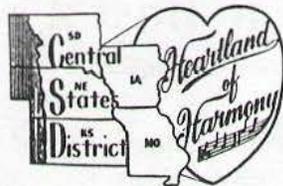


Central States District



Serenade

Iowa · Kansas · Nebraska · Missouri · South Dakota

www.centralstatesdistrict.com

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January/February 2002

President's message — 2001 was year of accomplishments

By Bill McLaurine, PRESIDENT

Wow! 2001 is at an end, and we are beginning another year. Even though the year went by quickly, we were able to accomplish many things in Central States District.

Our Young Men in Harmony program, under Vice President Duane Lawson, continues to function well. CSD had two collegiate quartets at the International contest, and three YMIH clinics were held in the district.

The upgraded CSD website was put in place early in the year, and has been quite successful. A quartet Top Gun school was held in February and a mini-HEP was held in June.

We also conducted two workshops for chorus directors. Our chapter coaches were more active in 2001 and were able to assist a number of chapters. We also had two very successful conventions in 2001, in St. Joseph, MO and in Topeka, KS.

We finished off the year with a fantastic COTS weekend in November. The activities started with

a financial development workshop on Friday evening and Saturday morning. Forty-six attendees from 22 chapters learned how to apply for grant money from local and state resources and how to build relationships that can further the chapter's goals.

The COTS faculty did a great job of providing relevant information. The weekend also provided time for chapter officers to do some planning for 2002. We also had time for some fun, singing, and listening to our new district quartet champion, **The Noise Boys**.



2002 brings new challenges. Membership will be a primary focus of the Society, district, and, hopefully, chapters this year. As you are aware, total membership numbers continue to decline. A few areas show signs of membership growth, primarily in the some of the Sunbelt states, but overall the trend is negative. There are many leisure-time activities available to men today. We must find new and creative ways to expose them to the great joy of singing barbershop harmony, so they will want to choose barbershopping.

Ev Nau, Society Director of Member Services, is traveling to many areas of the country, speaking to chapters at every stop, to discuss this important issue. He made one stop in Omaha in early November, and he will be back in the district in January, stopping in Kansas City and St. Louis to deliver his message.

Presidents message

Continued on page 3



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The *Serenade* is the official publication of the Central States District. Articles written by the editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the members and officers. Space will be made available in the *Serenade* for opposing points of view.

ADVERTISING RATES

Full-page ad (9"x7), \$120.00;
 half-page (4"x7), \$60.00;
 quarter-page (4"x3"), \$30.00.
 The charge for a typical quartet card is \$12.00 per issue. Make checks payable to "Central States District." All advertising copy must be camera ready. Send all copy and payments to the editor, at the address above.

**Next Serenade
 Deadline:
 Feb. 12, 2002**

Anticipated mailing
 date:
 Feb. 28, 2002

Would you like to host a convention?

By Merrill Aitchison, CONVENTIONS CHAIRMAN



We are inviting bids for chapters to host the **spring conventions** for **2004** (April 16-18) and **2005** (April 15-17). These will be great opportunities for your chapter to be publicized in your community as well as throughout the district. Be proud to publicize your community. You may also expect to earn income for your chapter from the events.

If the idea of hosting a convention appeals to you or you would like additional information, please contact Merrill Aitchison, conventions chairman, 1625 47th St. N.E., Cedar Rapids, IA 52402, 319-393-4093, e-mail: aitch@ia.net

Talk to your local visitors and convention bureau. You will be amazed at how much help they can give you. ♪

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Barbershopper of the Year — Lud Einess
 Hall of Fame — Jim Nugent

Chapter Operations Training Seminar a success

By Craig Hanson, COTS COORDINATOR

Once again the Central States District put on a very successful COTS. On November 9-11, 2001, the Omaha Doubletree Downtown Hotel was filled with Barbershoppers who had been chosen by their chapters to lead the chapter as officers in the upcoming year, 2002.

The weekend got started with a Financial Development workshop and seminar presented by Jack Greenfield of Tampa, Florida. Jack has raised over \$60,000 to make programs possible for his chapter in Tampa and prepared a booklet for everyone attending his session that was specific to the state your chapter is in. Over 65 people were in attendance for part or all of this presentation, which was totally sponsored by the CSD board. I know that everyone who was a part of this had some new opportunities presented to them and some very concrete sources at which to make any follow up and begin the grant writing process. If you or a member of your chapter had any difficulties in the Friday room payment, please e-mail me at <HCAhanson@aol.com> so we can clear up whatever problems still may exist.

I want everyone to realize that our dean for the faculty was contacted the Monday of the seminar to take the place of the assigned dean. Dwain Chambers went above and beyond in order to be with us this year. He gave up one of the only free weekends he had all fall to be with us at a last minute call from Kenosha. Dwain is also a Contest Administrator and had just been in CSD at the St. Joseph spring convention serving in that capacity.

We had nearly the same amount of attendees this year as last. We seem to be stuck at 162. There were representatives from 37 chapters. I don't know if any of you got acquainted with the three officers from the Liberty, Missouri, chapter, but they were guests of the district for the weekend because of their new status of being chartered within the year.

I know that everyone who attended will be a better officer in 2002 because of what you experienced during the weekend. Have a good year and remember that you have a chapter coach who is willing to be of any assistance he can be to help you through any bumps in the road. If you came away

not knowing who your chapter coach is, please contact Ron Mays in Lincoln, who is the district VP for Chapter Support and Leadership Training. Ron's e-mail is <rmays@123bigplanet.com>. He will be happy to put you in touch with your chapter coach or have him contact you.

CSD COTS is in Omaha through 2004, the second weekend of November. Start making plans so more of your chapter officers can attend in 2002. The Doubletree Downtown Hotel staff really enjoys our weekend as their guests. I have received numerous calls to be sure we are coming back next November. I think they like our style of music, even though Neil Diamond was in the hotel the same weekend. *[COTS photos next issue. -Ed.]* ♪

President's message Continued from page 1

In addition, Dale Neuman, CSD Vice President of Member Services, will be developing ideas and will be available to assist chapters with ways to find and retain members.

The Society and district also want to improve the musical experience of the members. One program already in place in the district is the Standing Ovation Program (SOP). Trained reviewers are available to chapters for their shows and performances. Additional programs are being developed that will give members a chance to help improve singing and quarteting.

2002 will be a busy year in Central States District. Your board of directors is ready and willing to help wherever needed. ♪

T.E.A.M.

Together Everyone

Achieves More

Welcome to the 19th annual S.D. Barbershop Festival

By Norman Grosz, COORDINATOR

As our holiday festivities are coming to an end, it's time to start thinking about our 19th annual South Dakota Barbershop Festival. This year's event will be held in Mitchell on February 1 and 2.

The headquarters motel is the Comfort Inn on Hwy. 37 South and Burr St., which is several blocks north of Interstate 90. The phone is 605-996-1333. We have special rates of \$42 for one bed and \$45 for two beds if you plan to stay on Friday or Saturday nights. Get your reservation in and say you want the "Barbershopper rate."

On Friday evening, Feb. 1, we will leave from the motel at 5:30 and go to the Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Krall residence on Lake Mitchell, 174 Harmon Dr., 605-996-2020. This is the location for quartet and director coaching. We will have our evening meal at 6:00 with the Kralls, chorus directors and quartets.

The quartets and directors coaching will start at 7:00 and will last until everyone has been coached. This will conclude the Friday evening events.

We hope all directors will be able to attend. Last year only four attended. You will benefit greatly from the experience!

If you have any questions or problems, please call me in the evenings: 605-332-0079;

e-mail: ncgrosz71@hotmail.com or
skgrosz@home.com (wife's — will get from either one)

or write:

Norman Grosz
1406 So. Norton Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

We are looking for a record turnout this year! ♪



Support Your Chapter Bulletin
Write An Article

Inform — Record — Reflect
Recognize — Educate — Promote
Recruit — Retain — Encourage

News from our District Quartets

Jurassic Larks

By Victor Neilsen, TENOR

Since our last report, the Larks completed the Fall Show schedule and G.W. (baritone) became a winter Texan, so we're on hold for now. He's coming back to Iowa for Christmas, 'cause he doesn't want to miss the snow.

Actually, it's a great time to reflect on what fun the Larks have had singing for barbershop audiences and also for those other groups — conventions, parties, etc. We sang for two county Farm Bureau annual meetings earlier this year and as a result of that, we were solicited for an article in the Iowa Farm Bureau's *Family Living In Farm Country* publication, November 2001 issue.

It is sent to about 35,000 associate (non-farming) members throughout Iowa and along the borders of surrounding states. We ended up with a two-page spread, telling the story of the Larks beginnings, and our experiences so far (but the END is yet to come). It even included pictures taken during a rehearsal where we were dressed as we usually are for rehearsal — almost indescribable, but they made the picture of us in our leisure suits look great (well, okay, good).

So far we've had four calls from people who saw the publication, and recognized one of us. Two might be for performances, and Barney heard from a friend he hadn't heard from in more than 20 years. Now that's part of the wonderful world of barbershop!

Right now we're looking for G.W. to return so we can prepare for the Mid-Winter convention (and AISQC show) in Riverside, California. We also have the chapter installation banquet and another performance to warm up for in early January. In Riverside, we plan to cheer on our own Central States District Seniors qualifiers, Gentlemen of Note, as they compete for the gold. Being seeded third, I'd say they have a great chance to bring the gold back to CSD. Hope to see you there. ♪

Visit the district website

www.centralstatesdistrict.com

The 56th Annual Show
 FEATURING
the Heart Of America chorus
 INCLUDING



12th Street Rag



Gentlemen of Note



AND **PLATINUM...**
 the 2000 International Quartet Champions,
 making one of their final appearances
 before retiring after July 2002.
Come see and hear the best of the best!

• **Saturday, March 9, 2002** •

• K.C. MO • Music Hall • 13th & Central •
 Two shows: 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

All reserved tickets: \$18 • \$13 • \$8

• PARKING INFORMATION MAPS WILL BE INCLUDED WITH TICKET ORDER •

FOR TICKETS...call Paul today!

816-537-0038

• Please indicate if special seating required •

! TWO ESCAPE WEEKEND PACKAGES AVAILABLE !

➤ **PACKAGE NO. 1** ◀

- King Room at Downtown Marriott Hotel
- Two **Orchestra** tickets for either show
- Two tickets for the *Afterglow* at the
 at the Marriott Hotel Count Basie Ballroom

\$138 for one night • \$240 for two nights

➤ **PACKAGE NO. 2** ◀

- King Room at Downtown Marriott Hotel
- Two **Balcony** tickets for either show
- Two tickets for the *Afterglow* at the
 at the Marriott Hotel Count Basie Ballroom

\$113 for one night • \$215 for two nights

For Escape Weekend INFO: call Mike Mathieu, 913 345-9821 • no later than 2-14-2002

Central States District Convention Housing Form
April 12-14, 2002
Hosted by the Columbia, Missouri, Chapter

Please submit no later than March 12, 2002; show all persons occupying room.

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____
 Address: _____ E-mail: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Arrival Date & Time: _____ Departure Date: _____

**** SPECIAL NOTE:** If only one name is listed on this form, you will automatically be assigned a single bed room. Please list all names staying in the room:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

Please indicate your first (1) or second (2) hotel choice in line by the hotel.

Room rates listed DO NOT include taxes.

____ Holiday Inn
 Headquarters hotel
 \$75.00 Single, double, triple, or quad
Check-in 2:00 PM -- Check-Out 11:00PM

____ Drury Inn
 \$75.00 Single or double
Check-In 3:00 PM B Check-Out 12:00 Noon

Non Smoking _____ Smoking _____

If you require special needs for housing, please indicate:

Note: Room reservations must be paid in advance by credit card. Prices do not include taxes. The hotels will not accept individual or group reservations.

Guarantee room by credit card: Type of Card: _____ Exp. Date: _____
 Card # _____ Signature: _____

Submit housing form to: LARRY WARRICK * 2603 Lynner Drive * Des Moines, IA 50310-5834
 515-277-9884 * Fax (515) 286-3364 * E-mail biglare@att.net

PLEASE NOTE: PHONE ORDERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

To register online go to www.centralstatesdistrict.com click on the **Convention** button and click on **Housing Form**. This form will go directly to the Larry Warrick, Housing Chairman when submitted.

Come to Columbia April 12-14

By Chuck Bay, BOONSLICK CHORDBUSTERS CONVENTION CHAIR

Why? Well, for starters it looks like we will have another outstanding International prelim contest once again with our own fantastic Central States quartets and rumor has it at least one top notch quartet from outside the district. I'm not sure if I should spill the beans, but I think I can safely say they have **Four wonderful Voices**.

If that doesn't pique your interest, how about another quality Central States college quartet contest where many of the best college quartets in the country get their start? Also, let's not forget about crowning the Plateau A chorus champs or a chance to hear your 2001 most improved chorus, the **Boonslick Chordbusters** or a new addition to the Central States, the Liberty, Mo., Chapter. Their **Sons of Liberty** chorus will be our mike testers.

Not convinced? Well then, I guess it would do no good to let you know that our very own 1986 International quartet champions, the **Rural Route Four** will be anchoring the Saturday night showcase.

Naturally, there will be many activities for the non-competitor to attend while waiting for the contests to begin. There will be the ever-popular History Room, tag singing, woodshedding, the Harmony Marketplace and perhaps a few surprises for folks along the way.

We are sure you will find our headquarters hotel to be very comfortable and well suited to host this event and you will be happy to know that our overflow hotel is just a short trip across the parking lot. The Missouri Theater, where the contests will be held, is a turn-of-the-century gem located in downtown Columbia and practically surrounded by restaurants.

For the **Ambassadors of Harmony, 12th Street Rag, Sibling Rivalry, Tone-Henge, Sound FX, Expanded Sound, Gas House Gang, Jurassic Larks, Rivertown Sound, Route 66, Most Wanted Fellows** and **Nightbeat**, finding Columbia should be easy. You've been here before — we have proof. For the rest of you, we are located at the intersection of Interstate 70 and US 63 halfway between Kansas City and St. Louis. The headquarters hotel (the Holiday Inn Select) is right on I-70 and our contest theater is downtown at 203 S. 9th street.

If you need a special invitation, well here goes (I hope I don't miss anybody): South Dakota (**Aberdeen,**

Milbank, Watertown, Pierre, Winner, Mitchell, Sioux Falls, Viborg and Yankton). Surely by April you will be tired of the snow and looking for a good excuse to head south for the weekend. Heck, stay for the week, we don't mind. Just think of the surprised looks on the rest of the district guys' faces when you drop in on this district event.

Nebraska (**Ord, Fremont, Omaha, Papillion, Grand Island, Lexington, Kearney, Hastings, Lincoln, Nebraska City and Beatrice**). Here in Columbia we have just about recovered from the fifth down episode and now somehow you're playing for the national championship again but not for the Big Twelve title. You should at least come and explain yourselves, and no, you do not have to back into this convention.

Kansas (**Hays, Salina, Manhattan, Leavenworth, Topeka, Overland Park, Olathe, Emporia, McPherson, Newton, Hutchinson, Wichita and Chanute**). Well, you know how it is with Kansas and Missouri — perhaps I should just be quiet here, but I think it would only be courteous to invite our neighbors to the west to come see where the best basketball team in the big 12 plays. No, keep going past Lawrence on I-70 to the next college town to the east.

Iowa (**Sheldon, Algona, Mason City, Elkader, Dubuque, Blackhawk Metro, Fort Dodge, Sioux City, Denison, Ames, Linn County Metro, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Davenport, Muscatine, Des Moines, Atlantic, Ottumwa and New London**). Come see where all those bulletins you send me are going. Actually, you guys have it easy and will get to travel on many new sections of a recently improved US 63.

Unlike the rest of you poor fellows from **Kansas City, St. Charles, Florissant, St. Louis #1 and St. Louis Suburban** who should have no trouble staying awake on our nice smooth section of Interstate 70. **Liberty** should need no invitation, you are singing. **St. Joseph**, well, for the record we have the good lookin' Droegemueller, and no you can't have him back, but you're welcome to come and visit. **Sedalia, Springfield, Joplin and Greater Ozarks**, this event is not likely to get much closer for you guys so get up here while the gettin's good.

That should about cover it, please let me know if I missed you and I will be happy to include your personalized invitation immediately following my lengthy and extensive apologies in the next Serenade.

See you in April! ♪

Central States District Spring Convention
 April 12-14, 2002 Columbia, Mo.
CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Name _____ Membership # _____
 Chapter/Quartet Name _____ Chapter # _____
 Address _____ Phone # _____
 City _____ Zip Code _____

Note: All competitors are required to purchase a regular or super registration and must also enter the contest and make housing arrangements. Early registration discount applies if postmarked by **March 29, 2002**. Single event tickets, if available, will be sold at the convention. Registrations will not be processed without full payment. Registrations and discounts are 1/2 price for **non-competing** college students to age 22 and juniors to age 18.
IF SPECIAL SEATING IS REQUIRED - PLEASE ADVISE. Wheelchair _____ Other (unable to climb stairs) _____

Regular registration includes all competition events	Super Registration includes all competition events & \$10 Saturday Showcase	<i>Please circle registration amount requested</i>			
		Regular Registration	Super Registration	Early Registration Discount Until March 29, 2002	Total
		↓	↓	↓	
<u>Registrant</u>		32	40	-5	_____
Additional Registrants:	Membership #				
_____	_____	32	40	-5	_____
_____	_____	32	40	-5	_____
_____	_____	32	40	-5	_____
_____	_____	32	40	-5	_____
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_____	_____	32	40	-5	_____
_____	_____	32	40	-5	_____
_____	_____	32	40	-5	_____

All Seats Reserved for All Sessions **GRAND TOTAL \$** _____

Please make checks payable to: **CSD Convention, SPEBSQSA**
 To use credit card: VISA MasterCard Discover Exp. Date: _____
 Card # _____
 Signature _____

Electronic filing is available at www.centralstatesdistrict.com.
 Please include your email address for confirmation. _____

Mail Completed forms to: CSD Ticket Chairman Bob Swenson, 300 Yuma Manhattan, KS 66502-6240	Registrations and tickets are not refundable. Email: mdsi@flintheills.com	Ticket packages will not be mailed unless specific arrangements are made in advance with the Ticket Chairman
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Please use 1 line per registrant and copy this page if necessary

Website update

By Ron Morden, EXECUTIVE VP



CSD's website is really getting used, with hits now approaching 7,000! It is now the district's place to go for the most current information about district activities. Please help us make our site even more useful to all our members. Go to the site, look at what information is there, and then GO PROACTIVE — click on the Webmaster button and send her your ideas, suggestions, or just general comments.

Some examples: What would you like to see on the site? Is your chapter or quartet information current? Remember, each group must take the responsibility to check their own info and notify the Webmaster of any changes. She's not clairvoyant (except where I'm concerned — and that's a scary thought!), so she needs you to tell her of anything that needs to be updated, such as email addresses!

The "Member Only" section of the website is password protected. Chapter presidents have been given the passwords with instructions to pass this information along to all chapter members. If your president hasn't passed this information along, send a note to the Webmaster and she'll give you the information directly. NOTE: The login and password are both in lower case, so don't use capitals when entering them.

Help us — and yourself — out by passing along your ideas to improve our site! 🎵

RR4 to headline Saturday Night Showcase at Columbia spring convention

By Merrill Aitchison, CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

If you haven't started thinking about going to Columbia, Missouri, for the 2002 spring convention, now's the time to do so.

When ordering your tickets be sure and order the super package as the Past International Quartet Champions **Rural Route 4** will be headlining the Saturday night showcase. What a great evening this will be as the RR4 quartet is a great, entertaining quartet.

The earlier you order your tickets the better the seats will be. What a great weekend this will be. Lots of great competition and then to finalize the weekend with a great quartet like the RR4. 🎵

Join the *Big Quartet* experience at district conventions. See your chapter Quartet Promotion Chairman and become a **Barberpole Cat**



HABITAT 4 HARMONY BARBERSHOP QUARTET

Clyde Mickelsen	🎵	Kirby Wilson
Marv Spellman	🎵	Fran Wilson
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Points to ponder

By Ron Mays, VP CSLT



With the 2002 COTS (because it's for 2002 leadership) behind us, we all needed to remember some points.

A) REMEMBER that this is a volunteer organization. Everyone is trying to do his best!

B) THE pay is the same for all officers — LOVE OF THE

HOBBY.

C) Try not to make year-end decisions that the new board will HAVE TO LIVE WITH. This will only create confusion and uneasiness.

D) If you have officers you feel could do better, begin now to encourage COTS for next year!

E) TRAIN ahead — COTS is for all guys, even future leaders. Send the guys a full year in advance. WOW what a concept — pre-trained leaders!

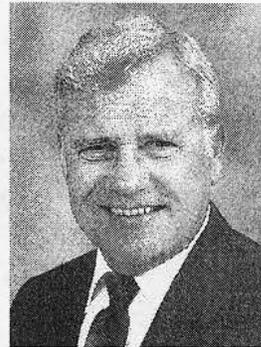
F) INVOLVE your chapter coaches for assistance with the tough decisions.

G) Most of all PLEASE don't get all hung up in personal issues. You'll find much more enjoyment in doing the best you can AND remembering why you joined the Society! Oh, yeah, the singing and fellowship.

H) HAVE FUN — we all have enough stress in our lives. Even when I was a chapter officer, this was a great stress relief! Don't take it too far. ♪

2002 district music school plans taking shape

By Gale Demaree, ADMINISTRATOR



We are planning to add a couple of new wrinkles to our music school (mini-HEP) this year. We will have quartet coaching and regular classes as in the past, but this year we will add chorus coaching for the first two choruses who apply. We will also offer reduced registra-

tion fees for members who prefer to drive in for classes only, and not use a sleeping room at the school. We will also offer a discount to chapters who send eight or more members to the school.

Classes will begin at 8 p.m. on Friday, June 7, and the last class will end at 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 8. Three meals will be provided on Saturday. The school will again be held at Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph, Missouri.

More information and registration forms will be presented in the Mar-Apr issue of the *Serenade*. ♪

Winners believe in their worth in advance of their performance.

--Denis Waitley

Don't discard your Serenade
When you have finished reading it, give it to a prospective member or guest.

PROs and BEs

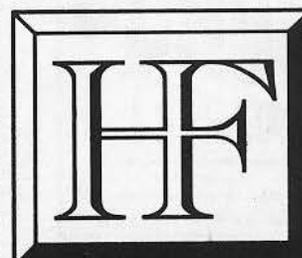
Improve your potential

Bulletin editors and public relations officers: are you a member of PROBE? If not, please contact Editor John Petterson for information.

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... Or Nothing Else Matters!



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Kent Smallcomb - Bass

Craig Knispel - Tenor

Neil Berke
Baritone

Gary Drown
Lead



Contact:
Kent Smallcomb
2731 Ave. G
Kearney, NE 68847 • Home: 308-234-3053

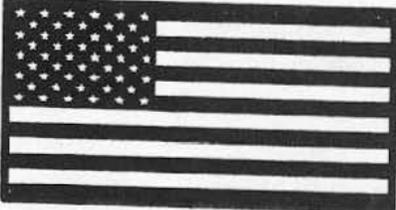


Beatrice, Nebraska



A Sentimental Journey

Across The USA



With Special Guests:

February 9, 2002 at 7:30 pm

February 10, 2002 at 2:00 pm



Ticket Information:

Dick Kluver 402-223-3193

Ralph Larsen 402-228-0403

Scott Spilker 402-228-0552 spilk@inetnebr.com

**Hevelone Center For Performing Arts
Beatrice, Nebraska**

Ev's Extravaganza

By Dick DeLorm, EDITOR, LINCOLN CHAPTER
(Photos submitted)

On Monday, November 5, 2001, the Lincoln Chapter, 48 strong, made a bus trip to the town of LaVista, Nebraska. We attended a meeting with Ev Nau, managing director of Member Services. He had sent an e-mail to all members of the Lincoln Chapter requesting their presence in LaVista. Since that time he has traveled some 5,300 miles beginning in LaVista and including stops in Denver, Salt Lake City, Reno, Pleasanton, California, Oakland, Jackson, Corvallis, Olympia, Seattle, Bozeman and ending in Fargo on November 20.



Ev Nau patrols the pews as he preaches.

Ev came to town and made it clear that membership of SPEBSQSA, Inc., is dropping off at an alarming rate. Prospects for improvement were slim unless we are willing to step up and actively DO something. He put on a two-hour program, which included singing, learning music, learning membership recruiting techniques, planning a campaign, watching some videos — in short, a fast-paced evening. All of this was to back up his contention that if we continue to recruit and retain new members at the current rate, we will have no Society by 2087. I may not have gotten the correct year, but I did get the message that Ev sent. So did everyone else in the room.



Phase II demonstrates harmony to the nth degree.

We need to raise our visibility in the community. We need to take our product to the people. We need to remind ourselves of what we are trying to preserve and we need to remind others of how this great hobby of ours can make their lives better. Recent historical events have proven that our society at-large will need the kind of relief and fellowship that we have to offer, in the future.



Ev Nau presents an award to R. T. (Dick) DeLorm.

Ev also suggested we have a duty to celebrate America with our music. We should incorporate patriotic sing-along events into our performances. We might give his ideas a try. As he said at the end, we should be **ever growing...or nothing else matters**.

Within two weeks of the meeting with Ev, I received the following e-mail from a fellow member of the Lincoln Continentals:

"Dear Dudes,

I am forwarding an example of an open invitation that I sent to several of my friends. As Ev Nau advised, maybe we should consider moving outside of the box and invite people who are not necessarily within our close circle of friends or age group. I thought that you might wish to use some new ideas on my slant to soliciting new members. Note that I left out after-glow beer drinking, although perhaps that would be a strong draw card.

Kind regards,
DH"

Sample letter

"Dear John,

Please don't view me as pressuring you, but I am hopeful that someday, you would favor me with taking the time to go to a Lincoln Continentals practice session on Monday night. Please advise

me by return of which Monday evening would allow your accompanying me to one of our practice or rehearsal sessions. I am confident that you would be impressed with the fellowship, musical professionalism and just plain fun that we have singing together. As a matter of fact, we have had so much fun that together, we won the U. S. Central States District Plateau AA Chorus competition in Topeka last month. I have only been with the Continentals since last July, thanks to a friend's

sponsorship and encouragement, and perhaps have made a contribution while enjoying the whole idea. Two weeks ago, the membership elected me to serve on the governing board of the Lincoln Continentals. I look forward to hearing from you.

DH"

As Ev Nau would say, "Any other good ideas out there?" ♪

Could this help improve membership?

Traveling billboards

By John Petterson, EDITOR

WANTED MEN WHO LIKE TO SING



CALL 800-876-SING

The thought recently crossed my mind that we need other forms of advertising to reach prospective members — inexpensive means. The idea of over 30,000 traveling billboards popped up: a **bumper sticker** with the Society WATS number, where a guy could call and make the initial contact.

With a few exceptions, all of us drive, park in mall lots, church lots and countless other places. Just imagine the number of men who will see a bumper sticker!

(Yes, the best way of getting new members is to ASK!)

If bumper stickers are made available, perhaps chapters could buy them for their members who are willing to display them. Each new member could receive one in his new member kit.

Let's broaden our areas of exposure and let other men know about our great hobby.

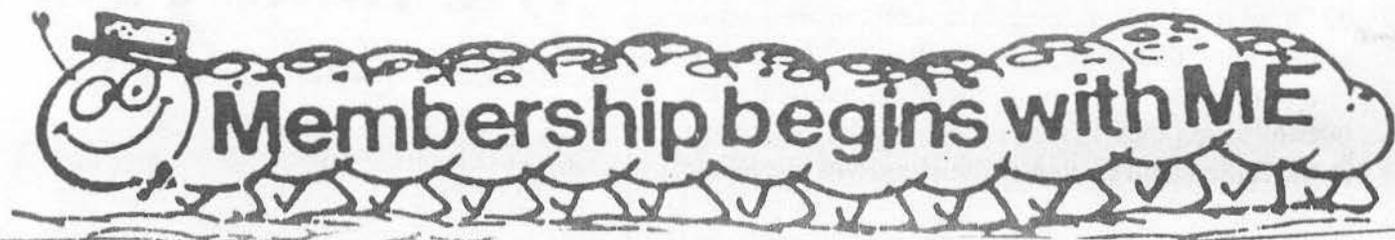
Is this an idea whose time has come? Hello, Kenosha, are you listening? ♪



EVER-GROWING



... Or Nothing Else Matters!



'One size does NOT fit all'

By Dale Neuman, VP MEMBER SERVICES



A number of ideas and themes were explored at the Society's Leadership Forum in Racine at the beginning of November. Several even had slogans such as: "Ever-growing...or Nothing Else Matters," "United We Sing," "Integrated Product Team."

Later I will briefly discuss each of these and their relevance to membership. But I'd rather focus on a more generic concept that I feel may be more critical than all the rest that surfaced during our four-day session: "One size does NOT fit all."

In this day and age, we look for convenience, quick fixes and one size that will fit everything in all that we do. Life is easier that way. We do not have to sort things out or work at making things fit.

It seems that many men in our hobby and many chapters, too, have fallen into the habit of seeing the size or shape or design or goal that suits them as the one that all should try to wear and enjoy whether it fits or not. This may be one of the reasons why both recruitment and retention are increasingly problematic for all but a very few chapters in our entire Barbershop Harmony Society.

One size really does not fit all — even socks typically list a range of sizes that they will fit — not all! Ask any uniform chairman how different the men of your chapter really are or watch his eyes glaze over when a man over six feet eight inches tall and weighing about 270 shows up at a guest night! We cannot let our eyes glaze over as we move into the New Year. We do have to figure out how to customize our membership efforts

Maybe, treating each man as "One of a Kind" should join our litany of slogans for 2002. This means that existing chapters will need to work on different approaches to recruitment and try two or three rather than just "bring a guest." Currently, one-third of our "first year" members nationally are over 60 when they first join. We need to also bring in the fathers and uncles of the Harmony Explosion crowd.

Existing chapters will have to recall the grand old tradition of sponsoring and supporting new

chapters — even in their own backyards — if that is what it takes to provide a place to sing for men who love to sing. We will have to vary our programming and activities

Chapters have different missions and different cultures. Men need options in those as well as in meeting times, places and driving distances. If everybody meets on Tuesday nights, then we miss those who can't make Tuesdays or nights or both.

Briefly on the other slogans:

"**Ever Growing...**" refers to that fact that without new members who bring the four different voice parts to our hobby, we will not be able to sing four part harmony. While Ev Nau has a wonderful way to demonstrate this by having parts drop out during the singing of a song, I saw it first hand when I was in a session of over 20 men and there were no baritones. (Now I know there are some who would love not to be near any baritones — but you can't sing our music without them.)

"**Integrated Product Team**" means that all in leadership positions must work closely with each other if our organizations are to fulfill their missions and achieve their goals. If the membership program is getting them in the door but no one else is helping them learn the ropes, the chapter is in trouble already.

"**United We Sing**" is a program for community sings to be sponsored by chapters at which patriotic music will be distributed and sung and will also include suggested show "closer" materials involving that music.

But no slogan works by itself. A slogan works by being worked at by those who believe in it. Take any or all of those discussed above and give them a try. If you do, 2002 could be a vintage year for your chapter and for CSD. 🎵

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Barbershop Quartet

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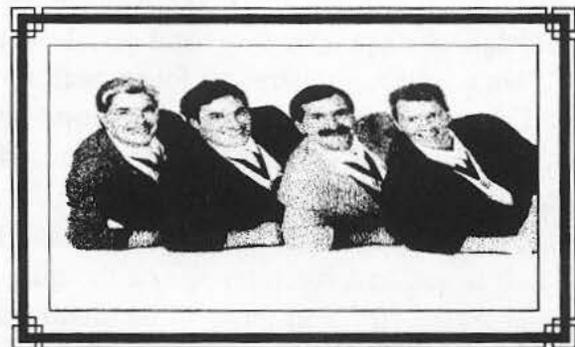
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New CSD senior champions to be crowned in Columbia

By Jim Bagby, VP CONTEST AND JUDGING



Calling all senior quartets: there's a dandy trophy to be given away in Columbia. I know exactly what it looks like, because it's sitting on my mantle now. **Tone-Henge** will be proud to pass it along to our 2002 CSD senior champs at the spring contest and convention.

Now, if you're one of those (many) folks who say, "Hey, we can sing better'n Tone-Henge!" then this is the time to act. Entering is so simple that even I can do it: Go to the CSD website — www.centralstatesdistrict.com — and click on "contests." Up will pop registration forms both for quartets and choruses. Just fill out the appropriate one, hit "submit" and the form will come to me. If you have any questions, give me a holler.

To refresh you, senior quartet participants all must be 55 or older, and the total age of the quartet must be at least 240. You must all be members of a CSD chapter, which includes Frank Thorne. Competition is open to any quartet meeting those guidelines that has not already been a district senior champ. That's about it.

Incidentally, the system CSD adopted last year for senior competition is now being recommended for every district, by the Society Contest and Judging Committee. That means the district senior champ will be crowned at the spring competition, and the representative to the Society senior contest at the Mid-Winter Convention will be chosen in the fall.

Our representative at Riverside, Calif., at the end of January will be **Gentlemen of Note** from Kansas City, who were third-place medallists a year ago. I know you'll all join me in wishing them a pit-kicking high time at this Mid-Winter!

As for choruses considering the spring contest in Columbia, remember: you can enter regardless of chapter size, although only the Class A Plateau winner will be chosen. You can compete without your score being published, if you wanna go just for the experience and the evaluation from the judges. (That also applies for quartets). Make competition a part of your fellowship and musical growth!

The spring contest also includes collegiate quartet competition. If you're interested, contact CSD Young Men in Harmony guru Duane Lawson of Liberty, Mo., at [<duanelawson@hotmail.com>](mailto:duanelawson@hotmail.com). Let's all encourage our high school and college foursomes, and collegiate-age singers!

And of course, Columbia is where we'll choose our quartet representatives to Portland. The field will include our current third-place Society medalists, **Four Voices**, who have petitioned to compete out of their Dixie District because of a scheduling conflict.

The DEADLINE for quartet and chorus entry, and the drawing for singing order will be March 29. Please mark that date. And if you have not gotten confirmation from me about your entry within a few days of sending it, make no assumptions — drop me a note: [<jimbagby@juno.com>](mailto:jimbagby@juno.com).

Best wishes from Joann and me for a happy, healthy, harmonious new year! ♪

New members forum

By Dale Neuman, VP MEMBER SERVICES

This is an experiment. I'd like to hear from our newest members about their experiences with our hobby or their questions about it that, when answered, might be helpful to other new members. I propose to select and publish those that seem of most general interest periodically in the *Serenade* and, possibly, on the CSD Web site.

You may communicate with me at Neumand@umkc.edu or you may write to me at 816 West 121 Street, Kansas City, MO 64145.




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They're here! Get yours now!

And I'll take credit for the idea, thank you very much

By John Petterson, EDITOR



About two years ago, I contacted the pillars of power at Harmony Marketplace in Kenosha with a suggestion for a new item that would serve different purposes. I thought, "What could be done to serve the needs of member identification, public relations and membership — in addition to keeping one's scalp from becoming sunburned?"

"A cap!" I shouted. "A cap that has the Society logo on it and under the logo could be printed: 'Tenor,' 'Lead,' 'Bari' or 'Bass'." Because I am relegated to being a non-singer and one who wears caps, I exclaimed, "And a cap that has 'Editor' printed on it!"

The Kenosha folks liked the idea and said it would take about a year and a half to bring it to completion — that they'd let me know when it was done and that they'd send me a cap for my idea. (I said they really didn't have to, but I wouldn't refuse it.)

Well, what should show up in the COTS Shop during the CSD COTS weekend in Omaha, November 9-11, but the very caps that I suggested. There was one glaring omission: none for editors. The caps are really neat and if I were still singing I would certainly buy one.

Buy a cap and wear it regularly when you are out in public. Chances are someone, hopefully a guy, will ask you what it means.

Wow! What an opportunity to tell him about barbershopping — to ask if he sings — to invite him to a meeting — to sell show tickets — to, well, you get the picture.

If someone else asks, again, it's a great opportunity to promote your chapter and chorus. People do look at caps. I have about 50 in my collection and I am asked many times about my *connection* with whatever the cap shows. The whole thing is *image* and you can capitalize on the *image*.

Other times when it would be cool to wear a "part" cap is at conventions, COTS and other barbershop events. How many times have you looked around looking for someone to sing Barberpole Cat songs and you kept asking, "What part do you sing?" or "Are you a tenor/bari/lead/bass?" Just think of the time saved seeking the other part when you can just look for a cap, which gives you more time to sing. Isn't that what we're all about?

Image? Yes. Many times people have asked me about the license plate on my van, which is EDITR. In short, I explain my role in the Barbershop Harmony Society. I, too, take advantage of golden opportunities to promote our hobby. You just never know when you'll *strike the right chord*.

By a cap (or three) and wear it. Promote and support our hobby and our future. ♪

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'Branson Sings' to showcase amateur singers from across the Midwest

By Wes Stoner, BRANSON HOSPITALITY, INC.

Singing groups from throughout the Midwest will be in Branson, Missouri, for the third annual "Branson Sings" amateur singing contest May 24-27, 2002. This special musical event will be held at Jennifer's Americana Theatre during the Memorial Day weekend holiday.

"Branson Sings" is for nonprofessional singers in male adult, female adult, mixed adult or youth choral groups. Participants may choose to perform in competition or for a noncompetitive rating. Groups will be performing all types of music from country and gospel to pop and barbershop. In competition, judges will score each contestant to determine the winners. The group winning first place in each category will receive \$400 and the second-place winner will receive \$150. One overall Grand Finale Winner will be selected and awarded a bonus cash prize of \$600 for a total award of \$1,000.

In noncompetitive participation, groups will be adjudicated on their own abilities and not against other participants.

Added to the 2002 event lineup will be the "All Star Chorus" led by Jay Giallambardo, director of

the current International barbershop champions, **The New Traditions** of Northbrook, Illinois. Individual men and women can join the "All Star Chorus" under Giallambardo's direction. In addition to competing at the "Branson Sings" event, the chorus will be performing at other Branson venues during the Memorial Day weekend.

Longtime Barbershopper Don Hannan, three-time gold medallist with the legendary Pekin, Illinois, chorus, is coordinating two hosted programs for the "All Stars" with a five-day/four-night package beginning in the St. Louis area and/or a three-night/ four-day package beginning in Branson.

Barbershop quartets can also take part in either the five-night or three-night program. In addition to the variety of performances at other Branson venues, Hannan has also arranged a personal private dinner with Branson celebrities. Hannan can be contacted toll free at 888-346-2236.

Performance applications and event packages for groups and individuals are available by calling 800-925-8498, ext. 102. ♪

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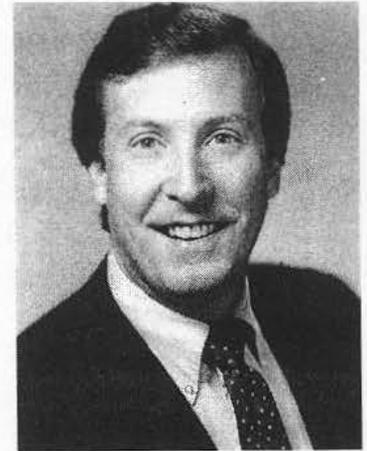


Branson Sings
Amateur Singing Competition

May 22-27, 2002

Join us for National Choral Competition, featuring Jay Giallambardo, director of the current International champions, The New Traditions.

We'll begin in St. Louis May 22-23 with a Pre-Glow get-together starring the Ambassadors of Harmony and quartet entertainment. Then on to Branson via motor coach to attend and perform at a number of celebrity shows, including "Jennifer," "Jim Stafford," "Lennon Brothers" and others.



Jay Giallambardo

Option 1

Fully escorted five nights, six days (two nights in St. Louis, three nights in Branson. Hotels, shows, most meals, all transportation, private party with entertainment! Driving in? You can leave your car in St. Louis while we transport you to Branson and back!

\$699.00

Option 2

Fully escorted three nights, four days in Branson only, hotels, shows, most meals, all transportation, private party with entertainment.

\$537.00

In addition, you will be competing for awards and cash prizes in your category!

You can participate in either option three different ways: by joining Jay's All-Star Chorus, or with your quartet or ensemble, or by bringing your chorus or chorale.

Limited to 100 singers!!!!

For reservations and information, call toll free

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Harmony Foundation — Sing...for life

By Leonard Purvis, CSD VP HARMONY FOUNDATION



The year 2001 has flown by and our lives have been changed in a variety of ways. It seems to me one of the important ways we can maintain our American way of life is to continue (or even increase) our support of the great work Harmony Foundation is doing. To quote the SPEBSQSA

Board of Directors: "It shall be the charitable mission of SPEBSQSA to preserve our musical legacy through support of vocal music education in our schools and communities." Our financial support will make this an ever-growing activity. Let's all do everything we can in this regard.

Donations are vital throughout the year to keep the grant money flowing so be sure you, your quartet, and your chapter keep Harmony Foundation in mind. If you give generously throughout the year, it is much easier to meet your goal. Of course, the every member campaign by Dick Van Dyke is a great tool and reminder also. I hope each of you responded to the best of your ability.

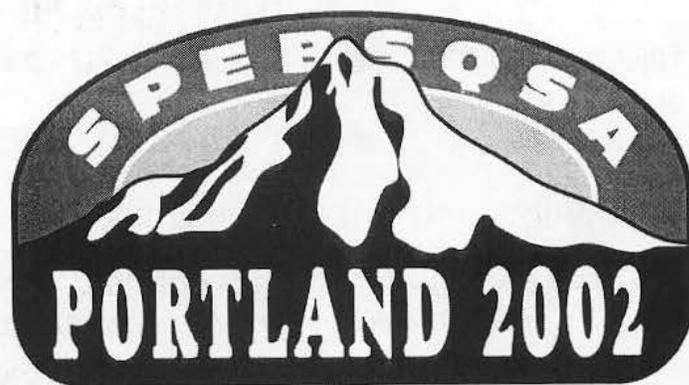
There are two main efforts at the district level to help raise funds. They are the Harmony Foundation booth at each convention where a raffle and/or silent auction is held and the parade of checks at COTS each year. Both of these have been profitable in 2001, but each has the capacity to be even better. The booth at the fall convention in Topeka this year brought in a total of \$462.00 from a well-supplied raffle and several auction items. My appreciation goes out to all who participated and especially to those who donated items. Special thanks go to Gil And Donna Lefholtz (apples and **Kippers** CD), Jurassic Larks (Top 20 Quartets of '98 CD), Dick Winter (floating candles), Greater Ozark chapter (throw), Harmony Hawk chapter (lounging blanket), SPEBSQSA (Rosemary bush), and Herman Ninneman (antique Harmony Hawk record) for their contributions to the raffle. The total raised in this effort was \$212.00 with the throw and apples being most popular. In the silent auction \$250.00 was raised from four items. Those were a wall hanging and a basket of CDs, both con-

tributed by the St. Charles Chapter; a barbershop quartet carving from the Jurassic Larks and a garden stone by Hatton Monuments of Topeka. Thanks to all contributors and participants. I'm convinced this activity can do much better in the spring with your help.

The second and most lucrative effort each year is the annual parade of checks. This year in Omaha \$17,801.89 was submitted. This is about a third of our goal for the year. A big thank you and congratulations goes to the Manhattan chapter who contributed \$3,700.00 to this activity. Six other chapters of the total of 22 who were involved contributed \$1,000.00 or more. Thanks go to every chapter involved and I hope all other chapters have been able to send their support directly to Kenosha. Chapter treasurers, please be sure to submit your report of local charitable efforts in a timely fashion as well, as the end of the year is upon us.

If you have ideas or suggestions for improving our efforts for Harmony Foundation please contact Herman Ninneman or me with your thoughts. We're always looking for ways to improve.

Brother, can you spare a dime? ♪



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Directors workshop at S.D. Festival

Plans being made for other CDWI in CSD
By Scott Spilker, VP CHORUS DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT

There will be a CSD directors workshop at the South Dakota Festival on February 1 and 2. The location of this year's festival is Mitchell. Any front line or assistant directors are welcome to attend this workshop.

We will work on directing skills, music selection, working with chapter board of directors, and addressing common chorus problems.

Several CDWI workshops (chorus director workshop intensive) are in the planning stages. We plan to offer these workshops for five directors and/or assistants. Priority will be given to front line directors. Sites being investigated are Eastern Nebraska, Eastern Kansas, and Central Missouri. I will be personally contacting all directors within driving distance of these workshops when we get the host chapters and dates set.

Please consider taking part in one of these excellent continuing education opportunities. ♪

Vigortones honored

By Merrill Aitchison, CEDAR RAPIDS CHAPTER

Central States legendary quartet, the **Vigortones**, was honored in a special ceremony Wednesday, December 12, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The city council and Mayor Lee Clancy issued an official proclamation designating the day as Vigortones Barbershop Quartet Day, "encouraging everyone to actively participate in observance of their many accomplishments on this special occasion."

The Vigortones, having been one of the Society's most active quartets with some 46 years to their credit, are fondly remembered by Central States, and were honored a few years back when they were inducted into the Central States Barbershop Hall of Fame.

Members of the current quartet are Dean Kruse, tenor; Ken Vogel, lead; Dick Kruse, baritone; and Bob Nance bass. Former members included Len Bjella and Dick Leighton. ♪

SOP Box News Bits

By Bob Frankenfeld, SOP COORDINATOR

Gentlemen: We have a bunch of guys raring to give you some help. These guys have been trained to be an observer and reviewer of your show whether it be a chapter parade, quartet performance, chorus performance, rehearsal or any other kind of appearance, and to give you some ideas how it might have a better experience for your audience.

Yep, these guys are the Central States Standing Ovation Program reviewers and so far they have gotten nothing but accolades for the service and advice they have provided. Not only will they come to a performance and review it, but also they will work with you in a proactive manner to help you plan a performance package that will help you earn that Standing Ovation

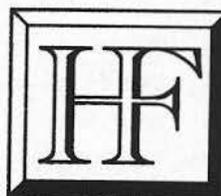
I'm sure all of you have received that Standing Ovation at times, but wouldn't it be great to get that SO the majority of times you do a performance. We can't guarantee the SO, but we can help you get on the right track to it.

All you have to do is give Bob Frankenfeld at e-mail <frnknfld@aol.com>, or a call at 501-876-7204 or a note to 20 Heather Circle, Bella Vista, AR 72715, and we'll get the ball rolling.

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Barbershop harmony around the world is alive and well

By Ray Meister, PRESIDENT, FREMONT CHAPTER (photos submitted)



Tokyo Barbers show their style as they prepare for competition.



Tokyo Barbers and Sweet Adelines (and American visitors, Meisters, in the center) join for songs and a photo.

It's July 2000 and my wife, Myrna, and I enjoyed the voices of the **Tokyo Barbers** at International in Kansas City. Then August arrived and we were with the Fremont **Pathfinder Chorus**, the **Great American Chorus**, and **The Gas House Gang**, helping to establish Barbershop Harmony in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Then June 2001 arrived and our son in Tokyo, Japan, informed us that he was to be wed to a beautiful Japanese girl, and that we must make an appearance there to meet the newest member of our family. In September, we flew to Tokyo to do just that.

However, needing a "barbershop fix," we contacted the Tokyo Barbers and discovered that they would be rehearsing on Sunday afternoon, September 9. Undaunted, we ventured out on the trains and subways of

Tokyo and found the "Barbers" rehearsing and polishing in preparation for the Western Pacific Contest that would be held in Australia that very week. (Talk about a long way to travel for competition.) Their performance was most charming.

It was so very impressive to partake of these guys singing in a foreign language (to them) while performing intricate choreographed routines. Signs of Gary Steinkamp, their coach and the man who would also direct them in contest, abounded.

An unexpected plus for my wife, a Lincolnire Sweet Adeline, was the fact that a number of Tokyo Sweet Adelines were on the scene to cheer on the "Barbers" as they held their dress rehearsal. Our friends in the Land of the Rising Sun gave us a heart-felt welcome, and urge Barbershoppers everywhere to visit them if possible. Won't it be great when there is "our kind of harmony" in every nation in the world? ♪

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People that you know and love!***

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Chapter Shows Schedule

Reported by Gale Demaree, SECRETARY

- Feb. 8 – St Charles, Mo. – Linden Wood University Cultural Center
9 – Iowa City, Iowa – City High School
9-10 – Beatrice, Neb. – Beatrice Havelon Center
23 – Salina, Kan. – Salina Central High School
24 – Ord, Neb. – Catholic Church
- March 1-2 – Kearney, Neb. – Kearney High School
2 – Topeka, Kan. – Topeka High School
9 – Kansas City, Mo. – Kansas City Music Hall
Joplin, Mo. – Webb City, Mo., High School
10 – Joplin, Mo. – Miami, Okla., Coleman Theater
15-16 – Nebraska City, Neb. – Nebraska City High School
22-23 – Fremont, Neb. – Fremont High School
23 – Fort Dodge, Iowa – Iowa Central Community College
Davenport, Iowa – Davenport Capitol Theatre
- April – 5-7 – Mason City, Iowa – North Iowa Community Auditorium
6 – Milbank, S.D. – Ortonville, Minn. and Milbank, S.D.
Greater Ozarks, Ark. – Bentonville Old High Middle School
Algona, Iowa – O.B. Laing Middle School
13 – Aberdeen, S.D. – Johnson Fine Arts NSU
21 – Wichita, Kan. – Century II Music Hall
26-27 – Cedar Rapids, Iowa – Theatre Cedar Rapids
Florissant Valley, Mo. – Florissant Civic Center
27 – Viborg, S.D. – Centerville School
Des Moines, Iowa – Civic Center of Greater Des Moines
Manhattan, Kan. – McCain Auditorium
Springfield, Mo. – Central High School
- May 11 – Papillion, Neb. – Papillion-LaVista High School
St. Joseph, Mo. – Missouri Theater
18 – Overland Park, Kan. – Johnson County Community College
Ames, Iowa – Ames City Auditorium
Leavenworth, Kan. – The Performing Arts Center
Pierre, S.D. – Riggs High School



EVER-GROWING



*... Or Nothing Else
Matters!*

District and Society Events

- Jan. 20-27 – Mid-Winter International convention, Riverside, Calif.
Feb. 1-2 – South Dakota Annual Barbershop Festival, Mitchell, S.D.
April 12-14 – Spring district convention, Columbia, Mo.
June 30-July 7 – International convention, Portland, Ore.
July 28-August 4 – Harmony/Directors College, St. Joseph, Mo.
Oct. 18-20 – Fall district convention, Wichita, Kan.
Nov. 9-10 – Chapter Operations Training Seminar (COTS), Omaha, Neb.

