

# 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

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## 2015 IS UNDERWAY!

by Carter Combs, Chapter President



Greetings, and welcome to my first *Harmonotes* article from the President's seat. As I was trying to decide what to write, I went back and re-read a few of my predecessor's articles. Wow, was that a mistake! **John Erwine** has such a great conversational writing style, covers chapter happenings with aplomb, motivates, inspires...no wonder the President is usually retired...must've taken him hours! (Maybe I can sub-contract this part of the job back to him going forward...I wonder if anyone would notice...)

I do want to thank John and the rest of the 2014 chapter leadership. In my first few weeks on the job, I've already taken more phone calls, emails & meetings than I did all last year, so I can appreciate how much time and effort John and the rest of his team put into keeping this chapter running smoothly. I'll do my best to make you proud.

I also want to thank the nominating committee. Although they seem to have stumbled somewhat in their selection for the top spot, they did manage to identify and persuade excellent candidates for the rest of the board positions. We've already had our first board meeting, and it looks like we have a real go-get-'em group! I'm certain we will work well together.

The last few months have been our typical, hectic HOA holiday hullabaloo, with a few modest modifications. Our most significant change was experimenting with the number of Holiday Harmony Spectacular shows. This was undertaken by unanimous decision of the joint HHS show committee, comprising several members of both *HOA* and *KC Sweet Adelines*. Please let show co-chair **Barry Sanders** know if you liked the new format or not and, more importantly, what ideas you have for making this year's HHS even better. (Continued on page 2 ⇨)

DRAWN BY HARMONY...BOUND BY FRIENDSHIP...STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE!

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# Harmonotes

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

## 2015 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD

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Immediate Past President  
Executive V.P.  
Music/Performance V.P.  
Membership V.P.  
Program V.P.  
Marketing & PR V.P.  
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**Mike Schumacher**  
**Jim Porter**  
**Harvey Shapiro**  
**Tony O'Brien**  
**Steve Keisker**  
**Dale Neuman**  
**Carter Combs**

## MUSICAL LEADERS

Chorus Director  
Immediate Past Director  
Assistant Directors  
Director Emeritus

**Jerry Garrard**  
**Mark Fortino**  
**Bob Velazquez, Carter Combs**  
**Jim Bagby**

## SECTION LEADERS

Tenor  
Lead  
Baritone  
Bass

**Carter Combs**  
**Jerry Garrard**  
**Bruce Wenner, Rich Huyck**  
**Darrell McCune, David Stockard**

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**ALL Our Chapter Members!**

All chapter officers and quartets are expected, and chapter members encouraged, to contribute their ideas on a regular basis. The editorial staff reserves the right to deny publication of material deemed inappropriate for *Harmonotes* and to edit all submissions for reasons of space and clarity (grammar, content and spelling). Permission to reprint articles is granted to barbershop editors as long as the author and *Harmonotes* are acknowledged. The utmost care was used in preparation of this newsletter. Should you notice erroneous copy, please let the editor know!

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

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



(Continued from front cover)

**Mike Mathieu** and **Bob Burdick** are to be commended for making our 9th annual Caroling Caravan yet another unqualified success. They are still receiving occasional extra contributions, but at this point we have already raised over \$21,800 for the Salvation Army. That makes this our second-best year since *HOA* started bell-ringing back in 1959.

This year's Caravan had a few extra special touches. **Bob Eddy**, our perpetual bus-driver, decided to grow out his naturally white beard this year, and was our on-call Santa Claus all day, decked in his full furry finery! We were also accompanied by "elf" **Mathew Fortino**, who charmed our audiences throughout the day. But I confess my favorite part was being able to Skype in **Old Dan Henry Bowser** during our final stop, and share a few moments with our Bell-Ringer Emeritus. Big thanks to **Joe Mathieu**, **Don Fuson**, and the other tech-heads who were able to make that little bit of holiday magic happen.

I'm certain everyone is already aware that **Don Fuson** is now officially our BHS president! He was sworn in by our own Director Emeritus **Jim Bagby** at the Midwinter Convention in New Orleans, along with the rest of the new society board. Don is the 3rd Society president elected from *HOA*, more than from any other chapter. He follows in the rather sizable footsteps of **Bob Gall**, who served in 1969, and **Gil Lefholz**, 1985-86, and we know he will do a fine job!

Our Annual Dinner is the one time of year we set aside to gather with chapter members old and new, our family and friends, to remember, recognize and honor those who have made a positive difference in our organization. This year's event at Jack Stack BBQ, organized by **Jerry Meier**, was exceptional! The food was delicious and plentiful, and the laughter contagious. Though we missed a few of our regular attendees, it was great to see **Nile Abbott** (1963 HOA President) and his wife **Reva** there. Congratulations to **John Erwine**, our highly-deserving Barbershopper of the Year!

Let me say one thing about the new John Cross Award recipient. It was an accident, unlikely to ever happen again! When I attended my first *HOA* Installation Banquet (as it was called back then) and heard about the attendance criteria for the John Cross Award, I knew that was one I would never receive. You see, I have one of those I.T. jobs that tends to interfere with hobbies on occasion. And Jeffi & I are lucky enough to be able to travel a bit. And I do get sick once in a while. Don't get me wrong, Jeffi will confirm that I take my attendance at chorus rehearsals seriously. If I can go, I do go, even occasionally when I shouldn't go. Part of that stems from having been a director, and knowing how frustrating it is not to have everyone on the risers. But, life happens, and we do what we gotta do. So, how did I happen to end up with 100% attendance last year? I don't know! The stars aligned. Our travel was all "long weekend" events. None of the worst work worries were on Tuesdays, and I didn't get sick enough to stay home. It was about October before I realized that I hadn't missed any rehearsals or performances the entire year. After that, I was lucky enough that the stars stayed aligned. This year, I already missed the first rehearsal of January, to be at Midwinter. Ah well, life happens, and we do what we gotta do.

We have several big events coming up in the next few months. First up is the CSD HEP – Harmony Education Program – to be held here at the Overland Park Sheraton, organized and newly re-introduced by **Jeff Veteto**. HEPs were an early precursor to many of the more recent BHS training programs, including Harmony University, Leadership Academy, quartet "Top Gun," etc. It is fine opportunity to get together with about 100 friends to sing, learn & laugh. No late night ice cream though.

In February, our events are on back-to-back weekends. First up is our 25th annual Singing Valentines... more fun in one day than a quartet can shake Cupid's arrow at! Oh, the stories we could tell... and we raise money for Children's Mercy at the same time... multi-tasking at its best.

This is followed up the next weekend by our 35th annual Harmony Explosion. **Jerry Meier** spearheads this fun-filled festival, introducing barbershop harmony to hundreds of kids every year. This is quite literally our most important event of the year to help fulfill our society's mission to Preserve and Encourage Barbershop Quartet Singing in America. A mission so central that we might even put it in the name of our organization one day. (ummm... wait... hmmm...!)

Hey, did anyone else notice that this year our 69th annual show, *You've Got A Friend In Me*, is on the anniversary of the founding of our Society? It's starting out to be a great year! ♥



# And Now It's Complete

by John Erwine, 2014 Chapter President



By the time of this reading, 2014 will already have come to an end. The business at hand to make it complete was to jump headlong into preparation for the final two big engagements of the year: Holiday Harmony Spectacular and Caroling Caravan.

This year we conducted an experiment with the Holiday Harmony Spectacular show at Unity Village. We elected to hold just one mid-afternoon performance. The jury is still out as to forward results, but the show presentation itself was received very well.

The combined choruses of the *Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adeline's* and *Heart of America Chorus* opened the show on Dec. 6, with *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, an arrangement by our own **Dr. Bruce Wenner**. This was a somewhat different approach from past show openings; a more reverent and respectful one to the seasons' celebration – a success.

Emcees, **Jennifer Roberts** and **Brad Dawdy**, did a wonderful job of keeping the flow going in the right direction. Quartets *Dynamix*, *Take 4* and *Priorities* were a wonderful addition to the program. Chorus Directors **Stacy Schumacher**, *KCCSA*, and **Jerry Garrard**, *HOA*, were exceptional in their skills to meld each of their choruses with the audience as one. Additionally, **Lori Carrender** and **Carter Combs**, Assistant Directors, contributed to the program. The headliner quartet this year was *Heat*, 2014 Sweet Adeline's 4<sup>th</sup> place International Quartet finalists.

Dec. 20 saw us crowding onto a bright yellow school bus with driver, **Bob Eddy**, who looked very much like that mythical sled driver trying to control a bunch of reindeer. Dressed in red from head to toe, red cheeks, white beard and only missing his pipe, he delivered us swiftly to six retirement villages. This was our annual Caroling Caravan, in which there were more than 40 men, perhaps the most ever, to sing on behalf of our favorite charity – the Salvation Army!

Head Elf, **Matthew Fortino**, was on hand making his way through the aisles collecting donations, and wasn't a bit bashful in methods to fill his little red kettle.

**Santa**, who not only played the part of our bus driver, was also instrumental in appearing at just the right time at each location to help promote our cause and assist Matthew collect funds that our generous audience passed our way. This was perhaps our second biggest year in the last nine, collecting just over \$21,800, the result of singing for just a few hours. That's over \$120,000 in the last 9 years!

*Armchair Chorderbacks* was also on hand to liven up the set and did a perfectly awful job of playing the PVC flutes, a long-standing tradition. It was a hit! And how can we not mention our ever-faithful supporters, the *Heartbeats*, who prepared delicious lunches for us to eat between gigs!

Folks, this feat could not have been possible without the tireless efforts of Co-Chairs **Mike Mathieu** and **Bob Burdick**, then throw in Director, **Jerry Garrard**, Assistant Director **Carter Combs**, soloists **Jonathan Andrews** and **Mark Fortino** and ALL-OF-YOU. This fundraising event is an annual selection by you, among your many personal priorities, which is to help those you deem to be very important. *Thank you!*

NOW! Would someone please tell me where the last two years have gone? I've always heard, and have been able to confirm for some time now, that as you age the time either seems to speed up or you lose track of it. I prefer the former. This Chapter has both celebrated and accomplished much during this time, thanks to you. It's been a whirlwind for me.

I am privileged and honored to have been your President and representative of this great Chapter for these last two years. Without the support of each and every one of you, I could not feel so proud and privileged. It is also my pleasure to have been a part of the committee to have selected your Director for 2015, **Jerry G.** He's got many great ideas and the qualifications to help re-tool, perfect and propel our craft into the next almost 77 years. A primary goal in his portfolio is – RING EACH AND EVERY CHORD EVERY TIME. "It's easy, right?"

The perennial challenge still ever exists; "This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it." **Ralph Waldo Emerson**. 1837. I have every confidence in our incoming President, **Carter Combs** and his Board. It is my every intent to help support their efforts, because I've a feeling they've got a few ideas about what to do with "this time." I'm betting on all of you as well.

I've said before that I believe in the mission, strength and health of this Chapter. It's helped keep me healthy. It's good for me mentally. I've never gone home after a meeting feeling worse than before I came. What more can a person do with "this time" than continue to propagate those qualities, for us, and those to follow? ♥

## Awards Go To Combs, Erwine

by Bruce Wenner, Awards Committee Chairman



The very enjoyable *HOA* Annual Banquet maxed out with presentations of awards to two extremely deserving chapter brothers. The 2014 John Cross Award went to **Carter**

**Combs**; John Cross would have supported this selection enthusiastically. Carter's attendance was at the top, and his service was outstanding, both qualitatively and quantitatively. Ever since Carter moved from Florida to *HOA* he has been the anchor of the tenor section, and served as tenor section leader for most of that time. During 2014 Carter was also the Music Vice President and an Assistant Director. If we were to name a Most Valuable Player for 2014, this would be the guy.

**We have a first here.** This is the first time ever that the John Cross Award has gone to the incoming Chapter President. Plus – the incoming Chapter President is married to the *Heartbeats* President! *Think this will happen again?*

The 2014 Barbershopper of the Year is outgoing Chapter President **John Erwine**. John cleaned up on the hardware this year, coming home with a BOTY plaque and a past chapter president pin. He took an unusual route to barbershopping. He joined *Cardio Jam*, a barbershop mini-chorus made up of cardiac rehab patients and organized and directed by **Jim Bagby**. He liked it so much that he decided he wanted the full dose of barbershop – he came to *HOA* meetings and soon joined the chapter. Since then he has been doing it all, both on and off the risers. John's most important contribution has been in administering the Singing Valentines program, but everywhere something is happening you'll see him involved. Especially these last two years, the time he's been chapter president. John was challenged by unsettled situations in the director and program vice president positions, and he handled the problems masterfully.

Kudos to **Jerry Meier** for putting together a first-class Installation and Awards Banquet. Loved the facility, and the great food that came with it! ♥

## 2014 Heart of America Chorus Awards Banquet Wrap-up

by Jerry Meier



Members and guests started arriving at the wonderful Martin City Jack Stack BBQ Private Dining Facility at 6pm and were anxiously waiting for the buffet of chicken, turkey, pork and beef brisket to open. The facility

was warm and cozy and the food was fantastic! Society President **Don Fuson** served as the Emcee for the evening and kept things rolling along.

First on the agenda, **Linda Schumacher** recognized the 2014 *Heartbeats* and installed the new 2015 Officers:

**Jeffi Combs** and **Marci Brown-Turlin** presented the 2014 *Heartbeat* of the Year Award to **Linda Fuson** — she was given a gift basket of goodies and a Tierra.

Immediate Past President **John Erwine** received his Society Pin from **Bruce Wenner**, as **Don Fuson** thanked John for his chapter leadership these past two years.

**Dr. Dale Neuman** was the featured speaker of the night, and installed the 2015 Board of Directors:

President – **Carter Combs**  
Immediate Past President – **John Erwine**  
Executive VP – **Marlin Weidler**  
Music and Performance VP – **Brad Dawdy**  
Membership VP – **Jerry Meier**  
Program VP – **Mike Mathieu**  
Marketing VP – **Ted Simon**  
Operations VP – **Mike Schumacher**  
Secretary – **Jim Porter**  
Treasurer – **Harvey Shapiro**  
Board Member at Large – **Tony O'Brien**  
Board Member at Large – **Steve Keisker**

**Jerry Garrard**, *HOA* Director gave an emotion-filled speech about the Chorus and his plans for 2015. Incoming President **Carter Combs** entertained the audience with a short song followed by a speech full of song lyrics and song titles. **Bruce Wenner** announced the two 2014 awards given to chapter members: John Cross Award to **Carter Combs** and Barbershopper of the Year to **John Erwine**.

The evening came to a close with **Jerry Garrard** directing the Chorus in *Friends*. ♥



## For the Ladies

by Jeffi Combs



It was wonderful to see so many ladies at this year's installation banquet. What a delicious meal and fun evening that was. As the current *HOA Heartbeats* President, I just wanted to take this

opportunity to share a little more info about our *Heartbeats* group.

The *HOA Heartbeats* is an auxiliary organization affiliated with the *HOA Chorus*, with the purpose of:

- Promoting fellowship among female supporters of *HOA Chorus* members
- Assisting the *HOA Chorus* in their endeavors

Our next *Heartbeats* meetings will be Tuesday evening, Jan. 27 and again March 31 at the rehearsal hall while the guys rehearse. We look forward to welcoming both new and returning *Heartbeat* members at these meetings. The annual dues are only \$5 per year, the majority of which goes toward the annual Orval Wilson Harmony University Scholarship.

Our January meeting will be a planning meeting for the year, including preparing the Orval Wilson 2015 Scholarship Application. Weather permitting, our March meeting will include a plant exchange. It will also be the meeting when we address how we can best support the *HOA Chorus* in their upcoming Annual Show. Please plan to join us at these meetings which start at 7pm. Bring a friend and meet a friend...and don't forget to bring an extra \$1 or \$2 so you can get in on the Friendship Basket raffle which we have each meeting! Hope to see you there! ♥

## Orval Wilson Harmony University 2015 Scholarship

The 2015 Harmony University, "Music Around the World", will be held at Belmont University in Nashville, TN from July 26 – August 2, 2015. The Kansas City Chapter of the BHS, Inc and the *HOA Heartbeats* will once again share in the cost of one scholarship registration to this year's Harmony U. This scholarship, the Orval Wilson Harmony University Scholarship, is open to any active *HOA* member who will be a first-time participant at Harmony University.

According to the [harmonyuniversity.org](http://harmonyuniversity.org) website, Harmony College, the premiere educational event at Harmony University, 'should be on every barbershoppers' "bucket list". All different kinds of barbershoppers attend...new members, seasoned members, young members, directors, assistant directors, quartet singers, music educators, administrators, and many more.'

If you haven't attended Harmony University in the past, and you think you might want to attend this year, plan now to apply for the scholarship. Be looking for the 2015 Scholarship Application form towards the end of January. Between now and then why not ask some of the prior Scholarship recipients what they thought of their first Harmony U experiences.... **Bob Velazquez** (2014), **Barry Sanders** (2013), **Jerry Garrard** (????). You'll probably agree, Harmony U should be on your 'bucket list' too! ♥





# HOA AWARDS BANQUET

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JERRY MEIER

## THE ANNUAL HOA AWARDS AND INSTALLATION BANQUET WAS HELD SATURDAY, JAN. 17 AT THE JACK STACK BBQ MARTIN CITY PRIVATE DINING FACILITY!



**Enjoying a Scrumptious BBQ Buffet!**

L-R Nile & Reva Abbott; Val & Jan Putzier; Harvey Shapiro



**More Attendees at the Buffet!**

L-R Marlin Weidler, Marty & Sharon Oldehoeft,  
Steve & Brenda Keisker; Tony & Betsy Strub)



L-R Jason Garder; Jerry & Michelle Garrard enjoy their meal



Nile and Reva Abbott Table (L-R Harvey Shapiro; Connie &  
Keith Schweer; Nile & Reva Abbott; Jan Putzier)



**Linda Fuson Presented with HOTY Heartbeat of the Year**

L-R Linda Fuson; Marci Brown-Turlin; Jeffi Combs



Don Fuson (center) and Bruce Wenner (left) present  
John Erwine with his Past President pin



# HOA AWARDS BANQUET

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JERRY MEIER



## John Cross Award

Bruce Wenner (left) presents Carter Combs with the 2014 John Cross Award



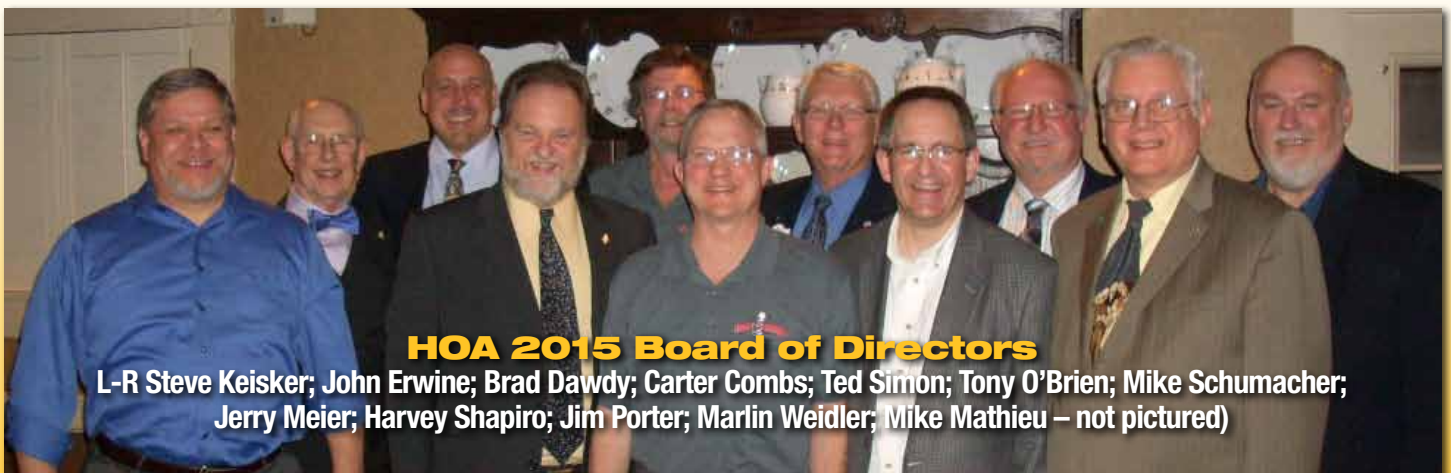
## 2014 BOTY!

John Erwine (right) is presented with the 2014 Barbershopper of the Year award by Kent Miller



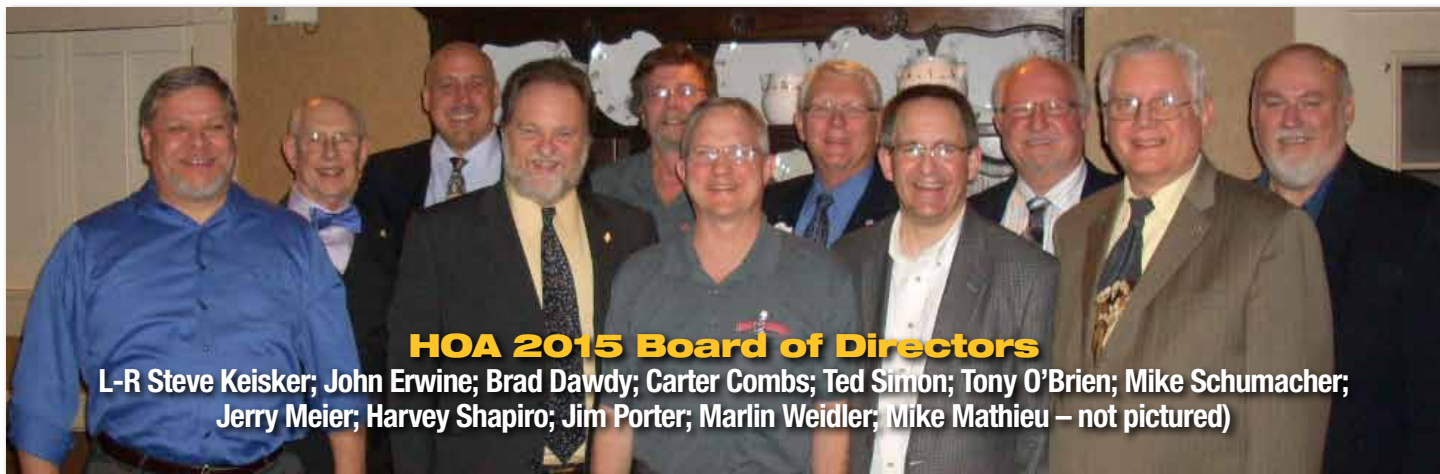
## HOA Presidents

L-R John Erwine; Nile Abbott; Keith Schweer; Carter Combs; Tony Strub; Kent Miller; Don Young; Martin Oldehoeft; Vince Perry; Bruce Wenner



## HOA 2015 Board of Directors

L-R Steve Keisker; John Erwine; Brad Dawdy; Carter Combs; Ted Simon; Tony O'Brien; Mike Schumacher; Jerry Meier; Harvey Shapiro; Jim Porter; Marlin Weidler; Mike Mathieu – not pictured)



### HOA 2015 Board of Directors

L-R Steve Keisker; John Erwine; Brad Dawdy; Carter Combs; Ted Simon; Tony O'Brien; Mike Schumacher; Jerry Meier; Harvey Shapiro; Jim Porter; Marlin Weidler; Mike Mathieu – not pictured)

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2015:

### *Dale Neuman's Installation Comments from HOA's Recent Banquet*



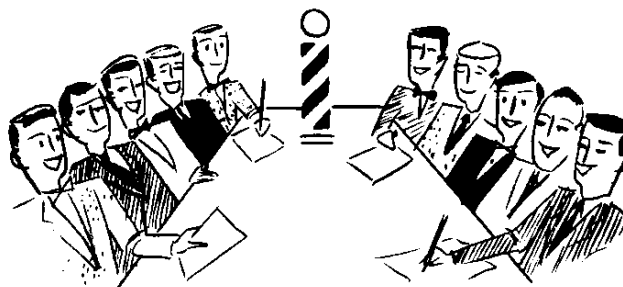
Thank you, **Jerry** and **HOA**, for inviting me to do this year's installation of officers. It is an honor and privilege to be part of this rite of renewal in a chapter that has been in the business of friendship and harmony for almost 77 years. And

while I intend to take a few moments for some comments before we begin the installation, I do not want it to be said that this part of the program finished too long after it was over—a comment attributed to one composer after hearing the first performance of a major work of another composer. So I will try to be brief.

I have been a member of the Society for 43 years and a quartet singer for longer than that as my first quartet, *The Four D's* (**Denny, Don, Dean and Dale**) sang from 1952 thru 1954 while in High School. (We sang again at our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion in 2004.) And I was in another short-lived quartet while in Junior High for about a year in 1949. I went to my first chapter meeting back in Ohio in 1953 but did not join for the same reasons that many young men do not join today—time and money and plans for college. But I never lost that sense of fun and desire to ring chords that surfaced back then even as I went off to college and joined the glee club or participated in the inter-fraternity song fests that were part of the way of life at an all-male college in the 1950s. I even had experience in a short-lived quartet while in college as one summer, I got a call from a friend who had been asked to put together a four-some to do some quartet singing as part of a Fall fashion show to be held at the leading department store in Cleveland where all of the “would be” sweethearts of Sigma Chi could view their potential wardrobes for the coming college year.

But I did not get back to truly hearing and singing (and ringing) the addictive chords that made me want more until I joined **HOA** in 1972. From that point on, I have been involved not only in the singing of those chords as part of the chorus and several quartets but also in the back-office efforts that make it possible to do much of the singing in front of our audiences. And it is to the demands on those who do the back-office work—the officers and Board members—that I now turn. The work is not glamorous, it does not pay well, it can create issues, it takes time, it cuts into your singing time, and it means even one or more additional nights away from home each month. The opportunity costs of this hobby are higher for those who administer to its needs than for those who only sing. But I have always found them worth it as they make it possible for more men to sing and more listeners to enjoy those same sounds that got me hooked in the first place. So it is well labeled “a labor of love” for those who take on those labors.

So, now I'd like to call those officers and Board members who will serve in 2015 to come forward to commit to take on this special love affair. No, I am not going to use the marriage ceremony as a surrogate for the installation even if some think it quite apt. Rather, I am simply going to ask the officers to affirm their commitment to the Chapter and for the members to affirm their commitment to aid the officers and Board in moving the Chapter forward. ♥





**Roy Manade explains the story behind the quilt in this picture below:**

"I have a lot of clothes that seemed to have shrunk while in my closet. So when my lovely wife Cindy asked "What do you want to do with these shirts that are too small?", I promptly answered "Uh". Being a resourceful person, she came with a really cool solution. You have just begun to read the sentence you just finished reading. She teamed up with a close friend of ours and created the quilt shown in the picture. It's made from the barbershop t-shirts that I accumulated over the years. The back side is composed of musical notes and the tenth shirt that wouldn't fit on the front. I brought it to a *New Harmony Handful* rehearsal where it was a big hit. This picture is only one of the many that were taken that night."



# HARMONY EXPLOSION!

## Saturday, Feb. 21

by Jerry Meier

**Who:** YOU!  
**What:** Harmony Explosion! 2015  
**When:** Saturday, Feb. 21 from 8am to 5pm  
**Where:** Olathe East High School, 14545 W. 127th  
 Olathe, KS 66062  
**Why:** Encourage young students to learn about this life-long hobby!

**ANNOUNCING** Harmony Explosion! 2015 on Saturday, Feb. 21 at Olathe East High School. The featured quartets will be *3 Men and a Melody* and *BoomTown*—yes, you are correct. Two BHS quartets this year, as no Sweet Adeline Quartets are available to entertain the students. No worries. The Girls Quartets that compete at Harmony Explosion are well worth your time to hear them sing! The *Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines* will sing for the students at 9am, and the *Heart of America Barbershop Chorus* will sing around noon. The tentative agenda for the day is as follows:

8:30 am	Registration
9 am	Opening Remarks – KCCSA Performance; <i>3 Men and a Melody</i> Performance
10 am	Preliminary Quartet Competition Begins
12:20 pm	<i>Heart of America Chorus</i> Performance and Finals Announcement
12:30 pm	LUNCH for ALL catered by Olive Garden (\$4 per person requested)
1:30 pm	Afternoon Song/Tag Session for Students
2:00 pm	Quartet Finals in the Main Auditorium
4:30 pm	<i>BoomTown</i> Performance
4:45 pm	Awards and Announcements
5:00 pm	Depart

## Attention, All Harmony Explosion Coaches!

by Jerry Meier



Coaching a Harmony Explosion! Quartets in the weeks leading up to the event is the most important and rewarding activity that can help a young quartet succeed on stage! These young students need our help—they are so busy. They rehearse before school at 7:15am or after school at 3:15pm, because these good kids stay involved in so many clubs and activities.



©Thinkstock

Coaching is easier than you think! Just share what you have heard from so many other fine coaches! 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 through 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. They will be ever so thankful for your input.

Please step forward and volunteer your time to coach and encourage these young students – 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:

**LILHOSSKS@aol.com**  
**913-780-1822 Home**  
**913-226-5394 Mobile** ♥



## Notes from the Membership VP

by Jerry Meier

**Gents** - some of you would like to see metrics on Membership:

### 2014 New Members = 7:

**Greg Busch** (Br)  
**Micah Jeppsen** (T)  
**Harry Stewart** (Bs)  
**Steve Hankins** (Br)  
**Jason Garder** (Bs)  
**Dave Parker** (L)  
**Ryan Casey** (L)

### 2013 New Members = 16.

12-31-14 HOA Membership = 128  
12-31-13 HOA Membership = 129  
12-31-12 HOA Membership = 131

You can see that the overall *HOA* membership remains relatively consistent -- we all would like to see more members stay active and sing on the risers on Tuesday nights. How can you help?  
*Good Question!*

1. Call your barbershop buddies that you like to sing with and talk them into meeting you on a Tuesday Night at rehearsal? We have time and room for you -- and Guest Books that you can use. Who knows? You may have fun!
2. Invite a Guest! Here are the ten planned 2015 Guest Nights —but do not wait —you have my permission to bring guests on ANY Tuesday night!

**Jan. 27** (last Tuesday in January)  
**Feb. 24** (Tuesday after Harmony Explosion)  
**Apr. 14** (Tuesday after our Annual Show)  
**May 26** (Tuesday after Memorial Day; Patriotic Song Night)  
**June 23** (a Send-off Tuesday before International)  
**July 28** (last Tuesday in July - learn about Harmony University)  
**Aug. 25** (last Tuesday in August)  
**Oct. 27** (last Tuesday in October)  
**Dec. 8** (Prepare for Caroling Caravan)  
**Dec. 15** (Prepare for Caroling Caravan)



## HARMONIUM

== A NEW ELEMENT OF SOUND ==

by Mark Fortino & Brian Bellof

**Who** would have believed after nearly a decade of competing against each other that members of *12th Street Rag* and *3 Men & A Melody* would come together to form a new quartet. Well, it's true! **Mark & John Fortino** along with **Micah Jeppesen** from *12th Street Rag* and **Brian Bellof** from *3 Men & A Melody* have come together to form the newest CSD quartet, *Harmonium (Hr)*, A New Element of Sound.

But wait, isn't **Mark** the current lead of *Premium Blend*? Well, yes, but due to a family commitment the week of the 4th of July, *Premium Blend* won't be able to compete in Pittsburg, PA this summer at the International Convention. Mark still plans to sing with *Premium Blend* and *Premium Blend* is still going strong accepting show bids, doing school tours and singing on chapter shows. Check out their schedule at [www.premiumblendquartet.com](http://www.premiumblendquartet.com). No slow down there!

What about *3 Men & A Melody*? **Brian** will always sing with these guys because these harmonizers are practically family and singing with *3M&M* is pure joy. *3M&M* will continue to represent the CSD as Past Champs whenever possible and they have a complete new show package waiting to hit your chapter's show stage. The Barber-Doowopers are still pursuing other acapella festivals to continue spreading the friendship and showmanship they've enjoyed with audiences for over two decades. [www.3menandamelody.com](http://www.3menandamelody.com).

Some people sing in a chorus and a quartet. Some people sing in two choruses and quartet. Right now, **Brian** and I are choosing to sing in two very good quartets at the same time and enjoy the heck out of the experience.

*HARMONIUM* is already accepting shows bids for 2015 and who knows, maybe we'll figure out a way to put a package deal together for *HARMONIUM*, *PREMIUM BLEND*, and *3 MEN & A MELODY* to be on your show! Now that would be fun! ❤️

## New Harmony Handful Celebrates Year's End

by Dale Neuman, Tenor

More than 25 men and spouses from the *NHH* gathered at the Lee's Summit home of **Kathy and Bob Murphy** on Dec. 29 to have dinner and celebrate the end of another busy year. The dinner was pot luck and had a wide array of side dishes and desserts to go with the beef brisket entry. The Murphys were ably assisted in preparation and serving by their lovely granddaughter, **Sarah**.

After the meal, the *NHH* sang several songs for the ladies. **Bob Howard** and **Marty Oldehoeft** were announced as co-winners of Handful Hero for 2014, both recognized and given plaques for their efforts in support of the *NHH*. They serve as the uniform committee and **Bob** also has been responsible for managing the logistics of assigning men to bring snacks at all rehearsals. And that has been a task as the *NHH* has had 68 rehearsals since its founding in 2008.

How do we know all this? Because **Bob** has also created a historical record of all the activities of the *NHH* since its founding meeting on April 28, 2008. The first rehearsal was June 2, 2008. Bob also notes in the history (a copy of which was given to each member) that the *NHH* has had 93 official performances including its first one in July, 2008. The list shows an array of venues and audiences that include: nursing homes and care facilities (20), school performances and seminars (2), conventions and business meetings (9), filling for choirs for church services (34), funerals and memorial services (6) and senior groups and community centers (22).

In short, the *NHH* has been very active as well as logging many miles around the metro area. And, in so doing, it has also found some nice places to have group lunches after or in between performances to continue its commitment to the ideal that a well-fed singer is a happy singer!

Our first scheduled performance for 2015 is set for Feb. 27. ❤️

## Armchair Chorderbacks Compete in Chilly Mid-Winter

by David Stockard, Bass

Well, it's been a busy winter for the *Armchair* gang. We sang for the *HOA* Caroling Caravan, did a couple of holiday gigs and then lots of rehearsal and coaching to get ready for the Mid-Winter Convention.

We had a great time in New Orleans! There was just one problem: it was freezing cold for New Orleans. So this made sightseeing a bit of a challenge. Maybe they should have the next one in the Bahamas...just a thought. We had most of our cheering section with us. It just didn't seem the same not to have **Jan** there [she was home and virtually immobile with a cracked pelvis]. We missed you, **Jan**, hope you're back on your feet soon!



Our groupies (from left) Jeffi Combs, Joann Bagby, Abbie Stockard in New Orleans, who did their best to make up for the absence of injured Jan Mathieu.

One neat thing that happened was that we were asked to be in a TV interview for a local news station. They called it "The news with a twist". So we were on the news that night representing the senior quartets (see photo below).



We finished the competition in 15th place, one spot better than last year. The quartet scores overall were higher this year for the medalists. I think that the senior division will continue to see their scores edging higher.

One final highlight of the trip was watch our own **Don Fuson** and the new Society Board for 2015 being sworn in by none other than AC's **Jim Bagby**. We even sang for the new President and his guest in the Presidential suite.

All in all it was a great trip and we are always grateful to represent *HOA* and *CSD* whenever we can. ❤️



## ***“YOU’VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME”***

That’s the name of HOA’s Spring Show coming up on Saturday, April 11, 2015. It should be a great one with your Chorus already hard at work practicing a lot of new songs plus we have as our feature quartet the 2014 International Mixed Quartet Champions, *Double Date*!

Wow! Thanks to **Thom Tisdall**, we are again able to have an early ticket promotion similar to the ones we have had the last couple of years. Thom has generously agreed to fund a promotion for this year’s show so be on the lookout for details very quickly, perhaps by the time you are reading this.

The contest will feature great prizes for both the ticket sellers and the ticket purchasers. The termination date is not set (as we write this) but it will likely be around the end of February.

Please put April 11 on your calendars and plan to get your tickets early. ♥

— Your 2015 Show Committee

## **GOLF!** **Too Early?** **Too Cold?**

Maybe, but it’s never too early to put this years HOA Golf Tournament Fund Raiser on your calendar. It’s tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, Sept. 24** and it’s certainly **NOT** too early to tell your golfer friends to reserve the date.

— Kent Miller

The poster features a blue sky background with white clouds. At the top, the title "You've got a FRIEND in me." is written in a large, blue, hand-drawn font. Below the title, it says "Presented By" in a small font, followed by the "KC Heart of America Chorus" logo, which includes a red heart and the letters "KC". At the bottom of the poster, a group of Toy Story characters are standing on a sandy surface: Woody, Buzz Lightyear, Mr. Potato Head, Mr. Noodle, Hamm the piggy bank, and the three green Aliens. In the top right corner, there is a framed photograph of the "Double Date" quartet, consisting of two women in purple dresses and two men in tuxedos. Below the photo, it says "Double Date" and "2014 International Mixed Quartet Champion". In the bottom right corner, it says "Tickets Available Through JCCC Ticket Office 913-469-4445". At the very bottom, it says "Saturday April 11, 2015 Johnson County Community College Yardley Hall 2:30pm & 7:00pm".

## 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

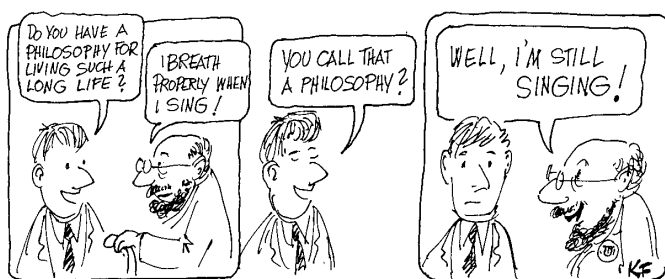
year. In return, we are able to have the Foundation designate up to 30% of the funds given to chapter activities such as Harmony Explosion.

As of Dec. 17 (year end 2014), after 45 drawings (8 since the last report): The total collected for Harmony Foundation since the last report is \$170. The total collected for the calendar year is \$833.



As of Jan. 21, after 3 drawings, the total collected for Harmony Foundation is \$51.

The carry-over jackpot as of January 21st is \$65. ♥



**DEADLINE**  
**FOR THE SPRING ISSUE**  
**OF HARMONOTES:**  
**WEDNESDAY,**  
**MAY 29**



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

January 3	<b>Don Newman</b>
January 7	<b>Harvey Shapiro</b>
January 9	<b>Bob Rutherford</b>
January 10	<b>Oly Oldehoeft</b>
January 13	<b>Roy Manade</b>
January 25	<b>Bob Burdick</b>
January 30	<b>Rick Foreman</b>
January 31	<b>Brian Bellof</b>
February 2	<b>Doug Brott</b>
February 12	<b>Charlie Greene</b>
February 14	<b>Jim Bagby</b>
February 18	<b>John Fortino</b>
February 19	<b>Fred Hangartner</b>
February 20	<b>Jim Porter</b>
February 24	<b>Lud Einess</b>
February 25	<b>John Marshall</b>
February 27	<b>Ryan Casey</b>
February 27	<b>Jon Gathright</b>
March 4	<b>Ron McIntire</b>
March 16	<b>Eric Weber</b>
March 17	<b>Don Young</b>
March 19	<b>Jason Garder</b>
March 23	<b>Charles Ramirez</b>
March 29	<b>Jerry Meier</b>
March 29	<b>Jake Wozniak</b>
March 30	<b>Doc Jeppesen</b>





### Barry Sanders - December 2014

Chapter President **Carter Combs** (right) presents **Barry Sanders** the BOTM for Dec. 2014 which states:  
In grateful appreciation for your work as Show Chair of the 2014 *Heart of America/KC Sweet Adelines* Holiday Harmony Spectacular, Dec. 6, 2014.  
Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.



### Mike Mathieu - December 2014

Chapter President **Carter Combs** (left) presents **Mike Mathieu** the BOTM for Dec. 2014 which states:  
In grateful appreciation for planning and organizing the 2014 Salvation Army Caroling Caravan.  
Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.



### Brad Dawdy December 2014

Chapter President **Carter Combs** (left) presents **Brad Dawdy** the EMA for Dec. 2014 which states:  
In grateful appreciation for your work writing the speaking script for the *Heart of America/KC Sweet Adeline* Holiday Harmony Spectacular, December 6, 2014.  
Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.



### Richard Matthis December 2014

Chapter President **Carter Combs** (left) presents **Richard Matthis** the EMA for Dec. 2014 which states:  
In grateful appreciation for your work re-scoring the music for *Silent Night* in a clean and readable 8-part harmony format for the 2014 Holiday Harmony Spectacular.  
Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.



### Rich Huyck December 2014

Chapter President **Carter Combs** (left) presents **Rich Huyck** the EMA for Dec. 2014 which states:  
In grateful appreciation for your work as Ticket Chairman for the *Heart of America/KC Sweet Adeline* Holiday Harmony Spectacular, Dec. 6, 2014.  
Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.



### Mike Schumacher December 2014

Chapter President **Carter Combs** (left) presents **Mike Schumacher** the EMA for Dec. 2014 which states:  
In grateful appreciation for your work handling all the logistics for the *Heart of America/KC Sweet Adeline* Holiday Harmony Spectacular, Dec. 6, 2014.  
Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.

# IN MEMORIAM

by Ron McIntire



## Jim Clark 1934 - 2014

**Jim Clark**, or “Coach” as he preferred, was a first-time barbershopper when he joined the Kansas City chapter in 2005. He was voice-placed in the bass section in the *Heart of America Chorus* and quickly took part in chapter activities.

Jim was born in Pittsburg, Kansas, raised in McCune, Kansas and graduated from McCune High School in 1953. After he served a four-year hitch in the U.S. Navy he received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Kansas University and spent 26 years teaching and coaching at Ruskin High School. After retirement from Ruskin, he continued to coach track and wrestling at various schools in the Kansas City area. He was very proud of his teaching and coaching accomplishments and often related how well liked he was by the students. His passion was coaching and he loved his kids. He touched many lives.

In 2009 he took over the position of Operations VP where, for three years, he directed and helped set up the risers, often by himself, and take down the risers on rehearsal nights and at performances. A hip replacement brought an end to that work but after his recovery, he still helped with the work in a limited capacity, sometimes through pain. His presence was felt in other activities as well. He and his wife **Mavis** helped with the *HOA* Garage Sale on more than one occasion, carrying, toting and bagging items when needed.

Jim was a happy man. He had a ready smile and was well liked by his chorus companions. He loved singing, both as a barbershopper and in his church choir. Two or three years ago, he began to feel faint during rehearsal for the afternoon spring show and laid down on the risers until an ambulance arrived to take him to the hospital. When it was discovered that his medication had caused the problem, he returned to sit in the audience at the evening performance.

Two weeks prior to his death, Jim went to the hospital complaining of shortness of breath, but was allowed to go home. On Aug. 28, he began to experience kidney failure and was admitted to the hospital and put on dialysis. He died Aug. 29, 2014. Jim's memory is vivid and his presence is still felt by many in the chapter and chorus. He is greatly missed.

42 Heart of America barbershoppers sang Jim's favorite song, *Lullaby* and *Friends*, under the direction of **Jerry Garrard**.



## C.V. Rice 1927 - 2014

Not many in the *HOA* chorus knew **C.V.'s** first name was **Chauncey**, we always called him C.V. His relatives and close family friends knew his name, of course, and some had other nicknames for him. It was said that his wife, **Joyce**, called him **Chuck**. Most in the chorus who knew him remember him as a soft spoken man who enjoyed reliving old memories when he visited the chapter.

C. V. joined the U.S. Navy during WWII and served from 1945 to 1946. Following the service, he received a BS degree in Business Administration and Accounting from the University of Wichita in 1950. He was active in the United Methodist church in Wichita and was a long-time member of the Old Mission United Methodist Church in Fairway, Kansas.

He always had a love for music. He played the trumpet in high school and in the Boeing Band when he lived in Wichita, and he sang in church choirs much of his life. He joined the barbershop society, then known as SPEBSQSA, sometime before 1981 (our earliest confirmed record), and sang with the Wichita, Kansas and Lincoln, Nebraska chapters before joining *HOA*. **Bruce Wenner** remembers him as “a pretty darn good Treasurer” in 1976. C. V. was active in the Kansas City chapter until 1986 but had to drop out because of voice problems. He returned in 1990 but left again in 1996.

When his family asked if a quartet would sing at his funeral, they were overjoyed when a very large quartet showed up. 14 members of *HOA* gathered at the Old Mission United Methodist Church to sing *I Believe* under the direction of **Jim Bagby**.



## Lyle Rolofson 1943 - 2014

**Lyle Rolofson**, a long-time barbershopper and occasional visitor to *HOA*, died December 19, 2014. He sang with the *Vocal Majority* in Dallas, Texas and was a member of the *Ambassadors of Harmony* in St. Charles, Missouri for a period of time after leaving the *V.M.* He never transferred his membership from Dallas to the Kansas City chapter.

(Continued on page 17 ⇨)



## From: Mr. Gradgrind's Literal Answers to Rhetorical Questions

Source: <http://www.wsu.edu/~brians/gradgrind.html>  
submitted by Tina Gunther, Whittier, CA

### *Tell me why the ivy twines.*

Not all ivies do twine, of course: some are mere creeping vines. However, climbing ivies such as are commonly seen covering academic buildings maximize their exposure to light by using twining tendrils to affix themselves to other plants and objects in order to gain altitude and escape their shade.

### *Would you like to swing on a star?*

Even supposing that I were to wish to do such a thing, it would be quite impossible. Swinging requires that the force of gravity be exerted in the direction opposite to the pivot of the pendulum, whereas if one were somehow to succeed in attaching a pendulum to even so small a star as a white dwarf the predominant pull of gravity toward the star would convert any such attempt into a rapid vertical plunge toward its surface and almost immediate death by evaporation.

### *How are you going to keep them down on the farm after they've seen Paris?*

Administered commodity prices resulting in an average profit per farmer of no more than \$50,000 per annum should be adequate to discourage profligate trips to France.

### *How high the moon?*

It varies between 356,000 and 407,000 km in distance from the surface of the earth, its average distance being 384,400 km.

### *What shall we do with a drunken sailor?*

**D. Kolb** and **E.K.E. Gunderson's** study, "Alcoholism in the United States Navy" reports that attempts to prevent, diagnose and rehabilitate sailors suffering from alcohol-related problems are to a measurable degree superior to the older approach of simple hospitalization (published in *Armed Forces and Society*, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 183-194).

### *Who wrote the Book of Love?*

The earliest work that translates into English with that title was penned by the **Sufi Sadi** in the 13th century. **Rene of Anjou**, King of Naples 1435-1480, wrote and illustrated his *Book of Love* some time after 1473 while living idly in Provence. Since then there have been over two dozen books published in English with that title. ♥



### **John Garbett 1920 - 2014**

**John Garbett**, a former member of the Kansas City, Missouri Chapter, died Dec. 19, 2014 in Sun City Center, Florida at the age of 94.

John was active member of Kansas City Chapter and sang lead in the *HOA* chorus until 1986. Many who knew John, remember him as an active chorus member and show ticket salesman, and served as chapter President in 1971 and was Barbershopper of the Year in 1976. He and his second wife, **Margaret**, moved to Florida in 1992 as the first residents of Freedom Plaza in Sun City Center. After moving to Florida, the chapter lost contact with him and though his name would surface in conversations from time to time, not much was known until a member of his family sent word that he had died.

His obituary in the Tampa Bay Times details how John enlisted the Army Air Corp during WWII and flew P-38's in 50 combat missions, earning both the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with 11 oak leaf clusters. He later was a P-38 instructor before serving in Korea. He was active in a number of service organizations during his lifetime, including Rotary International, VFW, MOAA and MOWW, on his church Vestry and sang in the church choir.

Memorial services were held in Sun City Center, Dec. 27, 2014.



### **Joe Costigan**

**Herman Joseph "Joe" Costigan**, 77, died Oct. 31, 2014 in Kansas City. Joe was a long time member of the Kansas City Chapter and sang bass in the *HOA* chorus. He served as President in 1970 and was Barbershopper of the year in 1972. He left the chapter in 1986.

He would occasionally visit the chorus during Salvation Army performances to talk with old friends and sing a tag or two during breaks in singing. He considered returning to the chapter several years ago but his plan never materialized. ♥

# SINGING VALENTINES!

A GIFT TO REMEMBER FOREVER!

Friday, February 13 -  
Saturday, February 14  
8AM to 8PM

Delivered in Harmony by Quartets from the



25% of net  
proceeds from  
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directly benefit the  
speech and hearing  
clinic of Children's  
Mercy Hospital!

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*Select a male or female quartet to deliver YOUR VALENTINE to a home, office, school, restaurant...just about ANYWHERE in the Kansas City area!*

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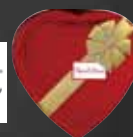
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## HEART OF AMERICA CHORUS CALENDAR

**February 13 & 14**  
**Singing Valentines**

**February 21**  
**Harmony Explosion! at Olathe East High School**

**April 11**  
**HOA 69th Annual Spring Show**  
**Johnson County Community College**  
**2pm & 7:30pm featuring *Double Date***

## 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.