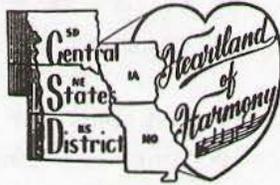


Central States District



Serenade

Iowa · Kansas · Nebraska · Missouri · South Dakota

www.centralstatesdistrict.com

Volume 49, No. 4

ISSN 8750-2232

July/August 2002

'Back to the future' — in Wichita

By Barry Barlow and Kevin Barker, WICHITA AIR CAPITAL CHORUS CO-CONVENTION CHAIRS

The year was 1985. Ronald Reagan was president. *Back To The Future* was the big hit of the year. And Wichita hosted the CSD Convention. Yes, it has been 17 years since Wichita, the Air Capital of the World, has rolled out the carpet and played host to the best Barbershoppers in the country. Needless to say, there have been a lot of changes in Wichita during those 17 years. The only thing that hasn't changed is that they're still working on Kellogg, the main thoroughfare across town. We believe the city just doesn't have any place to store those orange barrels. The good point is the construction has moved well past the downtown area and that travel may present some problems with Wichita being located in the southwest portion of the district. Don't write off the idea of flying in. With the recent addition of Air Tran Airways, our airfares have dropped considerably for locations east of Wichita. The hotels provide free

shuttle service from Mid-Continent Airport.

We have a very unique arrangement in that the headquarters hotel, The Hyatt Regency, is physically connected to the Century II Concert Hall and Convention Center.

The pattern will progress from the Hyatt to Century II without stepping a foot outdoors; this will present less of a chance of losing any basses. There is ample parking in the Hyatt's parking garage and in the adjacent parking lots (bring a few quarters for the parking meters). We have additional rooms reserved at the Radisson (formerly the Broadview Hotel) which is across the street from Century II, the Hotel at Old Town which is one mile east, Cambridge Suites which is three blocks south and the Hampton Inn, three miles west of the downtown area.

Wichita is full of fun things to see and do! Home to a unique blend of museums, remarkable performing arts, entertaining music theater, classic comedies and nightlife, Wichita offers entertainment for even the most demanding.

At the award winning Sedgwick County Zoo, animals are presented in their natural environment, Botanica—The Wichita Gardens provides a haven of beauty. The new Great Plains Nature Center offers nature trails and indoor exhibits of the wildlife native to the area.

The Wichita/Sedgwick County Historical Museum chronicles Wichita's early years through artifacts, historical photographs, slides and films. In addition, Old Cowtown Museum offers a memorable opportunity to explore the past of Wichita and Sedgwick County. This frontier town of more than 30 authentically furnished buildings features a hand-on experience with

Back to the future, page 3



Central States District Serenade
 John Petterson, editor
 1017 Meadow Drive
 Norwalk, IA 50211-1215
 515-981-0057 (Home)
 515-270-8048 (Business)
 515-270-8056 (FAX)
 Bltnedjp@aol.com (E-mail)

Published six times a year in Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, May/June, July/Aug, Sept/Oct and Nov/Dec by the Central States Association of Chapters, Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc., with office of publication at 102 South Main St., Madrid, Iowa 50156. Subscription \$2.00 to CSD district members as a portion of dues; \$6.00 to all others. Periodical postage paid at Madrid, Iowa 50156.

POSTMASTER: Please send Form 3579 to Central States District Serenade c/o SPEBSQSA, Inc., 6315 Harmony Lane, Kenosha, WI 53143-5199

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 1/2), \$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:
 Aug. 13, 2002**

**Anticipated mailing
 date:
 Aug. 30, 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. ♪

2002 Central States District Officers

- President.....Bill McLaurine
1862 Dougherty Estates Dr., Manchester, MO 63021 (636) 256-0151 Billm63021@earthlink.net
- Immediate Past President.....John Marshall
1339 Cedar St., Iowa City, IA 52245 (319) 338-3565 jmarsha@mcleodusa.net
- Executive Vice President.....Ron Morden
7059 Andrews Terr., Panora, IA 50216-8705 (641) 755-3217 Ronmorden@aol.com
- Society Board MemberLud Einess
1403 N.W. Woodcreek Cir., Blue Springs, MO 64015-7203 (816) 228-2088 Ludel@juno.com
- VP Marketing Public RelationsRandy Duncan
11599 W. Crawford St., Brookville, KS 67425-9743 (785) 225-6800 Randyd@informatics.net
- VP Member ServicesDale Neuman
816 W. 121st St., Kansas City, MO 64145 (816) 942-9091 neumand@umkc.edu
- VP EventsJames Fisher
10501 Crabapple Rd. S.E., Agency, MO 64401 (816) 253-9690 jfisher@angus.org
- VP Chapter Support and LeadershipRon Mays
5021 Cresthaven Dr Lincoln, NE 68516 (402) 488-8835 rmays123@bigplanet.com
- VP Music and PerformanceByron Myers Sr.
1901 Safari Dr., St. Joseph, MO 64506 (816) 232-7910 byrondirects@hotmail.com
- VP Chorus Director DevelopmentScott Spilker
Rt. 3, Box 163, Beatrice, NE 68310 (402) 228-0552 spilk@inetnebr.com
- VP Contest and JudgingJim Bagby
8714 E. 57th Terr., Kansas City, MO 64129 (816) 737-0308 jimbagby@juno.com
- VP District Harmony Foundation.....Leonard Purvis
5019 Vista Acres Dr., Manhattan, KS 66503 (785) 537-7122 lpurvis@flinthills.com
- VP Young Men in Harmony.....Duane Lawson
900 N.E. 113rd Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64155 (816) 734-2158 duanelawson@hotmail.com
- SecretaryGale Demaree
3 Stonebridge Way, Bentonville, AR 72712 (479) 273-2827 gdema74252@aol.com
- TreasurerPaul Cartwright
4216 92nd Ct., Urbandale, IA 50322-1495 (515) 278-8656 pdcartwright@excite.com

Barbershopper of the Year – John Petterson
 Hall of Fame – Jim Nugent

Back to the future, from page 1

the past including a working blacksmith shop and dramatic re-enactments. Adjacent 1880 DeVore Farm depicts country life, complete with farm animals and buildings. The Mid-American All-Indian Center showcases the cultural contributions and heritage of America's Plains Indians.

However, the future is not forgotten. Exploration Place, a new futuristic leaning, creative and community gathering center, offers hands-on opportunities to explore a twenty-foot tornado in a tank and to investigate how airplanes and birds fly. The 98,500 sq. ft. complex, is designed by internationally acclaimed architect Moshe Safdie of Boston, to take maximum advantage of the 20 acre river-front site, features four major indoor theme pavilions, outdoor exhibits, two theaters, simulation center, and a park. It also features a community-built science and arts play yard, retail store and café.

As you can tell, there is a wide range of activities to fill any weekend. Make your plans now to arrive in the Air Capital this October for some great harmony and fellowship. ♪

Senior quartets

Fall planning information

By Gale Demaree, SECRETARY

Senior quartets who plan to compete in the seniors quartet contest in Wichita or who are thinking about competing, please notify Gale Demaree, district secretary of your intentions. Seniors quartets are not designated as such in the Society printouts so we do not know who you are and therefore cannot automatically provide you with the required entry forms.

The completed entry forms must be in the hands of Jim Bagby, VP for Contest and Judging, two weeks before the contest. If you plan to compete or are thinking of competing, notify Gale Demaree, CSD Secretary, 3 Stonebridge Way, Bentonville, AR 72712; Ph: (501) 273-2827; Fax: (501) 271-7526; e-mail: gdema74252@aol.com to receive the required entry form. ♪

Wichita — the convention we've been waiting for!

By Merrill Aitchison, CSD CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

It only seems like a few months ago that the Wichita Chapter put in a bid for the 2002 fall convention. Here it is less than four months away and plans are being put together to make this convention one that we will long remember.

First off, the facilities are excellent. The headquarters is the Hyatt Hotel (275 rooms), which is connected to the Century II Convention Center. The Concert Hall will be the location of the competition, which is a tremendous thrill to perform in. The atmosphere and the acoustics of the Concert Hall is one of the finest in Central States.

The Broadview Hotel, which is a couple blocks away, will provide the convention with an additional 180 rooms. Additional rooms will be located in some fine hotels in Old Town, which is close by.

Excellent restaurants are located in the Old Town area for the finest in dining.

Start making your plans now and make the trip to Wichita a great barbershop weekend. The registration and housing forms are located in the Central States Web site. Please fill them out and send them in, as I know you will want to be in the headquarters where all the action is.

One thing to remember is the first session of the quartet contest will start Friday afternoon at 3:00 with the second session at 7:00 p.m.

The very popular ACSC (Past Champ Show) show will be after the Friday night quartet semifinals starting at 10:30 p.m. in the ballroom of the Hyatt Hotel.

We hope to see all of you in Wichita. Have a good summer. ♪

From our readers...

I am trying to locate a convention patch from the 1993 Calgary convention. If anybody has one that they are willing to part with, please contact: Jim Clover, 135 30th Street Court, Marion, Iowa 52302 or e-mail at jclover@attglobal.net. ♪

Quartets, fans: Plan early start to Wichita convention

By Jim Bagby, VP CONTEST AND JUDGING



We know we're gonna have a pot load of quartets come Oct. 18-19 in Wichita. And they will be competing for more honors than ever before.

The newest award is under the working title "Don't Leave a Puddle," and will go to the highest-ranking quartet of four fellers who've never competed in any district-level contest before. Sort of a super-novice award. If that fits your foursome, indicate it on your form when you send in your entry.

We'll also have our regular Novice Champ award, for the quartet with at least two brand-new competitors. Could you win 'em both? Hmmm, our awards committee will have to ponder that.

There's also the qualifying spot to be awarded for the quartet that will represent the CSD in the Society Senior contest next January in Albuquerque. All four must be a minimum of 55 by the January contest, with a minimum total quartet age of 240.

And of course, we'll crown our 2002 CSD quartet champs. Please keep in mind, because of the large quartet field we draw, we'll have two rounds of competition on Friday, at 3 and 7 p.m. Rather than say we're going to grant waivers to those who can't be there by the afternoon, we're saying everyone needs to plan now to arrive early, so you can take in the whole thing. Then the order of appearance will be determined strictly by the luck of the draw.

Wichita also promises to offer another dandy CSD chorus contest. Can we send two or three choruses to International competition again? Can you say *oui* as we head for Montreal a year from this July?

Chorus directors and chapter leaders, remember you have the option to request (a) riser size — 7, 9 or 11 sections — and (b) first singing position in your riser group. If there are more than one declaring for the leadoff spot, we'll have a separate pre-draw. ONE EXCEPTION: preference will be given the chapter competing for the first time, or

the first time in several years, so your guys can see the rest of the Big Show.

PARTING THOUGHT: To all competitors, remember the Contest and Judging community is designed and trained to serve you. Every person who writes a score, compiles a score or deals with you in evaluation/coaching sessions wants you to benefit and grow from the competition experience. When you encounter someone who's especially helpful or encouraging, drop him a note afterward. I can supply an e-ddress if you don't have it.

Equally important, if you feel you were mistreated or had any less-than-ideal experience with a judging panel member, tell me, and I'll follow up with or for you. All district C&J veeps have the option of requesting that a certain judge NOT be assigned again if there is good reason.

In short, if you had a good time, tell the judge. If you didn't, tell me.

See you in Wichita! ♪

Comedy sells tickets!

Smiles and laughs create memorable shows!

LET

TONE-HENGE

HEP YA



(clockwise from top)

OLD Keith, OLD Bruce, AN(IE)M Dan, OLD Jim

We may be old but we're funny, and won't charge a whole lot of money.

Our forte is gags and we know tons of tags, and
Folks say our act is a "HONEY!"

**Cheaper than PLATINUM, funnier than ACOUSTIX,
take up less room than EXPANDED SOUND.**

Just call Keith Schweer: 913-648-0121, or
e-mail: CASchweer@aol.com

Singing ... and details

By Bill McLaurine, PRESIDENT



Our Society President, Roger Lewis, has adopted as his motto "Singing is Life ... the rest is just details." This says a lot about what we as Barbershoppers enjoy. Singing is fun! It makes you feel good. There is nothing better than ringing a chord with three other guys, or being

part of a chorus or quartet that is entertaining people and providing enjoyment for them.

But what about the "details" that Roger also mentions? Someone has to take care of those, and that is what your elected officers, both chapter and district, have agreed to do. These men are leaders who recognize that the details have to be handled and are willing to take on that responsibility, along with the "Singing" part.

I would like to point out some of the "details" that have to be handled at the district level. Many of you may not realize that districts provide resources for the chapters that chapters can't do by themselves:

- *Communication* – The district provides information pertinent to members and chapters, so that they can be aware of opportunities and resources available to them.

- *Education* – The district provides trainers, coaches and directors to help chapter officers, quartets, choruses, directors, and singers to improve their skills in this great hobby.

- *Conventions* – The district plans, organizes and runs conventions where we can convene and meet our fellow Barbershoppers and sing together.

- *Competition* – The district organizes contests and provides trained judges so that we can evaluate how our quartets and choruses stack up against one another.

Each of the above items involve a multitude of different programs and activities, too numerous to list here. These resources do not happen without a lot of time and effort by many dedicated people in the district. These men sing with you every week on the risers in your chapter, and, as well, they have

committed their time to seeing that the district needs are met.

Yet, the district leadership team is well aware that our reason for existing is to be a resource provider to the chapters and members. We are a support group so that the men on the risers each week at chapter meetings have fun and enjoy our hobby. We want you to HAVE FUN SINGING!

Heartland Harmony Happening

I want to congratulate Byron Myers and Gale Demaree for conducting a successful district harmony college on June 7-8. Although I could not be there because I was out of town, I understand that it was well attended, including a chapter chorus. Next year they plan to allow two choruses, so I encourage chapters to consider this great opportunity for some excellent coaching and skill building.

NOTE: This is an "Education" resource I discussed above. ♪

Registered quartets: Important information

By Gale Demaree, SECRETARY

The Society publishes the list of registered quartets as of December 31 and July 31. In order for us to include you in our mailings of information about contests and other activities for quartets, we need your help. If you have registered as a quartet after December 31, 2001, please notify District Secretary Gale Demaree (info on page 2) so that you may be kept informed of all activities planned for quartets.



Society board member report

By Lud Einess, SBM



First of all, I want to thank all of the delegates who voted for me at Central States District House of Delegates meeting last fall in Topeka. It is an honor that I never thought I would attain. I am humbled by it, and will do my very best to keep your confidence.

After being elected in October, I attended the Society's Leadership Forum in Racine, Wis. Among those attending the forum were district presidents and their functional vice presidents, the Kenosha staff, the leadership team, and others.

The forum is a fast-paced, four-day meeting of classes, indoctrination, and fellowship; renewing old friends, making new friends, and mainly learning about the duties and responsibilities of your elected office.

In late January, I attended the Mid-Winter Convention in Anaheim, Calif., where I was sworn into office, and participated in the board meeting as a Society board member. What an awesome experience.

As most of you know, a Society board member now represents two districts. Mine are Illinois and Central States, and my term of office is for three years. Society President Roger Lewis has appointed me to serve on the Planning and Program Development Group (P&PDG), and has assigned me to serve as liaison to the Ways and Means, Archives and Chapter Support and Leadership Training Committees for P&PDG.

The P&PDG works with the executive director to develop plans for the future, and is also responsible for submitting an annual budget to the board for approval. As liaison, I am responsible for keeping the P&PDG advised of the workings of my assigned committees, and to assist them any way I can.

On April 12-14, the board met in Dallas for another work-in-progress meeting. Unfortunately, because of the Dallas meeting, I missed the CSD convention and contest, where they qualified four quartets for Portland.

On April 19-21, Betty and I attended the Illinois District convention and contest and had a wonderful time. It was great to see some of our old friends, go to the contests, and enjoy the weekend. On Sunday morning, I addressed the HOD meeting, and outlined some of the Society's concerns.

The board's number one concern is membership, and to that end, we are asking all chapters of the Society to have a NET gain of at least one new member for 2002.

There are a lot of things being discussed at the Society level that will directly affect all of us, and as time goes by, I will try to keep you informed.

Hope to see you in Portland! With a song! 🎵

Spice up your life with...

SPICE GUYS

A Barbershop quartet you'll never forget!!!

Contact Wes Brown at 515-987-4749 or wbmd@mchsi.com

Gentlemen of Note

2001 International Seniors Quartet Medalist

Rod Jon Monty Rich

Rich Huyck

Phone: (816) 452-8385
email: richhuyck@kc.rr.com

Irish Harmony

Singing Through Ireland

Sing with Irish Barbershoppers!

Not many dates left!
Call NOW to book for 2003!

TRUMP TRAVEL AND TOURS

800-758-2042

info@vineyardsandcastles.com
www.vineyardsandcastles.com

Big events for Hastings Chapter

By Fred Teller, HASTINGS, NEBRASKA, CHAPTER, VP FOR CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT

April 8 was a great day for the Chorus of the Plains. Our appearance at the Hastings city council was well received. The National Anthem and Armed Forces Medley both went well. Comments from the mayor, council, city administrator and others in attendance were enthusiastically positive. In fact, they have asked us to come back again this year. The mayor's proclamation designating April as "Barbershop Harmony Month" was just what we asked. Our appearance made TV and a great picture in the April 9 Hastings paper. Ninety percent of our chapter participated

AND, what a guest night — 25, yes, count 'em, 25 guests. They all seemed to enjoy the evening. A few have returned. We need more!



Photo by Kat Gotto, © 2002 Hastings Tribune, by permission for one-time use.

Thanks to everyone who was there: Greeters, set up people, registration, coffee break with home made goodies, those who stayed to put everything away (or as we theatre folks say, "strike the set." Thanks to our directors for keeping the evening moving.

How can we build on this? Remember — EVERY MONDAY IS GUEST NIGHT! I know there are many singers you invited who could not get there April 8. Keep after them — remind them of what they can still enjoy. With your efforts we can assure there will be a Chorus of the Plains in our future. ♪

www.12thstreetrag.com

Street Rag

MICAH
MARK
JOHN
BARRY

International Semifinalists

Mark Fortino
14231 W. 121st Street
Olathe, KS 66062
913-780-3872
www.12thstreetrag.com

PATENT PENDING

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

Phase II Quartet

A capella/Barbershop
2000 Central States
Champions

Pete
Bryan
P.D.
Randy

2015 Garden City Rd.
Fremont, NE 68025
Tel. 402-727-6541
Email pstibor@msn.com
www.phase2quartet.com

Central States District Convention Housing Form
October 18-20, 2002
Hosted by the Wichita, Kansas, Chapter

Please submit no later than September 27, 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), second (2), third (3) or fourth (4) hotel choice in line by the hotel.

Room rates listed DO NOT include taxes.

____ Hyatt Regency Wichita
 Headquarters hotel
 ____ \$89.00 Single/Double
 ____ \$110.00 Triple/Quad
Check-in 3:00 p.m. — Check-Out 12:00 Noon

____ The Broadview Hotel
 ____ \$87.00 Single/Double
 ____ \$99.00 Triple/Quad
Check-In 3:00 p.m. — Check-Out 12:00 Noon

____ Hotel at Old Town
 ____ \$92.00 Queen Studios
Check-In 3:00 p.m. — Check-Out 12:00 Noon

____ Cambridge Suites
 ____ \$89.00 Studio
Check-In 3:00 p.m. — Check-Out 12:00 Noon

____ Hampton Inn (3 miles out) 3800 Kellogg
 ____ \$69.00 Single/multiple
Check-In 3:00 p.m. — Check-Out 12:00 Noon

Non-Smoking _____ Smoking _____

If you require special needs for housing, please indicate:

Note: To guarantee reservations, the first night's stay must be paid in advance by credit card. Reservations that are not guaranteed are held until 4:00 p.m. Price does not include tax. 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(home) * Fax (515) 286-3364 * E-mail biglare01@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**. When submitted this form will go to the Larry Warrick, Housing Chairman.

**Central States District Fall Convention
October 18-20, 2002 Wichita, Kansas
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 **October 4, 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 Past Champs Show	<i>Please circle registration amount requested</i>		
		Regular Registration	Super Registration	Early Registration Discount
				Until October 4, 2002
		↓	↓	↓
				Total

Registrant	Membership #	Regular Registration	Super Registration	Early Registration Discount	Total
_____	_____	32	40	-5	_____
Additional Registrants:	_____	32	40	-5	_____
_____	_____	32	40	-5	_____
_____	_____	32	40	-5	_____
_____	_____	32	40	-5	_____
_____	_____	32	40	-5	_____
_____	_____	32	40	-5	_____
_____	_____	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@flinthills.com	Ticket packages will not be mailed unless specific arrangements are made in advance with the Ticket Chairman
---	---	---

Please use 1 line per registrant and copy this page if necessary

Mid-year membership miscellany

By Dale Neuman, VP MEMBER SERVICES



Although as I write this it is not yet the end of June, the mid-year membership trend in the CSD is clear and it is not what I or anyone else would like, it to be. We are down *two and sixth-tenths percent* from a year ago and there are only four other districts that have lost at the same or relatively greater rate than have we.

The fact that they are all also part of the heartland regions of this great country affords little consolation but possibly an explanation. This is where organized barbershop singing began and had a wonderful run over several generations. But the combination of demographic change and social dynamics now makes it more difficult to maintain that thrust.

Most chapters lose membership; some do not. In CSD, we have had four chapters close in the period that I have been examining and several others may be facing the same option in the coming months. I have been to leadership retreats. I have looked at membership data and sophisticated surveys commissioned by Kenosha. I have listened to experienced Barbershoppers tell me what they think is wrong. I have appealed to folks to try both old and new techniques to get and keep men who love to sing.

I am now asking you, the readers of this article — whether a multi-year member or a new one, for your input — what got you hooked? What keeps you coming back? What are we NOT doing right — as you see it? My e-mail address is Neumand@umkc.edu for those who prefer a newer social dynamic, and my mailing address is 816 West 121 Street, Kansas City, MO 64145 for those who are more traditional.

I do want to commend the 20 regular CSD chapters that did increase their numbers over the last 12 months. (Our Frank Thorne chapter numbers also increased.) They are: Grand Island, Des Moines, Dubuque, Columbia, Mitchell, Leavenworth, Kearney, Springfield, St. Louis Suburban, St. Charles, Milbank, Mason City, Algona, Beatrice, Papillion, Watertown, Pierre; Greater Ozarks, Muscatine, and

Liberty. If you are a member of one of these chapters, would you personally give your membership team my thanks as a way to show them you appreciate their efforts? And, if you are of a mind, write and share with me what you feel is the reason for your chapter's ability to buck the national trend. I will compile your thoughts and see if we can find ways to make similar good things happen elsewhere.

On a related matter, I set up a display at the spring contest touting the PR gimmick of using "recycled" barbershop publications in auto repair or dentist waiting rooms or in the magazine racks of the exercise room at the YMCA or wherever people may be looking for something to browse while not doing something else.

Too often, I suspect, we try to get the barbershop message to people who are busy doing something else. In environments like those mentioned, they are looking for something to get interested in to pass the time while they wait. Some might find that an interesting and well-written chapter newsletter or a recent copy of *The Harmonizer* or *Serenade* (or all three on the same table or rack — and kept current) just the right look at our hobby to give the membership man (several of whose chapter business cards are stapled to each copy) a call or show up at a meeting (since the time and place would also be on that card).

Of course, always get permission of the receptionist or whoever is responsible for the area in which you place your "contribution" to their reading fare. Your bulletin editor would be flattered and happy, and your wife would not have to remind you to pitch your old copies of *Society* or district publications.

This method might even help to sell show tickets if past shows were reported and upcoming ones described or even get gigs for quartets who advertise in the publications. Let's give it a try. ♪



HABITAT 4 HARMONY BARBERSHOP QUARTET

Clyde Mickelsen Kirby Wilson
Marv Spellman Fran Wilson
3718 Avenue C 3411 Avenue M
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 237-5402 (308) 234-5376

Harmony Foundation notes

Items will be needed for Wichita

By Leonard Purvis, CSD VP HARMONY FOUNDATION



By the time you read this article the year will be half over and the summer will be in full swing. This is always an exciting time with vacations and church performances taking a large chunk of our time. It's easy to lose track of our great opportunities through Harmony Foundation at this time but we can't allow it to take a back

seat at any time.

As of the first of May, our total giving reported to Kenosha was only \$4,348.50. That's a long way from our goal of \$71,000.00. Please do your best to contribute on a regular basis through out the summer and the remainder of the year so we can continue our efforts to encourage and maintain vocal music in our schools and communities. If your state budget is struggling to support education anything like mine is, these grants through Harmony Foundation may be one of the few ways available to keep these activities viable in our schools. Please also, in addition to contributing generously, make sure your schools and community groups know of this avenue to help keep quality music in our students' lives.

The O. C. Cash Founder's Club Endowment Fund continues to grow as we learn of its value to Harmony Foundation and barbershopping. If you are considering becoming a member please contact me at your earliest opportunity. There are variety methods for this step to be taken and some require little or no out of pocket expense when you sign on. I'll be happy to explain further if you'll let me know of your interest. Of course you may also contact Larry Gilhousen at the headquarters in Kenosha regarding this matter as well. Check out the website if you get a chance.

We are greatly pleased to announce that through the marvelous generosity and great talent of Dan Henry Bowser from the Kansas City Chapter that we have managed to, once again, have a "one-of-a-kind" amazing stained glass wall hanging as our contribution to the Harmony Foundation raffle in Portland. I cannot tell you how happy I am to be able to announce this fact. I am forever indebted to Dan for both the Kansas City prize and this one. I can't put into words how pleased I am that we have this talent in our district and that he's been so willing to share it with us. Thanks again, Dan.

In that same vein, it's time we were planning for the fall convention in Wichita. We will be again holding a silent auction and probably a raffle as well, to help support Harmony Foundation. The only way this is successful is if you and/or your chapter or quartet will contribute items to be auctioned or raffled. Please make this decision early so you can let me know what you are planning to bring. This will help us be sure we have appropriate space to display the items presented.

There is one other step to make this venture successful. That is for you to attend the convention and visit the Harmony Foundation display area. While you are there contribute generously to the auction/raffle so you may be a winner of one or more of the prizes and so we all will be winners by funding vocal music activities with your contributions.

Isn't that the heart and soul of barbershopping? **Brother Can You Spare A Dime? Let us do our best to "Teach the Children to Sing."** ♪

Harmonizers wanted

By Jim Nugent, HISTORIAN



The Central States District historian continues to seek back issues of *The Harmonizer* to complete our archival collection. *Harmonizers* are rich in stories and photos of CSD quartets, choruses and historic figures, thus making historic research possible if not easy.

If you have any of the following issues and are willing to donate them to the CSD archives, I will be glad to accept them: Volume L, Number 4 (July-August 1990); Volume LI, Numbers 4 and 5 (July-August and September-October 1991); Volume LIV, Number 4 (July-August 1994); Volume LVI, Number 6 (November-December 1996); and Volume LVII, Number 4 (July-August 1997).

Your donation will be acknowledged with a receipt of \$3.00 per issue. ♪



JURASSIC LARKS

1998 INTERNATIONAL
SENIORS QUARTET
CHAMPIONS

CONTACT:
VINCE YINGER
2408 53RD STREET
DES MOINES, IOWA 50310-1621
(515) 255-5668 OR 991-6036
E-mail: vyinger@msn.com
www.jurassiclarks.com

VIC VINCE G.W. BARNEY



BULLETIN BROWSING

By Wade Dexter, EDITOR EMERITUS

(Bulletin editors: Please send your bulletins to Wade Dexter, 209 Belmont, #103, Liberty, MO 64068-2947; (816) 415-1704; FAX (816) 792-1100)

Todd Anderson's June issue of *Harmonotes* contained the shocking news that Kansas City Chapter President John Stucker has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. John says he's on chemotherapy, and by now he'll probably know whether he'll be the one in three for whom chemotherapy is an effective remedy. In the meantime, John's spirits appear to be high; he's planning on joining the **Heart of America** Chorus on stage for the Buckeye Invitational at Columbus, Ohio, in August. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, John.

* * *

Writing in John Conrad's June *By-lines*, President Don Campbell reports some rather incredible statistics registered by the St. Louis Suburban Chapter. Citing a Society-wide average of about 50 percent attendance at chapter meetings, Don says, "Our membership has grown from 30 to 40 members since the start of the year. Weekly meeting attendance has (increased) from 19 to 21 last year to an average of 35 to 39 this year." Don attributes this success to a number of factors including a move to a facility more conducive to singing and membership growth, absent members called to let them know they were missed, and craft sessions at each chorus rehearsal. In addition, "Each member has his own chorus book of the current list of 15 songs and an assigned singing position in the chorus. This chorus book is ever-changing as we add a new song and remove an old song each sixth week or so." If this works so well for Suburban, why isn't every chapter in the district trying it?

* * *

From the *Beátri-tone*, the Beatrice Chapter bulletin, edited by Marv Engel, we learn that the chapter paid the preregistration fee for 44 members who signed up for the mini-HEP School at St. Joseph on June 8. They were planning to carpool the trip to St. Joe. Wonder how many actually made it? The **Homestead Harmonizers** are to be commended for their interest in learning more about our hobby and lending their support to this important district activity.

* * *

In the May/June issue of the *Serenade* in this space, we noted that Gene Zeimet, longtime editor (and a heckuva good one) of the *Chord Courier*, the Dubuque Chapter bulletin, and extremely active in other capacities in that outfit, had moved to Des Moines. We wondered whether the **Pride of Iowa** had snagged him yet.

Well, we were not surprised to read in the May/June issue of John Petterson's *Harmony Overtones* that the **Pride** had indeed "snagged" Gene — or maybe it was the other way around. Anyway, it appears that Gene has taken on the job of staff writer for *Harmony Overtones*. He will be contributing a member interview column for each issue. Glad to see that John will have some help.

* * *

"April 8 was a great day for the **Chorus of the Plains!**" That's how Chapter Development VP (and past CSD president) Fred Teller begins his front-page article in Alexander Edwards' May issue of *The Plains Notes*. Fred goes on to describe how the chorus performed for the mayor of Hastings, the city council and city administrators. He reports that the national anthem and the "Armed Forces Medley" went well, and those in attendance "were enthusiastically positive. In fact, they have asked us to come back again next year." Fred says their appearance made TV, "and there also was a great picture in the April 9 edition of the Hastings paper." Best of all, Fred reports that 90 percent of the chapter made the performance. To further enhance the significance of the date, April 8 was also guest night at the chapter meeting at which 25 guests were in attendance!

* * *

Some fellow by the name of Lance A. Lot (surely that's tongue-in-cheek) Q.G.M. (don't ask me what that stands for), after reading the recent *Harmonizer* articles about splinter groups, was motivated to form a quartet of **Sho-Me-Statesmen** of the Springfield Chapter who were 55-plus years old called the Elder Statesmen for the purpose of entertaining the "elderly in our community with songs they knew and loved."

He went along on their gigs and interviewed listeners following the quartet's performances. A lovely old lady, a member of a senior church group, commented, "They sure eat a lot." An older gentleman resident at a retirement home venture, "They look better than they sound." And a well-dressed fellow from another church senior club remarked, "Who?" at which the author of this article averred that "You can see they're a smashing hit from the gitgo and can be summed up by referring to them as the Elder Statesmen, a remarkably adequate quartet." (Why do I feel like my leg is being pulled?) We found this in the May/June edition of Earl Schnaath's *The Ozarkey*.

* * *

Our congratulations to John Conrad, editor of *By-Lines*, the St. Louis Suburban Chapter bulletin, and to Dick DeLorm, who puts out *The ReCHORDer* for the **Lincoln Continentals**. Both men are veteran editors whose bulletins finished in first and second place, respectively, in this year's district bulletin contest and

COTS in November 2002

By Don Fuson, COTS COORDINATOR

Every chapter should have a calendar event for forming a nominating committee and working up a slate of officers for 2003. All chapter elections should be completed by mid-October.

The nominating committee should also *contract* with each new incoming officer or board member to attend COTS (Chapter Operations Training Seminar) on the weekend of November 9-10, in Omaha.

"But I have already attended in a former year," is often the lament heard about not returning to COTS.

"You just don't know what you don't know!" says Mike Shepherd, president of the Manhattan Chapter when asked why he attends COTS. "You always learn something from another officer from a different chapter. It gives you a great perspective of what is possible if you look at things outside your own box."

"I have directed for several years, but the Director's Class at COTS will always remind me of something to work on to be a better leader for the chorus," reports Jim Ellis of the Wichita Chapter. "There are so many skills that can be honed, and you need some reminders about why they should stay in your area of focus. Doing a better job out front so the chorus can reach their next level of performance is what the school is all about."

We expect to have the opportunity for more shared learnings during the classes as this year's COTS curriculum is reviewed and enhanced. The faculty will be chosen during July, and additional details on the CSD classes to be included at COTS will be shared in the next issue of the Serenade.

The CSD board is looking into having local classes for Grant Writing, Chapter Coaching and Newsletter/Web editors.

Do you have a suggested area that needs a class developed and presented this year? Let anyone on the CSD board or your chapter president know about your needs and suggestions. We will do our best to provide a super learning experience. You may also send an e-mail to donfuson@yahoo.com or call and leave a message on 913-897-0625.

CSD will strive to have all chapters represented at this year's school. Can your CSD board or your chapter coach help you in planning to attend?

The CSD website will be open for COTS registration starting in August and will have other information on the schedule of classes.

Mark your calendars for all incoming officers and any interested chapter member to attend the Omaha event — **November 9-10, 2002**. It is a legitimate chapter expense, and the potential return on your chapter investment is predicted to increase during 2003! ♪



*Reckless
Abandon*

Contact: John Marshall
1339 Cedar St., Iowa City, IA 52245
Phone (319) 338-3565
E-mail: jmarsha@mcleodusa.net



Brian Curt Jeff Bemo

THE
NOISE
BOYS

Contact:
Jeff Veteto
4861 E. Briarwood Tr Ct
Springfield, MO 65809
H (417) 881-6106
W (417) 831-8538
e-mail: Jeff@noiseboys.org

www.noiseboys.com

The **Sons of LIBERTY** Chorus

First Annual Barbershop Show

FEATURING

2001 International Silver Medalists

Uptown Sound



2001 International Semi-Finalists

3 Men & A Melody



Double Take



Arpeggio



Saturday, August 24, 2002 at 7:30 p.m.

Liberty Performing Arts Theatre

1600 S. Withers Rd, Liberty, MO

All Seats \$12

For Tickets and Directions

Call the Liberty Performing Arts Center

(816) 792-6130 Ext. 2

VISA, MasterCard & American Express accepted

CSD Serenade
c/o SPEBSQSA, Inc.
6315 Harmony Lane
Kenosha, WI 53143-5199



Editor's address is on page two

Chapter Shows Schedule

Reported by Gale Demaree, SECRETARY

- Aug. 10 – Sioux Falls, S.D. – Lincoln High School
24 – Liberty, Mo. – Liberty Performing Arts Center
Sep. 7 – Omaha, Neb. – Millard West High School
Nov. 1-2 – Dubuque, Iowa – Grand Opera House
2 – Sioux City, Iowa – Eppley Auditorium
15 – Hastings, Neb. – Hastings City Auditorium

2003

- Feb. 22 – Salina, Kan. – Salina Central High School
April 26 – Des Moines, Iowa – Civic Center of Greater Des Moines

District and Society Events

- July 28-Aug. 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.

2003

- Jan. 19-26 – International mid-winter convention, Albuquerque, N.M.
April 4-6 – Spring district convention, Lincoln, Neb.
June 29-July 6 – International convention, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Oct. 10-12 – Fall district convention, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Nov. 8-9 – Chapter Operations Training Seminar (COTS), Omaha, Neb.

Kevin Mike
SURROUND
Kevin Scharper
37717 130th Ave.
Forest City, IA 50436
(641) 567-3228
SOUND Barbershop
Quartet
Denny Jerry

Two State Four
Barbershop Quartet ★ Dave ★ Curt ★ John ★ Chad
John Vaughan
H 319.988.4558
W 888.235.8988
twostatefour@AOL.com