

# HARMONOTES



## Kansas City, Missouri's Heart of America Chorus

CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING  
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE  
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY®

VOLUME 09 - ISSUE 1 - JANUARY 2009

## Love in the Air...Singing Valentine's

by John Erwine, 2009 Singing Valentine chairmen



ERWINE

On the very near horizon is the first major fund raising event for the *Heart of America Chorus* in 2009. Besides supporting the Kansas City Chapter, a portion of the funds will be presented to Children's Mercy Hospital to help with the purchase of equipment to aid in speech and hearing rehabilitation needs.

Most of our membership knows how rewarding and fun this event is. But for the newer members, it is a chance to participate in the delivery of...*love*. This can be accomplished either by being part of a delivering quartet or in a supportive role. There are plenty of opportunities for everyone.

If you are thinking of quarteting, the learning media is on the *HOA* members' site. If you are not in a quartet and would like to be, I will do my best to put you in touch with three other members to sing with. As a quartet member you will be helping to deliver *Singing Valentine's*, which includes love songs, candy, a rose and a specially designed card, throughout the Metro area on February 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Each

Valentine recipient will be entered in a drawing. **Helzberg Diamonds** has graciously donated a diamond pendant again this year valued at \$1,450 as the grand prize. There are also numerous sweetheart hotel packages which will be offered in the drawing. **Flowerama** will be donating the roses again. The headquarters will be in the same

location as last year at the Courtyard Marriott South just off 105<sup>th</sup> and Holmes.

If you do not want to be part of a quartet, that's also good because we need lots of support people to put this all together and make it happen. We'll need help at the headquarters center to process the orders, prepare routes, pack deliveries and much more. We'll need drivers, help with publicity, direct marketing, advance performances, gathering supplies and many other things which have to start taking place in early January. I already have a few volunteers but need many more.

Remember, it doesn't matter how you help with this event. In whatever capacity you participate you will be helping to sell...*love*. And again in whatever capacity, we want to do it with quality because *quality = image*. We want to deliver that love and leave our best image.

One last thought. This may be one of our biggest tricks in the bag to help sell our Spring Show with. Just think of the exposure we get during this time. Let's take full advantage of this time of...*love*. ♥

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*Mike Mathieu shares the details*

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# 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.

## Heart of America Chorus

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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The HOA Board of Directors meets at 6 p.m. on the second Monday of the month, at St. Thomas More Church, 118th & Holmes, Kansas City, MO 64131. Chapter members are welcome!

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## From the Front by David Krause

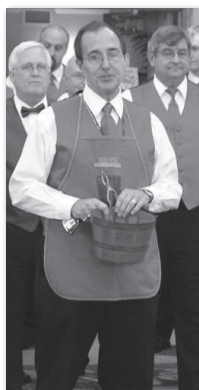


**C**ongratulations to all who participated in our two big events in December, the Holiday Harmony show and the Caroling Caravan. As always, many guys did a lot of great work to be sure these came off successfully. And, even though I was under the weather a bit for both, you guys managed to get very well-prepared and make the days fly by easily. You are especially to be congratulated for getting prepared for the Caravan in spite of the cancellation of our only rehearsal for it!

Enjoy our seasonal break and let's do our best to make 2009 an even more enjoyable year in barbershop. ♥

## Caroling Caravan 2008

by Mike Mathieu, Caroling Caravan Contributor



Ron McIntire

**W**hat a day! What a great bunch of giving individuals! What a great charity! What a great group of organizers! What great singers! What a great audience! The entire organization should be proud of what we as a group have accomplished for the Salvation Army.

In case you haven't already figured it out, you did it again for 2008. We beat our best year ever by over \$5,000. Yes, *Heart of America*, this year's total for the Salvation Army Caroling Caravan now stands at \$11,469.47. Now, what do we do for next year? We really have to put on our thinking hats now!

Thanks to **Bob Burdick, Vince Perry, Carter Combs, David Krause**, all the chapter quartets, all the committed singers, J. E. Dunn Construction for their kind donation to offset the cost of the school bus, and everyone else who played such a key part in the best Salvation Army Collection *ever*.

You all are to be commended, and may God bless all of you this Holiday Season. Merry Christmas to all, and I hope that 2009 brings to the *Heart of America Chorus* the best year ever! ♥

## CORRECTION:

Because of an error in the collecting of names of men who sang at the memorial service for **Dennis Taylor**, the list should have included **Ron Abel**. We certainly regret this error. The corrected list is shown below:

### New Harmony Handful

**Jim Bagby** - Director

- Ron Abel**
- Jim Davis**
- Brad Dawdy**
- John Erwine**
- Don Fuson**
- Jon Gathright**
- Bob Howard**
- Dick Krueger**

- Roy Manade**
- Mike O'Dell**
- Marty Oldehoeft**
- Barry Sanders**
- Keith Schweer**
- Tony Strub**

### HOA Chorus

**David Krause** - Director

- Dan Henry Bowser**
- Mike Mathieu**
- Kent McClean**
- Ron McIntire**
- Matt Moore**
- Vince Perry**
- Jim Porter**
- Bruce Wenner**

## 2009: The start of a New Year

by Doug Brott, Chapter President



Changes are imminent. For *HOA* and each individual member. As I write this, I am sitting in the airport waiting for my first trip with my new job. The first of many, many to come. *What changes are in store for you in 2009?*

For *HOA* we have the chance to improve and move forward. Yes, many are disappointed we are not going to International in 2009. I joined *HOA* just as we started this last string of International appearances. So for me it will be very odd to not to have a July 4<sup>th</sup> trip. But, we now have an excellent opportunity to work on our skills and improve for the future. We can concentrate on all that **David** and the Music Team are teaching us.



What are the goals for *HOA* in 2009? Our two major goals should be the same as any other year.

**#1. Improve our singing abilities.** Each and every one of us can improve. I know the Music Team are each working on their own skills. Never slowing

down and thinking “my skills are good enough.” **David, Jerry and Carter** are always working to become better directors. The section leads are working to become better teachers. And the Presentation Team works to make sure we are giving the best performance we can. Even though we are not going to International, we still have Singing Valentines, the Annual Show, performances TBD and Fall Contest where we need to be at the top of our game. We cannot settle for “B” level in ANYTHING we do.

**#2. Membership.** *HOA* is no different from any other chapter in the Society. If we are to survive as an organization, we must continue to recruit and retain active members. This will be a priority for the *HOA* Board and the Music Team has committed to put it at the top of their priorities also. David’s goal is to have a 100-man chorus. With a Metro area the size of Kansas City, this should be easy. But the men will not find us on their own. We all must recruit and encourage new membership. Then once they join, each and every person must work hard to retain them. Make them feel welcome, needed and wanted.

*HOA* has many other tasks to deal with in addition to our major goals. We will have performances, guest nights, picnics, golf tournaments, etc. We need to take on each task with one top priority. Excellence in all we do. If we approach each task with Excellence, then the two major goals will be no problem. I look forward to an exciting 2009 with each of you. ♥

## Harmony Explosion – YOUR Chance to Contribute In a Positive Way!

by Jerry Meier



Harmony Explosion will be held on Saturday, March 7 at the Olathe East High School. Several Jr. High and Sr. High students will gather to learn more about the barbershop hobby. They will perform barbershop music in a chorus and in quartets.

Chorus directors at the local Jr. High and Sr. High Schools need YOUR help to prepare the young men and women for Harmony Explosion. Most of the help is needed at the Jr. High level, as most of the High School groups already have previous barbershop experience.

A chorus director at the Jr. High level can work simultaneously with 2-3 groups of student quartets each day, if they have one or more *HOA* or *KCSA* members to help. YOU can volunteer to assist a chorus director in a 30-minute session, before school or after school, to help improve a quartet or two as they prepare for Harmony Explosion.

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

Please consider to volunteer your time to coach and encourage these young quartets – just 30 minutes on a school day can make a huge difference in their ability to sing on stage. It is not that difficult! You simply listen to the quartets and offer suggestions to improve their performance. The secret is to regurgitate all of the stuff that **Jim, David, Mark, Jerry, Carter** and countless other coaches have told YOU over the past 10 years! It’s that simple. You will be a genius when you apply some of the things that you remember hearing on the risers!

Volunteers will be needed at many Jr. High Schools in the metro area, starting the week of February 2, 2009, as they prepare their students for Harmony Explosion. Please contact **Jerry Meier (913-780-1822)** if you are slightly interested in hearing more information about this opportunity. ♥



# 2008 CAROLING CARAVAN!

*Photos courtesy of Don Fuson and Ron McIntire*



*"The entire organization should be proud of what we as a group have accomplished for the Salvation Army."  
4 - MIKE MATHIEU*



# 2008 HOLIDAY HARMONY SPECTACULAR!

*Photos courtesy of Matt Bostick and Mark Yeokum*



*The Annual 2008 Holiday Show featured a stellar collection of music makers including the Heart of America Chorus, 5 The Kansas City Chapter of Sweet Adelines, and crowd-pleasing quartets!*



- January 1 **John McConnell**
- January 1 **Tom Steele**
- January 3 **Don Newman**
- January 7 **Harvey Shapiro**
- January 9 **Bob Rutherford**
- January 10 **Oly Oldehoeft**
- January 13 **Fran Gangel**
- January 13 **Roy Manade**
- January 14 **Kent McClean**
- January 15 **Steve Carruthers**
- January 20 **Gary Mehalic**
- January 20 **Robert Tipton**
- January 21 **Brian Marston**
- January 25 **Bob Burdick**
- January 30 **Rick Foreman**

## Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter



PORTER

**Note** that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. One fourth of the proceeds is designated to Harmony Foundation and one fourth will be given to the Central States District to help promote their programs

to support and encourage Young Men in Harmony and other youth programs.

As of the end of calendar year 2008, after 4 drawings:  
 The total collected for Harmony Foundation was \$879.  
 The total for the previous year was \$158.  
 The total in our best year (2006) was \$494.

The current jackpot is still unclaimed, and is at a record level, over \$2,200! ♥

## It's Your Chapter

by John Erwine, Membership VP

**W**elcome to 2009, the year of change as our political friends like to say. I'm looking forward to it and all the new paths we may find along the way to improve our level of continued performance, and most importantly the preservation and growth of the chapter.

Much has been written during the past several months about the gradual decline in Society membership across the nation, including the Kansas City Chapter. A report published by CSD in September 2008, indicated the Society as a whole had gained 990 new members, however have lost 3,662. The August edition of the Serenade had a wonderful article in it written by CSD President, **Don Fuson**, regarding this subject and some ideas relating to reversing this trend. Please take the time to revisit it at [www.centralstatesdistrict.com](http://www.centralstatesdistrict.com).

2009 has been designated as "The Year of the Chapter" throughout the Society. You will be seeing lots of the "It's Your Chapter" logo during the coming year. In the September/October edition of *The Harmonizer*, **Ed Watson**, CEO/Executive Director, states that "The future of our Society depends on healthy chapters that can identify who they are, what they want to accomplish, and are willing to work to turn those dreams into reality. It's time to take that responsibility. The future of the Society depends on you!"

**The Number One Key to growth is...RETENTION of guests and current members.** Personal contact is one of the better ways to accomplish this. In today's world we depend on communication via e-mail and telephone. But, if we are to attract, recruit and retain new and current members, nothing works as well as good old fashioned personal contact. Perhaps even a handwritten letter. Let's continue to seek out and bring those guest singers. Let's continue to sell ourselves to those guest singers. Let's continue our sense of "brotherhood." Then let's continue to remind ourselves that what we say to them, how we act around them, what we do for them will determine in large part our retention factor. Positive comments, actions and behavior are a sure way to capture and retain guests and members.



Take a look at the three words at the bottom of the logo: **imagine, inspire, influence.** *Memorize them.* Think about them. Then, help me. I have no magical answer. I'm just an old guy that agreed to try along side of you.

With your help we'll develop a Membership Plan for today and the future, and with your help we'll implement it. I'm happy to say that the entire Chapter Board has already committed to this. Now who sounds like a politician? ♥

Graphic courtesy of the *Harmonizer*



Courtesy of Jim Bagby

**HARMONY HANDFUL, VERSION II -- (Standing, from left) Dale Neuman, Al Benz, Merlin Barcus, Clarence Bond, Ron McIntire, Kent McClean, Lyle Wyly and Jim Bagby; (kneeling) Fred Jesse, Ron Abel, Ed Sundermeyer, Fred Whisman, Charles Ramirez and Jim Davis. This was shot at a performance at home in Overland Park in about 1987. NOT PICTURED: Keith Schweer, Leroy Stock, John Pennington.**

I wanted to follow up **Tony Strub's** nice article from last *Harmonotes* on the *New Harmony Handful* with some historical perspective. This group has been a part of the *Heart of America* fabric, on and off, since the 1970s.

In fact, one of the *Handful's* earliest performances was on the 1976 show where *HOA* celebrated America's Bicentennial. The group was dressed in blue pants and white vests (both polyester, of course) and red shirts—very patriotic! Participants were, as I recall, virtually anyone who had volunteered to be part of the mini-chorus of about 15 guys. We weren't very good, although we had fun, and didn't last very long.

However, several members of the original *Handful* formed the basis for the group that won the Central States District's initial "Very Large Quartet" contest. That was an event I came up with when I held the district title then known as Director of Musical Activities. *HOA* won the first two or three district VLQ contests, held at the spring conventions as a fun extra activity partly designed to bolster attendance. Former members **Dean Trapp** and **Wes Yoder** were among the *HOA* participants.

Sometime in 1986 (I think), the second edition of the *Handful* was begun, with stricter membership requirements: the guys had to read music, and we had several guys who could sing more than one part, so we were more versatile (see accompanying picture). We rehearsed once a month and memorized all our music—a task the *New Harmony Handful* is now trying to achieve.

**Ron Abel**, who's been in all three versions, sang bari and tenor in the second group. **Dale Neuman** could sing any of the upper three parts. **Keith Schweer** could sing bari or bass, and so on.

In addition to the shirt, tie and barberpole tietack outfit you see here, we also had a red polo shirt for informal performances. **Ron McIntire** recalls the time he showed up one Sunday at **Jim Davis'** church in his red shirt and everyone else was in shirt and tie. He and I exchanged shirts, so the group would look uniform, but Ron says **Ed Sundermeyer's** wife, **Ruth**, gave him a lot of grief.

Ruth was unique in her steely devotion to *HOA* and the *Handful*. She's gone now, along with **Merlin Barcus** and **Clarence Bond**, who used to solo on "Old Bones"—a **George Burns** song that was one of our best-received numbers. Ed is at an assisted-living center in suburban Washington, D.C. Tenor **Fred Jesse** has moved to Tennessee, where he's a member of two Dixie District chapters and a quartet.

**Al Benz** and **Lee Stock** are inactive (his son, **John**, is now a member of our chapter and needs to be encouraged). **Fred Whisman**, who was chapter president when *HOA* won its first CSD title in 1978, is retired to his country farm near Kearney. Another former chapter president, **John Pennington**—under his watch the *HOA* retreats began—has moved to Florida and sings with the *Tampa Herald's of Harmony*.

Everyone else in the picture remains active with *HOA*: **McIntire**, **Davis**, **Charles Ramirez**, **Kent McClean** and **Lyle Wyly**, who's in the new *Handful* and joins us for such activities as Singing Valentines and chapter quartet contests.

Probably the most memorable performances for this HH II were our annual Christmas caroling outings, for friends, relatives and shut-in's. And that's a tradition the *New Harmony Handful* plan to revived in 2009! ♥



by Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus · wadeliberty@aol.com



DEXTER

### **TEN YEARS AGO: JANUARY, 1999**

General Chairman **Lud Einess** announced the appointment of his steering committee for the hosting of the International convention to be held in Kansas City in the summer of 2000. The steering committee members were **Jim Bagby**, **Dale Neuman** and **Don Young**. Lud explained, "The steering committee members will each oversee several committees whose (chairmen) they will select. The various (chairmen) will then enlist their committee members and be responsible for the planning and monitoring of activities within their jurisdictions."

The newly-elected *Heartbeats* president, **Jeanne Snyder**, deplored the fact that there were only 27 paid memberships for 1998. She wondered how many paid *HOA* chapter members were on the roster during that period. Said Jeanne, "We have some work to do!"

### **TWENTY YEARS AGO: JANUARY, 1989**

The 20-page January 1989 issue of *Harmonotes* is simply crammed with stuff for our chapter readers. For example, in his "Commentary," the editor is overwhelmed by the designation of our chapter bulletin as the best in the Central States District. This qualified it for submission in the international bulletin contest, where it was picked as the best in the Society. On top of all that, the editor was presented with the "Barbershopper of the Year" chapter award at the December installation banquet. His comment was "As they say in the beer commercial on TV, it doesn't get much better than this!"

And the roster of newly installed chapter officers included **Jim Bagby** (president), **Dale Neuman** (program VP), **Rod Rule** (music VP), **Richard Rusche** (Secretary), **Ron McIntire** (membership VP) and **Bob Howard** (treasurer). You couldn't do any better than that if you'd had them made to order.

And would you believe that on page 8 there is a list of 21 *HOA* standing committee chairmen, ranging from the "Pay As You Sing" committee (**Bill Maloney**) to the "Uniforms/Costumes" committee (**Charlie Ramirez**)? Wonder what ever happened to these committees.

### **FORTY YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY, 1969**

A letter from **Beverly Wasson** informed the chapter membership that at its January meeting, the *HOA* board of directors authorized the establishment of a ladies' auxiliary. The guidelines for such organizations were set forth by international headquarters and required that the group must be non-singing, they must be approved by the chapter board, and their activities were limited to (a) promoting and assisting in Logopedics activities and (b) assisting the chapter in any manner approved by the governing board consistent with Society by-laws such as helping with shows or social events. Special emphasis was placed on making new wives feel as though they "belonged."

Beverly added, "We know the auxiliaries have been highly successful in other chapters, and the unanimous and enthusiastic endorsement by 'our' board would indicate that the men feel there is a need we can fill." And it can be said that the establishment of the *Heartbeats* has been a tremendous help for the chapter in many areas. They've been depended on and have responded positively in many ways over the past forty years. ♥

## **Tone-Henge Busy, Festive** by Ol' Keith



SCHWEER

For *Tone-Henge*, like many of you, this is a very busy time of year. What with Christmas shopping and other family obligations, along with chorus and quartet activities and, for most of you, job responsibilities, sometimes you feel like you're meeting yourself coming and going.

We have been doing more daytime performances, since we're all retired. And we enjoyed, as we always do, being a part of the annual *HOA* caroling caravan for the Salvation Army. **Bruce** was a little under the weather vocally (something he referred to as the "blurples"), but he made it through OK, trooper that he is.

And we had a great time at our annual quartet Christmas dinner, although despite **Jerry Garrard's** prediction, we did NOT spend a record amount. Now we're looking forward to Jan. 3 Installation and Awards Banquet.

We'd like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. ♥





## ListenUp! by Tom Wenner

Barbershopping is different things to different folks. There's a family story about a time when I was a baby and **Dr. Greg Lyne** playing a pitch and me humming it back to him over and over, much to his amusement and astonishment. When I was a youngster, I went to a fair amount of *Heart of America* spring shows. I even performed in a couple (part of the family in a version of "I Never See Maggie Alone"). I followed my dad around hospitality rooms in The Renaissance Hotel in Detroit at the close of an early 80's International convention when I was about ten. He was singing tags until 5 am...even got me to sing a few.

I didn't join the chorus back in those days. I was a headbanger, listening to *AC/DC* and *Iron Maiden*. Barbershop got less and less cool as I got further into high school. I went to college up in Lawrence and picked up the drums and ended up playing in several great bands and getting to play in Europe on festival stages. I attended a few *HOA* shows in my twenties and early thirties and thought of attending meetings, but didn't think I could commit to something that was two hours drive time once a week. Finally in '05 the bug was not to be denied. I sang "Love at Home" in the family chorus on the spring show and decided to give it a whirl. Three Internationals later, I'm hooked. But now the focus is on my relatively new quartet, *ListenUp!*, and our goal to qualify for International this spring.

It's a tall order...we've scored low seventies in our two contests, but during our evals in October, **Chad Guyton**, singing judge and lead of *Four Voices*, informed us that we've got the voices to get there...we just need to get our act together. It was great to hear, but now we've got to make it happen. Our

biggest hurdle is matching resonance, but I suppose that's true for most quartets. The lead/bass match is getting thicker every rehearsal...which reminds me that I should mention who ELSE is in the quartet!

I didn't ask for background from any of these guys, so it's going to be more or less my interpretation of them. The other relative rookie in the quartet is **Big Dave Stockard**. I say rookie because neither of us have been in

*Command Performance*, his generally jovial nature. The guy can deliver the sourest of reports from in front of the chorus and keep a smile on his face the whole time. What I've learned in the short amount of time I've been around Carter is that he's totally dedicated. I mean, I knew it when he agreed to go to contest with us knowing we'd only have eight weeks to get ready and he'd be spending two of those weeks in Scotland. He's got a great ear, too, and He brews

a wicked beer to boot! Carter is the epitome of a barbershopper, especially on stage where he and what's-his-name constantly make Dave and I look like the newbies that we are.

Oh, yeah, now that I've brought up what's-his-name. His name is **Jerry Garrard**. What's there to say about JG that hasn't been said (or at least muttered) before? The guy's just a natural performer, and the lead



**ListenUp! members Tom Wenner, Jerry Garrard, Dave Stockard and Carter Combs, seen here during the recent Holiday Harmony Spectacular**

barbershopping very long. Dave's done a fair amount of choir singing, but this is his first quartet. He's got the rumble of an earthquake and a great ear. And Dave's as nice as they come. He puts up with a lot of nonsense in this quartet and gives it right back with a smile. He's got a great family who've been brave enough to come to Iowa twice this year to hear him sing (and of course his son is an *HOA* member, too!). If we ever get that version of "Old Man River" off the ground, LOOK OUT!

In August, **Carter Combs** replaced our first tenor and all around awesome dude, **Tom Elefson**. Carter is a one of a kind, and I don't even know him that well! Of course everyone in *HOA* knows his talents, his dedication, his quartet

in our quartet. He's a people person (though he'll deny it) and he would sing barbershop six nights a week if he could. He's that passionate about the "hobby." Jerry's the guy who will always be one of the last four (my dad will be another) left at the Piano Bar early every Wednesday morning and is always up for one more tag.

Qualifying will be tough, but we're confident that if we don't get there this year, we will next year. We're lining up some great material and top notch coaching, too. Thanks for everyone's support for the quartet and if you're headed down to Springfield in April, *ListenUp!* ♥



Mark Yeokum



High Definition belts a chord during the 2008 Holiday Harmony Spectacular. From left to right: Rob Mathieu, Mark Fortino, Adam Veteto and John Fortino

### High Definition News

by Rob Mathieu

Just a quick note to keep everyone updated on what's new with HD. Haley and I are expecting our second child in July 2009—July 10th to be exact. So...High Definition is going to carry on business as usual in terms of Top Gun School in February, Prelims in April, and International in July. We plan to qualify for international in April, then we will register the quartet to compete and then play it by ear from there. We don't plan to purchase plane tickets, however, we do plan to reserve our lodging as that can be cancelled 48 hours prior to check-in. Now if the baby comes early, like sometime late June, then we'll be scrambling to get plane tickets, get registrations, etc. You get the picture...

On a different NOTE, Haley, Dane and I are very excited for the new addition to arrive. We are working with Mark and Sara, Brian and Esther Marston, and Duane and Krista Lawson to form the next 'Young Boys' quartet to follow in 3G's footsteps. When I told Mark, John and Adam the news, I was the only one disappointed about the chance of not competing in Anaheim, CA. Having support like that is truly heart-warming. Also, if it turns out that we cannot compete in Anaheim, High Definition plans to spend a wonderful week together at Harmony University in August 2009 after the baby arrives. Should be an exciting first half of 2009 for High Definition. ♥



## Xtra Mile Award Winners!



Ron McIntire

### Rich Huyck and Kevin Tritsch February 2008

In grateful recognition for being a member of the sound crew that faithfully does the work of maintaining, transporting, storing, managing and setting up the sound system.

## Barbershopper of the Month!



Ron McIntire

### John Erwine - February 2008

In grateful appreciation for planning, organizing and co-chairing the 2008 Kansas City Missouri Chapter and Heart of America Chorus Singing Valentine program

# Summary of December 2008 Board Meeting

by Rick Foreman/Ron McIntire

## TREASURERS REPORT:

### Harvey Shapiro

Operating Fund – \$19,622.73

Restricted Fund – \$6,350.32

## MARKETING REPORT:

### Brad Dawdy

Ad flyers for the Spring Show, Golf Tournament and Singing Valentines are being printed.

## OPERATIONS REPORT:

### David Miller

The All Day Coaching Session with **Mike Slamka** is being set with the church for January 10, 2009.

## MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE:

### Carter Combs

The Caroling Caravan is set for Saturday, December 13 and the music is on the website.

**Mike Slamka** is booked for the all day coaching session, January 10.

Contracts for *Three Men and a Melody* have been signed as guest quartet for the spring show.

The music team will mount a campaign to get the entire chorus to attend Harmony University.

## PROGRAM REPORT: Carl Turlin

**Dan Henry Bowser** will be the installer at the installation banquet.

The traveling chorus for the Sing For Life blood drive was a wise use of personnel or resources. Other choruses in the KC area will be contacted and arrangements made to sing at different donation sites. The times for the event would remain at 9-noon on Saturday May 16.

## OLD BUSINESS:

### Membership Skills/ Experience Matrix:

The chapter needs to develop a spread sheet similar to the Sweet Adelines that categorizes the interests and talents of their membership.

## NEW BUSINESS:

### Golf Tournament: Kent Miller

A few flyers have been printed for this years golf tournament.

### Singing Valentines: John Erwine

- A Helzberg's Jewelry has committed to a \$1,500.00 diamond
- Flowerama has committed to supplying the roses and a commitment for candy is near completion.

The board agreed to a new pricing structure for Singing Valentine's:

\$50 Regular 8 hour window

\$60 Priority 1 4 hour window

\$75 Priority 2 2 hour window

\$95 Special 1 hour window

\$5 discount for on-line orders.

## 2008 Year End Report on Chapter Legal Activities: Dale Neuman

- Jackson County Personal Property Tax annual exemption obtained for 2008.
- New trailer 3 year MO license tag and registration obtained in 2008.
- KCMO is no longer listing the Kansas City Chapter as delinquent for not obtaining a business pursuits license from our last show at the Music Hall.
- USPS non-profit mailing permit renewed.
- State of Missouri Tax Exemption renewed for three years.
- Since the KC Chapter of SPEBSQSA was incorporated in 1948 in perpetuity under a 1039 Missouri Statute covering benevolent and educational organizations, it need not file annual reports.
- All undelivered items mailed under our mailing permit have been reclaimed and returned the respective mailing list managers. ♥



# HOA FIRST CLASS

To the Heart of America Chapter,

How do you thank a group of men that span 60 years and a genre of music that has meant so much in **Dennis'** life?



Since Dennis has not really been active in the Chapter for many years, I was hesitant to impose on **Jim Bagby**, through **Dan Henry**, and ask if anyone was available to possibly sing at his celebration. Jim's response was an instant "yes" (as are all his responses. I think he is on the computer almost as much as I am).

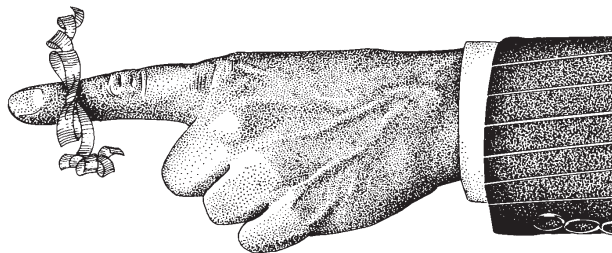
We videotaped the service and I have watched it several times already. The song selections were perfect and "Friends" (and the men coming up out of the audience) brought tears to many, many eyes. I told Dan Henry that Dennis was cremated and I brought him home with me. The past few nights, I sat with him on the fireplace and listened to the *Heart of America* rendition of "Friends." That song will forevermore have a place in my heart.

I have instructed the Truman Heartland Foundation to gift \$500 from the Dennis and Jane Donor advised trust Fund to the Heart of America Fund.

Thanks you again for you time, your music, and your friendship.

With love, Dennis' wife, **Jane**

# Heart of America Chorus Calendar



- Jan. 3** Installation/Awards Banquet
- Jan. 19** 9pm-4pm Coaching Session with Mike Slamka, at St. Peter's
- Feb. 13-14** HOA Singing Valentines
- March 7** Harmony Explosion at Olathe East High School, 14545 W. 127th St., Olathe, Kans.
- March 13** HOA Technical Rehearsal at JCCC
- March 14** 62nd Annual Show at Yardley Hall in The Carlson Center, in the Johnson County Community College
- April 24-25** CSD Spring Convention, Springfield, MO
- May 2** 3rd Annual HOA Golf Tournament
- May 16** Overland Park Chapter Show
- June 2** Kansas City Chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society founded in 1938
- June 30 - July 4** Society International Convention, Anaheim, CA

*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.*

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