

Harmonotes

The Quarterly Bulletin of the
Kansas City Heart of America Chorus

CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

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ERWINE

And so a New Year begins, with new mountains to climb and new elements to conquer. Sound ominous? It shouldn't. Sound exciting? It should, as each year we start with those two same challenges. We just don't always know what they are, but somehow we manage to surmount them and thrive. So it is with this Kansas City Chapter, and the exciting things we will encounter and create as we continue to move forward in our quest to exhibit, as someone said, "Singing Is Life."

Our annual banquet was held on Jan. 4, and the installing dignitary was our very own **Don Fuson**, the BHS Exec Vice-President. Don sometimes displays an unusual way of behaving to get his point across. For each board member installed, he presented them a caricature drawing of their respective duties. Sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words? Actually I framed mine, just in case.

Singing Valentines was held on a nice bright day in which one could have just as easily skipped and gone fishing. I'm proud to say that all who promised their help came through exactly as promised. This year our contribution to the Hearing and Speech Clinic of Children's Mercy Hospital and Clinics was \$1,300. *(Continued on page 2 ➡)*

DRAWN BY HARMONY...BOUND BY FRIENDSHIP...STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE!

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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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
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Chorus Manager & Webmaster - Vince Perry
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(Continued from front cover)

Jerry Meier spread his magic around once again, by his superb expertise in hosting Harmony Explosion on Feb. 22. I've yet to figure out how one person can be in all those different places at the same time! You can read much more about it in his accompanying article.

"And now, back from Carnegie Hall, it's SHOWTIME!" April 12 found us on stage in Yardley Hall at the Johnson County Community College. It was special in so many ways. First, we had the opportunity to share with our patrons some of the excitement many of us experienced on Dec. 1, at Carnegie Hall by singing some of those favorite songs of screen and stage. Secondly, our brothers from across town, *Central Standard* and current CSD District Champs, were invited to share in our program. Then to recapture some of that New York feeling we sang two numbers jointly as a festival chorus, just as we did with the *River City Chorus* at Carnegie. Of course the hit of the evening was none other than *Main Street*, 2013 International 4th place quartet medalists. *Premium Blend*, reigning CSD Champs, were also on hand offering their extra bold vocals.

Another one of the great highlights was to welcome and celebrate some of the talented high school winning quartets produced by Harmony Explosion: *The Happy Harmonizers* from Olathe East, *Out of the Blue* from Olathe South, *The Harmonics* from Washburn Rural, and *Stay Tuned* from Olathe South. This had to be especially rewarding to all those individuals and quartets who worked so hard at coaching these kids to get them ready for that one day competition. A special addition to this was a guest appearance by the *Blue Valley North High School Mixed Chorale*, directed by **Jason Sickel**. WOW, can they sing!

One of the incentives to promote the sale of tickets this year was for HOA to have a drawing offering a free mini I-Pad. This was the brain child of Show Chairs **Kent & Cindy Miller** and **Carl & Marci Turlin**. I'd like to share with you the special thanks Kent received from that winner:

"A big thank you for the mini iPad I won in your drawing this month. It was quite a surprise, as I am never that lucky. I was in the hospital the past week for a knee replacement and the mini iPad was a great size for me to use there. And, as always, the show was superb. Keep on singing!"
Norma...Sent from my iPad"

Now that's one that'll sell more tickets next year! And who better to have won it?

As many or most of you now know this show was **Mark Fortino's** last. He resigned the position of HOA Music Director a couple of weeks prior, to be effective after the show. This was an extremely difficult and soul-searching decision he had to face. It was entirely personal in nature as he, as do we all, deal daily with health, family and job. I'd say his 18-month run was a pretty strong one, considering he at first agreed to only a 90 day "feel-it-out" period—then on to Carnegie? I believe we all do!

(Continued on page 4 ☺)

Singing Valentines Delivered, Tug at Heart-Strings

by John Erwine, Singing Valentine Chairman, and Barry Sanders, special contributor

Just like the US Mail, neither rain, sleet, or snow can keep a good barbershop quartet from delivering a great Singing Valentine – even if the February temps this year were warm enough to go fishing. Again, the HOA troops stepped up to answer the call. Once things were set into motion, it was almost like driving that Porsche I've heard so much about lately.

For me, beyond benefits that the **Hearing and Speech Clinic of Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics** receive, a major reward is the stories that the quartets come back with. The following is one **Barry Sanders** shared with me:

*"We knew ahead of time that the daughter of this elderly couple had paid for 1 extra song for this gig. However since our regular lead, **Jon Gathright**, was not with us Mike Schumacher was subbing for Jon. Mike is a pretty good lead but he didn't really know any of the songs we sing in our regular repertoire, so we had to quickly get up to speed on an extra song that all four of us could sing. We chose "I love you truly" since it is short and relatively easy.*

We were asked to call ahead for this gig since we were to sing for an older couple who both live in the same facility, but one is in assisted living and the other lives in the nursing home section. When we got close and called the daughter, she contacted the retirement home to get the couple together so we could sing to both of them. When we arrived in the correct room we were greeted by a nice looking couple, with the man being in a wheel chair so we assumed that he was the one whose health was failing. This proved to be correct.

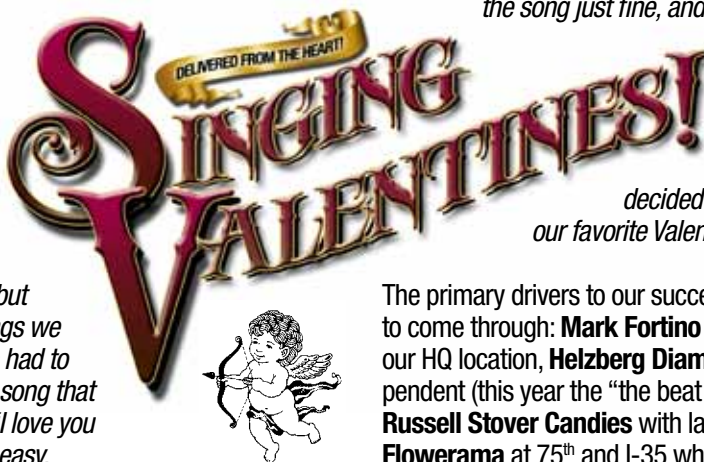
We proceeded to start our regular routine, and immediately noticed that there was a lot of loving eye contact between the two of them, indicating a lot of lasting and endearing love and possibly the

knowledge that the long-standing relationship was coming to a close. Toward the end of our second song, "Heart of My Heart," the lady leaned over and grabbed her husband's hand and held it tightly, as she was obviously being moved by what we were singing to

*them. **Lyle Rolofson** and I nearly got caught up in the emotion and had to really focus to keep from blowing the song.*

At the end of the third song, the wife stopped us and told us that they had been married for 65 years, and then quickly piped up that they had dated for 8 years before that, so this couple was obviously in their late 80's, or even older. We started our fourth and last song, "I Love You Truly," and didn't think too much about it other than the fact that we didn't want to blow our extra song, which none of us knew as well as our other three songs. We made it through the song just fine, and we were feeling quite proud of

ourselves when the lady stopped us and said: "Did you know, they sang that song at our wedding - 65 years ago?" We were just "blown away", and we decided that it was a "God" thing. This was our favorite Valentine."



The primary drivers to our success are the donors who never fail to come through: **Mark Fortino** and the **Bank of Blue Valley** for our HQ location, **Helzberg Diamonds** with their always beautiful pendent (this year the "the beat of your heart," a personal favorite), **Russell Stover Candies** with large boxes of chocolates and **Flowerama** at 75th and I-35 who always have the best roses in the city. Then throw in the hotel "sweetheart" packages contributed by the **Downtown Marriott**, **Sheraton Overland Park**, **Residence Inn Country Club Plaza**, **Residence Inn Overland Park**, **Springhill Suites Overland Park** and **Fairfield Inn Overland Park**. Personal thanks from me go to **Pat Ross** who is always there preparing the quartet supplies for delivery, **Mike Mathieu** for routing the deliveries and procuring the many hotel packages, **Vince Perry** for managing the ordering/payment system interface from our WEB site and telephone call center, **Thom Tisdall** and his "radio" voice for recording the script used by the call center, and **Barry Sanders** for forming and managing all of our delivering quartets. Added to these are the many delivering quartets from HOA and the **Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adeline's**.

Next year the **Hearing and Speech Clinic**, which our \$1,300 donation helps support, will be relocating to a new facility acquired three years ago at 3101 Broadway. Thank you, *Heart of America!* ♥



John Erwine presenting HOA donation of \$1,300 to Megan Stock. Photo compliments of John Erwine.



John Erwine presents "the beat of your heart" diamond pendant to Amy Bozarth. Photo compliments of John Erwine

Another New Era

(Continued from front cover)

After the evening performance at the afterglow, I was very pleased and proud to present him with a plaque from HOA (shown at right) which reads: "You've taken us on a wonderful journey, Including white tux coats, Cheer Up Charlie, and Carnegie Hall! Thanks for the ride and the memories." (Close up of plaque is shown at bottom right)

One of the great treasures of this chapter is that it has lots of depth within it, and musical leadership is among them. Because of this we were pleased to offer the Director's position to Associate Director, **Jerry Garrard**. He graciously accepted and is now hard at work to bring his ideas to fruition. If you've not attended a chapter meeting for some time, I encourage you to come and see for yourself what Jerry is up to. This is also gearing up for a fun ride!

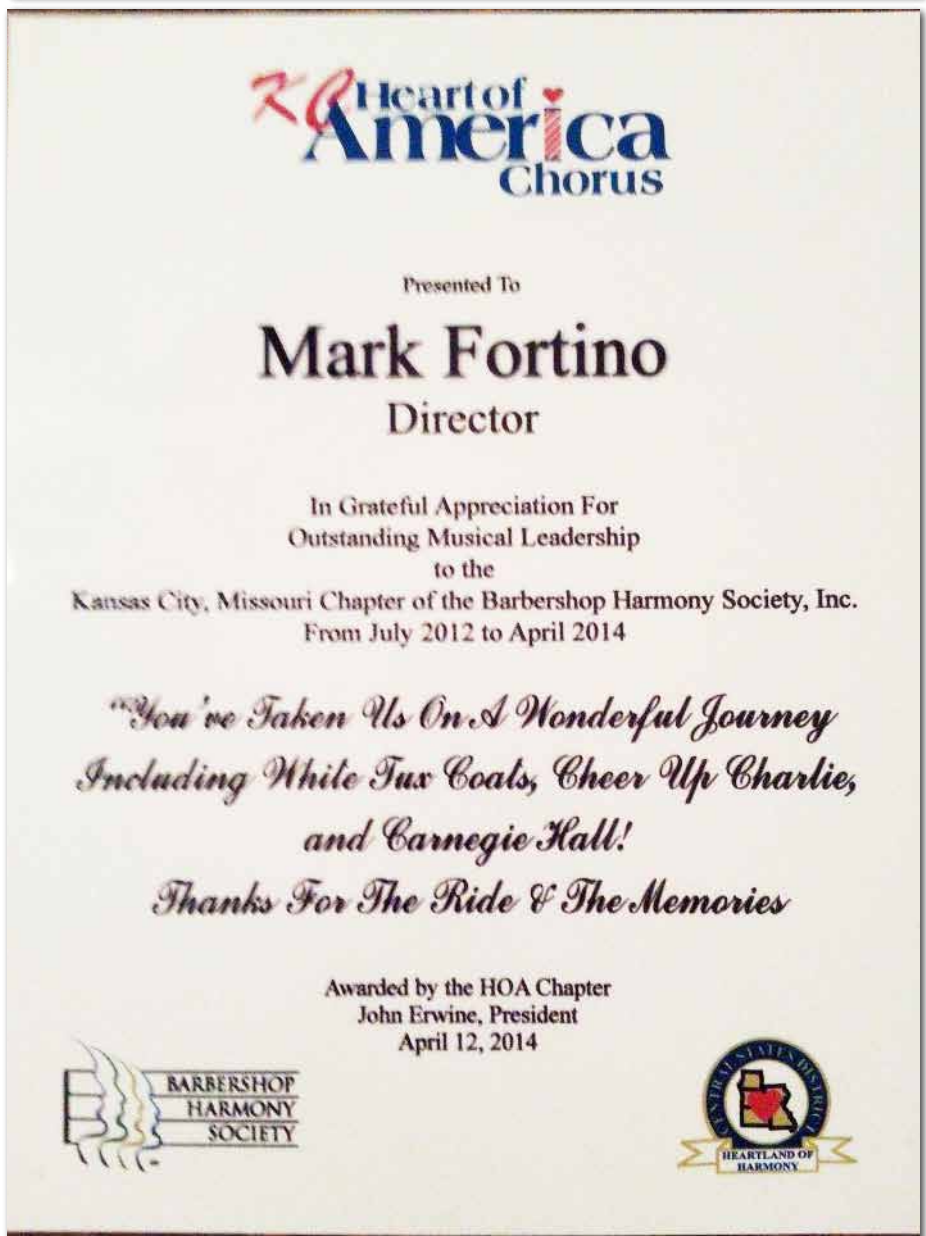
Although not able to attend the Spring Convention in Davenport on April 25, I wish I could have been there to experience the win our very own *Armchair Chorderbacks* achieved. They are now our new CSD Senior Quartet Champions! Although being "senior," let's wish them a long and happy life.

Perhaps this will not be as an exciting year in the spotlight as last for the chapter, considering our 75th anniversary and Carnegie Hall; I still expect great and exciting things to happen. I see continued membership growth, interaction with other chapters, more outreach to our surrounding communities, new learning-to-sing methods and more depth added to our treasure chest. Let's bring it on, and as he (**Jerry Garrard**) said... Singing Is Life." ♥

(Special thanks to **Vince Perry** for plaque inscription)



Photo by Don Fuson



#2014HE - ANOTHER FUN-FILLED DAY!

by Jerry Meier

Harmony Explosion! 2014 was another success – thanks to all of the volunteers from the *Heart of America Chorus*, the *KC Chorus of Sweet Adelines*, the *Cody Choraliers*, the staff at Olathe East High School, and the Music Educators and parents and sponsors of the 180+ students that participated in our event. In no particular order, I would like to thank the following individuals:

Olathe East High School

- **Administration and Staff:**
- **Martha Gabel**, Fine Arts Coordinator for Olathe Schools
- **Dr. Bill Webber**, Principal of OEHS
- **Amanda Faunce**, VP of Student Activities at OEHS (Sanctioned Event)
- **Brigid Mayer**, Chair of the Fine Arts Department at OEHS
- **Dustin Cates**, Director of Choirs at OEHS
- **Jan Holthus**, Assistant Director of Choirs at OEHS
- **Garry Goddard**, Drama / Theater Department
- **Natalie Friend**, Drama / Theater Department Student Volunteer
- **Alex Estrada** and the Custodial Staff
- **Big Mike**, the Security Guard from NPB Companies
- **ALL of our Chorus VOLUNTEERS**
- **ALL of our SPONSORS**

Vocal Music Educators and Schools:

- **Dustin Cates**, Olathe East High School, Olathe, KS
- **Jan Holthus**, Olathe East HS and Olathe South HS, Olathe, KS
- **Marcheta Pearson**, California Trail Middle School, Olathe, KS
- **Eric Newlin**, Pioneer Trail Middle School, Olathe, KS
- **Erin Buffum**, Indian Trail Middle School, Olathe, KS
- **Dr. Dwayne Dunn**, Lawrence High School, Lawrence, KS
- **Marsha Moeller**, Blue Valley High School, Overland Park, KS
- **Robin Christie**, Bishop Miege High School, Roeland Park, KS
- **Adam West**, Washburn Rural High School, Topeka, KS

Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines:

- Director **Stacy Schumacher**
- Assistant Director **Lori Carrender**
- Leadership Team
- *Legacy*
- **Marti Shutty**, Harmony Explosion Coordinator
- Judges / Runners / Emcees / Chaperones, etc.

Cody Choraliers:

- Director **Jerry Garrard**
- President **Brad Cox**
- Leadership Team

Heart of America Chorus:

- Director **Mark Fortino**
- President
- Leadership Team
- Judges / Runners / Emcees / Chaperones, etc.
- *BoomTown*

Our new format from last year continues to emphasized participation and fun more than competition. Three divisions – 8th Grade and Under; 10th Grade and Under; 12th Grade and Under – encourage more participation at younger age levels. Quartets in the 8th Grade and Under division are also allowed to compete with 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 members, to give them an extra boost of confidence by singing in larger groups. These young students also do not have to compete with Freshmen! Likewise, Freshmen and Sophomores do not compete with Juniors or Seniors!

Once again we provided plenty of examples of a cappella barbershop singing for the students, the parents, and the music educators all day long. *The Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines* started the day at 9am by singing two songs to delight the audience. Next *Legacy* stepped onto the stage and performed a mini-concert to get everyone fired up for the day's activities. **Lori Carrender** and **Jerry Garrard** lead 30-minute warm-up sessions for the respective girls and boys groups prior to the preliminary contest rounds. Thirty-nine quartets performed in the prelims and twenty qualified for the finals. *The Heart of America Chorus* sang for the audience prior to the announcement of the finalists. *The Cody Choraliers* serenaded the participants during lunch, which was catered by the Olive Garden of Olathe.

BoomTown helped to teach Barbershop Tags to the boys while *Legacy* was teaching a few tags to the girls after lunch, prior to the finals. After the finals were done, all of the girls gathered on stage to sing their tags, and the boys did the same (with assistance from *BoomTown*). The Gold and Silver medals were handed out and the event was concluded before 5pm. Mission Accomplished!

Since this publication is in electronic format, you can click on the following link to see a few hundred pictures taken by **Bill Blankenship** (bill.blankenship@cjonline.com), a photographer and writer from *The Topeka Capital-Journal*.

<http://spotted.cjonline.com/galleries/index.php?id=489358>

The final results were as follows:

8th and Under Girls (4 finalists):

<i>Bella Hues</i>	California Trail MS	Gold
<i>The Boogie Babes</i>	California Trail MS	Gold
<i>MASK</i>	California Trail MS	Silver
<i>Perfect Harmony</i>	Pioneer Trail MS	Silver

8th and Under Boys (3 finalists):

<i>Like a Bass</i>	Indian Trail MS	Gold
<i>Fourfront</i>	California Trail MS	Silver
<i>A-cafellas</i> (Olathe)	California Trail MS	Silver

10th and Under Girls (3 finalists):

<i>Happy Harmonizers</i>	Olathe East HS	Gold
<i>Quadruple Effect</i>	Olathe South HS	Gold
<i>The Rhythm Rebelz</i>	Olathe East HS	Silver

10th and Under Boys (3 finalists):

<i>Element of Reprise</i>	Olathe Northwest HS	Silver
<i>A-cafellas</i> (Lawrence)	Lawrence HS	Silver
<i>2 Classy</i>	Olathe South HS	Silver

12th and Under Girls (3 finalists):

<i>The Harmonics</i>	Washburn Rural HS	Gold
<i>Them</i>	Olathe East HS	Gold
<i>Breaking Point</i>	Olathe East HS	Gold

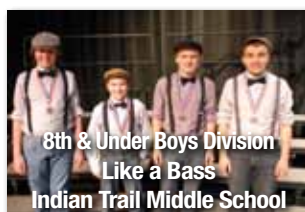
12th and Under Boys (4 finalists):

<i>Locked In</i>	Olathe East HS	Gold
<i>Stay Tuned</i>	Olathe South HS	Gold
<i>Out of the Blue</i>	Olathe South HS	Gold
<i>Barbershop Blues</i>	Washburn Rural HS	Gold

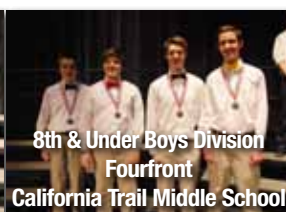
I cannot wait until next year! ♥

HARMONY EXPLOSION!

All photos courtesy of Ron McIntire



8th & Under Boys Division
Like a Bass
Indian Trail Middle School



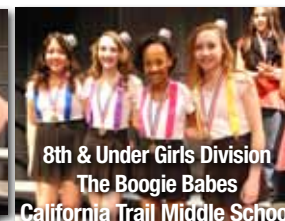
8th & Under Boys Division
Fourfront
California Trail Middle School



8th & Under Boys Division
A-cafellas (Olathe)
California Trail Middle School



8th & Under Girls Division
Bella Hues
California Trail Middle School



8th & Under Girls Division
The Boogie Babes
California Trail Middle School



8th & Under Girls Division
MASK
California Trail Middle School



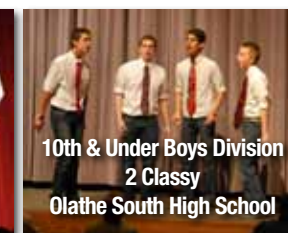
8th & Under Girls Division
Perfect Harmony
Pioneer Trail Middle School



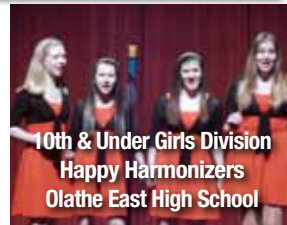
10th & Under Boys Division
Element of Reprise
Olathe Northwest High School



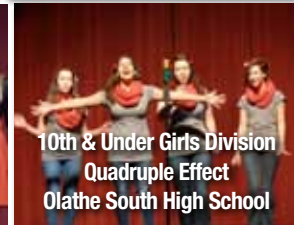
10th & Under Boys Division
A-cafellas (Lawrence)
Lawrence High School



10th & Under Boys Division
2 Classy
Olathe South High School



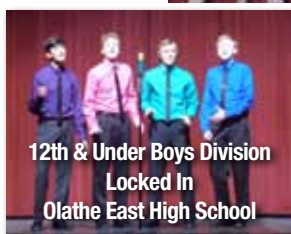
10th & Under Girls Division
Happy Harmonizers
Olathe East High School



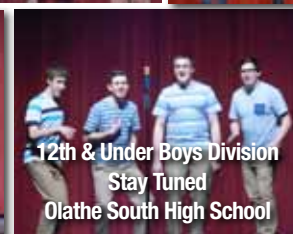
10th & Under Girls Division
Quadruple Effect
Olathe South High School



10th & Under Girls Division
The Rhythm Rebelz
Olathe East High School



12th & Under Boys Division
Locked In
Olathe East High School



12th & Under Boys Division
Stay Tuned
Olathe South High School



12th & Under Boys Division
Out of the Blue
Olathe South High School



12th & Under Boys Division
Barbershop Blues
Washburn Rural High School



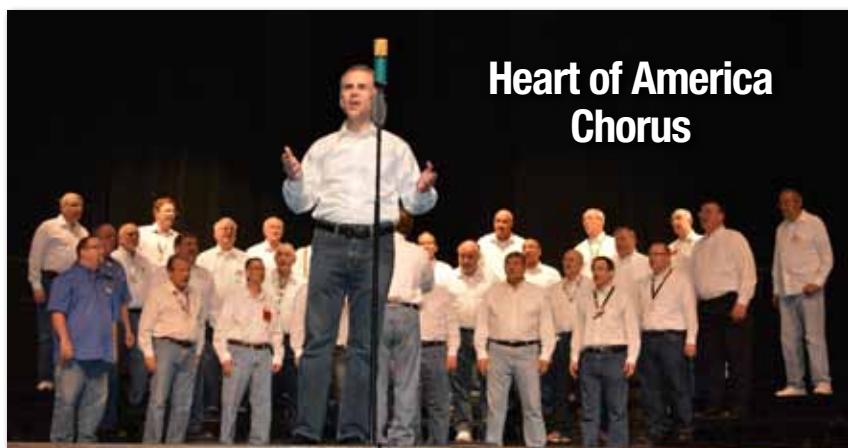
12th & Under Girls Division
The Harmonics
Washburn Rural High School



12th & Under Girls Division
Them
Olathe East High School



12th & Under Girls Division
Breaking Point
Olathe East High School



**Heart of America
Chorus**



Boomtowners



Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines



Boys Chorus



Girls Chorus



HOA SPRING SHOW 2014

Photos courtesy of Matt Bostick





HOA SPRING SHOW 2014

Photos courtesy of Matt Bostick



New Harmony Handful - Busy Again in 2014

by Tony Strub



After 24 performances in 2013, *The New Harmony Handful* singers took a well deserved breather during the month of January. We revised our repertory, retiring some valuable oldies and adding some wonderful new religious and secular music for our program in 2014. Our challenge now is to learn the notes and words to seven new songs and sing them up to the standards of our director **Jim Bagby**.

That sounds like a lot and it is. But, to achieve a level of excellence in singing – performance that leaves our audience wanting to hear more the work is well worth it. Whether it is a congregation at a church service or an audience in a nursing home, retirement complex or an awards banquet, when you see the smiles, hear the applause and experience the personal interaction with the people, you don't remember the work. My first thought is always "This is fun! When do we get to do it again." Our goal is always to sing and perform well, entertain the audience, promote *HOA* and to have fun doing it. We are really looking forward to 2014. ♥

Mark Your 2015 Calendar!

by Jerry Meier



Harmony Explosion! 2015 will take place on Saturday, Feb. 21 at Olathe East High School. Once again our good friends at Olathe East have agreed to be our hosts. Olathe East is an excellent venue that offers two auditoriums

with two stages conveniently located across from each other in the same hallway, adjacent to the commons area. We are so very thankful to the Olathe School District for their continued support – specifically for their choral music programs – as they approve our facility request forms each year. Look for updates on Twitter: #2015HE. ♥

Traveling Chorderbacks Add CSD Senior Championship

by Tenor Carter Combs

When you put together a seniors quartet, and name it something bucolic like, say, *Armchair-something-or-other*, you might tend to imagine a quiet, restful group. Let me tell you, 'taint so!

We started this year prepping for the International seniors contest in Long Beach, scrambling to coordinate schedules and coaches. **Mike Matthieu** already had a long-planned trip to California the week prior to contest, so we had to get ourselves as ready as we could, knowing we wouldn't have as much rehearsal as we would have preferred. Regardless, we all arrived safely, and very much enjoyed a few days in January of sunny California weather, good food and wine, and LOTS of fine barbershop. You may have been to other international conventions, but Midwinter is a whole different critter! Very relaxed atmosphere, top quartets and youth choruses that just blow your socks off. Well worth the trip, if you ever get the chance.

Next up for the quartet was Singing Valentines. Each of us had done them many times in years past, with different delivery songs and styles, so we got to spend some time figuring out just how to do together what we had done separately so many times before. The big day came and we were assigned the downtown area, which means LOTS of stops, reasonably close together. At one point we had a delivery in Westport, followed by two more right across the street, both located in the same building! Big thank you to our driver **Ray Young**, and for the excellent scheduling by Mike, and overall organization by John Erwine! I think we ended up delivering 16 Valentines, followed by a 30-minute gig back down in the Westport area. That's a long day on the road.

Most recent was our road-trip to Davenport, Iowa, for the combined Central States and Illinois districts spring convention. Once again, coordinating rehearsal time was a challenge, as we all seem to have busy professional and travel schedules. In addition, three of us had conflicts on that contest weekend (Mike had to be back in KC by Saturday morning!), so we knew we'd just have to finagle as best we could. For starters, we decided to just do the Seniors contest, since that is a single-round event, and we knew we'd all be there Friday. We thought there would be enough quartets for two sessions on Friday, and we would request an afternoon draw. Unfortunately, there were only enough quartets for an evening session. Luckily, we got a relatively early draw, and Mike hit the road back home immediately after we sang. Poor guy, he wasn't even in the house when they announced we had won the District Senior Quartet championship -- he was already on the other side of Des Moines!

Armchair Chorderbacks (**Mike, David Stockard, Jim Bagby** and me) are delighted and honored to have represented CSD at Midwinter, and to be named this year's Senior champs. We're very grateful that our lovely brides (from tenor to bass: **Jeffi, Jan, Joann** and **Abbie**) kick us... um... allow us to come out occasionally to sing together. So, since life on the road seems to be the norm for us, as they used to say: "catch you on the flip side!" ♥

Changes? What Changes?

by Music VP Carter Combs



Sometimes the timing works, and sometimes it just doesn't.

Changes are in the wind for *HOA*, following our enormously busy and successful 75th anniversary year, and one of the most diverse and entertaining annual shows in our chapter's history. All of us were surprised when our ball-of-energy **Mark Fortino** announced he needed to resign as director. Some efficient work on the part of our Board's Executive Committee quickly secured ongoing leadership, putting us in the capable hands of **Jerry Garrard**.

At this writing, Jerry has led three rehearsals, and we have had one abbreviated Music Team meeting. We'll have another in a few days but, so far, we really haven't had time to discuss and decide what changes we might be making. So, while I would love to use this space to lay out what our chapter might expect over the next several months, the deadline for this article is just about a week or so too early.

Suffice to say, Jerry has some great ideas and a strong vision about how he would like to advance our chorus, building on the strong foundation laid out by our prior directors. If I were a betting man, I'd lay odds there will be some new and different in the near future. If you haven't been around in while, I invite you to come check it out. I think you'll be glad you did! ♥



"THE CASE OF THE BABY AND THE TWO WOMEN WAS A PIECE OF CAKE. THE NEXT ONE IS THE BARBERSHOP QUARTET COMPETITION."

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!



Introducing the newest members of the Chapter!

Photos by Ron McIntire



Ryan Casey

Ryan Casey is a first-time barbershopper and a senior at Blue Valley High School. He lives in Overland Park, KS and is very active in area musical stage productions, *Music Theater for Children*, and is a 4 year letterman in his high school choir. He learned about barbershop when *Premium Blend* did their high school tour earlier this year. He couldn't wait to join *HOA* and sing on the 2014 show. He is already forming more than one quartet now. Ryan sings lead in the *HOA chorus*. Welcome, Ryan!



Dave Parker

Dave Parker is a first-time barbershopper living in Kansas City, MO. He is a former IT corporate programmer and an industry consultant and though he is active in playing mostly guitar and some piano and does take money for his performances, he is somewhat reluctant to claim he is a professional musician. He plays all forms of music, Rock & Roll, Country, Blues and R&B. Dave sings lead in the *HOA chorus*. It's good to have you with us, Dave!

MEET YOUR NEW DIRECTOR:

Jerry Garrard, Music Director HOA



In addition to his work with HOA, Jerry directs the *Cody Choralliers* of Leavenworth, KS. He is dedicated to the art of directing and has been awarded the status of Certified Director by the Barbershop Society.

As former Vice President of Chorus Director Development for Central States District, Jerry has assisted chorus directors in their growth. He has recently been accepted as a candidate to become a "singing" category judge in the Barbershop Harmony Society.

PLEASE WELCOME JERRY!

Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter



Note that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. All of the proceeds of the raffle not given as prizes or used for expenses of the raffle goes to Harmony Foundation at the end of each

year. In return, we are able to have the Foundation designate up to 30% of the funds given to chapter activities such as Harmony Explosion.

At the end of April, after 16 drawings (14 since the last report): The total collected for Harmony Foundation since the last report is \$293.

The total collected for the year to date is \$318.

There have been FOUR jackpot winners so far in 2014, each for \$100:

Jan. 7 - **Vince Perry**
Feb. 25 - **Ray Young**
Mar. 4 - **Jim Porter**
Mar. 25 - **Bill Bay**

As a result, the prize fund is in deficit \$226 as of the end of April. ❤️

Happy Birthday!

...to the following HOA MEMBERS!

April 7	Raymond Schwarzkopf
April 8	Jeff Wolff
April 10	Matt Bostick
April 11	John Erwine
April 11	Craig Wilcox
April 14	Bob Howard
April 16	Jim Clark
April 17	Mike Mathieu
April 21	Dick Krueger
April 21	Tom Elefson
April 24	Marlin Weidler
April 25	Bruce Wenner
April 26	Austin Veteto
May 4	Bob Murphy
May 5	Wade Dexter
May 6	Anthony Fortino
May 7	Carter Combs
May 9	Dan Henry Bowser
May 9	Kyle Batchelder
May 12	Keith Owen
May 16	Ted Simon
May 20	Dale Neuman
May 21	Anders Sand
May 24	Joe Mathieu
June 2	Jeff Veteto
June 4	Kevin Tritsch
June 5	Eric Bean
June 6	Phil Youngs
June 11	Don Fuson
June 11	Maurice Smith
June 11	Duane Lawson
June 13	Tony O'Brien
June 14	Tony Strub
June 15	Dave Hokanson
June 16	Shaun Whisler
June 20	Bill Bay
June 20	Dave Perry
June 22	Ray Young
June 23	Rob Mathieu
June 23	Dylan Mathieu
June 25	Al Fehlauer
June 28	Barry Sanders
June 29	Keith Schweer

BARBERSHOPPER OF THE MONTH



Ray Young December 2013

Chapter President **John Erwine** (right) presents **Ray Young** the BOTM for December 2013. "In grateful appreciation for your work in pursuing and procuring the contract with Manhattan Concert Productions to make it possible for HOA to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City, December 1, 2013."

Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.

BARBERSHOPPER OF THE MONTH



Jerry Meier January 2014

Chapter President **John Erwine** (right) presents **Jerry Meier** the BOTM for Jan. 2014. "In grateful appreciation for your work in planning and organizing the 2014 Annual Installation Banquet at the Crowne Plaza Conference Center in Lenexa, Kansas, January 4, 2014."

Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.

BARBERSHOPPER OF THE MONTH



Jerry Meier February 2014

Chapter President **John Erwine** (right) presents **Jerry Meier** the BOTM for Feb. 2014.

"In grateful appreciation for your work organizing and managing the 2014 Harmony Explosion program at Olathe East High School, February 22, 2014."

Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.

EXTRA MILE AWARD



Kevin Tritsch December 2013

Chapter President **John Erwine** (left) presents **Kevin Tritsch** the EMA for Dec. 2013. "In grateful appreciation for lugging around and setting up the HOA sound system at six locations for the Salvation Army Caroling Caravan, December 21, 2013."

Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.

EXTRA MILE AWARD



Thom Tisdall January 2014

Chapter President **John Erwine** (right) presents **Thom Tisdall** the EMA for Jan. 2014. "In grateful appreciation for recording the answering message at the Singing Valentine phone call-in center in preparation for the 2014 Singing Valentine program."

Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.

EXTRA MILE AWARD



Todd Anderson January 2014

Chapter President **John Erwine** displays Todd's EMA for Sept. 2013. "In grateful appreciation for creating the color 2014 Heart of America Singing Valentine's flyer on your own initiative."

Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.

AL HIGGINS • 1933 ~ 2014

by Ron McIntire, with contributions from Monty Duerksen, Lud Einess and Vince Perry III

Photo by Ron McIntire



Albert J. Higgins (we knew him simply as **Al**), and long time friend, **Chuck Ames**, moved from Hays, Kansas to Emporia. In about 1992, they transferred their membership from Emporia to Kansas City and from that time on both were important fixtures in chapter activities. Al arranged travel and hotel accommodations for chorus members going to District and International competitions for several years, arranged accommodations for *HOA* retreats in Atchison, Kan-

sas, and helped select performance uniforms and tuxedos for the chapter. On at least one occasion he was instrumental in crafting vests for *HOA*. Al was a tireless promoter of the annual spring show and was often ticket chairman.

Al operated almost exclusively in the background. Many never knew that he took charge of critical tasks nor were they aware of who did them. In mid January, for a number of years, he began the task of securing roses, candy and greeting cards in preparation for the annual *HOA* Singing Valentine Program then managed the Valentine operations for at least three days around each Feb. 14.

Al was a strong believer in education, having been a speech/debate/drama teacher in the years before he came to Kansas City. He worked with area schools in Emporia and Kansas City to promote better singing for children and, along with **Monty Duerksen**, whom he sang with in Emporia, worked to develop and grow the Young Men in Harmony program in Emporia and the Harmony Explosion program in Kansas City. Monty had started the Young Men in Harmony at Emporia and Al became interested so it was natural that they both work to develop the program. For a number of years Al served as the moderator of the program and then trained his successors. The program became known simply as HE! (Harmony Explosion!) to the kids. To this day the boys and girls quartet winners from both the junior and senior high divisions are guest performers on *HOA*'s Annual Spring Show. He was in his element when he introduced the quartets at the spring show sharing his knowledge of the Harmony Explosion program with the audience.

Al organized and chaired numerous *HOA* Installation and Awards banquets over the years. Though the title Chorus Manager was never officially bestowed on him, he was just that: a guy that made things happen for the chorus.

Over the years, Al received at least 12 *HOA* Barbershopper of the Month and Extra Mile Awards and was selected as Kansas City Chapter Barbershopper of the Year in 2003.

In 2002, he was chosen as Central States District Barbershopper of the Year for the work he did with the District including managing the District President's hospitality room extravaganza.

People who knew Al well can attest to his exceptional culinary skills, a master chef who loved to bake. On occasion, he would prepare a top-notch birthday feast for a few of his close friends or bring a cake or cookies to a chapter meeting.



Photo by John Erwine

In recent years, Al's health began to decline and he dropped his chapter membership but his love for barbershop music and the Kansas City Chapter never wavered. Even when he was placed in hospice care, he continued to listen to the music he loved so well. In late January, 2014, he was thrilled when the *New Harmony Handful* paid him a musical visit (shown above), shared a few laughs and invited him to join in a couple of songs. Al was an accomplished baritone with a great face.

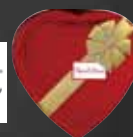
There is little doubt that Al had a rewarding life. He was an influential voice in making the Kansas City Chapter what it is today. The newer members of *HOA* did not know Al Higgins but they are reaping the benefits of his accomplishments.

Al Higgins died, April 6, 2014, at age 80 due to complications from leukemia, heart problems and pneumonia. He requested no funeral.

Rest In Peace, Al. ❤️

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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

Saturday - May 3

Topeka Chapter Shows at 2pm and 7pm

Every Tuesday in May: VOICE LESSONS!

May 27 - GUEST NIGHT!

Saturday - June 7

**T-Bones B-Ball Game with the
Olathe Trails West Chapter (RSVP by May 23)**

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.