

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 17 • ISSUE 3 • SUMMER 2017

HOA ~ LOTS GOING ON IN SECOND HALF OF 2017

by Barry Sanders, HOA President 2017



SANDERS

As we head into August, the HOA Board has hired **Bob Velazquez** as our “director” while **Jerry Garrard** takes a leave of absence to resolve a personal matter. Bob quickly stepped in to direct us through the annual show in June and we were very excited and appreciative that he did a terrific job of directing us through that show. Bob was ably assisted by our Director Emeritus, **Jim Bagby**, as well as **Carter**

Combs, Associate Director, on the show, and they will both continue to assist Bob through our many upcoming activities, including Fall Contest and our annual Holiday Harmony Spectacular (HHS) Show! We know the direction of the HOA chorus is in very good hands during this interim period, and we are moving forward!

Speaking of Fall Contest, we have narrowed the list of songs that we might take to contest down to 3 songs, with the intention that we will make the final decision of the 2 songs that we will be taking to contest before the end of August. That will give us plenty of time to get those 2 songs “contest ready”. The 3 candidate songs are: (1) Brother Can You Spare a Dime; (2) Basin Street Blues; and (3) Once in a Lifetime/I’ll Be Seeing You.

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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!

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. Peter's Episcopal Church, 100 East Red Bridge Road, 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)

Two of those songs, *HOA* has sung before at contest, so the learning curve for contest will not be too steep for those re-joining us at this stage in the year who want to go with us to Fall contest.

The Music Team is working on deciding the HHS show music list, and plans to make decisions about what we will be singing on the Holiday Show in the next month, so that everyone will have plenty of time to learn the notes and lyrics for songs on that show and for the Caroling Caravan, both in December. Learning tracks for the HHS show music are already out on the *HOA* members' portion of the web-site if you want to start working on the Christmas music. The chorus has already starting practicing some of the songs that we know we will be singing on the HHS show, and as we finalize the remaining songs our practice list will be expanded to include those as well.

We are also trying to be sensitive to what our active members and inactive members told us in our surveys, which was that they want to perform much more than just 3 times a year (annual show, holiday show, and contest). So, as proof that we are listening, here is a list of the performances that we have lined up for the rest of 2017:

- (1) Performance at St. Mary and St. Mark's Coptic Church - where we practice - September 9th
- (2) Blue Springs Fall Funfest - September 16th
- (3) Fall contest in St. Charles, MO - October 20-22nd
- (4) Performance for Blue Ridge Bank at Hilton Garden East Hotel - Nov. 1
- (5) HHS Show (holiday show) - Dec. 2 at Unity
- (6) Caroling Caravan at 5-6 retirement homes - Dec. 16

Throw in the special coaching session on Aug. 19 at Longview and the annual golf tournament at Falcon Ridge on Sept. 28 and I think you will agree we have lots of fun activities scheduled for the remainder of 2017. Members re-joining us for the second half of 2017 don't have to participate in each and every one of those events, obviously, but we want you back for as many activities as your calendar and appetite for singing will allow!

For our Annual Show in June, we welcomed back **Frank Lasta**, **Eric Weber**, and **Jim Davis**, singing on the risers with us. Also, **Marlin Weidler** came back as show ticket chairman, and we are hoping to get Marlin back to singing with us soon. We also had 2 brand new members, **Nate Harper** and **Wally Thornton**, who sang with us on the show - their first time singing with *HOA* on the risers. The show was a real "hoot", and we're sorry if you missed it!

Another Successful Ice Cream Social!

by Jim Porter



On Tuesday, July 18, *Heart of America* again in-

ited its brothers in harmony in the Kansas City area to join them in a festival of singing and socializing. As was true last year, it was a huge success with more than 70 in the hall. Included were 20 men from *Central Standard*, just returned from the International competition in Las Vegas, where they earned 3rd place medals with their contest package. Several of them noted that it was their break time and many of them were out of town, but they represented themselves well under Asst. Director **Andrew Rembecki** as they presented two songs.

Also in the hall were more than 20 men from *Olathe Trails West* chapter, all dressed for the occasion and ready to perform for us all. Their regular meeting is on Tuesday, but their board agreed to join us for the evening and do their rehearsal on Thursday this week. They

performed a two song set and were given a hearty round of applause for a good performance. They have their annual show scheduled in September at the Bell Center, the same theater where *HOA* did our show in May.

The evening began with *Heart of America Chorus* on the risers singing three songs under Director **Bob Velazquez's** leading. That performance was greeted by a hearty round of applause. There was also a set from *Armchair Chorderbacks* that was well received. *Central Standard's Vintage Stock* quartet was planning to perform, but that same afternoon the wife of their bass singer gave birth to their first child, and they had to scratch.

After that, everyone was invited to the risers to sing polecat songs together. It was loud, it was fun, it was sometimes ringing, and all directors from all the chapters got their chance to direct a song or two—even **Sherrie Hart** who was among the guests

present. The Olathe men had their chance to sing with the *Central Standard* men, and the *Central Standard* men learned that they ought to take the time to learn the polecat songs so they could sing them with confidence with other singers. Also during this time, **Jim Bagby** was twice invited to teach a tag to the ensemble. It's always fun to do that, and it feels good when Jim likes what he hears and smiles.

After that and the marbles raffle (won by **Tony Strub**), it was time for ice cream! All agreed it was a great time and all look forward to doing it again in 2018.

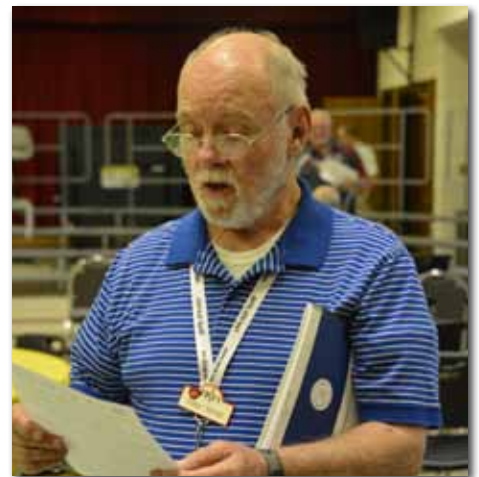
Be sure and check out the event photos on pages 4 and 5 of this issue of *Harmonotes*! ❤



HOA ICE CREAM SOCIAL JULY 18, 2017



Photos courtesy of Rich Huyck



HOA ICE CREAM SOCIAL JULY 18, 2017



Photos courtesy of Rich Huyck



Kansas Choral Directors Association (KCDA) Summer Conference in Topeka

by Jerry Meier



The Heart of America Barbershop Chorus had an exhibit at the Kansas Choral Directors Association (KCDA) Summer Conference in Topeka on July 6 and 7. More than 130 vocal music educators from middle schools, high schools, colleges and universities across the state were in attendance. **Jerry Meier** (Harmony Explosion! Director and Membership VP) set up a tabletop display of 4-part a Capella Barbershop music for review.

Vocal music educators are looking for new ways to attract and keep young singers (boys and girls) in their programs. They have no outlet (like a local music store or publishing company) to access and view Barbershop music—other than searching online. *HOA's* participation in the KCDA Summer Conference provides an outlet by introducing new teachers to Barbershop. That's one reason why I insist that *HOA* participate in this event. *HOA* gives teachers the opportunity to review review the music and ask questions about incorporating Barbershop into their programs.

The second reason to attend the KCDA Summer Conference is to stay in touch with all of these vocal music educators. I have built relationships with many of them over the past 5 years, and I continue to establish new relationships each year. I will communicate with the teachers in the fall, support them, and get them ready for Harmony Explosion! 2018, to be held at Olathe East High School on Saturday, Feb. 17.

As a reminder, Harmony Explosion! is a fun, mistake-friendly and effective vehicle that teachers can use to encourage participation in their own programs, while promoting Barbershop music all year. Can I count on your support for these vocal music educators this fall and next spring? ♥

THANK YOU FROM AL MORITZ' DAUGHTER

Thank you for all the barbershop guys who gathered and sang at Dad's Celebration of Life. You guys sounded so great – Dad would have loved it!

So many friends and family commented about how it made the celebration something he'd have been really proud of having been a part of. Thank you so much for that gift!

All the guys who loved, cared and were great friends to him through the years were memories he treasured! He truly loved being part of the Barbershop organization and loved all the friends he made in it.

THANKS AGAIN!

Cyndy

BARBERSHOP HISTORY QUIZ:



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

In the seventy-nine year history of the society, only six barbershoppers have sung in an international championship quartet and also directed a chorus to the winner's circle at the international level. Provide as much info as possible about them, i.e., their names, their voice parts, the names of their quartets and choruses, and the years in which they triumphed.

**(ANSWERS AT
BOTTOM OF PAGE 13)**



**"...BUT ENOUGH ABOUT ME,
LET'S TALK ABOUT YOU.
DO YOU DIG BARBERSHOP SINGING?"**

HARMONY IN VEGAS!



In Las Vegas, singing tags with (from left) Mark Cammer of St. Johns, FL.; Jim Bagby, Mike Rowe shortly after he had been presented on stage as honorary lifetime Society member, and Brandon Guyton, bari of *Crossroads*. Photo courtesy of Mark's wife, Judy.

ONLY FOR GOLFERS? I DON'T THINK SO! STILL \$95 PER PLAYER? I DON'T THINK SO!

IT'S ACTUALLY \$90 PER PLAYER IF YOU REGISTER BEFORE AUG. 31! (\$105 after Aug. 31).

Yes, it's that time again! Time to have a great time playing in a golf scramble and help the *Heart of America* chapter with a very important fund raiser. Wait! 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 your foursome, but who cares? It's just for fun and you will be helping HOA bring millions to the Kansas City area through our conventions, and you will help us raise money through our singing for the Salvation Army and Children's Mercy Hospital, AND, you can win more prizes in the door prize drawings and in the raffle, both of which require no golf skills whatsoever.

So, if you like to golf, duffer or otherwise, whether you are a single, twosome, threesome or foursome (we need them all), please join us. If you know a golfer or two, please forward this email to them and tell them that, as usual, the prizes in this tournament are likely to be triple or quadruple the prizes of other tournaments AND they can help a really great cause AND they'll have a wonderful time. They really will appreciate you telling them about it. So please do!

The tournament is at Falcon Lakes Golf course on Thursday, Sept. 28 (shotgun start at 1 pm). Plenty of time to sign up. Click on the golfer on the HOA website, www.hoa-chorus.com.

Sponsorships are available. Please contact **Kent Miller** at kmiller268@aol.com 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 include:

Hole Sponsor: \$100, large tee box sign, recognition at the event.

Special Hole Sponsor: \$175, 1 player entry fee, large tee box sign, recognition at the event.

Birdie Sponsor: \$500, 2 player's entry fees, 2 show tickets (HOA annual show), large tee box sign, and recognition at the event.

Eagle Sponsor: \$1,000, Foursome entry fee, 4 show tickets (HOA annual show), Company information at place settings, large tee box sign, recognition at the event and a full page color ad in our Annual Show program.

Double Eagle Sponsor: \$2,500, Foursome entry fee, 8 show tickets (4 each - HOA annual show/HOA Holiday show, representation at

tee with Company information, Company information at place settings, recognition in HOA's weekly bulletin (sponsor name and logo with your link), large tee box sign, recognition at the event, and a full page color ad in our Spring Show program.

Hope you can play with us this year. ♥





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. 28.

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



11th Annual Four-Person Golf Scramble Thursday, Sept. 28, 2017

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:

Eagle Special - \$90 per player if paid by Aug. 31, 2017
Early Bird Special - \$105 if paid by Thursday, Sept. 21, 2017
Day of Event: \$115 per player

Kansas City Chapter - Barbershop Harmony Society
900 Hillside Ave, Liberty, MO 64068

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? • HOA at International, 2010 in Philadelphia

by Jim Porter

Vince Perry provided the attached photograph after the video of our performance of "Basin Street Blues" in Philadelphia was played at the Aug. 1 chapter meeting.

A lot has happened over the past 7 years. What has become of the 59 men who sang for *HOA* in Philadelphia?

One (**Jim Clark**) is in Chapter Eternal.

Two (**Jim Moynihan** and **Anthony Fortino**) have moved out of the area.

Four have become so disabled that they are not able to continue singing with us.

Four have just dropped out, not involved with barbershop at all these days.

Six are still on the *HOA* roster, but are no longer active with the chorus.

Nine were Leavenworth chapter members who joined us just to be with us that year. All nine remain active today with their own chapter, but not with us.

Twelve joined *Central Standard* and now are active with that chapter.

That leaves 21 men who were on the risers then and continue to be active with us today.

Five of our currently active members were active chapter members in 2010 but did not sing with us in Philadelphia.

Ten of our currently active members joined the chapter after the 2010 competition. (Three this year)

Conclusion? You can draw your own, but I see 36 active chapter members that have what it takes to continue to make this chapter one of the best and most respected in our Society. Let us look ahead to what we can do together and not worry about what we cannot do. ❤



Heart of America Chorus
Kansas City, MO Chapter of BHS, Inc
Philadelphia, PA July 2, 2010 - 16th Place (82.8 avg)
Director - David Krause

Love Me and the Whole World Is Mine & Basin Street Blues

1. Jeff Garrard, 2. Anthony Fortino, 3. Mark Fortino, Asst Director, 4. Brad Dawdy, 5. Shaun Whisler, Bass Sec Ldr, 6. Jonathan Andrews, Bari Sec Ldr, 7. Doug Brott, 8. Jerry Meier, 9. David Krause, Director, 10. Duane Lawson, 11. Ron Fortino, 12. Jim Moynihan, 13. Darrell McCune, 14. Andrew Meier, 15. Ted Simon, 16. Vince Perry, Chr Mgr, 17. David Stockard, 18. Mike Mathieu, 19. Brian Bellof, 20. Don Young, 21. Keith Schweer, 22. Dick Irwin, 23. Mike Templer, 24. Ray Young, 25. Jeff Wolff, 26. Carl Turlin, 27. Jim Porter, 28. Jerry Garrard, Asst Director, 29. Brian Seydlitz, 30. Jim Clark, 31. Kevin Tritsch, 32. Kent Miller, President, 33. Marty Oldehoeft, 34. John Erwine, 35. Barry Sanders, 36. Carl French, 37. Rick Foreman, 38. Vince Perry, 39. Marlin Weidler, 40. Harry Stewart, 41. Rob Mathieu, Tenor Sec Ldr, 42. Tony Strub, 43. Mike Schumacher, 44. Eric Weber, 45. Lucas Pherigo, 46. Bill Bay, 47. Jim Kemper, 48. Larry Colburn, 49. Carter Combs, 50. Harvey Shapiro, 51. Tom Gray, 52. Bronson Garrard, 53. Rod Rivard, 54. Bob Burdick, 55. Charles Ramirez, 56. Al Fehlauer, 57. Rich Huyck, 58. Don Fuson, 59. Bruce Wenner

Compiled by Ron McIntire

VAL PUTZIER 1933~2017



VALDEAN “Val” PUTZIER, 83, died June 17, 2017, in his hometown of Paola, KS. He was born in Elkader, IA, and graduated from Garnavillo, IA High School in 1951. There were only 19 students in his graduating class, so he learned to play several instruments in the band plus singing in his high school glee club and he sang in a barbershop quartet for two or three years until one of the older guys graduated and they had to break up.

He joined the U.S. Navy after high school and was stationed in Japan during the Korean conflict, working as an air traffic controller. He moved to the Kansas City area in 1959 after he left the Navy and hired on at the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA), working most of his time in the Olathe facility. He retired from the FAA in 1984.

Val was a quiet guy with a good sense of humor and a deeper-than-usual bass voice. He joined the Olathe Chapter in 1971 and sang in several quartets before joining *HOA* in 1973. He participated in a lot of singing events over the years, he recalled years later, both with the Olathe and *HOA* choruses, and kept up his singing in his church choir. His son, **Mike**, also was a regular with *HOA* in the late 1970s. Other than singing, he loved fishing, and would travel anywhere to seek the big ones. But he loved just spending time on the farm ponds in his Miami County area.

Val sang with the *Cross Town 4* – the first *Central States District* Senior Quartet Champions – for a number of years, replacing original bass **Fred Whisman**. But as time went on and age took its toll, the quartet became less active. So Val joined the *New Harmony Handful*, singing at many churches and other venues throughout the Kansas City area. In the *NHH*, he sang with **Dale Neuman**, **Jon Gathright** and **Rich Huyck** in the *A Cappella Fellas*.

Val was diagnosed with lung cancer in the first half of 2017 and though surgeons were hopeful its removal was successful, the cancer returned with a vengeance. About 35 members of *HOA*, sang *I Believe* and *Friends* and the *Harmony Handful* sang *It Is Well With My Soul* at his funeral. He leaves his wife of 57 years, **Jan**, a longtime *HOA* supporter; son **Mike** and daughters **Toni**, **Debbie** and **Suzan**; 12 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.



Above: Honor Guard at Holy Trinity church in Olathe for Val Putzier's service. Photo courtesy of Jim Bagby

We will miss your ever-present smile, Val, and the support you gave the Kansas City Chapter, your quartets and the *NHH*. Rest in peace, friend. ♥

ALFRED J. “AL” MORITZ 1928~2017

Alfred J. “Al” Moritz was a steadfast member of the Barbershop Harmony Society and the *HOA Chorus* for almost 50 years. Music was a big part of his life. He was born and raised in Chicago and sang in the Choral Club in high school. He attended a number of technical schools during his 41 years at AT&T and sang with the *Illinois Bell Telephone Chorus* from 1950 to 1962 and in the *Four Phonies* quartet, an auxiliary unit of the *Illinois Bell Telephone Chorus*. He joined the Barbershop Society and the Southwest Suburban Chapter in Oak Lawn, IL, in 1956 and when he transferred to Kansas City in 1963, he joined the Kansas City Chapter. Here he sang with a quartet that changed names four different times beginning with *The Gamboliers* and ending with the *Kansas Citians*. The quartet had many members over the years and was believed to be the longest-running active quartet in *HOA* history. Al brought a lot of quartet experience to our chapter and was known for his solo work in the *Kansas Citians* on “Where the River Shannon Flows”, and “Hector the Garbage Collector.”

Al is often remembered as a front-row man. He and **Ron Abel** received recognition on our 50th annual show for performing for 35 consecutive years in the front row. In fact, he continued to perform in row 1 for a couple of years after his hearing got so bad he could not hear to sing. He just lip-synched, smiled and did all the staging – most of the chorus did not even know. The music team called it “the Al Moritz’ rule.” He was a friend and favorite of all *HOA* members and audiences alike with his antics, choreography and always bright smile. He served as chapter president in 1973.

He left the chorus when his age caught up with him, but he would occasionally drop by the rehearsal hall to watch and hear the chorus sing. He’d stay for awhile then join his friends at the local afterglow after rehearsal. It was good to see him at the latest Guest Night festivities in April.

Al died at home but not in bed as he had hoped. He was often heard to respond to those who asked how he was doin’, “Oh, C+, I guess.” ♥

Ed. Note: For more information on Al, see the FOCAL POINT article by Wade Dexter in the December 2005 Harmonotes.



A toast from Al at the Windy City Pub with his favorite Manhattan. Photo courtesy of Jim Bagby

HAROLD "SAM" SOLOMON 1925-2017



Harold R. Solomon, known by his friends as **Sam**, died June 14, 2017. He was 91. Harold was born Sept. 16, 1925, in Marshall, MO and graduated from the University of Notre Dame. He served in the United States Navy during the Korean War

and worked as an investment broker at E. F. Hutton & Co. in Kansas City.

Sam was a long-time member of the *Kansas City Chapter* and *Heart of America Chorus* and sang baritone in the chorus when he was active. He served as President of the Kansas City Chapter in 1967. Though he was not an active member for a number of years, he visited the chapter on occasion to see his old friends. His last visit was in 2005 at the **Don Webb** Recognition night.

Sam was a member of St. Thomas More Catholic Church for 49 years and was a member of other organizations and clubs in Kansas City including St. Joseph Hospital Auxiliary. He is survived by his wife, **Joyce**, of 58 years, children **John**, **Mary Jeanne**, and **Lisa** and is survived by four grandchildren and many nephews and nieces. Services were held Saturday, June 17 at St. Thomas More Catholic Church.

Compiled from the *Kansas City Star*. ♥

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!



Introducing the newest members of the Chapter!

Photos by Ron McIntire



NATHAN "NATE" HARPER is a first-time barbershopper living in Kansas City, Missouri with his wife **Amy** and their four children. He attended Paseo Academy High School, sang in his church choir and was a 16-year veteran of the *KC Singers* acapella chorus. He is a medical assistant at St. Luke's Heart Clinic. Nate sings baritone in the *HOA Chorus* and is often accompanied at rehearsal by his oldest son, **Xander**.



DANIEL "BART" BARTHOLOMEW is a 28-year society veteran coming to *HOA* as a dual member with the *Little Apple* chorus in Manhattan, KS. His musical background includes high school mixed chorus, church choir and the *Little Apple Chorus*. He is a retired Army Colonel having served 26 years in the U.S. Army including some combat in Viet Nam. He lives in Lee's Summit, MO with his wife **Mary** and sings bass in the *HOA Chorus*.

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 Aug. 9, after 31 drawings (12 since the last report):

- The total collected for Harmony Foundation since the last report is \$234.
- The total collected for the calendar year to date is \$655.

The carry-over jackpot was \$132 as of the first week of August. ♥

ANSWER TO PAGE 7:

- **Buzz Busby**, baritone in the *Confederates* (1956) and the director of the *Dixie Cotton Boll Chorus* (1958).
- **Freddy King**, baritone in the *Oriole Four* (1970) and the director of the *Chorus of the Chesapeake* (1971).
- **Jay Giallombardo**, baritone in *Grandma's Boy's* (1979) and the director of the *New Tradition Chorus* (2001).
- **Jeff Oxley**, bass in *Rapscallions* (1984) and *Acoustix* (1990), and the director of the *Masters of Harmony Chorus* (1999).
- **Jim Henry**, bass in the *Gas House Gang* (1993) and the director of the *Ambassadors of Harmony Chorus* in 2004
- **Mark Hale**, lead in *Michigan Jake* (2001) and the director of the *Masters of Harmony Chorus* in 2002 and in 2005. How about taking home gold medals in three internationals out of five...wow!

Note that in this elite group (make that elite of elites), 50% are baritones. That's 100% greater than the statistical expectation would suggest. Yessir...go baritones!



Happy Birthday!

...to the following HOA MEMBERS!

July 11	Mike Templer
July 14	Dave Parker
July 16	J.P. Marshall
July 18	Matt Moore
July 20	David Stockard
July 22	Calvin Yoder
July 26	David Miller
July 30	Vince Perry IV
July 30	Bob Velazquez

August 2	Lyle Wylly
August 4	Wally Thornton
August 7	Monty Duerksen
August 7	Gordy Coleman
August 14	Denny Briley
August 18	Harry Stewart
August 19	Greg Busch
August 19	Mark Fortino
August 20	Jonathan Andrews
August 25	Charley Drake
August 30	Michael Hillenburg
August 30	Mike Schumacher
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 14	Matthew Fortino
September 15	Ron Abel
September 16	Michael Meier
September 23	Phil Veltkamp

Handful Loses Putzier, Neuman; Wyly Returns

By Jim Davis

Since April and the last edition of *The Harmonotes*, the *New Harmony Handful* has continued to participate in our own activities as well as those of the *Kansas City Chapter and Heart of America Chorus*.

Eight of us sang on the 71st annual Chapter Show in June. That included our arm-waver, **Jim Bagby**, who was pressed into duty as one of the directors for *HOA* in the unfortunate absence of **Jerry Garrard**. By the end of August, we also will have sung for five more churches and a couple retirement/nursing homes.

Summer has brought several changes to the Handful. We and the KC Chapter suffered a major loss in June with the passing of talented bass and 44-year chapter member **Val Putzier**. Val had been a veteran member of the *Handful*, and also sang a smooth and supportive bass for the *Acapella Fellas* quartet that provided variety at many of our programs. He also was a member of the *Crosstown*

Four, replacing original member **Fred Whisman** in the Central States District's first senior quartet champions.

Val's Celebration of Life was held at his church in Paola on June 21, and *NHH* was proud to have made up the majority of singers that represented the KC Chapter.

Most barbershoppers are aware of the importance of, and the difficulty in, acquiring and keeping tenors. *The Handful* is no different, and we are saddened by the departure of **Dale Neuman**. Dale has been a loyal and consistent part of *NHH* in all our versions going back to 1976 – in spite of the more recent demands of providing necessary and loving care for wife **Dona**, who died last month. They had made plans to move back to Maine before her death, to be close to family. Since they had sold their house in

KC, Dale decided to follow through with the move. He assured us that he will continue barbershop singing as there are two chapters in the area. We wish him well.

The upside of Dale leaving is that **Lyle Wyly** has rejoined the *Handful*. Lyle had been a member several years ago, but needed to drop out due to the demands of needing more time to spend making a living. Most of us know or have known how important that is. We

welcomed him back by having him join us Aug. 6 at a church service in Independence. Lyle will succeed Dale in *Acapella Fellas*, and **Marty Oldehoeft** will step into Val's bass spot in the quartet, which is completed by two venerable singers: lead **Jon Gathright** and baritone **Rich Huyck**.

We have a busy fall ahead of us. Some of us will also be participating in scheduled *HOA* performances throughout the remainder of the year. It appears we will continue to be busy! ❤️



LET HIM EAT CAKE – Two-time HOA President Dale Neuman is presented a cake from the New Harmony Handful at their July 17 meeting by NHH leader Dave Hokanson. The inscription reads “You will be missed...You won’t be forgotten.” (Photo by Jim Bagby)

RESULTS OF THE ACTIVE AND INACTIVE MEMBER SURVEYS AND DISCOVERY FORUM

by Barry Sanders, HOA President 2017

Many of you have been asking what we have done about all of the data that we collected earlier in the year with our Discovery Forum and member surveys. Well, I will admit to you that this is still a work in progress. The board has now had 3 special all-evening meetings – off-site – to discuss all of the data that we have collected. I must admit that the take-away's are somewhat mixed, as members have openly suggested a number of different ideas for improving HOA, including our Tuesday night chorus meetings, and it's clear that what is really important for one member is not necessarily really important for another member. Therefore, we have tried to take a step backward and look for "trends" in inputs received – all appreciated, by the way!

Starting with this *Harmonotes* article, we are going to start revealing to all of the participants, and other interested members, the specific things that your HOA Board has gleaned from all of this data, massive as it is. However, note that we are certainly not finished, and before we do put this topic to rest, the Board intends to create a long term strategy and "plan" that will help the chorus regain the momentum that we feel that we have somehow lost over the past several years. So, stay tuned!

By the way, if any of you, Board members or not, have an interest in helping us create this L/T strategy and plan, please let me know of your interest and I will put you to work (so to speak).

Here are some immediate (low hanging fruit) take-away's that the Board has agreed to implement:

Immediate Implementation

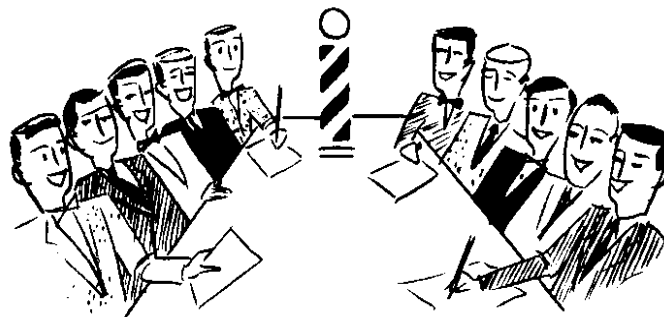
1. More vocal Instruction (feeds goals of many members' responses to why they joined HOA). Music team has already started this during warmups at first of each meeting – try to provide worthwhile instruction/practice to entice members to be on-time at 7PM
2. Changes to Tuesday meeting/rehearsals
 - Breaks in rehearsal to give members time to socialize and sing in quartets/VLQ's
 - More "fun" – PVP activities like tag quartet singing, Polecat songs, woodshedding
 - Section rehearsals – specify goals for each session so work complements things chorus is working on
 - Riser time (performing mode) each week, usually after break

3. Quarterly guest nights – aimed at recruiting new members – with food or refreshments
4. Acquire "riser stools" for members who cannot stand on risers for extended times, so they will not have to sit on chairs "off risers"

Medium Term Implementation

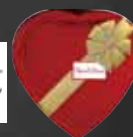
5. More singing gigs (feeds goals of many members who want to perform to audiences more). We should contact VisitKC, local community festivals, local chapters of philanthropic organizations like Kiwanis, Optimists, VFW, Rotary
6. Assign "administrative" section leaders to go with section leaders to follow-up with absent members and pass along information pertinent to whole section
7. Acquire a "social chairman" to help schedule and plan non-singing social events (bar-B-cues, ball games, other activities to foster camaraderie and fellowship between members
8. Initiate brief 10 minute meetings after rehearsals by directors and section leaders to discuss upcoming section rehearsals, homework for chorus members, agenda for next week, etc.
9. Acquire coaching expertise at retreats and at Tuesday rehearsals for singing, choreography, and acting skills (as in "Ghost Riders", "Brother Can You Spare a Dime", and "Basin Street")
10. Increased utilization of Social Media to market the chorus, both for selling tickets for events as well as recruiting new members

The Board is also setting some longer term goals, and will then utilize those in the yet-to-be-created strategic planning document mentioned above, which will be distributed to all. Bear with us – we know that this process is of extreme importance to the future of HOA. ♥



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HEART OF AMERICA CHORUS CALENDAR

Saturday, August 19 - 8:30am - 4pm
Coaching Session at Longview CC Campus

Saturday, September 9 - 6pm?
HOA Performance at St. Mary St. Mark Church

Saturday, September 16 - 4pm
Blue Springs Fun Festival HOA Performance

Thursday, September 28
HOA Golf Tournament at Falcon Lakes

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.