

# The Quarterly Bulletin of the Kansas City Heart of America Chorus

# HARMONOTES

Chorus and Quartet Singing  
in the Barbershop Style



Second-oldest Chapter in the  
Barbershop Harmony Society

Volume 12 • Issue 6 • Summer 2012

## HOA Director David Krause Steps Down

by Vince Perry, Chapter President

It was a somber group of *HOAers* the night of July 24 when Director **David Krause** told everyone that he was resigning. David said that his “recipe” for *HOA* just wasn’t as effective as he had hoped it would be. His resignation might better be termed “stepping aside” so that the chapter could explore other options to help facilitate it’s motto of “Drawn by Harmony, Bound by Friendship, Striving for Excellence.” This was not an easy decision for David as I know he was wrestling with the decision even before Portland. Within a few days after Portland he made his decision. As chapter president I want to thank David for quickly bringing me into his confidence about his impending resignation on July 24. I also am grateful that he offered to stay on as long as needed until we were able to secure his replacement. *HOA* did take him up on this asking him to direct the upcoming Music In The Park (MITP) concert. He did this in grand style by directing the chorus in 12 songs despite the dangerous heat in the gazebo. Before the last song it was my pleasure to publicly thank David for his 4-1/2 year tenure with *HOA* (see photo above). On behalf of a grateful chapter I presented David a plaque that read:



“Presented to **David Krause**, Director, in grateful appreciation for outstanding musical leadership and dedicated service to the Kansas City, Missouri Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, Inc. from January 2008 to July 2012.” You taught us to sing in tune, and that was huge! Many thanks!” Presented by the HOA Chapter, **Vince Perry**, President, July 29, 2012” I had planned for the chorus to sing “Friends” after the awarding of the plaque. (Photo courtesy of **Melladee Perry**)

(Continued on page 2)

## IN THIS ISSUE:

**Page 2:** Mark Fortino is named HOA's New Director!

**Page 3:** HOA Annual Retreat Photos from Lake Doniphan Resort

**Page 5:** International Send-off Photos of HOA Chorus and Quartets

**Page 6:** Memories from Portland!

**Page 9:** International Performance Photos

“Drawn by HARMONY... Bound by FRIENDSHIP... Striving for EXCELLENCE!”

[www.hoachorus.com](http://www.hoachorus.com)

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

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

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

2012 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD

President	<b>Vince Perry</b>
Immediate Past President	<b>Kent Miller</b>
Executive V.P.	<b>John Erwine</b>
Music/Performance V.P.	<b>Mark Fortino</b>
Membership V.P.	<b>Jeff Wolff</b>
Program V.P.	<b>Jerry Meier</b>
Marketing & PR V.P.	<b>Ray Young</b>
Operations V.P.	<b>Mike Schumacher</b>
Secretary	<b>Rich Huyck</b>
Treasurer	<b>Jim Porter</b>
Board Members at Large	<b>Dave Jobe</b>
	<b>Barry Sanders</b>
	<b>Harvey Shapiro</b>
Board Member Emeritus	<b>Dale Neuman</b>
District Delegate	<b>Vince Perry</b>

MUSICAL LEADERS

Chorus Director	<b>Mark Fortino</b>
Assistant Director	<b>Carter Combs</b>
Director Emeritus	<b>Jim Bagby</b>

SECTION LEADERS

Tenor - <b>Carter Combs</b>	Lead - <b>Mark Fortino</b>
Baritone - <b>Jonathan Andrew</b>	Bass - <b>Darrell McCune</b>

HARMONOTES STAFF

Editor Emeritus	<b>Wade Dexter</b>
Editor	<b>Todd Anderson</b>
Photographers at Large	<b>Matt Bostick, Don Fuson,</b> <b>Ron McIntire</b>
Staff Reporters	<b>ALL Our Chapter Members!</b>

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) 581-2961 • [andersondesign@centurytel.net](mailto:andersondesign@centurytel.net)

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

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



## HOA Director David Krause Steps Down

(Continued from front cover)

But because of the heat we were asked to cut our performance short and I didn't want to prolong it by another surprise song. Still it would have been a perfect farewell and tribute to David. Though we didn't sing it I want you to think of a few of the lyrics that ring true for our friend, **David Krause**: "Friends just friends, always friends, to the end, we're friends. ... But we'll keep you close as always; it won't even seem you're gone,...for a lifetime's not too long to live as friends!" Thanks David, for all you have done for HOA! ♥



## HOA President Appoints Mark Fortino as New Director

by Vince Perry, Chapter President



Mark Fortino shown directing the chorus in our first rehearsal in Portland. Photo courtesy of Rich Huyck

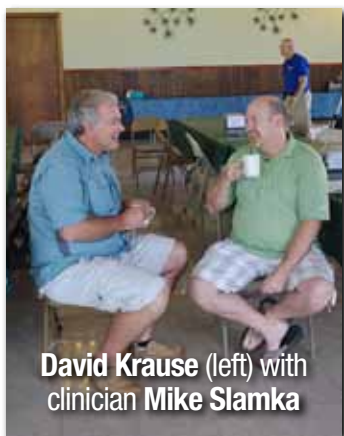
After I found out I couldn't talk our director, **David Krause**, into staying on, I decided to seek the best course of action for the chapter: appoint a director immediately even if it turned out to be for just three months. HOA Assistant Director **Mark Fortino** was perfect for the job and though I thought it impossible because of his busy family, work, and quartet schedules, he did accept! Got a feeling we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Mark's better half, **Sarah!** (Many thanks, Sarah!) Mark is a 28-year veteran of the Society and HOA. Administratively he's been on the Board as a Member at Large, several terms of Treasurer and Music Vice President. He also brings to the table a wealth of experience in executive leadership through his high profile banking vocation and musical leadership via his experiences as Section Leader, Assistant Director, and Music Vice President. In addition Mark is a gifted musician and an experienced director through his 24 years as assistant director of his church choir. One thing that I find fascinating about Mark is that even though he is one of the Society's top

lead voices, he still has had the drive to improve his vocal skills by taking professional voice lessons for the past two years. I mean, wow! I think HOA is blessed to have Mark step in on such short notice and take the directorial reigns. We need his energy, positive attitude, and passion for barbershopping to keep HOA on the track of excellence. I call on everyone in this great chapter to get behind Mark and help him in anyway possible. Many thanks to all the members who have already called and written emails to me and Mark (and others on the Board and Music Team) with your encouragement that the chapter and chorus are on the right course. Your support is vital. Your attendance would be huge! Time to be an active part of HOA. Let's have some fun and sing barbershop together this Tuesday night, . . . and many Tuesday nights in the future! ♥

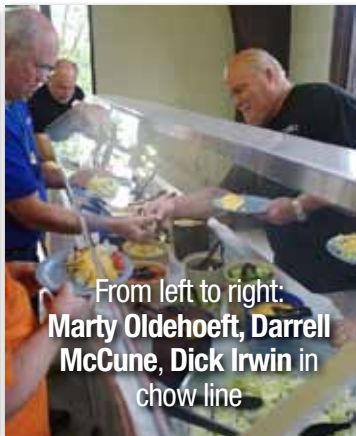
# HEART OF AMERICA ANNUAL RETREAT

## LAKE DONIPHAN RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER MAY 18 & 19, 2012

Photos courtesy of Rich Huyck



David Krause (left) with  
clinician Mike Slamka



From left to right:  
Marty Oldehoeft, Darrell  
McCune, Dick Irwin in  
chow line



Breakfast Time!



David and Mike direct the  
chorus participants



David Krause addresses the chorus



Mark Fortino leading tune-ups



Harmonizing together at Friday night pizza party.  
From left to right:  
Carter Combs, Kyle Batchelder,  
Dave Jobe, Jim Porter

# My Journey To Portland

by Michael Hillenburg



My journey to Portland started off like most International Contest and Conventions

where my wife and I purchased tickets at the previous Convention. This year was no exception, but changed a bit along the way. Most of you know that I am in the Missouri Army National Guard, and that I have been deployed to the Middle East twice. What you may not know is that on my second tour I injured my back. After a long year of physical therapy and nearly two years of pain medications, my outlook was pretty good. As long as I didn't "overdo" my work, or lift anything wrong or too heavy then I should recover with time.

When I came up to visit with *HOA* to let you all know that I would be cheering you all on from my seat, I was offered a chance of a lifetime. **Mark** had asked me if I would be able to join the chorus on stage. At first I thought it was very nice of him to ask, but I told him that I wouldn't be able to, and I know how hard it is to perform at the International Contest level. It just didn't seem like it would be possible. The next day I mentioned to my wife that it made me feel good that I had received the invite. Her reply was, something to the effect of do you feel well enough singing with them, or can you physically, or do you think they will sing better with or without you? The truth of the matter is that I had already said no thank you in my own mind. **Lisa** mentioned that I should try, school will end in May and that I should have all of June available, and since I have the learning tracks available from the *HOA* website, learning the choreography shouldn't be that difficult.

I mentioned to a couple of guys in the *Sho-Me Statesmen* chorus that I was planning on going to KC to sing with **HOA** on Tuesday evenings, and then coming home after, and **Ted Kelley** had the same school schedule that I had and he was excited to visit and sing as well. As most of you know High

School students that don't have jobs, don't have a lot of expendable cash. Ted knew early on that he would not be able to go and compete, but like most of us he is in the pursuit of getting better. I see a district champ in his future. School ended, so Ted and I were on track to go up to KC every Tuesday until contest, and to my surprise we made every rehearsal but one. **Mr. Vince** asked if I was planning on competing with the chorus the second consecutive rehearsal we made. At this time I was not sure if I would be able to make it, so I didn't commit to competing, but I mentioned that I was working on it, and that it was now a possibility. We worked on the words and notes, but the artistry is something that has to develop on the risers.

June was in full swing and it was time to either make the commitment, or move to make room for the competing chorus member. I think it was mid June when I asked Mark if the offer to compete was still open. He said, yes and that he was glad to have me in the lead section. June went well, and the trip to Portland had come. Lisa and I celebrate our honeymoon the same time frame of the convention, so we went up a couple days early, and had planned to stay a couple days after for sight seeing. Although I was in some pain I was able to make all but one of the practices in Portland, and had an amazing experience on stage with 40 of my dearest friends. The songs seem to end quickly, and the curtain was pulled shut. We sang very well, and it was all worth it to me. When I got back to my seat the couples that were sitting around us told me that we sang wonderfully and they seemed genuinely happy about our performance.

The contest scores are posted, and the quartets are down to the top 10, and what a top 10 they are.

Here's the part that not too many may know. Lisa and I were within three hours of going to the airport to head home, and we went to the International Rose Garden



to look around for a couple hours. We didn't see but a fraction of the garden. I had just called my parents to tell them that we are having a great time, and that we should be on the plane in about five hours. We walked around the first section of roses and I sneeze. I felt something in my back move, so I tried to stretch it out on a hand rail that was close. It didn't work so I made my way over to a bench. After sitting for a while I tried to stand, and couldn't. So I laid down on the bench for five to ten minutes, sat back up and tried to stand again. No luck. Lisa went to ask a lady if we could use her walker, but had a language barrier until her daughter came over to help. Eventually she came back with a walker and I was still unable to support myself. At this time I had her call 911. Sitting was no longer an option, and I couldn't make it back to the car on my own. We went to the local ER and they helped me with the pain, but said that I would have to follow up with my doctor when we got home. We ended up changing our flight to the next day, and we went to a hotel closer to the airport to let me rest. She did an amazing job with the luggage and the rental car and getting me home. They gave me a walker and lots of pain meds to take for the next week, but I ran out before seeing my doctor, so once again Lisa took me to the ER in Springfield. More pain medication, and no real answers to what is going on in my back. After seeing my doctor, he asks me why they didn't do any imaging, and sets the appointment for an MRI for the 30th of July.

To some individuals barbershop may just be a hobby, but to others it is medication to the soul. Thank you all for allowing me to sing with you in Portland, and I hope to make it back up to KC soon. ♥

# INTERNATIONAL SEND-OFF FOR HOA QUARTETS AND HOA CHORUS

St. Thomas Aquinas High School • June 21, 2012

Photos courtesy of Michele Gress



Preshow by the Rockin Rob Show!  
Left to right: Matt Moore, Rob Mathieu,  
Brian Marston, Tom Wenner



Rob  
Mathieu



Emcee  
Jerry  
Garrard



BCQ from left to right:  
Rob Mathieu, Brian Marston, Matt Moore, Tom Wenner



Voices Unlimited from left to right:  
Micah Jeppesen, Mark Fortino, Shaun Whisler, John Fortino



# MEMORIES & PORTLAND!

Photos courtesy of Rich Huyck



**Above: Our first rehearsal in Portland was on the 4th of July!**

**Below, left to right: Carter Combs (right) congratulates Anthony Fortino on his 5th place medal in the collegiate contest; Mark Fortino talking with David Krause at first rehearsal; Mike Schumacher (left) explains a point to Ray Young; Bottom Row, left to right: Marlin Weidler talking with Vince Perry IV; Michael Meier talking to David Krause; (left to right) HOA wives Marci Brown-Turlin, Cindy Miller, Eileen Huyck**





**Above, left to right: HOA family Carter & Jeffi Combs, Betsy Strub, Sharon & Marty Oldehoeft and Eileen Huyck positioned themselves for a great vantage point to view the big fireworks display at Fort Vancouver, right across the Columbia River from the HOA hotel, the Red Lion on the River; Brian Martston (left) & Matt Moore joking around; Carl and Marci Turlin brush up on their dance moves while they waited; Below: Heartbeats Eileen Huyck, Sharon Oldehoeft, Betsy Strub enjoying the outdoor July 4th party; a gorgeous orange moon over Portland**



**Below, left to right: The 4th of July festivities were framed by the spectacular view of Mt. Hood; a tremendous night of fireworks capped off the evening; Bottom row: July 5th morning rehearsal begins**



## Mid-Year Giving Reminder

by Dale Neuman



Ordinarily I start out this article by writing “The calendar will soon turn over to the month of December—and remind us of how little time we have before the holidays will be here.” As hot as it has been, I wish I were writing about the approach of winter. But this year, we cannot wait until December to replenish the Presidents’ Fund.

The trip to Portland has cut into the fund significantly and, with District just around the corner, the need will be on us again to help those men who require some financial aid to travel with the chorus. And, while no official action has been taken regarding International in 2013 that I am aware of, whether we plan go or not if invited, we need to re-build the fund for needs related to chorus development such as the Retreat.

All of this is my way of once again asking those of our members who may have been waiting to make year-end charitable giving plans to include *HOA* among them but do not wait until December. **Do it now!** The Kansas City Chapter is a 501 (c) 3 organization under the IRS regulations and donations are tax deductible. Currently, as I pointed out in earlier *Harmonotes* articles, the Chapter has several ways to make such cash donations: one can just make an “unrestricted” donation to the Chapter to be spent in ways determined by the Board or one can give to the Presidents’ Helpers Fund. The President’s Fund aids members in times of need to go to contest, retreat and in other ways to participate in the music educational aspect of our hobby. The President’s Fund is administered by the Chapter under guidelines provided by the Board. And your contribution will be receipted by the Treasurer for your tax purposes.

Again, remember that old adage ‘charity begins at home’ and think about *HOA* as well as the other worthy recipients you support all year long! ♥

## “It’s Not About the Contest”

*Every once in awhile an email is written that is so profound that I feel compelled to share it with a wider audience via the Harmonotes. The following is one such piece written by Mark Fortino, the morning after our Portland Send-off Concert at St Thomas Aquanis. - Vince Perry, Chapter President*



Last night was so much FUN! That experience is why I love barbershop. No judge, no contest score can take away the feeling I experienced last night standing on the risers with you guys and singing at that level.

I tell my quartet the same thing every rehearsal that we sing at a very high level. No matter what happens in those six short minutes in front of 15 judges, nobody...nothing can take away what we have already accomplished.

This will be my 18th time on the International stage with a quartet and I have no idea how many with the chorus except to say I think I’ve been on the International Stage with *HOA* every year *HOA* has gone to Internationals since 1988.

Over all of those years, contests have brought me great joy and great sadness. For many years some of my highest highs and lowest lows in barbershop centered around “THE CONTEST”.

That all changed for me in 2007 when *12th Street Rag* broke up after going into Internationals setting in 5th place and then didn’t break the Top 10. It wasn’t the sole reason for the break up, 10 years of travel between three cities really wore on the quartet, and it was probably time for a change. To this day we all remain the best of friends. But the drive for competition, scores, placement, while it helped us achieved higher and higher levels, was not the most healthy way to live a fun filled barbershop life! Striving for excellence for the sake of excellence is a much healthier and fun way to enjoy this hobby.

Since that time, I have learned to RELISH in the GOLD MEDAL moments by both my quartets and my chorus. Every rehearsal, the opportunity to experience those special moments is now why I come to rehearsal every week. The rehearsals are what we get to do the most! THAT is where we have to find the highs and the lows. I let the contests be icing on the cake, IF that’s the way they turn out.

*Voices Unlimited* is singing better than it ever has. *HOA* is singing better than it ever has. If that doesn’t come out on the stage in those few moments in front of those 15 judges, well, that’s life. But NOTHING can take away from what I have been experiencing on a weekly basis this past year. The success of the spring show etc., etc.

I am singing with some special people and I can’t wait to have the time of my life and share all of this talent with the Barbershop Kingdom! Lookout Portland, *HOA* is coming to town with a bit of a chip on our shoulder. We already know how good we are, and we plan to share it with all of you!

My very best wishes to all of you that this convention be a moment to remember...forever! ♥



# PORTLAND PERFORMANCES!

Photos courtesy of Dan Proctor



**Bonus Track** - 5th Place (collegiate quartet) L to R: Anthony Batholomew, Spencer Mayer, Greg Owens, Anthony Fortino

**Pinnacle** - 23rd L to R: Dave Ellis, Eric Derks, Brian Bellof, Brad Stephens



**Voices Unlimited** - 24th L to R : Micah Jeppesen, Mark Fortino, Shaun Whisler, John Fortino

**BCQ** - 40th L to R: Rob Mathieu, Brian Marston, Matt Moore, Tom Wenner

# Donald W. Peck (1925-2012)

by Ron McIntire



**Don Peck** was a quiet man and a faithful barbershopper through and through. He joined the Overland Park Chapter in 1988 but transferred his membership to the Kansas City Chapter in 1994 so he could sing more and compete in both district and International contests. He loved the music and sang lead with *HOA Chorus*.

He was an Eagle Scout in his youth, and attended Keystone Junior College in La Plume, Pa. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II as a machinist's mate on a PT Rescue Craft and graduated from Penn State University with a ceramic engineering degree. He was active in his church and in the 1960s he formed and ran a financial planning and advisory business until he retired in 1990.

Don never missed playing golf in the *HOA* golf tournaments but in the last few years his health made it preferable to observe while his wife, **Donie** and their son **David**, played the game — but he was still there. Being a “snow bird,” Don and his wife would disappear in the winter months to Florida and return in the spring in time for the annual show.

**Donald W. Peck** died at his home, July 21, 2012, at the age of 87 after a long illness. He will be missed by the Barbershop Society, the Kansas City Chapter and his many friends at *HOA* and the Overland Park Chapter.

Thirty-five fellow barbershoppers and former members of *HOA* sang *Friends* and *I Believe* at the memorial service held at the Village Church (Presbyterian) sanctuary, July 25, in Prairie Village, Kan. ♥

- |                                |                        |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>David Krause - Director</b> | <b>Jim Kemper</b>      | <b>Mike Mathieu</b>    |
| <b>Barry Sanders</b>           | <b>Jim Porter</b>      | <b>Ron Abel</b>        |
| <b>Bob Burdick</b>             | <b>Joe Mathieu</b>     | <b>Ron Fortino</b>     |
| <b>Bob Howard</b>              | <b>John Braden</b>     | <b>Ron McIntire</b>    |
| <b>Brooke Myers</b>            | <b>John Erwine</b>     | <b>Rich Huyck</b>      |
| <b>Bruce Wenner</b>            | <b>Kent Miller</b>     | <b>Stew Grosser</b>    |
| <b>Carl Turlin</b>             | <b>Dick Korek</b>      | <b>Tony Strub</b>      |
| <b>Carter Combs</b>            | <b>Larry Colburn</b>   | <b>Val Putzier</b>     |
| <b>Dan Henry Bowser</b>        | <b>Lyle Wylie</b>      | <b>Vince Perry III</b> |
| <b>Don Fuson</b>               | <b>Marlin Weidler</b>  | <b>Kevin Tritsch</b>   |
| <b>Gordon Coleman</b>          | <b>Marty Oldehoeft</b> | <b>David Hokanson</b>  |
| <b>Jim Bagby</b>               | <b>Matt Moore</b>      |                        |

# Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter



**Note** that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. By Board resolution, this year all of the proceeds from the raffle not given as prizes goes to Harmony Foundation. In return, the board is able to have the Foundation designate up to 30% of the fund to chapter activities such as Harmony Explosion.

As of July 25th, after 26 drawings (10 since last report):

- The total collected for Harmony Foundation since the last report is \$207.
- The total collected for the year to date is \$531.
- The total for the previous year was \$599.
- The total two years ago was \$1,240.

The progressive jackpot stands at \$319. ♥

# TAG TIME!

**Jim Bagby** participates by teaching a new tag to three willing voices! Below, from left to right: **Jake Wozniak, Jeff Wolff, Tag Master Jim Bagby, and Jonathan Andrews**. This takes place in our new afterglow location, at **The Sandtrap Sports Bar (130th & Holmes)**. The food is great, prices are great and they love having us.

Photo courtesy of John Erwine





**...to the following HOA MEMBERS!**

- August 2 **Lyle Wyly**
- August 7 **Jonathan Fortino**
- August 7 **Monty Duerksen**
- August 7 **Gordy Coleman**
- August 19 **Mark Fortino**
- August 20 **Carl French**
- August 20 **Jonathan Andrews**
- August 20 **Dick Irwin**
- August 25 **Charley Drake**
- August 30 **Mike Schumacher**
- August 30 **Michael Hillenburg**
- August 31 **Carl Turlin**

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

- October 1 **John Landry**
- October 5 **Lucas Pherigo**
- October 12 **Jim Kemper**
- October 14 **Brad Dawdy**
- October 27 **Rob Varney**

**DEADLINE FOR THE FALL ISSUE OF HARMONOTES:**

**OCTOBER 25**

# MUSIC in the PARK!



Photos courtesy of Melladee Perry



**Music Man Quartet**

Above, left to right:  
Keith Schweer, Todd Miller,  
David Krause, Carter Combs



**Resonation**

Above, left to right:  
Craig Wilcox, Jeff Wolff,  
Jonathan Andrews, Jake Wozniak



# New Member Spotlight

by Ron McIntire



**Ted Iiff** is a 20-year barshopper, but his first experience with barbershop was in Junior high school. He first joined the Atlanta Peachtree Chorus but later sang with the *Atlanta Stone Mountain Chorus* and the *Greensboro, North Carolina Tar Heel Chorus*. He used to sing baritone but is trying out bass in the *HOA chorus* because it's easier to hit the higher notes. Ted is a semi-retired journalist living in Overland Park, KS but has lived in the Washington, DC area for the past three years and worked in Afghanistan. He has also worked with *CNN*, *Voice of America* and *USA Today* over his career.



**Vincent A. (but known world wide as Tony) O'Brien**, is a first-time barbershopper living with his wife, **Patty**, in Overland Park, KS. He is employed by the U.S. Dept. of Labor as a Benefits Advisor. Tony's musical experience includes singing in his church choir, doing occasional cantoring and he taught himself to play the piano years ago. At present he sings tenor in the *HOA Chorus*.



**Kyle Batchelder** is a first-time barbershopper living in Lenexa, KS but he's not new to our hobby having attended most of the International competitions since he was in the eighth grade. He sang in madrigals all through high school, has played the piano for 16 years and can figure out how to play just about any instrument. He now attends Johnson County Community College studying pre-law with plans to finish his academic work at KU. He sings in two quartets: *Bro C Times*, a college quartet, and *Vocal Ambush*, a non-college quartet. He sings baritone in the *HOA Chorus*. ♥

**A HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!**



## The Bus

by John Erwine, Executive VP

Where has the year gone? It seems as though we just left the stage after our presentation of the 2011 Holiday Harmony Spectacular. It certainly is true that the older you become, the faster time flies.

We've transported ourselves through holiday music, to the spring show, on to Portland (what a welcome cool weather relief that was), and to Music in the Park (what a hot weather challenge that was) all in the blink of an eye. Now it's on to Des Moines in October for the CSD Fall Convention. Then before you know it, we'll be in the middle of the 2012 Holiday Harmony Spectacular.

So as they say, "the wheels on the bus go 'round and 'round." Question is, when do we get on this bus? I don't know if there is a best answer to that. You see the bus slows down briefly ever so often, but never stops, allowing you that chance. But if you dally around too long, off it goes and you're left to chase after it wondering when it's going to slow down again for you.

So I guess my best answer is to get on at the first available opportunity and just hang on for the ride. Sure, it may be a little bumpy for a time. But it'll get smoother and you'll get used to it. You'll become accustomed to that constant sound – that constant, hypnotizing, singing drone those wheels make as they take you down the road. Somehow it'll become a comforting sound. Soon, you'll be humming right along with it, making it sound even better.

Next thing you know, you'll be wondering where all the time went. ♥



**BARBERSHOPPER OF THE MONTH**



**Jerry Meier - May 2012**

Chapter President **Vince Perry** (right) presents **Jerry Meier** with the Barbershopper of the Month for May 2012 which states: In grateful recognition for your work creating and teaching the choreography plan for Smile Medley, HOA's Portland Oregon International Contest uptune. Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.

**EXTRA MILE AWARD**



**John Erwine - May 2012**

Chapter President **Vince Perry** (right) presents **John Erwine** with the Extra Mile Award for May 2012 which states: In grateful appreciation for your help closing up the Lake Doniphan Conference Center following the completion of the HOA Retreat, May 18-19, 2012. Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.

**EXTRA MILE AWARD**



**Mike Mathieu - July 2012**

Chapter President **Vince Perry** (right) presents **Mike Mathieu** the EMA for July, which reads: In grateful recognition and thanks for organizing and managing a great HOA after-contest dinner, July 6, 2012, in Portland, Oregon. Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.

**SPECIAL VISITOR!**



**Wade Dexter - Editor Emeritus**

It was good to see **Wade Dexter** and his son **Paul** (not pictured) at the June 12 rehearsal. Welcome Wade and Paul! Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.

# New Harmony Handful Blitz & Kansas Honor Flight

by John Erwine, Executive VP



ERWINE

I haven't gone through so many white dress shirts for our performances in such a short amount of time since my real job ended in 1998, as during these last few weeks. Luckily, after some digging, I found some brand new ones

still packed away in original wrappers. You see, these days I'm no longer in a hurry to get to the laundry, so I almost got bit! Glad I remembered to wash the teal one.

On May 19, we had the pleasure of singing at the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of **Lyle Wyly's Aunt Marguerite** in Belton. What a delightful lady and experience that was.

Then on June 10 we were at North Cross Methodist Church on Vivian Road, July 15 at The Church of the Resurrection Episcopal in Blue Springs, and July 23 we entertained the Gladstone City Seniors.

That performance was especially memorable because of a question from the audience. As director **Jim Bagby** was explaining a little about barbershop, as he always does, a little old lady stood up and started waiving her arm to get his attention. Of course we thought she was going to ask a question about our group, great singing, repertoire, future performances or some such thing, so we were all ears. Then she said, "Whatever happened to **Dan Henry**?" I'll let you wonder about the answer to that!

Our next outing was a special rehearsal in Grain Valley on July 25 with the *Circuit Riders* in preparation for an upcoming repeat event. July 30 we were at the Lee's Summit Sheppard Center.

Next morning on July 31, by the time you read this, we will have been to KCI to help honor 25 WWII Veterans who will be traveling to Washington D.C., to see the new monument erected in their honor. They are the recipients of free travel, provided by the Kansas Honor Flight, to honor them for their invaluable service during WWII. This program will also transition to Korean War, Vietnam War and all other veterans who served, on a chronological basis.

There are two veterans from the Johnson County area, and the remainder from all over Kansas. The youngest is 85 and most are

in their 90's. **Connie VanCampen**, wife of Kansas Honor Flight President **Mike VanCampen**, sent us this message a couple of days ago: "Just a quick story to let you know how important this is to these men; we got a call yesterday afternoon from a guardian who was on his way to Greensburg, Ks because his dad's (the veteran) house was on fire. The house was completely destroyed.

In spite of losing everything, you and your group will be able to meet 92 yr. old **Mr. George Yohn**. They were and ARE an amazing group of men." For HOA gents, it might interest you to know that our own **Ron Abel** was the recipient of this flight a couple of years ago. He can't speak highly enough of the experience. He'd love to share his story with you.

On Aug. 5, we will have an annual engagement at Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church for the OWLS. Finally, a follow-up to our Aug. 12 repeat event. The NHH will be one of six Jackson County vocal groups performing in *Many Voices – One Need*, 6 pm, at the John Knox Pavilion in Lee's Summit. Groups range in number from about 12 to 100. The final mass sing will encompass upwards of 200 men on stage, one directed by **Jim Bagby**. Music will range from barbershop, to contemporary, to gospel to who knows. This is a free concert with a freewill donation. NHH has earmarked their portion of the benefit to go to Harmony Foundation.

Lastly, I'd like to give credit to **Tony Strub** for his wonderful explanation to our audiences each time we perform, regarding our mission in this endeavor. He is very adept at explaining that we are part of the Kansas City Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, and that we are members of, and representatives of, the *Heart of America Chorus*. We continually do our best to promote HOA, our craft, BHS activities and becoming a part of the HOA family.

By the way, you might want to visit our new WEB site, which is provided as a link in the left content column of HOA's home page. For additional information on upcoming events or opportunities, contact **Tony Strub**, [Astrub@kc.rr.com](mailto:Astrub@kc.rr.com). For more on the Honor Flights, go to [www.honorflight.org/programs](http://www.honorflight.org/programs) or [www.kansashonorflight.org](http://www.kansashonorflight.org). ♥

From top to bottom:  
Aerial view of the Mall in Washington, DC, with the World War II memorial shown at the bottom, plus a closer view of the same memorial.

Photos ©Thinkstock





**Photos:  
New  
Harmony  
Handful  
Performs  
for Kansas  
Honor Flight**

Photos courtesy of John Erwine



The *New Harmony Handful* was at KCI on the morning of July 31 to help celebrate 25 WWII vets departure to Washington D.C. to see the WWII Memorial erected in their honor!

Jim Bagby directs *NHH* in a performance for the veterans as they awaited the arrival of the plane which would deliver them to and from our nation's capital.



# Highlights of the HOA Summer of 2012

by Vince Perry, President



A couple of days short of summer, HOA held its annual retreat at the Lake Doniphan

Retreat and Conference Center in Excelsior Springs, Mo. **Mike Slamka**, the great lead of *Crossroads*, was the clinician again this year. I loved it when Mike would demonstrate how to sing a particular passage because he IS SO GOOD! If everyone in the chorus could emulate him we would probably be like him and wearing gold in very short order. After the Friday night session everyone seemed to enjoy the pizza. (even though it was 30 minutes late in arriving) The Saturday afternoon session ended at 4 p.m. to allow members an opportunity to attend one of our two neighboring chapters' (Overland Park and Kansas City Metro) annual shows that night. It was good retreat and though attendance was down it was surprisingly productive and positive. Many thanks to our musical leaders **David Krause** and **Mark Fortino** for helping us keep the retreat in perspective and for helping us all become better singers.

Next up on HOA's busy schedule was the Portland Sendoff. This year it was held in the St Thomas Aquinas High School auditorium. **Rob Mathieu** provided the pre-show with his very entertaining kids' educational music and movement program called *Rockin Rob!* Helping Rob were the other members of their quartet *BCQ*: **Tom Wenner** was on drums and **Matt Moore** and **Brian Marston** were vocalists and movement leaders. The kids (of all ages) in the audience seemed to really enjoy the *Rockin Rob Show!* For more information about his show please check out: <http://www.rockinrobsings.com>. **Jerry Garrard**, director of Leavenworth's *Cody Choraliers* did a masterful job of emceeing the sendoff spectacular. Many thanks to Jerry and the *Rockin Rob* crew! Next up on the show were two of the three HOA quartets competing in

Portland, OR: *BCQ* (**Rob Mathieu, Brian Marston, Matt Moore, Tom Wenner**) and *Voices Unlimited* (**Micah Jeppesen, Mark Fortino, Shaun Whisler, John Fortino**). Both quartets looked sharp and brought their A-sounds to entertain the audience. The audience loved them! Finally, the *Heart of America Chorus* took the stage. The curtain was closed as to make the experience for the chorus as much like the contest stage as possible. The curtain opened upon the announcement "from Kansas City, Missouri under the direction of **David Krause**, The *Heart of America Chorus*." The chorus sang its two-song contest set which consisted of the "Smile Medley" and "The Sunshine of Your Smile". Next came the HOA ladies auxiliary called the *Heartbeats* onto the stage. *Heartbeat* **Linda Schumacher** read a poem as the gals held up pictures helping tell the story of HOA singing in Int'l Contest. What a hoot! It was a fun time with lots of laughs! Many thanks to all the men and women of HOA for putting together such a nice sendoff.

Fast forward to July 3rd in Portland, OR. We hurried as fast as we could but the shuttle driver would not leave our hotel's parking lot until his scheduled departure time on the half hour. We hustled into the Rose Garden to find **Anthony Fortino's** collegiate quartet *Bonus Track* already on stage! Darn! Fortunately we got to see them on a TV in the concord area. The collegiate contest was awesome. When the chairman of the judges announced that *Bonus Track* was the fifth place bronze medalist it was crazy watching Anthony and his buddies running and jumping up onto the state. Anthony was beside himself jumping up and down with excitement as **Vocal Spectrum** placed the medal around his neck. Way to go, Anthony! HOA is very proud of you!

The Fourth of July was a special day for HOA and its quartets. First up was the Quarter Final quartet contest featuring our HOA entries: *Voices Unlimited*, *BCQ*,

and *Pinnacle*. They all were totally at home on the International Stage and did an outstanding job of representing themselves, the chapter and the district. I was very proud of them. Great job, guys! And many thanks!

Our first rehearsal was later that afternoon in the ballroom of the Red Lion on the River Hotel. It's on the Columbia River in north Portland. After the rehearsal most everyone attended the 4th of July party on the patio of the hotel. Live music (not barbershop) was provided until the fireworks display which started at 10pm. HOA had a great view of the fireworks being set off right across the river at Fort Vancouver. Many thanks to **Rich Huyck** for recording some of those memories on his digital camera.

We had two rehearsals on Thursday the afternoon one being very special to me. It was during this rehearsal that the Society's new Executive Vice President **Don Fuson** presented me with my 50-year society membership lapel pin. When I saw that the pin had two diamonds on it I remember telling Don that the society should give the spouse a pin with 100 diamonds! For without my loving wife **Melladee's** support and encouragement, who has been with me through the whole 50 years, I probably would have dropped out many years ago. Today we have two sons who are active barbershoppers who make us very proud. **David** sings with *Des Moines Pride of Iowa Chorus* and **Vince the 4th** (shown below) sings with his pop in HOA.



Friday, July 6 was contest day and HOA did a couple of things that we have never



done before: no make-up! Are you kidding me? Nope, if *AOH* doesn't do make-up then at least for this contest, neither will *HOA*. Also for the first time, *HOA* went to the contest in costume and sat in the audience to watch another chorus perform. Watching the *Ambassadors of Harmony* from St. Charles, MO perform was well worth the deviation from the norm. They of course were awesome and did eventually win the contest. Congratulations to our director **David Krause** for being a part of that winning chorus. You made us proud! After *AOH* sang it was off to the photo room to start the contest pattern. And it wasn't too long later that we, the proud forty-one members of the *Heart of America Chorus* from Kansas City, MO were standing on the international stage for the umpteenth time (I think it's the 20th time!). It was sad that *HOA* veteran **Bruce Wenner** could not make the trip this year. This is the first international that *HOA* has competed in without Bruce. An awesome record Bruce; congratulations! In his honor we held up a "Hi, Bruce" sign in our uptune intro. Before they introduced us we had to pause and collect ourselves as **Brad Dawdy** and **Don Young** quickly changed from their *Central Standard* uniform into the *HOA* tux. Finally the curtain opened and *HOA* once again performed on the international stage. At least for myself and I think most everyone else, when the curtain closed we were very satisfied with our performance. And though the 21st placement was a somewhat of a disappointment I was able to remember **Mark's** email "It's Not About The Contest" (included on page 8 of this issue) and how timely it was.

On Saturday, *HOA* had a chorus dinner at Rock Bottom in downtown Portland. They had a fabulous buffet which was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to **Mike Mathieu** and our chorus hostess **Sarah Black-Ulricksen** for organizing this wonderful event. The other Kansas City chorus, *Central Standard* was celebrating their 9th place finish and dining on the main floor of Rock



**Above from Portland: HOA's Don Fuson, standing alongside his wife, Linda, is introduced on stage as the Society's new Executive Vice President! Congratulations! Photo courtesy of Dan Proctor**

Bottom while we dined on the mezzanine. After dinner *Central Standard* and *HOA* joined together in song. It was a heartfelt experience. Thanks *CS* and congratulations! After dinner we all hustled back to the Rose Garden for the last time to watch the quartet finals. I remember being very relaxed and satisfied that *HOA's* Portland experience was almost over. I thought of the guys who wanted to make the trip but for whatever reasons could not. I thought about my mom who passed away about six months ago and how supportive she was of my fifty years of barbershopping. I thought about **Jim and Joann Bagby** and the passing of Jim's mother **Peggy** during international week. I thought of how she was a barbershopper herself and avid loving supporter of her talented family. I thought about the *Ringmasters* and how monumental their quartet victory was to our Society. I thought about the *Ambassadors* and the thrill they brought to the barbershop world with their performance. And I thought about **David Krause** and wondered if this might be his last contest as *HOA's* director. And I thought about just how blessed I am to be a part of such a great hobby and how much different my life would have been without it. Portland 2012 is history now. Another chapter complete. Thank you Portland, and thank you *HOA*. ♥

# COMING SOON!

The minutes of your Board of Directors meeting will soon be published on the *HOAChorus* website instead of the *Harmonotes*. It will be in a form similar to the table of past *Harmonotes* issues. Keep on the lookout for it and be informed of current board actions and plans!



# We Wish Tone-Henge Could Last as Long as STONE-HENGE!

by Ol' Dan and three other guys to be herein identified



## From Ol' Dan:

Even this old brain can remember 14 years of great quartet fun singing and creating many laughs on shows within and even outside our district!

You have no idea how much fun it can be, each and every time, to say, "I just squeezed a canary into my drink!" But, not only is the brain rapidly deteriorating, so is this old bod!

There's one malady associated with aging that you don't hear mentioned very often. It's called "heavy-heart." It's one of the worst, and now being suffered by four guys because one guy suffers from all the other stuff that age won't let you avoid.

I have never really minded being the really "old coot" in *Tone-Henge*. But bidding farewell to our 14-year musical comedy madness is tough. It brings on the heavy-heart pangs. Thank goodness for the continuation of the social gatherings for the eight of us. Best medication going!

Since I caused the heavy hearts of others, I apologize for getting old. I tried to avoid it. Honest!

Now, as *Tone-Henge* departs the premises, lets hear what the three "youngsters" have to say. ♥

## From Ol' Keith:

I guess the bottom line for me is that *Tone-Henge* was just about the perfect quartet experience for me. From the rehearsals to the out-of-town chapter show trips and the many new friends we made, to the quartet dinners and happy hours, to the trips with our wives, to being on the *HOA* shows. In the 14 years of our time together, we've deepened our relationship with each other and elicited a lot of smiles and laughs from our audiences. When anyone asks us for advice about forming a quartet, our response is always "Sing with your friends." ♥

## From Ol' Jim:

I don't know if I enjoyed our time on stage more, or the rehearsals. In both, we had a tendency to talk more than we sang. And in our shows, that was probably a blessing for our audiences – especially when it was **Ol' Dan** talking! After getting to perform with him in *Hubbub* and *T-H*, I can attest to what all of you who saw him with the *Merry Mugs*: he's a comic genius. But don't tell him I said that, because he's so freaking low-key and humble, he always finds a way to deflect compliments. When we'd get mobbed at local performances by senior citizens crying "Oh, Dan, the weather's not the same since you left!" he'd just tilt up that bony chin and reply, "See, I told you I had a viewer."

But I'll remember best that this was a chapter quartet, there every week, year after year. And that's something unparalleled in my 50-year Society membership, through all the many foursomes I've sung with, at all levels. None were more fun than *Tone-Henge*. ♥

## From Ol' Bruce:

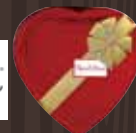
Funny how quartets are formed. The founding of *Tone-Henge* was really weird. The four of us were the closest of friends, but had never expected to sing in a quartet together because (1) we tended to be singing in other quartets, and especially (2) three of us were baritones – actually, four, counting Keith, who has been drifting toward bari-hood over the years. But one day in 1998 we looked around and noticed that none of us was committed to another quartet – so much for (1).

To overcome (2), some guys were going to have to change parts. Dan and I were a little slower than Jim to holler dibs on the bari, which stuck us on lead and tenor the whole blasted 14 years.

Would I complain about this? Not on your life. It enabled me to sing with my three best friends in a quartet that supported the chapter we love. And for a bonus, we spent many weekends together driving or flying to faraway places like Milburn, SD; Colby, KS, and Elkader, IA, to make audiences laugh. And many weeknights in "rehearsals" – which barely put us on the verge of being prepared for performances. But they sure are fun. The "rehearsals" will continue - *Tone-Henge* has retired from performing, but we are not disbanding. ♥

## 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



**August 7**

**Informal Concert  
at St Peter's United  
Church of Christ  
7PM**

**December 1**

**Holiday Harmony  
Spectacular  
2 & 7PM  
Unity Village, MO**

**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.