



Central States Serenade



Central States District, SPEBSQSA—Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming
September 1960

HALF A MILLION MILES OF MELODY IN MID-AMERICA

NEW FEATURES AT OMAHA DISTRICT CONTEST TO BEGIN NOVICE QUARTET COMPETITION, QUARTET CLINIC AT OCTOBER MEETING

Central Statesmen will gather at Omaha for the District Contest, October 7-9. And for the first time they'll attend a quartet clinic and crown a novice quartet champion. These, and other phases of activity are explained in detail elsewhere in this issue.

This will be a homecoming for a good many barbershoppers who remember Omaha for the 1950 International Contest and a later District Contest. And if you don't remember, take our word for it. When it comes to hospitality, when it comes to comfort, when it comes to good food, when it comes to good barbershopping, come to Omaha.

This year's contest will be another of those enjoyable "walking distance" get-togethers. Headquarters will be the Sheraton-Fontanelle Hotel. The contest sessions will be held at the Civic Auditorium Music Hall. They're just two blocks apart. And there are several good places to eat in the same neighborhood. That's it, Mr. Barber-shopper, come as you like. You can drive, fly, or come in by train or bus. Once you get there your transportation troubles are over.

Our host Ak-Sar-Ben chapter has arranged for special hotel rates during the contest weekend. Rates, and application for rooms, are on the last page of this issue. May we suggest that you make your request for reservation as soon as possible, and that you order tickets right away also. If you'll remember that big "Showboat" show that Ak-Sar-Ben put on at our last Omaha contest, you'll remember that they sold many tickets to local folk. Order your tickets now and be assured of choice seats.

Registration begins Friday at the hotel with the Judges' School scheduled for that night to be followed by the House of Delegates meeting. This meeting is quite important this year. We have election of officers scheduled and the discussion of the proposed increased dues.

The schedule for Saturday morning calls for another of the popular PROBE breakfast meetings at 8 a. m. and the Quartet Clinic an hour later. The afternoon contest session is to begin at 1:30, the evening finals

at 8 o'clock. The afterglow at the Sheraton-Fontanelle will follow.

The critique is scheduled for 8 a. m., Sunday, at the hotel.

Co-chairmen for the event are Bill Graham and Chet Stolinski. If you have any questions, both can be addressed at 200 Service Life Building, Omaha 2, Nebraska.

And both will tell you that the formal schedule is only a part of the activity everyone can expect at Omaha. Look for a full quota of barbershopping from the morning shower until whatever curfew you set for yourself. There's a wonderful weekend, blessed with barbershopping, waiting in Omaha. Send in your reservation today.

VISITORS OUTNUMBER MEMBERS

Florissant Valley's special Visitors and Membership Drive Night, August 12, was more than a success; the visitors outnumbered the active members. In the group of visitors were nine men from Augusta, where FV has been doing some important extension work.

Dick Marlowe has been doing a real educational job in his chapter bulletin, recounting the infant days of the Society. Much of it is to be found in Deac's book, but it's well interspersed with a touch of activity in the St. Louis area.

Earlier in the season FV sponsored a highly competitive woodshed contest, judged by Luther Hunt, Stan Johnston, Walt Portmann, and Bob Webb. The winners were the Balls of Fire, but Mother Nature turned in the hit performance by dousing the lights right after "Close your eyes" ended a spectacular effort by one quartet on "Kentucky Babe."

DE-MOINAIRES SING FOR BLIND

Summer activities at Des Moines included a chorus performance at Camp Lowry, Salvation Army camp for the blind. As Hugh Groom writes, "it's the heart warming feeling of having done something for someone which really helped you as much as it did them."

The DE-MOINAIRES also sang for a Boy Scout jamboree at the state fairgrounds.

PETERSON HEADS CANDIDATE SLATE



Ray Niblo, chairman of the CSA Nominating Committee, has submitted the following slate for consideration at the business meeting in Omaha:

- For President Pete Peterson
- For Vice President Merle Dickinson
- For Vice President Walt Portmann
- For Secretary Ding Sather
- For Treasurer Tom Johnson

Pete is from Kansas City and has served one year as District Vice President and one year as District Treasurer. He previously served his chapter as President and Treasurer.

Merle is a candidate for re-election. He is director of the RIVER CITY CHORUS in Mason City, one of the most active in the district.

Walt, bass of the popular KEY PICKERS, hails from Clayton and has been one of the most successful Area Counselors in the business. St. Louis is a real hotspot for inter-chapter activities.

Ding, also up for re-election, is one of the mighty fine basses in our champion HARMONY HAWKS CHORUS. He's done a lot of quartetting, is a Candidate Judge, and had a highly successful presidency at Cedar Rapids. Tom is from Colorado Springs.

Chet Fox will become the Immediate Past President.

LATEST PARADE CLEARANCES

- Waukon September 10
- LeMars September 24
- Colorado Springs November 19-20
- Des Moines March 25

BIG CHANGES AT TOPEKA

Jim Pauls, capable Topeka director, has found it necessary to resign.

President Howard Johnstone has appointed a committee to "look around." And another committee is looking into the possibilities of different locations for chapter meetings.

The CENTRAL STATES SERENADE

For the Central States Association of Chapters, Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America:

Chet Fox, President
2813 Burnett Road
Topeka, Kansas

Ray Niblo, Past President
1406 Watrous
Des Moines, Iowa

Delaine Sather, Secretary
1401-38 Street SE.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

C. V. Peterson, Treasurer
6112 Lamar
Mission, Kansas

Merle Dickinson, Vice President
1646 Meadowbrook Drive
Mason City, Iowa

Dan Jacobson, Managing Editor:
12th & Walnut Building,
Kansas City, Mo.

Ralph Smith, Vice President
3865 South Cherokee
Englewood, Colorado

Lee W. Huddleston, Business Mgr.
4508 W. 67th St.
Prairie Village, Kans

Dick Hanson, Contributing Editor, 1080 Sixth St.
Marion, Iowa
Member of PROBE

9001 Belleview, Kansas City 14, Missouri

FIRST NOVICE QUARTET CONTEST

A Novice Quartet contest, the first official one in CSA, will be conducted as part of the District Contest at Omaha.

Eligible quartets are those who have never competed in previous contests. They will sing in the regular eliminations, being scored by the contest judges. Possibly some of them will be singing in the finals also. In any case, the novice quartet compiling the highest rating during the contest will be declared the winner. An inscribed trophy will be presented to them.

They will be asked to sing during the second half of the evening show.

In CSA are a great many quartets who would be eligible for this novice contest. We have many quartets, many good quartets, who have not previously competed in quartet contests. We hope to see a number of them at Omaha. And to one of them will go the first novice quartet championship.

KANSAS CITY FEEDS 260

Some 260, barbershoppers and their families, answered the invitation of the Heart of America chapter at the annual picnic, August 20, at Swope Park. On hand were visitors from Lawrence, Nojoco, St. Joseph, and Topeka.

On the program were the HEART OF AMERICA CHORUS, St. Joseph's SOCIABLES who unveiled Tom Taylor's "Save your Sorrow," Topeka's CHORDINATORS who represented a big contingent, and the BEACONAIRES in the final appearance with Bob Dougherty as lead.

Making their debut were the daughters of three Nojoco barbershoppers, Art Hall, T. R. Swartz, and Bob White. When they came up one short, Bob and later Mae Thames, stood in as bass.

SKESFRUD ICE CREAM AT VIBORG

Tri-Valley barbershoppers sang at an ice cream social at Skesfrud Church "after the chores were done" one August Wednesday.

Their BARBERSHOP TONSIL-TICKLER sadly reports the death of Art Alendal, charter member bass.

BIASI TO VISIT RIVER CITY

Mason City barbershoppers have asked George Biasi to attend one of their September rehearsals. Among George's several barbershop accomplishments is certification as a Balance and Blend Judge, and he's to evaluate the RIVER CITY CHORUS on that aspect.

NOVEMBER SCHOOL FOR DIRECTORS

Rudy Hart, International Vice-President elect and one of the most respected chorus directors in the Society, will conduct the 1960 Chorus Directors' School in CSA.

The dates are November 12-13 with sessions at the Muehlebach Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, November 12, and sessions are expected to continue through the following morning. There will be no registration fee, but each man will pay his own personal expenses.

Assisting Rudy will be Len Bjella, director of Cedar Rapids' District Champion HARMONY HAWKS, Rounding out the faculty are Merle Dickinson and Don Webb, directors of the RIVER CITY CHORUS and HEART OF AMERICA CHORUS of Mason City and Kansas City, respectively.

One of the high points of the school will be a dinner on Saturday evening. A noted barbershopper will be on hand to speak.

The Heart of America chapter will soon contact all district chapters with information about registration, housing, schedule, and other data.

A large registration is expected. Certainly it will pay every chapter to do all possible to have at least their director on hand for the meeting. We are very fortunate to have Rudy here for the school and his helpers are among the best we in CSA have to offer. By all means make every effort to help your chorus director to attend. Registration is open to all members of the Society and all who have any interest in the matter of direction are invited.

Remember the dates, November 12-13. Registration is at 8 Saturday morning and the first session begins one hour later.

ANNUAL ST. LOUIS PICNIC

"Harmony Harbor" at Foley was the site of St. Louis annual barbershop picnic weekend August 28. On the docket were ball games, fishing, boating, barbecued ribs, and lots of singing.

Earlier St. Louis #1 and Suburban co-sponsored a barbecue at the Creve Coeur Country Club.

George Strebler has been doing a fine job, filling in for Buz Swank with the FANFARE, St. Louis #1 bulletin. Buz' address is 3416a Lawn Avenue, St. Louis 9; we know he'd enjoy receiving your cards while he's under the weather.

Order YOUR tickets for Omaha TODAY.

JUDGES' SCHOOL UNDER JOE JONES

Joe Jones, International C&J Committee Chairman, will conduct a Judges' School at our Omaha District Contest. It is scheduled at 8 p.m. Friday evening, October 7, at the Sheraton-Fontanelle.

The school is a must for all judges, both certified and candidate, and is open for attendance by any other interested barbershoppers.

Those who are interested in becoming a judge candidate should attend this school and should contact Clare Wilson, CSA Associate C&J Committee Chairman, while in Omaha. There is probably no manner in which a barbershopper can better serve the district. We need judges in CSA. Attend the school and see Clare.

PONY EXPRESS WRITER BOWS

Pouch No. 1, Letter No. 1, of the PONY EXPRESS WRITER, St. Joseph's new bulletin, went out with a July rider and it's full of news about a mighty active chapter.

Next up on the calendar is a September 11 show for the Barbers' Union Convention. And for the PONY EXPRESS CHORUS this will be the tuneup for the District Contest. Stew Vaughn, editor, describes the new chorus outfit and it sounds great. You'll see it at Omaha.

Plans were to have been completed by now for the joint picnic with the St. Josephines.

HARMONY HARVEST PICNIC SEPTEMBER 17

Flint Hills and Wichita are pooling their planning to give us a humdinger of a picnic at Emporia on September 17. All Central States barbershoppers and their families are invited to be on hand at the National Guard Armory and City Park, beginning officially at 3 p.m.

Plans include entertainment by several quartets and choruses, a pickup quartet contest, a picnic buffet, and woodshedding, a whole evening of it.

The hosts are expecting representatives from 15 or more chapters and if you're within driving distance plan to make it. If this one goes over it's to become an annual affair. And, man, how can it help but go.

That's Saturday, September 17, at Emporia.

Cedar Rapids Chorus will not be in contention at the District Contest.



BILL GRAHAM

"SEE THE CITY," SAYS BILL

From Bill, the flat, Graham, AK-SARBEN gavelier, comes an invitation to conventioners to take in Omaha while they have the opportunity:

"If you haven't been in Omaha lately, you won't recognize the place. It is one of the fastest growing cities of the nation. Just take one of our available scenic tours and you will be amazed. See Offutt Air Force Base and SAC, the heart... of our nation's defense. See the greatest stockyards and meat packing plant in the world. Visit universally renowned Boys Town and see the campuses of our two great universities, Omaha and Creighton.... Go boating or swimming at Carter Lake or Manawa.

"All this will whet your appetite, and Omaha will take care of that, too. This metropolis of the Beef State is just loaded with top steakhouses where the finest steaks in the world are served at popular prices..." We'll be there, Bill.

MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN

On a split vote, but by a definite majority, the leaders of our Society agreed to refer to the districts a substantial increase in dues. A thorough explanation of the increase and the intended disbursement of it, if passed, is found in the August HARMONIZER.

At the Fall district contests, each district will decide between the positive and the negative for its vote on the increase. Prior to that each chapter will instruct its delegate as to the vote it wishes cast.

Through all of the discussions, printed and oral, we have been asked to reserve our judgment until the facts were printed in the HARMONIZER. Now this has been done.

So read the HARMONIZER, read it well. Then weigh the facts. Do you think the increase is needed? Justified? Timely? Talk it over with your friends. Make your opinion known.

And use the coupon in the HARMONIZER to vote. Vote before September 18. Make yourself known.

THANKS "DUTCH" HOLLAND
The Serenade Staff thanks T. E. "Dutch" Holland of Bellflower, California, for those kind words.

We have no way of knowing how we are coming through, so you fellows out there are a great help to our efforts.

FROM THE QUARTERLY REPORTS

From Algona comes the report that Kossuth County put on shows at St. Benedict, West Bend, and Titonka.... Columbia took barbershop to Cairo and to Lincoln University in Jefferson City. The chapter gave \$50 to the First Baptist Church.... Buena Vista's average attendance of 85% for the summer months is as good as any. Late shows at Rembrandt, Schaler, and Albert City show on the report.... St. Louis Suburban's Sharp Shooters of the past are now the COMMODORES.... The Waterloo-Cedar Falls TWIN TOWN CHORUS outfit is red coats and white trousers.... Up at Waukon the FOUR LARKS celebrated the fourth singing for the Luther League.... Wichita did some celebrating too, burning the mortgage. The event was a big stag cookout.

SUBURBAN SHOW IS OCTOBER 1

St. Louis Suburban's show is scheduled for October 1 at Kiel Auditorium. And when chorus director Al Boyd gets to the downbeat there will be a good many St. Louis #1 men singing along.

Do your damndest to take in this one and the afterglow in the Gold Room of the Hotel Jefferson.

Make your chapter democratic;
Participate in elections.

PITTSBURG ACTIVE, NEAR CHARTER

Pittsburg barbershoppers, 21 at our last count, sang at three church services during August. And they also sang at one of the city band concerts. In between they treated their wives to a big watermelon feed.

That's quite a month for any chapter, and at the rate they're going they'll soon have the necessary 25.

And we can't overlook another mention of Russ Craig's PITT KAN NOTES, one of the liveliest bulletins in the whole Society.

ORGANIZE FOR 1961 REGIONAL

Our three St. Louis chapters have joined forces in organizing for the 1961 Regional Contest, to be held there, tentatively the first weekend in May.

Buz Swank has been selected to be general chairman with Walt Portmann to be his co-chairman. Others, committee chairmen, are Jack Ackerman, Bob Bond, George Dain, Don Dorsey, Bill Haupt, Curt Hookway, and Harold Taylor.

See YOU in OMAHA OCTOBER 7-9



Central States
DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP!

(S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.)

OCT. 7-8-9, 1960

This is one of the most enjoyable ways of going to a Barbershop Quartet affair.

ITINERARY OF SPECIAL PARTY

Leave Kansas City, Mo.	5:00 p. m. - October 7
Leave St. Joseph, Mo.	6:25 p. m. - October 7
Arrive Omaha, Nebr.	9:27 p. m. - October 7

RETURN

Leave Omaha, Nebr.	4:15 p. m. - October 9
Arrive St. Joseph, Mo.	7:15 p. m. - October 9
Arrive Kansas City, Mo.	8:59 p. m. - October 9



COST:
Kansas City \$6.33
St. Joseph \$4.40
INCLUDES TAX

MAIL THIS HANDY COUPON NOW!

Bob Caird Baltimore 1-2455
Burlington Lines
1033 Grand Avenue
Kansas City, Missouri

Make _____ reservations on the Harmony Special to Omaha.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____.

Name _____

Address _____

FIRESIDE CHETS THE VERDICT IS YOURS

By Chet Fox, Pres.

Much has been said and written about the proposed "MEMBER BENEFIT PLAN", "DUES INCREASE", which was proposed by the International House of Delegates at the Dallas Convention.

As your District President and as a member of the International House of Delegates, I would be remiss in my obligation to you if I did not summarize my thoughts relative to this most important decision we as members of the Society are being asked to make.

May I point out first of all, that no one is trying to cram anything down any member's throat. The International House of Delegates could have adopted the Member Benefit Plan at Dallas, with the resultant dues increase, and as the policy making body of the Society it was empowered to do so under our By-Laws, but it chose not to do so. Rather, it was the concensus of the entire House of Delegates that the only Democratic thing to do in a Democratic Society such as ours was to bring the matter to the member, explain why it is considered the wise thing to do and then let the member express himself through his Chapter Delegate at the District House of Delegates meeting. Everyone has received the Special Issue of the Harmonizer which deals with the entire plan in a most comprehensive and intelligent manner. If you haven't read the Special Issue you owe it to yourself to make yourself aware of its contents. In addition, your District Officers will have visited with most of you prior to the District House of Delegates meeting to be held at Omaha beginning at 9:00 P.M. Friday night, October 7.

As I see it, the Membership Benefit Plan boils down to this. You can't operate any Business, Fraternity, Society or whatever without Good Organization. As a Society, we have since our inception lagged in comparison with other organizations of like kind. It is a fact that we have suffered both administratively and musically in far too many Chapters simply because we have not had the knowledge with which to work. This, in my opinion, has caused our Society not only to lose members but also fail to attract or keep prospective members. In other words, the people we have lost just didn't find quite what they expected to find when they joined or visited our Chapters.

It is a fact that we have, since our inception, relied entirely upon the services of volunteers within our membership who agreed to accept responsibility within their Chapter or District, many of whom found themselves inadequate to do the job set out for them because of two things, 1. lack of time available to them and 2. lack of education of their particular job. This does not mean that these men were any less dedicated Barbershoppers than the rest of us

or that they willfully neglected their obligation they had agreed to take. In my opinion, they just weren't prepared to do the job.

The Member Benefit Plan as I see it and understand it offers us the kind of Professional help we need, to help us live better with ourselves than we now know. It, of course, will help the weak Chapters more than the stronger Chapters. It will help the Chapter and District leaders to do a better job. It will give us the kind of administrative and musical help which in the end will allow all of us to do more of what we joined the Society for, Sing. It will help to upgrade the Society at all levels, to finally offer us the chance for recognition which we as a Society should have in our communities and across the nation.

Where will this help come from? From within our own membership, of course. We have a great wealth of talent in our Society from which to draw. Men who have over the years devoted as much and more of their time than should be expected of any member of any organization, many times taking time from their jobs and families to their own detriment. Why? Because they love and believe in this great Society of ours and want to see it progress and grow in stature; to take its rightful place within our Country. These are the kind of men who will be in the field working for us and teaching us the things we need to know. What right thinking Barbershopper can argue with the concept of the plan? What right thinking Barbershopper can say, "We don't want progress, we like things the way they are, who cares if we are recognized or not, who wants to sing better, who wants better chapter meetings, we just want an excuse for a night out with the boys." This is, negativism at its worst and I don't believe any dedicated Barbershopper agrees with the foregoing statements.

I do believe in the Member Benefit Plan and what it can do in time for our Society. I urge each member of the Central States District to search his conscience, to discuss the plan with your fellow members, to decide as a Chapter how your Delegate shall vote for you at the District House of Delegates meeting. This is a vital decision we are being asked to help make.

It is my fervent hope that the Central States District will face up to the challenge for progress and unanimously move the adoption of the Member Benefit Plan.

ART THOMAS HONORED

Art Thomas Des Moines dynamo, recently was named the outstanding airport manager of the year. His 34 years as manager at Des Moines make him the senior member, in years of service, of the several-hundred-member group.

The award was for his tremendous development of the Des Moines airport and for his contributions to aviation in general.

TOO FULL FOR SOUND OR FOAM

Once again the prescribed course has been followed and a number of chapters in CSA have been suspended because they failed to attain the necessary membership for chapter status. We'd like to think it's temporary, but experience has taught us that it is not so. Reactivations occur seldom, slowly when they do. As Tennyson put it, the moving tide that seems asleep is too full for sound or foam. The rekindling is difficult.

The answer to this problem which is continually before us is the ounce of prevention, the stitch in time, holding on to the afternoon with no twilight and evening star.

The signs are always evident--falling membership, lack of activity, waning attendance at meetings, and other indications. In most cases we find that those who are assigned the responsibility have realized the situation and taken steps to correct it. They have stepped up interchapter activity, encouraged membership programs with teeth in them, enhanced the relationship of the chapter and the community, and encouraged moves to counteract local difficulties. Many renovated chapters stand as tributes to their efforts. In other cases suspended chapters are either the result of the lack of such preventive activity or the outcome of organizing a chapter where population figures made it inadvisable.

About the latter, there is little to be said when proper efforts have not saved the chapter. But when we lose a chapter in a city whose population is sufficient, then too often we have not pitched in to give the helping hand when the need was obvious.

At almost all times there are chapters within the district that need assistance from their Area Counselor, from neighboring chapters, from district officers if they are within the distance of availability. We may safely assume that it is probably true today, will be true next month, will be true at any given time next year.

Certainly there is one point to be made. There is one time when we have a right to assume that a chapter will be suspended, when the official action to effect that suspension has been taken. Up to that time it is a miscarriage of responsibility for any responsible barbershopper to throw in the sponge.

Our strength is in numbers and the only way to maintain those numbers is to maintain healthy chapters. An apathetic attitude to this very basic proposition can be seen at times and it is without excuse.

There will always be instances where all of our efforts to save a chapter are to no avail. But let's hold to a minimum those instances where apathy, or other enervous or selfish attitudes, preclude such efforts. We need all our chapters. Of equal importance, all of our chapters need us.

HOW LONG SINCE YOU'VE WOODSHEDDED?

HERE COMES HANSEN

Our Chapter President Harold Miller, has appointed me Chairman of the Nominating Committee for the coming October election and investigation into the correct election procedure gave me the idea for this article. I went into a smoke-filled caucus room by myself, dug out a copy of the Standard Chapter By-Laws, and found out that conducting an election is fairly simple if it is done right. First of all let me state that I am an advocate of the two-party system, that I like to see each chapter member have a voice and a choice in who operates the chapter, and that I emphatically do not believe in "one-party, railroad elections". I have seen elections in many organizations (not just ours) where the nominating committee reads its slate of officers, someone makes a motion that nominations be closed and the choice of the nominating committee be declared elected, someone else seconds the motion, all in favor say "aye," and just like that the election is over. This is what I call a "one-party railroad election". Three men - the nominating committee - determine who operates the chapter for the coming year and Joe Member goes home with a feeling of frustration because he didn't get the opportunity to vote for the man of his choice. He feels much better if he is given the opportunity to nominate his candidate, the membership votes on the nominations, and one is declared elected. Possibly it is not his choice who wins but at least he had the opportunity to vote for his choice.

We started having two-party elections in Cedar Rapids, two years ago and the officers who are elected feel much better about it for this reason. They know they have the support of the majority of the members or they wouldn't be holding office. It gives them a feeling of confidence they don't have when "railroaded" into taking the position. It is true that we do not have two candidates for every office. If this is the case, that officer is doubly confident as he knows the membership is behind him 100%.

Now, how do we accomplish this ideal election? Article Four - Nominations and Elections - of the Standard Chapter By-Laws states:

4:01 The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President at least sixty (60) days prior to the annual election and shall be composed of at least three active members of the chapter.

I'm taking it for granted that your chapter President is on the ball and has already announced the names of the members of the Nominating Committee. The President and the Nominating Committee should then decide what meeting night in October the election will be held. This is important, not only so the members know of the date but because of the committee's work leading up to the election. The second part of Section one, Article Four states:

This committee shall present its report, including nominations of at least one candidate for each elective office, at a regular chapter meeting at least two weeks immediately preceding the meeting at which the election is to be conducted.

The Nominating Committee should first screen the membership for the best candidates for each office. I won't go into the qualifications of a candidate. You all know the type of men we want to head-up our organization. You will notice that the By-Laws state that you must choose "at least" one candidate for each office. This can mean that you can pick two candidates or even more. My personal opinion is that one is sufficient and that we should let the members pick the second (or third) candidate for each office. After your entire slate of nominees is prepared, you should contact each person and determine if he will accept the job. This is important! A man who is forced into an office will not do the caliber of work the members expect of him. Try to choose men who want the position. Your chapter will benefit by this type of officer. At the regular chapter meeting two weeks before the election, the slate of nominees should be announced to the membership. At this point, you have a normal one-party election and most committees quit working. At this point, I hope you continue with what should take place.

Article Four, Section Two of the Standard Chapter By-Laws states:

4:02 Opposing nominations may be submitted by any active member, provided, however, that notice of such nomination shall be submitted, in writing, to the Nominating Committee at least one week prior to the election meeting and that such written notice shall include evidence that the nominee knows of the action and is willing to serve if elected.

The members now have one week to decide if they have a preference for an office, to contact that preference to see if he will accept the position, and to give written evidence of this fact to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee. You will be surprised at the scurry of activity that takes place in this week. It is a good, healthy situation as each member is thinking of what is best for the chapter. At the next meeting - one week prior to the election - the Nominating Committee Chairman again reads the committee's slate and then asks for nominations from the floor. Each member who has submitted written evidence of a nomination, now stands and verbally gives his choice for the offices. In a nomination of this kind, a second is not needed. At the conclusion of the nominations you have a two-party ballot (and for the next week the candidates can campaign like crazy).

The Nominating Committee should now prepare some sort of printed ballot. This will make the election run smoothly and add dignity to the proceedings. A secret ballot is mandatory and insures that each member votes the way he wants to.

The election is now held on the date previously set and everybody compliments the Nominating Committee on how smoothly the whole thing progressed.

The chapter President is an official member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. You, who are members of this committee, are answerable only to the members of your chapter. Make it easy for the member to vote as he wishes to and you have fulfilled your duties. Choose your candidates with care! A good yardstick is to see how many of your nominees are elected in an open two-party election. I hope this article has been helpful and I want to wish you the best of luck in the performance of your duties. All you just plain barbershoppers who happen to read this now know how an election should be conducted. Insist that elections follow the Standard Chapter By-Laws so that you too can "record your choice".

Dick Hansen

READ the HARMONIZER and VOTE

NEW FEATURES AT OMAHA DISTRICT CONTEST by Chet Fox

The Central States District Board of Directors, seeking to add interest to our district conventions, has decided to replace the craft session, a convention feature for many years, with a quartet clinic. The clinic is not to be confused with the critique which is held the morning after the contest and which will be held as usual again this year.

The Board, believing all members are basically quartet men, and also realizing that most of us do not have a real understanding of our judging system, is hopeful that this program will prove just as popular as our past craft sessions have been.

The format of the clinic will be as follows: Each judge who will be judging the contest will explain his category and will perform demonstrations of his category. Quartets competing will not be asked to participate in the demonstrations. Other members who are attending the clinic will serve as demonstrators for the judges who are explaining their particular categories. To sum up the program, Rudy Hart, director of the International Champion Michigan City, Indiana, chorus will close out the clinic.

It is hoped that all competing quartets and choruses will attend the clinic and, also, that every member in attendance at the contest will attend. Your District Board of Directors believes such a program is barber-shop craft to the very core, and should be of great interest to every member.

Starting time for the clinic will be 9 a. m. Saturday morning, October 8.

Sec. 34.66, P. L. & R.
 U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Permit No. 3655
 Kansas City, Mo.

Mike Michel, Editor
 9001 Bellevue
 Kansas City 14, Mo.

CENTRAL STATES SERENADE

OMAHA NEXT *September 7-8-9*

SATURDAY CONTEST SESSIONS at MUSIC HALL, CIVIC AUDITORIUM

ALL OTHER EVENTS AT SHERATON FONTANELLE HOTEL

FRIDAY, September 7

Check in at Sheraton-Fontanelle
 Registration p. m.
 Judging School 8:00 p. m.
 House of Delegates 9:00 p. m.
 (Be SURE your Delegate attends)
 Woodshedding follows.

*YOUR DISTRICT
 CONTEST HOSTS—
 AK-SAR-BEN CHAPTER*



SATURDAY, September 8

PROBE Breakfast 8:00 a. m.
 Quartet Clinic 9:00 a. m.
 Quartet Prelims-Choruses . . . 1:30 p. m.
 Quartet Finals-Ensemble 8:00 p. m.
 Afterglow 11:00 p. m.

ORDER YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE

Critique at 8 A.M., Sun., Oct. 9th

**USE COUPON BELOW TODAY.
 GET CHOICE SEATS AND
 GOOD HOTELS ROOMS.**

CLIP OFF HERE AND MAIL TO

Bill Graham & Cher Stolinski
 200 Service Life Building
 Omaha 2, Nebraska

I enclose \$_____ for which please send me _____ general admission tickets at \$1.00 each for the afternoon preliminaries, and _____ reserved seat tickets for the evening finals and ensemble at (Circle) \$3.00, \$2.50, \$2.00, \$1.50. Also please make hotel reservation beginning (Circle) Friday the 7th, Saturday the 8th, Sunday the 9th. I want (Circle) single at \$7.50, single (inside court) at \$7.50, double at \$10.00, twin bed at \$11.00. To assure mail delivery in time, this is postmarked on or before September 29, 1960:

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____