

Harmonotes

The Quarterly Bulletin of the
Kansas City Heart of America Chorus

CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

VOLUME 19 · ISSUE 4 · OCTOBER 2019

PRESIDENT'S THANKSGIVING

By Mike Schumacher, 2019 President, Proud HOA Lead



SCHUMACHER

First, I have to applaud and say *Thank You* to **Bob Velasquez** and **Carter Combs** for getting us prepared for, through the pattern (with **Vince Perry III** help, of course) and on to the completion of our task on stage. AWESOME performance! I know I received many compliments when we went into the theater. I told you all that my goal was for HOA to get AAA Most Improved and you guys bought into the plan and carried it until we left the stage. WE DID IT! That was key this year. We didn't leave our plan in the green room, we gave it to the audience and the judges recognized that. Thank you, VP III for your work. Well done, HOA! And thanks to **Jon Kready** for your encouraging coaching!

Let's remind ourselves what occurred a month back, we had two guys step up and "drove" the Golf Scramble to a successful conclusion. Thank you **John Erwine** and **Harvey Shapiro**. Also thank you to the many volunteer guys and gal who showed up to work while most of us just showed to play. I know a great day was had by all who were in attendance and I already have two foursomes for next year! We need to figure out how to get some more gals playing. Thank you to all who came up with prizes. Our sponsors once again stepped up and helped with the bottom line which just gives us more opportunities to reach out to the community around us to spread the barbershop art form and lifestyle. (Continued on page 2 ➔)

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Harmonotes

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

Chapter meets at 7 p.m. each Tuesday night, at
Center High School
87th and Holmes - Kansas City, Mo. 64131

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HOA Board meetings take place at 6pm on the second Monday or Tuesday of the month, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 100 East Red Bridge Road, Kansas City, MO 64131.

Chapter members are welcome!

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



(Continued from front cover)

As the calendar year-end approaches faster than ever, we can't stand on our heels and admire our work! We have an incredible Holiday Show coming up with *Vocal Spectrum* as our guests (so sell, sell, sell those tickets). Caroling Caravan is coming soon and although it is a long day, it is so rewarding for us as entertainers and for our friends at the Salvation Army. Thank You to **Mike Mathieu** for his incredible leadership, continued enthusiasm and undying devotion to helping others. As we look for a new venue for our Spring Show, we also need to look for someone to step up and help run the Singing Valentines and Spring Show and assist **Jerry Meier** with the Harmony Explosion.

Last but not most definitely not least, I have to thank the 2019 Board for their commitment and devotion to our chapter and chorus. Next year I hope we have a group of guys just as dedicated and I know we will. *HOA* needs you and your new ideas. Mostly we need the guys that aren't assigned with a "position" to step up and volunteer in one of these many activities. I will guarantee that you won't be serving alone. So far, we have lived up to one of the key elements of my vision for 2019 and that was that there will not be a committee of one. We all care too much about *HOA* for that to happen.

Here's hoping we have an incredible and meaningful 2020. ♥

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 go 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 Oct. 16, after 37 drawings (11 since the last report):

- The total collected for Harmony Foundation since the last report is \$274.
- The total collected for the calendar year 2019 to date is \$819.
- The carry-over jackpot amount stands at \$437. ♥

HOA: MOST IMPROVED CHORUS!

By Bob Velazquez, HOA Director



I'm very pleased with HOA being named "Most Improved Chorus" for the second time in the past three years. While contest scores are just one way of measuring our progress, it is nice to know that progress was noticed and rewarded at the contest. We also had six more guys joining us on the risers this year bringing the total up to 30. That growth is also exciting.

Thanks are in order for our continued support and coaching from our "in house expert", **Jim Bagby**. We also invited **Jon Kready** to coach us for the time and it was a great addition to our coaching team. Jon helped add meaning to our text and brought our contest songs to life. I appreciate the tools he provided us to develop a solid approach to our music and am hopeful we can bring him in again as we continue the journey.

I like the phrase "HOA ON THE MOVE". We are on the move as a chorus and as individuals to strive to be the very best barbershop singers we can be. Our doors are always open to past members and we are always looking for new members.

We are now shifting our musical focus to the "Holiday Show", Dec. 7 at 2:00 pm. But we will continue with the techniques that we have added to our tool bag in song presentation and interpretation. As most of you know, *Vocal Spectrum* is our headline quartet. What a great opportunity to share this barbershop Christmas experience with friends and family.

Also in December we have our annual Caroling Caravan. Mark Dec. 21 on your calendar. This year we will share lots of Christmas Carols on the caravan so come out and join us in song.

Now is a good time to join us at Center High School and "Bust a Chord with HOA". ❤️



AWARDS BANQUET IS COMING UP SATURDAY JAN. 4, 2020

By Jerry Meier



The *Heart of America Chorus* will host its annual Awards Banquet at 6:30pm on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020 in the Private Dining Room at Cinzetti's "All You Can Eat Italian Feast" Italian Market. You will like the price and you will LOVE the food and desserts. Here are the details at a glance:

Time: 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm
Date: Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020
Location: Cinzetti's Italian Market (Private Dining Room)
Address: 7201 W 91st St, Overland Park, KS 66212
(southwest corner of 91st and Metcalf in OP)
Dress Code: Somewhere between formal and casual

We will enjoy an unlimited selection of Italian food from a dozen cooking stations, representing foods from the various regions of Italy.

Please support your chapter by attending this event. The cost will be \$28 per person (including tax, service charge, and tip). Cash Bar and Soft Drinks are extra (you must pay for your own drinks).

Plan to arrive after 6 pm to partake in the full-service cash bar. Dinner will begin at 6:30 pm, with the events starting promptly at 7:30 pm. We will complete all presentations and speeches by 9:30 pm. Your 2020 Board of Directors will be installed and your annual awards will be announced: the John Cross Award, the Oz Newgard Award, and the Barbershopper of the Year Award. Stay tuned for additional. Make plans to attend! ❤️



HARMONY EXPLOSION!

Who: YOU!
What: Harmony Explosion! 2020
When: Saturday, February 22 from 8 am to 4 pm
Where: Grace United Methodist Church, 11485 S. Ridgeview, Olathe, KS 66061

You are invited to participate in a very exciting opportunity to support our youth. Harmony Explosion! 2020 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 30 years.

Harmony Explosion! 2020 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*, *ZING!* and *Pizzazz*.

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:

9:00 am Opening Session
9:15 am Vocal warm-ups and song rehearsal
10:00 am Quartet Performances
12:30 pm LUNCH!
1:00 pm Afternoon song rehearsal
2:00 pm Student Chorus and Parade of Quartets Concert and Awards
4:00 pm Depart

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

Jerry Meier, Harmony Explosion! Director

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13th Annual
Heart of America Chorus
Four-Person

GOLF

SCRAMBLE

September 26, 2019

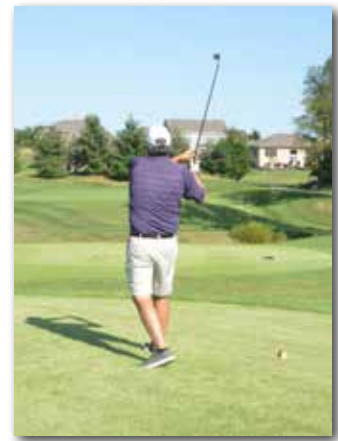


Falcon Lakes Golf Course
Basehor, KS

Photos courtesy of Rich Huyck









LITTLE WHITE BALL, LUCKY 13?

By John Erwine



Perhaps, perhaps not. As far as perfect weather for the day, probably luck since days all around the 26th were filled with rain. As for the tournament itself (our 13th), the efforts of *Heart of America* chorus members put it together with relative ease, making it our second largest annual fundraiser in recent years. No luck here, just dedication to make it another successful chapter activity.

Who knew that a little-known game in 15th century Scotland, played with a feather-stuffed ball, using club-shaped tree branches would evolve into such an annual self-sustaining event? Not just that, but a day to relax, enjoy old friends, make new ones, and just have fun.

A special thank you to the 48 players in this, our **13th ANNUAL HOA FOUR-PERSON GOLF SCRAMBLE**, Sept. 26, 2019. Thank you also, to Sponsors of different levels of support: **Bob and Jane Rutherford** and **Dave Hokanson** for enticing Creative Planning again this year with an Eagle Sponsorship of \$1,000+. Also, there were 16 additional Hole Sponsors of at least \$100+. We had all 18 holes covered with sponsorships—amazing!

Special thanks also have to go to **Harvey Shapiro** (co-chair) in charge of Sales [golfers and sponsorships], **Vince Perry III** — Raffle/Mulligan/Skins game Sales, **Tony Strub** — Ticket Sales, **Jim Porter** — Registration Desk, **Marty Oldehoeft** and **Linda Schumacher** — Betting Hole, **Marlin Weidler** — Beat the Pro Hole, **Rich Huyck** and **Wally Thornton** — Photographer and

Chauffer, and **Tony O'Brien** — ‘Where Do You Need Me Now, Boss’?

Extremely important — we have again proven that events such as this are vital to the success and growth of our chapter. We recognize that it couldn't have taken place without the help of all chapter members, spouses and family. And while there are too many names to mention, we thank you as well!

Falcon Lakes Golf Club was at their usual finest by providing an excellent course to challenge us, a wonderful buffet dinner and offered all the help needed. **Don Young** was a great MC (don't recall one bad joke). Thanks for that!

For all you readers out there, I am completely convinced that this Kansas City Chapter is doing something right with all the proven evidence presented to you. Now I say to you, c'mon 2020! I'm in! So, *HOA* members, as I stated last year at this time — promise never again, will I stand for anyone criticizing that little white ball. . . even if its' origin was in the Song Dynasty of China, the Roman Empire, or even Scotland. Ain't it a great game? ♥



HOLIDAY HARMONY SPECTACULAR UPDATE

By Marlin Weidler, 2019 Holiday Show Ticket Chair



This is the first time that I can remember coming up with something to say for the *Harmonotes*. As Ticket Chair of the Holiday Harmony Spectacular, I would like to say, *Thank You!* for

trusting me to do the task at hand. Doing the spring show was a breeze but the Holiday show is different not only is there assigned seating but the *KCSA* also is needing tickets for the show. It is not an easy one – but with the help of **Rich Hyuck**, **Barry Sanders**, and **Kris Deweese** (*KCSA*). Kris is my counter - part with the ladies - so I do not have to make the trek over there every Tuesday. We should be able to fill the house. I am confident that we can pack the house. We only have the one show this year and it is only mid October and the Orchestra Front Center is all but sold. Just a few tickets left. Over 50% of the house is already sold and 8 weeks to go.

We now are looking at getting some big groups in. We have one already in part thanks to **Dave Hokanson**. There is a group of about 35 coming from where he lives. Just think - If sold out this year – next year there could be two shows again.

So, there is still time to get individual tickets and if you order 10 or more you get \$5 off each ticket. You are also entered into a drawing. So, this is a win – win. And don't forget about Sale Ads. This is also a win for the chapter as the program ads would basically add more money to the coffers.

I was also - for the first time - able to attend the Golf Tournament at Falcon Lakes. Even though I did not do a lot – I volunteered and was assigned to hole 17 (“Beat the Pro”). It was about 125 yards and the deal was that they could play it as a foursome and if any of them beat the pro they won a prize. They could also go against the Pro on an individual basis – which a couple did. If they lost - they could putt from the spot the Pro landed. Mike Schumacher was among four of the guys that beat the Pro.



Would I do this again, you bet. It was a lot of fun and who knows maybe next year buy some old clubs and swing away.

I guess this is my way of giving to the chapter. I am still a work in progress on the vocal part and would like to get back into the group as long as I can stay on pitch and ring a chord with the best of them.

Some of you may not know that I too have a dreaded disease that takes over the body — Parkinson's. After the last seminar I attended I thought I had only Essential tremor. But come to find out – when the tremor afflicts other parts of the body – then it's Parkinson's.

Some of you can remember when I sang tenor and had over three-octave range. Now it is less than one octave. But on a good day maybe one octave. So my goal would be to strengthen my voice to get back singing once again. I miss the chorus but also miss singing in a quartet.

Keep singing! ❤️

Busy NHH Year Winding Down

By Jim Bagby, Director



When I look at the calendar, I see that the *New Harmony Handful* is winding down its 11th year of operation, even though my mind sez it's hardly possible. But on Nov. 17 we will present what will be about our 25th performance of the year. And then in the second week of December, we'll gather for our annual Christmas dinner with the wives and significant others, again at Loch Lloyd Country Club.

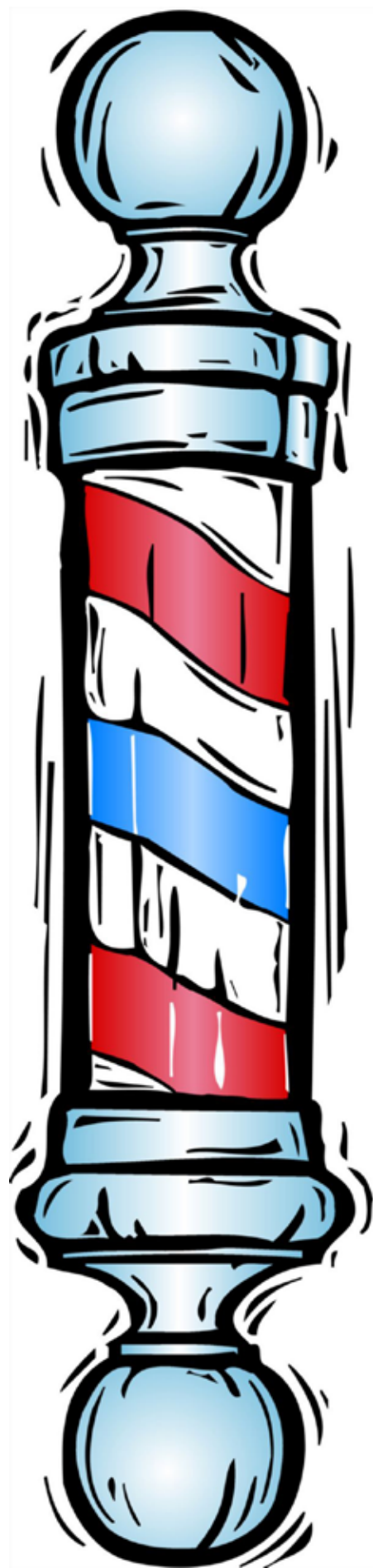
Our October meeting was an introspective look when we examined where we are and where we might want to be. I had posed in September a series of questions for our 20 members to ponder. and we took time to do that. Are we happy with what NHH is? Do we wanna be better? Does the director demand too much? How can the arm-waver be better. . . and stuff like that. The answers are still coming in, but it was an interesting evening. So far I still have a job.

We also looked back at some of our best memories. One of them was Sept. 15, when we sang for the 11 a.m. service at Old Mission Methodist Church. That's the home church of **Ron Abel**, our longest-serving *NHH* member and almost our oldest member (**Gordy Coleman** has him beat by a coupla months). In fact, that Sunday was Ron's 93rd birthday, and we were delighted that the congregation serenaded him with "Happy Birthday." **Estyl and Brad Bowser** were on hand, for that was **Dan Henry's** church, too.

Afterward, most of the *NHH* went to Ronnie's Restaurant nearby for lunch (Ronnie's brother, **Kate**, is proprietor of one of our favorite and frequent northland lunch stops). This was Ron's post-Sunday report to us:

"For the last two weeks, numerous members of the congregation and other choir members have expressed their appreciation of our participation in the service and commented on the great performance. And when I went to Ronnie's this noon, all of the servers expressed how much they enjoyed those of us that were in attendance who sang for them that noon. All in all, a great day! I'm proud to be a member of the *New Harmony Handful*!"

Well, most of us can say that – partially because we get to sing with Ron. ❤️



LUDWIG (LUD) EINESS 1932 - 2019

By Ron McIntire



Ludwig was his name but his friends always knew him as **Lud**. He was proud of his Norwegian heritage and, though he didn't speak about it much, he was active in the *Sons of Norway of KC*, a foundation dedicated to funding activities that preserve and promote Norwegian heritage, VP of the *Scandinavian Association of KC*, an association fostering the appreciation of Nordic immigrant contributions to the United States, The American Legion, the Knights of Columbus and was a barbershopper through and through.

Lud was born in Chicago in 1932 not far from Wrigley Field and grew up on the north side of town. He graduated from Lakeview High School in Chicago and enrolled in Junior College but left before graduation to join the U.S. Coast Guard serving aboard ship on "Search and Rescue" missions. In 1971 his company transferred him to Moline, Illinois where he eventually started his own company, working as a manufacturer's representative selling components and fasteners to OEM manufacturers.

He joined the barbershop society in Davenport, Iowa in 1971 singing lead in the *Chordbusters Chorus* and sang in a quartet called the *Four Seasons*. He served as chapter President one year, show chairman several times and even rewrote the script for one show because it was too long. In Kansas City, he was show chairman twice, a district area counselor, district convention chairman and assisted in a number of district and international conventions. In 1997 he was elected Central States District president and in 2000 served as chairman of the international contest in Kansas City.

He became inactive in the chapter after 2010 when it became difficult to keep up with the chorus. He attended *HOA Spring and Harmony Spectacular* shows from time to time and in 2014 he came backstage before the show to wish the chorus well. He occasionally visited the chapter to keep in touch with his friends and would threaten to get active again but he felt his voice was not good enough anymore. In late 2014 he went to live in the Alzheimer's Unit at Benton Place in Blue Springs then transferred to the Villages of Jackson Creek in Independence, MO. His friends visited him periodically and he was thrilled when he was asked to sing a couple of polecat songs with *The Armchair Chorderbacks* during their visit in April 2016.

Lud had a stroke in late August of 2019 and died peacefully on Sept. 5. Funeral services were held at St. John La Lande, Roman Catholic Church in Blue Springs and he was buried in Grain Valley, MO. **Jim Bagby** directed about twenty-five members of *HOA* in singing *I Believe*, *Precious Lord* and *Friends*.

"Uff da" friend, we'll miss you. ❤️



Wendell Shaffer **October 1**

Steve Keisker **October 2**

Bart Bartholomew **October 9**

Rob Varney **October 27**

Tom Gray **November 8**

Dick Korek **November 20**

Dick Henderson **November 26**

Todd Anderson **November 28**

Vince Perry III **November 28**

Jim Davis **December 7**

Ron Fortino **December 9**

Darrell McCune **December 24**

Nate Harper **December 28**

SALVATORE (SAL) IANNAZZO 1932 - 2019

By Ron McIntire



"I pronounce my name "E-a-not-so" Sal told a friend one night, gesturing with classic grouped fingers a wine merchant might use when he caresses a fine Italian wine. His pride in his Italian heritage was clear to everyone. He enjoyed being a student of the Italian language and took several trips to Italy. He was the genealogist in his extended family.

Sal was born **Salvatore Anthony Iannazzo** in 1932 in Kansas City, Missouri and graduated from Northeast High School in 1949. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology in 1953, graduated from the UMKC School of Dentistry in 1956 and went on to earn a Master of Arts in Education.

After dental school, he began his career in the U.S. Air Force in about 1958. After he left active duty, he practiced general dentistry at Loma Vista Shopping Center in south Kansas City and remained in the Reserves for two years before transferring to the U.S. Army Reserves. He left private general dentistry to teach at UMKC's School of Dentistry then became a Diplomat of the American Board of Education. He retired from the Army Reserves after 30 years of service. During his tenure at UMKC, he became the founder, developer, coordinator, and director of the Endodontics Program – the only graduate Endodontics Program in the country at that time. He left teaching at UMKC to start a private Endodontics practice on the Country Club Plaza and retired 14 years later.

Sal loved music and was one of the old guard. He joined the Barbershop Society in 1970 and became inactive in 2012, a span of 42 years. He sang lead in the *Heart of America Chorus* for years, sang in several barbershop quartets and in the *Kansas City Singers* with his daughter **Kathy**. In the 1990s, he never hesitated to sing in *HOA's* Singing Valentines program. He is remembered by **Jim Bagby** and others as "a great guy and a dandy lead". Quartetting was his first love; he often showed up at afterglows when guys from one of his foursomes came to town, or one of his quartet buddies was there. His droll sense of humor made him a fun guy to be around. As time passed and he lost a lot of friends in his circle, he visited *HOA* only on occasion.

Sal died peacefully, Aug. 18. The funeral was held at St. Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church in Kansas City and was attended by a small contingent of *HOA* members.

Rest in Peace, Sal. You'll be missed. We'll see you on the other side. ❤️

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!



Introducing the newest members of the Chapter!

Photo by Ron McIntire



Bill Warren

William (Bill) Warren

Bill lives in the Kansas City area with his wife **Anna**. He sang in high school and studied music performance in college and joined the Barbershop Society in 2012 where he sang with the *Algona Cornbelt Chorus* and the *Mason City, Iowa River City Chorus*. He served as Music VP and interim Director of the Cornbelt Chorus in Algona before transferring to Kansas City. His quartet experience includes *Four the Record* in Algona and now sings with *Lok and Ring* in Kansas City. He sings bari with the *HOA Chorus*. ❤️





by Ron McIntire

HOA Golf Tourney at Falcon Lakes Golf Club

John Erwine for the reported loss of more of his hair as Co-Chairman of the tourney

Harvey Shapiro – Co-Chairman and Sales

Jim Porter – Registration Desk

Vince Perry – Raffle/Mulligans/Skins game Sales

Tony Strub – Ticket Sales

Oly Oldehoeft – Betting Hole

Linda Schumacher – Betting Hole

Marlin Weidler – Beat the Pro Hole

Rich Huyck – Photographer

Wally Thornton – Camera Chauffer

Steve Keisker – Early set-up

Mike Schumacher – Trouble Shooter

Tony O'Brien who could be called a “where can I help” volunteer

Upcoming Holiday Harmony Spectacular

Barry Sanders

Marlin Weidler - Ticket Chair extraordinaire

CSD Contest in Lawrence

Carter Combs for his work scheduling activities as CSD Contest and Judging VP

Vince Perry for putting together the poop sheet

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to:

Betty Einess on the passing of **Lud Einess**

The **Iannazzo** family on the passing of **Sal Iannazzo**

Ted Simon on the passing of his wife, **Donna**

New Quartet Debuts at CSD: *LOK and RING*

By Don Fuson

On Friday, Oct. 11, 2019 at the CSD Convention, the new chapter quartet *LOK and Ring* took the stage to sing and have fun.

We accomplished both of those objectives, having had but just four rehearsals since August, due to extended travels and lack of overlapping time when everyone was in town.

The songs sung were “I Don’t Know Why” and “I’ve Been Working on the Railroad.”

The quartet members were **Tom Riedel** (tenor), **Tom Hadley** (lead), **Bill Warren** (bass, bari) and **Don Fuson** (bari, bass). Since Bill and Don are both baris in the chorus, we switched between songs one and two.

Fun on stage, and an excellent evaluation 40 minutes with a single Singing Judge. The judge gave us some great rehearsal pointers, encouraged us to continue to work on vowels, singing effortlessly and with vocal efficiency, tuning in spots, and telling the story of the song. Great pointers for any quartet, but especially helpful for us.

Current plans are to continue to learn some holiday songs and appear on the HOA Holiday Show afterglow. Come and see us there! ❤️



SWING SHIFT AT CSD CONVENTION

Be more like that guy Calvin Yoder (whoever he is).

By John Braden

What was to be a “demonstration” quartet for HOAs performing chorus before the spring 2019 show never ended up demonstrating anything (too many vacations). The spring show came and went.

Soooo, those fellas (**Carter Combs, John Braden, Bob Velazquez** and **Eric Weber**) decided to form a “real” quartet, meeting (nearly) once a week (maybe). Not counting more vacations and trips to other places that some of them are too old to remember by now.

They chose the name *Swing Shift* and Carter started trying to teach John to snap on 2 and 4. (Almost there!)

With about four months’ practice and performances at Starlight with HOA and the Leavenworth afterglow under their belts, *Swing Shift* competed in quartet semifinals at the Central States District convention, Oct. 11-12 in Lawrence.

What a rush! Precious moments with lights in your eyes and the applause of a barbershopper audience (the best kind)! Tell your story, take them by the hand, show them the vision in your head and heart.

But don’t forget to lift your palate, put your sound forward, match your vowels, stay on top of the pitch when you jump into upper range, breathe in the right places, keep in sync, flow from syllable to syllable, don’t be choppy, hold out ends of phrases, use your full dynamic range, remember to go to your focal points. Don’t forget the first word of the song. *Whew*.

Swing Shift came in 21st out of 27. That meant no spot in the Saturday finals but evaluation on Friday night — 40 minutes with singing judge **Mike O’Neill** of the Dixie District.

Judge Mike’s bottom line was that every judge in every category (Music, Performance, Singing) is looking for more natural experiences from the performers. Sing naturally (in spite of all those technique

reminders listed above). Sing like you talk, don’t swallow the sound, don’t let your mental processes show on your face. Show more joy in the face. Be more like that guy **Calvin Yoder** with *Senior Varsity*, if you’ve ever seen him sing. (Nope, never heard of him.)

Lead: Relax the jaw; sing like you talk; keep your eyes more consistent on your focal points. Bass: Use the natural resonance of your speaking voice; get rid of “bass face” and show emotion in your face. Bari: Sing more like a lead and don’t be afraid to be heard; don’t let your face show your mental process. Tenor: Less volume, add to the overtones but don’t “answer all the questions.” Overall: Be a four-person unit; all should focus on the same focal point when you have them; do a lot of duetting.

During this same weekend, District Vice President Carter was going to meetings, supervising much of the contest administration and, with the crucial help of spouse **Jeffi**, operating the judges’ hospitality room. It took three guys to drag him away for a few minutes.

Then there was chorus contest Saturday morning, back out on stage with our bro’s in white and gold, then evals. After that it was *Swing Shift* warmups again and some fun

singing at afterglow rooms and the judges’ hospitality room, which doubled as Carter’s Brewpub.

Thank you to our *Swing Shift* cheerleaders, judge hostess **Jeffi Combs**, chauffeur and assistant hostess **Elizabeth Braden**, and part-time quartet coach **Janet Velazquez**. Thanks also to coaches **Jim Bagby** and **Jon Kready**, and to all those folks who encouraged us and cheered us on.

We have more work to do, preparing for a November performance, the Holiday Harmony Spectacular, Caroling Caravan -- and just learning to sing and perform better. ❤️



Some Trivia from 48 years of Central States District Chorus Contests

By Jim Porter

Instead of sharing a lot of statistics with you, I find there is greater interest in trivia. Try your hand at these questions and then check page 22 to see the answers. Some were shared by email before the contest, this list adds others. In this way, perhaps you will learn something interesting and not be bored with a lot of numbers.

With thanks to **Ron Abel**, who probably has been to all of them, I have the scores data for every fall district contest since 1972, and every spring contest since 1973. I have reviewed these and have listed every chapter that has ever participated in either a spring or a fall district contest, and which years each chapter has competed. In each instance, the total percent score and the number of men on stage were noted. In all, there were 1133 choruses from 80 distinct chapters competing in 95 contests over 48 years.

QUESTIONS:

1. Only 24 cities have hosted a Central States District convention (spring or fall). Which city has hosted the most times? (It is not Kansas City)
2. How many times has Kansas City hosted a Central States District convention?
3. What other cities (there are 6) have hosted a CSD convention at least four times?
4. Heart of America Chorus has competed in 46 of the 48 fall contests. One other chapter has competed 47 times in the fall. Which chapter is it?
5. In which two years did Heart of America Chorus choose not to compete?
6. One chapter has competed 44 times in the fall. Which chapter is it?
7. Four other chapters have competed at least 40 times in the fall. Which chapters?
8. Heart of America has never competed in the spring contest. Among the chapters that answer questions 4 through 6, which other chapters have never competed in a spring contest?
9. One chapter has competed 27 times (the most) in the spring contest. Which chapter is it?
10. Four other chapters competed in the spring contest at least 20 times. Which chapters?
11. Which chapter has competed the most times (54), both spring and fall?
12. Other than Heart of America chorus, 11 local chapters (within 100 miles of Kansas City) have competed in at least one CSD contest since 1972. Identify these chapters (6 in Missouri, 5 in Kansas).
13. In how many years did a Missouri chorus win the fall contest?
14. In how many years did St. Charles win the fall contest?
15. Which chapter has won the most times (8) in the spring contest?
16. 3 other chapters have won at least 4 times in the spring contest. Which chapters?
17. A chapter has competed in both the spring and fall contests in the same year on 103 occasions. In how many of these occasions did the chapter improve its score between the spring and fall?
18. One time a chapter won both the spring and fall contest the same year. Which chapter and when?
19. St. Charles has competed 34 times in the fall contest. Their overall average score is now 81.37%, best in the district among choruses who have competed at least 15 times. Kansas City previously held that honor. In what year did St. Charles pass Kansas City in this respect?
20. St. Charles also competed 6 times in the spring contest. Their overall score for 40 contests is 78.81%. In what year did St. Charles surpass Kansas City for overall percentage, all contests?
21. Four other chapters with at least 15 contest appearances have an overall average percentage score over 70%. Identify these chapters and rank them in order.
22. In how many years did St. Charles place 2nd in a fall contest?
23. In how many years did Kansas City place 2nd in a fall contest?
24. Only once has a chapter other than St. Charles put over 100 men on stage. Which chapter and when?

FIND THE ANSWERS ON PAGE 22!

An Analysis of 48 years of Central States District Chorus Contests

By Jim Porter



Ron Abel, a longtime member of the Kansas City chapter, probably has attended every one of these district conventions, and saved all of the score sheets. I am grateful he shared them with me, and because of his generosity I have data on every contest since 1972 in an Excel spreadsheet file. With this file I can now study what has happened over these 48 years, two contests per year, 95 contests in all (no data for Spring 1972).

Before 1990, the spring contest was known as a preliminary contest. The implication was that some choruses needed to qualify for the fall contest by performing a high enough level in the spring. The fall contest was always the main event where the district champion was crowned and the district representatives for the following year's International competition were determined. Before 2005, only the champion would go to International. Since then the district has had as many as four choruses qualify for International. After 1990, the fall contest is open to any chorus that wanted to compete, and the spring contest became a small chorus contest, open to chapters with 40 or fewer members.

The rules by which the judges score and rank the choruses have changed several times over the years. One thing remains constant: there have always been three categories where the judges give scores on a 1 to 100 scale. Comparisons over the years can be made using these scores and ignoring anything else that may have been done in past years to modify the scores. There is therefore an era adjusted score for all competitions before 1994. Sometimes these changes would alter the rankings, but for the purposes of this analysis, the rankings were left unchanged. For example, in 1988, St. Charles won the contest over Kansas City by virtue of their superior scores for arrangement. The era adjusted score does not include the arrangement scores, and without those scores, Kansas City would have won. However, for the purposes of this analysis, St. Charles won by the rules then in force and is therefore considered to have placed first in the contest.

Even the district has changed. Before 1977 it was larger, as there was no Rocky Mountain district. The district extended west to the Continental Divide in Colorado and Wyoming. In those years, Denver Mile High chorus was a regular competitor and won the spring contest in 1973. They also hosted the spring contest that year. There were no choruses from Iowa or Missouri in that competition.

That said, it is still possible to make comparisons across the years and compute average scores over decades or over the entire time span. All of the scores are converted to percentages, and era adjusted scores are used for contests before 1994. The rules were the same in the spring and the fall for all years except the year when a change was made. Such changes always took effect right after International in July. Each contest is weighted equally when averages are computed, regardless of the number of judges on the judging panel.

The district (since 1977) is all or part of five states, and it is useful to group the chapters by state and study each separately. Missouri has dominated the competition over the years, like Saint Joseph, then Kansas City, then St. Charles, and now Central Standard have between them won 44 of the 48 championships Only Waterloo Iowa (1985 and 1987). Fremont Nebraska (2010), and So. Central Kansas (2017) have interrupted that dominance. Only in 1987 did that win happen in a contest with the top Missouri chapters in the contest. However it is Iowa that has been most consistent in participating in these competitions. Ten Iowa chapters have appeared in at least 20 competitions, compared to 5 in Missouri, 4 in Nebraska, 2 in Kansas, and 1 in South Dakota. (Both spring and fall contest appearances were counted in this census.)

The Spring contest has always been lower key and more competitive. The competitors are smaller and do not have the means to travel every year. Leavenworth has been in 27 of the 47 competitions, the most of any chapter in the district. The champion chorus usually scores around 70%, this has been as low as 62%, and the highest score was 79%, by So. Central Kansas in 2015. The only dominance indicated over time is with two small towns in Iowa. Both towns are county seats in a rural county in the northwest part of the state. They are 130 miles apart by road. Algoma is 50 miles west of Mason City, population 7,500, and has won the spring contest 8 times and placed 2nd 7 times. Denison is 50 miles north of Omaha, population 9,000, and has won the spring contest 7 times and placed 2nd 7 times. Five times the two were 1st and 2nd in the same contest, Denison won them earlier (first time was 1977), Algoma won them later (they won this past April). No other chapter is close. Most are from much larger population centers. Hats off to both of them!

Altogether, 19 chapters have won at least one spring contest. Iowa chapters account for 28 of the 47 contest winners (15 by Algoma and Denison, 6 by Waterloo, 4 by Iowa City). Missouri has 8 winners (2 by Liberty, 2 by Central Standard), Nebraska has 4 (3 by Lincoln), Kansas 4 (Leavenworth in 2011, others by So. Central Kansas) and South Dakota has 1 (Sioux Falls in 1985). The other 2 went to Denver and Rapid City SD, both now in the Rocky Mountain district.

The fall contest is, of course, the main event of the year. Before 1990, there were qualification standards to enter the contest, but it was apparent that some chapters were exempt. Kansas City has never competed in the spring contest. This is also true for Mason City, Des Moines, and Cedar Rapids in Iowa, but everyone else among those who compete in the fall has prior experience in the spring contest. Both Central Standard and SmorgasChorus had their first experience competing at a spring contest, winning the contest each time they appeared. In 2009, Central Standard won both the spring and the fall contests, which was a unique feat.

It is not unusual for a chapter to compete in both contests in a given year. This has happened 103 times in the past 48 years. One would think that a chorus would improve its score between the spring and the fall, but in 69 cases (67%), the fall contest score was lower, in some cases a LOT lower. For example, in 1980 the *Daniel Boone* chorus (St. Charles) placed 2nd in the spring contest with an era adjusted score of 64.04%. In the fall, they placed dead last with an era adjusted score of 59.30%. A more recent example was Leavenworth in 2011. They won the spring contest with a 69.00% score. Thus encouraged by this, their only victory to date in this competition, they chose to compete in the fall, but were able to score only 61.33%. This phenomenon was observed in every decade except the 2000s (years 2000-2009), and the overall net score reduction was -1.98%.

The fall contest has seen a higher level of consistent participation by several chapters in the district. Kansas City Heart of America has participated in 46 of the 48 contests, laying out only in 1985 and 2000. Only Des Moines has done better, with 47 contests, laying out only in 1995. Lincoln has been to 44 contests, Mason City and Fremont and each been to 43 contests, Cedar Rapids in Davenport each have been to 40 contests. St. Charles has just 34 contest appearances, since they are required to lay out 8 times by virtue of the fact they were reigning International champions. Saint Joseph also has 34 appearances. By state, Iowa leads with 267 appearances by 17 chapters. Missouri has 186 appearances by 13 chapters. Nebraska has 147 appearances by 8 chapters. Kansas has 54 appearances by 11 chapters, and South Dakota has 9 appearances by 1 chapter. These counts by state include only fall contest appearances. Total: 663 appearances by 52 chapters.

For the spring contests alone, by state, Iowa leads with 182 appearances by 17 chapters. Missouri has 57 appearances by 15 chapters. Nebraska has 77 appearances by 10 chapters. Kansas has 112 appearances by 15 chapters, and South Dakota has 23 appearances by 6 chapters. Total: 451 appearances by 64 chapters.

Counting all contests together, by state, Iowa leads with 449 appearances by 21 chapters. Missouri has 243 appearances by 19 chapters. Nebraska has 224 appearances by 11 chapters. Kansas has 166 appearances by 16 chapters, and South Dakota has 32 appearances by 6 chapters. Total: 1114 appearances by 73 chapters. In addition, there were 19 appearances by 7 chapters now in the Rocky Mountain district, all before 1977.

The average percentage score in the spring contest over all years is 58.03%. This varies only slightly by state, from 57.24% in South Dakota to 59.05% in Missouri. By decade, there is a trend toward improved scores, In the 1970s, the average score was 56.05%. In the 2010s, this average has increased to 64.05%. In the 1990s, the first decade of this contest as a small chorus contest, the average score was 56.28%.

The average percentage score in the fall contest over all years is 68.30%. By state, Missouri is well ahead, averaging 73.56%. Iowa's average is 67.76%, followed by Nebraska at 65.77%. The average in Kansas is 60.99% and South Dakota's average is 60.91%. By decade this contest also shows an upward trend in scores. The average in the 1970s was 65.26%. In the 2010s, this average rose to 71.13%. In between, the average was 67.26% in the 1980s, 67.93% in the 1990s and 69.50% in the 2000s. In the 1970s Missouri's average was 68.95%. This increased to 75.03% in the 1990s, but fell back to 74.68% in the 2010s. In Nebraska, the average rose from 65.33% in the 1990s to 69.80% in the 2000s. In 2010s, their average was 70.24%. In Kansas, the average declined to 57.78% in the 2000s, but leaped to 71.51% in the 2010s, when the Smorgaschorus was formed. Meanwhile, Iowa has shown no significant improvement, averaging 66.58% in the 1970s, but only 67.88% in the 2010s. There is too little data from South Dakota to establish a trend.

In the 48 year period, 24 cities have been the convention host city. Iowa has hosted the most times, 32. Nebraska has hosted 23, Missouri has hosted 22, Kansas 15, South Dakota 2 and Colorado 1. Among the 24 cities, Omaha hosted 19 conventions, Cedar Rapids has hosted 10 times, Kansas City 9 times (plus 4 times in Overland Park, KS), and Des Moines has 8 (plus 1 in nearby Altoona). St. Joseph has hosted 7, Wichita has 6 times and Lincoln has hosted 4 times.

The number of men on stage was added to the score sheets in the summer of 1980. There are therefore 40 fall contests with this statistic included, but just 39 spring contests (the spring 1980 sheet does not have this data). From this data it is possible to see some correlation between the size of a chorus and its score. The average size of all choruses that have competed in a spring contest is 22.8 men. By decade: 1980s had 28.5, 1990s had 23.9, 2000s had 20.5, and 2010s had 18.7. Note that this contest has been designated a "small chorus" contest since 1990. The average size of a chorus in the fall contest is 44.9 men. By decade: 1980s had 48.5 men, 1990s had 49.6, 2000s had 46.7, and 2010s had 34.9. Note the evident downward trend. In the spring event, the average size of the top 5 choruses is 24.3 men, not much difference. The correlation is stronger in the fall. The average for the top 10 choruses is 50.7 men and that for the top 5 choruses is 63.2 men. In a large part, the Ambassadors of Harmony accounts for this variance.

There are 16 chapters (4 in Missouri, 6 in Iowa, 5 in Nebraska and 1 in Kansas) that have each competed in at least 14 fall contests. Together, they account for 523 of the 674 total number of fall contest competitors.

St. Charles has dominated in the past 32 years, as their average percentage score in that period was 88.86% for 22 contests, 20 of which they won. (They were ineligible 8 times because they were then the reigning International champion.) Kansas City Heart of America averaged 79.19% over the same 32 years, but only 71.66% in the past 6 years. Next in line is Fremont with 76.44%, then Mason City with 75.57%, St. Joseph with 72.25%, then Lincoln with 70.23% and Des Moines with 70.03%. Central Standard has averaged 86.25% in 11 contests since 2008, and South Central Kansas SmorgasChorus has averaged 80.53% in 6 contests since 2013.

Up through 1999 (28 years), Kansas City was the dominant chapter, with an average percent score of 79.84%. St. Charles was beginning to close in, their average in 1999 was 76.35%. St. Joseph dominated in the first decade of this era, and had an average score of 74.42% in 1999. Mason City averaged 74.33% Cedar Rapids averaged 71.06%, Waterloo/Blackhawk averaged 70.72% and Des Moines averaged 69.79%. Fremont was the best in Nebraska with 67.49%. There was no chapter in Kansas or South Dakota above 60%.

After the 2008 contest, Kansas City's average score over 37 years was 80.01% while St. Charles' average had risen to 79.64%. Kansas City clung to that narrow advantage until 2011, as St. Charles won International in 2009 and had to lay out 2 years. In 2011, St. Charles returned to the district competition and increased their average for 40 years to 80.12% by scoring 94.61% in 2011, while Kansas City remained at exactly 80.00%.

Over the entire 48 year period, St. Charles has the best average for the 34 fall competitions they competed in, 81.37%. Kansas City remains 2nd with 78.88%. Mason City is 3rd with 74.73% and St. Joseph is 4th with 73.22%. Fremont is 5th with 72.58% and Des Moines is 6th with 70.22%. Cedar Rapids is 7th with 69.89% and Waterloo/Blackhawk is 8th with 69.70%. These stand out above the rest, Lincoln is 9th with 67.39%.

Kansas City, Mason City, Des Moines and Cedar Rapids have never competed in the spring contests. All of the others have done so, St. Charles competed in the spring 6 times in 1982 and earlier. Taking all competitions into consideration, St. Charles' average for 40 contests is 78.81%, just behind Kansas City's 78.88% for 46 contests. If either chapter competes in 2020 with a score similar to their 2018 score, St. Charles will then have the best average score. Behind these two, Mason City is 3rd with 74.73% and St. Joseph is 4th with 72.24%. Fremont is 5th with 70.73% and Des Moines is 6th with 70.22%. Cedar Rapids is 7th with 69.89% and Waterloo/Blackhawk is 8th with 68.71%. Lincoln remains 9th at 66.90%.

In the spring contest, Leavenworth has competed the most times, 27 out of 47 times. This has been Iowa's event, as 8 Iowa chapters have competed 10 or more times. Altogether, these 8 account for 144 of the total of 459 competitors in 47 years. Nebraska has 3 chapters with at least 10 contests each (total of 51 contests), Kansas has 5 chapters (total 59) and South Dakota has 1 chapter with 16 contests. Missouri has NONE with 10 or more spring contests (Springfield and Joplin each have been in 9 spring contests).

Among these chapters, Algoma IA has the most championships (8), their average score is 66.02% in 23 contests. Denison IA has 7 championships, average score 63.85% in 20 contests. Waterloo/Blackhawk IA has 6 championships, average score 67.04% in 10 contests. Iowa City has 4 championships, average score 64.29% in 16 contests. Central Standard competed twice, won both, and had the highest score to date in this contest, scoring 78.17% in 2009. South Central Kansas entered and won 3 times, average score 76.69%. They broke Central Standard's record with 79.42% in 2015. Leavenworth's average is 57.48%, they won in 2011. ❤️



Trivia Answers from 48 years of Central States District Chorus Contests

By Jim Porter

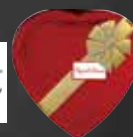
Numbers correspond to question numbers on page 17.

ANSWERS:

1. Omaha has hosted 19 CSD conventions, 12 spring and 7 fall, most recently spring 2018.
2. Kansas City has hosted 9 times, most recently fall 2013. In addition, Overland Park has hosted 4 times, most recently both conventions in 2015.
3. Cedar Rapids has hosted 10, Des Moines has hosted 8, St. Joseph 7, Wichita 6, Lincoln 4, Ov. Park 4.
4. Des Moines, Iowa. They laid out in 1995.
5. 1985 and 2000. Their choice in 1985 allowed Waterloo to win and go to International for the first time. In 1987, Waterloo won again with Kansas City and St. Charles finishing second and third. It was the only time a chorus outside Missouri won by beating Missouri's best choruses. Kansas City hosted the International convention in 2000 (prior to the fall district contest).
6. Lincoln Nebraska. They laid out in 1974, 1979 & 1980 (but competed in the spring each time) and 2016.
7. Mason City and Fremont (43 each), Cedar Rapids and Davenport (40 each).
8. Des Moines, Mason City and Cedar Rapids.
9. Leavenworth, Kansas. Omaha has competed 26 times in the spring, Denison IA has 25 times.
10. Besides Omaha and Denison, Algona, IA has 23 times and Sioux City, IA has 20.
11. Lincoln has competed 44 times in the fall and 10 times in the spring. They competed in both contests 7 times, last time was in 1985. Only in 2016 did they not compete in either contest.
12. Two are Central Standard and Leavenworth. St. Joseph is "local", so is the 3rd. Topeka is also "local", they are #4. They last competed in spring 2015. Olathe Trails West became #11 in the recent fall contest. The Overland Park chapter competed 9 times in the spring and 4 times in the fall, last time was spring 2001. The Sons of Liberty had a brief run, winning the spring contest in 2003 and 2005. The Sedalia chapter competed three times in the spring of 1983, 1989 and 1990. A chapter in Independence and another in Cass County also appeared, only in spring 1975. The Lawrence KS chapter competed 5 times in 1974, '75 and '76, placing 3rd in the spring 1976 contest.
13. 44 times, The exceptions: 1985 & '87 (Waterloo IA), 2010 (Fremont) and 2017 (SmorgasChorus).
14. 20 times, the last 18 are consecutive. The last time they lost was 1992, to Kansas City.
15. Algona, Iowa. Denison, IA has won 7 times, and Waterloo has won 6 times.
16. Besides Denison and Waterloo, Iowa City has won 4 times. This contest has been an Iowa event. Marshalltown (1978), Davenport (1984) and Linn County Metro (2010) also have won one time each.
17. Only 34 times (33%). On average, the fall contest score was 2% below the spring score.
18. Central Standard accomplished this feat in 2009, scoring 78.2% in the spring and 81.5% in the fall.
19. In 2011, St. Charles scored 94.6% and raised this average to 80.12%. Kansas City then had 80.00%.
20. 2020. Kansas City at present still has the best average, 78.88%. If EITHER chapter competes next year and posts a score similar to 2018, St. Charles will surpass Kansas City next year.
21. Mason City (74.73%), then St. Joseph (72.24%), then Fremont (70.73%) and Des Moines (70.22%). Cedar Rapids is close behind at 69.89%, all the rest are under 67%.
22. 3 times. They were 3rd twice. Total points (5 for 1st, 3 for 2nd, 1 for 3rd) add up to 111.
23. 14 times. They were 3rd 9 times. Total points (as above) are 116. (St. Joseph is 3rd with 52 points.)
24. Des Moines had 112 men on stage in 1985 in a vain attempt to win their first district championship in the year Kansas City laid out. Waterloo, with 51 men, won by 7 points, the difference was entirely due to arrangement points. The era adjusted percentage score was the same for both chapters.

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December 3 Joint HHS Rehearsal

December 7 HHS with Vocal Spectrum 2pm

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