

# 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 8 • Winter 2012

## HOA Warms Up the Winter Months

by 2012 President Vince Perry

Since the last issue of the *Harmonotes*, HOA has definitely been a very busy chapter and chorus. It all started on Black Friday (Nov. 23, 2012) of all days when HOA joined voices with the *Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines (KCCSA)* and Stage Right Performing Arts in downtown Kansas City's historic Union Station. The event was sponsored by radio station KFKF as they kicked off their 24/7 Sounds of the Season broadcast live from Union Station. HOA Director **Mark Fortino** got to direct the mass chorus (shown at right. Photo courtesy of **Vince Perry**). It was a well attended event and is now set to be an annual celebration. Mark wrote in an email to the chorus the day following the event after reading the coverage on page 4 of the KC Star: "A very proud time to be a member of HOA (75 years strong) and/or the *KC Chorus of the Sweet Adelines* (65 years strong) two of the oldest chapters in the Barbershop world joining together in song making news all over the KC Metro area! Heckuva deal!"



Next up was the Holiday Harmony Spectacular on Dec. 1 starring the combined voices of HOA and the KCCSA. Ticket sales were up this year providing larger and more responsive audiences than in recent years. Emcees **Don Young** and **Sheri Hart** kept the show moving with their humorous segues from group to group. The combined choruses performed seven holiday songs led by directors **Stacy Schumacher** and **Mark Fortino**, and associate directors **Lori Carrender** and **Jerry Garrard**. HOA sang four songs including two crowd favorites: The *Hanukkah Medley* and *Mary Had A Baby*.

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"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

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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!

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Assistant director **Jonathan Andrews** experienced his directorial debut by leading HOA in the song *Caroling Caroling*. He did an outstanding job. The only HOA quartet to perform on the show was *Resonation* with tenor **Craig Wilcox**, lead **Jeff Wolff**, bari **Jake Wozniak** and bass **Jonathan Andrews**, which according to my brother-in law, were "totally awesome!" The main attraction of the show was the incomparable *Vocal Spectrum (VS)* quartet. They wowed the audiences making it one truly to remember! Many thanks to HOA Show Chairman **Barry Sanders** and HOA Director **Mark Fortino** for having the foresight to bring in VS to headline the show. They definitely were a show stopper and a show maker! Wonder if we might have them again next year? Yes, they were that good!

The annual HOA Caroling Caravan was next on the HOA agenda on the Saturday (Dec. 22) before Christmas. For over 60 years HOA has annually rung bells for the Salvation Army during the Christmas season. For the past few years HOA has sung 30-minute



concerts at five retirement homes in the KC area. Long time chorus member **Vince Perry IV** said: "The Caravan is one of the best days of the year for me. It's amazing how quickly the day goes!" Many thanks to HOA/Cody Choraliers quartet *Priorities* (tenor **Tracy Dame**, lead **Jeff Garrard**, bass **Tim Anderson** and bari **Jerry Garrard** pictured above) for singing in every concert throughout the day! Many thanks to the Caroling Caravan Co-chairmen **Bob Burdick** and **Mike Mathieu** for another very successful day of singing & ringing for the Salvation Army. This years' bell ringing efforts brought in nearly twenty thousand dollars! That fills a pretty big red kettle! Congrats to all of HOA for continuing to support this worthwhile service project.

While all of this was going on, behind the scenes the chapter was busy making plans for the new year. Good news came when director **Mark Fortino** announced that he would continue as the director for 2013. Since that announcement he has worked tirelessly at fund raising, contacting world class coaches while planning an aggressive chapter music program for the next year. It was a fun time to be an HOA adminster just to be privy to all the strategies involved in making 2013 a year to remember. Some of the events in the works were so exciting that it was difficult to keep a lid on them until the Annual Banquet in January. For the most part Mark's announcement at the banquet on Jan. 5 was big news to most everyone in attendance. Subsequently Mark broke the news to the world with the following Facebook post: "Last night at the *Heart of America Chorus* Annual Banquet I announced that we have a secure date and time, Dec. 1, 2013, evening show on the main stage of...CARNEGIE HALL! The show will celebrate 75 years of Barbershop Harmony in America featuring the *Heart of America Chorus*, formed in 1938 and...*Vocal Spectrum*, 2006 International Champions! What an experience this is going to be!"



Okay, now back to the banquet. The banquet was a masterpiece of planning and coordination by our 2012 Program Vice President **Jerry Meier**. Everyone enjoyed an excellent plated meal and being in a different venue. This year it was the held in Lenexa, KS Crowne Plaza Hotel, which was a nice change. Emceeding again this

year was **Don Young**, who had a whole year to come up with some more really clever jokes. Thanks, Don, for all you do for *HOA*! The *Heartbeats* installed their new officers making **Marci Brown-Turlin** the president for her second year. No Heartbeat of the Year Award was given for 2012. The installing officer was the 2012 Central States District President **Harvey Kiser** (and his lovely wife, **Janet**). Harvey installed the officers and the board members in honor of the Barbershop Harmony Society's founding fathers. Through his installation the history of the Society unfolded through a unique form of facts and humor. Great job, Harvey! President **John Erwine** followed with an acceptance speech that complimented the past and challenged the future. I remember thinking as he concluded his remarks "That was awesome!" It's going to be a great year with John at the helm.

The finality of the evening was the announcement of the recipients of the annual chapter awards. Many thanks go to Past President **Bruce Wenner** for again heading up the Awards Committee. This year **Jim (Coach) Clark** was awarded the John Cross Award. The Oz Newgard Award for musical excellence went to Assistant Director **Jonathan Andrews**. The Barbershopper of the Year Award went to *HOA* veteran **Rich Huyck**. Congratulations to Rich, Jonathan, and Coach and thanks for all you do for *HOA*! (Above, L to R: **Rich Huyck, Jonathan Andrews, Jim Clark** - photo by **Vince Perry**) And the Joe Stern Lifetime Achievement Award was awarded posthumously to Past International President and baritone of the *Merry Mugs* quartet,



**Bob Gall**. Two of Bob's sons, **Jeff and Joe Gall** graciously accepted the award in honor of their dad. It was a grand evening. Many thanks to **Jerry Meier** for making it happen! (At right, L to R: **Jeff & Joe Gall** - photo by **Carl Turlin**)



Soon after the banquet came our first coaching session with *Vocal Spectrum* baritone **Jonny Moroni**. But before that Jonny was at the BHS's Mid-Winter Convention in Orlando, FL where he directed *The Recruits Chorus*, the Central States District's entry into the Youth Chorus Festival. In that chorus was *HOA*'s own **Kyle Batchelder**. The chorus sang three songs and received an unprecedented standing ovation after each song. **Melladee** and

I were there and it was totally awesome! We were so proud of Kyle and the chorus, which had the highest score in the contest besides being voted Audience Favorite. We also felt privileged to witness the excitement expressed by all the young singers when they sang barbershop. One has to feel confident that the Society is in good hands for many years to come.

**Jonny Moroni** did coach *HOA* on Jan. 29. And did he ever coach! Wow. It was an energized rehearsal from beginning to end and I promise you, nobody got tired. Many thanks to Jonny for raising the bar in *HOA* in very short order. We look forward to his return! Photo (At right, L to R: **Rick Foreman** watches **Jonny Moroni** - Photo by **Joe Mathieu**)



As I bring this article to a close, *HOA* is less than 24 hours away from being coached by yet another world-class coach, the baritone of *Crossroads*, **Brandon Guyton**! And there are more coaches on the way! Guess it takes practice and lots of great coaches to make it to Carnegie Hall! Finally everything in this piece has taken place in the Winter of *HOA*. Think what will happen in the upcoming *HOA* Spring and *HOA* Summer? Just these thoughts should be enough to warm a person through the rest of winter! You've got to love the *Heart of America Chorus and Chapter*! (Did I fail to mention that *HOA* and the *Barbershop Harmony Society* are celebrating their 75th Anniversary in 2013? Oh, yeah!) ♥



## Bob Gall Becomes 4th Joe Stern Honoree



Bob Gall

At the Jan. 5 HOA Installation and Awards Banquet, Awards Committee Chairman **Bruce Wenner** surprised the assemblage at the end of the evening with some unusual news: a rare award. For only the fourth time in Kansas City Chapter history, the chapter's highest honor would be presented. Bruce called the honor roll of the previous recipients of the Joe Stern Lifetime Achievement Award: the late **Gil Lefholz**, **Dan Henry Bowser** and **Jim Bagby**.

Dan and Jim then announced that the fourth honoree is the late **Robert D. "Bob" Gall**, former chapter, district and Society president. Two of Bob's three sons, **Joe** and **Jeff**, were on hand to receive the trophy on behalf of the family. No. 3 son **Jim**, who sang with with Bob when HOA competed at international in 1979, had just been in town for a long run of "Christmas Carol" and had returned to his Seattle home.

Joe and Jeff recounted how much barbershopping had meant to their family. They recalled the joy of their family vacation trips to international conventions every year. Jeff said the Sundays after the HOA annual shows were the only ones they did not have to go to church, because the afterglows lasted so late. And Joe sent us this letter the following day: *"Thank you for honoring our dad and keeping the memory of **Bob and Harriett Gall** alive. It was a great evening and I am so glad you invited us. Although I didn't become a barbershopper, it has had a big – positive – impact on my life. We definitely want to come to the April 13 show, so give me a heads up when tickets go on sale."*

### Here is the presentation of the Stern award, starting with Jim:

If this award had been created earlier, tonight's honoree might well have been the first recipient. He was one of those guys you meet and instinctively like. He was a good thinker, wonderful conversationalist interspersed frequently by his deep bass laugh, one of the best businessmen in the metro area, a dedicated husband, great father and later a championship grandfather.

He loved people, quartetting, sports, the outdoors, and he was devoted to the Kansas City Chapter for the 46 years he was a member, until his death in 1995. At his funeral, music was provided by two championship quartets from the Kansas City Chapter.

If there is such a thing as a born leader, he exemplified it. He and his active, equally talented and successful Sweet Adeline wife raised three sons: a prominent lawyer, an award-winning university professor and a versatile, beloved actor. I asked people what they remembered best or admired most about this guy, and this is the composite that emerged:

*(Continued on page 6 ➡)*

## 2012 Barbershopper Of The Year Rich Huyck

by Bruce Wenner, Awards Committee Chairman



The Barbershopper Of The Year Award is sort of an MVP award – but for more than one year – long and distinguished service over many years. Who could be a more appropriate BOTY than **Rich Huyck**? For a start, consider his activities this year. He contributes his computer expertise to administer the HOA email list (and has

for as long as we've had one of those), sets up video equipment when we're having a slide show (again, for a number of years), continues his activities as show ticket chairman (possibly the most demanding job in the chapter), has just re-upped as Chapter Secretary, and in his spare time he's always pitching in on other chapter chores (like the annual garage sale, for example). Then consider that he's been doing this sort of thing in HOA for almost forty years!

Actually, Rich has been barbershopping for much longer. As a teenager Rich competed in the Toledo, Ohio chorus at the 1957 International Chorus Contest in Los Angeles. That's twenty-two years before any of the rest of us competed in an International Chorus Contest – *Heart Of America's* first appearance was in 1979 in Minneapolis. Don't ask Rich how old he is, though!

Rich has also made huge musical contributions to the chapter. He is one of the finest musicians in the chorus, and serves on the Music Team, has been the baritone section leader or assistant section leader for years, and is once again blowing the pitch for the chorus. Over the years Rich has sung in some excellent quartets, including *Command Performance* (currently), 3<sup>rd</sup> place International Senior Quartet *Gentlemen Of Note*, and 1986 CSD Quartet Champions *K.C. Connection*. All of those quartets have been very supportive of the chapter – they have been exactly the kind of quartet that a chapter needs, especially in filling quartet spots on chapter singouts.

The only surprise expressed by chapter members at the 2012 BOTY went like this: "Rich Huyck? I thought he must have gotten the award before now." We thought so too! Well, he's got it now, and rich-ly deserved! ♥

Photo courtesy of Carl Turlin

## Coach Wins 2012 John Cross Award

by Bruce Wenner, Awards Committee Chairman



The John Cross Award goes to the man who comes closest to the standards of the late **John Cross**. This starts with attendance at chapter meetings and functions – John maintained perfect attendance through most of his 40+ years of *HOA* membership. John also was the first man to step forward to do the little chapter jobs that have to be done, but nobody wants to do them. For example, throughout his long tenure with *HOA* John functioned as a one-man house committee – he always had the meeting room set up by the starting time, and restored to its original condition shortly after the meeting's end. Beyond that, John was known as “Mr. Coffee” (why, no one knows – that stuff he served was a long way from being coffee), and he was a great barmaid at the afterglow.

Our 2012 winner of the John Cross Award, **Jim Clark**, is an excellent fit for the award. Jim, known affectionately as “Coach”, is always on hand and ready to pitch in. He had the best attendance during the last two months of 2011 and the first ten months of 2012 (we use that time frame to coordinate with the Annual Chapter Dinner, at which we give the awards). In fact, he attended every chapter function except the ones in Portland, in which he could not participate because of an injury.

Most of our John Cross Award winners have been members for a long time. Jim is an 8-year member of *HOA* and the Society; that he could be a John Cross awardee is a testament to the way he has made himself indispensable to the chapter in that relatively short time period. And he pitches in with enthusiasm and good cheer; Jim definitely has a sunny personality. Sunny personality – hmm. Not quite a John Cross personality (Has John Cross ever been accused of having a sunny personality?!), but which would you rather have in the guy working shoulder to shoulder with you?

Jim is the first to the meeting, and the last to leave. He has now taken on the additional responsibility of Operations VP for the chapter. This man has earned the award many times over, as recognized by the applause at the banquet when presenter John Erwine said “Coach, will you please come forward to receive the award.” ❤️

Photo courtesy of Carl Turlin

## Ozzie Award to Jonathan Andrews!

by Bruce Wenner, Awards Committee Chairman

As the 2011 Ozzie Award recipient, *Tone-Henge* had the pleasure of presenting the 2012 award to a most deserving singer, **Jonathan Andrews**, at our annual chapter dinner. A musical presentation seemed appropriate, so we used our roast number, *Chocolate Whiskey And Vanilla Gin*, with custom lines from ‘Ol Dan, which came out like this:

### (Bruce)

Starting in 1989,  
*Rural Route 4* made a trophy fine,  
Honoring Ozzie, who, in his day  
Gave musical service to *HOA*

### (Dan)

You’ve heard the names that have won so far  
Gotta be pretty good to make the bar,  
Maybe you noticed, and this is nice  
The guys in *Tone Henge* are listed TWICE !

### (Keith)

Back to the business of adding a name  
The 20-12 Ozzie hall of fame  
This guy’s good, sings all 4 parts  
And teaches the chorus to sing with heart

### (Jim)

His musical background is a neat feature  
Quartet guy and great music teacher  
And each chorus member is his fan,

**(ALL) Jonathan Andrews**, You da MAN !

At this point the room erupted in applause – it was clear that Jonathan was a very popular choice. In addition to his accomplishments cited in song, his service has been stellar as both baritone section leader and assistant director. His success in these positions has led to his being named the Topeka Chapter Chorus Director. Fortunately, we will continue to benefit from his contributions; Jonathan plans to remain active in *HOA* as he assumes his new duties in Topeka.

It was great to see Jonathan’s family in attendance at the annual dinner – they got to see the love and respect his chapter brothers have for him. Hats off to our 2012 Mr. Music! ❤️



Photo courtesy of Vince Perry

(Continued from page 5) Imagine the wisdom of **Dr. Dale Neuman**, the kind and questioning nature of **Don Fuson**, the dedication of **Vince Perry**, the no-nonsense approach of **Keith Schweer**, the determination of **Mike Mathieu**, the quiet calculation of **Dr. Bruce Wenner** and **Dan Henry's** sense of humor.

It sounds almost too good to be true until I tell you, with the greatest of pride, the recipient of the 2012 Joe Stern Award is **Robert D. Gall**.

### [At this point, Dan Henry takes over]

Bob grew up on a farm near Lathrop, about 40 miles north of Kansas City, harmonizing with his mother, **Adeline**, his dad, brother and sister. He sang four-part harmony in high school, and later, in the Army in 1943. He sang in a quartet with **Mike Mitchell** while they trained at KU. Mike was **Dennis Taylor's** brother-in-law. Both Mike and Dennis were members of our KC chapter. Mike also was a director of the Overland Park Chapter (then known as NOJOCO) and Dennis was a past president of our chapter.

After the war, while Bob and his brother Bill were in college at MU, they sang together in a quartet called the "Four Roses."

After he graduated from college, Bob moved to KC and joined our chapter in 1949. He served on our board in '52 and '53, was chapter secretary in '54 and '55, chapter president in '56, Central States District secretary in 1962 and '63, then district president in '64 and '65. Also he was our chapter Man of the Year (they called it then) in 1955, and district Barbershopper of the Year in '66.

He kept moving up, to the Society International Board in '66, International vice president in '67 and '68, becoming international president in 1969.

And it didn't take long for members to recognize his bass-singing ability. After joining our chapter, he was invited to join a quartet almost immediately: the "Rudy Fick Royalties." The quartet even made it to the international stage in the early '50s. Later quartets included the "Crosstowners" and the "KC Moners," both of those with **Frank Leone** and **Dennis Taylor**. He and **Harriett** also sang with **Frank and Charleen Leone** in the "Couple Chords."

Then in '59, some less-talented character named Bowser moved to Kansas City from the Topeka chapter, and was fortunate enough to join Bob, Dennis and Frank in a quartet that lasted 10 years -- 15 years if you count the "coming out of retirement" appearances. It was a comedy group known as the "Merry Mugs." The singing was so-so (got second place in the district once), but the audience's uproarious laughter kept 'em going -- to over 40 states, and two trips overseas etc etc. (ad libbing).

Just before the quartet retired, Bob became our Society President, in 1969, the first of two International presidents from our chapter, **Gil Lefholz** being the other. And another one, **Don Fuson**, will soon become the third from KC. Maybe only one other chapter, back in the early Society days, can claim that honor.

Even after being Society President, Bob wasn't through quartetting. With **Jim Bagby**, **Manley Vance** and yours truly, he formed a quartet called "Hubbub" that was active in the early '90s and was a fore-runner of "Tone-Henge."

Unforgettable, talented, efficient, likeable, Bob Gall, friend to everyone, even Joe Stern! ♥

## My HOA by Carter Combs



**Celebrating 75 years** invites remembrances... how about we share some of ours? I'll start. My own history with *HOA* starts long, long before I became a member of this chapter in 2001.

Sometime in the early to mid-1970s, I recall attending an *HOA* show at the Music Hall. My memory of the event is sporadic... I know specifically that my mom, a long-time *Sweet Adeline*, was there, as well as other members of my family, but I just don't know which ones. I don't remember who was the featured quartet, or if we went to the afterglow. What sticks in my mind, after all these years, is one song... *I Believe*. I wasn't familiar with the song previously, but the lyric and the emotional delivery were such that the moment is still alive in my memory some 40 years later.

Fast-forward to spring of 1980... I was out of college, working my first "real" job, and needed a creative outlet. After years of theatre and singing in school, I was looking for an opportunity to perform again. Remembering my high school quartet, and that wonderful performance of *I Believe*, I looked up *HOA*. I showed up at a rehearsal, and was immediately recruited into a Spring Fling quartet for a contest scheduled a few weeks later. My new found quartet (I wish I could recall who they were!) quickly arranged some rehearsal time, and I also attended chorus rehearsals until "contest" week.

To be honest, I don't recall singing in the contest. Maybe one of our members got sick and we scratched, or we sang and it wasn't very good. Heck, maybe we won! It doesn't really matter. What I recall is the instant acceptance and camaraderie. I was hooked and ready to sign up. But, I had found out that same week that my new job was transferring me to Pensacola for six months, so I decided to wait to join until I returned.

Six months turned into almost 20 years. Once I determined I would be in Pensacola for a while, I decided to join the society and chorus down there. When **Jeffi** & I moved back to KC, *HOA* was my first destination.

How about you? What are your early memories of *HOA*? ♥

# CAROLING CARAVAN 2012



Mike Mathieu explains the the HOA's Salvation Army bell ringing mission.



HOA directed by Mark Fortino



*Tone Henge* L to R: Dan Bowser, Keith Schweer, Jim Bagby, Bruce Wenner



*Priorities* L to R: Tracy Dame, Jeff Garrard, Tim Anderson, Jerry Garrard



Dan Henry entertains the crowd



HOA in The Atriums

Photos courtesy of Don Fuson

# 75 Years — Let the Good Times Roll!

by John Erwine, President



This is going to be a great year; one to be remembered. For both the Music and Administrative teams, we have one rock-solid principle to rely on: that this is a healthy and vibrant chapter! Kansas City was chartered as the

second chapter of what would be known as the *Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. (SPEBSQSA)* on June 18, 1938. It was personally chartered by **O.C. Cash** and a very lively group of singers who made the trip from Tulsa. We own the track record of a 75-year history rich with tradition, vision, accomplishment, leadership and fellowship. Much of what we have been involved with has been on the leading edge of the Society.

- **Joseph Stern**, the chapter's second Director, served on the first Society Board and other notable positions.
- We have produced two Society presidents: **Robert Gall** and **Gilbert Leftholz**. And now we have a third in the wings, our own **Don Fuson**, recently elected as the Society's executive vice president.
- We are the only chapter in the Society either ambitious or crazy enough to have hosted six international conventions.
- We have won 13 Central States District championships — but we didn't get started until 1978.
- We have competed 22 times (so far) in international competition.
- The *Merry Mugs* quartet (of **Dan Henry Bowser** fame) was the first chosen by the Society to make a USO tour of the Pacific in the 1968 Vietnam era, and among the first group of foursomes to sing for the Navy at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- The *Rural Route 4*, then representing the Kansas City and Cass County chapters, won the international quartet gold at Salt Lake City in 1986.

While these are all extraordinary accomplishments in their own right, there are also some which are equally rewarding, of value, and worth mentioning:

- Our little marbles game we play each week. Harmony Foundation over the last 12 years has received \$27,478 from those playing it.
- Since the late 1940's we've been singing Christmas Carols during the Holidays for the Salvation Army. In 2011 we collected just short of \$25,000, a national first according to the Salvation Army, for one group in just one day. Last year, 2012, just short of \$17,000.

- How about the fundraiser for the Central State's youth group, *The Recruits*, to help fund their expenses to the Mid-Winter convention in Orlando. The *Heart of America* membership stepped up to the plate and volunteered to host it. And at that event, wasn't it a treat to see how they placed and how they were received; champion of the AA Division and named Audience Favorite!
- Our Harmony Explosion program, where we expose youth to a capella style barbershop harmony, then hold both a boys and girls quartet finalist contest at Olathe East High School. Last year more than 220 kids participated. We anticipate this year's participants will exceed 300, and are expecting upwards of 30 boys and 30 girls finalist quartets. The winners then get to perform on stage at our spring show. Also involved are *HOA* quartets and other volunteers that present themselves to the schools during the year in support of this program. So how important is our support of the youth movement? I'd say critically important.



- The annual Singing Valentine event which goes to help support Children's Mercy Hospital speech and hearing departments.
- The twice monthly food donations to St. Peter's United Church of Christ food pantry where we hold our weekly meetings.
- The Holiday Harmony Spectacular each December helps support the U.S. Marine Corp Toys for Tots program with toy donations.
- Also successful, the United in Harmony concert held at the Midland Theater kicking off the 2011 International Convention in Kansas City for the *New Zealand Vocal FX Chorus* and the *Musical Island Boys*. A huge amount of very appreciative good-will effort went into that major undertaking.

- How about the Heartbeats and all the effort and support they have and continue to devote to the success of *Heart of America*. Thank you, Ladies!
- The *New Harmony Handful* who lends their time primarily during the summer months by filling in for church choirs while they are on vacation; also assisted living, nursing and retirement facilities. Even a recent Honor Flight send-off at KCI Airport.
- And we certainly do put on great annual shows and golf tournaments that integrate the public into our life circle.

In the months ahead I see good times reinforced by continuing those traditions under a much revitalized membership, and concentrating on the great annual events and opportunities that make *HOA* what it is today. This is going to be one busy and exciting year; one where we will be very visible. At this time we have at least 13 events on the calendar in the next coming 11 months. I've had numerous long-time members tell me they can't remember that many events in one year — ever!

- National Conference of Masonic Grand Masters
- Swingle Singers lobby concert
- Harmony Explosion at Olathe East High School
- 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Show
- Spring Convention in McPherson, KS
- 75<sup>th</sup> Society Celebration at the Muehlebach Hotel where the Founder's Plaque still hangs
- Featured entertainment at the St. Joe Chapter annual show
- Performance at Corbin Theater, Performing Arts Center
- Annual Concert in the Park in Overland Park Gazebo
- Host and compete in the Fall Convention in Kansas City
- Carnegie Hall performance in New York City
- Holiday Harmony Spectacular
- Caroling Caravan for Salvation Army

So you see we've got a lot of hard work, and, a lot of fun ahead of us. Yes, this is a healthy and vibrant chapter. No question, we will continue to be a leader in the Central Sates District and the Barbershop Harmony Society for the next 75 years. ♥

## **"Heartbeats"**

**Some motive there is in music  
Which whispers soft themes  
Of desires and dreams;  
Or thunders grand melodies  
Of passions and victories.**

**Some gift there is in harmony  
With voices unique  
In concert will speak  
With subtle variation  
Or vast orchestration,  
To balance and blend  
Both music and friend.**

**Some talent there is in our hearts  
Which hears the song  
And, in hearing,  
Is filled.**

**The music seeks,  
And, with harmony, completes  
Our heartbeats.**

- Carter Combs, January 2013

In honor and recognition of the *HOA Heartbeats*, and all our loved ones who have supported the men of *HOA* during our first 75 years.



## **Happy New Year from your HOA Heartbeats!**

by Marci Brown-Turlin, President, HOA Heartbeats



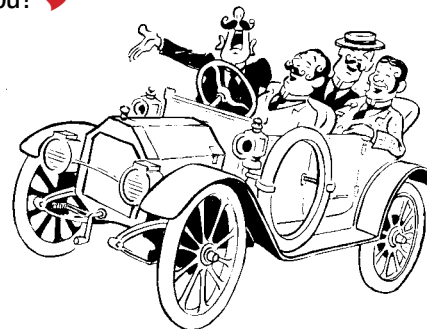
**Welcome back, gentlemen!** We hope you had a blessed and restful holiday break and have returned to your Tuesday night rehearsals with renewed energy and commitment.

Your *Heartbeats* want to invite you to consider making an additional commitment...to Harmony University and we'd like to help you get there! For those of you who are looking for an opportunity to hone your skills, this is it!

Harmony University will be July 28 - August 4, 2013. If you have never been before, please consider attending this year...and apply for our scholarship! Yes, *Heartbeats* covers half the cost of your registration and *HOA* covers the other half! We'll be making our selection soon, in order to announce our scholarship recipient on March 12. Not much time, so get busy now! Check your calendar! Block off the week of July 28 through August 4 for Harmony University! Fill out the application and submit it to **Marci Brown-Turlin** by Tuesday, March 12.



If you want to hear what you would be getting out of the experience, please talk with **Jake Wozniak**, who was our 2012 scholarship recipient. Other *HOA*ers who have attended and can tell stories include **Carl Turlin, Don Fuson, Jim Bagby, Tom Elefson, David Krause, Mike Mathieu, and Jerry Gerrard**. I look forward to reviewing your (many) scholarship applications and handing over some big bucks to...someone! Why not you? ♥



# HOA AWARDS BANQUET



**Top row, L to R:** Heartbeats Marci Brown-Turlin and Jana Henderson preparing banquet decor; Emcee Don Young and outgoing HOA President Vince Perry primping before the big show; Heartbeats Jana Henderson and Jeffi Combs decorating the banquet room. **Above, L to R:** Jim Bagby congratulating Jerry Garrard on receiving his Certified Director certificate; Jonathan Andrews with *Tone Henge* after receiving his Oz Newgard Award.

**Below, L to R:** Rich Huyck accepts the well deserved 2012 Barbershopper of the Year from Bruce Wenner; Sons Jeff and Joe Gall accept the rarely-awarded Joe Stern Award posthumously for their father, Barbershopper Extraordinaire Bob Gall, from Jim Bagby and Dan Henry Bowser; Newly elected HOA President John Erwine presents the richly deserved John Cross Award to Jim (Coach) Clark. **Bottom row, L to R:** The quartet *Premium Blend* entertain the banquet attendees with great chords, as always!; Jonathan Andrews shares his recognition with his family in attendance.

Photos courtesy of Carl Turlin



# HOA AWARDS BANQUET



**Top row, L to R:** David Jobe presents his wife Sharon and his friend Ethan Platt; The Schweers, Bagbys, Bowers and Mike Schumacher visit with Jeff and Joe Gall.

**At left, top to bottom:** Joe Gall chats with Mike Schumacher; District President Harvey Kiser addresses the banquet attendees.

**Above, right:** Jonathan Andrews with his proud family members.

Photos courtesy of Carl Turlin

# Heart of America

# Harmony Explosion! 2013

## YOUR Chance to Contribute in a Positive Way!

**Who:** YOU!

**What:** Harmony Explosion! 2013

**When:** Saturday, March 2 from 8am to 5pm

**Where:** Olathe East High School  
14545 W. 127th Olathe, KS 66062

**How can I help?**

**ANSWER:** Volunteer your time and sing with your Chorus!

Contact **Jerry Meier** in any one of the following ways: [jmeier@kgptel.com](mailto:jmeier@kgptel.com); [LILHOSSKS@aol.com](mailto:LILHOSSKS@aol.com); 913-393-6733 Work; 913-780-1822 Home; 913-226-5394 Mobile.

I want to invite YOU to participate in a very exciting opportunity – **Harmony Explosion! 2013** – to be held at Olathe East High School on Saturday, March 2.

**Harmony Explosion!** is a one-day clinic that introduces Middle School and High School students and teachers (and family members and friends) to the 4-part a cappella harmonic sounds created by singing Barbershop style music.

The *Kansas City Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society* and the *Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines* join forces to sponsor this event, to be held for the 17th consecutive year.

Harmony Explosion! includes vocal music activities for students that wish to sing Barbershop music in quartets or in larger groups – with a common goal to promote 4-part a cappella singing in a friendly environment that encourages participation and performance with plenty of support and fun!

- **Goal #1** – get the students to sing Barbershop music on stage!
- **Goal #2** – get the students excited about singing Barbershop music and Barbershop Tags on their own, with their friends, when they leave the event!
- **Goal #3** – get the students to understand that Barbershop music is a life-long hobby – they can participate in school, in college, as young adults, and throughout their lifetime.
- **Goal #4** – provide excellence in vocal music singing through demonstration and education with wonderful Featured Quartets: *ZING!* and *Premium Blend*.
- **Goal #5** – introduce the *Heart of America Barbershop Chorus* and the *Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines* to the students, the teachers, the family and friends.

Getting the students to sing on stage is a HUGE accomplishment. It builds character and self-confidence, improves their self-esteem, and teaches responsibility and accountability using

Barbershop Music as the vehicle for fun! Getting the message about Barbershop being a life-long hobby that can be enjoyed by all levels of talent, ability, age their entire lifetimes!

There have been several new and exciting changes made to the 2013 program. Here are a few of them:

**Problem:** 6th, 7th & 8th grade students competing against Freshmen. Sophomores competing against Juniors and Seniors. This was not a motivating factor to promote participation.

**Solution:** Created three (3) Divisions to promote fair competition: 8th Grade and Under; 10th Grade and Under; 12th Grade and Under. ***This will minimize the “unfair advantage” that older students have when competing against much younger students.***

**Problem:** 6th, 7th & 8th grade students were not mature enough (physically or mentally) to sing in a quartet of 4, and/or not responsible enough to sing in an octet of 8; octets had to cancel because not all 8 parts could sing together.

**Solution:** Middle School students in the 8th Grade Division can sing in a Quartet of 4 or a Group of 5, 6, 7, or 8 singers, as long as not more than 2 sing the same part (cannot have 3 basses or 3 leads in a group). ***This will promote participation among these students and give them the opportunity to sing on stage.***

**Problem:** The students did not enjoy learning a chorus song and singing that song after the finals.

**Solution:** New in 2013 – the students will learn tags to sing in a Tag Contest after the finals, before the award ceremony. ***Tags will be used as the vehicle to teach the students about proper singing techniques and methods – imagine that: learning how to sing tags correctly! And the students will be able to take home and share their tag singing experiences!***

**Problem:** The students did not “learn” much about the Barbershop style of music and how it can create harmony with very good quality.

**Solution:** New in 2013 – ***the morning Breakout Session (30 minutes) will focus on vocal warm-ups (techniques and methods)*** to get the students ready to perform in the Prelims; tags will be introduced to them in this morning session. ***The afternoon Breakout Session (30 minutes) will focus on singing tags for the Tag Contest*** after the finals.

**Problem:** Some Divisions in the past qualified quartets for the finals that should not have been allowed to sing.

**Solution:** New in 2013 – the finals have been modified to account for three (3) Divisions. As a result, a matrix was created to determine how many quartets qualify for the finals, based on the number of quartets in each Division: **a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 5 quartets can qualify in each Division. The Finals can have a minimum of 18 to a maximum of 30 Quartets!** (BTW – Finals start at 1:30pm).

**Problem:** In the past, my students have sung in two different rooms; why can't they sing in the same room so I can see all of their performances and provide feedback to them?

**Solution:** The three (3) Divisions will sing in two venues (same as last year). All Middle School students (**8th Grade and Under**) will sing in the **Drama Theater**. All Freshmen and Sophomores (**10th Grade and Under**) will sing in the **Main Auditorium**. Only the Juniors and Seniors (12th Grade and Under) will sing in separate rooms, but at different times. This schedule will be alternated between even and odd years going forward.

**Problem:** Male Barbershoppers judged the boys and female Sweet Adelines judged the girls in the Prelims, but a combined panel was used for the finals. That is a different process – does it have an impact on scoring in the finals?

**Solution:** New for 2013 – the three (3) Divisions sing in two venues in the Prelims. Boys and girls groups will sing in each of these rooms. A panel of 2 Barbershoppers and 2 Sweet Adelines in each room will judge them. The Finals are held in the Main Auditorium and will be judged by a double panel 4 Barbershoppers and 4 Sweet Adelines. **There is no difference in how the groups are judged in the Prelims and the Finals.**

**Problem:** It seemed like every group in the finals received a Gold Medal.

**Solution:** Awards will be given to the Quartets or Groups, based on the highest total scores, according to the following criteria:

**Gold:** 1,020 to 1,200 total points (> 85%)

**Silver:** 900 to 1,019 total points (75% to 84%)

**Bronze:** 780 to 899 total points (65% to 74%)

**Problem:** I never know which quartet is singing, or which quartet is next on the schedule, or where the quartet will sing.

**Solution:** Students will be encouraged to use social media to tweet about the event and the happenings of the day! I plan to post the singing schedule so students, teachers, family and friends can visit our website or twitter to get updates throughout the day. More details will come on this topic...



### The Schedule of the Day is planned as follows:

8:00am	Opening Session – Main Auditorium
9:03am	<b>Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines</b>
9:10am	Welcome and General Announcements
9:15am	<b>Quartet Performance (ZING!)</b>
9:30am	Break-out Session (Vocal Warm-ups / Tags) Boys – Main Auditorium · Girls – Drama Theater
10:00am	Preliminary Quartet Competitions Main Auditorium: 10th Boys/10th Girls/Senior Boys Drama Theater: Senior Girls/8th Boys/8th Girls
11:54am	<b>Heart of America Chorus</b> (Main Auditorium)
12:00pm	Quartet Finals Announcement!
12:15pm	Lunch in the Commons Area
12:45pm	<b>Quartet Performance (Premium Blend)</b>
1:00pm	Break-out Session (Vocal Technique / Tags) Girls – Main Auditorium · Boys – Drama Theater
1:30pm	Quartet Finals – Main Auditorium
4:30pm	Girls / Boys Tag Contest (Main Auditorium)
4:45pm	Awards Ceremony – Main Auditorium



The actual schedule will be determined by the total number of quartets that register. The new format requires the finals to begin at 1:30pm. The prelims should start at 10am. Other than that, all other times are approximate. Every effort will be made to stay on track.

What can you do to help? Please volunteer. Show up on that Saturday and be ready to assist the students, the teachers, the guests, the judges, the Contest Administrators, the ushers, the chaperones, the custodial staff, the event staff, and yes, even the Security Guard! ♥

# Coaching a HARMONY EXPLOSION! QUARTET



Interested in Coaching a Quartet? That is probably the biggest feature that can help a young quartet succeed on stage! Coaching the Harmony Explosion quartets will start the week of January 28 and continue for five (5) weeks.

Most of the quartets have to rehearse before school, starting at 715am, because these fine young students are involved in after-school clubs and sporting activities. Quartets that can rehearse after school start singing at 315pm, but the majority of the quartets will rehearse before school starts.

Coaching is easy – just take the **Mike Slamka** approach – share what you have heard from so many other fine coaches! It's easier than you think – all YOU have to do is give it a try. And it's so much fun!

Your presence with a young group in a coaching session will help the students work out the problem spots in their songs. With repetition and lots of encouragement, the students will be able to perform their songs on the Harmony Explosion! stage with confidence, and they will be ever so thankful for your input.

Please consider to volunteer your time to coach and encourage these young quartets – just 30 minutes on a school day can make a huge difference in their ability to sing on stage.

Contact **Jerry Meier** in any one of the following ways:

[jmeier@kgptel.com](mailto:jmeier@kgptel.com); [LILHOSSKS@aol.com](mailto:LILHOSSKS@aol.com);

913-393-6733 Work;

913-780-1822 Home;

913-226-5394 Mobile. ♥

## HOA Financial Corner

by Kent Miller

*Following is a repeat of a 2011 Harmonotes article (updated). We thought it appropriate in light of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (ATRA). Truman Heartland Community Foundation (where we have established our endowment Fund) has given us the highlights of how ATRA will be favorable to charitable giving. Their article follows this one.*

### YOU CAN HELP AND LEAVE A LEGACY!

We thought it appropriate in light of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (ATRA). Truman Heartland Community Foundation (where we have established our endowment Fund) has given us the highlights of how ATRA will be favorable to charitable giving. Their article follows this one. You can leave a legacy and help Heart of America help Kansas City! HOA established an endowment Fund in 2009, the purpose of which is to provide an endowment from which we can draw annual income to support all of the various activities of our Chapter. These include our Harmony Explosion program for Middle and High School students, our annual performance to raise funds for the Salvation Army (which has raised over \$42,000 in the last two years), and our annual Singing Valentines program from which part of the proceeds go to Children's Mercy Hospital.

The funds also help support our Chorus in District and International competitions. Our consistent high standings in these competitions have enabled us to attract an average of three District Conventions and an International Convention each decade to Kansas City. The next District Convention will be in Kansas City in October of 2013. These conventions have brought an estimated \$50,000,000 to the Kansas City area in the last 50 years.

Because of these efforts, your investment in us is also an investment in Kansas City. We are a 501(3) (c) non-profit organization, so all contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information, please contact **Kent Miller**, [kmiller268@aol.com](mailto:kmiller268@aol.com). ♥



# Charitable Giving and the ATRA

On January 1, 2013, both the Senate and House passed the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (ATRA). The bill includes a number of provisions that will be favorable for philanthropy and charitable giving. Because ATRA changes multiple existing tax rules, the benefits of charitable giving will be readily apparent to many friends of philanthropy.

**IRA Charitable Rollover** — Since 2006, IRA owners age 70½ and older have been able to make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) up to \$100,000 each year. ATRA extends and expands this option for 2012 and 2013. There are three categories of potential donors.

First, some individuals in 2012 made gifts directly from their IRA custodian to charities with the hope that the law would be retroactive. These gifts are qualified retroactive to January 1, 2012.

Second, individuals who did not make an IRA gift in 2012 can do so during January of 2013. This is similar to 2011, when it was possible to do an IRA gift for the prior year in January and a second IRA gift in the remaining 11 months of the year. If an individual has not made an IRA gift in 2012, this allows a generous person to make two IRA gifts in 2013.

Third, many individuals had hoped to do an IRA gift in 2012, but in December of 2012 received their IRA required minimum distribution (RMD). If these individuals transfer those funds to charity during January of 2013, they will not report the

IRA distribution as income. Because the IRA distribution is not included in income, there is not an added charitable tax deduction. Effectively, the gift of cash from your December 2012

IRA distribution converts it into a 2012 IRA gift. But this cash gift must be done during January of 2013.

**Income Tax Rates** — The existing tax brackets of 10%, 15%, 25%, 28%, 33% and 35% will be extended. There is a new

**Alternative Minimum Tax** — The alternative minimum tax was initially intended to cover only high-income persons. However, with the increase in incomes, AMT continued to apply to larger and larger numbers of individuals. ATRA sets a permanent indexed AMT exemption amount. For 2012, the amounts will be \$78,750 for married couples and \$50,600 for single persons.

**Gift and Estate Taxes** — Marital portability and the \$5 million (with indexed increases) applicable exclusion amount for gift and estate taxes are made permanent. The top rate for gift and estate taxes is 40%.

**Itemized Deduction Limits** — In prior years, there were limitations on itemized deductions that were called the “Pease” limits. The deductions over a floor are reduced by 3% of the adjusted gross income of the taxpayer.

**Personal Exemption Limits** — The personal exemption phase-out will be reinstated for married couples with AGI over \$300,000 and single persons with \$250,000 of AGI.

**Summary** — ATRA was on balance fairly kind to philanthropy. Donors with higher incomes and larger capital gains tax bills will find new reasons to engage in charitable planning. The probable level of interest in gift planning education and concepts by donors and their professional tax advisors will significantly increase during 2013. ♥



39.6% bracket for married persons with \$450,000 of taxable income, heads of household with \$425,000 and single persons with \$400,000 of taxable income.

**Long-Term Capital Gains** — The capital gains rate of 0% for those in the 10% and 15% bracket and 15% for those in most higher brackets will be extended. However, individuals who are subject to the 39.6% tax bracket will have a 20% capital gain rate. In addition, because capital gains for those with incomes over \$250,000 married or \$200,000 single will be subject to the 3.8% Medicare tax, the capital gains rate for upper-income persons will be 23.8%.

## Storm Front Update

by John Braden

*Storm Front*, the 2010 International champion quartet, performed Jan. 20 in Chillicothe, Mo. to a local crowd of between 500 and 600 people at the Gary Dickinson Performing Arts Center.

Chillicothe, population 8,970, is a county seat town about 90 miles northeast of Kansas City at the intersection of U.S. 36 and U.S. 65.

The Rocky Mountain District quartet has connections to the area. Lead **Jim Clark** and bass **Syd Libsack** both attended Northwest Missouri State University at Maryville, while baritone **Darin Drown** taught high school in St. Joseph.

The quartet went the extra mile to perform at Chillicothe. Tenor **Jeff Solano's** father died a few days earlier. *Storm Front* flew to Toronto to sing at his funeral, then had to scramble to find flights to get back to Kansas City and on to Chillicothe in time for the show. **Julia Ashbrook**, administrator of the Chillicothe Area Arts Council, said she appreciated the quartet coming through for the community.

The audience was unaware of that fact when *Storm Front* sang a tribute on the show to their barbershopper fathers, "What a Wonderful World." Solano's father sang with the *Dukes of Harmony*, while Clark, Libsack and Drown's fathers all sang in the Rocky Mountain District quartet *Chordial Celebration*.

*Storm Front* appeared as part of the 2012-2013 program of events sponsored by the Chillicothe Area Arts Council ([www.chillicothearts.com](http://www.chillicothearts.com)). With the exception of one Kansas City barbershopper family and one St. Joseph Sweet Adeline family it appeared the 500-plus crowd was entirely local people.

The Gary Dickinson Performing Arts Center was built in 2000 based on the design of the Barbara Landes Performing Arts Center at Blue Springs South High School. The 840-seat theater has a state-of-the-art sound system and modern design.

Mrs. Ashbrook said the arts council has a tight budget but is always looking for performing groups and expressed interest in hosting a performance by the *Heart of America Chorus*. She added Chillicothe schools have an active choral music program and that she would point out to local music educators the Harmony Explosion link on the *HOA* Internet site. ♥

## Handful Get Reorganized, New Outfit

by Marty "Oly" Oldehoeft

New Music, New Uniform, New Titles, New Listeners and a New Year for the *New Harmony Handful*.

We have one rehearsal in our pocket for 2013. That meeting included music choices for the upcoming year, both of which songs to keep and which to exclude for awhile. Nineteen guys and 50-some-odd opinions, but we made some choices that pleased the majority. Always good to add a little freshness. So with several new songs coming, both our group and the listeners will have some different tunes to hear.

With the new year also comes a new look. Yep! A long-sleeve shirt has been added to our attire, which will give us a more season-appropriate uniform for winter performances. It's kind of a deep maroon color and will have the *NHH* logo embroidered on it, same as our other shirt and our rust blazers. Again, fresh. This will give some of the guys a chance to launder their short sleeve teal shirt before summer.

Our executive committee has met and decided on a slightly more formal administration. **Tony Strub**, who has had the responsibility but no title, is now official Chorus Manager, and **Jim Davis** is his assistant. Equally important, now that **Wendell Shaffer** has joined *NHH* to give us a second tenor, **Lyle Wyly** has agreed to become assistant director. If necessary, he can handle a performance in the absence of head arm-waver **Jim Bagby** and Wendell can carry the tenor "section."

Thanks to Tony, we have outings already scheduled for this year and more pending before we get into the "church choir relief season." Most of our singing of late has been to folks at nursing homes, retirement communities and adult day care. This has proven to be rewarding for the residents and for us as well.

I know I speak for all of us when I say we are blessed to be able to bring the joy of music to these folks. ♥



## Command Performance

It has been quite a long spell since we have been seen in the *Harmonotes*. *Command Performance* has not been as active the past 12 months as in previous years, mainly due to the frequent travels of the Lead and Bari. We still love to perform and have had three or four gigs in the past few months. We are definitely looking forward to the 2013 version of Singing Valentines!

Our hearts are heavy with the recent passing of **Jo Kraut**. Jo was a wonderful friend and coach to *Command Performance* and the *Gentlemen of Note*. GON was comprised of **Jon, Monty, Rich** and the late **Rod Rule**. *Gentlemen of Note* were very fortunate to have Jo as a coach in preparation for the 2001 BHS International Senior Quartet Contest in Jacksonville, Florida. GON placed 3rd in that contest, helped immensely by Jo's coaching. She will be greatly missed by all she touched in the world of Barbershop singing.

As we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the *Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of BarberShop Quartet Singing in America* (and the whole world!), *Command Performance* is looking forward to helping ring many chords this year! ♥

For *Command Performance*: **Carter, Jon, Monty, Rich Huyck**



## 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 Jan. 29, after four drawings in 2013 (12 since last report):

- The total collected for Harmony Foundation since the last report is \$218.
- The total collected for the year to date is \$53.
- The total for calendar year 2012 was \$958.
- **Ted Simon** hit the jackpot and won \$100 on Dec. 18.
- The carry-over amount is \$18 and the jackpot is at \$100. ♥



...to the following HOA MEMBERS!

February 2 Doug Brott  
February 12 Charlie Greene  
February 14 Jim Bagby  
February 18 John Fortino  
February 19 Fred Hangartner  
February 20 Jim Porter  
February 24 Lud Einess  
February 27 Jon Gathright

March 4 Ron McIntire  
March 6 David Krause  
March 16 Eric Weber  
March 17 Don Young  
March 21 Bronson Garrard  
March 23 Charles Ramirez  
March 23 Price Carter  
March 29 Jerry Meier  
March 29 Jake Wozniak  
March 30 Doc Jeppesen

April 7 Raymond Schwarzkopf  
April 8 Jeff Wolff  
April 10 Matt Bostick  
April 11 John Erwine  
April 11 Craig Wilcox  
April 14 Bob Howard  
April 16 Jim Clark  
April 17 Mike Mathieu  
April 21 Tom Elefson  
April 21 Dick Krueger  
April 24 Marlin Weidler  
April 25 Bruce Wenner

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

**MAY 1**



# **FEBRUARY 2, 2013**

## **75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. LOUIS**

### **NO. 1 BARBERSHOP CHAPTER BANQUET**

**At left, L to R:** Roger Blackburn & Jim Bagby;  
**Below:** St. Louis No. 1 Chorus sings under Jim Bagby;  
**At bottom:** Roger Blackburn directs Chapter.  
Photos courtesy of Roger Blackburn



## BARBERSHOPPER OF THE MONTH



### Barry Sanders - December 2012

2012 Chapter President **Vince Perry** (left) presents **Barry Sanders** with the Barbershopper of the Month for Dec. 2012 which states: In grateful appreciation for your work as show chairman of the 2012 HOA/SSI Holiday Harmony Spectacular, December 1, 2012.

Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.

## BARBERSHOPPER OF THE MONTH



### Mike Mathieu & Bob Burdick December 2012

2013 Chapter President **John Erwine** (left) presents **Mike Mathieu** with the Barbershopper of the Month for Dec. 2012 which states: In grateful appreciation for planning and organizing the 2012 Salvation Army Caroling Caravan. **Bob Burdick** was not photographed.

Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.

## EXTRA MILE AWARD



### Rich Huyck - December 2012

2012 Chapter President **Vince Perry** (left) presents **Rich Huyck** the EMA for Dec. which reads: In grateful recognition for your work as Ticket Chairman of the 2012 Holiday Harmony Spectacular, December 1, 2012.

Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.

## EXTRA MILE AWARD



### Mike Schumacher - December 2012

2013 Chapter President **John Erwine** (left) presents **Mike Schumacher** the EMA for Dec. which reads: In grateful appreciation for handling and transporting the risers to and from the 2012 Holiday Harmony Spectacular, December 1, 2012. Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.

# Fifth-Generation O'Dell Bags 10-Point Buck -- With Little Help From Grandpa

by HOA Lead Mike O'Dell

*[Ed Note: **Mike O'Dell**, former Kansas City Chapter librarian and son of bass **Dick O'Dell**, is used to grinning about overtones. But he got another thrill this past November when he took 7-year-old grandson **Logan** hunting near Sedalia. The occasion was Missouri's two-day Youth Deer Season. Logan downed a 10-point buck, almost a state record for his age group, on the first shot. But let Mike, who is also a member of the New Harmony Handful, tell the whole story]*

I started taking my son, **Dustin**, hunting at a very early age and we have hunted together almost every year for the past 25 years. Dustin did not shoot his first deer until he was 12. That was with the same rifle that **Logan** shot his deer with, a Marlin lever-action 30/30.

My dad, although he was not an avid hunter, started taking me hunting with my granddad when I was 6 or 7 — mainly squirrel and rabbits. Dad did take me deer hunting one time when we lived in New Mexico and he was going with some neighbors. He really did not care about getting a deer, which we did not. But we had a great time as we hiked the mountains and then slept under a clear New Mexico sky full of the brightest stars I ever saw.

After we moved back to Missouri, I continued to hunt at every opportunity. Now back to Logan's story. We drove to my cousin's farm in Pettis County on Friday evening. We had dinner with my cousin and my uncle and discussed the next day's hunt. (Dustin couldn't

go with us). Logan was very excited so we went to bed fairly early. We got up early Saturday morning and Logan was too excited to eat breakfast so we got our stuff together, snacks and drinks, and headed out to our ground blind my cousin had put up for us.

We got in the stand well before daylight and after a few minutes we saw two deer, one of which was a buck. It was still too early to shoot but Logan kept saying "Let's shoot, grandpa, let's shoot." I told him we had to wait till we

see other places they hunt. When we returned to the house Logan said "come on grandpa, we gotta get back out there!" That was music to my ears. We walked back to the blind and were ready for the afternoon hunt.

Our blind was nice and comfortable as it had two office chairs to sit in. The temperature was in the high 50s to low 60s. Logan was so comfortable he curled up in the chair and went to sleep. I continued to watch the field and after 45 minutes or so here came three does and the big buck trailing close behind. I saw the deer and reached over to Logan and shook awake him and told him there were more deer. He was a little startled but once he saw the deer he was ready.

I pulled the gun up to my shoulder, had Logan look through the scope and spot the deer. I told him to pull the trigger. He said "I can't." I asked why and he said "I'm scared." So we got set on the deer again, I told him again to pull the trigger and this time he did. He hit the deer on the first shot and it went to the ground. We waited about 45 minutes before we approached the deer and Logan got to see his trophy. Dustin is having the deer mounted and Logan will be able to relive his story over and over.

The deer has been rough scored already at 143". That is the size trophy that most grown men have not gotten. I don't think at age 7 Logan really realized how big his deer was, and what an accomplishment it was. I also sent our photo into the *Independence Examiner*, which published it. My grandson is a star. ♥



could see better. By the time it was legal shooting hours, the buck was still in sight but about 200 yards away, which was too far for the 30/30.

Logan was disappointed that we didn't get to shoot but excited at what we saw. We hunted until about 10 without seeing anything else. We then walked back to the house and had a big country breakfast. After breakfast my uncle took Logan and me on a tour of the area to

## Jo Kraut

Article author unknown, submitted by Linda Schumacher

Who could have predicted what a wonderful story was beginning when **Jo Kraut** and her family settled in Kansas City, Mo in 1980? She became the director of the then-struggling, but historic, *Kansas City Sweet Adelines Chorus* in 1981. It was immediately apparent that this multi-talented woman was the catalyst needed to take the chorus on an upward ride that never stopped. Because of her unique talents, Jo was at the forefront of raising the threshold and helping launch the organization in musical and performance excellence.

In the spring of 1981, a short three months after joining, Jo directed the chorus to ninth place at the Region 7 competition. Thus began a wonderful journey with a woman whose caring, sharing and quirky personality not only supported, but encouraged a "let's play our way to the top" attitude. Jo's goal was to mold a joyful attitude into all the music all of the time. And to that end, Jo frequently dressed the part, becoming a human Statue of Liberty, **Carmen Miranda**, Egyptian queen, even a purple jellyfish, and the list goes on. But, most of all, Jo raised her arms and with her heart, guided and believed in every chorus member as they gave the music away.

Jo took the Kansas City Chorus on a fantastic and challenging 27-year journey. With her inspiring leadership,

and masterful understanding of the barbershop style, the chorus steadily improved their competitive standing. Within nine years, she transformed this nice little chorus of 28 members into a powerful vocal force of 150 members, and lead them into the International ranks. She directed the *Kansas City Chorus* to Top Ten finishes in 9 International Competitions from 1990 to 2007! Regardless of placement, Jo

often said, "We won, we were fun and we encouraged all to come with us on our wonderful journey of music and laughter."

Through hard work, determination and talent, she became a *Sweet Adelines* Master Director. She never stopped growing and inspired her singers to keep reaching for the stars.

Jo didn't limit herself to the *Kansas City chorus*, although

it was first in her heart. She was on the regional music faculty for almost 20 years, served on the regional board, and was for a time in the international judging program. And, she reached out to all members of *Sweet Adelines* and the *Barbershop Harmony Society* as she coached choruses and quartets around the world.

On January 26, 2013, this extraordinary teacher, motivator and mentor made her final exit from the stage. Jo will be missed by thousands who learned from her and grew from that experience. ♥

Photo of Jo Kraut courtesy of Matt Bostick



## 75 Years of Harmony!

by Carl Turlin, Show Chair

That's right, the title of our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary show is **75 Years of Harmony!** Echoing the chords brought to you by barbershop founders **Owen Cash** and **Rupert Hall**, we chorus members of the *Heart of America Chapter* invite you to share those ringing chords with our family and friends in Yardley Hall of Johnson County(Kansas) Community College on Saturday, April 13<sup>TH</sup>.

Joining with us is our headliner quartet Crossroads, the 2009 International Quartet Champion and Premium Blend the 2012 CSD 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Quartet!

Our *Heart of America Chapter* shares the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the international Barbershop Harmony Society, as it's second oldest chapter. Our chorus has competed internationally many times and has won the CSD championship over a dozen times since the 1970's and in 2012, we finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in district competition. We share our legacy of great barbershop music with our audience and look forward to entertaining your family and friends at one of our shows, which are presented at 2 and 7:30 pm. There are many eateries close by and parking is abundant, close to the building and it's free! Such a deal! And, and...when you buy at least a group of 10 or more tickets, you receive a \$5 discount per ticket on that group of tickets! Such a deal!

You'll get to hear Kansas City's own **Dan Henry Bowser**, well known in the barbershop Society as one of the top emcee's in BHS history and well known in Kansas City as one of our favorite weathermen.

How can I purchase tickets you ask!? Call Yardley Hall's ticket office at 913-469-4445 or go the *HOA* website at [www.hoachorus.com](http://www.hoachorus.com). ♥

# THE KANSAS CITY CHAPTER PRESENTS 75 Years of Harmony

The April 13, 2013 Show Chairpersons have been identified! They are **Kent and Cindy Miller** and **Carl and Marci Turlin**.  
Our headliner quartet is **CROSSROADS**!

F E A T U R I N G

Heart of  
**America**  
Chorus

2012 International Chorus Competitor  
Founded 1938

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SPECIAL GUESTS



HEART OF AMERICA CHORUS

Don't miss this amazing  
show featuring award-winning  
world-class singing!



CROSSROADS

2009 International Quartet Champion

SATURDAY, APRIL 13<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 and 7:30PM

Yardley Hall, Carlson Center, Johnson County Community College

Ticket prices are \$25.00 and \$20.00

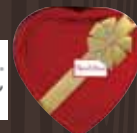
For tickets, call 913.469.4445

Also available at [www.hoachorus.com](http://www.hoachorus.com) (service fee additional)

Group and student discounts available \*Free parking\*

## 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

**Feb. 14** - Singing Valentines

**Feb. 16** - Concert at Downtown Westin Hotel for  
National Masonic Grand Masters Convention

**March 2** - Harmony Explosion! at Olathe East H.S.

**April 13** - HOA 75th Anniversary Annual Spring Show -  
Johnson County Community College - 2pm & 7:30pm with Crossroads

**April 19-20** - CSD Spring Preliminary Contests & Convention - McPherson, KS

### **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.