

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

VOLUME 16 • ISSUE 2 • SPRING 2016

In This Issue:

BARBERSHOP IS LOVE!

by Carter Combs



Several years ago, one of the slogans for the Society was: **Barbershop Is Love!** And, while we all love barbershop, we sometimes forget, because we get too caught up in the details... singing technique, or learning new charts, or just being busy with barbershop business.

Luckily, sometimes we are reminded of what's truly important.

A couple days ago, I got an email from **Jill**. She sang with her dad in a father-and-family chorus on an *HOA* show way back in 1977. That one event, nearly 40 years ago, had such a lasting effect on her relationship with her dad that she still has a copy of the program, and is looking for a recording, a picture, or any other mementos of the occasion.

(Continued on page 2 ➡)

- 3 Same Hall, New Landlords!
- 4 Put This on Your Calendar!
- 5 At HU, You Can Sing All Week Long!
- 6 New Harmony Handful: Busy Bees
- 7 Jim Bagby Honored
- 8 Harmony Explosion 2016: Oh, What a Wonderful Day!
- 10 SV Adventure — Ongoing?

Harmonotes

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Chapter meets at 7 p.m. each Tuesday night, at:
Saint Mary & Saint Mark Coptic Orthodox Church
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!

Comments/submissions may be made to:

Todd Anderson (Editor)
2909 West Trevor Trail • Ozark, Mo. 65721-8438
(417) 766-2367 • todd@andersondesign.biz

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)

That, by itself, is a pretty good reminder that **Barbershop Is Love!**

A few weeks ago, I was contacted by one of our *Kansas City Chorus Sweet Adeline* sisters. Another member of their chorus was hurting... a sick grandchild, with mounting medical expenses, and all the emotional strain that comes with caring for a loved one in need. So she decided "Hey, let's put on a show!"

Now, she's never built a show before, but that didn't deter her in the least. She knew she needed a place for people to gather, and performers. She started making a few calls, sending out some emails, and the snowball quickly avalanched. Everyone was willing to pitch in to help handle all the details.



For *HOA*, it was easy. She called me, and I sent a note to the Board and Music Team. Their response was immediate and overwhelming... "Let's do it!" And so last Saturday, we joined two other choruses and three quartets from miles around to help a family in need (See photos on page 3).

The event raised a nice chunk of change to help pay for some of those medical expense. But I don't think that meant nearly as much to the family as the outpouring of love they felt from that gathering of barbershoppers. You could see in their eyes, and in the tears streaming down faces throughout the audience, just how much it meant.

Irrefutable evidence that, indeed, **Barbershop Is Love!** ❤️

May 21, 2016: Benefit Concert for Baby Rose!

Photos courtesy of Vince Perry



Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines



Heart of America Chorus directed by Jerry Garrard,
Emcee of the show: Jim Bagby, Director Emeritus



HOA led by Director Jerry Garrard



Baby Rose along with her grateful family

Same Hall, New Landlords!

by Carter Combs

Late last year, after several decades at their 110th & Holmes location, the congregation of St Peter's United Church made the difficult decision to close its doors. Since *HOA* has rehearsed there for many years, they immediately notified us that they were putting their building up for sale, and that their last official gathering would be for the 2016 Easter service.

Our board quickly began a search for alternate rehearsal locations, assuming it could be some time before the building sold. Even if the building was sold quickly, there would likely be some interruption in availability, and ultimately no guarantee that we would still have long-term access to the hall. Of course, you all know what happens when you "ass-u-me"!

Early this year, we heard that there was, in fact, a buyer. Saint Mary & Saint Mark Coptic Orthodox Church had made an offer, and the entire process progressed much more smoothly than most real estate transactions. Luckily, the staff from St Peter's gave us a glowing recommendation as a trusted tenant, and the new owners agreed to let us stay put. We didn't even miss a week of rehearsal!



We very much look forward to this new relationship with Saint Mary & Saint Mark Coptic Orthodox Church! ❤️

PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR,... AND ON YOUR GOLFER FRIEND'S CALENDAR!

by Kent Miller

The 10th Annual (wow, 10 already?) *Heart of America Barbershop* golf scramble is Thursday, Sept. 29 at Falcon Lakes. This tournament is great fun, but it's also an important fund raiser for *HOA*. Play in it and you're helping us bring millions of dollars to Kansas City because of District and International conventions we host and you're helping us raise money for organizations like the Salvation Army (now well over \$100,000 raised in the last few years) and Children's Mercy Hospital.

ONLY FOR GOLFERS? I DON'T THINK SO!

It's only for golfers, right? *NO WAY!* It's a Scramble, which means everyone in the foursome hits the first shot, then you pick the best one, everyone hits from that point... and so on. If you make a putt or two you've helped, but who cares? It's just for fun and you can win more prizes in the door prize drawings and in the raffle, both of which require no golf skills whatsoever, PLUS, you're helping *HOA* do all of the above!

So find a couple of golfers, tell them that, as usual, the prizes in this tournament are likely to be triple or quadruple the prizes of other tournaments they're used to, and they can help a really great cause and have a wonderful time at the same time. They really will appreciate you telling them about it. So please do!

The tournament is at Falcon Lakes Golf course on Thursday, Sept. 29 (shotgun start at 1 pm). Click on the golfer on the *HOA* website, www.hoachorus.com.

Please contact me if you would like to be a sponsor or you know someone or some business whom you think would like to be a sponsor. Sponsorships at the higher levels include a foursome, tickets to our shows, and other benefits. Email me at kmiller268@aol.com for more sponsor information.

It's still \$95 per player. *What a deal!* ♥



ABOUT FALCON LAKES GOLF CLUB...

Taken from the Falcon Lakes website



Built in 2002 and designed by renowned golf course architect **Jay Morrish**, Falcon Lakes offers a links-style layout with gracious zoysia fairways, continuous concrete cart paths, and bent grass, softly undulating greens that average over 6,000 sq. ft. in size. Multiple tee decks on every hole provide a range of play from 5,200 to 7,100 yards in length, making the course a challenge to golfers of all skill levels.

Consistently named one of Kansas City's top 3 public golf courses, Falcon Lakes is always maintained to tournament conditions! Our premier practice facility offers a zoysia grass hitting area that is well-marked for distance, a bent grass chipping green with green-side bunkers and a multi-tiered putting green.

Conveniently located 5 min from two major interstates and The Legends at Village West restaurant, hotel and shopping area, Falcon Lakes is a short drive from anywhere in the metro Kansas City area. ♥



BARBERSHOPPERS... ASSEMBLE!

Taken from *LiveWire!*

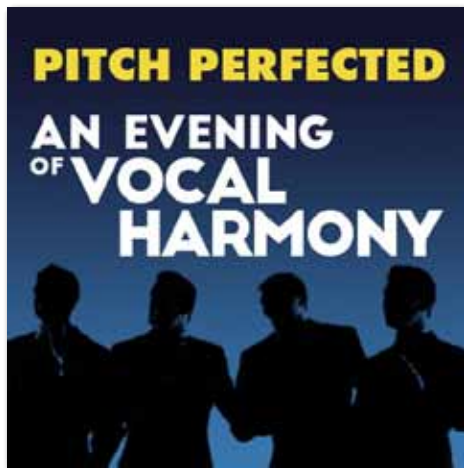
If you haven't picked up your registration for the International Convention in Nashville quite yet, NOW is the time!

Registration pricing will go up after June 1st, so be sure to reserve your tickets. With epic contest match-ups, a week of shows and HU classes, and all of the Nashville hospitality... you can't help but have a great time. It's all happening in July! [#BHSNASH](#) ♥

HAVE YOUR TICKET BUT HAVEN'T BOOKED A ROOM?

Taken from *LiveWire!*

Nashville is a top summer destination and downtown hotel rates have been slowly rising over the past few years. Our events team has worked wonders to secure convention room rates well below what you'd find on your own... but we only have a few more weeks to enjoy convention pricing. Be sure to make your reservation BEFORE June 3rd to get our convention rates! ♥



CAN'T MISS TICKET OF THE WEEK JOIN YOUR FAVORITE AIC QUARTETS FOR A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!

Taken from *LiveWire!*

Make sure to pick up your tickets to see *Vocal Spectrum*, *Instant Classic*, *Crossroads*, and so much more in Nashville this summer, appearing at the incredible Schermerhorn Symphony Center for two star-studded shows.

Show times:
Wednesday, July 6
Thursday, July 7
7:30 pm

Be sure to make your reservation BEFORE June 3rd to get our convention rates! ♥



PUTTING THE HARMONY IN HARMONY U AT HU, YOU CAN SING ALL WEEK LONG!

Taken from *LiveWire!*

Looking for a summer chorus experience? In addition to a full schedule of classes, you can add a daily chorus rehearsal to your week at Harmony University. Auditions for the Men's Honors Chorus have closed for this year, but women can still sign up for the Women's Honors Chorus to sing under the direction of the incredible team of Debbie Cleveland and Karen Breidert.

Guys under 25 can spend the week singing with our current International Champion quartet *Instant Classic* in the NextGen Chorus... and can still register at our Youth rate!

Harmony Brigade Extreme Quartetting If quartets are more your thing, the HU Harmony Brigade will be in full force! A fee of \$25 gets you access to music, learning tracks, and as much harmony as you can handle. This is for experienced quartet singers, so be ready to have your part memorized on 8 medium- to difficult-level charts. Learn more [here!](#)

Want to sing, but don't have time to learn more extra music? No problem! Sign-ups will be available for HU Festival Choruses who will perform around Nashville on Saturday afternoon, singing the General Session songs from the week. Make friends, spread some harmony, and see a little more of our Nashville neighborhood! ♥



Check out the pictures below from previous Heart of America Annual Golf Scramble Fund Raisers. Shouldn't you be getting in on some of this fun? This year's tournament is Thursday, Sept. 29.

SIGN UP ON-LINE at www.hoachorus.com (click on the golfer),
OR E-MAIL Kent Miller at kmiller268@aol.com



10th Annual Four-Person Golf Scramble Thursday, Sept. 29, 2016

OVER \$2,000 IN PRIZES LAST YEAR!

Falcon Lakes Golf Course – 5 miles north of I-70 on Highway 7

Hole prizes • Longest Drives • Longest Putt
Mulligans • Player gifts • Fabulous Raffle • Flight prizes • Door prizes

ENTRY FEES:

\$95 per player if paid by Thursday, Sept. 22, 2016

\$105 per player if paid after Sept. 22 up to & including the day of the event.

Kansas City Chapter - Barbershop Harmony Society

816 W. 121st • Kansas City, MO • 64145

NEW HARMONY HANDFUL: BUSY BEES

By Tony Strub, Administrator*



2016 promises to be an active and fun year for *The New*

Harmony Handful. We have 20 active members, which includes two newbies – **Denny Briley** and **Gordy Coleman** – a flashy new shirt and lots of new and fun songs.

We meet for rehearsal once a month at Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church in Raytown with our very patient but relentless *HOA* Director Emeritus, **Jim Bagby**.

Valentines weekend has been the highlight of our year so far. We visited five nursing homes and sang love songs to the patients on Saturday, Feb. 13. The Assistance League distributed cards, candy for all and flowers for the ladies. The smiles, applause and handshakes made the day.

So far this year, we have sung religious music for two church services and have three more scheduled so far this summer. All of us have a special feeling when we sing at a church service.

We have 15 performances scheduled so far this year and know there will be more.

**Because they won't let me quit*

MOPPING UP



Above: Society President Don Fuson, erstwhile member of the *HOA* baritone section, earns his spot on the risers at a recent Kansas City Chapter meeting by cleaning up bass drool during a break. Because of his demanding travel schedule, Don can't always be on hand, but when he is available on Tuesday nights, our leader is determined to do his share! (Photo by Rich Huyck)

JIM BAGBY HONORED

At right, top to bottom:

Jim Bagby is honored for his 25-year dedication to the Society Judging Program. His last contest as a Presentation Judge was the Sunshine Prelims at Orlando in April. A plaque was presented by Category Specialist Barry Townner. Society President Don Fuson (right) repeated the presentation at a May *HOA* chapter meeting. Photos by former KC President John Pennington (top) and Rich Huyck (below).



HARMONY EXPLOSION! 2016 — OH, WHAT A WONDERFUL DAY!

Article by Jerry Meier, Photos Courtesy of Rich Huyck

Harmony Explosion! 2016 on Feb. 20 was another fun-filled day of entertainment for the students and us adults. Its success can be attributed to the hard work and dedication of the volunteers and coaches from the *Heart of America Chorus* and the *Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines*. I want to say THANK YOU to all of you for your contributions to this wonderful event.

And I want to say THANK YOU to the four quartets that helped us entertain the students: *HEAT*, *Dynamix*, *BoomTown* and *Premium Blend*. All four groups did a wonderful job of singing for the crowd. The students and teachers loved each of their performances.

This year also we welcomed the Olathe Trails West Barbershop Chorus, who stepped in and serve lunch to the students and volunteers – a very important activity. I look forward to working with the Olathe chapter next year as well.

Video highlights of the day were posted on YouTube (search the words “Harmony Explosion 2016 Olathe”).

The vocal music educators that supported our Harmony Explosion! 2016 event were:

- **Susan Scheibler**, Olathe East High School
- **Jan Holthus**, Olathe East and Olathe South High School
- **Pam Williamson**, Olathe Northwest High School
- **Robin Christie**, Bishop Miege High School
- **Dr. Dwayne Dunn**, Lawrence High School
- **Marcheta Pearson**, California Trail Middle School
- **Eric Newlin**, Pioneer Trail Middle School



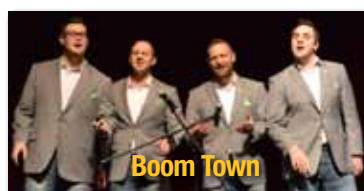
Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines



Dynamix



HEAT



Boom Town



Premium Blend



Girls Chorus



Boys Chorus

Medals were given to the following quartets:

8th Grade and Under Girls Division

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Shirley Tempos | California Trail MS | GOLD |
| Golden Girls | California Trail MS | GOLD |
| Nothing But Treble | California Trail MS | SILVER |
| The UnFOURgettables | Pioneer Trail MS | SILVER |

8th Grade and Under Boys Division

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Shadowmen | California Trail MS | GOLD |
| 4 Tune-Tellers | California Trail MS | SILVER |
| Treble in Paradise | California Trail MS | BRONZE |

10th Grade and Under Girls Division

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------|
| Maroon 4 | Olathe East HS | GOLD |
| Four Belles | Olathe East HS | GOLD |
| Party of Four | Olathe East HS | SILVER |

10th Grade and Under Boys Division

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Stay Tuned | Olathe South HS | GOLD |
| Fine Tuned | Olathe Northwest HS | GOLD |
| Four Sight | Olathe East HS | SILVER |
| Five Confused Men | Olathe South HS | SILVER |

12th Grade and Under Girls Division

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|------|
| Happy Harmonizers | Olathe East HS | GOLD |
| Soul Fegge | Olathe East HS | GOLD |
| Chordially Yours | Olathe East HS | GOLD |
| Almost Famous | Olathe South HS | GOLD |

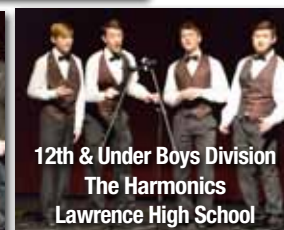
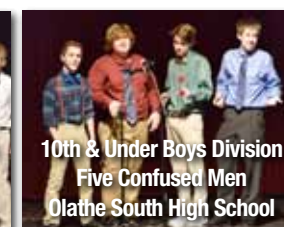
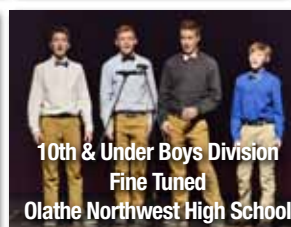
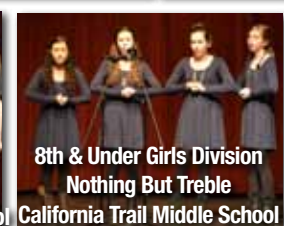
12th Grade and Under Boys Division

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|------|
| Element of Reprise | Olathe Northwest HS | GOLD |
| Fermata Nowhere | Olathe South HS | GOLD |
| Rolls Voice | Olathe South HS | GOLD |
| The Harmonics | Lawrence HS | GOLD |

I cannot wait until next year's Harmony Explosion 2017! on Saturday, Feb. 18 at Olathe East High School. ❤

HARMONY EXPLOSION!

All photos courtesy of Rich Huyck



SINGING VALENTINE ADVENTURE ~ ONGOING?

by John Erwine, Singing Valentine Chairman

First let me say that I love this Singing Valentine fundraising event. We have been raising funds for Children's Mercy Hospital Hearing and Speech Clinics in this format since 1991. **Mike Mathieu** was president at the time, and this was one of his crazy ideas. He, **Monty Duerksen**, **Ron Abel** and **Ed Sundermeyer** formed the first Singing Valentine's quartet on a whim, and as they say "the rest is history." Mike recalls the most ever delivered in a single year was 425. The first year on record that *HOA* chose CMH as one of its initial charities was reported by **Cecil F. Holman**, a radio writer and member of the Kansas City Chapter, published in a 1941 edition of *Barber Shop Re-Chordings*, edited by **Joe Stern**.

In 2008, then-President **Tony Strub** asked me if I might be interested in seeing how Singing Valentines worked and if interested would I mind helping with that year's event. I said "sure!" Of course I knew better than to use that answer. From that point, **Marlin Weidler** and **Ron McIntire** took me by the wayward hand — and here I am. It has been 9 years since my baptism, and now 8 more with my feet to the fire! This year



Above: John Erwine presents Donna Ditto with Singing Valentines prizes for 2016.
Photo courtesy of John Erwine

was particularly hot. I've tried my best to exemplify my predecessor's example and vision in not only helping Children's Mercy Hospital Hearing and Speech Clinic, the *Heart of America Chorus* and *Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines* with funds, but to keep their dedicated missions alive. For CMH Hearing and Speech, it is the research, development and improvement in quality of life for those with these disabilities. For *HOA* and *KCCSA*, it is to preserve and promote the barber-

shop style of singing (one of only three attributed and recognized styles native to the USA — gospel, jazz and barbershop).

Remember Mike's number of 425 delivered in a single year? My first year we delivered about 250. This year we delivered 40. But times change, as do all things. For a fact since 2008, our sales have dramatically diminished; gradually at first, then more so as time went on. Of course many reasons present themselves: diminishing chapter size, repetition of our presentation, presentation to mostly the same clientele, competition from adjoining chapters, today's social media advantages, a new generation with different ideals, and on and on. Long story short — we're in

trouble without new methodology of delivery. Now it's confession time. For the last couple of years, I have been asking for new leadership as I feel we need new "grandkids" type of expertise to reach the newer generations of those who either think they are in love, or even those of us who know we are in love. The old way of approaching this dilemma is not working and we need some new eyes on the project.

I barely get through Facebook on a couple of month's schedule, let alone Twitter, Instant Messenger, come-get-me and anything else they call "live" and here's what I'm doing at this instant, and ain't I grand – sorry.

My latest intel tells me that our society is growing leaps and bounds by what we call the youth of our ages. This is more than promising. For this I am thankful.

This year my saviors for this event were Heartbeats President **Carol Ramirez** and *Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines* President, **Jeffi Combs**. They manned the HQ facility for me for the entire event. Carol was the HQ Mgr. and Jeffi assisted her. **Pat Ross**, as always, took care of the quartet supplies.

They all three experienced a "Gold Medal Moment" when they got locked out of the HQ building accidentally on the 14th, and had to manually prepare orders for delivery in Pat's car for a couple of hours until the building was reopened. Thank goodness they had flowers and cards. I can't thank them enough for their dedication and ability to adapt and overcome. They carried the day!

I would specifically like to thank Helzberg Diamonds, Russell Stover Candy, Flowerama, Bank of Blue Valley and all of the *HOA* and *KCCSA* quartets and volunteers for making this year a success.

I presented **Megan Stock**, CMH Special Events Manager, our donation of \$1,000 for this year. It is also my pleasure to recognize the *New Harmony Handful* for their very significant gift, making it possible to reach this amount.

The Helzberg Diamond winner this year was **Donna Ditto**, a lunchroom supervisor at the Plaza Middle School north of the river. It was delivered by *Homeward Bound*.

So back to the black Crayola and Big Chief Tablet: what is real today and how can we re-tool it to fit CMH and *HOA*? This is a project I hate to see deteriorating, and don't want to see die. At the same time I feel I have come to the end of my road in a positive leadership role to enable this process. Unfortunately my five grandkids aren't available to help me solve our dilemma. But are some of yours, or even for you younger guys your children, relatives, and friends?

At this time I do invite all suggestions and ideas to the propagation of continuing and rebuilding this event for many years to come. This chorus has always been dedicated to the survival of a number of worthwhile causes. *HOA* is known for being a prominent 501c3 organization that donates to other charitable groups. That is almost unheard of. For this we can be **HOA PROUD!** ♥



BARBERSHOP HISTORY QUIZ:



Author: Mark Axelrod, editor of "Blue Chip Chatter," Teaneck, NJ.

1. A live quartet (i.e., not a recording) that has been heard over a very lengthy period of time by a huge number of people (it's impossible to accurately know just how many, but huge is the correct adjective) is not a Society quartet. It continues to perform to this day. Name it.
2. How long has this quartet been performing and where does it perform?
3. Why did the Society honor this quartet?
4. On what occasion did the Society honor this quartet?
5. Specifically, what honor was bestowed on this quartet?

(ANSWERS AT BOTTOM OF PAGE)

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.

To date in 2016, there have been 19 drawings (16 since the last report).

The total collected for Harmony Foundation is \$398.

The carry-over jackpot as of May 27th is \$399. ♥

ANSWERS:

1. Disney's "Dapper Dans" Barbershop Quartet.
2. This quartet has been performing in the original Disney theme park, Disneyland, in Anaheim, CA, since opening day in 1959. (no....not with the same four guys!)
3. In recognition of a half century of performing barbershop harmony to countless listeners.
4. On July 4th during the 2009 International Quartet and Chorus Competition which coincided with the Dapper Dans' semicentennial and conveniently took place right in Anaheim.
5. The Society's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Happy Birthday!
...to the following HOA MEMBERS!

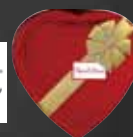
April 7 **Raymond Schwarzkopf**
April 8 **Jeff Wolff**
April 10 **Matt Bostick**
April 11 **Craig Wilcox**
April 11 **John Erwine**
April 14 **Bob Howard**
April 17 **Mike Mathieu**
April 21 **Dick Krueger**
April 21 **Tom Elefson**
April 24 **Marlin Weidler**
April 25 **Bruce Wenner**

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 Fehlaue**
June 28 **Barry Sanders**
June 29 **Keith Schweer**

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

Thursday, September 29:

**HOA Four Person Scramble Golf Tournament
Falcon Lake Golf Club**

Saturday, October 8

**Central States District Chorus Contest
Cedar Rapids, IA**

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.