

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 14 • ISSUE 3 • SUMMER 2014

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Dawg Days, Old Guys and a Toast

by John Erwine, President



ERWINE

By this time last year we had already celebrated our 75th year as a Chapter. We were deeply involved with multiple special coaching sessions by **Joe Connelly**, and fundraising efforts in preparation for our trip to Carnegie Hall. We had been the guest chorus for St. Joe's *Voices of America* annual show, performed at the Liberty Community Center and were preparing for the "battle of the cicadas" in Overland Park.

Okay, you're correct – none of that this summer, so by all rights it's possible we may have experienced a little let-down as a group since all of last year's amazing celebrations and activities had gently faded. During a normal summer, we'd be complaining about the heat and looking for a fan and block of ice to cool us off. The yard would have been browned by heat and lack of rain, the cornfields stunted and not much prospect of spending leisurely evenings on the humidity-laden'd deck. These accumulated conditions in conjunction with reduced activity could have waned into those infamous "dawg days" we're all familiar with. *(Continued on page 2 ➡)*



Harmonotes

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

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

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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**
Chapter Telephone: (816) 221-7888



(Continued from front cover)

I'm not sure it's been really all that bad. Surprisingly, core attendance has remained relatively stable, we've a few more new members, had some great guest nights, and new Director, **Jerry Garrard** is working hard to solidify his method and approach to music teachings and relationship with the chorus, and we with him. The temperatures have been great, more than expected rain, the corn is green and tall and there have been many great evenings on the deck – mostly mosquito free.

As for me, I was fortunate enough to spend several days in Vegas at the BHS International convention, and worry-free of any responsibility — a first! The MGM Grand is truly a remarkable facility. Aside from the absence of clocks, water fountains and a convenient way to get from the hotel to the convention center and arena, all within the hotel and expertly planned for the casino's benefit, it was a terrific time. I'm not really complaining, except these old feet didn't like the ½ mile walk each direction several times a day!

Of the three major things I came away with this year, one is how the talent level has greatly grown over recent years, both quartet and chorus alike. Just when you thought you had your scores figured out, and it just couldn't get any better – it did! I think this is the first year I've just sat there in total amazement at how each one was better than the last.

Old guys and choreo — let me tell you there were some pretty old dudes up there doing some very precise moves and emoting very well. They were selling and telling! For me it dispels the idea that this is totally a young man's game. You just have to buy into it and integrate the moves with the ability.

Lastly, it was great to hear contemporary numbers arranged in the barber-shop style from artists such as **Billy Joel, Michael Jackson, The Beatles** and **Aerosmith** in tandem with long-standing and proven stalwarts. This is most certainly, in my mind, one direction we need to be leaning in our quest to attract younger members. I am in no way advocating that we eliminate "the Old Songs." However we must keep in mind our ever-changing times. Most importantly, no matter what we do it is imperative that with the choices we make — the chords still must ring! That's the clincher. That will sell them.

This was truly a great contest. It was so good, and there is so much to learn from it, that I would urge you to go to the BHS Web site and pre-order the DVD of the top 20 choruses and/or quartets. On it you will see the best of the best, at least in my short 10 years. This will be a great learning tool for us all. It will be out in the Fall.

Prior to contest, **Vince Perry** and I visited *Central Standard*, 9th place finishers, during one of their rehearsals. We each wished them well and our support, to a thunderous applause. Also to be congratulated is *Premium Blend* for their 17th place achievement.

It was also a special pleasure to be present when our own **Dan Henry** was inducted into the MC Hall of Fame. Newly-elected President-Elect **Don Fuson** accepted it on his behalf. They played the same pre-recorded video of Dan's acceptance that you saw when Dan again accepted it live at our Chapter meeting by Don and Director Emeritus, **Jim Bagby**.

And finally, a toast – here's to the future stability and growth, of the Kansas City Chapter! This Chapter, as of January 1, 2015, will have produced three Barbershop Harmony Society Presidents in 76 years. None other than you can claim this honor.

This feat was accomplished by you taking the opportunity to share your love of music with brothers that also share their love of music, just as you do. That's the tool that will be the continuing strength to the future of this Chapter. Thanks for all you do. ♥

A Look at 2014 Las Vegas Chorus Contest

by Jim Porter

One thing stands out – the 2014 competition was the highest scoring of all time. The 6th-place chorus posted a score over 92% and the 20th-place chorus posted 83%, both records. New Zealand's *Vocal FX* placed 10th with 86.27%, but they also placed 10th in 2009 with an 88.17% score.

Choruses that competed in Toronto (2013) not in the lineup this year: 15 out of 29, including the top 3 medalist choruses and 5 of the top 10. Those included Westminster and Alexandria, which both scored well over 90% last year. Altogether, there are 10 choruses in the Society that have performed above the 90% level at an International competition in the past three years.

Choruses in this year, not in the lineup in Toronto: 17 (out of 31). Of these, 8 competed most recently in 2012, 3 in 2011, 2 in 2010, 1 in 2009, and 3 were in their first International competition. Only two choruses in this year's top 10 competed in Toronto last year. Choruses that compete every year are becoming the exception.

Qualification contests for affiliates Britain, Sweden, Australia and New Zealand were conducted either in 2012 or spring 2013. All North American districts held qualification contests in the fall of 2013.

The Dallas *Vocal Majority* posted 96.77% to win. Their best ever was in 2010 when they scored 97.10% but were second to Westminster's highest score in history, 97.73%. *The Ambassadors of Harmony* previously held that record, posting 97.53% in 2009. *The Ambassadors* in 2012 matched Dallas's 96.77%. No other chorus in any other competition has posted higher scores than these.

Choruses this year improving more than their competitors include *Great Northern Union* (+5.12%), *Kentucky Vocal Union* (+4.25%) and *The EntertainMen* (+3.97%). In our district, *Central Standard* improved 1.31% and the *Fremont Pathfinders* improved 1.54%, but the competition at their level improved by 3% or more on the average, so these choruses lost ground to the competition. Among choruses in the bottom half of the order, England's *Cottontown Chorus* posted a 3.00% gain and *Spirit of Phoenix* posted a 2.89% gain.

At the top, the *VM* had a gain of 2.88%, which they needed to hold off their pursuers, as *Masters of Harmony* posted a 3.69% gain, *GNU* climbed 5.12% and *Sound of the Rockies* 3.97%.

Last fall, *Heart of America Chorus* posted a 79.28% score, which ranked 40th among all choruses competing in the qualifying contests for the International in 2014. Had we gone to Las Vegas and competed, that score would have placed *HOA* in 28th among 32 choruses. ♥

HOA Supports the Kansas Choral Directors Association for the 2nd Year!

The Kansas City Chapter continues to promote life-long singing and fellowship in 4-part cappella Barbershop Music!

The Heart of America Chorus and its Membership VP Jerry Meier represented the Central States District and the Barbershop Harmony Society by exhibiting at the Kansas Choral Directors Association (KCDA) Summer Conference in Topeka. Jerry Meier set up a table-top booth in the exhibit hall and met with more than 100 choral directors and members of the KCDA.

There were two goals to accomplish:

- 1) promote Youth in Harmony events such as our very own Harmony Explosion! 2015;
- 2) get more young people involved in vocal music activities in middle school and high school.

Vocal music teachers agree that barbershop music is an effective vehicle to get more young people active and involved in choir – the challenge is to find the right music that can capture their attention and get the youngsters to jump in and give it a try!

Jerry provided several copies of some fun barbershop arrangements like *Cups* from the movie *Pitch Perfect*, Theme From *Happy Days*, and *Charlie Brown*. Teachers could also sign up to receive a free Music Educator packet from the BHS.

Jerry was also able to secure and donate one full-ride scholarship to Harmony University 2015, on the grounds of the prestigious Belmont University in Nashville, TN. This prize was given away on the last day of the conference, which ran Thursday July 10 through Saturday, July 12.

Teachers are eager to learn more about barbershop music – they just need help to get started. How can WE HELP? Simple – provide them with free music to sing in their classes. *HOA* will provide music upon request to these vocal music teachers – and you can help by donating \$5 or \$10 or \$20 toward this cause (speak to Jerry about this program).

Later this fall, Jerry will also be meeting with several of these Music Educators at the Northeast Kansas Music Educators Association Conference in Olathe. He will continue to spread the knowledge about the benefits of singing 4-part cappella Barbershop Music – starting in Middle School and continuing beyond High School. ♥

Top Quartets Still Lead the Way

by Jim Porter



When it comes to international competition, the best quartets continue to vie for the championship year after year. The top 9 quartets and 16 of the top 20 in Las Vegas also competed at Toronto in 2013. (Three of the remaining four are quartets that have not previously competed at the International level.) From the top 20 in 2013, 14 quartets also competed this year.

Top foursomes that did not return this year were *After Hours* (8th with 85.1 in 2013), *Via Voice* (9th with 84.87), *Da Capo* (10th with 84.78) and *The Allies* (13th, 83.68).

The quartet champion, *Musical Island Boys*, won with 89.53%, their best score in six years of competition. But their scores over the past four years were all 88.5% or better. Quartets able to score over 90 in this competition are rare (*Ringmasters* was the last one, scoring 91.7 in 2012.) *Crossroads* won in 2009 with 93.7 and *Storm Front* in 2010 with 91.33. Interestingly, *Old School* placed 2nd both years with scores above 90, but emerged a champion in 2011 with an 89.89 score.

The highest-scoring quartet competition overall was in 2009, when the average for the top 10 quartets was 88.32; and for the top 20 the average was 85.4. This year, the top-10 average was 87.32 and the top 20 average was 85.01. The 5th-place medalist quartet posted 87.98, while the 10th-place quartet finished at 84.78 and 20th place posted 81.5. The results from the 2012 competition were also at this level, making 2014 the third-highest-scoring competition year.

When results are compared to results from the qualifying competitions (most of which occurred last spring, but the affiliates held theirs earlier), all quartets could be included. The average scores at International were 0.92 percent higher than the scores in the qualifying rounds. (80.58 at International, 79.66 qualifying). For the top 20 quartets, the improvement was 1.68 percent — 85.01 compared to 83.33). This is normal and has been observed every year in recent times.

Thus, individual quartets that improved by at least 1.5 percent would be expected to finish in a position near their ranking in the preliminary rounds, while those that improved more would move up, etc. In our own Central States District, *Premium Blend* improved 0.43 percent, placing 15th in the preliminary round, but 17th at Las Vegas. *3 Men and a Melody* were just 0.06% above their prelims score and slipped from 20th to 24th position. *Salty Dog* improved 1.41% and placed 41st at Las Vegas, after qualifying for the contest as a wildcard entrant.

Among the top 20 quartets, the greatest improvement was shown by *Trocadero*, a new quartet from Sweden, which also competed in the collegiate competition (placing 7th with 74.83%). They placed 18th with 81.78%, a 7% improvement in just two days! (That would have won the collegiate contest if they had posted that score on Tuesday). *Lunch Break* surprised even themselves with a 4.6% improvement to finish 9th after placing 17th in the qualifying competitions.

The next great quartet from Sweden is *Lemon Squeezy*, which improved 3.6% for a 5th-place medal after placing 8th in the qualifying rounds. Silver medalist *Forefront* improved 3.33% and almost caught *Musical Island Boys*, who scored 0.3% below their qualifying score. *Forefront* was 5th in the qualifying rounds. *Main Street* (featured quartet on our spring show) improved 2.14 percent, placing 3rd, same position as in the qualifying rounds.

Up and coming quartets? Among those failing to make the top 20, Madison Park with tenor Wes Yoder, The Con Men, Jam Session, Last Men Standing and The Committee all showed improvements better than 3 percent. ♥

Handful Hit Full Summer Stride

by Marty Oldehoeft

The *New Harmony Handful* may be having more fun than we deserve.

We kept ourselves quite busy last year, and this year seems to be heading in the same direction. We have performed a dozen times already, have 4 more outings on the calendar and 6 more pending. We are in the midst of our summer singing crush at metro area churches.

On July 20 we sang at Northcross United Methodist Church, where several of our barbershop friends and family were in attendance, including **Mary Lou Stewart** (widow of past HOA prez **Don Stewart**), **Dick and Sheli Irwin**, Dick's mother, **Betsy Strub** and **Sharon Oldehoeft**.

Our newest quartet, *4 in Harmony*, **David Hokanson** (lead), **Wendell Shaffer** (tenor), **Don Fuson** (bari) and **Barry Sanders** (bass) had their debut on July 23 at Santa Marta retirement village. They got this review from veteran lead **Jon Gathright**: "So smooth, nice blend, good balance and very nice sound!"

Mixed in our monthly rehearsals and scheduled performances, we had the privilege to sing in front of the chorus. What fun that was to let the rest of the guys see who we are and what we do as representatives of our chapter. We thank them for giving us this opportunity.

We who can express ourselves through song truly have been blessed. ♥



SOCIETY, HOA HONOR CHAMPION MC DAN HENRY

by Jim Bagby

One of the highlights of the Society international convention last month in Las Vegas was the awarding of the annual Dave LaBar master of ceremonies award to the late **Lloyd Steinkamp** and our own **Dan Henry Bowser**. We hope many of you who did not get to attend the convention saw the BHS webcast presentation by former Central States District member and head of the MC awards committee, **Larry Monson**. Dan's trophy was accepted by his fellow chapter member, Society Executive Vice President **Don Fuson**.

But the real hoopla came a couple of weeks later, at the July 15 Kansas City Chapter meeting, when Don presented the "Can You See Me Now" trophy to Dan in person. Thanks to some diligent work by brother Fuson and his laptop, we were also able to show the same acceptance video that the folks in Vegas saw. Dan's daughter, Kathy, took it and it was produced very professionally by her husband, Mark. Dan's wife of 69 years, **Estyl**, and his son, Brad, were among a giant turnout of guests. **Keith Schweer** wheeled Dan to the meeting and the afterglow!

The video was actually a little long for Dan's presentation slot that the Society folks had allowed – but it was so good, they played the whole thing, rather than editing it. Dan stays mostly close to home these days because of his emphysema, but he made a warm and humble speech. In it he noted that he is a 65-year member of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of the Barbershop Harmony Society of America, Inc., which got roar from the crowd of about 8,000



Tone-Henge alumni enjoy some refreshments. From l to r: Bruce Wenner, Dan Henry, Keith Schweer and Jim Bagby.

convention attendees. And he noted that he had met a lot of great barbershoppers while emceeing about a dozen internationals. The first of those was at San Antonio in 1964, and the last was right here at the 2011 convention, with Kathy as his sidekick. "Ol' Dan" and his second-favorite gal, "Sarah Jane," have emceed more HOA shows than he can count, and many CSD contests. He is a member of our district Hall of Fame. At the chapter level, he is a past president, former director, winner of the Ozzie Award (twice) and one of only four men to earn the chapter's highest honor, the Joe Stern Award.

He also made his mark in some pretty popular comedy quartets, starting with the *Merry Mugs*. The other members of the quartet, now all passed on, were **Ed Rooker**, who replaced original tenor **Dennis Taylor**; lead **Frank Leone**, and bass **Bob Gall**, who went on to become 1969 Society president. They were the first foursome picked by the USO to entertain our wounded Vietnam War troops, during a tour of the far east and a trip to the Philippines.

Dan later sang bari with *Hubbub*, a foursome formed primarily to preserve Merry Mug routines. The lead was the late **Manley Vance**, Gall was the bass and I sang tenor. After Gall's death in 1995, **Willard Yoder** sang bass. And for 14 years, until last spring, Ol' Dan was the lead (mostly) of the 2001 CSD senior quartet champs, all-comedy Tone-Henge. The tenor was **Bruce Wenner**, **Schweer** was the bass and I was the bari (mostly).

Dave LaBar, for whom the award is name, will be remembered by some of you as the lead of the medalist quartet *Sidekicks* from Florida, who headlined our show in the early '90s. He was a comic master, portly to large most of his life and a brilliant emcee. He died suddenly in his early 40s. ♥



Dan Henry (left) proudly displays the Dave LeBar master of ceremonies award, with Society President Don Fuson (center) and wife Estyl joining him in the photo, which was snapped by Jim Bagby.



BARBER SHOP MEETS BARBERSHOP!



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. 18. Sign up NOW!



8th Annual Four-Person Golf Scramble Thursday, Sept. 18, 2014

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. 11, 2014

\$105 per player if paid after Sept. 11 up to & including the day of the event.

Kansas City Chapter - Barbershop Harmony Society

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

VP ON THE MOVE!

by Vince Perry, Chorus Manager



When *HOA* Director **Mark Fortino** resigned after our April Annual Spring Show, I was pretty downhearted. After the year *HOA* had in 2013 with Carnegie Hall and concerts galore the future looked rather bleak from my vantage

point as Immediate Past President.

Matter of fact I decided to take a sabbatical from *HOA* saving me the 150+ mile drive every Tuesday night. I think this was the first time in 20 years that I've missed two or more consecutive *HOA* chapter meetings save my open heart surgery back in 2005.

Actually I didn't know what I wanted to do. I just wanted to get away. And I stayed away for almost two months.

During that time, one Tuesday night I drove up to Fremont, NE and visited the *Pathfinder Chorus*. I told them I was **Brad Dawdy's** guest even though Brad had no idea I was coming. This was a big night for the chorus having **Theresa Weatherbee** there adding some extra touches to their already awesome choreo package. I sang during the warm-ups and tried to sight read a highly secret arrangement. I don't know the name of it, I just remember that the bass part went so low that I was switching back and forth between tenor, lead, baritone and bass. Fremont veteran quartet bass singer **Dave Pinkall** was standing in ear shot of me and I'm sure he was wondering "what the heck"! When **Theresa** arrived I stepped down rather than be trampled by *This Joint Is Jump'n*. They didn't work much on the uptune but focused instead on the ballad *Make Them Hear You*. The sound was amazing! You know the sound when it's wall to wall? It has a special sound that I can appreciate but can not describe. After fifty years of barbershop I never get tired of hearing barbershop music like I did that night. The choreo on the ballad had a Broadway musical feel to it with all faces looking past the audience with such reverence and passion. It was a commanding performance; a gold medal experience for old VP. I smiled all the way home!

My next barbershop experience was attending the St. Joseph, MO Chapter's annual show. It was held in the same church they did last year when *HOA* was their guest chorus. The sound in that sanctuary was totally awesome! This year, the *Voices of America* chorus surprised me and others on just how much improved they were from the year before. They got a new director, **Steve Scott**, and with basically the same guys they had the year before, sang many challenging arrangements in tune. I am so happy that the *JoeTown* cho-

rus is back singing well. I predict their membership will grow quickly with this new sound.

My old high school buddy **Don Ransom** sang in his quartet called *BassLine*. (All 4 guys are natural basses.) They were great. I'm always so proud of Don's quartets and the St. Joe Chapter since I spent my first 30 years of barbershopping in their choruses (*The Pony Expressmen* & *The American Barberboys*). Next on the show was a *HOA/CS* quartet called *Brovertones* with dual members **Kyle Batchelder** and **Lucas Pherigo**. They're young with a vibrant sound. The audience loved them. They sang *Blue Grass Student Union's* arrangement of *This Little Piggy*; it was a tear jerker for me- such emotion; powerful stuff! *McPhly* was the feature quartet and they too were young and awesome.

The late Society Musical Coach **Chet Fox** and past *Pony Expressman* **Bob Fox's** son sang tenor in *McPhly*. It was pretty special to see and realize the generations of barbershoppers I've been privileged to call friends. The show was emceed by *HOA's* own Director Emeritus **Jim Bagby**. As usual he was masterful! (and entertaining!)

Jim and I talked about *HOA* and my absence. I think he kind of understood. The very next Tuesday I went back to *HOA*. By the way when I ran into Jim that evening he grinned and said "Couldn't stay away!" He was right.

Next stop was Las Vegas and the International Convention. **Melladee** and I took in three musicals while still seeing all the CSD quartets in the quarter-finals, all of the top 20, the whole day of chorus competition, and the finals and show. The Kansas City Metro Chapter's *Central Standard* chorus performance was pure excellence. I was emotionally moved by both their songs, especially the ballad. I'm not sorry to admit they both were tear-jerkers for me. I was so proud of them! I hope everyone that did not attend does get a chance to see the *Toronto Northern Lights* final chorus performance as reigning International Champions. It was so touching that words fail me. So was the acceptance speech of the new quartet champions *The Musical Island Boys*. It's a must see! "Well said" is an extreme understatement!

Back on the home front our new director **Jerry Garrard** is doing a great job of teaching and motivating excellence in singing. We've already gotten a few new members and a couple of old members coming back. Let's hope that *HOA* can continue to maintain its century membership status and field a good-singing chorus in the 80s. (At least 80 in the chorus that is singing in the 80's) Those were the good old days for many of us and the good days ahead for the *Heart of America Chorus* and Chapter. As our Immediate Past Director **Mark Fortino** said a million times last year "Is it Tuesday yet?" It's great to be a barbershopper! And I'm happy again to be back with my *HOA* pals. ♥

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!



Introducing the newest members of the Chapter!

Photos by Ron McIntire



Jason Garder

Jason Garder, first-time barbershopper and his wife, **Jessica**, live in Leawood, Kansas. He is a Civil Engineer for CDM Smith in Kansas City where he designs storm sewers for municipalities. His musical background includes singing in high school and college choirs, church choir and attended South Dakota State and Iowa State University. He sings bass in the *HOA Chorus*.



Steve Hankins

Steve Hankins is a first-time barbershopper living in Lee's Summit, Missouri with his wife **Camille**. He is a CPA and works for BKD, LLP. His musical background includes church choir, Junior High School choir and plays some guitar for his own entertainment. He has three grown children and sings bari in the *HOA Chorus*. ♥

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

July 11 **Mike Templer**
July 12 **Al Moritz**
July 14 **Dave Parker**
July 16 **J.P. Marshall**
July 17 **Adam Veteto**
July 18 **Matt Moore**
July 20 **David Stockard**
July 22 **Calvin Yoder**
July 25 **Tom Wenner**
July 26 **David Miller**
July 30 **Vince Perry IV**
July 30 **Bob Velazquez**

August 2 **Lyle Wyly**
August 4 **Mark McCullough**
August 7 **Gordy Coleman**
August 7 **Monty Duerksen**
August 7 **Jonathan Fortino**
August 14 **Denny Briley**
August 19 **Mark Fortino**
August 20 **Jonathan Andrews**
August 20 **Dick Irwin**
August 20 **Charles Ashley**
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 14 **Matthew Fortino**
September 15 **Ron Abel**
September 16 **Michael Meier**
September 16 **Sam Solomon**
September 23 **Phil Veltkamp**
September 23 **A.J. Meier**
September 27 **Steve Hankins**

BARBERSHOPPER OF THE MONTH



Thom Tisdall - April 2014

Hats off to **Thom Tisdall** (left), who received the Barbershopper of the Month Award for April 2014. "In grateful recognition for your outstanding work as Stage Manager of the 2014 Heart of America Barbershop Show, April 12, 2014, this award is presented to you for the month of April 2014."

Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.

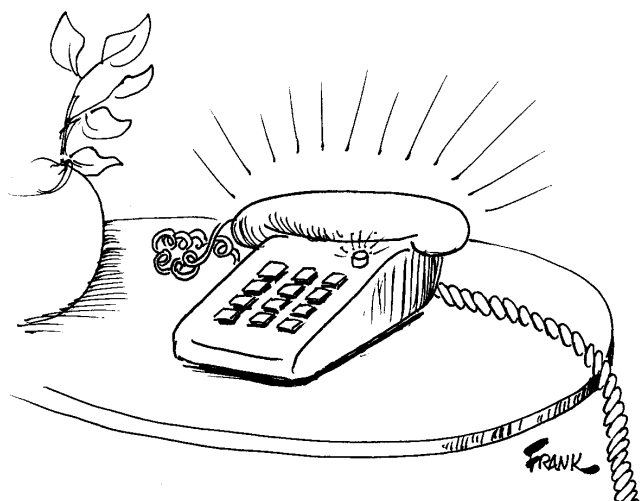
EXTRA MILE AWARD



Wendell Schaffer & Charles Ramirez April 2014

Chapter President **John Erwine** (center) presents **Wendell Schaffer** (left) and **Charles Ramirez** (right) the EMA for April 2014. "In grateful recognition and thanks for your professional work conducting the 2013 annual Kansas City Missouri Chapter financial audit."

Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.



"SORRY, BUT I'M GONE TO MY WEEKLY BARBERSHOP MEETING. IF YOU WANT TO JOIN ME NEXT WEEK, LEAVE YOUR NAME AND NUMBER."



Todd's Email Address Has Changed!

If you have articles or photos you wish to contribute for *Harmonotes*, remember that Editor **Todd Anderson** has a **NEW** email address! Please make a note so that our readers don't miss *your input* in future issues!

That NEW ADDRESS IS:

todd@andersondesign.biz

VEGAS, BABY!

Photos courtesy of Matt Bostick



**DAN
HENRY**

**CELEBRATING
65 YEARS OF
BARBERSHOPPING!**



3 MEN AND A MELODY

Rob Mathieu, Eric Derks, Brad Stephens and Brian Bellof



PREMIUM BLEND

Austin Veteto, Mark Fortino, Jeff Veteto and Adam Veteto



SALTY DOG

Matt Sullentrop, Michael Troyer, Aaron Burklund
and Grant Hunget



BONUS TRACK

Greg Owens, Anthony Bartholomew, Kevin Wagner
and Anthony Fortino

CSD CHORUSES SHINE IN VEGAS!

Photos courtesy of Matt Bostick



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 July 23, after 25 drawings (9 since the last report):
The total collected for Harmony Foundation since the last report is \$143.

The total collected for the year to date is \$461.

There have been FOUR jackpot winners so far in 2014, each for \$100. As a result, the prize fund is in deficit \$165 as of July 23. ♥

Armchairchair Chorderbacks Sing, Swing into Summer

by Mike Mathieu

Saturday evening July 26, AC sang in the Marriott Muehlebach Old Lobby. We were providing entertainment at a 1,000-person reception for the American Culinary Federation, which was its national convention at the Marriott.

Chefs are gathered here from all over the world, and once the convention planner found out the history of the Old Lobby, she just had to have a Barbershop Quartet. For close to two ours, we strolled, sang, and mingled among the crowd that was strolling and eating and drinking. Imagine the challenge for the Marriott Chefs having to put out "heavy appetizers" for some of the greatest chefs from all over the world! The food stations, of which there were many, looked fabulous, but all we could do was stare at the marvelous food! A grand time was had by all. ♥



Above: Armchair Chorderbacks in front of the Founder's Plaque at the Hotel Muehlebach, as they sang July 26 for an American Culinary Federation social gathering that drew several hundred chefs and their followers. Photo provided by Jim Bagby

ARMCHAIR CHORDERBACKS READY TO SCORE!

Bodies in motion tend to stay in motion sure is true for us lately. June 14 we sang down at **Lidia's** for a 50th Anniversary party, July 11 for a wedding reception, July 19 we sang in Old Shawnee Town for the dedication of a fully restored 1920 Barbershop, July 25 for a wedding reception/family reunion combination, and July 26th for a large convention reception in the Old Lobby. Five gigs and on July 26th we finally got back "home" if you know what I mean.

Sure is a blast running all over town spreading the good news about our favorite hobby. Seems that every time we sing we always hear folks that never knew there was an organization that allows people to express themselves so wonderfully in song. They ask questions like "how can we enjoy your hobby?" "where do you meet?," "do you have to be good enough to sing in a quartet?" and so on.

Just imagine how busy we could keep **Jerry Meier** if we had five or six quartets singing regularly all over town? Our risers would be bursting at the seams with new members. If you haven't found three other guys yet, we'll see you Tuesday night and help you find the right parts.

Armchair Chorderbacks hope to find enough time to work on some contest songs between now and October 10th to allow us to sing in contest in Cedar Rapids. The exposure and evals will surely enable us to have a great time singing on stage, plus get some tips on improving our singing skills going forward.

Thanks for "tuning in" and we hope to see you and sing with you soon. "Ready!, Set!, Pitch! Sing!" ♥

- Carter, Mike, Jim and David

IT'S OFFICIAL:

by Jim Bagby, C&J Vice President

CSD leads the Society with eight candidate judges who emerged from the cauldron over the weekend in Nashville. Just received the list from CA category specialist **Chris Beuchler**. A hearty congratulations to these men, who now deserve all our support:

Contest Administrator – **Sean Smith**, Maron, Iowa;
Gary Weddel, Wayne, Neb.

Music – **Ben McDaniel**, Newton, Kan.

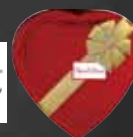
Presentation – **Jake Pimer**, Overland Park, Kan.

Singing – **Steve Scott**, Lawrence, Kan.; **Jerry Garrard**, Paola, Kan.; **Eric Dalbey**, University City, Mo.;

Mark Keever, St. Peters, Mo. ♥

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HEART OF AMERICA CHORUS CALENDAR

Saturday - August 9
Great Midwest Balloon Festival at
Legends Racetrack area

Thursday - September 18
Four Person Scramble Golf Tournament

Saturday - October 4
(approx 7:45-8:15pm) Cross-Lines Gala for Hope - Ritz Charles

Saturday - October 10-11
Convention & Contests in 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.