

Central States District



# Serenade

Iowa · Kansas · Nebraska · Missouri · South Dakota

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May/June 1999

## Sweet Sioux City Convention

By John Marshall, President

What a great weekend! For those of you who missed it, I'm sorry you did because you missed one heck of a good time! I think those who were there might tell you that it was one of the best spring conventions we have ever had.

We had great attendance and all those who were here had more neat stuff to do than they could get done.

The competition was great, as you might expect. We had super singing from the quartets and **12<sup>th</sup> Street Rag**, as our winner, will be representing our district at International. They scored well above the qualifying score and **Sound Legacy** was only one point shy of the qualifying score and well could be chosen later as a competitor.

Most of us thought the judges were crazy for not qualifying at

least four quartets out of all that good singing. **Millennium** was the qualifier as the college quartet champion and will compete in Anaheim.

There is a high probability that we could be looking at the International college quartet champion. They are exceptional and if you have the chance to hear them, don't miss it.

The board approved the addition of divisional chorus competitions and the Denison Chapter was the Northwest Division champion at the A plateau.

Look in this issue of the *Serenade* for how this works. We hope to have chapters competing at all plateaus in each division.

Your chapter could win in your division!

If you weren't competing, you had the chance to do so many things and they must have been good, because there were a lot of people going to Tag Singing, Quartet Coaching, Voice Analysis and the History Room. Many people attended a class called, How to Judge a Contest, which was supported by members of the judging panel who graciously donated their time and expertise.

Others participated in singing in the Festival Chorus, which filled the risers and was directed by Larry Monson.

As always, the Sioux City-sponsored hospitality room was a great place to be and the Barber-shoppers Shop was well used.

Thank you, Sioux City Chapter, for a job well done!!



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)

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#### ADVERTISING RATES

The flat charge for a single insertion of an ad is \$4.00 per column inch (based on a three-column page). Full-page ad (9"x7"), \$114.00; half-page (4"x7"), \$57.00; quarter-page (4"x3"), \$28.50. 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:  
 June 8, 1999**

**Anticipated mailing  
 date:  
 June 30, 1999**

# Are you ready?

By Merrill Aitchison, CSD Convention Chairman

Now is the time to start thinking about the '99 fall convention in Cedar Rapids the weekend of October 1-3. This convention is going to be a **BIG ONE**. It's going to be one that you don't want to miss. The activities will be extraordinary. You're going to have tag singing, gang singing, sing with the champs and those of you who like to sing with the piano, there will be Dan Warschauer at the grand piano. There will be a first with a father, son and grandson chorus, which will perform Saturday evening. Also, we plan on a mass chorus sing on the riverfront and the sound should be wonderful.

Remember that no one stays home when you can have a weekend of thrills and chills of hearing those ringing barbershop chords being sung. So let's start making your plans now. More information including housing and registration information will be in your hands around the first of July. ✍

## 1999 Central States District Officers

President.....	John Marshall
1339 Cedar St., Iowa City, IA 52245 (319)-338-3565	jmarsha@mcleodusa.net
Immediate Past President.....	Lud Einess
2100 SW Regency Ct., Blue Springs, MO 64015 816-229-2088	lude1@juno.com
Executive Vice President.....	Rick Kready
6501 SW 40 <sup>th</sup> St., Topeka, KS 66610 (913) 478-3724	Rick_Kready@juno.com
Society Board Member .....	Bill Stock
522 No. Jackson St., Belleville, IL 62220 (618)233-0198	wstock522@aol.com
VP Marketing Public Relations .....	Gary Drown
114 Huron Dr., Kearney, NE 68847 (308) 236-2083	jdrown@kearney.net
VP Member Services .....	Quentin Gates
9933 Century Lane, Lenexa, KS 66215 (913) 894-9364	qgates@juno.com
VP Events .....	Bill McLaurine
1862 Dougherty Estates Dr., Manchester, MO 63021 314-256-0151	billm77239@aol.com
VP Chapter Support and Leadership .....	Jim Jay
#2 Country Lane, Florissant, MO 63033 (314) 831-2485	jimljay@aol.com
VP Music and Performance .....	Byron Myers Sr.
1901 Safari Dr., St. Joseph, MO 64506 (816) 232-7910	jfisher@angus.org
VP Chorus Director Development .....	Larry Monson
6201 Normal Blvd., #301, Lincoln, NE 68506 402-489-7574	LVEMonson@aol.com
VP Contest and Judging .....	John Stucker
1445 So. 22 <sup>nd</sup> St., Leavenworth, KS 66048 (913) 682-1385	johnstucker@lvnworth.com
Secretary .....	Gale Demaree
3 Stonebridge Way, Bentonville, AR 72712 (501) 273-2827	gdema74252@aol.com
Treasurer .....	Ron Morden
7059 Andrews Terr., Panora, IA 50216-8705 (515) 755-3217	Ronmorden@aol.com

## FROM THE CONVENTION

# C&J Corner

## More important information

By John Stucker, VP Contest & Judging

Your Central States District Board has just passed a resolution that will provide ALL chapters in the district an opportunity to compete and win a division chorus championship!

The details:

At each division contest, there will be a quartet qualifier contest (just like the past two years). In addition, there will be a DIVISION chorus contest where we will crown a champion in each of the membership plateaus. If your chapter membership as of December 31, 1998, is 39 or fewer members, you are Plateau A and compete against only other Plateau A chapters

Continuing on, Plateau AA chapters have up to 75 members and again, compete only against other Plateau AA chapters. Plateau AAA chapters have 76 or more members. This chorus contest will be on the same day as the quartet contests and there will be the normal coaching/evaluation sessions for all competitors

All chapters have the opportunity to compete for a divisional championship at their plateau. This is a chance to go to a one day event, sing, get scored, hear from the judges and perhaps come away with a trophy as your division championship at either plateau A, AA or AAA.

You don't have to qualify or do anything special you just have to use the registration form on the Society Web page and register for your Division Competition as you would for any competition. Then get there to sing. If you are not interested this time, don't go and it won't change a thing for any other competitions or conventions.

It is likely that you will also have the chance to sing in a mass chorus and perhaps sing on the evening show. This very simply is a chance to have some fun and win. If you have any questions, call one of the officers and we will try to help you understand how to get involved. Your chapter coach can also help you.

I am sure that the Denison, Iowa, Chapter is proud to have won the Northwest Division Chorus Plateau A Championship on April 17, 1999.

The following 1999 division contests remain:

DIVISION	LOCATION	DATE
Southwest	St. Joseph, Mo.	July 17
Northeast	Ottumwa, Iowa	August 14
Southeast	St. Louis, Mo.	August 28

Congratulations to 12<sup>th</sup> Street Rag for qualifying for International in Anaheim, and to the rest of the competitors for their efforts in the prelims.

Please talk with the quartets and choruses that used the Web page to enter the past contest and find out how easy it really is. I provide instant feedback that your entry was received so you don't have to worry or call me on the telephone to check.. PLEASE use the Web-based entry form. ✍

## COMING NEXT MONTH

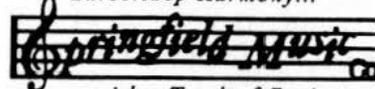
Due to space limitations in this issue, several articles and photos had to be withheld, but will be in the July-August *Serenade*. Included are Youth Outreach, the South Dakota Festival, an event with the Algona chorus, more Convention photos and other interesting features.

Warren Carlson  
Clyde Stant

Ron Wallace  
Paul King

*Southwestern District  
1996 Comedy Quartet Champion*

*Barbershop Harmony...*



*...with a Touch of Fun!*

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917 East Maplewood St.  
Springfield, Missouri  
65807-5365

# So what's happening in chorus director development?

By Larry Monson, VP Chorus Director Development

The success of Chorus Director Development lies in the hands of the individual chapters and their willingness to support the local chapter music director.

The society, through the CDD committee, offers helpful suggestions and encouragement to the musical directors for their continuing education.

1. Directors College. Held every year during Harmony College (this year August 1-8), this intensive training provides wonderful insights to chorus directing through conducting classes, performance/leadership, and repertoire. A new certification program for directors is also available.

2. CDWI. A quick fix, on-site approach for music directors. This most successful program is organized by the district in conjunction with the CDWI committee.

Several pilot projects were completed in the Central States four years ago. On May 15, a CDWI experience is being held in Beatrice, Neb., for directors within an hour or two of Beatrice. This non-threatening approach helps to identify one or two needs of the director's choosing. More CDWI experiences are being developed for the fall. Watch for your turn.

3. Training. Through the use of videotapes and published materials, directors and choruses can watch successful directors, as models, in action. These materials are currently available through the Society. Each chapter should be receiving materials from the society with promotional materials on Dr. Lyne's new video and published materials. Order them today.

4. Recruitment. The identification of whom is directing, would like to direct, who needs encouragement to direct, and who formerly directed. This ever-changing process is the most elusive of all the work of the CDD. A database for the Society has been developed to help with this identification, and quite frankly, this is the area of most concern for me as your VP. Who out there would be willing to tackle this project? I have the materials, very little knowledge about this sort of stuff (after all I'm just a musician), but need a computer volunteer to help expedite this process. If you have time and interest,

please let me know. This area needs organization and clarity.

Well, my fellow CSDers, CDD's work is much varied, but like the directorship of any chapter, it can be the "war department" of our Society.

"Can you help our director with sound management or interpretation or leadership?" Quick fixes are not the answer. Only dedication to continuing education for the director by the director and chapter will make any significant impact. Yes we have quick fix programs, but approach them only as that.

Let's get your director to Harmony College, get him/her enrolled in the certification process, and buy any and all materials for your chapter and start your own library resources for musical education.

Yes, we can have festivals, CDWIs, and gather material for who's doing what, but you the chapter must dedicate yourself to the musical continuing education for your musical director. Remember, it's money spent for your success. ✍

## Chapter secretaries

### *Please report officer changes*

By Gale Demaree, Secretary

When you submit the "Report of Change" to Society headquarters, please notify the Central States District secretary of these changes.

When any changes are made in elected or appointed officials in your chapter, their addresses, phone numbers or e-mail addresses, please report them to the district secretary as well.

It is important for us to maintain an effective communications network throughout the district. This can be done only when our communications channels are current. All changes that are reported to me will be forwarded to John Petterson, *Serenade* editor, for inclusion in the next issue of the district bulletin. ✍

# Registrations still being accepted

By Winston Rashleigh, Mini-HEP Dean

It is not too soon to send your registration in for the 1999 Central States Mini-HEP School (Mini-Harmony College, as I like to refer to it) scheduled for June 11-13, 1999, to be held at Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph, Missouri. The time is now!

When last I visited with Bob Swenson, he had received registrations from six quartets.

We have planned for Choruses this year and I urge each Barbershopper interested in receiving some good coaching for their Chorus to have their leadership register your chorus to attend.

On different occasions, I have heard some comments questioning what the district does for Joe Barbershopper. The district provides many services to Joe Barbershopper in Central States and probably one of the most important is the opportunity that is given for him to improve what he likes to do best and that is SING!

While the district secures the facility and the faculty at a reasonable price for a weekend of fellowship and learning, the school cannot be conducted without students and that is where you come in. Remember that this is a legitimate chapter expense and scholarships can be provided for each and every attendee.

For those of you interested in details about Mini-HEP, such as faculty, format and more information about classes offered, the following is provided.

We have a teaching quartet from Land O' Lakes District called **Breakpoint**, the members of which are qualified instructors and coaches.

Dale Comer, singing judge and director extraordinaire will serve as a coach as will Jim DeBusman. Pete Benson will teach the class called Fundamentals of Music; Brent Gerber will teach the class on interpretation (of a proposed song); Dennis Sorge will teach the classes on Show Production and Show Administration providing information on how to produce an annual show.

Jim Bagby will teach the MC class as well as the successful performance class. Warren Hettinga, long time Harmony College faculty person will teach Vocal Techniques. Our own Byron Myers will teach Chorus Directing. We plan to have two three-hour classes, a general session, warm up, an hour of tag singing and woodshedding and a show on Saturday night with an afterglow and plenty of ice cream.

Hopefully, we will learn a couple of songs at the general sessions and have a question and answer time. This school provides a great opportunity for your chorus to get some excellent coaching. Give consideration to bringing your chorus. Call for special price. This will be an experience you don't want to miss. If you haven't signed up, do it now!!!!

Below is the registration form. Make as many copies as you need. ✍

## 1999 C.S.D. MINI-HARMONY COLLEGE

Missouri Western State College  
St. Joseph, Missouri

**YES, count on me to attend June 11,12, & 13, 1999. Registration Fee includes two nights lodging, breakfast, lunch & dinner on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday and use of class rooms. Registration fee received prior to May 1, 1995 is \$80.00. Registration fee received after May 1, 1999 to May 15,1999 is \$95.00. Registration fee received after May 15,1995 will be \$105.00. Classes begin at 8:00 p.m. Friday June 11,1999 and end 11:00 A.M June 13, 1999.**

### CHOOSE TWO (3 HOUR CLASSES)

- \_\_\_ Fundamentals of Music 101
- \_\_\_ Interpretation 201
- \_\_\_ Chorus Seminar 101\*
- \_\_\_ Chorus Seminar 201\*
- \_\_\_ Show Production 101

- \_\_\_ Show Administration 201
- \_\_\_ Quartet Seminar 101\*\*
- \_\_\_ Quartet Seminar 201\*\*
- \_\_\_ Chorus Directing 101
- \_\_\_ Chorus Directing 201

- \_\_\_ Vocal Techniques 101
- \_\_\_ Vocal Techniques 201
- \_\_\_ Successful Performance 101
- \_\_\_ Everything you ever wanted to know about being an MC 201

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Nick Name) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
*First & Last* *Please Print* *Street & Apt #*

\_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Quartet \_\_\_\_\_  
*City, State & Zip*

Voice Part \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

\* For Choruses Only  
\*\* For Quartets Only

Please make checks payable to : Central States District and Mail to Bob Swenson, 300 Yuma Street, Manhattan, KS 66502

***This form is not copyrighted -- Make as many copies as you want***

# Central States District Barbershopper of the Year: Jim Nugent

By Rick Kready, 1997 CSD BOTY



Jim Nugent, with Audrey at his side, expresses his surprise and gratitude at the presentation of the Barbershopper of the Year award.

## **BOTY Eligibility Criteria:**

The Central States Barbershopper of the Year award is for recognition of a member who has contributed years of outstanding service to Central States District and which culminates in the year of the award to warrant such recognition and honor. All current members in the Central States District in good standing are eligible to receive this award. The district president, past BOTY recipients and past Hall of Fame recipients are eligible only for extraordinary acts. Other district officers and board members are eligible only for actions above the scope of their normally defined responsibilities.

## **And now, let me tell you a little about this year's recipient**

This year's recipient (let's call him Jim) began barbershopping 33 years ago in Colorado and has accumulated 29 Man-of-Note awards. But my amazement with this man begins early in his barbershopping life. After just two short years in this hobby, his career moved him to western Kansas.

Apparently our hobby already had bitten him hard, because when he found that there was no barbershop chapter in his new town, he took on the task to fix that problem. He made some new friends, chartered a new chapter, and created the High Plains Chorus. Not only was Jim a charter

member, but he also served as the first chapter president in Hays, Kansas.

While I admire anyone who takes on the task of chartering a new barbershop chapter, Jim's leadership and team spirit certainly didn't end when that task was accomplished. My conversations with another charter member and the current chapter secretary in Hays, Virgil Quint, verifies that over the years, Jim literally held every office in that chapter.

He became very involved with the Kansas Division activities, through which hundreds of Barbershoppers enjoyed some tremendous friendships and camaraderie. Serving on the Kansas Division Presidents' Council, he helped organize numerous gatherings, including quartet and chorus contests, and camp-outs. Jim went on to represent that division on the Central States District Board as the Kansas Division Vice President, but never allowed that to diminish his involvement at the local and division level.

Of course, we recognize the old saying that, "Behind every good man is a wonderful wife." For our purposes right now, until we disclose who will receive the award this year, let's refer to Jim's wife as "Audrey." From my perspective, Audrey could serve as the poster girl epitomizing that old saying. Not only has she made the long drives with Jim from Hays to the various conventions each year, but as I traveled with my quartets I generally saw both of them at other chapter shows throughout the year.

That is a VERY special relationship and a wonderfully loving display of support for her husband, and her husband's hobby.

So, Jim and Audrey kept embellishing their involvement with barbershopping. After serving as Kansas Division v.p., Jim moved on up the line to executive v.p., and district president. While he generally was a pretty good guy to work with on the district board of directors, we all learned quickly to be prompt in interrupting the board meetings regularly for Jim's mandated pause for a song every 15 minutes. I think this was a concept

that came out of the lifeblood committee, but Jim instituted it as a rule for the CSD board meetings during his administration, and it appears that his rule has initiated another tradition for Central States.

Well, we already have discussed how Jim chartered, and was a pillar in the Hays, Kansas, Chapter for decades. We have recognized how he served Kansas Division, and helped lead CSD, including as district president. But when it came time to retire from his career at Fort Hays State University, Jim just found some more jobs to do for the Barbershoppers.

At retirement, Jim and Audrey relocated from Hays, Kansas, to Belle Vista, Arkansas. There, too, Jim became a charter member of the Greater Ozarks Chapter and the **Pride of the Ozarks** barbershop chorus.

He has served as board member at large, and also carries the title of outreach chairman, which makes him responsible for the Greater Ozarks Chapter's Youth Outreach and for support of music education throughout the area. Jim started a smaller ensemble from the chorus that interfaces with the schools and music educators, plus taking engagements that the whole chorus cannot meet.

So we can see again how this man continues working on the local level and on sharing our craft and hobby with others. Nearly all of us have seen additional products of his labors this weekend. As Chairman of Special Events on the CSD Convention Team, Jim has organized each and every one of the non-competition events we enjoy at our conventions. Jim also agreed recently to take on another responsibility for the Central States District, so now he also serves as the District Historian. Many of you have enjoyed the fruits of his taking those responsibilities and his establishing for our enjoyment this weekend, the Historian's Room over at the headquarters hotel, filled with some wonderful displays about our glorious past.

### **Finally, The Announcement:**

By this point I suspect that most of you already have guessed that the fictitious Jim and Audrey I have been speaking about, really are too good to be true. Ladies and Gentlemen, our 1999 Central States District Barbershopper of the Year -- Jim Nugent. ✍

## **Board actions from the spring meeting**

By Gale Demaree, Secretary

The following actions were taken by the Central States District Board of Directors on April 16, 1999, in Sioux City.

Gary Drown, v.p. marketing and public relations, announced that arrangements are being made to provide a 15-minute radio program for use by chapters. The tape may be marketed to local radio stations for commercial and public relations purposes. Details are to be announced soon.

The current division contest format will be augmented, effective with the NW Division Contest in Sioux City, by adding division chorus contests to provide choruses the opportunity to compete at more convenient venues to become division champions. This is not a contest to qualify for district contests. Suitable trophies will be awarded to winners of each plateau in each division.

The board voted to affirm the policy to provide each chorus representing the district in Anaheim with \$3,000.00 and each quartet representing the district with \$1,000.00 to assist with travel expenses.

The board voted to elevate the positions of Youth Outreach Chairman and Service Projects Chairman to be Vice Presidents as members of the Board of Directors.

The board requested the Strategic Planning Committee to review the district bylaws and recommend changes as may be required.

The board voted to establish a traveling trophy for district senior quartet champions and to have it engraved with the names of all past and future champions.

The bid for the spring 2001 convention by Omaha was withdrawn because the increased auditorium expenses imposed by the City of Omaha made it financially unfeasible. The board accepted a bid by St. Joseph to host the 2001 Spring Convention, March 30-April 1, 2001.

A bid by Wichita to host the Fall 2001 Convention was accepted. The dates of that convention remain to be confirmed. ✍

## Want to get good – *fast*?

By Gary Drown  
VP Marketing Public Relations

As they say in the fishing world....this one's a keeper! Just released from Kenosha, a video that has the potential to improve your chorus or your quartet and do it in a hurry. It's called "Building A Better Chorus with Dr. Greg Lyne" stock number 4024. For any chapter or quartet seriously interested in making a big jump up the ladder of quality, this is a must.

Make certain the video goes first to your director because Dr. Lyne's encouragement is pointed rather succinctly at the head man (or woman). In fact, his comments, although delivered in a tactful and loving way, can have an *edge* on them for those who are not used to having help. The content is wonderfully *right on*, and if reviewed then put into practice, your chapter or quartet is going to be rewarded.

The entire presentation is loaded with barber-shop food, but I was particularly interested in Greg's ideas about the characteristics that define each part, i.e. tenor, lead, etc., that makes up our sound. The definition of each voice part brings to life a new appreciation for what a bass, or baritone, or whatever, should or could be.

If all this sounds a bit confusing, buy the video, let your director take a look, encourage your chapter to use it as a wonderful craft tool....10 minutes at a sitting over several chapter meetings...then review it again and again. If applied, you're going to get real good in a hurry! ✍

## Chapter coaching

By Jim Jay  
VP Chapter Support and Leadership

The Chapter Coaching program is now in full swing in CSD. During a January training session, we added three new coach candidates to the CSD staff. We want to welcome Ron Morden, Craig Hanson and Dave Stock as new coaches.

We are now 16 strong in CSD, which brings us up to our assigned strength. We now have the required number of coaches to cover our chapters. To accomplish this, we have requested assistance from other district coaches to cover remote and border chapters. We have reassigned some of our chapters to different coaches due to coach location. We have lost the services of Certified Chapter Coach Kieth Harris, who is transferring to another district. We have also lost the services of Ron Abel. Ron has resigned due to having a medical problem. In spite of these losses of two fine coaches, we have been able to maintain our assigned number of 16 thanks to our new volunteers.

Current coaches are as follows: D. Brown; J. Easter, CCC; R. Frankenfeld; Q. Gates, CCC; C. Hanson; J. Jay, CCC; K. Johnson; R. King; J. Marshall, CCC; R.Morden; J. Nugent; L.Purvis, CCC; J. Reed; J. Ries; D.Stock and R.Syring. We are proud that five of our 16 coaches have become Certified Chapter Coaches (CCC). We will be receiving certification for three more chapter coaches shortly.

Effective April 1, 1999, the following coach assignments apply:

Dan Brown: Dubuque, Elkader, Algona and Mason City, Iowa;

Jerry Easter: Des Moines, New London, Iowa City and Ottumwa, Iowa;

Bob Frankenfeld: Greater Ozarks, Ark., Sedalia, Mo., Overland Park and Manhattan, Kan.;

Quentin Gates: Leavenworth, McPherson, Topeka, Kan., and St. Joseph, Mo.;

Craig Hanson: Hastings, Kearney, Lincoln and Nebraska City, Neb.;

Ken Johnson: Sioux City, Sheldon, Iowa, and Viborg, S.D.;

Bob King: Ames, Atlantic, Ft. Dodge, Iowa, and Omaha and Pappilion, Neb.;



John Marshall: Davenport, Iowa;  
 Ron Morden: Linn County, Cedar Rapids, Waterloo (Blackhawk), Iowa, and Kansas City, Mo.;  
 Jim Nugent: Florissant, Joplin, Springfield, Mo.;  
 Leonard Purvis: Beatrice, Neb., Hutchison, Old Salina, Salina-Coronado, Wichita, Kan.;  
 Jack Reed: St.Louis No.1, St.Louis Suburban, Mo., and Waterloo, Ill.;  
 John Ries: Milbank, Pierre, Watertown, S.D.;  
 Dave Stock: Fremont, Grand Island, Lexington, Neb., and Dennison, Iowa;  
 Dick Syring: Aberdeen, Mitchell, Sioux Falls, Winner, S.D.;  
 Jim Jay: Columbia, St. Charles, Mo., Alton and Collinsville, Ill.;  
 John Cooklin (Illinois District): Muscatine, Iowa  
 Don Kready (Rocky Mountain District): Hays, Kan.

We currently have 58 of 62 chapters covered under the coaching program. Four chapters do not have coaches assigned. These chapters are: Chanute, Emporia and Newton, Kan., and Ord, Neb. These four chapters will have no coach assigned, but may request assistance from the writer as required.

If there is anyone in CSD who would like to be a chapter coach, please contact me.

Kenosha advises they will request all coaches to attend a chapter coach upgrade training session later this year. Things change, including coaching. ✍

## Barbershop Bonanza

By Kim Anderson

September 3 and 4, 1999, the Fifth Annual Barbershop Bonanza will be held in Kearney, Nebraska, sponsored by the **1733 Chorus**.

It is a great time of fellowship, singing and fun. If you have a quartet who would appreciate a little free coaching, here's your chance. Coaching will be offered Friday night at the Kearney Ramada Inn on a very informal basis. Each quartet will be given individual attention from a variety of coaches in a relaxed atmosphere. It's a great way to start the weekend.

Then the big day!

Ever wonder what it would feel like to sing in a chorus of 100, 150 or even 200 men? That's what happens on Saturday. We begin at 9 a.m. on September 4 and rehearse until 4:30 with a couple of breaks and lunch from 12 to 1.

After a three-hour break there is a one and one-half hour performance, open to the public, at the University of Nebraska Kearney Fine Arts Center on the UNK campus beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The evening concert will include any of the quartets that wish to participate.

Our clinician for this great barbershop event is Greg Lyne, one of the premier directors and barbershop masters in the Society. He is on the faculty of Harmony College and well known for his knowledge of the barbershop style. Greg will help each of us to become better chorus singers.

We will also have the 1998 Central States District champion quartet, **3 Men & A Melody**, as our guest quartet.

Who is being invited to this Barbershop Bonanza? It's been mainly a Central States party with men from Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri, but we're asking our neighbors to join in.

Everyone who indicates they will attend will receive a packet of songs for the big show, learning tapes and instructions.

Fees to attend are \$30.00, which includes lunch. A block of rooms has been set aside at the Ramada Inn.

Dress for the weekend is informal, but the show is your best bib and tucker from your individual choruses.

Bring your best friend!

Bring a prospective member your working on! You don't have to be a member of SPEBSQSA to participate in this event.

For any of the gals who like to sing, the Sweet Adelines are also having a clinic with Jo Kraut from Kansas city as their guest director. They are more than welcome to come and enjoy.

You could make it a great family experience.

For more information, contact:

Kim Anderson  
 905 Garfield  
 Holdrege, NE 68949  
 (308) 995-8934  
 Email: ka50759@navix.net ✍

# Why do they leave?

By Q. Gates, VP for Member Services

Ev Nau, the Society's Managing Director for Member Services, recently reported the results of a survey of men who had recently dropped their SPEBSQSA membership. He cautions readers not to read anything into the results that aren't clearly indicated. He also suggests that the information revealed by the survey would be good material for chapter leaders to discuss as they consider how to attract and retain new members. The following is a summary of the survey, its results and some obvious conclusions.

## Background

The 1998 Society Work Plan listed the survey as a goal to be accomplished during the year. From November 17 to November 22, 1998, Dieringer Research Group, Inc. of Milwaukee conducted a telephone survey of 227 members who had been reported as dropped during the year 1998. The survey has a confidence level of 95%.

## Objectives

- To determine their level of satisfaction with various elements of Society membership.
- To determine what had originally attracted them to the Society
- To determine why they had dropped their membership.
- To determine what, if anything, it would take to get them to rejoin the Society.

## The Survey

The survey asked 18 questions (with follow-up questions when appropriate) that elicited the following information:

- ❖ How long they had been a member and when they left the Society.
- ❖ Why they originally joined and why they left.
- ❖ How many different chapters they had joined, in which districts, and what chapter positions they had held, if any.
- ❖ What was the extent of their involvement in chapter activities (Fellowship, Show, Contest, Community Service Projects, Quarteting, etc.)?
- ❖ To what extent (on a scale of 1-5) the Society met their expectations. Follow-up questions pursued specifics if the respondent indicated any dissatisfaction.

- ❖ How they felt about the time commitments required of members.
- ❖ How they felt about the dues and other barber-shopping costs.
- ❖ The degree to which they were satisfied (on a scale of 1-7) with a list of subject including: Quarteting, Performances, Rehearsals, Socializing, Number of Songs, District and Division Contests and Conventions, Musical Leadership, Individual Recognition, Chapter Politics, District and Society Support, Costs, and Coaching.
- ❖ Whether they were involved in organized singing elsewhere.
- ❖ What it would take to get them to renew and if so, would they change chapters.
- ❖ Some demographic information including age, and marital status.

## Findings

The survey produced very few surprises. Among the major findings were:

1. Members join the Society because they love to sing and because they enjoy what they perceive to be the barbershop style.
2. The primary reasons for leaving the Society were old age and health issues.
3. Only 9% of those surveyed felt that membership in the Society had failed to meet their expectations.
4. About one-third of those surveyed felt that the time commitment was higher than they had expected.
5. Forty percent of those surveyed felt that the dues were a little or much too high, and twenty percent of those surveyed felt that other costs associated with membership in the Society were too high.
6. Respondents were fairly satisfied with the musical elements of their membership in the Society (the director, musical leadership, performances, etc.) The main exception was the amount of quarteting available to the average member. Other areas of dissatisfaction were the amount of chapter politics, the emphasis on competition, riser discipline and the amount of coaching available.
7. With regard to conventions, contests, and help from the district/Society, a very high percentage marked them as "not applicable" or "don't know."

8. Our Society seems to have a better retention track record than most volunteer organizations, indicating that we are selling the Society well to our members when they join.
9. It is of particular note that even though the respondents were Society dropouts, 89% of them felt that their expectations were met or exceeded by the Society.
10. *It would appear that the less involved members are more likely to drop out than those who are more heavily involved in their chapters. [Italics mine. -ed.]*
11. Thirty-four percent of the respondents indicated that they are still singing in another group. Further, 71% said if they did rejoin, they would rejoin the same chapter. Realizing that 76% of the respondents had only belonged to one chapter during their membership, the findings tend to support the notion that the dropped members were generally satisfied with the Society and its offerings while they were members.

### Summary and Recommendation

While the survey produced no stunning revelations, it did reconfirm the need for some action to improve our retention:

1. The Member Services Committee should design an orientation form to be used at the chapter level to increase member awareness of benefits, services and resources available. The orientation form will become an early retention tool.
2. Copies of the orientation data will then be made available to all Chapter Coaches, Society officers and taught as part of the Member Services curriculum at COTS.
3. Additional periodic member surveys should be periodically conducted to update data on dropped members.

If approved, these changes will be made to the 1999 Member Services Work Plan. ✍

## NEWS FROM OUR DISTRICT QUARTETS

### HARMONY BOUND Thanks for your support By Dennis Paulsen

The members of the **Harmony Bound** quartet would like to thank our wives, Judy, Joyce, Clarice and Katie, for their support, understanding and enthusiasm during our preparation and participation in the 1999 SPEBSQSA International Seniors Quartet Contest at Biloxi, Mississippi. Without their encouragement, we would not have been able to achieve our goals.

We also want to express our gratitude to our coaches, Jim Bagby, Craig MacPherson and Jeff Paulsen for their untiring efforts and persistence in helping us to raise our singing and performance to their highest levels.

We would also like to thank the members of the Greater Ozarks Chapter, in Bella Vista, and the members of the Central States District, who have supported and encouraged us to continually reach for the highest level of performance at the divisional, district and International levels.

A special thank you goes to all the Central States District members and the 1998 International Senior Quartet Champions the **Jurassic Larks**. Also, to our own Chapter members: Bob and Betty Caldwell, Ed and Carol Downey, Jack and Ann Eckhardt, Bob and Carolyn Hodges, Mike and Marilyn Lyons, Jim and Audrey Nugent, and Russ and Pat Schirm, for their presence in Biloxi to support and cheer our efforts in the contest. It is with this support and encouragement that Harmony Bound has been successful.

Thanks once again from the bottom of our hearts.

Don, Dennis, Gene and Chuck  
Harmony Bound

1998 CSD Senior Quartet Champions ✍



# HEARTSPRING

# Remember what inspired you to join? Do that for others!

By John Marshall, President

Do you remember what it was that inspired you when you decided this hobby was for you? What can you do to make sure it happens for someone else? We have a saying in Central States, "Every man in his own way, experiencing the joy of hearing his voice contribute to barbershop harmony." What was your way? Each of us has to take responsibility for making that happen for someone else.

We tend to rely on a few people in each chapter to bring in new members. They seem to be the ones with the knack of getting people there and keeping things going. They do an important job for us. When we have a guest night, they always have someone there. Don't get in their way, but what would happen if everyone had just one other guy there?

Wouldn't it be exciting to sing in a chorus twice the usual size for just one night? It would have to be a better experience for them as well. Maybe for you it was hearing a good quartet sing. What can you do to make sure that happens for your guest. Perhaps bring in a good quartet for that night if you don't have one in your chapter, or maybe make sure they are there at your show.

Seldom have I heard of a Barbershopper who didn't wish that he had started sooner in life. If you are one who feels that way, think of the friend you are not allowing to be a part of this great hobby when you don't invite them. I have pledged to get two men of note this year. Not as many as I should have, but if I make it, that will be better than last year. I have one and if I can get the other I am going to shoot for more.

While you are at it, when you think of what inspired you the first time, think about what might re-inspire you. Take part in one of the workshops at convention or at the Mini-HEP school or perhaps at Harmony College. Take part in a divisional competition as a quartet or chorus. Sing with someone in a quartet at chapter night.

I challenge you to take some action! Get yourself going! Call an officer with an idea! Be one

step better than you are! Make your group one step better! Whatever you decide to do, have a good time and others will, too. ✍

## District directory changes

### *Muscatine, Iowa*

Glyn Hanks, chapter president:

Correct phone number: 319-263-0830

### *Cedar Rapids, Iowa*

Chapter secretary now is:

David Case

1611 Arizona Avenue N.E.

Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

### *Sioux Falls, S.D.*

Chapter president, address change:

Gordon Beck

1800 West Universal Place

Sioux Falls, S.D. 57104

### *Omaha, Neb.*

VP for Chapter Development now is:

Tom Westman, as shown in the District Directory

### **E-mail changes/corrections/additions:**

#### *Florissant Valley, Mo.*

E-mail address for Secretary Dan Fedorchak:

Danfedbass@aol.com

#### *Leavenworth, Kan.*

Director and secretary have new e-mail addresses:

Director Keith A. Owen: kowen@tfs.net

Secretary Austin E. Stiles: wolfgang@tfs.net

#### *Iowa City, Iowa*

Public relations officer e-mail correction:

David Haase: davidhaase@netscape.net

VP for chapter development e-mail correction:

Daniel Garcia: garcia@padrino.org

#### *St. Louis, Suburban, Mo.*

Bulletin editor e-mail addition:

John Conrad: conrad44th@juno.com

## Harmony Foundation notes

By Leonard Purvis, Service Chairman

Time is flying by and we are rapidly approaching the International Convention in Anaheim. Each year one of the interesting activities at International is the **Harmony Foundation** raffle. The prizes (at least one per district) are always exciting and valuable and the grand prize is four front row registrations to the next convention.

Next year that will be Kansas City, so it's a great opportunity for CSD members to get a wonderful seat at our home convention. There is some time commitment from each district to help make this raffle function. Generally, I enlist the help of a few people to work along with my wife and me in that capacity. This year, however, I am not able to attend. Therefore, I am in desperate need of several volunteers from those of you lucky people who will be attending and can share a few hours of your time in this worthy cause.

Please contact me very soon if you are willing and able to answer this request. [*Contact information at end of article.*] I am also still open for suggestions regarding the prize we would like to present from CSD. Please contact me right away if you have ideas in this matter, as I must decide soon so we can get that underway on schedule also.

By the time you read this, the spring convention in Sioux City will be history. I hope everyone who attended had a great time and visited the Harmony Foundation raffle. We had some great prizes there and it's a fine opportunity to support our charity. Those of you who contributed prizes are to be congratulated for your efforts and all who participated have the gratitude of all who receive benefits whether it be students at **Heartspring** or in some area where **SingAmerica** is contributing to the education of our young people in music. In addition, all Barbershoppers benefit from these activities by the publicity we gain and by the singers we recruit through these efforts.

As usual, I find it necessary to remind us all that our contributions to Harmony Foundation are not growing as quickly as needed. The programs at Heartspring and through SingAmerica cannot function adequately without our continuous support in an ever-increasing fashion.

In addition, the Museum we help support in Harmony Hall is a unique effort to preserve and encourage barbershop quartet singing in America. Even though this is a small portion of our giving, it is a fantastic place that will continue to improve with our help.

One bit of information may help explain some of the possible slowness of reporting back to chapters. Harmony Foundation has recently hired a new staff member to replace Laurel Peterson who was instrumental in the organization and development of this new approach to our charitable side. The hiring process and training of her replacement, Lois Meyer Kulvik, may have delayed some of the reporting we have become dependent upon.

I'm sure things will be back on schedule and continuing to improve shortly. We wish Laurel the best in her new work even though we will miss her dedicated support of SPEBSQSA. We also welcome Lois and are appreciative of the expertise she brings to the Society.

There are young people in Wichita and around the nation who can receive great benefit from each of us just giving a little more than we did last year. Can't we take a small step of faith in what we support by chipping in a few dollars more each month? If we give a little each month, we can increase our annual totals significantly without a real strain at any one time. Please consider this possibility and do what you can regularly.

Contact: Leonard Purvis, 5019 Vista Acres Dr., Manhattan, KS 66503; phone 785-537-7122; e-mail [lpurvis@flintheills.com](mailto:lpurvis@flintheills.com) ✉

## Harmony Bound

A Quartet that will entertain you with  
Barbershop and Gospel Music

**1998 SPEBSQSA Central States District  
Senior Quartet Champions**

Dennis Paulsen  
48 Caithness Drive  
Bella Vista, AR. 72715 (501) 855-0972

# SPRING CONTEST WINNERS



Quartet contest winner: **12<sup>th</sup> Street Rag**  
L to r: Micah Jeppesen, tenor; Mark Fortino, lead;  
Barry Moore, bass; and John Fortino, baritone



College quartet contest winner: **Millennium**  
L to r: Kalin Tapp, baritone; Sydney Libsack, bass;  
Soren Wohlers, lead; and Jim Clark, tenor



Plateau A chorus contest winner: Algona, Iowa, **Cornbelt Chorus**, Kent Madison, Director

## More contest and convention photos next issue



### CALL THAT YOUNG MAN AND BRING HIM TO PRACTICE!



OFFICIAL SCORING SUMMARY, Central States District International Preliminary Quartet Contest  
 SPEBSQSA, Inc., Sioux City, Iowa, April 17, 1999

FINALS	SONGS	MUS	PRE	SNG	SUB TOTAL	PREV PTS.	TOTAL SCORE
1 12th Street Rag	A Tree In The Meadow	157	166	161	957	941	1898
	The Barbershop Rag	156	162	155			
2 Sound Legacy	Zing! Went The Strings Of My Heart	142	163	149	910	913	1823
	If I Had The Last Dream Left In The World	145	163	148			
3 3 Men & A Melody	Broken Hearted	143	158	157	901	891	1792
	The Wild, Wild Women	146	153	144			
4 Heartland	When My Sugar Walks Down The Street	140	153	143	878	882	1760
	Mistakes	139	158	145			
5 Sibling Rivalry	Midnight Rose	132	150	141	851	859	1710
	If You Can't Get A Girl In The Summertime	139	146	143			
6 Nebraska Compromise	Oh Susanna Dust Off That Old Pianna	135	153	135	848	828	1676
	If You Had All The World And Its Gold	132	157	136			
7 Catalyst	Who'll Dry Your Tears When You Cry	124	143	125	782	768	1550
	Alexander's Band Medley	126	138	126			
8 New Arrivals	Pal Of My Cradle Days	124	133	128	763	744	1507
	The Moment I Saw Your Eyes	122	133	123			
8 Masterchord	Hello, My Baby	127	130	125	767	740	1507
	Do You Know What It Means Miss New Orleans	125	135	125			
10 Harmony Bound	Down Among The Sugar Cane	116	123	118	716	693	1409
	From The First Hello To The Last Good Bye	116	125	118			

SEMI-FINALS

1 12th Street Rag	Let's Get Away From It All	160	160	154	941	0	941
	I Called You My Sweetheart	151	162	154			
2 Sound Legacy	Original Dixieland One-Step	149	162	144	913	0	913
	Roses Of Picardy	149	164	145			
3 3 Men & A Melody	Kiss Me Once Before You Say "Good Bye"	149	149	150	891	0	891
	Something To Write The Folks About	147	150	146			
4 Heartland	I Found My Sweetheart Sally	138	154	143	882	0	882
	Beautiful Dreamer	143	161	143			
5 Sibling Rivalry	Let The Rest Of The World Go By	132	145	151	859	0	859
	Sweet Georgia Brown	136	145	150			
6 Nebraska Compromise	Redhead	133	150	140	828	0	828
	I'll Never Write A Love Song Anymore	124	150	131			
7 Phase II	I Wish My Children Were Babies Again	125	133	142	770	0	770
	Story Of The Rose	104	131	135			
8 Catalyst	Beautiful Dreamer	131	130	133	768	0	768
	I Love A Parade/Strike Up The Band	119	129	126			
9 New Arrivals	Last Night Was The End Of The World	117	137	128	744	0	744
	Redhead	113	128	121			
10 Masterchord	That's An Irish Lullabye	113	129	131	740	0	740
	Original Dixieland One-Step	117	121	129			
11 Harmony Bound	If I Could Write A Song	110	126	114	693	0	693
	Love's Old Sweet Song	109	130	104			

Phase II had to withdraw from the contest after the Semi-Final Round.  
 12th Street Rag will represent the Central States District at the International Quartet Contest.

PANEL: ADMINISTRATOR	MUSIC	PRESENTATION	SINGING		
D. Belote-DIX	M. Israel-MAD	J. Connelly-SUN	J. Mills-DIX		
D. Bowen-LOL	S. Jamison-RMD	S. Schneider-SWD	R. Rhymer-FWD		
SEMI-FINALS	SONGS	MUS	PRE	SNG	TOTAL SCORE
12 Call Street	Hello, My Baby	109	114	120	681
	There'll Be No New Tunes On Old Piano	108	115	115	
13 The Pals	Barbershop Strut	109	120	104	664
	I Miss Mother Most Of All	111	120	100	
14 4 Bears	Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah	88	97	87	513
	Sweet And Lovely	81	84	76	

OFFICIAL SCORING SUMMARY, Central States District Small Chorus Contest  
SPEBSQSA, Inc., Sioux City, Iowa, April 17, 1999

FINALS	SONGS	MUS	PRE	SNG	SCORE	OnStg
1 Algona, IA Cornbelt Chorus	<i>Sweet Georgia Brown</i>	137	149	139	839	32
2 Denison, IA Happiness Express	<i>Tie Me To Your Apron Strings Again</i> <i>Pal Of My Cradle Days</i>	134	144	136	723	16
3 Omaha, NE Heartland Harmonizers	<i>Little Pal</i> <i>Roll On, Mississippi, Roll On</i>	115	123	126	695	15
4 Sioux Falls, SD Sioux Emperians	<i>Wait 'Til The Sun Shines, Nellie</i> <i>I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen</i>	107	119	126	678	20
5 Dubuque, IA The Music Men	<i>Love Me And The World Is Mine</i> <i>Let A Smile Be Your Umbrella</i>	94	114	102	634	24
6 Salina-Coronado, KS Coronado Chorus	<i>Red, Red Robin Goes Bobbin, Along</i> <i>There's A Ring To The Name Of Rose</i>	102	122	100	619	16
7 Topeka, KS Capital City Chorus	<i>Darktown Strutters' Ball</i> <i>Where The Swanee River Flows</i>	96	98	104	595	19
8 Leavenworth, KS Cody Choraliers	<i>Broadway Rose</i> <i>California, Here I Come</i>	91	112	83	590	21
9 Aberdeen, SD Dakota Heritage Chorus	<i>Last Night Was The End OfThe World</i> <i>McNamara's Band</i>	90	105	94	581	29
10 Hastings, NE Chorus of the Plains	<i>That's An Irish Lullaaby</i> <i>If IHad My Life To Live Over Again</i>	96	93	93	560	28
11 Viborg, SD Tri-Valley Chorus	<i>There's A Ring To The Name Of Rose</i> <i>Yes Sir, That's My Baby</i>	95	106	85	545	14
12 Fort Dodge, IA Harmony Brigade	<i>Forgive Me</i> <i>Yona From Arizona</i>	91	85	88	432	15
	<i>Lost In The Stars</i>	89	101	95		
		38	41	68		

Leavenworth, KS is the Most Improved Chorus.

Denison, IA is the Northwest Division Plateau A Chorus Champion.



OFFICIAL SCORING SUMMARY, Central States District College Quartet Contest  
SPEBSQSA, Inc., Sioux City, Iowa, April 17, 1999

FINALS	SONGS	MUS	PRE	SNG	TOTAL SCORE
1 Millennium	<i>Last Night On The Back Porch</i>	144	145	139	860
2 Academia Nuts	<i>Bright Was The Night</i> <i>Midnight Rose</i>	148	145	139	729
3 Smorgaschords	<i>For Me And My Gal</i> <i>Lulu's Back In Town</i>	116	120	123	630
4 Spur of the Moment	<i>Last Night Was The End OfThe World</i> <i>Wonderful Day Medley</i>	108	106	96	587
5 The Overtones	<i>Bright Was The Night</i> <i>Lida Rose</i>	111	108	101	381 (1)
	<i>Up The Ladder To The Roof</i>	104	104	93	
		93	94	99	
		110	100	111	
		0	35	25	

Millennium qualifies for the International College Quartet Contest.

(1) Scores forfeited due to violation of Article IX of the Official SPEBSQSA Contest Rules

# BULLETIN BROWSING

By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

## The first new bulletin for 1999

I'm happy to report the receipt of the first new chapter bulletin of 1999, one we've never seen before. It's a neat little two-pager called *The Coronado Chorus Harmony Note*, and it's edited by Don Nofsinger for the Salina-Coronado Chapter. Their president is Rex Isaacson and Tom King directs the chorus. Show Chairman Randy Duncan had a nice article about the second annual show on February 20 (this was the January-March issue) and the chorus was planning to enter the district's small chorus contest in April. You're doing a great job, Don, and we look forward to regular input to "Bulletin Browsing." Incidentally, for you BEs who may wish to add Don to your mailing list, his address is 129 So. Eastborough Rd., Salina, KS 67401.

\* \* \*

Here's news of the **Rural Route 4**, supposedly in retirement and out of the loop for some time, although some of the guys have been active now and then in other groups. For example, we understand Calvin and Willard Yoder will appear with the **Jubilee Transfer**, a mixed gospel group, on the **Heart of America** show on May 15. Now Jim Bagby reports in the Spring issue of *Harmonotes*, the Kansas City Chapter bulletin, edited by Dale Neuman, that the entire foursome will headline tenor Wes Yoder's chapter show in Seattle on May 1. They've also been invited to sing for the August wedding of Calvin's daughter, Gwen.

\* \* \*

Editor Dennis Cook sent us a nice, neat copy of the January/February/March issue of *Locomotion*, the Denison Chapter bulletin. Hope you can get back to publishing a monthly issue soon, Dennis. We learned that the recipient of the chapter's "Mr. Harmony Award" for 1998 was Roger Ploeger for his work in the areas of church performances, membership and fall show production. Congratulations, Roger!

\* \* \*

We note that a number of the bulletins we've received over the last couple of months contain articles on the subject of change, in particular the

resistance many Barbershoppers feel toward the task of learning new music. President Ron Johnson of the Davenport Chapter, writing in *The Note Dispenser*, edited by Leo Schubert, says, "We cling to the music like a security blanket. We like our comfort zone, yet we have to accept change." Ron says we must be "off the paper" in order to develop the song properly. Nice thought, Ron.

\* \* \*

Speaking of new music, the men of the **Siouxland Chorus** were learning some new songs for their church performances this summer. We note that several chapters are planning to "fill in" for regular church choirs during the summer vacation period. This can be an important contribution to your local community, also a source of new members. Thanks to Sharon Ocher and Tom Jones for their copies of the *Siouxland Saga*. We like Tom's lawyer jokes.

\* \* \*

Marvin Engel's February issue of *The Beatritone* reflects a lot of important activity for the **Homestead Harmonizers** of the Beatrice Chapter. Of particular note is the report of their highly successful annual show, which grossed about \$21,000, with expenses of \$7,000. Quite an accomplishment for a small chapter. By the way, Marv, what happened to your March and April issues? Hope they're on the way.

\* \* \*

We note that Dave Arnold, editor of *Dubuque's Chord Courier*, is now president of the Dubuque Chapter. He says he'll try not to *abuse* the fact that this gives him a second place in the bulletin to speak out. Dave is to be commended for his enthusiasm and dedication to his hobby. I recall that when I was putting out *Harmonotes* for Kansas City, I turned down the nominating committee's offer to place my name on the slate several times, simply because my job as BE was just about as much as I could handle efficiently. Dave, you're fortunate to have such a hard working staff. You all do an outstanding job.

\* \* \*

Jerry Stamp's collection of *Weeklys* was devoted mainly to preparatory work for the Iowa City Chapter's annual show on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The theme was "That OLD Gang of Mine," a gangster show, featuring **Acoustix**. Hope it was a resounding success, guys. Jerry did enclose a flyer for this

year's edition of the Eastern Iowa Cookie Festival to be held on May 6. We've been reading about this event for years, and it has always appeared to be a great fun activity. Hope they have a good turnout.

\* \* \*

In case you've been wondering how the **Sarpy Serenaders** of the Papillion Chapter got such an unusual name, we found this in Jerry Stamp's bulletin: "Like OCC, the Sarpy chorus was named for a local *feature*, Sarpy County. Not a bad fit! But why Sarpy? The county was named for Peter Abadie Sarpy, an important businessman of the early-to-mid 1800s. He was born in New Orleans and came to Nebraska Territory in 1823, with a stay for education in St. Louis. He business career began with his arrival in Nebraska. During the next 25 years, he owned trading posts and ferry services, laid out the town of Bellevue and started the post office there. In 1847, he ferried Mormons across the Missouri and helped outfit them for their continued journey. Later, he ferried would-be gold miners.

\* \* \*

It has to happen to every chapter at least once. Two weeks before the St. Louis Suburban Chapter was to hold their annual "Corned Beef and Cabbage" show, they were notified that their headline quartet, **Chicago Natural Gas**, would be unable to appear. As Editor John Conrad, who puts out *Suburban By-Lines* tells it, one of the CNG guys occasionally subs with **Chordiac Arrest**, the real good comedy quartet with the doctor skits and the clever lyrics to some of our well known songs. Well, this guy apparently "pulled a few strings and not doubt did a little begging" and got Chordiac Arrest to appear on the Suburban show. John says they came on two flights, one at 5:40 p.m. and the other at 6:10 p.m. The show started at 7 p.m., but all four guys made it in time to present their famous "good and funny" performance.

\* \* \*

Some of us old-timers can recall when the official charter issued by International to each new chapter contained a clause that restricted chapter and Society membership to "adult male Caucasians." Fortunately, that situation hasn't existed for many, many years. Cedar Rapids Past President Allan Harms expresses his concerns in J.P. Jones' *The Hawkseye* about the lack of diversity of mi-

nority members throughout the Society. Allan says this subject was discussed at the last two COTS sessions he attended, but there were no specific suggestions for resolving this situation. Allan makes an excellent point as he says, "... we should do nothing to hinder or discourage a minority man from involvement in our hobby. Let us each be sure that we present the right image to our fellow citizens and that we remove any perceived obstacles from standing in the way of membership and enjoyment of our hobby by any man of good character."

\* \* \*

President Al Kreher of the Florissant Valley Chapter has an interesting article in the March issue of the *Flo-Valley News*, edited by Leo Appelbaum, in which he describes his visits to chapters throughout the Society while he was in the U.S. Air Force, attending veterinary school, and since he joined Florissant Valley in 1979. Throughout the article this is the theme of being accepted quickly and enthusiastically by each group of men who enjoyed barbershop harmony. That's what barbershopping is all about, isn't it?

\* \* \*

The men of the Milbank Chapter were breathing a sigh of relief after their single-performance annual show came off as a huge success, unhampered by bad winter weather as can always be expected in the Dakotas during the middle of March. Jack Gable, editor of the *Milltones Newsletter*, tells us that the only glitch occurred when their headline quartet, **Nightlife**, arrived without their baggage and had to perform in their traveling clothes.

\* \* \*

On the other hand, Darrell Link, show chairman for the Springfield Chapter's annual show (which incidentally was scheduled on the same night as the Milbank show, March 13), describes "the record setting snowstorm ... that allowed our show to be just a 'great success' instead of a 'record setting smashing success.'" It helped that **Acoustix**, their headline quartet, had arrived the previous evening. The big headaches came as a result of having to assure ticket holders by telephone that "Yes, there will be a show," and when the Republic High School chorus director had to excuse a number of her singers prior to the evening show due to the weather.

\* \* \*

Writing in *The Pitch*, the Mason City Chapter bulletin, edited by Paul Krull, Stan Zinnel, v.p. for chapter development, describes a new program that is actually an old component of the **River City Chorus'** communication system that's been reintroduced and updated to meet the members' needs for the future. It involves a position called the "parts chairman." The person in this job will be responsible for recording attendance (late arrivals and early departures) and following up on absent members. He will also serve as part of the "eyes and ears" of the chapter, bringing matters of concern to the attention of those who should take action on them. This should be helpful in particular to new members who may have many questions regarding our organization and its operation. ✍

## Support Your Chapter Bulletin Write An Article

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

## How good are you?

By Gary Drown  
VP Marketing Public Relations

And, how good do you want to get? It's all about image.

How good are you – your quartet – chorus? Like it or not, how good you were the last time you performed is a reflection on every Barbershopper who belongs to our Society. So let's give it a test.

The last time you performed for an audience, did they applaud? Of course they did! With very few exceptions, people are nice. But did they REALLY applaud, like a standing ovation, or went up to you after the performance and shook your hand, clapped you on the back, told you they want to do what your just did?

Now that's a pretty good indication that you represented all of us in a very positive way. Without trying, you may have helped us all recruit a new member, and at the very least, convinced some mu-

sic types that this barbershop thing is a whole lot better than they ever thought.

On the other hand, if the applause was nothing more than polite people recognizing that you had enough guts to do what you just did, maybe we better ask the second question: How good do you want to get?

Here come the opportunities! You would be as welcome as the flowers in May (How about that?) if you came to the big mini-HEP weekend in St. Joe, June 11 through 13. They would open their arms to serve you if you decided to join the fellows at the South Dakota Festival or the Iowa City Cookie Festival, or the St. Louis Area barbershop party.

How about bringing your quartet, or as many members of your chorus as possible to the Labor Day Barbershop Bonanza at Kearney this year? It features Greg Lyne as clinician while you rub shoulders with Barbershoppers from all over the region, including our guest quartet **Three Men & A Melody**. How about making contact with one of the districts coaches just itching to give you a helping hand?

In a recent survey conducted by a young lady preparing a college thesis, 87 Barbershoppers were asked a series of questions regarding their hobby.

Interestingly, one of the questions was: "What are your major dislikes in barbershop singing?" The largest percentage answered, "Settling for mediocrity." How about you? Are you ready to take the next step? Let's get better fast!

Lots of opportunities! We'll be delighted to see you there! ✍

### Sound Legacy

1421 Sierra Dr. NE, Apt B  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402  
PH: 319-365-3492  
chrisjohnson1@prodigy.net  
www.marshallnet.com/~barirw

**Sound Legacy**

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John  
Chris

## HarmoNews from the HarmoNet

By Bruce Baedke

Pride of Iowa Chorus, Joyful Noise and Spice Guys Quartets

**The current news** is the scores and rankings of quartets at the various prelims. You can check out the scores online at the Harmonet Reporter's Score Page at:

<http://timc.pop.upenn.edu/scores/SCORES99.htm>

**To start off** the news part of the HarmoNews this issue we have a lot from CSD and the St. Charles area. First off, it looks like the St. Charles chorus has a new director. Jim Henry has officially resigned from the directorship due to added duties with his job and family. He and his wife Geda had a baby a girl, Geda Rose Henry, and all are doing fine.

Jim will continue to sing with the chorus and the **Gas House Gang**. David Wright has taken over the directorship of the **Ambassadors of Harmony**.

Kipp Buckner has gotten married as well. Kipp and Kirsten are also doing well.

**The new Boston Common** CD collection will contain 45 songs on two CDs, including their first four albums and six new songs they found they had recorded but never published. The CD will be available the beginning of April for shipment, and it will cost \$60. Anyone looking to order one should send a check/money order for \$60 to:

The Boston Common  
111 Summer Street,  
Hingham, Massachusetts 02043-1931

**A new Harmonet archive** with many good search features has been set up and may be accessed at:

<http://www.LouisvilleTimes.org/harmonet>

**Producers of a barbershop** television special shot last summer report that the program is now in the editing room and expects an August air date. "Can't Stop Singing" is the working title of the program, produced by Brandenburg Productions in association with Georgia Public Television and underwritten in part by the Public Broadcasting System (PBS).

American Movie Classics television host Nick Clooney has agreed to narrate the show, and expects to tape his segments in May.

Also of note, "Voices," a 1994 production of independent filmmaker Daniel Bushnell and star-

ring the **Vocal Majority**, aired on WLIW public television on Long Island and may see future public broadcasting appearances as a result.

**The Contemporary Accapella Society** of America (CASA) announced its awards for 1999.

The barbershop winners are:

Best Jazz Song: First Runner Up: "Be Of Love" -

SoVoSo (tie) "Unforgettable" - Acoustix

Best Barbershop Album: "Legacy" - Bluegrass Student Union

First Runner Up: "Aural Hygiene" - Metropolis

Best Barbershop Song: "Make 'Em Laugh" -

Keepsake

First Runner Up: "This Is The Moment" - For Heaven's Sake

**1981 champs Chicago News** are back together doing and accepting show bids.

Contact Joe Sullivan for more info at:

e-mail: [joesully@net-link.net](mailto:joesully@net-link.net)

**Kenosha had its first** online talk radio segment on March 31 for an hour from noon-1 p.m. Executive Director Darryl Flinn was interviewed. It was termed a success and future online events are being planned.

**Speaking of online** events, the annual champs reception for current champs **Revival** was also done online April 11. You can listen to it by checking out the Society's web page at:

<http://www.spebsqsa.org>

**The beginning of a separate** Usenet newsgroup for barbershop is currently being voted on. The results will be posted in the next issue of Harmonews from the Harmonet.

**The draw for order** of appearance for choruses was held in Toronto at the Society Board Management Council meeting on April 14. The following is the order as drawn (with the proviso that any chorus may indicate its wish to sing first in the contest. By rule, any chorus wishing to sing first must notify the Society President in writing within 14 days from the posting of the order of appearance. If more than one chorus indicates a wish to sing first, a subsequent draw will take place among those choruses).

Here is the order of appearance:

1. Stockholm Chordmasters - SNOBS
2. Thames Valley Chorus - BABS
3. Chorus of the Genesee - SLD
4. Music Central - SWD



## Old Capitol Chorus, show patrons donate to Iowa City fire victims

By David Haase

On the early morning of Friday, March 26, a devastating fire broke out in the basement of Mondo's Sports Café in downtown Iowa City. The fire destroyed the restaurant, the Iowa Hair Cutting Co. and damaged a dozen other businesses. Above Mondo's were 12 apartments rented out primarily to University of Iowa students.

Miraculously, no one was killed or injured in the fire, one of the largest in downtown Iowa City's history. However, many of them shivered in the cold before their friends or the American Red Cross supplied them with warm clothing. Almost all of them found a place to stay with relatives or friends.

The tenants, again primarily University of Iowa students, lost clothing, furniture, books, mementos and souvenirs. At least one lost a pet. Only a couple of the tenants had insurance.

Other tenants also had belongings in their cars – which they couldn't open because they'd left their car keys in their apartments.

I first received the news of the fire while I was at work. I'm a third shifter at a local convenience store. Customers fed me the news as they came in. After work I went to the site of the fire to take a look. The fire was still raging and by the look of things the building was a total loss.

When I got home and turned on the news it was then I found out about the students who lived in the apartments above the restaurant. I knew right then the **Old Capitol Chorus** had to help.

That evening I contacted Jim Brown, chapter president, and Fred Grems, show chairman, to see what they thought about taking up a collection at the show the next night. That decision would have to come from the board, who decided a statement would be made at the show's intermission.

Details of the fire were given to the show's audience. Monies were needed to help rebuild the lives of the uninsured, needing money for clothes, new books for school, and new housing. It was announced the money collected would be given to Grant Wood Area Chapter of the American Red Cross to be distributed to the fire victims. \$250.00 was raised that night for the fire victims.

"I think it is important that we help out the community when a crisis like this arises," said Jim Brown, Chapter President. "The chapter is part of the community."

A couple days later the American Red Cross announced it had given out approximately \$30,000 to help the victims purchase new clothes, buy food and help pay for temporary housing. So far the Red Cross has collected \$5,000 in donations.

If you wish to help out the American Red Cross in this cause, you can mail a donation to: American Red Cross, 328 South Clinton Street, Suite #6, Iowa City, IA, 52240 or call 319-337-2119 ✉

## A map of the past

By Jim Nugent, Historian

"History is not the past. It is a map of the past to be made useful to the modern traveler."

—Washington Post editorial

Society Historians Wilbur Sparks and Dean Snyder have compiled a manual titled "The Role Society Historians at the District and Chapter Levels."

The manual is available from the Harmony Marketplace. From that manual come these "suggestions and recommendations," in somewhat abridged form, for chapter (and district) historians.

1. Society history should be recognized as a program activity at all district and chapter levels.
2. Each chapter president should appoint a historian. So that his work may be evaluated, historian should make regular (at least annual) reports to the board of directors.
3. Continuity is important and the historian who serves best is reappointed for as long as he is doing a good job and is willing to serve.
4. The historian should have a budget in support of his work. He should prepare and submit a workplan for consideration by the budget making authority.
5. The historian should present his work regularly. Such presentations may be written material,

but they may involve the preparation of visual displays or exhibits. He should consider any or all of the following:

- A column under the historian's by-line as a continuing series in each chapter bulletin. Articles marking chapter milestones in district publications.

- A one or two-page capsule history as a handy reference for chapter members.

- Preparation of more elaborate historical books or brochures at significant intervals, such as TEN, TWENTY OR THIRTY year histories.

- History can be made vivid with scrapbooks containing pictures, programs, bulletins, clippings, correspondence, etc.

- If your chorus or quartet has cut a record, tape or CD, or if a chapter member has composed or arranged some barbershop music, that should become a part of your history.

- Free standing tabletop exhibits can be eye-catching ways of presenting our history.

Having said that, I am proposing that each chapter prepare a freestanding table top exhibit which can be displayed at the 1999 district convention in Cedar Rapids. More about that later. ☞

## Events review

By Bill McLaurine, VP Events

We have just concluded a very successful spring convention in Sioux City, Iowa, thanks in large part to the hard work of the Sioux City Chapter and the district convention team. We had over 600 registrations and all Barbershoppers in attendance had a chance to participate in many varied non-competitive activities, from tag singing, to learning how contests are judged, to singing on-stage in a chorus.

The quality of competition in the Plateau A chorus contest was excellent, as was the quartet competition.

The Events and Convention Team will now turn their attention to the upcoming division contests and to the 1999 fall convention, scheduled for Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on October 3-5.

As you will read in other articles in this issue, the district board has decided to hold a chorus

contest in conjunction with each division quartet contest. The chorus contest is NOT mandatory for chapters who want to compete in the district spring or fall contests, but it will provide chapters a chance to compete, be judged, and possibly win an award as division chorus champion. Awards will be given in each plateau in which chapters are entered. This will provide another opportunity for our members to improve their singing skills and enjoy the rewards that come with friendly competition.

The division contests will be held as follows:

**Northwest** Division, Saturday, April 17, Sioux City, Iowa (completed)

**Southwest** Division, Saturday, July 17, St. Joseph, Mo.

**Northeast** Division, Saturday, August 14, Ottumwa, Iowa

**Southeast** Division, Saturday, August 28, St. Louis, Mo.

The District Convention Team and the hosting chapters will work to make these events memorable and a pleasure to attend. Talk to your chapter members now and start working on your package. Information will be provided to each chapter regarding how to register, location of each contest, etc.

Also, a reminder to register NOW for the 1999 CSD Mini-Harmony College to be held at Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph, Mo., on June 11, 12 and 13. Winston Rashleigh has lined up a stellar group of instructors and this promises to be a great weekend at a very reasonable price. ☞

TENOR — DEAN KRUSE	LEAD — KEN VOGEL
MEMBERS SPEBSQSA, INC.	
<b>THE VIGORTONES</b>	
CONTACT: Bob Nance, 3140 Norman Dr. Marion, IA 52302 319/393-9561	
BARITONE — DICK KRUSE	BASS — BOB NANCE

# By Line

By Byron Myers, VP Music and Performance

I thought I would share some of my thoughts about the spring convention weekend.

I was very pleased when 49 men took the opportunity to be evaluated vocally. It came as no surprise that the number one need was understanding the proper techniques to achieve singers breath.

Three of our judges, Steve Jamison, Ray Rymer, and Joe Connelly, came in Saturday morning to help for awhile. What a special opportunity for those singers who got to work for them.

Some truly great voices were displayed in my sessions and not one bad one.

I will recommend that in the future the individual sessions be expanded to one half hour each. And I will find at least two more instructors to help.

The Mini-HEP school coming in June will provide more opportunities for individuals, quartets and choruses to improve themselves.

Back to the contest weekend. What a great quartet and chorus contest. The scores were good, and it was especially significant that some choruses that have been absent for quite awhile were back at the contest. *Improvement* was the magic word and my congratulations to those who did just that.

A special note to the directors reading this: Take advantage of those special opportunities at the Mini-HEP school, the Directors College, and Chorus Directors Workshop Intensive (CDWI). Larry Mon-

son administrates this program for the district. Give him a call.

The quartet portion of the contest was terrific. We are looking forward to 12<sup>th</sup> Street Rag's representation of our district and are still hoping that **Sound Legacy** will get a wild card. We should be especially proud of the fact that Central States was one of only two districts to have five college quartets vying for the opportunity to represent us at the International College Quartet Contest. My guess?

You will see **Millennium** at or near the top in Anaheim.

What is the value of competition? It gives the participant an evaluation of their performance level compared to their peers, but it also provides specifics on what needs improving. We should always strive to sing and perform as well as we can.... EVERY TIME we sing and to try to get better. Why? Because we can.

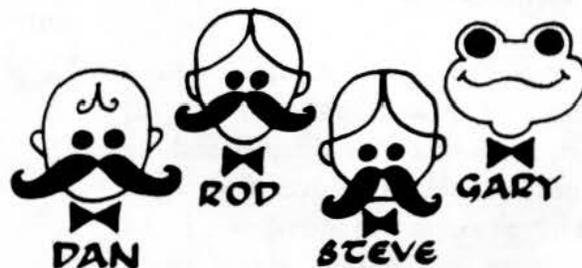
I have been asked to initiate the Standing Ovation Program.

Which simply stated means a qualified evaluator comes to a major performance of your chorus or quartet and does an evaluation for you. The evaluation is given to you and only you. What you do with it at that point is up to you. If you're interested in being evaluated, send a request to me. If you are interested in being an evaluator, send me your request along with your qualifications. We will need enough evaluators to cover all of the district's geography.

This is an opportunity to increase your entertainment for yourself, your fellow Barbershoppers, and especially your paying public.

Board and HOD action during the contest weekend has expanded to provide an opportunity for choruses to gain valuable experience by allowing the Divisional contests to include choruses. There is no requirement to participate. Just the opportunity to be evaluated and receive some help. The highest scoring chorus in each level (A, AA, AAA) in each division will be named divisional champion. Hope to see you there. Thanks for a great weekend. ☺

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## Where are we going?

By Clyde Stant, (alias) Wiley Nodine  
Lead, Springfield Music Co.

I have been a member of the SPEBSQSA for 28 years. I have also had the great privilege of singing in a quartet for 25 of that 28 years. Our quartet has had the pleasure to have performed on approximately 200 Barbershop and Sweet Adeline shows during that time, and around 600 corporate functions and shows in Branson, Mo., plus many personal performances.

We have also competed many times throughout those years. We have always been primarily a comedy show quartet. We have been featured on shows all across the country, which included many shows with International Champions.

The thing that really attracted me to barbershopping in the very beginning was the fellowship and the sharing of our great hobby. Enough being said about all that, let's move on to the real meat of what I think is getting to be a real problem in our Society.

As our quartet is doing shows across the country, there is something we are hearing more of everywhere we go. Guys in chapters will say, "We wanted to have this past International Champion or another, but it would cost \$5000 or \$6000 or more, and our small chapter just cannot afford it."

I am just wondering, what happened to the days when we as quartets shared our talents with our fellow Barbershoppers simply because of our love of our very unique hobby? I feel that when quartets charge so much money to do chapter shows that it takes away a lot of opportunity to spread the attraction and the excitement of barbershopping, to fellow Barbershoppers as well as the general public. The public is what we are depending on to come and join us in this great hobby.

My intent is not to offend anyone; however, I think that maybe we should look upon winning the gold as an honor to be shared among every member in our Society and not something to be compared to the winning of the lottery.

Our quartet in 25 years has never distributed a dime to any of our members for personal use. We have not increased our singing fee in at least 15 years, and do not plan to do so. We decided long ago that we would use money that we earned from

doing shows to use to go to contests and conventions, not only to enjoy what we share as a group, but also to share with fellow Barbershoppers.

I think that this is one thing that can be done to help a declining membership in our Society. Let's start getting back to the basic reason that brought most of us into this hobby and quit trying to supplement our 401Ks and our IRA accounts with something that I feel is meant to be a hobby.

Let's simply share an extraordinary experience that seems to be more rare in this day and time. I think it would do an awful lot more to help us increase the membership in our Society. I merely hope that the sounds of the cash register do not drown out the noise that this opinion might cause.

Please, let us continue what is, and always has been, something that everywhere we Barbershoppers go seems to put a smile on the face of everyone who comes in contact, with this great thing called **BARBERSHOP HARMONY**. ✍

## AORTA

By Jim Nugent

After two postponements because of January and February weather, an Area Officer Round Table Academy (AORTA) was held in Joplin, Missouri, on March 20. Based upon the philosophy that chapter officers can, with the help of chapter coaches, help each other by sharing their experience and enthusiasm. AORTA is a follow up to COTS and includes some informal presentations and lots of informal discussion.

Attending the meeting were chapter officers from Joplin and Springfield, Missouri, and Bella Vista, Arkansas.

Topics discussed were Vision and Mission Statements, Chapter Management, Chapter Development, Meeting Programs, Music Team, Communications, Budget, Youth Outreach and Marketing.

Leading the discussion were Chapter Coaches, Quentin Gates and Jim Nugent, and Greater Ozarks Chapter officers, Hank Biere, Gale Demaree and Chuck Scherz. ✍

## Forty years ago in the *Serenade*

By Jim Nugent, Historian

Mike Michel was editor of the *Serenade* in 1959.

Florissant Valley Chapter was chartered with an average attendance of about 35. Florissant Valley was originally called NORTH (St. Louis) COUNTY CHAPTER. On January 22, in near-blizzard weather, 26 men signed the charter. More signatures were added the following week. President was Milton Berghoefer and secretary was George E. Dain, Sr.

Herb Wall of Springfield and Chuck Abernethy of Wichita were certified in Stage Presence and Pete Tyree, Colorado Springs, was certified in Harmony Accuracy.

To offset increased costs of doing business and additional program events, the price of the International Convention registration was set at \$15.00 per person beginning in 1960.

If you sang in a quartet which was organized in 1947 or before, you could sing in the third annual Olde Tymers Quartet jamboree which was to be held April 4th in Kansas City at the American Legion Memorial building, Linwood and Paseo. The BARTLESVILLE BARFLIES, BEACON FOUR, BMA GAMBOLIERS, CESSNA AIRES, FLYING "L", HAWKEYE FOUR, KANSAS CITY SERENADERS, KEYMASTERS, KEYNOTERS and ROYALAIRES were among the registrants.

The CONFEDERATES brought down the house at the Columbia, Mo., show at Hickman High February 14.

W.C. "Bill" Harper returned to direct Wichita's chorus for their 20<sup>th</sup> annual parade that featured the MID-STATES FOUR and the GAY NOTES. ✍

## Report from Society Board *To the House of Delegates meeting, spring convention*

By Lud Einess, Immediate Past President

I bring you greetings from Ed Waesche, Society Pres., Darryl Flinn, Society Exec. Dir., and Bill Stock, Society Board Member representing Illinois and Central States District.

First the bad news – The year of 1998 was a tough year for the Society. The Society was expecting a lean year, with a loss of over \$100,000.00. This was mainly due to all the training we were doing. What they didn't expect was that 1998 would be the first year in seven years where the end of the year expenses exceeded the income for the year. While salaries were two and a half percent less than budgeted and other expenses were almost four percent less than budgeted, the income for '98 was four and a half percent less than budgeted. This was due in part to a drop in membership dues income. The 1999 budget should gain about \$18,000.00 for the treasury.

Membership again dropped in 1998, with a loss of 233 members for the year. This puts membership at 33,764. Only four districts did not – show a loss in 1998. CSD was not one of them. With only 39 percent of all the chapters in the Society enrolled in the "Chapter Challenge" program, membership is fighting an uphill battle. Our only gains were shown in "Retention Awards" outdoing the "Recruitment Awards." CSD has lost 39 members the first quarter of 1999.

On a positive note, based on the age demographics of new and reinstated members, the average age of these new members is 47, one year younger than last year. That is just enough to keep our members average age of 59 years old from getting any higher.

Service project – Harmony Foundation: Had a good year with a gain of 15 percent over 1997, with total cash collected of \$664,126.00. However, monies raised for SingAmerica and SingCanada, Heartspring and Heritage Hall Museum were 15 percent less than 1997. The year's increase was due mainly to endowment fund contributions. Total endowment gifts are now projected to be over \$6,000,000.00, or 30 percent higher than 1997. So



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you see, your gifts do add up and please continue to encourage your chapters and members to support Harmony Foundation service projects. You can still direct where you want your money to go.

The Mid-Winter Convention in Biloxi, Mississippi, was outstanding both in attendance and contest and shows. Some information from the board meeting in Biloxi: The quartet and semi-finals will be held one day earlier than before to allow convention goers to visit Disney Land and other attractions. The AIC will have only one show this year featuring 12 quartets and the AIC chorus. The show will be Friday evening.

Plans are being made to form two 100-man choruses to provide attendees the opportunity to sing in a large chorus. You can sign up for this event at the convention, or if you are a first time attendee, you'll be able to register when you receive your convention package.

A big thanks was given to the following districts: Central States, Illinois, Dixie, Evergreen, Far Western, Johnny Appleseed, Land O' Lakes, Mid-Atlantic, Rocky Mountain, Southwestern and Sunshine for helping us "grow Young Together" with their putting on Youth Outreach programs and activities like camps, festivals and schools. Let us stay aggressive in this area. Today's youth are tomorrow's members. Thanks to Duane Lawson, CSD Youth Outreach VP for all his hard work and effort.

Some other board actions were:

- ❖ The 1999 quartet qualifying scores were kept 76 points per judge (1,824 for a double panel, 3,627 for a triple panel).
- ❖ Beginning this year, contestants in the International chorus contest may request to sing first in the contest, but such a request must be made in writing and received by the Society president within 14 days publication of the draw to be considered. This year the drawing will be made on April 14 and put on the Internet April 15. A new drawing will be held no later than seven days after any such requests are received, i.e., no later than May 6.
- ❖ The MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest rules were changed effective January 29, 1999. Now the contest is open to young men who are or will be 17-25 inclusive on the date of the International level contest for the contest year.

- ❖ Districts will be doing five-year planning in the future, with a standard format to be developed by the summer 2000 Society board meeting in Kansas City.

The Society treasurer is now a member of the Board Management Council and no longer an automatic member of the Planning and Program Development Group. As CFO of the Society, he is responsible for providing financial oversight for, and advice and counsel to, the board, including supervision of the development of the Society budget and financial policies and practices.

Look for the new "Chorus Director" manual, which is to be shipped to every chorus director around May 1. ✍

## Understanding the arm waver better

By Kevin Gross, Assistant Director  
*The Hawks Eye*, J.P. Jones, Editor, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

One evening while directing Barberpole Cat songs, I came across a song with which I wasn't familiar and my comments were, "I will work on it and we can sing it another night." The reply I heard was, "Just direct and we will follow!" I think it's important to know what directing a group entails.

Much as many of you believe, directing is NOT standing in front of a group and waving the arms. There is a great deal of work that goes in directing...whether it is classical conducting, church choirs or barbershop choruses. To begin, the director has to know how to sing EVERY voice part that is in the music. I can do that with a few of our songs.

I don't know about you, but I am very impressed that Chorus Director Paul Fuhrman can go to the middle part of a song (without music) and sing any of the voices. This is a skill that, as a director, I need to acquire a great deal more practice. The director also needs to know where the voices move – ALL THE VOICES. It is very ineffectual if the director motions a voice...and it isn't supposed to do so!

In addition, there is also the interpretation of the song. Yes, it is true that everyone has his own idea of how to interpret music and there is nothing wrong with that. In fact, sometimes it is wise for the director to seek advice from others on interpretation, but it is the director who has to make the final decision in order for the song to be successful. Heck, I frequently turn to my colleagues for interpretation advice. If I like it, I will use it...if not, I chuck it.

Last, but not least, there is the waving of the arms. This is the way in which a conductor (or director) tells a group to be louder, softer, hold a note longer, change tempo, etc. It is here that he/she gives meaning to the interpretation of the song.

As you see, there is more to directing than just getting up and waving the arms. It is a process that has many facets and is not as easy as it may seem. ✍

*Reckless  
Abandon*

Lead - John  
Tenor - Larry  
Bass - Mike  
Bari - Chad

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

## Reflections of a Barbershopper

By John Ries, Chapter Coach

*Barbershop Gazette*, Leonard Lippert, Editor,  
Aberdeen, S.D.

Barbershop quarteting and belonging with the Barbershop Quartet Society is not unique in that it is a VOLUNTEER organization. Volunteering happens in many organizations at many levels. In our organization, it is the main goal (for many) to actively volunteer to join your voice with others to make a very unique sound. Within our "thing," there are many other volunteers who need to be around to make the sound the best it can be (considering it is volunteers who are singing).

1. The music team (yes, the director), but also those guys who help get the chapter [lively]

with as much musicality as possible: section leaders; teaching quartet members; music selection team; quartet promotion man; music librarian; those guys who cheer on new quartets...guys who take the chance and sing with a quartet...etc.

2. Those guys who give a little bit extra to make things happen. – The guys who help move risers, the guy who takes charge of the props; the guy with the uniforms; the guy who monitors our members who may be ill; the fella who "volunteers" a joke; the wife who lets her man come sing with us; the guy who offers his Sunday for being at our singout church; the guy who takes care of treats; script writers; and many more...you get the idea.
3. Those guys who take a bit more active lead within the Barbershop Quartet Society: Our own chapter president and our officers; our district officers and the support members; the Society-level officers and their wives; the talented quartet members; arrangers; coaches and enthusiasts who offer to come to YOUR chapter to help you grow. (This happens WAY MORE OFTEN THAN WE KNOW!)

My little blurb here is to thank each and every one of you for being here when I want to sing four-part harmony. It is so true: I can't sing this stuff without you! Thank you for being there.

Each one of us as a little gift that someone else might utilize for a bit, whether it be an interpretation of a song, a breath – or a push through the phrase to give some energy to that phrase; or being able to sing the baritone part; or a consonant that usually gets missed; or tell a joke; or singing in tune; or singing in correct tone and timbre; or maybe just only a glance or a smile. God knows our personal needs and we often times "give" without knowing it. Thank you for being there.

We all come from a different place and leave Monday night practice to go our separate ways. Isn't it great that we can come together for this weekly "instance" to join our voices in harmony? Not just harmony, but....BARBERSHOP HARMONY! Thanks, guys, each and EVERY ONE OF YOU.

Also, if you've ever been to a barbershop convention, you KNOW of the talent that volunteers for this hobby. Take one in if you can. It's GREAT to be a BARBERSHOPPER! ✍

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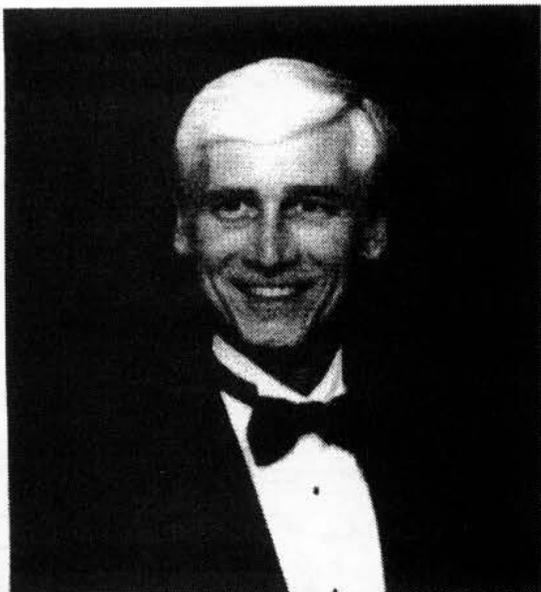
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LABOR DAY WEEK-END  
SEPTEMBER 3 & 4, 1999



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Editor's address is on page two

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## Chapter Shows Schedule

Reported by Gale Demaree, Secretary

- Apr. 30, May 1** – Cedar Rapids, Iowa (Harmony Hawks) – Theater Cedar Rapids  
**May 8** – St. Joseph, Mo. – St. Joseph Theater  
Papillion, Neb. – Papillion-LaVista High School  
Leavenworth, Kan. – Performing Arts Center  
**15** – Hutchinson, Kan. – 4H Encampment Bldg.  
Kansas City, Mo. – Music Hall  
**22** – Lincoln, Neb. – Lied Center of Performing Arts  
**Sep. 18-19** – Hastings, Neb. – City Auditorium  
**Nov. 6** – Sioux City, Iowa – Epply Auditorium

## 2000

- Feb. 26** – Ames, Iowa – Ames City Auditorium  
**Mar. 25** – Overland Park, Kan. – Johnson County Community College  
**Apr. tba** – Des Moines, Iowa – Des Moines Civic Center  
**28-29** – Cedar Rapids, Iowa (Harmony Hawks) – Theater Cedar Rapids

## District and Society Events

- June 11-13** – Mini-HEP School, St. Joseph, Mo.  
**June 27-July 4** – International convention, Anaheim, Calif.  
**July 17** – Southwest Division Contest, St. Joseph, Mo.  
**Aug. 1-8** – Harmony College/Director's College, St. Joseph, Mo.  
**14** – Northeast Division Contest, Ottumwa, Iowa  
**28** – Southeast Division Contest, St. Louis, Mo., combined with St. Louis Area Contest,  
Jefferson Community College, Hillsboro, Mo.  
**Oct. 1-3** – Fall district convention, Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
**Nov. TBA** – Chapter Operations Training Seminar (COTS) – To Be Announced