

The Quarterly Bulletin of the Kansas City Heart of America Chorus

HARMONOTES

Chorus and Quartet Singing
in the Barbershop Style



Second-Oldest Chapter in the
Barbershop Harmony Society

Volume 12 • Issue 5 • Spring 2012

The Best Annual Spring Show, Ever!

by Vince Perry, President



Some people say it every year! This year it is true! I know because I got to go home and watch the whole show on my computer. Many thanks to **Thom Tisdall** for being our videographer for the evening show. And I was the lucky one to be the first to view our archive video of our 66th annual show. What I saw in high def was really awesome. Before I knew it I had watched the whole first half! And then the whole second half!

The video opened up with Director Emeritus **Jim Bagby's** god voice introduction followed by the chorus singing the "Smile Medley" under the direction of **David Krause**. The audience applauded on the end of the intro which is always a good thing! The medley rocked and ended with a high and screaming tag that ended with the proclamation "Smile Darn 'Ya Smile! (which just happened to be the name of the show!) It was a real crowd pleaser! And so fun to sing! (Continued on page 2)

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"Drawn by HARMONY...Bound by FRIENDSHIP...Striving for EXCELLENCE!"

www.hoachorus.com

The Quarterly Bulletin of the Kansas City Heart of America Chorus **HARMONOTES**

Harmonotes is published by the board of directors of the Kansas City, Mo., Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society®, a non-profit organization. Photographs that are not attributed are the work of our photographers at large. Unless accompanied by a byline, all articles have been written by the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the officers and members of the chapter. Space will be made available for opposing points of view.

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

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Comments/submissions may be made to:

Todd Anderson (Editor)
2909 West Trevor Trail • Ozark, Mo. 65721-8438
(417) 581-2961 • andersondesign@centurytel.net

HOA Board meetings take place at 6pm on the second Monday or Tuesday of the month, at St. Thomas More Church, 118th & Holmes, Kansas City, MO 64131.

Chapter members are welcome!

HOA Website: www.hoachorus.com
Web Address: webstaff@hoachorus.com
Chorus Manager & Webmaster - Vince Perry
Chapter Telephone: (816) 221-7888



(Continued from front cover)

Keith Schweer who put together the whole script that kept the show flowing from beginning to end (thanks Keith!) introduced the song "Tonight" which is one of my favorites. **Melladee** and I love musicals and singing this song is as close as I've ever been to being in a musical play. Wish we'd do more of these because not only do I like them but so does the audience! Yes, more songs from musicals, please! "Tonight, tonight won't be just any night! Tonight there will be no morning star!"

People also enjoyed the fast pace of the show. Introductions were short, sweet, and informative. Many thanks to our speakers, **Keith Schweer, Mark Fortino, Don Young, Craig Wilcox, Jerry Meier, Jim Bagby, and David Krause** for keeping the show moving.

The chorus performed 9 songs this year, five of which were new since last year's show. A tip of the hat to Music Vice-President **Mark Fortino** and the music committee for selecting such great arrangements for this year's show.

New songs included "The Sunshine of Your Smile", "Sweet Hour of Prayer", "Smile", "Smile Medley", and "God Bless America/Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor." *HOA* also performed "Danny Boy" with soloist **David Krause** which has been consistently heralded as the "audience's favorite song" over the past few years. The chorus, though small in number, had a big clean sound thanks to the efforts of David and Mark. Also, many thanks to **John Fortino** for overseeing the sound setup in Yardley Hall. It was awesome!

Usually after a show people buzz about the chorus. This year all we heard about were the quartets! "All the quartets were great!" "The quartets stole the show this year with their performances." Remember, I watched the whole show on tape and I have to agree, every quartet was rock solid! *Resonation* (tenor **Craig Wilcox**, lead **Jeff Wolff**, bari **Jake Wozniak**, bass **Jonathan Andrews**) for being so new, delighted everyone. The Harmony Explosion Quartets, *The Perfect Fourths* and *ThrillRide!*, both from Olathe East High School were awesome! BCQ (tenor **Rob Mathieu**, lead **Brian Marston**, bari **Tom Wenner**, bass **Matt Moore**), KC Prime (tenor **Rick Kready**, lead **David Krause**, bari **Matt Moore**, bass **Brian Bellof**), and the current Central States District Quartet Champions *Voices Unlimited* (tenor **Micah Jeppesen**, lead **Mark Fortino**, bari **John Fortino**, bass **Shaun Whisler**) were all sensational. *HOA* is so blessed to have so many outstanding quartets! *Tone-Henge* (tenor **Bruce Wenner**, lead **Dan Henry Bowser**, bari **Jim Bagby**, bass **Keith Schweer**) finished the first half with their last stage performance ending their 14-year run as a quartet. Dan did "Sara Jane" one last time, pitching his joke cards to the audience. The audience gave Dan and *Tone-Henge* one last standing-o in appreciation of all the songs and jokes that have made them laugh for so many years. They are a class act and will be missed. Many thanks, *Tone-Henge*!

International Champion *MaxQ* (tenor **Greg Clancy**, lead **Tony DeRosa**, bari **Gary Lewis**, bass **Jeff Oxley**) headlined the show in championship style! When Tony wasn't keeping people laughing with his quick wit, the quartet was wowing everyone with their great singing! My favorite of their songs was

"You've Got a Friend in Me" from *Toy Story*. Many thanks to *MaxQ* for also helping make the show finale something really special. Picture this: the *Heart of America Chorus* along with all the show quartets singing "God Bless America/ Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor." Now add in **Tony DeRosa** and **Jeff Oxley** doing the voice-over solos in "Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor." What you get is nothing short of "magic." Such a beautiful end to such a great show!

Many thanks to our show co-chairpersons **Kent and Cindy Miller** for doing a masterful job in all aspects of planning and producing this year's annual show! Great job! Also kudos to **John Warrior** for being the technical director of the show again this year, the *Heartbeats* for providing the luncheon, **Jeff Wolff** for pulling the *HOA* trailer, **Mike Schumacher** for coordinating the riser operation, and all the *HOA* members who helped with the loading, unloading, and setup/tear-down of the risers. The 2012 Annual Show "Smile Darn 'ya Smile" was certainly a group effort culminating once again into the Best Show Ever! ❤️



Dennis Ray KINGHORN

by Ron McIntire

Dennis Kinghorn was known to his friends in the Kansas City Chapter as "Denny" and, by all accounts, was a pretty mean bass with a good command of music and music theory honed by 25 years as director of his church choir.

Dennis joined the chapter in 1991 from the Overland Park Chapter where he and **Marlin Weidler** sang in a quartet they called *Tons of Fun*. The two visited an *HOA* rehearsal one night and eventually became part of the chapter. In the 1990s he sang in two quartets: *Reverie* with **John Braden, Bruce Wenner** and **Marlin Weidler** and in *Good Vibrations* with **Mike Mathieu, Rob Mathieu** and **Grant Hunget**. Denny was fairly active in the chorus leadership, adding his musical expertise where he could. He often helped critique bass qualification tapes to help members prepare for shows or at contest and, on occasion, would invite members of the bass section to his home to work on trouble spots he found on their tape.

Dennis died Tuesday, April 17, 2012, at his home in Shawnee, Kansas, ending more than two decades as a Barbershopper and 21 years as a member of *HOA*. He is survived by two sons, two sisters, a brother, **Chris Kinghorn**, who is a past member of *HOA*, and several grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He will be interred in Mountainview Cemetery in Pocatello, Idaho. ❤️



Above, top to bottom: *Tone-Henge* does the "When they stood together they spelled OX" joke one last time; *T-H* sings the last cord of their last song of their last performance as a quartet. Photos courtesy of Vince Perry.



Left to right: Jerry Garrard, Dennis Kinghorn, Tom Elefson and Grant Hunget in 2002
Photo courtesy of Grant Hunget

Observations of a 53-Year Member of the Kansas City, Mo. Chapter

by Dan Henry Bowser



Please allow Ol' Dan an opportunity to vocalize some thoughts that have been gnawing at his aging brain. When you're through reading this, you might disagree with all you read, and

contribute the thoughts herein to senility. I'm OK with that. However, if you should find some things that parallel your ponderings, may this serve to urge you to do something about it. I don't think I'm senile yet, but I am too old for the battle.

It's not just an observation, but a fact that the Society's membership continues to diminish. Every Society president in the 63 years of my membership has forwarded ideas, plans, projects, attitudes, time and talent toward increased membership in our beloved hobby, but the **facts** deny those efforts.

And guys are leaving us **in spite of the fact** that we're creating much, much better music as each year passes. Well, that doesn't seem to make any sense, does it? Bartlesville Barflies music = the Society growing like crazy, Current champs (name any that you like) = Society losing members like crazy. **Whassamatter?**

I think it's simple. We've gotten wealthier on the music, but in the process forgot some basics about the guys creating it. Consider your own thoughts: You joined because singing

is pleasurable to you, and barbershop offers that on a ringing platter. Right? So, what's your **goal or aim** at this point? I'd say it's participating in a **hobby** that brings satisfaction in singing with other guys that like to sing. It's fun! Simple enough.

Is your goal to spend a three-hour meeting standing on risers and working like crazy to bring two songs to **absolute perfection** so you can amaze other barbershoppers with your exceptional talent? To a few, that's fine. The problem in KC? The word "few."

Now, before you draw any conclusions as to the intent of this, let me pause long enough to explain something. **NO ONE** enjoys the perfect harmony created by today's quartets and choruses more than I do! **NO ONE** cheers louder for *AOH* or *VM* or *RR4* or *Gas House* or *Old School* or... *you name it*... than I do. **I am not arguing against musical perfection.** I am arguing against too many chapters trying to achieve it **at the expense of membership loss! And in particular, OUR CHAPTER!**

The thought of *HOA*, my Kansas City chapter, taking less than 45 guys to International, just sticks in my craw. The thought of only 25 to 35 on the risers on any given rehearsal night, eats at my sensibilities. And **especially** at a time when the Society is really **begging** for membership increases. SOMETHING IS WRONG, folks, and it ain't the nice music that's coming from the risers. It's the **constant efforts to aim toward contests** that's the problem. Preparation for shows is necessary and not to blame. It's the emphasis on competition rather than satisfying a more relaxed HOBBY attitude that diminished OUR CHAPTER from numbers TWICE the size of today's, and in the process we

are denying active membership to guys who LOVE TO SING! That is diametrically opposed to the Society's efforts toward membership increases, growth that most certainly is **crucial to the survival** of the Society.

I salute all efforts toward forwarding our hobby interests, particularly the way HOA has served as "International Flagship" toward interesting teens in our hobby with Harmony Explosion. That is a marvelously wonderful effort that just may prevent the membership slide in years to come, but we desperately need a **huge** change in aims **today!**

Maybe I should have titled this article, "Chorus **contests** are the enemy of membership in the Kansas City, Missouri chapter" Granted, other chapters seem to maintain memberships—even grow—in spite of the grueling efforts demanded by contest preparation. But, it has **NOT** worked that way in Kansas City. We are better sounding, but disappearing. Can **you** do anything to turn us around? May I make some suggestions?

A contest hiatus. its length to be determined by the growth in chapter membership. If it takes several years to build the chapter to a pre-determined size, so be it. Spend the abandoned "contest prep" time concentrating on making the meeting interesting and fun. Among the numerous advantages to this, a **big** money saver to the chapter and its members.

Loose the membership noose of "near perfect singer or nothing."

Make the office of **Program** vice president what it was originally intended to be as outlined in early Society instructions to chapter officers, namely

a man who designs the content of each chapter meeting and sees that it is followed. He is not a dictator. He's a designer who works hand-in-hand with the board and other officers including the director.

Inter-chapter relations. Trading visits. It's a great time and a pleasing activity for all, especially to new chapter members. Take the money spent on contests and instead, hire a bus or two and head to another chapter.

Whatever happened to our meetings devoted to quartet contests **within** our own chapter? Unregistered quartets, maybe including other city-wide chapters. Used to be one every spring and fall. No more. Now, much of those times each year is devoted to contest prep.

I think all would agree that more meeting time could certainly be used in preparation for our show. Sure our show includes "contest" songs, but those need not occupy time that robs from others.

Give your program veep a chance to develop his thoughts and talents, with the ultimate aim being membership increase created by fun, interesting meetings, **not** two-and-a-half or three hours on risers devoted entirely to bettering a position in competition.

I thank you for giving it some thought. ♥



BCQ Earns First Trip to International Competition!

By Rob Mathieu, Tenor

"Ladies and Gentlemen: RRRepresenting the Central States District, from Kansas City and Metro Kansas City chapters, *B...C...Q...!*" (and the crowd goes WILD!)

That's what you'll hear at the beautiful Rose Garden Arena in Portland, OR, this summer at our very first International Convention as a quartet. That's right, *HOA's* newest foursome, *BCQ*, had an auspicious debut at Central States District prelims in Omaha, NE, last weekend, and punched our ticket to the 'big dance' this summer. We posted an average of 76.7. That's 1.7 percentage points over what *BCQ* scored last October at the fall contest, after forming in August 2011. We couldn't be happier or more excited about what lies ahead, for these so-called barber-brats.

Not only did *BCQ* qualify for International over the weekend, we brought home two more district awards. In the "You Be the Judge" Audience Favorite Contest, *BCQ* won top honors for the award, 'The Tag That Gave You Goosebumps' for "Smile Medley" in a field of 21 quartet competitors from three districts. And **Rob Mathieu** was the audience choice for 'Favorite Tenor.' [Ed. Note: Rob has won the award twice previously].

On top of all that excitement, my wife, **Haley**, who is 39 weeks along, gives me the 'go' to Omaha, to compete with the quartet. Haley and the kids stayed home. Being 'on call' all weekend, was both stressful and exciting. After the call-off of qualifiers, CSD C&J Vice President **Jim Bagby** allowed *BCQ* to move to the top of the showcase, then he and emcee **Don Fuson** sent me packing. **Matt Moore** and **Tom Wenner** both stayed over in Omaha, for evaluations (and tags), and **Brian Marston** rode home with me. The excitement level was too high for either of us to consider sleeping on the way home.

Tom even taped the evals from the judges, and sent them to **Brian** and me by email. As I type this on Wednesday, 4-25, Haley and baby are at work, and scheduled to arrive no later than May 1, and no earlier than right now. ;)

The risk the family and I took was well worth the reward of qualifying and representing *HOA*, *Central Standard* (Tom is a dual member) and the CSD in Portland this summer at International.

BCQ might not have had the highest qualifying score among all quartets last weekend, but from the reactions, the feedback and the love we felt the entire weekend, we certainly won the hearts of the crowd and the district.

Thanks to all for your support! ♥

Find BCQ on FaceBook at www.facebook.com/bcqclub or on the web at www.barbershopclubquartet.com. Find me at www.musicandmovementrocks.com

Sarah Jane, Tone-Henge, Ol' Dan Out to Pasture

By Ol' Jim for All of Us

"She's (no longer) my freckle-faced, consumptive, Sarah Jane!" And that ends a relationship that goes back to the 1960s, with a quartet that hoboed out of the Kansas City Chapter and became one of the most popular in the Society. In fact, it was to keep alive some of the *Merry Mugs*' routines that led to the formation of *Tone-Henge*, which announced its retirement after 14 years this month.

But for the benefit of the younger and newer members of the *Heart of America* family, let me backtrack a little. The original *Merry Mugs* were **Dennis Taylor, Frank Leone, Dan Henry Bowser** and **Bob Gall**, all chapter leaders – in fact, Bob went on to become Society president in 1969. When Dennis' duties become too demanding as senior pilot for TWA, **Ed Rooker** replaced him on tenor.

The *Mugs* were active about 10 years, into the mid-1970s, including being one of the first Society quartets chosen to represent SPEBSQSA, Inc., entertaining our wounded troops during the Vietnam war. They made a trip sponsored by the Navy Exchange to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in 1965. They were accompanied by Society Executive Director **Hugh Ingraham** and two other quartets. In 1967, the *Mugs* logged 19,000 miles in 19 days on a USO tour to hospitals in Hawaii, Guam, Philippines, Okinawa and Japan. The quartet came out of retirement for shows into the 1980s before they said "enough is enough." But their bum routine was classic, and always included – show and afterglow – "Sarah Jane." On the glow, Dan would have different jokes and cackle after the first one, "Thought you were gonna hear the same rotten gags!" Bob often had the list hidden in his slouch bum hat and would offer suggestions under his breath.

Other Mug favorites included "Curse of an Aching Heart," "With Her Head Tucked Underneath Her Arm," "Put a Nickel on the Drum" and "I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles," in which they shot long balloons into the afterglow audience.

So in the early '90s, Dan (mostly) came up with the idea of a quartet to resurrect some of the *Mug* routines. The result was *Hubbub*, with Bob again on bass, sweet-singing **Manley Vance** on lead and me on tenor (I said I'd be willing to do anything to sing with Dan, and that sure proves it). We even went so far as to talk Bob's wife, coach extraordinaire **Harriett**, into leading us through a couple of competitions. We don't know who regretted that more: Harriett, the quartet or the CSD audiences.

Dan even made a frog suit for *Hubbub*, almost suffocated in it on stage, redid it and then shipped it off to the first person who expressed an interest. He and **Estyl** also made knight outfits, com-

plete with shields that turned into a *Hubbub* crest on the tag of "Never Kiss a Maiden with Your Visor Down" (of course, a Bowser original). We scored almost in the 50s! Then Bob died and was replaced by **Willard Yoder**, who starred in "I'm Going Back to Where I Come From." That's also when the "Culture Song" was born. But Willard was busy with *Rural Route 4* and his job; commuting and other factors came into play, and Hubbub soon was no more.

Not long afterward, **Keith Schweer** resigned from his district championship gig with *12th Street Rag*. *RR4* had retired in 1994 and one night the last three guys at the bar other than **Bruce Wenner** (who pretty much owns a patent on the concept) were Dan, Keith and me. It would be nice to say "thus was born *Tone-Henge*," but it wasn't that easy, because we are basically four baritones. Yes, Keith is a champeen bass, but not a low one, and as he has demonstrated lately with his switch in *HOA*, he has a knack for bari. So first came the discussion of who would sing what?

I was adamant about not being stuck on tenor again. I had the idea that Dan, despite his 50 years of singing thin, bright bari could be an **Earl Moon**-type ringy lead (we'll all pause to enjoy a good laugh here) and Bruce good-naturedly said something that sounded like he'd be willing to do anything to sing with Dan...

In the midst of these discussions over a couple of weeks, BEFORE WE'D HAD ONE REHEARSAL, Dan came up with the quartet name and registered it. End of that discussion. And a pretty good idea.

Once more we pressured, er, got Harriett involved and did manage to win the CSD spring senior quartet championship. But comedy always has been our forte, and we've been fortunate enough to do shows across the CSD, and even a couple out of district. That has allowed us to take our lovely ladies – **Estyl, Francie, Connie and Joann** – for some delightful dinner outings that we'll remember long after the chords have faded.

An even bigger honor for us is what Chapter President **Vince Perry** and *HOA* came up with following the April 14 show, making *Tone-Henge*, collectively, winner of the 2011 Ozzie. What a surprise, and what a thoughtful touch!

Harriett is gone, as are Dennis, Frank, Bob, Ed and Manley. Dan says that at age 87 he has done enough Singing Valentines (he actually said that several years inna row) and maybe even his share of bell ringing – we'll see. The eight of us do intend to keep socializing, and the four of us will keep singing tags, which is what brought us together in the first place. And many nights we'll still be four of the last guys at the bar. ♥



Okay, let's clear this up right now. It isn't quite the same as **R2-D2** in Star Wars, but technology is certainly catching up at **Children's Mercy Hospital**. R2-D2 at CMH equates to the MAI-536 Maico MA40, which is a portable air and bone audiometer. It includes a headset, bone oscillator and instruction manual, which is almost unheard of today – the manual I mean.

This unit will be used in a sound booth for young children who cannot raise their hand in response to the sound. The audiologist will sit with the child and use this portable audiometer to present tones, at the same time having the child drop a block every time the sound is heard. This is called “play conditioning” and allows the audiologist to obtain more information and more accurate results with young children. Without this portable device, the audiologist must sit isolated from the child behind a window to run the audiometer, which may result in less complete and less accurate testing. The unit costs \$1,925.

On April 24th, I had the very distinct pleasure of feeling as much like a “Royal” as I probably ever will. I met with **Dr. Cynthia Jacobsen**, Director, Hearing and Speech Clinic; **Lauren Davis**, Manager of Major Gifts, and **Shanelle Varone**, Managing Director of Major Gifts in the lobby of Children's Mercy Hospital. I was there to present our Singing Valentine donation of \$1,330. This was after passing through a security check-point that is almost the equivalent of any airport you may encounter – a good thing.

I was given the grand tour that included a newer sound booth than last seen. This one lets the kids feed cookies to the cookie monster when hearing a sound, but also with so many more variations according to age and ability, which reaches to the age of 21. Many of the varying types of testing centers were so busy that I wasn't able to view them, but Cynthia explained all to me.

After my presentation to them on behalf of *HOA*, we spent about an hour talking about not only their 116th Jubilee soon approaching, but our own **Barbershop Harmony Society** history and 75th anniversary as well. Somehow, with our long celebrated ties, it all seemed to feel very natural and like visiting with family.

Our relationship with CMH really began in 1991, when **Larry Poisner** asked Cynthia, “What can HOA do for you?” We started the idea with concerts at the Northland Cathedral for two years, and in third year decided to then donate a portion of the Singing Valentines proceeds to CMH. The rest, as they say, is history!

Now, I had a surprise up my sleeve that Cynthia, Lauren or Shanelle had not an inkling of! Thanks to our own **Carter Combs**, who with others had been researching early chapter history, I had a bombshell to drop on them. Although it wasn't Singing Valentines related, it

certainly was Kansas City Heart of America Chorus related, and CMH related!

The following is an article from the very first SPEBSQSA newsletter, called the “Barber Shop Re-Chordings” (precursor to our Harmonizer) published in November 1941. The editor was none other than our very own Joe Stern!

“Sweet Adeline” and old-fashioned “meller-drammer” in two acts, and an epilogue was staged by the Kansas City Chapter, recently. This boisterous comedy of the old west during the gay nineties was a big hit. The show also included singing by members of the K.C. chapter, the Pole-Cats Quartet, and a line of beautiful dancing girls. In addition, there was a variety show of good vaudeville.

The entire net proceeds, amounting to \$1,007, was donated to the Children's Mercy Hospital, and institution devoted exclusively to children, and supported entirely by charitable contributions.

The story and dialogue was written by Cecil F. Holman, a radio writer, and a member of the Kansas City Chapter, officially known as “Vice President in Charge of Holding the High Note at the End of Sweet Adeline.”

Who knew that Children's Mercy was one of our very first charities of choice, over seven decades ago? And my surprise blew them away! Although our current donation to CMH is 25 percent of net proceeds, I couldn't help but do the history and inflation thing on the numbers. Remember that we as a nation in 1941 were struggling to evolve from a depression, yet to join WWII. It was a different world as far as entertainment and commitment to organizations.

To put inflation into perspective, in 1941, \$1.00 would be worth \$15.60 today. That means that the \$1,007 donated to CMH in 1941 would equal \$15,714.13 today. To reverse the equation, our \$1,330 today would be worth \$85.23 in 1941. I know this seems to be a downer and is hard to get your head around, but remember its all inflation-related, and nothing to be ashamed of. I only wish we could donate 100 percent as in the past -- and perhaps in the future that could be a possibility.

I relish the opportunity to be a part of CMH's history (they started in 1897), and to be a representative of HOA in that event. They in turn plan to include us as a vital part of their sustaining growth into their future as well, including our 1941 accomplishment.

For more information regarding CMH, go to www.childrensmercy.org. What an organization! And wouldn't it be great to fund the entire \$1,925? Yes! ❤



Above, Left to right: Cynthia Jacobsen, Ph.D./CCC, Fellow, ASHA Director, Hearing & Speech, Cleft Palate/Craniofacial Clinic; Lauren Davis, Manager of Major Gifts; John Erwine, Singing Valentine Chairman; Photo courtesy of John Erwine

SPRING SHOW PHOTOS

Courtesy of Don Fuson



Top row, left to right: Tony Strub and Mike Schumacher getting ready for show time; **Second row:** Card games and electronic devices helped to pass the time; **Third Row:** Chorus members warm up with director David Krause; **Bottom row, left to right:** HOA is ready for the curtain to go up, *Tone-Henge* provides ample levity for the Afterglow





The Tip O' The Hat is recognition to both members and non-members who have made a recent contribution in time and effort to the betterment of the Kansas City, Missouri Chapter.

A Tip O'The Hat to **John Erwine** for making multiple trips to KC to present the Helzberg Diamond's pendant prize and to present HOA's Singing Valentine donation to the Children's Mercy Hospital.

A bow of the bowler to **Mark Fortino Sound** for providing the center stage mic for the annual show.

Hats off to **Rob Mathieu** for providing the sound system for the annual show afterglow.

And lastly, we give a shout out to the *Heartbeats* who assisted with CD sales after each annual show performance! ♥

DEADLINE
FOR THE SUMMER ISSUE
OF HARMONOTES:
JULY 25



...to the following HOA MEMBERS!

May 1 **Chuck Ames**
May 4 **Bob Murphy**
May 5 **Wade Dexter**
May 6 **Anthony Fortino**
May 7 **Carter Combs**
May 9 **Dan Henry Bowser**
May 12 **Keith Owen**
May 13 **Kevin Beauford**
May 16 **Ted Simon**
May 20 **Dale Neuman**
May 22 **Jeff Garrard**
May 24 **Joe Mathieu**

June 4 **Kevin Tritsch**
June 6 **Phil Youngs**
June 11 **Maurice Smith**
June 11 **Duane Lawson**
June 11 **Don Fuson**
June 14 **Tony Strub**
June 15 **Dave Hokanson**
June 16 **Shaun Whisler**
June 17 **Don Peck**
June 20 **Bill Bay**
June 22 **Ray Young**
June 23 **Rob Mathieu**
June 23 **Dylan Mathieu**
June 25 **Al Fehlauer**
June 28 **Barry Sanders**
June 29 **Keith Schweer**

July 11 **Mike Templer**
July 12 **Al Moritz**
July 18 **Matt Moore**
July 20 **David Stockard**
July 22 **Calvin Yoder**
July 25 **Tom Wenner**
July 26 **David Miller**
July 30 **Vince Perry IV**



Harmonotes Goes Seasonal

by Vince Perry, President

In last month's edition I told you that the *HOA* Board would be considering the future of the *Harmonotes* as a monthly bulletin and gave you an opportunity to complete a short survey expressing your opinions. Four people completed the survey and all four selected different options which didn't provide much input. Still I would like to thank them, especially for their additional comments.

At the April 10, 2012 Board meeting the board discussed the pros and cons of keeping it monthly, going bi-monthly, going quarterly, going semi-annually, going annually, or eliminating the publication all together. I really thought the board would change to bi-monthly and was a little surprised when they voted unanimously to change the publication from monthly to quarterly. Leading factors in the decision were lack of input from members, a cost savings, and a slight change in focus so that the new quarterly edition will be more closely identified as a public awareness publication while recording the history of the chapter with traditional articles.

After consulting with our editor **Todd Anderson** it was decided that the four editions would be seasonal. The Spring Edition should be published around May 1 and will include news about Singing Valentines, Harmony Explosion, the Annual Show, and the CSD Spring Convention and Contests. The Summer Edition will be published around August 1 and will include news about international and other late spring, early summer *HOA* events. The Fall Issue is to be published around November 1 and will focus on Music In The Park and the fall CSD Contests and Convention. Finally the Winter Edition published around February 1 will cover the Holiday Show, the Salvation Army Bell Ringing Caravan, and the Installation/Awards Banquet. All editions will record the chapter's history and provide a vision for the future while at the same time explaining to the public our mission of what our chorus, quartets, and auxiliaries are all about. We envision lead articles that promote barbershopping in a positive way through stories about *HOA* that hopefully the general public will find interesting and somewhat educational with respect to four-part a cappella harmony in the Kansas City area.

I don't know how many years the *Harmonotes* has been published monthly but it's been around for decades! Our newly formed history committee will probably have more information on this topic in upcoming editions. Until then let me thank all the editors, writers, photographers, proofers, printers, collators and mailers, who have through the years made the *Harmonotes* one of the Society's most respected chapter publications.

As for the future, only time will tell if the new *Harmonotes* will be successful in serving the needs of our chapter and community. One thing is certain; it will take the combined effort of many people to make it happen. So, chapter officers, PR people, membership committee members, musical leaders, committee chairs, quartets, *Heartbeats*, *New Harmony Handful*, and all active and inactive Heart of America members, pick up your palettes and brushes and let's all get to painting the new *HOA Harmonotes*, one season at a time! We can do this! ♥

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 April 25th, after 16 drawings (4 since last report):

- The total collected for Harmony Foundation since the last report is \$66.
- The total collected for the year to date is \$324.
- The total for the previous year was \$395.
- The total two years ago was \$1038.

The progressive jackpot stands at \$167. ♥

Tone-Henge Gets Ozzie!

by Vince Perry, President



When I heard that **Dan Henry** was retiring from quarteting after almost 63 years, I was saddened but not surprised. His last performance would be on *HOA's* 66th annual spring show, April 14, 2012. You do the math! Very impressive! Next I heard that *Tone-Henge* would be retiring their pitch pipes with Dan's retirement. Oh my, this really is serious; not sure I'm ready for this. At that moment I remember thinking,

who could take Dan's place as lead so *Tone-Henge* could continue and of course the answer was immediate and emphatic—no one! Not sure why I even gave it that one thought!

As soon as the news started spreading I was approached by a few guys wanting to know what the chapter was doing to honor Dan and *Tone-Henge*.

How does an organization honor a quartet, I thought. Then I remembered that the Central States District had honored quartets in the past: *Rural Route 4* and *Gas House Gang* were inducted into the CSD Hall of Fame and *12th Street Rag* was named CSD Barbershopper of the Year back in 2003.

Next I checked my current 2012 *HOA* Directory to see if any chapter quartet had ever been awarded BOTY in *HOA*. Nope! Was this good or bad? Didn't really make any difference as the *HOA* 2011 BOTY Award had already been presented. So had the John Cross Award — but not the Ozzie! This was a possibility. All I had to do was form a new ad hoc committee to consider if *Tone-Henge* actually qualified to receive the prestigious Oz Newgard Award.

You make the call: a recipient "must have demonstrated outstanding musical service to the Kansas City Missouri Chapter and the Heart of America Chorus." It was really an easy decision. *T-H* had represented the Chapter and *HOA* for 14 years throughout the district and beyond. They were crowned CSD Senior Quartet Champions back in 2001. They have sung on countless annual shows, holiday shows, Music in the Park Shows and delivered well over a hundred Singing Valentines! In addition the four members of the quartet, (tenor **Bruce Wenner**, lead **Dan Henry Bowser**, bari **Jim Bagby**, bass **Keith Schweer**), remained the same for all 14 years which may be a chapter record in itself.

But hold on, since *Rural Route 4* had never received an Ozzie, how could *Tone-Henge*? The answer was engraved right on the bottom panel of the traveling trophy: "Presented by the *Rural Route 4* on behalf of the Kansas City Chapter and the *Heart of America Chorus* in memory of **M. O. "Oz" Newgard**, Bass, Coach, Judge,

Woodshedder and Good Friend." *Rural Route 4* started the Ozzie back in 1989! Their name is already on the Ozzie trophy. Would *RR4* be pleased to have *T-H* receive an Ozzie? Oh yeah!

So at the afterglow following their final performance, the 2000 Ozzie recipient Don Young, on behalf of the vacationing 2010 Ozzie winner, Jerry Garrard, presented the 2011 Oz Newgard Award to *Tone-Henge*. It was a bittersweet moment to be sure. Congratulations *Tone-Henge*: Dan, Bruce, Jim, and Keith, and thanks for the memories! ♥



New Harmony Handful Performances On Increase

by Tony Strub, Photo courtesy of Charles Ramirez

So far in 2012, our mini-chorus has performed six times. Our most recent was for The Truman Medical Center Auxiliary on April 25 at the Meadowbrook Golf & Country Club. We have one performance scheduled for May 12 in Belton, to help a wonderful lady celebrate her 100th birthday. We do get around.

The summer is usually the most active time of the year for us. We sing at church services while the choir is on vacation. We have a repertoire of beautiful hymns that we all love to sing and add a special touch to the worship services.

In addition to singing at church services this summer, we have a return engagement scheduled Aug. 12 at John Knox Village as part of a program that features adult male choral groups from around the KC Metro area. We end the summer with a performance for the Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church senior group called the OWLS. I'll let you figure out what that stands for.

The *NHH* would like to welcome **Charles Ramirez** as a new member of our group. Charles, as many of you know, is a longtime member of our Kansas City Chapter and sang with the *HOA Chorus* for many years. Charles will sing lead and will be a valuable asset to the Handful. ♥

2012 CSD Spring Prelims!

April 21, 2012 • Omaha, NE

HOA Chapter Quartets photos by: Dean Beckman & Harvey Kiser



Resonation: L to R: tenor-Craig Wilcox, lead-Jeff Wolff, bass-Jonathan Andrews, bari-Jake Wozniak



Homeward Bound: L to R: tenor-Mark Yeokum, lead-Carl Turlin, bass-Alex Tate, bari-Don Fuson



Last Call: L to R: bari-Rob Mance, bass-Matt Richardson, lead-Duane Lawson, tenor-Brandon Yarbrough



Pinnacle: L to R: tenor-Dave Ellis, lead-Eric Derks, bass- Brian Bellof, bari-Brad Stephens



BCQ: L to R: tenor-Rob Mathieu, lead-Brian Marston, bass-Matt Moore, bari-Tom Wenner



Dominant Seventh: L to R: tenor-Brad Dawdy, lead-Jerry Garrard, bass-Eric Weber, bari-Doug Brott



State Line Rivals: L to R: tenor-Tom Elefson, lead-Grant Hunget, bass-Alex Scott, bari-Dan Casamatta





Kent Miller - April 2012

Music Vice President **Mark Fortino** (right) presents **Kent Miller** the Barbershopper of the Month for April 2012 for planning, organizing and managing the 2012 HOA Annual Spring Show. (Not present Co-show chairperson **Cindy Miller**) Photo courtesy of **Vince Perry**.



Mike Mathieu - April 2012

Executive VP **John Erwine** (left) presents **Mike Mathieu** the EMA for April for organizing and coordinating the 2012 Annual Spring Show afterglow. Photo courtesy of **Vince Perry**.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

by David Haase, *Serenade* Editor

Here are the results of the fourth annual "You Be the Judge" audience favorite contest, conducted in conjunction with the quartet semifinal contest at the CSD/RMD spring convention in Omaha, Neb., April 20, 2012:

Tenor: **Rob Mathieu**, *BCQ*

Lead: **Doug Broersma**, *Via Voice*

Baritone: **Brad Stephens**, *Pinnacle*

Bass: **Denny Malone**, *Ignition!*

Ballad: "Serenade in Blue" – *Via Voice*

Uptune: "You Make Me Feel So Young (Parody)" – *Ignition!*

Most Entertaining Song: "You Make Me Feel So Young (Parody)" – *Ignition!*

Favorite Attire/Costume: Prairie Fire western outfits

Tag that gave you goosebumps: *BCQ*'s 30-second tenor hanger on "Smile Medley"

Lyle Rolofson, Kansas City, Chairman

World-Class Music Education at Harmony University

taken from *LiveWire!*

Make this your year to dig deeper into the barbershop experience! Get yourself to Harmony University, July 29 - August 5, 2012, held at the beautiful Missouri Western State University campus. Choose from Harmony College, Directors College, Quartet College, Coaching College and Private Vocal Instruction, all taught by masters of barbershop. See Old School perform, and enjoy the keynote address by the future new Society CEO!

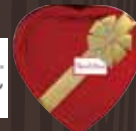
Participants under age 25 will sing in the *Next Generation Chorus*. Men and women are welcome, and special discounts are available to choruses.

Scholarships are available for quartets, arrangers and FIRST-TIME attendees -- but they're limited, so act fast! The deadline for Earl Moon Scholarship (for new Harmony U students) is May 1. ♥



Make An Effort To Patronize Our Sponsors!

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



Heart of America Chorus Calendar

May 18-19 (Friday - Saturday)
HOA Chorus Retreat at Lake Doniphan featuring Mike Slamka!

July 4-7 (Wednesday - Saturday)
2012 International Competition in Portland, OR

July 29 (Sunday)
7PM - Music In The Park
Overland Park, KS

August 7 (Tuesday)
7PM - Informal Concert at
St Peter's United Church of Christ

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.