

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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HOA: A BUSY BUNCH OF BARBERSHOPPERS!

by Carter Combs, Chapter President



As expected, the last few months have kept us hoppin'! By my count, we averaged about one event per week during the last three month, not counting rehearsals... that's a bunch o' barbershop, boys! So much so, that even limiting myself to a few quick highlights will likely exceed the space that editor **Todd** has allocated to me.

Our marathon began with our first-ever foray to the Blue Springs Fall Fun Fest, which was a rousing success! **John Braden** was able to finagle us a good time slot, right before one of the kids' dance troops, so we enjoyed a growing audience throughout our performance. And **Ted Simon** worked overtime to ensure we had our new casual chorus shirts just in time for the gig!

Next up was our Annual Golf Tournament, which **Kent Miller** has grown over the last few years into our largest non-performance fund-raiser. The "Scramble" gets bigger and better every year, and this one was no exception, with prizes including a Canadian fishing trip to Cedar Point Lodge on Eagle Lake in Ontario! Whether you golf or not, you'll want to make plans now to participate this September... date TBD.

Under the inspired tutelage of dynamic duo **Adam and Steve Scott**, our retreat at Camp Chipewewa was a blast. New location, excellent coaching, plenty of food, fun and fellowship... plus making both **Jerry Gerrard** and **Mike Schumacher** cry... if you missed it, man, you really missed it! *(Continued on page 2 ➡)*

Harmonotes

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

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

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

Comments/submissions may be made to:

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

HOA Website: www.hoachorus.com
Web Address: webstaff@hoachorus.com
Chorus Manager & Webmaster - **Vince Perry**



(Continued from front cover)

What happens when local boy becomes Society President? When it's **Don Fuson**, he starts making international connections, and we end up hosting a show featuring Top-20 Sweet Adeline quartets *Vocality*, from Sweden, and local favorites *Legacy* and *HEAT!* Our own *Harmonium* and geezers *Armchair Chorderbacks* also appreciated the opportunity to try out contest sets on a full house audience.

Hosting the Fall Convention was a mixed bag this year. Attendance was down considerably from original estimates, we think due in large part to coinciding with the *Sweet Adelines International* Convention the same weekend. But the expert guidance of convention chair **Mike Mathieu** once again showed how these weekends are supposed to be run. Every member of the District convention team thanked and congratulated *HOA* on our flawless execution. And we increased our scores a bit from last fall... not enough to move us back into the medals, but certainly moving in the right direction.

Two weeks later, we once again tackled the Great Midwest Balloon Fest, in its third location in as many years. The weather was... ummm... brisk(!), but the crowds kept us too busy to notice (much) and our stalwart team, organized by the indefatigable **John Erwine**, helped drop some much-needed funds into our coffers.

All this while trying to work around playoffs and World Series games... *Go Royals!*

By then, we were already working on our holiday music and events, including the return of "Sounds of the Season" at Union Station. The radio stations which have sponsored this in the past have changed hands, so scheduling has been sporadic, and the specifics have changed from year to year. Regardless, we took a good group to the Grand Hall, and gave the appreciative audience a boost of holiday cheer, portions of which were broadcast live on KCKC 102.1. Associate director **Bob Velazquez** ably led both the *HOA* set and then the combined *HOA/KCSA* chorus.

This served as a good promo and warm-up for our 18th annual Holiday Harmony Spectacular. **Barry Sanders** once again smoothly coordinated the event as *HOA's* chair on our joint venture with the *Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines*. We delighted our audience with an infusion of some much-needed new music, and got the season started right. (Continued on page 5 ☺)

JOE STERN AWARD WINNERS

2004 - Gil Lefholz *
2007 - Dan Henry Bowser *
2010 - Jim Bagby
2012 - Bob Gall *
2015 - Ron Abel
2015 - Bruce Wenner

*** Chapter Eternal**

JOE STERN AWARD - Ron Abel

by Jim Bagby

[Ed. Note: At the Kansas City Chapter 2016 Installation and Awards Banquet on Jan. 9, the Joe Stern Award for Lifetime Achievement was presented to **Ron Abel** and **Bruce Wenner**, marking the first time in HOA history the chapter's highest honor had been given twice on the same night (see list on page 2). Here are the remarks of **Jim Bagby**, who presented the award on behalf of the Joe Stern Committee, composed of Jim and the late **Dan Henry Bowser**]

When Standard Oil transferred **Ron Abel** from Des Moines to Kansas City in 1962, he became the most valuable import from the north to the metro area in this century not named **Alex Gordon**. Now a 58-year member of the Barbershop Harmony Society, Ron immediately became a member of the *Heart of America* front row and remained there for 45 years. He did not miss a show or competition in all that time. In an effort to put that in perspective, research indicates that the average chorus life span of a second-row lead is about a dozen years. You don't even want to know about third-row basses.

On our 50th annual show in 1988, the chapter presented plaques to Ron and **Al Moritz**, recognizing them for 35 consecutive years of front-row service. I'll never forget it because Al said afterward as a gravelly aside "Dammit, and I was getting ready to retire." Al's hearing eventually failed him and he dropped out of the performing chorus. But he's with us occasionally, especially at the afterglows, and we're delighted he's here tonight. Ron has remained active throughout, and even as he approaches his 90th birthday, he remains the pitch piper and baritone section leader for the *New Harmony Handful*. He has 100-some grandkids, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren — I think even he has lost count — and still has more hair and energy than most of us. It should be noted that his two sons joined HOA in our early championship years. In our very first district chorus champion, 1978, Ron was at one end of

Row 1 and son **Steve** was at the other end — a very Abel front row! But his progeny and front-row service are not why he's being honored tonight. When the very small Joe Stern committee began three years ago looking toward this night, **Dan Henry** began filling me in on Ron's musical service to the chapter before I moved here in 1971. I had no idea. Director **Don Webb** would frequently call Ron to the piano to pick out notes for everyone's part. When Dan became director in 1972, he continued to count on Ron as a key member of his staff. And when I was drafted to succeed Dan as arm-waver in 1974, Ron soon became chairman of the newly organized music team. Only he can tell you how many years he held that position. And he joins **Bruce Wenner** as the only two Kansas City Chapter

members who have sung under all eight *Heart of America* Chorus directors, from **Don Webb** through **Jerry Garrard**. Think about how many men that figure encompasses.

But longevity alone would not be enough to put Ron's name on this highest of awards. He has made service a way of life. In addition to his terms in various chapter offices, he was chapter president in 1974,

barbershopper of the year in 1975, Central States District president in 1982 and '83, on to a two-year term as Barbershop Harmony Society board member, crowned by selection as a member of the CSD hall of fame. His still-active quartet, the *Crosstown Four*, was the district's very first Senior Quartet Champion in 1989.

What all this does not say about Ron Abel is what Ron would not say about himself. He may be the most humble, quietly efficient person I've ever known; he does not care who gets credit for any accomplishment. With this award, Ron becomes the first person in chapter history to earn all the HOA honors: Barbershopper of the Year, John Cross, Oz Newgard and now, the Joe Stern Award for Lifetime Achievement. ♥



Photo courtesy of **Rich Huyck**

JOE STERN AWARD - Bruce Wenner

by Jim Bagby

Ed. Note: At the Kansas City Chapter 2016 Installation and Awards Banquet on Jan. 9, the Joe Stern Award for Lifetime Achievement was presented to Ron Abel and Bruce Wenner, marking the first time in HOA history the chapter's highest honor had been given twice on the same night (see list on page 2). Here are the remarks of Jim Bagby, who presented the award on behalf of the Joe Stern Committee, composed of Jim and the late Dan Henry Bowser]

When we created the Oz Newgard Award in 1989 for outstanding musical service to the Kansas City Chapter, there was no doubt among our busy, active music committee that Bruce Wenner would be the initial recipient. But we had to get down on paper just what the wording for the Ozzie should be. It turned out to be easy. When Bruce wasn't around, music team members looked at each other and said, "What Bruce is." That sounds like an oversimplification, but **Ron Abel** and **Keith Schweer** can attest that's exactly how it came to pass.

Not only has Bruce been our resident baritone section leader virtually since the day he arrived in Kansas City in 1968, he is our unquestioned music expert. In my 25 years as chorus director, there was no one I counted on more to obtain and legalize our arrangements, make sure the voicing suited the *Heart of America Chorus* and often re-work or create a new tag. It would not be a stretch to say that almost every piece of music we performed, under any director, went through Bruce's hands. Along the way he became a certified Society judge in the Music Category. And he taught me more than I can tell you about the barbershop craft.

Before the computer gods invented *Finale*, relatively recently, he did all this painstakingly, writing out our music by hand. The record speaks for itself: 13 district championships and 18 times the chorus represented CSD at international competition. Bruce tried to do a lot for *Tone-Henge*, but some things are beyond human capability. He has served his share as music vice president and has been the guiding light of our awards system for the past decade.

Bruce brings a passion to his barbershop calling that is most easily observed in his dedication to the chorus. Not only did he earn

the John Cross Award in 2011, almost no one in the chapter has remained more faithful on meeting nights the last few years than Bruce – even while others of us in the old guard have given up participating with the performing chorus. Bad knees and all, Bruce is the only member of *Tone-Henge* still on the risers, or camping close by, every Tuesday night. He remains bari section leader and, "Eight Days a Week" notwithstanding, a force on the music team.



His other passion, as he made evident on his first night in Kansas City, is singing with three other guys. He was bitten by the barbershop bug when his Duke University fraternity performed a barbershop song. His first teaching job took him to the University of Vermont, where he joined the Burlington Chapter, and when he came to his first HOA meeting he announced, "I'm Bruce Wenner and I'm looking for a quartet."

He'd had some interesting quartet experiences in the Northeastern District, and you may or may not remember some Kansas City foursomes like the *Implausibles*, the *Summer Hummers*, the *Prairie Crooners*, *Reverie*, the district champion *Morning Times* and of course, the famous CSD senior champion *Tone-Henge*, better known as *Dan and the Hummers Take 2*.

Bruce is so fond of quartetting that he and pal **Larry Bret** founded the Kansas City Bush League quartet contest, carried on intermittently to this day. His administrative abilities are notable at the private and professional level. Dr. Wenner made his mark as a math professor and department chairman at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He became chapter president in 1976, two years after **Ron Abel**, in the midst of one of strongest periods of musical and membership growth HOA has ever experienced. Some of those heroes, like **Dale Neuman** and **Fred Whisman**, are unable to be with us tonight, but most of the others are sitting among you.

Like **Ron Abel**, Bruce has shared the barbershopping bug with his offspring. All three children have sung on an HOA show in the kiddie chorus, and as you saw tonight, **Tom** is a talented second-generation baritone who has been a regular in our chorus. Bruce was barbershopper of the year in 1982. So on this historic night, by luck of the draw, he becomes only the second Kansas City Chapter member to receive all four major HOA recognitions, as he deservedly receives the Joe Stern Lifetime Achievement Award. ❤️

Photo courtesy of **Rich Huyck**

"JOE STERN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD"

by Ron Abel



Two "Joe Stern Lifetime Achievement Awards" were presented this year! I am very proud and deeply humbled to have been one of the recipients of this most prestigious award. In my years in the Society, 53 of those years have been with *Heart of America* of which I take great pride. I consider it a sincere privilege to have personally known **Joe Stern** who truly was a pioneer in the early years of our Society. I am proud to have served the Kansas City Chapter, *HOA*, the Central States District, and the Society through the years to be best of my ability. Thank you for this very meaningful award. It's one I shall always cherish.

My congratulations to **Bruce Wenner** who also was honored by receiving this award. His musical expertise and talents to the Society, CSD, the Kansas City Chapter, and *HOA*, has been, and continues to be, truly immeasurable. Our thanks, **Bruce**, for all you do. ♥

HOA: A BUSY BUNCH OF BARBERSHOPPERS

(Continued from page 2)

Bell-ringer extraordinaire **Mike Mathieu** once again managed to organize an astonishing Caroling Caravan week. More than just a single-day event, this year started with an auction of barbershop and KC Royals memorabilia at the chapter meeting, auctioneered by **Yoder** brothers **Willard** and **Calvin**. This raised some seed money, which grew into yet another record-breaking year of fund-raising... approximately \$27,000 for the Salvation Army!

There are so many people to recognize from our Annual Dinner, starting with **Jerry Meier** for organizing the entire event, and past CSD president Harvey Kiser for installing the new Board. I was privileged to pass the John Cross award on to **Steve Keisker**, and could think of no one more deserving to receive *HOA's* Barbershopper Of The Year award than **Jerry Meier**, our "unsung hero" who is now finally "sung." And finally, my heartfelt congratulations to our new Joe Stern Lifetime Achievement Award honorees, **Ron Abel** and **Bruce Wenner**. Director Emeritus **Jim Bagby** gave stellar presentations, recognizing both for their decades of service to *HOA* and the barbershop community.

Coming up... Singing Valentines, Harmony Explosion, etc...

So, show me any other chapter in the Society that does as much as *HOA*... what a hobby! ♥

2015 Chapter Awards to Keisker and Meier

by Bruce Wenner, Awards Committee Chairman



At our Annual Dinner Jan. 9, two very worthy men received recognition for their valuable contributions to *Heart of America*. The John Cross Award went to **Steve Keisker**. Steve is a relatively new barbershopper, having joined *Heart of America* in 2012, and he promptly immersed himself in his new hobby. In his three years of barbershopping his attendance has been among the very best in the chapter – in 2015 he led the pack. And that's not enough – Steve spent a week doing 24/7 barbershop at Harmony University, and came back with even more enthusiasm. He has rapidly made himself indispensable to the chapter, whether it's in pitching in with the risers or taking on the job of blowing the pitch to the chorus – that means the chorus relies on him to know the pitch at every point of every song, including those with multiple key changes. Every chapter should have one of these guys.

As for our 2015 Barbershopper Of The Year, who could it be but **Jerry Meier**? In his twenty-seven years with *HOA* Jerry has been a very busy man, putting a lot of time and effort into chapter administration and musical leadership. He is the man we depend on for the visual aspects of our performances. He gets our choreography packages onto paper, and leads us tirelessly through the choreography rehearsals. Jerry monitors our visual performance, and works out our most effective riser alignment. His service in the two key offices of Program VP and Membership VP has been remarkably effective. But Jerry didn't have enough to do, so he took on Harmony Explosion, and under his leadership the event has blossomed into a huge success, creating future barbershoppers and providing a great musical experience for hundreds of teenagers. Whew! Jerry Meier is definitely an over-achiever.

In some years the Ozzie Award is not presented. This was one of those years. However, this was also a year in which the Joe Stern Lifetime Achievement Award was presented. Look for a separate article for the details. ♥



9TH ANNUAL HOA FOUR-PERSON GOLF SCRAMBLE

**September 24, 2015
Falcon Lakes Golf Course, Basehor, KS**

Outdoor Photographer - Cindy Miller • Indoor Photographer - Vince Perry
All group shots are shown left to right



**Steve Keisker, Brad Garder,
Weldon Harrison, Harvey Shapiro**



**John Newsam, Susie Newsam,
Jim Bagby, David Hokanson**



**Kevin Schumacher, Jana Henderson,
Don Young, Mike Schumacher**



**Bob Davis, Harry Stewart,
Carl Turlin, Brad Dawdy**



**Ray Young, Dale Carder,
Mike Grelle, Jerry Meisenheimer**



**Bob Bauerly, Mike O'Dell, Dustin
O'Dell, Justin Erisman**



**Russ Thompson, Dick Calkins,
Tami Holtus, Jack Strange**



**Eric Johnson, Jerry Garrard,
Karen Fletcher, Tim Nobles**



**Barry Sanders, Johnnie Huff,
Brandon Tackley, Mark Rains**

9TH ANNUAL HOA FOUR-PERSON GOLF SCRAMBLE

September 24, 2015
Falcon Lakes Golf Course, Basehor, KS

Outdoor Photographer - Cindy Miller • Indoor Photographer - Vince Perry
All group shots are shown left to right



**Larry William, Don Newman,
George Webb, Roy Sullivan**



**Mike Levine, John Zillman,
Barry Thompson, Ron Whitehouse**



**Bill Brown, John Orndorff,
Kent Miller, Kevin Tritsch**



**Kent Miller (Tournament Director),
Cindy Miller**



**Tracy Dame, Bill Bay,
Mike Owen, Mark Grisham**



**John Erwine,
Cindy Miller**



Priorities (quartet) sings at the dinner
**Brad Dawdy, Jeff Garrard,
Tim Anderson, Jerry Garrard**

"Golf... is the infallible test. The man who can go into a patch of rough alone, with the knowledge that only God is watching him, and play his ball where it lies, is the man who will serve you faithfully and well." – **P.G. Wodehouse**



©Thinkstock

THE PLAN FOR 2016 SINGING VALENTINES

by John Erwine, Singing Valentine Coordinator



A note from your recently retired, now newly re-instated, Singing Valentine Coordinator – me.

As most may know, I have held monthly meetings since June to resolve the on-going question of the leadership role of this committee without success. It was only within a few short days ago that **Carter** and **Jeffi** proposed an idea that has helped us put a plan into action that will enable us to continue this year. Although I will still be the over-all coordinator, it will allow me the freedom-from-headquarters duty 85% of the time. I will still be involved with behind-the-scenes activity which is significant, but I can do that in order to meet required schedules from my home.

Vince and I will still be handling orders. Any received on Friday, Saturday or Sunday will be emailed to HQ and scheduled for delivery.

Here's the plan:

Headquarters Manager: **Carol Ramirez**
HQ Assistant Mgr.: **Jeffi Combs**
HQ Supply Sgt.: **Pat Ross**

Singing Valentines Delivery Dates:

- Friday, Feb. 12, 8 am – 8 pm
- NO Saturday Deliveries (unless special request by paying a premium)
- Sunday, Feb. 14, NOON – 8 pm

PRICES:

- \$50 Delivery within 8 hour window
- \$75 Delivery within 2 hour window
- \$95 Delivery within 1 hour window



We have reduced some prices, plus they will still get a \$5 discount if ordered at www.hoachorus.com.

The phone call-in service will be active in a few days 913-338-8288.

HQ will again be at 7900 College Blvd as in the past several years.

We believe we'll have all donors as in the past plus a new one for the drawings (more on this soon).

Advertising is a bit behind schedule because of the decision-making process. You will have something very soon, but this gives you the necessary tools to begin promoting and selling deliveries. **Ted** is working on radio and TV opportunities.

I still have a candy transportation issue that I'll need someone with a pickup for. Meanwhile, let's sell, sell, sell! Stay tuned for more details coming soon. ♥

SINGING VALENTINES!

A GIFT TO REMEMBER FOREVER!

Friday, Feb. 12
8AM - 8PM
Sunday, Feb. 14 - NOON - 8PM

Delivered in Harmony by Quartets from the



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

Heart of America Barbershop Chorus and the Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines

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

YOUR VALENTINE WILL RECEIVE:

A Medley of TWO love songs • A RED ROSE from Flowerama
Russell Stover Chocolates • A Valentine Card from YOU



PLUS:

Entry into a drawing for several great prizes, including a diamond pendant from Helzberg Diamonds AND stays for two at several sponsoring upscale hotels!

ORDER ONLINE

at www.hoachorus.com
and receive a \$5 DISCOUNT,
or call: 913.338.8288

PRICES:

Any 8-hour window: \$50
Any 2-hour window: \$75
Any 1-hour window: \$95

NO SATURDAY DELIVERIES (UNLESS SPECIAL REQUEST BY PAYING A PREMIUM)

HARMONY EXPLOSION!

Who: YOU!
What: Harmony Explosion! 2016
When: Saturday, Feb. 20 from 8 am to 5 pm
Where: Olathe East High School, 14545 W. 127th Olathe, KS 66062

You are invited to participate in a very exciting opportunity to support our youth – Harmony Explosion 2016! – to be held at Olathe East High School on Saturday, Feb. 20. Harmony Explosion! 2016 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, as we have done for more than 20 years.

Harmony Explosion! 2016 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 mistake-friendly environment that encourages participation and performance with plenty of support and fun!

- Goal #1 – get the students to sing on stage!
- Goal #2 – get the students excited about singing a cappella music on their own and with their friends!
- Goal #3 – get the students to understand that singing 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 such as *Harmonium*, *Legacy*, *BoomTown*, *Premium Blend*, *HEAT*, and *ZING!*

Getting the students to sing on stage is a HUGE accomplishment:

1. Builds character and self-confidence
2. Improves their self-esteem
3. Teaches them responsibility and accountability
4. Uses Barbershop Music as the vehicle for fun!

The schedule for the day will look something like this:

8:30 am Registration Opens
9:00 am Opening Session
10:00 am Preliminary Quartet Performances
12:30 pm Quartet Finals Announcement
2:00 pm Quartet Finals Performances
4:45 pm Awards Ceremony

Make plans now to attend. You will thoroughly enjoy the experience – **I GUARANTEE IT!** ♥

Jerry Meier, Harmony Explosion! Director
(913) 780-1822 (Home)
(913) 226-5394 (Mobile)
lilhossks@aol.com
jerry.meier@hoachorus.com



ARE YOU A HARMONY EXPLOSION VOLUNTEER?

by Jerry Meier



Harmony Explosion is right around the corner. Can you be a Quartet Coach? It's easier than you think! Simply share your barbershop knowledge with the students – it's the most beneficial service that we can provide. All you have to do is give it a try!

The students want to sing their songs for the coaches. They are eager to get suggestions on how they can perform better. Your presence with a young quartet will help the students practice their songs. Just one or two days prior to Feb. 20 is all it takes – usually at 315pm during the school day (sometimes at 715am). Just 30 minutes of coaching can make a huge difference in a student's ability to sing on stage. Don't you wish that someone would have coached you when YOU were in school?

Harmony Explosion! 2016: Saturday, Feb. 20

- 9 am** Opening Session with performances by the *KCCSA*, *Dynamix* and *HEAT*
- 9:30 am** Vocal Warm-ups and song or tag (Boys Chorus will learn *Down on the Corner*)
- 10 am** Quartet Prelims
- 12:30 pm** *BoomTown* Performance
- LUNCH -** catered by Olive Garden (\$5 suggested donation)
- 1:30 pm** Afternoon Rehearsal on the song or the tags
- 2 pm** Quartet Finals
- 4:15 pm** *Premium Blend* Performance
- 4:30 pm** Girls Chorus / Boys Chorus performances
- 4:45 pm** Hand out medals



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

January 7 **Harvey Shapiro**
January 9 **Bob Rutherford**
January 10 **Oly Oldehoeft**
January 13 **Roy Manade**
January 20 **Michael Beck**
January 25 **Bob Burdick**
January 30 **Rick Foreman**

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 25 **John Marshall**
February 27 **Jon Gathright**

March 4 **Ron McIntire**
March 16 **Eric Weber**
March 17 **Don Young**
March 19 **Jason Garder**
March 23 **Charles Ramirez**
March 29 **Jerry Meier**
March 29 **Jake Wozniak**
March 30 **Doc Jeppesen**

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!



Introducing the newest members of the Chapter!

Photos by Ron McIntire



Sean Abel

Sean Abel first joined the Barbershop Society and sang with the Davenport, Iowa Chordbusters for a year and a half. Today he lives with his wife Tricia and their four children in Kansas City, Missouri and works in law enforcement. His musical background includes high school choir and he sings bass in the HOA Chorus.



Michael Beck

Michael Beck, or "Mike" as he prefers, is a first-time barshopper and sings tenor in the HOA chorus. He lives in Lee's Summit, Missouri with his wife Genevieve and works in the Kansas City area for Jefferson Health Care as an Administrator. His musical background includes church choir, high school choir and he has sung in quartets ever since. He has had an interest in barbershop since college.

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.

At year end 2015, after 49 total drawings:
The total collected for Harmony Foundation for 2015 was \$1,042.
This concluded our best year in the past 5 years.
The carry-over jackpot at year end was \$169.

To date in 2016, there have been 3 drawings.
The total collected for Harmony Foundation is \$54.
The carry-over jackpot as of January 27th is \$200. ♥

An Embarrassment of Baritones

by Bryan Lynch, via LiveWire!

One under-observed joy of English wordplay is the construction of collective nouns. We're all familiar with a **gaggle** of geese, a **pride** of lions, a **flock** of seagulls. Word-fans seeking a pleasant discussion of collective nouns should look for James Lipton's *An Exaltation of Larks*, which lists hundreds of terms of ventry, including a **murder** of crows, a **parliament** of owls, a **slouch** of supermodels, a **score** of bachelors and so forth.

Let's try this with common barbershop terms. There's a **chorus** of singers, of course, and also...

an **embarrassment** of baritones
a **wave** of chorus directors
a **bank** of treasurers
a **huddle** of judges
a **confusion** of leads
a **bray** of baritones
a **shimmer** of tenors
a **polish** of coaches
a **rumble** of basses
a **giggle** of writers
a **clutch** of barbershop spouses



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Add yours in the comments or on our Facebook page:
<http://www.barbershop.org/an-embarrassment-of-baritones> ♥

2016 HOA AWARDS BANQUET RECAP

by Jerry Meier

This year's Awards Banquet was held on Saturday, Jan. 9 at the Jack Stack BBQ Private Dining Facility in Martin City, MO. Seventy-seven attendees gathered to enjoy a delicious BBQ dinner of chicken, turkey, brisket, and pork.

Linda Schumacher recognized the 2015 *Heartbeats* and installed the 2016 Officers.

Former Central States District President **Harvey Kiser** installed the 2016 Board of Directors with a wonderful **baseball skit**:



Combs

Catcher - President **Carter Combs**. He makes sure that all members are where they need to be. He keeps tuned in on what is happening in the game and keeps everyone informed about the progress in the game.



Porter

Center Field - Secretary **Jim Porter**. He is the foundation for the outfield. With his skills and knowledge of the game, he covers a lot of ground to record outs and returns hits to the infield quickly.



Sanders

Designated Hitter - Executive Vice President **Barry Sanders**. He is there to get hits situations when others are on base.



Shapiro

Third Base - Treasurer **Harvey Shapiro**. He has the skills to protecting the third base line in the late innings of the game.



Keisker

Pitcher - Operations VP **Steve Keisker**. He works with the catcher to make sure that the officers are in their positions depending upon the pitch or the location.



Erwine

Pinch Hitter - Immediate Past President **John Erwine**. He is a veteran player that other team members look for guidance and providing information about what is going on in the League. He steps in and gets hits and he fields wherever needed.



First Base - Music and Performance VP **Bob Velazquez**. He does the heavy lifting in the batting order. He is ready to protect the first base line in the late innings. He works closely with the pitcher to get outs and to start and finish double plays.



Second Base - Marketing Vice President **Ted Simon**. He starts many double plays like what any marketing VP does by having more fans at the games.



Meier

Shortstop - Membership Vice President, **Jerry Meier**. He keeps track of the runners on second base and keeps everyone alert in tracking all members, potential members and not letting current members wander too far away from base.



O'Brien

Outfield - Board Members at Large **Tony O'Brien, Bob Murphy, Charles Ramirez** and Board Member Emeritus **Dale Neuman**. These four members react quickly to catch anything hit their way. They back-up other outfielders and the infielders. These team members are essential for a successful team.



Ramirez



Garrard

Manager / Head Coach - Chorus Director **Jerry Garrard**. He is the guy in charge of challenging and inspiring the team members to be in shape, providing counsel and guidance and suggesting extra practices by the team when needed to keep everyone on the top of their game.

Bruce Wenner announced two of the four awards given out during the evening:

1. John Cross Award - **Steve Keisker**.
2. Barbershopper of the Year Award - **Jerry Meier**.
3. Joe Stern Lifetime Achievement Award - **Ron Abel**
4. Joe Stern Lifetime Achievement Award - **Bruce Wenner** (presented by **Jim Bagby**)

Mark your calendars for next year's Awards Banquet, which is planned for Saturday, Jan. 7 at the Jack Stack Martin City Private Dining Facility. ♥

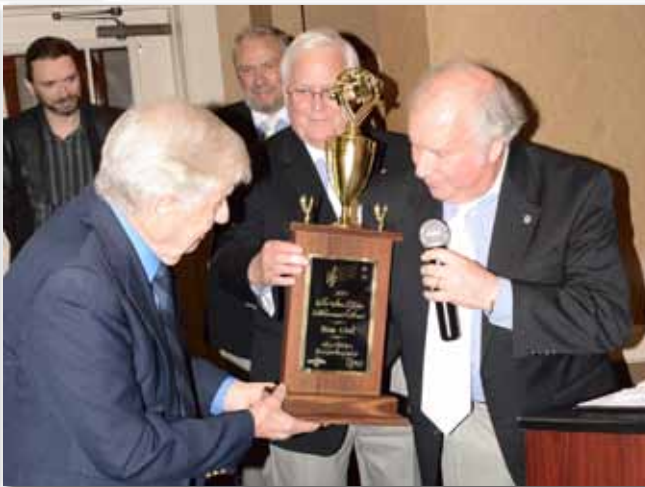
2016 HOA AWARDS BANQUET RECAP

Photos courtesy of Rich Huyck



2016 HOA AWARDS BANQUET RECAP

Photos courtesy of Rich Huyck



New Harmony Handfull – Still Going Strong

by Barry Sanders

In case you were worried that the *New Harmony Handfull* might not be as active during this part of the year, versus the Summer months when we sing for Churches on Sunday while their choirs take off for the Summer, have no fears – we are still going strong. Here is a brief overview of our recent performances:

On Wednesday, Oct. 28, we sang at Del Mar Gardens, one of our favorite retirement spots to sing.

On Nov. 3, we sang at JKV (John Knox Village) Pavillion, for the – now annual – Lee's Summit men's choruses event, where each of three different choruses and two quartets sing individually, and then we finished off the evening with a combined chorus singing the last two songs. The crowd for this event was about 500 people, so we got quite a bit of positive exposure at this performance.

Then on Nov. 6, we sang at the Argosy Casino for a retirement group that Ron Abel belongs to, from his days at AMOCO.

On Nov. 23, the *NHH* sang for **Barney Wasson's** funeral at Park Lawn Funeral Home in Grandview.

In December, *NHH* sang with *HOA* for both the HHS Show (Holiday Show) on Dec. 5, and for the Caroling Caravan on Dec. 19. This was a good reminder that nearly all of us in *NHH* have previously sung with *HOA* or still do sing with *HOA*. There is a good bond between these two groups!

Also in December, we took time out to have a Christmas Party, traveling with our wives to Lake Lotawana on Dec. 21 to **Dave Hokanson's** lake house. We had lots of good food and beverages there and lots of good fun and entertainment. As we frequently do, the guys finished off the evening by singing a few songs to our wives. I think we had all of the wives there, except for **Marty Oldehoeft's** wife **Sharon**, who was under the weather, and my own wife, **Terrie**, who had knee replacement surgery in early December. At our party we announced that Dave Hokanson has been named the Harmony "Hero" for 2015. (see picture from **Don Fuson** – hopefully).

The New Year for 2016 started out with many of us traveling to south Kansas City to visit and sing for **Dale Neuman's** wife (**Dona**) on Jan. 6, who has been re-habing from recent health problems. I believe as of this printing that Dona is scheduled to be returning back home which will be a huge relief to both Dale and Dona!

I am sure that, as we head into 2016, **Tony Strub** will be lining up more gigs for us (I think we had about 25 total in 2015, counting the ones described here). We also have a new member – **Denny Briley** – who just joined *NHH* for our first practice in January. Finally, we now have new casual shirts to wear when it gets warm again this Spring. If you thought our last casual shirt was bright, wait till you see this one! ♥

Honor Flight, Knee Surgeries, Oct. 18 Joint Concert Among Highlights for Busy New Harmony Handful

by Dave Hokanson

Not to the surprise of the 10 members on hand, and our wonderful leader, **Jim Bagby**, singing for North Cross Methodist on Aug. 23. turned out to be a great experience.

Our first song was sung as we stood outside in the narthex to welcome hundreds of church members as they processed into the church from their fellowship hall. We even added a second prelude song on the spur of the moment (A FIRST). Another first, we sang one song during communion while seated (and kept on pitch!) Only one Bari? No problem—we had the amazing **Jim Davis**. [Our other three baritones has signed up but dropped out one by one during the week for various reasons, and we lost one lead along the way from our original commitment of 14 singers]. Mr. Davis also blew the pitches in the rare absence of regular piper **Ron Abel**.

On Sept. 6, even though that's Labor Day weekend, 14 Handful members plan to meet at Downtown Airport for an Honor Flight sendoff. We continue to add gigs as long as we can get schedules that allow us to get as many members as possible. Upcoming on Oct. 18 at the John Knox Village Pavilion is our annual joint concert with the *Methodist Men of Note*, directed by **Larry Keisker** (Steve's dad) and the John Knox Singers. I understand there may be other performers on the show.

Later in October we return to one of our favorite retirement home audiences, Del Mar Gardens in Lenexa. Our *NHH* administrator, **Tony Strub**, says that will be our 19th performance of the year. It looks to be another record year for singing engagements... too much fun!

The Handful welcomes a new member, veteran lead **Gordon Coleman**. And our mini-chorus plans to be a Hole Sponsor at the upcoming *HOA* Golf Tournament.

On the health side, lead **Roy Manade** missed only one rehearsal while undergoing August knee replacement. He was back with us less than two weeks later for our next performance. **Jim's** wife, **Denise Davis**, underwent knee replacement on Aug. 25 and is recuperating now. **Bob Murphy** never misses despite the boot on his foot and his ongoing pain issues.

We have finally gotten a new publicity photo of our group, thanks to the efforts of **Don Fuson**. And our "fashion consultants," **Bob Howard** and **Marty Oldehoeft**, are looking at new short-sleeved logo shirts for the *NHH*. ♥

In Memoriam

Article and photos courtesy of **Ron McIntire**

Walter Bates 1913-2015



Walter Monroe Bates, "Walt," as he was known, barbershopper extraordinaire, friend, good lead singer and all around nice guy, died Feb. 27, 2015.

Walt was born in Topeka, Kansas in 1913 and became a barbershopper with the Pittsburg, KS. Chapter in 1947. In the 1960s and '70s he sang with the *Southtown Chapter*, the *NO-JOCO Chapter* (now Overland Park) and was instrumental in the formation of the *Pride of the Northland Chapter*. Through the years he served as president in all three chapters and musical director in two of them.

Walt joined the Kansas City Chapter in 1979 and sang lead in the *HOA Chorus*. He but dropped out of active participation the chapter after his wife died but maintained his membership for several more years. Still, he was an occasional visitor on rehearsal nights to keep up with the chapter and see his old friends.

Walt died at age 84. In 2015, he would have celebrated 69 years in the Barbershop Harmony Society, making him the longest-tenured BHS member in our chapter. Like many of his brothers in song, he leaves a rich heritage of barbershop history and singing. ♥

Barney Wasson 1928-2015



IRL B. "BARNEY" WASSON, JR. was a fun-loving guy and friend to everyone in the Kansas City Chapter. He was a quartet man much of his barbershopping career and sang tenor in a number of quartets including the *Beaconaires*, *BMA Gambolliers* and the *Kansas Citians*. It was in 1957 that the 'Gambolliers were CSD Quartet Champions, a memory he considered one of his favorites. Barney also sang with the

CrossTown 4 at the International Mid-Winter Seniors Quartet Contest in Tucson, Arizona in 1990. The regular tenor of the *CT4*, **Dale Neuman**, fell one year short of the age requirement to compete and Barney was drafted to fill in for Dale. They placed 11th in a field of 17 contestants.

Barney was born Dec. 4, 1928 and was a Kansas City area resident his whole life. He became a barbershopper in 1949, served in the U.S. Army from 1951-1953, and in his working career was an insurance consultant and salesman for five decades. In his private life, he was an active member of the Ararat Shrine in Kansas City. He had health problems later in life and lost the sight in his left eye. From that time forward, whenever he visited chapter meetings, he was known as the guy with the patch.

Barney Wasson died Nov. 12, 2015 at age 87 taking with him 50+ years of memories with the *Heart of America Chorus*. ♥

DID YOU?

by Ed Hinkley, Asst. Chorus Director, Sarasota FL
Chorus of the Keys

- Did you call a friend and offer to pick him up and take him to chapter meeting?
- Did you offer to sit in the role of buddy for a new visitor?
- Did you spend some extra time working on the new music so that your contribution at rehearsal will help speed up the learning process?
- Did you practice your stage face in front of the mirror?
- Did you help the librarian distribute the new music?
- Did you offer to help make learning tapes for all the guys who don't read music?
- Did you set an example in your section by keeping conversation to a minimum?
- Did you compliment the new man on his performance at the last singout?
- Did you hold out your hand and smile at the guys coming in the door?
- Did you sing all the notes and words in the new song....correctly?
- Did you help set up the risers for rehearsing the new choreography?
- Did you find it hard getting to sleep after the great rehearsal?
- How many of these things are on your check list?

[Editors Note: Here's another good one to add to this list: **Do you contribute an article or photos to your chapter bulletin?**]

Chorderbacks Climb Cautiously at Society Senior Splash

The Central States District entry in the Mid-Winter Convention, our own *Armchair Chorderbacks*, can report their luck was much better than lots of folks who showed up in Reno, billed as the “Biggest Little City in the World.” That is to say, despite being surrounded day and night by slot machines and gambling devices of all kinds, they did better than break even: the quartet climbed one notch higher than their finish a year ago.

The *Chorderbacks* finished 14th of 25 entries. It was their third straight trip to the Barbershop Harmony Society's Midwinter Senior Quartet competition, and third straight time to place in the teens. From that we might deduce that competition is not their strong suit. They did have an extenuating circumstance this time: lead **Mike Mathieu** was vacationing in the California high desert country for all of January, so the Kansas City Chapter foursome did not rehearse until Wednesday before the Saturday competition.

They did have a good time, with all four wives along to roam through the spacious, glittering casinos and restaurants of the Peppermill Resort where all of the convention unfolded, under the watchful eye of our own Society Prez **Don Fuson**. Don and First Lady **Linda** broke tradition Saturday night. Instead of holding an invitation-only reception, they opened a ballroom to host all 2,000-some convention attendees. *A great party!* ♥



CHORDERBACKS AND QUEENS (from left)
Jim and Joann Bagby, Abbie and David Stockard,
Mike and Jan Mathieu, Carter and Jeffi Combs
(Photo from Jan's Camera)

Humor in TLBB format

Via PROBE, Submitted by Tina Gunther, Barbershop Harmony Fan, Whittier, Calif.

The Midas Touch?

Bari: My poor Uncle Bob, he was such an unlucky man!

Tenor: How unlucky was he?

Bari: Once when he was digging around in his attic, he uncovered what looked like a magic lamp. He picked it up and rubbed it, and lo and behold, a genie came out of the lamp, and bestowed on Uncle Bob the Midas Touch!

Tenor: How was that unlucky?

Bari: For the rest of his life, everything my uncle touched turned into a muffler.

The Singing Fish

Lead: Hey, Chris! How's your new pet fish doing? You told me he was really something special.

Tenor: To tell you the truth, I'm really disappointed in him. The guy who sold him to me said I could teach him to sing like a bird.

Lead: You bought a fish because you thought you could teach him to sing like a bird? I can't believe it!

Tenor: Well, yeah. After all, he's a parrot fish.

Lead: I hate to tell you this, Chris, but while you might be able to teach a parrot bird to sing, you're never going to get anywhere with a parrot fish.

Tenor: That's what you think! He can sing all right. The thing is, he keeps singing off-key. It's driving me crazy. Do you know how hard it is to tuna fish?

Can't Decide

Bari: I can't decide on anything this morning.

Bass: Maybe if you change your mind enough times, you'll find one that works!

Picking a Eulogy

The quartet was sitting on the porch talking when they saw a funeral procession go past the house. That got them to thinking and prompted a consideration of the question, “If you could hear what people say about you as they pass your casket, what is the single thing you would most like to hear?”

The Lead said, “He was a wonderful singer, a genius, and a fine husband and father.”

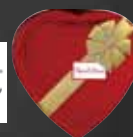
The Bass answered, “He was a great entertainer and a wonderful family man.”

The Tenor proclaimed, “He was loved by all who knew him. Humanity has suffered a great loss.”

The Baritone replied, “I would really like to hear them say, ‘LOOK, HE'S MOVING!’” ♥

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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

Friday, Feb. 12 and Sunday, Feb. 14
Singing Valentines

Saturday, Feb. 20:
Harmony Explosion

April 11

Barbershop Harmony Day - SPEBSQSA founded in 1938

April 22-24

Apring Convention in Omaha, NE

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.