

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

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DAN HENRY BOWSER 1925 ~ 2015

by Ron McIntire

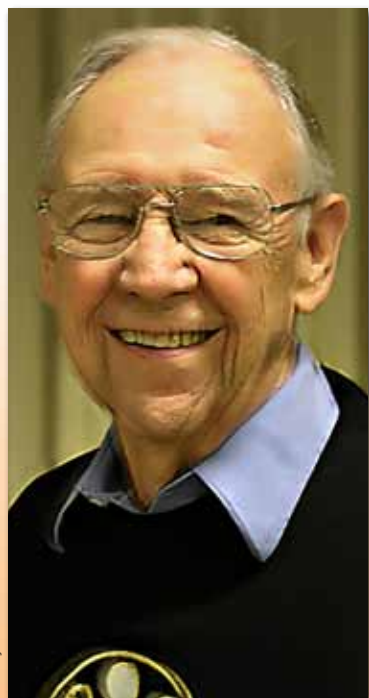


Photo by Ron McIntire

Ol' Dan "Fair Weather" Henry Bowser spent 68 of his 89 years as the proudest member of the Barbershop Harmony Society, first in Topeka, and since 1954, in the Kansas City Chapter.

Over the years he was *HOA* chorus director, chapter president, emcee and much more. As **Jim Bagby** said in the tribute to Dan at the spring show in April, "Nobody didn't love Dan Henry."

Dan was the man out front at the Salvation Army outings every year for nearly as long as anyone can remember, and long ago earned the Army's "Bellringer of the Year" Award. Whether *HOA* performed at area shopping malls or at Caroling Caravan performances, he took his turn at directing "Jingle Bells" employing his patented right-shoulder shrug at one phrase and following it up with a left-shoulder shrug at another. During performances at area malls, Dan circulated through the crowd with his "Army" basket collecting money and greeting shoppers.

He was *HOA* barbershopper of the year in 1966, Central States District Hall of Fame member and in 2007 became the second person to be named recipient of the Kansas City Chapter's highest honor, the Joe Stern Award for Lifetime Achievement. (Continued on page 2 ➡)

Harmonotes

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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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All chapter officers and quartets are expected, and chapter members encouraged, to contribute their ideas on a regular basis. The editorial staff reserves the right to deny publication of material deemed inappropriate for *Harmonotes* and to edit all submissions for reasons of space and clarity (grammar, content and spelling). Permission to reprint articles is granted to barbershop editors as long as the author and *Harmonotes* are acknowledged. The utmost care was used in preparation of this newsletter. Should you notice erroneous copy, please let the editor know!

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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

Web Address: webstaff@hoachorus.com

Chorus Manager & Webmaster - Vince Perry



(Continued from front cover)

As for Dan, he loved singing – with his brothers, with **Estyl** and their children and with other couples. He was the front man for the globe-trotting *Merry Mugs*, for *Hubbub* and for *Tone-Henge* – all entertaining comedy quartets. His foursomes were generally known as “Dan and the hummers.” He made “Ol’ Sarah Jane” a household name Society-wide and resurrected a portion of the routine during *Tone-Henge*’s swan song performance on the 2012 HOA spring show. The *Merry Mugs* were one of the first quartets chosen to represent the BHS on two U.S.O. tours to the Philippines, Guam and the Far East during the Vietnam War era. Dan was the last surviving member of the *Mugs*.

At the Society level, he had just last year been honored with the Dave LaBar Award, putting him in the barbershopping hall of fame for master of ceremonies. Going back to the 1970s, he probably served as emcee for more chapter shows, district contests and international conventions than any other member in Society history.

Dan Henry, as most everyone knew him, was born and raised in Coffeyville, Kansas, spent time in the U.S. Navy during WWII, received his bachelor’s degree from Kansas State University and a master’s degree in education from Kansas University. He held numerous jobs over the years including junior high school general science teacher and as announcer for Topeka radio station WIBW. He joined WDAF-AM radio in 1959 as a disk jockey and moved to weekend weatherman at WDAF-TV in 1970 then to full time weatherman. He retired in 1992 after 20 years.

Dan Henry died Feb. 28, 2015 at age 89 after a long struggle with emphysema. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, **Estyl**, sons **Brian** and **Bradley**, former member of HOA, and daughter **Kathryn**, two grandsons and two granddaughters.

About 70 past and present members of HOA were part of the nearly full sanctuary of the Old Mission United Methodist Church in Fairway, Kansas, to pay their respects at the memorial service for Dan. HOA chorus members sang *I Believe* and *Friends*.

For more detailed information on Dan Henry’s life and career, see the January 2006 *Harmonotes*, page 14, or Google “Dan Henry Bowser.” ♥

Singing Valentines — Sweethearts All

by John Erwine, Singing Valentine Co-Chairman

As with all major projects, those who are in charge of seeing them to fruition usually worry about having the needed resources to make them run smoothly. So it was with me again this year. Although I knew down deep that this was needless and to be ignored, there still lurked that uneasy feeling.

Then the sun came out. The first sign that this would no doubt be another successfully completed year was when I acquired a new co-chair — **Jason Garder**. It was then that all the pieces once again began to fall into place just as they have in past years. Although Jason was many times unable to be physically present for all the weeks of preparation, he was 100% present as he shadowed my every move via many dozens of emails I sent and received. Thank you Jason!

Then the remaining pieces of the puzzle began to come together. Once again **Bank of Blue Valley** (HQ), **Helzberg Diamonds** (Beat of Your Heart Pendant), **Russell Stover** (candy) and Flowerama (roses) came through as they always have. They were followed by the **Downtown Marriott**, **Sheraton Overland Park**, **Residence Inn Overland Park**, **Springhill Suites Overland Park** and **Fairfield Inn Overland Park** with “sweetheart” hotel stay packages.

Then of course the final and most important piece — YOU -- all the volunteers (both *Heart of America* and *Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adeline's*) that spent from one to three days (and more) of your time to make it happen; everything from quartet formation, quartet deliveries, HQ assistance, routing and ordering/payment interface. All of the other pieces we could have done without. They are just perks. But without YOU, none of this would have been possible.

Although not able to make the check presentation there, the **Children's Mercy Hearing and Speech Clinic** has re-located to a new wing at their 3101 Broadway location for those not in need of constant monitoring. It is an improved and more spacious facility.

So — whether it's *Let Me Call You Sweetheart*, *Heart of My Heart*, *Sweet & Lovely*, *I Love You Truly*, stuffing bags, pushing a two-wheeler or operating a computer, on behalf of Children's Mercy and myself — you're Sweethearts All! ♥

Below, Left to right: John Erwine with Tracy Wood, Helzberg Diamond Winner; John presents SV check to CMH. Megan Stock, Special Events Manager. Photos courtesy of John Erwine.



Singing Valentines Once Again

by Dale Neuman



Over the years, I have sung in a number of SV quartets mostly built around the *Crosstown Four*. Most times, it was the *CT4* but, at others, one or more of us was not available and so we used able fill-ins for whomever was not there.

I still recall the time when one of the fill-ins who had the task of presenting the card to the recipient took a bathroom break before we went into the office where we were to sing. As he came out he was very red in the face and asked if we had any more cards in the car. It seems that the one he had been carrying accidentally became waterlogged. We did have more and after we had prepared it with the requested message, we went in and sang a few minutes later than planned. We all had hard time making it past the point where he handed the new dry card to the young woman without laughing.

I recall another time when I had to teach on the days we were doing SV but there were no extra tenors to fill in. So we worked it out that we'd get a fill-in bari for the times I was not available and **Ron Abel** would do the tenor and then, when I could sing, they'd swing by pick me up and we go on dropping the bari back at headquarters as a fill-in for another quartet. This meant however that I had to meet my classes in my red vest and bow tie since we had little time in between for me to change given the numbers we had to deliver. That took some explaining as well as my polite refusal to sing a solo for the classes. I think the most we did in one day back then may have been 28 as the day went from 8 to 8. And we did not have GPS to find where to go!

This year I became a “fill-in” for Larry Colburn and sang with **Jon Gathright**, **Rich Huyck** and **Barry Sanders** in their quartet. We had a busy enough schedule that took us all over the metro from homes to offices to restaurants both days. But the most memorable was when we thought we'd become the *Pied Piper* quartet. This happened when we went to an office building to find our recipient only to discover that his office was on a different floor than we had entered. When one of the staff began to take us to the correct floor, all of the staff on the floor we had entered followed and were joined by curious others on the floor we went to until, by the time we go to the correct work station, I estimate more than 100 were standing with us — but the work station was empty. So we waited until the intended arrived and of course he was totally at a loss to see all the others standing nearby. And to make it even more curious, it appears that the SV was from a former employer telling him how much he was already missed! It all reminded me of the fun and surprises that I shared with the *CT 4* so many times and I want to thank **Rich**, **Jon** and **Barry** for letting me again experience the thrill. ♥

NEW HARMONY HANDFUL BEGINS ITS EIGHTH YEAR

by Bob Howard

The *NHH* begins our eighth year with a renewed commitment and dedication to our goal of providing music in the barber-shop style to audiences within the greater Kansas City area. Over the past seven years, we feel we have brought much joy to nursing homes, senior groups, church congregations and a variety of other groups. We hope to continue singing together for many years to come.

May 5 was a very special day in our history, as the Handful recorded our 100th performance, going back to our first outing in 2008. We sang for an appreciative audience at the Antioch Shepherd Center on North Antioch Road in what the Star calls Kansas City, North.

We started out this year, after a short break for the holidays, with our first rehearsal on Jan. 26, and another on Feb. 23. We got off to the kind of start we have come to favor: a "two-fer" sandwiched around, well, sandwiches. We sang at the Golden Living Center in Smithville, had a great lunch at the Corner Cafe in Riverside (see photo below), and then trooped the short distance to the Riverside Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

In March we sang for the residents of Del Mar Gardens in Overland Park. April found us at the Pleasant Valley Manor, followed by a visit to Heritage Village in Gladstone, (yep, lunch in between). On April 23 we traveled to the Santa Marta Retirement Community, in Olathe. — so as you can see we had a very busy first-quarter start to the year.

On May 6, we surprised the faculty at Blue Ridge Elementary School in Raytown on Teacher Appreciation Day. Bass **Barry Sanders** let us know that he and his wife, **Terri**, both were graduates; Barry attended second grade, just a few years ago, and did he get a big hand when we introduced him at the school. It's just across the street from our rehearsal place, Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church.

And that's where our latest performance was, on May 20, for the OWLS (Older, Wiser, Livelier, Seniors) of BRPC. The pastor of the church, Rev. Pat Jackson, took a starring role in our presentation of "Rocky Top."

The *NHH* continue to be very proud of our association with *HOA* and the *Barbershop Harmony Society*. ♥



Photo by Rich Huyck

SPRING FLING!

by Jim Porter

The principal objective was to have fun, encourage everyone to participate, and draw in some fellows who are not currently regular attenders at the chapter meetings. At that, I humbly submit that the objective was met and exceeded!

Ten quartets participated, which involved 32 members (8 men sang in two quartets). The 32 members included 10 who are not currently regular attenders at our meetings.

Five of the 10 quartets remained intact after the drawing 3 weeks ago, all four members assigned to the quartet came and sang.

The other 5 quartets had the challenge of having no time prior to the meeting to practice together. One met the challenge so well that they went home with first-place medals! Perhaps it was because that group had a closet lead who usually sings baritone!

Let's do it again next year! If you missed out, plan to make it then! ♥



First Place: (from left) Ryan Bradley, Jerry Meier, David Stockard, and Greg Busch



Runner-up: (from left) Carter Combs, Harvey Shapiro, Mike Hillenberg and Rich Huyck. Mike is a dual member and lives in Springfield.



Third Place: The Music Men
(from left) Mike Templer, Mike Schumacher, Jim Bagby, and Bob Velazquez
Photos by Vince Perry III.
Medals provided by Ted Simon.

HARMONY EXPLOSION 2015 - ANOTHER FUN-FILLED DAY!

by Jerry Meier

Harmony Explosion! 2015 was another success – thanks to the cooperation from the staff at Olathe East High School and flexibility of all volunteers, Music Educators, parents and sponsors of the 160 students that participated in our event, despite the weather conditions that nearly canceled the event.

Harmony Explosion Administrators nearly canceled the event, because of snow and ice conditions in Olathe. HE2015 was postponed to 12 noon, to allow the storm to pass and the weather to warm up. A “Parade of Quartets” comprised of 40 quartets from eight schools started at 12:30pm and continued until each group sang its song on stage.

Search YouTube for “Harmony Explosion 2015” and you will find videos showing the Top 10 and the 11 – 21 quartets (similar to International Semi-Finals and Finals), as well as others posted by parents and fans.

The Vocal Music Educators and Schools participating in Harmony Explosion! 2015 were as follows:

- **Susan Scheibler**, Olathe East High School, Olathe, KS
- **Jan Holthus**, Olathe East HS and Olathe South HS, Olathe, KS
- **Dr. Cindy Sheppard**, Olathe South HS, Olathe, KS
- **Dr. Garret Epp**, Olathe North HS, Olathe, KS
- **Pam Williamson**, Olathe Northwest HS, Olathe, KS
- **Dr. Dwayne Dunn**, Lawrence High School, Lawrence, KS
- **Adam West**, Washburn Rural High School, Topeka, KS
- **Marcheta Pearson**, California Trail Middle School, Olathe, KS
- **Eric Newlin**, Pioneer Trail Middle School, Olathe, KS

The Harmony Explosion! 2015 results were as follows:

8th and Under Girls:

<i>Four Belles</i>	Pioneer Trail MS	Silver
<i>The Boogie Babes</i>	California Trail MS	Silver
<i>Harmaniacs</i>	California Trail MS	Silver
<i>Vocal Adrenaline</i>	Pioneer Trail MS	Bronze
<i>Golden Harmony</i>	California Trail MS	Bronze
<i>Sweethearts</i>	California Trail MS	Bronze
<i>Musical Matches</i>	California Trail MS	Bronze
<i>Blue Beauties</i>	California Trail MS	Bronze

8th and Under Boys:

<i>Shadowmen</i>	California Trail MS	Gold
<i>Smooth Moves</i>	California Trail MS	Silver
<i>Seven Heartbeats</i>	Pioneer Trail MS	Bronze

10th and Under Girls:

<i>Happy Harmonizers</i>	Olathe East HS	Gold
<i>Chordially Yours</i>	Olathe East HS	Gold
<i>The Messengers</i>	Olathe East HS	Gold
<i>Quadruple Effect</i>	Olathe South HS	Gold
<i>Bella Hues</i>	Olathe East HS	Gold
<i>Swaggin' Dragonz</i>	Olathe Northwest HS	Silver
<i>Treble in Paradise</i>	Olathe Northwest HS	Silver
<i>B Natural</i>	Olathe East HS	Silver
<i>Ambiance</i>	Washburn Rural HS	Bronze
<i>Strawberry Jamz</i>	Olathe Northwest HS	Bronze
<i>Mistletones</i>	Olathe North HS	Bronze

10th and Under Boys:

<i>The Harmonics</i>	Lawrence HS	Gold
<i>Element of Reprise</i>	Olathe Northwest HS	Gold
<i>Like a Bass</i>	Olathe South HS	Gold
<i>One Note Stand</i>	Olathe South HS	Bronze
<i>BBQ</i>	Olathe Northwest HS	Bronze

12th and Under Girls:

<i>Breaking Point</i>	Olathe East HS	Gold
<i>X Chromotones</i>	Olathe East HS	Gold
<i>Them</i>	Olathe East HS	Gold
<i>Breathless</i>	Olathe East HS	Silver
<i>Legato Ladies</i>	Washburn Rural HS	Silver
<i>Charlee's Angels</i>	Washburn Rural HS	Bronze
<i>The Dream Team</i>	Olathe Northwest HS	Bronze

12th and Under Boys:

<i>High Intensity</i>	Olathe East HS	Gold
<i>Four Guys in Ties</i>	Olathe South HS	Gold
<i>Barbershop Blues</i>	Washburn Rural HS	Gold
<i>The Three Stooges</i>	Olathe Northwest HS	Gold
<i>Three and a Half Men</i>	Olathe East HS	Silver
<i>Just Another Quartet</i>	Olathe South HS	Silver
<i>Pitch Please</i>	Olathe East HS	Bronze

I cannot wait until next year! ♥

The Kansas City Chapter - Heart of America Chorus sponsored its 2015 version of Harmony Explosion on Saturday, February 21 at Olathe East High School. One hundred sixty middle school and high school students from eight schools sang in 40 Quartets and earned Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals. Search the words "Harmony Explosion 2015" on YouTube for video highlights.

HARMONY EXPLOSION!

All photos courtesy of Ron McIntire



8th Grade Boys & Girls



10th Grade Girls



10th Grade Boys



12th Grade Boys



12th Grade Girls



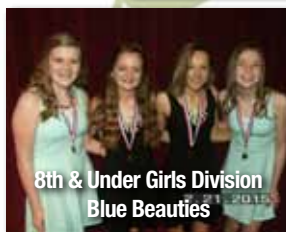
**8th & Under Boys Division
Seven Heartbeats**



**8th & Under Boys Division
Shadowmen**



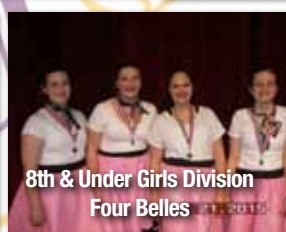
**8th & Under Boys Division
Smooth Moves**



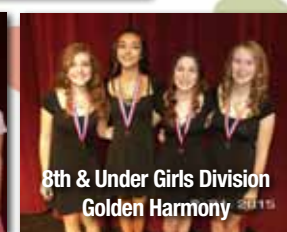
**8th & Under Girls Division
Blue Beauties**



**8th & Under Girls Division
The Boogie Babes**



**8th & Under Girls Division
Four Belles**



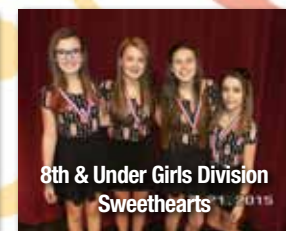
**8th & Under Girls Division
Golden Harmony**



**8th & Under Girls Division
Harmaniacs**



**8th & Under Girls Division
Musical Matches**



**8th & Under Girls Division
Sweethearts**



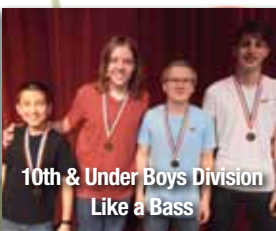
**8th & Under Girls Division
Vocal Adrenaline**



10th & Under Boys Division
BBQ



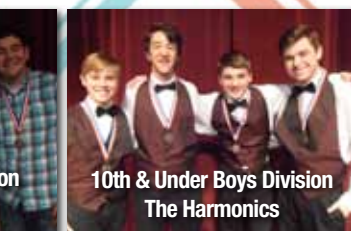
10th & Under Boys Division
Element of reprise



10th & Under Boys Division
Like a Bass



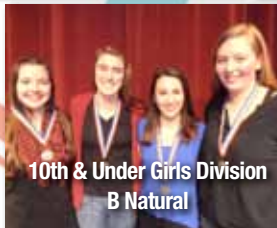
10th & Under Boys Division
One Note Stand



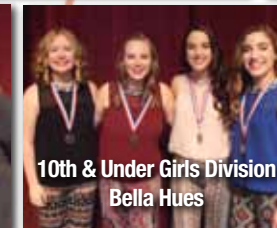
10th & Under Boys Division
The Harmonics



10th & Under Girls Division
Ambience



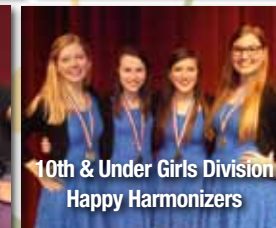
10th & Under Girls Division
B Natural



10th & Under Girls Division
Bella Hues



10th & Under Girls Division
Chordially Yours



10th & Under Girls Division
Happy Harmonizers



10th & Under Girls Division
Misteltones



10th & Under Girls Division
Quadruple Effect



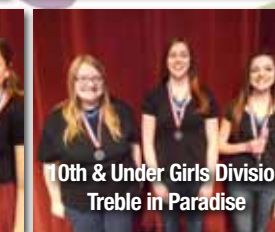
10th & Under Girls Division
Strawberry Jamz



10th & Under Girls Division
Swaggin Dragonz



10th & Under Girls Division
The Messengers



10th & Under Girls Division
Treble in Paradise



12th & Under Boys Division
Barbershop Blues



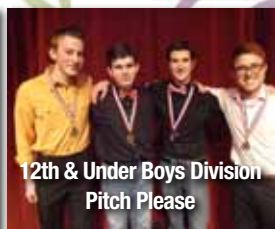
12th & Under Boys Division
Four Guys in Ties



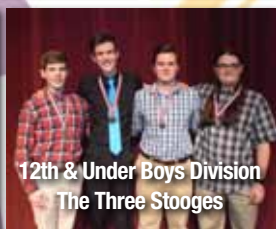
12th & Under Boys Division
High Intensity



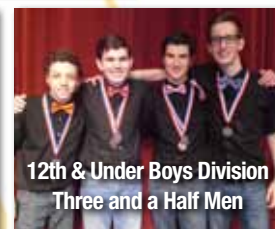
12th & Under Boys Division
Just Another Quartet



12th & Under Boys Division
Pitch Please



12th & Under Boys Division
The Three Stooges



12th & Under Boys Division
Three and a Half Men



12th & Under Girls Division
Breaking Point



12th & Under Girls Division
Breathless



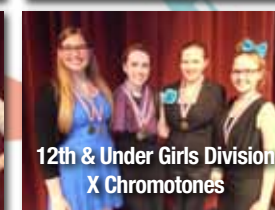
12th & Under Girls Division
Charles Angles



12th & Under Girls Division
Legato Ladies



12th & Under Girls Division
Them



12th & Under Girls Division
X Chromotones



Above: Chapter President **Carter Combs** and Society President **Don Fuson** are shown with three of our High School Harmony Explosion Quartets that sang on Saturday, Feb. 21 at our Harmony Explosion event, and again on Tuesday Feb. 24 at our chorus rehearsal. In the photo are the following students from Olathe East High School in Olathe, Kansas:

Front Row, *Breaking Point*: **Allison Walker; Lauren Howell; Emily Baugher; Sabrina Ton**; *The Happy Harmonizers*: **Janet Butler; Lindsey Hart; Abby Lacy; Quinn Cole**.

Back Row, left to right, *High Intensity*: **Michael Meier; Jadrian Salmans**; Chapter President **Carter Combs**, Society President; **Don Fuson, Tristin Jordan**; (**Jacob Thomas**, not pictured).

Mark Your 2016 Calendar!

by Jerry Meier



Harmony Explosion! 2016 will take place on Saturday, Feb. 20 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 its continued support – specifically for their choral music programs – as they approve our facility request forms and graciously work with us each year. ❤

HOA History Project by Carter Combs

As most of you know, along with our Society's 75th anniversary a couple years ago, we started getting serious about collecting, recording and preserving our own chapter's history.

As the second oldest chapter, we have been one of the most significant contributors to the development of our society. We have hosted the most International Conventions, been the home chapter of the most International Board Presidents... well, the list of our accomplishments is pretty long.

The problem is, some of this history has been lost. We know that a large scrapbook of our early years was loaned to the Society years ago, and has unfortunately been misplaced. Our charter members are gone and, with their passing, usually their memorabilia was discarded.

We are asking all of our long-time members, past and present, to help us. We are in the process of collecting and scanning old *Harmonotes*, show programs, photos, etc. Please check your files, attics, closets, etc., to see if you have some of these lost records, and would be willing to loan them to us. This digitized record will be made available on-line. The first generation of this history can be found now at www.barbershopwiki.com/wiki-Heart_of_America

As you skim through the material, please make note of other facts, persons and stories we are missing, or corrections we should make. We will continue updating this as more material is found, and perhaps publish in other forms.

We recently received a box of **Harmonotes**, as old as 1985. We have also heard that someone else has some going back, perhaps 20 years earlier, and likely some programs as well. These kinds of materials prove invaluable in building a more complete story of our chapter. So please look around...you know your wife wants you to get that stuff out of the house anyway! ❤





Food Pantry Going Strong

by Larry Colburn, St. Peters
Food Pantry Coordinator

The Heart of America Chorus continue to contribute can goods and other food items to the St. Peters Food Pantry. Members of the chorus bring items on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. The contributions are an extension of the outreach to the immediate neighborhood for the church where weekly Chorus practice is held. From this combined effort, with members of the Church, 28 family units are given items twice a month.

We were reminded of the importance of our efforts for the community especially for the summer months. Not all children look forward to the summer and a vacation. Many students will miss their friends, find a hostile environment at home and have little to eat during the summer.

The Heart of America Chorus takes pride in sharing some of our blessings to families in need within the St. Peter's United Church of Christ Community. For the last four years HOA has provided an average of 2,100 items to the Food Pantry. ♥



STARLIGHT PERFORMANCE PHOTOS!

Photos courtesy of Larry Bradley



WHO IS THIS?

by Don Fuson



Who is this that is sitting behind me on the bus coming back to Manchester, England after the British Convention?

Hints:

1. He was a former *HOA* member.
2. He was a front row guy.
3. Her took his medical practice to Fort Worth.

The answer is shown on page 13! ♥

COME ONE, COME ALL!



Round up your friends and family and make plans to visit the Heart of America Barbershop Chorus on a Tuesday night!

July 28 (last Tuesday in July)

Aug. 25 (last Tuesday in August)

Oct. 13 (Tuesday after Fall Contest)

Dec. 8 (Prepare for Caroling Caravan)

Dec. 15 (Prepare for Caroling Caravan)

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!



Introducing the newest members of the Chapter!

Photos by Ron McIntire



Dan Wager

Dan Wager and wife, **Debra**, left Reno, Nevada and the *Silver Dollar Chorus* to retire to the Kansas City area where they live in Oak Grove, Missouri. He's a four-year member of the Barbershop Society singing lead with *HOA*. He lists his employment as Film Producer.



Greg Busch

Greg Busch is a dual member with the Columbus-Greenwood, Indiana chapter and lives in Overland Park, Kansas. He works for Price Analytical, Inc. as a quality manager and commutes alternate weekends to Columbus to be with his wife, **Karen**. He is a 19-year member of the Barbershop Society and sings bari with *HOA*. His musical background includes playing clarinet in high school and singing in the chorus.



Richard Matthis

Richard Matthis is a first-time barbershopper living in Kansas City, MO. His musical background includes singing in high school and college choruses and two seasons with the Kansas City Symphony. He has composed 160 works, four hours of audio and 23 contemporary classical albums. Richard sings bass with *HOA*.



Ryan Bradley

Ryan Bradley is a first-time barbershopper living in Kansas City, MO where he is an I.T. hardware contractor for Williams Lea. His musical background includes piano, guitar, accordion, trombone and tuba. Ryan sings tenor in the *HOA* chorus.

The Crosstown Four Holds Biennial Practice

by Dale Neuman

Having decided recently to renew its registration as a quartet in the BHS and celebrate what will be its 30th year as such, a practice was held at the home of **Ron Abel** on May 28, 2015. Ron dutifully listed all of the songs we last rehearsed in September of 2013 and indicated which keys we had chosen for their pitch. His report was accepted by the others (**Val Putzier**, **Gordy Coleman** and me) without much discussion.

The other members criticized Dale for dragging his feet on getting to 80 (he had just turned 79 a few days earlier) since, once he does, all members will be in their 80s for part of that year before Ron and Gordy roll over and become nonagenarians. After that very important business was completed, we then worked on refreshing a few of the songs that we had sung in 2013, worked at length on one new song and ran through one that was suggested to be another new song. In trying several ways to fix a problem making a key change that included the bari and tenor swapping parts leading into the change, we finally settled on a pitch change for the entire song and found that we could make the key change in the key of B flat that we could not make in the key of A flat. Such a remarkable discovery was so exhilarating we decided to sing *Irish Blessing* and adjourn to the plate of chocolate brownies that was waiting for us in the kitchen. We do plan to get back to at least a semi-annual rehearsal schedule with a few extra sprinkled in as well since **Anne's** brownies are so very good. ♥

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.

As of May 27, after 21 drawings (18 since the last report):
The total collected for Harmony Foundation since the last report is \$470.
The total collected for the calendar year to date is \$521.

We had a big winner, **Rich Huyck** won \$197 on March 31st.
The carry-over jackpot as of May 27 is \$108. ♥

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 17	Mike Mathieu
April 21	Dick Krueger
April 21	Tom Elefson
April 24	Marlin Weidler
April 25	Bruce Wenner
May 4	Bob Murphy
May 5	Wade Dexter
May 6	Anthony Fortino
May 7	Carter Combs
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 3	Ryan Bradley
June 4	Kevin Tritsch
June 6	Phil Youngs
June 11	Don Fuson
June 11	Duane Lawson
June 11	Maurice Smith
June 13	Tony O'Brien
June 14	Tony Strub
June 15	Dave Hokanson
June 20	Dave Perry
June 20	Bill Bay
June 22	Ray Young
June 23	Dylan Mathieu
June 25	Al Fehlauer
June 28	Barry Sanders
June 29	Keith Schweer

BARBERSHOPPER OF THE MONTH



Bob Burdick
December 2014

Chapter President **Carter Combs** (right) presents **Bob Burdick** the BOTM for December 2014. "In grateful appreciation for planning and organizing the 2014 Salvation Army Caroling Caravan along with **Mike Mathieu** (honored in the Fall 2014 issue of *Harmonotes*)."
Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.

QUESTION:
HOW MANY BARBERSHOPPERS DOES IT TAKE TO CHANGE A LIGHT BULB?

ANSWER: FIVE. ONE TO CHANGE THE BULB AND FOUR TO SING ABOUT HOW MUCH THEY MISS "THAT OLD LIGHTBULB OF MINE" (IT ACTUALLY TAKES NINE. YOU FORGOT THE FOUR TO PLAN THE AFTERGLOW)

- George Gorsuch,
Bend of the River Chorus

Answer to WHO IS THIS? on page 11:

Shawn Jeffries, now of Bedford, TX. He was singing with the VM over in Llandudno, Wales at the BABS (British Association of Barbershop Singers) Convention.

His email: shawn@drshawnjeffries.com

EDITORIAL: A Summary of Preliminary Competition for 2015 International Quartet Contest

by Jim Porter

At this writing, score sheets are available for all districts and affiliates except for Sweden (SNOBS). Rocky Mountain District and Southwestern District qualified their quartets in October 2014 [both now have only one convention per year – ed.].



Some of our affiliates also qualify their quartets in the previous year. SNOBS held its 2015 convention in April.

In 2014, 53 quartets competed in Las Vegas. Just over half (31) quartets will return to Pittsburgh this July to compete at International. Three others qualified this spring but did not choose to compete.

This year, there are 54 quartets competing at International. Besides the 31 from last year, there are 2 that competed in 2013 and laid out in 2014, plus 9 at their first International, 6 which scratched in 2014 but are competing this year, and another 6 that failed to qualify in 2014 but qualified in 2015. Each of the top 5 seeded quartets improved their qualifying score from 2014 by 2% or more. In the second 10, the quartet to watch is *Stockholm Syndrome* from Sweden; their 2015 qualifying score showed an improvement of 7.67%, the largest jump for any quartet competing this year.

The top quartet among the first-time competitors is Quorum from JAD, seeded 9th in the lineup. Of local interest, Harmonium posted a score similar to that of High Definition, and is seeded 13th. In the group seeded 16th to 20th, watch for *The Con Men* and *Test Drive*. Both improved their 2014 qualifying scores by over 3%. In the next group of 10, up-and-comers are *4.0* and *Late Shift*, both improved more than 4%. Near the bottom, note *Timepiece*, which qualified for International for the first time from Northeastern District. They were a college quartet last year. This year their score was over 5% higher than last year. They may soon be challenging Men in Black (non-competitors this year).

Looking at the districts, the strength of the competition is complicated by the fact that some districts have many quartets competing, while smaller districts have only a handful of quartets trying for international each year.

The progress in SNOBS is especially noteworthy. In 2011, the average for their best 5 quartets was just over 70%, but in 2012, that average leaped to 78.7%.

It has continued to increase and was 82.4% at their recent competition, better than any other Society group. The average for the top five quartets was considered the best measure of the strength of the quartet competition in the districts.

Using that measure, Cardinal district stands out this year (82.2%), followed by Far Western District (81.9%), Sunshine (80.9%) and Johnny Appleseed (80.6%). Central States District is in the middle of the pack this year (12th of 21 districts and affiliates, 75.5%). The overall average of all is 76.3%.

All in all, it should be a great competition in Pittsburgh, and the Swedes may rule again! ♥

What A Great Hobby!

by Carter Combs, Chapter President



I'm constantly amazed and gratified at how active we are, both as a chapter, and as individuals working to Preserve and Encourage Barbershop Singing in our community. I don't know of another chapter in the Society that does more than we do.

For example, when CSD decided to revive the HEP (Harmony Education Program) in January, our guys jumped in to help. **Mike Mathieu** served as de facto local logistics coordinator (and chief cheerleader.) Both **Jim Bagby** and **Jerry Garrard** coached on the faculty. **Mike Schumacher** ran the sound system all weekend. **Bob Velazquez** and **Dave Parker** helped at the check in desk. Others jumped in to stuff registration packets, transport visitors, etc. In addition, we had several more chapter members attend the various sessions, including our chapter quartets *Armchair Chorderbacks*, *Homeward Bound*, and *Priorities*, who were there for some excellent coaching. Afterward, both CSD President **Mark Erikson** and HEP Chairman **Jeff Veteto** pulled me aside to express how much they appreciated all of HOA's efforts to make this district event an enormous success. All of you who volunteered and/or attended are commended!

Likewise, when our brothers at *Central Standard* requested our help at the recent CSD Spring Convention, we sprang into action. **Jerry Meier** and **Bob Burdick** volunteered to help at the registration and hospitality tables. **Larry Colburn**, **Steve Keisker** and **Bob Velazquez** were all found manning the auditorium doors, and the chorus pattern was staffed almost entirely by about a half-dozen HOA members. Another all-around impressive showing, and our CS friends have promised to return the favor when we host the CSD Fall Convention in October.

Both current and prior chorus members combined into several ad hoc foursomes, and joined our registered quartets spreading Singing Valentine romance across the metro area once again this year. Chairman **John Erwine** was ably assisted by **Jason Garder** and **Barry Sanders** in organizing this massive logistical puzzle. I suspect there will be various "delivery tales" elsewhere in this bulletin, so I'll refrain here. Suffice to say, it is always one of the most fun days I have as a quartet guy.

Our umpteenth annual Harmony Explosion was another fine example of how we pitch in together to pull success from the jaws of adversity. When severe weather threatened, event chair **Jerry Meier** swiftly formulated an emergency backup plan, notified the schools and his legion of volunteers, and pulled off yet another "victory!" Last issue, I called this event "our most important event of the year to help fulfill our Society's mission to Preserve and Encourage Barbershop Quartet Singing in America." I firmly believe that, and Jerry has been instrumental in growing and improving this event for the last several years.

Of course, everyone got in on the act for our 69th annual show "You've Got A Friend In Me." Though not as well attended as prior years, this was

still a hit with our patrons. Featured mixed quartet *Double Date* wowed our audience. *Tone-Henge's* video tribute to **Ol' Dan** evoked tears, both in the house and on-stage. Chairman **Kent Miller** did a masterful job of pulling the various threads of this show together, especially the late breaking changes and new technical demands. **Carl & Marci Turlin** planned and hosted a warm and relaxing afterglow, along with the *Heartbeats* who also kept us well-fed all day. **Vince Perry** came up with a winning show title and theme, and did his "usual lackluster job" getting us organized & energized backstage. **Brad Dawdy** both wrote and emceed the witty script. So many people did so many things to make this show go, it is impossible to name them all, but I must add a special thank you to our "guest chapter" quartets. Priorities' **Tracy Dame** and **Tim Anderson** swinging pick & sledgehammer helped make 16 Tons one of the most memorable songs of the show. And *Clef Notes'* **Bob Misfeldt**, **Eric Grimes** and **David Adler** travelled for hours to steal the show with their Toy Story character antics. They truly deserve our Extra Mile(s) Award!

Program VP **Mike Mathieu** has been keeping our chapter meetings fresh and surprising. Two of my favorites so far have been "Sing With The Champs" events. First, Mike somehow wrangled *Rural Route 3* (**Willard Yoder**, **Calvin Yoder**, and **Jim Bagby**), plus **Dave Calland**, to give some of us a gold-medal sing-along opportunity. Yours truly got sing with them, AND perform the legendary plumber sketch...an honor coveted by many, bestowed on few. This highly successful event was followed a couple months later by a somewhat suspect spectacle billed as "Sing With The Gramps"... in which unsuspecting victims were subjected to caterwauling with the *Armchair Chorderbacks*. I'm pleased to report that nearly everyone has now recovered.

More recently, Mike revived the "Spring Fling" chapter quartet contest. **Jim Porter** manipulated his spreadsheet of chapter members to put together a couple dozen quartets. Those that survived the rigorous rehearsal regimen performed a song and a tag for "entirely impartial judges" **Jeffi Combs**, **Abbie Stockard**, **Jan Mathieu** and **Lisa Templar**, in such artistic categories as *Matching Shoes*, *Flirting*, *Chrome-Domedness*, etc. In the end, emcee **John Braden** announced that **Ryan Bradley**, **Greg Busch**, **Jerry Meier** and **David Stockard** were the 2015 Spring Fling Quartet Champions, an honor that may haunt them for years.

Just last week we entertained at Starlight Theatre, prior to its production of *Million Dollar Quartet*. It seemed like a perfect match for us, and I suspect we would have had a huge appreciative audience, were it not for the thunderstorm that limited their expected attendance to under a thousand. At least we were under cover and remained dry for our set, while **Jerry Garrard** as only slightly damp out front. Most of us stayed for at least part of the show... was anyone left at the end?

Coming up, we have our annual Concert in the Park, aka the *Battle with the Cicadas*. This year it will be followed by an afterglow, hosted at the home of **Bob and Janet Velazquez**, just about a block from the gazebo. More details on that as we get closer, but make plans now to attend... it should be a blast. (Bob, should I mention you recently built a stage in your back yard?) And of course, we are hosting the Fall Convention, so we'll have plenty more opportunities to volunteer, and continue to show CSD just what the 77-years young HOA can do. What a great hobby! ♥



by Jeffi Combs

For the Ladies....

Thanks to each and every one of you for the support you have given the guys over the past several months. Your contributions to the Annual Show luncheon and afterglow, your donations to the food bank, cheering the quartets on at District, being a receptive audience whenever the *HOA Chorus* sings out – whether at their Annual Show, the Spring Fling Quartet Contest, or at Starlight in the rain, means so much to the guys. Thank you for being their special ‘HOA Heartbeat’!

The HOA Heartbeats Auxiliary group meets with the purpose of:

- Promoting fellowship among female supporters of *HOA Chorus* members
- Assisting the *HOA Chorus* in their endeavors

All ladies are invited to our *HOA Heartbeats* Auxiliary Meetings. We have had a couple of meetings since the last *Harmonotes* publication. Here is a quick recap of what has happened and what is ahead!

We had several qualified applicants for the **Orval Wilson** Harmony University Scholarship this year and were pleased to award the 2015 scholarship to **Steve Keisker**. Steve said he is excited about attending HU, isn't sure exactly which classes he will take yet, but is looking forward to all that he will learn and having an endless supply of ice cream for the week!

As mentioned earlier, thanks to all *Heartbeats* who helped with the Annual Show luncheon in

April. Special thanks to **Linda Schumacher** for coordinating the luncheon, and to **Cindy Miller** and **Eileen Huyck** for assisting on-site with the luncheon and CD tables. The guys certainly appreciated everyone's support and food contributions that day!

At our May *Heartbeats* meeting, we ‘showered’ past *HOA Heartbeats* President **Marci Brown-Turlin** with a Friendship Basket filled with special gifts for the ‘Mom-to-be’ as she and her husband **Carl** prepare to adopt a new 6-year old son, **Nico**. To round out the evening, **Abbie Stockard, Lisa Templer, Jan Mathieu** and **Jeffi Combs** volunteered to be the ‘esteemed panel of judges’ for the Spring Fling Quartet Contest. What a hoot!

Looking ahead...

July 12

HOA guys and *Heartbeats* are invited to an ‘Afterglow’ (after the Concert in the Park) at Bob and Janet Velazquez’ home , 8212 Valley View Dr., OP, KS

September 15

7PM -next *HOA Heartbeats* meeting – h’appy-tizer potluck. Meeting Focus: coordinating support for the Fall Contest (October 9-11)

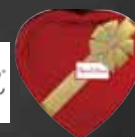
December 15

7PM – *HOA Heartbeats* Meeting – Cookie and Ornament Exchange. Meeting Focus: Prepping Caroling Caravan Lunch Bags

Ladies, please plan to join us at these upcoming events. Bring a friend and meet a friend... Hope to see you there! ♥

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

June 28 - July 5

International Convention in Pittsburgh, PA

Sunday, July 12 @ 7PM: Music In The Park

Possible Performance in August:

Great Midwest Balloon Festival

Sept 24

HOA Four Person Scramble Golf Tournament

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.