

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 11 - ISSUE 7 - SEPTEMBER 2011

Music In The Park 2011

by Vince Pery, President

Remember when HOA sang "It's Α Grand Night for Singing!"? Bet we sang it many times in the park when the conditions were hot and humid and we were sweating all over in our informal uni-



Not too bad for an outdoor concert on a Sunday evening. Also a special thanks to **Dave Jobe** and **John Landry** for pulling the *HOA* riser trailer to and from the concert.

The show this year had a new

forms which included navy slacks and short sleeve Oxford shirts. Fast forward to Sunday, Aug. 14, 2011, the weather was the absolute best! **Dan Henry Bowser** started the evening off by introducing our sponsors and the chorus and, of course, didn't forget to take full credit for the pleasant weather we were all enjoying!

Like last year the chorus sang from inside the gazebo, which is far better than the days we sang on the ground in front of the gazebo. The sound is much better and the sight line for the audience is greatly enhanced. Many thanks to the Overland Park sound expert, **Charlie Carter** for once again setting up all the equipment and running the sound board. And also a great deal of thanks to *HOA's* own **Dick Korek** for organizing the show with the OP Music in the Park guru, **Julie Bilyea**. They are the ones who really make it happen. Julie estimated the turn out this year to be around 600. format thanks to the expert idea and planning by our director of music **David Krause**. This year the chorus started the show singing six songs.

The chorus then left the gazebo while three of our chapter quartets performed. The chorus then returned for five more songs including the finale of "Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho." The show really had a nice tempo to it and I think the audience enjoyed the new format. (*Continued on page 3* \bullet)

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Chorus Photo courtesy of Don Fuson

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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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The HOA Board of Directors meets at 6 p.m. on the second Monday of the month, at St. Thomas More Church, 118th & Holmes, Kansas City, MO 64131. Chapter members are welcome!

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(Continued from front cover)

Also note the battle of the cicadas was also fought but this time HOA came out on top. Some guys even said that many times the cicadas were in the same key we were singing. I mean, how cool is that?

Though Dan started off the show, our official emcee was **Don Young**. He is such a gifted speaker and has a wonderful way of presenting HOA as the gentlemen we aspire to be. Many thanks, Don, you are the greatest!

Now about those quartets: first out was Homeward Bound with Mark Yeokum, Carl Turlin, Alex Tate, and Don Fuson. They did a melodrama with props (including a woman's wig!). Next came HOA's newest quartet Dominant 7th. They choose their name because of there initials, B (Brad Dawdy), G (Jerry Garrard), D (Doug Brott), and E (Eric Weber) which forms (so they say) a dominant 7th chord. I'll have to take their word on that. Another interesting fact about this quartet is though all are members of HOA, they also are members of other choruses in the Central States District. It's rather unique so bear with me: Eric is a member of HOA. Doug is also a member of the current CSD Plateau AA Chorus Champion chorus, Central Standard. Jerry is the director of the current CSD Plateau A Chorus Champions, The Cody Choraliers. And Brad, is a member of the current CSD Plateau AAA (Fremont, NE Pathfinder Chorus) and Plateau AA Chorus Champions (CS) plus a member of HOA. That means he came in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the CSD chorus contest last October in Mason City and 12th, 13th, and 14th in the world in Kansas City during the International Chorus Contest this past July. I mean, wow!

The feature quartet of the evening was KC Prime with Rick Kready, David Krause, Brian Bellof, and Matt Moore. All four of these guys have won multiple CSD quartet championships with different foursomes throughout their careers. Needless to say they were a crowd favorite. (I even witnessed a couple people approach them after the show to see if they could perform for their respective organizations.)

After the quartets the chorus came back on and finished the show. The show started a couple of minutes early and ended a couple of minutes early, ergo, perfect timing for a perfect evening. HOA fielded 35 singers who were clad





in our new black t-shirts and kakai type cut offs; cool was the look as cool was the night. What didn't happen was HOA singing "It's A Grand Night for Singing!". What we did do was Sing on a Grand Night! Maybe the best night in fourteen years!

Right after the show, Melladee and I and a bunch of other HOAers made their annual pilgrimage to Sheridan's Frozen Custard (an HOA Chapter Sponsor) over on 75th Street for a cool and refreshing afterglow. What a fun evening! It's great to be a barbershopper! 🎔



Dog Days of Summer by John Erwine, HOA Board Member



I'm sure I feel as many of you do about the recent hot and humid weather – enough already! I don't recall a summer that's bothered me like this since growing up without air conditioning all those years ago. Like many of you, we were lucky to have not just a fan, but an oscillating fan.

Of course there are many factors to consider. One is that we were more acclimated to the weather back in those days. Even though it could feel miserable, we weren't constantly running into or out of an air-conditioned room, all the while upsetting our internal thermostats. Another is the extreme temperatures not experienced here since 1938, so they say. And then there is the advanced age theory: not only does the cold bother you more, but so does the heat. I really like that one, since I'm just starting to understand it.

In any case, this has been a summer to remember. Everyone was caught up in the preparation for the *United in Harmony* performance and KC2011 International convention in July, which also included hosting it. There certainly had to be somewhat of a letdown after it was all over. After all, didn't we deserve a great big sigh of relief?

Some of us also were trying to work in vacations during this time. Then there was that little nuisance activity called get *the kids off to college*. If that wasn't enough, some families also had kids that started back to elementary, junior or high school at the same time. And I almost forgot – some guys that even had a real job to go to every day on top of everything else. What made them think they could relax anyway!

As for me, I'm ready to let the summer go and reclaim what has become a substantial part of my real life. That would include doing the unthinkable – getting ready to compete in, and of all things, host the CSD convention as well. You may think it sounds as if I'm complaining. Not so. Now that the heat is gradually subsiding (yes, I know September can be sometimes brutal) and all those pesky little chores are out of the way, I believe I can regain focus for what comes next.

Tonight at the chapter meeting (Aug. 30) it was good to see many new young faces, as well as some not seen for awhile. It's a time of hope, new beginnings with some sense of regained normalcy. I know I'm not alone with this feeling. It certainly showed in our singing tonight, and I'll bet it'll show many times more in the coming weeks.

So now things are beginning to settle down as the weather has decided it's time to give me some relief and comfort. I certainly deserve it. But fair warning – I'll be the first one to let you know how the bones begin to chill in a few more months. Then I'll tell you about when we woke up each morning having to break the ice in the water bucket in order to get a drink and make coffee... ♥

Can You Pick'Em?

by Kent Miller



Potential new members, that is. Well, if you're like me, probably not. I've never been able to look at a potential guest (even if I know he is a singer) and tell whether or not he will be interested in singing barbershop or

will make a good member, whatever that is, so I learned not to prejudge a long time ago.

I was watching an episode of "American Pickers" (hence the title) a while back in which one of the title characters said something like (I'm paraphrasing)...a lot of people want to know how in the world we're able to buy some of the rare stuff we buy (the implication being that they aren't able to get people to sell) and I tell them it's simple, we ask!

We can take a cue from them – they don't prejudge whether or not a person will sell something – they just ask! Apparently the answer is "no" a good part of the time, but SO WHAT! Sometimes it's "yes" and that's all they care about. A few positives make them very successful.

Do we "ask" enough? Actually I'm pretty sure most of us don't ask at all. Part of it is because we don't think about asking, but part is because we prejudge. We look at a potential invitee and think things like, "I don't know if that person can sing so I won't ask", or "I don't know if that person has the time for barbershop so I won't ask", or "I don't know if that person can afford to be in barbershop so I won't ask", and so on.

How about trusting our wonderful Music Team to determine a person's ability to sing? How about trusting the potential guest himself to determine his financial or time restraints? Problem is, if we never ask, we're robbing people of the opportunity to decide for themselves if barbershopping is for them.

I am so happy that the barbershopper who invited me to my first barbershop experience didn't prejudge me! How about you? Would you be reading this if someone hadn't "asked" you to come to a meeting? How about returning the favor with others? •

Voices Unlimited, New Music Overload

By Mark Fortino



n all my years of quartering I don't think that I have learned this many new tunes in such a short amount of time. We have now hit the one-year anniversary of forming the quartet although we didn't start rehearsing until late October or early Novem-

ber of last year. Of the EIGHTEEN songs that we have or are currently learning only FOUR are songs that I sang in previous quartets!

If I add in all the music I have been learning for HOA plus all my church music, I'm pushing my mental abilities, for which there already isn't much to work with as many of you would probably attest to!

I have been barbershopping since my senior year in high school back in 1984. After that much time in a hobby like this, sometimes you have to challenge yourself to do things you've never done before to make the hobby new again and... well FUN!

I am certainly having a lot of fun being a part of a new quartet like *Voices Unlimited*, and a rising chorus like *HOA*. *HOA's* move up to 14th place at Internationals was a real accomplishment and we didn't even put our best stuff on the stage that day. That tells me our potential as a chorus is extremely bright going forward. My personal goal for *HOA* this fall is a second -place finish behind the *Ambassadors*. It can be done, especially given the very slim margins separating the other three CSD choruses this past Internationals.

As far as *Voices Unlimited's* goal for this coming contest, well it would be a very special moment for us if we were able to take home the gold. To see **Micah** and **Shaun** get their first district gold would be awesome. But we have a lot of work to do between now and then to make that happen, and we aren't assuming anything. There are a lot of talented singers and quartets in this district and you never know who is going to show up.

No matter what happens for *HOA* or *Voices Unlimited* at this coming contest, both groups are headed in the right direction and I am just lucky to be singing with both.

If you haven't yet done so, check out our web page and write in our guest book at **www.voicesunlimitedquartet.com**. **•**

New Harmony Handful, New Horizons by John Erwine

On Aug. 7, the *New Harmony Handful* helped **Jim Bagby's** own Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church celebrate its 60th anniversary. It was a very hot August day, but the turnout of the church members and *Handful* alike was fantastic.

What made this so unique was that it was not held in the sanctuary, but in a now-classroom room where services were held for many years until the new sanctuary was built. Was it crowded? Yes. Was it reminiscent? Yes. Did the air conditioner work? Yes, thank the Lord!

From our point of view, *NHH*, what made this and all our summer events so special is the total appreciation from the membership of each congregation; the smiles, the congratulatory handshakes and impromptu conversations, and certainly when offered, the dinners. Unless you have participated in a true labor of love such as this, the giving of your time on a Sunday morning, regardless of denomination, the early hour, how well you feel or whatever else you've got going, you just haven't lived. As someone said, "this is the stuff of life."

At the end of the BRPC service, we were to go to the parking lot, where there were all kinds of booths set up for the kids, and sing several more songs. However, because of the heat, we were asked to sing just one more in the lobby of the church just before lunch was served. I'm glad to say that not only Jim participated, but that **John Starkey, Don Young** and **Mike Schumacher** were also able to join us, as this is also their home church.

Our next gig is on **Oct. 9**, yes on the last night after the CSD Convention here in Kansas City. This will be the *KC Metro Area Men's Choral Festival* held at John Knox Village Pavilion in Lee's Summit. The time is 7 p.m, free, with a voluntary donation at the door upon exiting; the proceeds to be split among those groups performing to be used for whatever charitable good each group decides upon. All are welcome!

Those groups involved are: *Raytown Community Choir* (big), *Circuit Riders* (small), *Methodist Men of Note* (medium, including our own **Lyle Wyly**) and *The New Harmony Handful* (small). Each group will get 12-15 minutes to perform its own choice of music; not all is of the barbershop style, but it will be wonderful. Following will be all four groups together (100+) performing a closing selection of three songs.

This is certainly a new adventure for us, thanks to Jim, and we will do our best to make it a success. If so, we certainly look forward to our parent *Heart of America Chorus* participating in the future.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING HOA MEMBERS!

September 5	Thom Tisdall
September 6	Jerry Garrard
September 7	Frank Lasta
September 8	John Braden
September 10	Rich Huyck
September 11	Willard Yoder
September 13	Walt Bates
September 15	Ron Abel
September 16	Sam Solomon
September 16	Michael Meier
September 23	A.J. Meier
September 23	Phil Veltkamp
September 24	Frazier Allen
September 30	David Webb

Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter



Note that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. By Board resolution, this year all of the proceeds from the raffle not given as prizes goes to Harmony Foundation.

In return, the board is able to have the Foundation designate up to 30% of the fund to chapter activities such as Harmony Explosion.

As of Aug. 31, after 30 drawings (five since last report): The total Harmony Foundation contribution since the last report: \$106.

The total collected for the year to date (since Jan. 3, 2011) is \$705.

The total for the previous year was \$1,422 after 30 drawings. The total in our best previous year (2009) was \$2,827.

The total in 2006 (our best full year) was \$2,693.

The total in 2002 (the lowest year of the past decade) was \$794.

The progressive jackpot stands at \$405. 🎔

Photos courtesy of Melladee Perry





Top photo: Dan Henry introduces group Middle Row: Entire chorus creating beautiful sounds Bottom Row of quartet photos: *Homeward Bound* members Mark Yeokum, Carl Turlin, Alex Tate, and Don Fuson; *Dominant 7th* comprised of Brad Dawdy, Eric Weber, Jerry Garrard, Doug Brott; and *KC Prime* featuring Rick Kready, David Krause, Brian Bellof, and Matt Moore

What A Fun Chapter Meeting!

by Vince Perry, President & email quote by Mark Fortino, VP Music & Performance



True it is, numbers are down. 56 were on stage in International this past July and 51 in Mason City last October. This year it appears we may have around the 50 mark again or possibly somewhere in the high 40s. Despite this the

Heart of America Chorus has never sounded better. Take last night's rehearsal (Tuesday, Aug. 30). It was upbeat with lots of hard work that seemed fun! Even before the rehearsal the chapter meeting started with guys being involved in activities they either needed or just wanted to enjoy. Inside the hall guys were being coached on the latest choreography for our up-tune by master **Mike Schumacher**. Outside the hall was a group of guys (I think there were at least six decades of singers) congregated singing tags and laughing it up. (See photo #1 below) Right in the middle was tag



master extraordinaire and *HOA* Director Emeritus **Jim Bagby**. You can barely see him in the picture as he's right behind Secretary **Rich Huyck**. Also seen going counter clockwise are Assistant Director **Jerry Garrard** (nice HOA t-shirt!), **Michael Meier**, Assistant Director **Mark**

Fortino, Membership VP Jeff Wolff, Baritone Section Leader Jonathan Andrews, Fran Gangel, Scottie Haines, Joe Mathieu, and two guests.

The rehearsal started off with **Jerry Garrard** doing a masterful job of warming up (we call it tuning up) the chorus. He ended with the chorus singing the tag "Lonely So Lonely." Great job, Jerry! New choreography was also taught by Program VP **Jerry Meier** and **Mike Schumacher**. And when break came, guess what happened? More tag singing - check out photo #2. It was great. I think **Mark Fortino** summed up the evening best in his email to the chapter:

"Tonight's rehearsal ranks in my top 5 favorite rehearsals of the year! That was a lot of fun. The tag singing early was awesome! So many new guys/guests/guys coming back made it that much more fun. Add to all of that how well we sang and you all just reenergized me for the month! Oh... only one day left in the month...uh...

I can't wait for next week. We will hold auditions for all of these new guys if they are ready and keep building our ranks for the future. Where are these young guys coming from? Local colleges? They sure were singers. They said they would be back next week and plan to be on stage with us for districts. How awesome is that?

I think our chapter has found the formula. We have an awesome director in David whose veteran teaching skills are teaching all of us how to improve not only our vocal production, but musicality and presentation as well. I don't think I have ever met a guy with a better feel for rhythm than David. It's all that New Orleans blues stuff that he listens to! :). Really great work on *Anthem, Yes Sir, Love Me*, and *Lift Up My Head* tonight!

Before I forget, a BIG thank you to Mr. Bagby for coming early and leading the tag singing. He IS the master and if you didn't get a chance to let Jim teach you a tag this week, you missed out! I'm sure he'll be back to help out again at some point in the not too distant future.

Have a great week, and don't forget to keep working on *Smile* and *I Have Seen The Light.* — Mark"

Need I say more? HOA is the ultimate singing machine and as our new t-shirt boasts:...an adventure in a cappella! •

Photos courtesy of Vince Perry

Almost!

by Dan Henry Bowser*



Orval Wilson joined the Kansas City, Missouri, Chapter of the Society in 1938. As you may know, KC was **almost** the first chapter to be created, but Tulsa formed a few weeks ahead. Also Orval was a bit

behind the Kansas City birth, and as a result, he was **almost** a charter member of Kansas City.

Orval was a tremendous baritone in his own right, and included in his many talents was his story-telling ability. Add a remarkable memory and you can imagine how much all KC members mourn his passing of a few years past.

Before he left us, Orval delighted in spinning this true tale of the Kansas City Chapter quartet that **almost** won the International gold, taking silver more times than any other foursome in Society history. In 1941 through 1943 they were the *KC Barber Polecats*, and later in 1946 and '47, the *Lions Club Serenaders*. Five times they were **almost** champs.

Another member of the Kansas City chapter, **Joe Stern**, was quite prominent in the establishment of contest rules and regs in early days. In addition, he served as the coach and arranger for the *Serenaders* and was judging them in one of the international contests mentioned.

Some believe Joe realized he could be criticized for being too liberal if he scored them too well, resulting in a score that was less-than-deserved. Wilson's version of the story concerned one, single chord.

Seems the quartet had changed a chord in one of Stern's arrangements, which they performed in the contest. Apparently that was not taken well by Joe. The end result was that the quartet would have won the championship — but missed by the exact number of points that Joe docked 'em.

Here's a side note. Joe's best buddy was in that quartet. His name was **Bert Phelps**. Despite, Bert's complaining, it was reported that Joe and Bert remained best of friends. **Almost.**

*with much able assistance of **Jim Bagby, David Krause** and **David Wright**

Tone-Henge Looking Ahead and Behind by Ol' Keith



There's not much to report since the International Convention here in July.

As **Bruce** told you last month, we were all pretty involved with the convention and let some domestic/family activities find their way to the back burner. These activities include yard, garden, garage and basement cleanup, house painting, wood-rot repair, furniture re-finishing, grandchildren's ball games, birthdays and babysitting.

However, we didn't ignore the most important thing – we took our wives out for dinner late in August to celebrate uhhhhh.....something!

Now, we turn our attention to the next convention – Central States District here in Kansas City. **Jim** is still the *Contest & Judging VP* for the district; **Dan** will again have some emcee duties, while Bruce and I are having fun singing with the *Heart of America Chorus*.

Speaking of choruses, Jim recently went to coach a chorus in central Nebraska and took his usual path up Interstate 29, without checking the road condition. Yep, it's still closed up north because of flooding. He ended up detouring



east via Tarkio, Mo., making what should have been a five-hour trip more like seven hours. What can we say: he's a baritone. ♥

LeRoy Stock •1921-2011



Leroy Stock had the smoothest bass voice around and a ready smile to boot. He joined the Kansas City chapter in 1976 and was a faithful member for 23 years, usually standing on or near the back row of the chorus. One of his daughters sang *Marion the Librarian* in *Music Man* that year, he recalls, and introduced him to the barbershop quartet that sang with her. That's how it all began.

Over the years, he enjoyed singing with the *Harmony Handful* and was never in an organized quartet but he sang in his share of Spring Fling quartet contests.

Old-timers will remember Lee, the man with the closecropped, snow white beard, as the "Pay-As-You-Go, Joe" chairman. Pay-As-You-Go, Joe was a program to help members pay their dues on an monthly basis. In those days, a member could pay is dues by the month. Leroy recorded the payments in a book and put numbered bingo balls in a gallon milk jug corresponding to the member's name. The winner received free dues for the next month.

Leroy Stock, barbershopper, friend to all, lover of music, died at home Aug. 23, 2011 in Shawnee, KS.

Carter Combs, Mike Mathieu, Keith Schweer and **Jim Bagby** sang *Precious Lord* at his memorial service. **•**



Looking for Joe Barbershopper

Taken from the Barbershop Harmony Society website

Nominate Your Most Faithful Chapter Member!



Montana Jack Fitzpatrick needs your help on a worthy project. We'll let him tell it in his own words:

"I am starting a new project that involves finding and interviewing Joe Barbershopper. Joe is the

little known guy who stands up on the third row. He is and/ or has been involved in volunteer projects for the good of his chapter, district or the society. He is not a widely known person-- but what he is doing is having a profound effect on those around him. He might be involved in a youth program, a recruiting program or anything that is making a difference. Maybe he has just been faithfully making the coffee for the past 40 years.

Please help me find Joe. He has given his whole life to do something for us--won't you please take five minutes to acknowledge his contributions? Submit your nominations directly to me at **mtjack@bresnan.net**, including the reasons for making your nomination and contact information for yourself and for 'Joe.' Thanks for your help with this most important project.

Blessings to everyone, Montana Jack, keeping the faith and keeping it barbershop"



SUMMARY OF AUGUST 2011 BOARD MEETING

By Rich Huyck/Ron McIntire



FINANCE REPORT - Jim Porter

- Unrestricted Funds: \$9762.71
- Restricted Funds: \$1,167.60
- Backup of treasurer data to Vince Perry.
- United in Harmony Show a net loss of \$5,227.26. A better result than was expected in early June.
- No facilities rent at St. Peters Church for July
- Fund Raiser letter has resulted in \$1,150 donations thus far.
- \$3,000 received from CSD for International expenses to be kept in the social funds.

MARKETING/PUBLIC RELATIONS - Ray Young:

- Prepared ads for the New Theater program.
- Prepared and sent email blasts for the Music In The Park show on Aug. 14 in Overland Park.
- Possibility of *HOA* performing at the Kauffman Performing Arts Center to benefit Kansas City Rescue Mission or Children's Mercy Hospital is being researched. Time frame: June 2012.

MUSIC & PERFORMANCE VP - Mark Fortino:

- No retreat for chorus on Aug. 27 due to financial restrictions.
- All coaching is on hold for now.
- Max Q is the headliner quartet booked for the Spring Show on April 14, 2012.

PROGRAM VP - Jerry Meier:

• The Doubletree looks to be the likely choice for the 2012 Installation banquet. Will pursue Downtown Marriott for a quote. Dates considered: Jan. 7 and Jan.14.

Old Business:

Garage Sale: Vince Perry

• Board agreed to postpone 2012 Garage Sale. KC Sweet Adelines are able to participate.

KC2011 Convention Post Report: Mike Mathieu

- Sale of pins could result in \$5,000
- Receipts from the International will be available in Oct. 2011.

CSD 2011 Fall Convention – Vince Perry:

• Mike Mathieu and Bob Burdick have been appointed Chairmen

New Business:

Ad Hoc Committee Appointments by President: Vince Perry

- Awards committee members have been selected.
- Nominating Committee for 2011 consists of Tony Strub (chair), Don Fuson, and Jerry Meier

Make An Effort To Patronize Our Sponsors!

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





Oct 7 - 9 CSD Convention & Contests Hyatt Regency, KC, MO

Dec 3rd

Holiday Harmony Spectacular 2pm & 7pm Unity Village Auditorium "Try to remember the kind of September When life was slow and oh so mellow

Try to remember the kind of September When grass was green and grain so yellow

Try to remember the kind of September When you were a young and a callow fellow

Try to remember and if you remember Then follow—follow, oh-oh."

- Try to Remember, Lyrics by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt

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.