagby

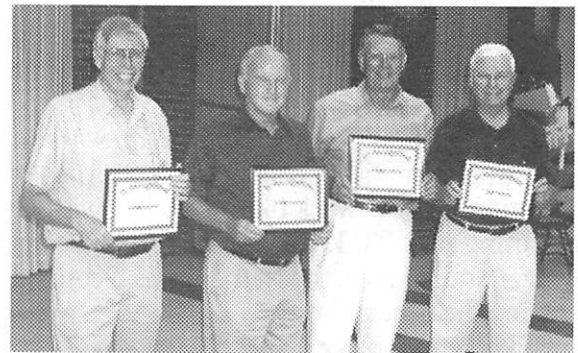
The Kansas City Chapter paid tribute to a unique quartet when the *4 Dimensions* of Trenton, Mo., accepted our invitation to visit the chapter on July 30.

The quartet has been spreading the gospel of barbershop in the Grundy County area now for 20 years. They are four nice guys who sing pretty well and are personably entertaining. They are unique in that they are not SPEBSQSA members. There has never been a chapter in Trenton.

But in their history, the quartet and their wives say they've missed our annual show only one time—when they were singing at the wedding of a daughter. And several times they have gotten the Grundy County Arts Association to invite the *Rural Route 4* and/or the *Heart of America Chorus* to present paid performances in Trenton.

PVP **Jerry Garrard** contacted the *4 Dimensions* to set up their appearance here, and old reliable **Ron McIntire** produced four handsome certificates from the chapter recognizing the barbershopping contribution of the quartet.

So, congratulations, *4 Dimensions!* ~



The 4 Dimensions!
From left to right, Phil Schlarb, Al Trump, Ron Cooper and Ed Holt are recognized during their July 30 visit to HOA.

CONGRATS, HOA! by Monty Duerksen



On behalf of *Gentlemen of Note*, congratulations to HOA! It is great to see the pride and renewed enthusiasm on the risers! Now let's continue in this direction! Let's begin our *Focus on Excellence* now and take it

to our "retreat" (correction... "ADVANCE") in Atchison in October. Specific plans will be announced as soon as they are finalized.

The GON have a number of coaching sessions scheduled in preparation for the CSD Convention in Wichita, as well as some performances, so our *Focus on Excellence* is in place also.

Please note the addendum below to the "MUSIC MAN TRADITION", submitted by **Ron Abel**—an interesting addition to the article in the last *Harmonotes*! ~

HOA'S MUSIC MAN TRADITION

by Ron Abel

There were two more quartets—in addition to the ones listed in the July *Harmonotes*—who performed in *Music Man* prior to 1977!

1972 - *The Red Bridge Parish Players* presented the *Music Man* June 1-3, 1972, at Center High School, Kansas City, Mo., for benefit of Children's Mercy Hospital. The quartet from HOA consisted of **Joe Costigan**, bass, **Ron Abel**, bari, **Merlin Barcus**, lead, and **Bernie Geier**, tenor.

1973 - The production of *Music Man* was formed consisting primarily of college students furthering their education. A three-week tour of Europe was scheduled beginning June 23, 1973, with performances scheduled in Switzerland, France, the Netherlands, Scotland, and Great Britain. The quartet from HOA, known as the "MUSIC MEN" consisted of **Bill Davis**, tenor, **Merlin Barcus**, lead, **Ron Abel**, bari., and **Bob Houpt**, bass (shown on the right). This same organization went to Europe with another college group in 1971 and a quartet from the Overland Stage Chapter performed with that group. ~



BARBERSHOP OUTREACH AT CHURCH! by Jim Porter

I was invited to sing with three young fellows from my church in a male ensemble for our church service July 7th. I took this as my chance to show them the beauty of barbershop, and presented them with the sheet music for "Battle Hymn of the Republic" (the Society's arrangement by **W. Steffe**, copyright 1971). They accepted the idea enthusiastically, and I had my chance to try to teach them how to sing in a quartet.

Two of the young men (the bari and bass) are brothers, each has been to one HOA practice as my guest. The third is our church music team leader, a student at Calvary College in KC. Each is an accomplished musician and have sung in ensembles that rely on accompaniment, but their experience singing "a capella" was limited. It would prove to be an interesting experience for me, as all I knew was what I've seen on our practice nights with the chorus.

The first evening together, I prepared the music, came with a tape recorder and four scratch tapes, produced my pitchpipe, blew a B-flat, and tried to get started. They looked at me somewhat skeptically and wondered aloud how they could find their starting note with only that going for them. The best plan proved to be to allow them to play their part on the piano and learn the notes that way. I was pleased that by the end of the hour, each had a pretty good idea of how his part went, and could sing it. I prepared a tape for each of them and gave it to them, suggesting they listen to it in the intervening week before we met again.

Each of the three is single, so my wife was the "5th man," the ear of our group, so to speak. Her suggestions were quite helpful, and after the 2nd time together, we began to sound pretty fair together. Some of the chords actually rang!

(Continued on page 11 ♦)

(Continued from page 10)

The three began to warm to what they were doing, as they were hearing good sounds and realizing they were part of them. However, they were still pretty much fixed on those printed arrangements, so when I suggested we could work to sing the song without music when it was time for the performance, their faces turned white. I just let them know that since they were each good musicians, I had every confidence they could do it.

At the third practice, I worked with them to teach them to take a pitch. We finally agreed on a plan for that (all hum the B-flat, then go to your note. All except the tenor, the Calvary student, picked up on that pretty well.)

We got off the ground, but for a while the first word was, well, a whole note instead of the quarter note shown on the score. At least we were able to get it in tune in that time and make a good start. The group proved to hold key fine, and we were still in B-Flat when the song was finished.

Toward the end of the third practice, after we'd done the song several times, I gathered up the music on the podium, turned it upside down, and said "Let's sing it again, and see how you do with it." They threw up their hands in horror, but agreed to give it a try. We got all the way through it with few mistakes, I looked at them, saw that look that said "Hey, we did it!," and our quartet reached its turning point. There was no doubt from that point forward that we would perform without music, and their enthusiasm for what we planned to do increased markedly.

We had one more time together July 6th between the chorus contest and quartet finals in Portland, then sang the song at the church service. I've never seen a standing ovation at a church service, but we got a great round of applause, and the main speaker came up afterward and exclaimed "I'm not sure I can follow that!" After the service, the praise from the people made it clear that we had made a hit! They want to hear more, and I am inviting them to come up to Overland Park on July 21st to hear our show.

The experience stretched me, as I have never really learned how to teach others to sing before. I reckon the group went about as far as I could take them, and

that a good coach could do much more with them. The point is, don't let your lack of experience stop you from trying this yourself. ~



A TIP OF THE HAT

A tip of the hat goes to:



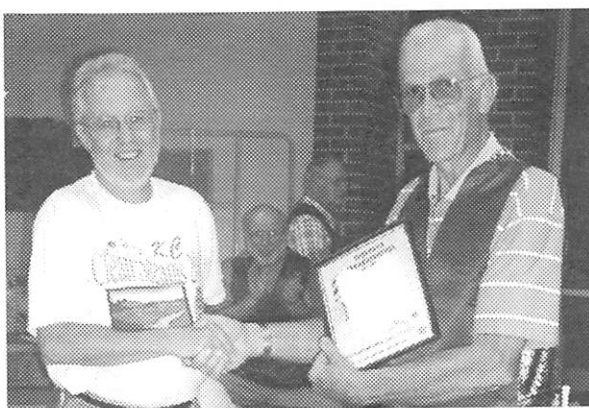
Shawn Jeffries, Don Young, and Mike Schumacher for their work teaching, teaching and reteaching the choreography for Buckeye.

Jim Bagby, Mike Neff and Carter Combs for their directing work as we get ready for the Buckeye.

Vince Perry for his work purchasing and distributing T-shirts for Buckeye. More work associated with his one-man show getting the chorus to Buckeye!

Josh Wolf, Bernard Brink, Brooke Meyers and Dennis Stewart for receiving Certificates of Achievement for completing the 2 HOA Singing Skills Workshops.

Mark Fortino for recording the Buckeye Chorus so the files could be put on CD's and Audio tapes. They were especially helpful for those driving to Columbus. ~



BOTM for July: Carl Turlin

John Stucker is shown presenting **Carl** with the July 2002 Barbershopper of the Month. Carl did a super job of organizing the HOA chapter picnic at Lake Jacomo this past July 13! ~



Heart of America



September-October Calendar

- September 21** Bob & Rosemary Calderon coaching session,
9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m., site to be determined
- October 4-6** HOA Retreat, Atchison, KS., with **Bill Biffle** and
Dwain Brobst
- October 18-20** CSD Convention, Wichita, KS.
- October 31 thru November 3** Society Leadership Forum, Racine, WI.

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