



# Serenade

*The Official Publication of the Central States District of the Barbershop Harmony Society*

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November 2007

## **CSD Fall Convention in Kansas City:**

**High Definition - CSD Quartet Champions**

**St. Charles Ambassadors of Harmony – AAA Chorus Champions**

**Mason City River City Chorus - AA Chorus Champions**



**The 2007 Central States District Chorus Champions, Ambassadors of Harmony.  
Photo courtesy of Monica Ellis.**

**Convention coverage starts on page 3**

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## Society Events on the Horizon

**Mid-Winter Convention – San Antonio, Texas  
Jan. 23-27, 2008**

**CSD Spring Convention – Iowa City, Iowa  
April 18-20, '08**

**International Convention - Nashville, TN  
June 29-July 6, 2008**

**CSD Fall Convention - Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
Oct 10-12, 2008**

**2008 BMAL will be Randy Fischer, Beatrice, NE replacing Dean Trapp, whose term ends at the end of 2007. Thanks to Dean for his service to the District.**

**2008 Paired District Board Member will be Greg Caetano (Chicago), who will begin a three-year term. Our big thanks to CSD's John Marshall who has represented both CSD and Illinois Districts on the Society Board.**

## Central States District Serenade

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Additional photo credits this issue: Monica Ellis, Don Fuson

**NEXT Submission Deadline for articles and advertisements:**

**January 10  
(print edition)**

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#### CSD Hall of Fame 2007

Jurassic Larks





## AOH, HIGH DEFINITION SOAR TO CSD TITLES

By Jim Bagby,  
CSD C&J Administrator

The triple panel of judges for the Central States District 2007 fall competition went away duly impressed with the competition, as well they should have. Sixteen choruses and 30 quartets paraded across Kansas City's venerable Music Hall with nothing lower than a mid-C score. Some districts that have qualifying rounds to get into the fall contest would have trouble matching that record.

And at the other end of the scores, the St. Charles **Ambassadors of Harmony** rang up a 93.2 average with another brilliant championship performance that puts Jim Henry's chorus in the thick of contention for the gold in Nashville this coming summer. **Heart of America** was a distant second, followed by new AA double champion **Mason City**, while **Fremont** claimed fourth place and **Des Moines** earned the AAA most-improved award while moving into fifth place. The **Lincoln Continentals** earned the AA most-improved citation.

In the quartet contest, new arrival **High Definition** posted a surprising 80.8 average Friday night and scored 81.7 Saturday night to become our 2007 CSD quartet champs. Members are Rob Mathieu, Mark and John Fortino of Kansas City and Adam Veteto from Springfield.



2007 CSD Quartet Champions, High Definition. From l-r, Rob Mathieu, Mark Fortino, Adam Veteto, and John Fortino.

Mathieu sang with last year's champs, **Quadrio**, who have replaced him with veteran Rick Kready. **Quadrio** passed on the trophy Saturday night and made a fine swan song presentation. The Fortinos just retired from **12th Street**

**Rag**, 14-time competitors in international competition; the two-state quartet made its final CSD appearance Friday night on the past champs show, with original bass Keith Schweer, current bass Barry Moore and original tenor Kready. Veteto, although just a college student, sang two years ago with his dad, Jeff; veteran CSD lead David Krause, and Mathieu in **Grandstand**.

Veteran **Paradigm** of Des Moines, back from year's absence, took second with a 73.6-point average. Rounding out the top five were new foursome **Boulevard** from Cedar Rapids and Des Moines and the young **Blue Notes** from St. Charles (tied for third), and **Mighty Fine!** from Kansas City and Topeka in fifth.



Paradigm, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in CSD quartet contest – (L to R) Randy Weir, Rob Larsen, Curt Meier and Jon Vaughan.

**Catalyst**, from Des Moines and Lincoln, again earned the right to represent CSD at the Society's international senior quartet competition in January 2008 in San Antonio. Now in the mostly silver-haired quartet are Gene Lutz, Jim Thomas, Denny Paulsen and Dale Comer. Catalyst was one of five senior quartets competing in Kansas City. The foursome, with a different bass, was a fifth-place medalist at the January 2007 Mid-Winter Convention.



Catalyst, 2007 CSD Senior Representative

Our 2007 CSD Novice Champs are **Front Stage**, from Sioux City, Iowa, and Fremont, Neb. They placed 20th among the 30 quartets who made it to Kansas City (we had one scratch the day of the draw and one the day of the contest). Quartet members are Gary Boggs, Jeffrey Krull, Gary Bathurst and Thomas Keenan. Front stage was among four novice foursomes in K.C.



**Front Stage, 2007 CSD Novice Quartet Champions**

In the chorus field, 12 of 16 entrants scored at a B-level of above, and another missed by less than one point. And the other three choruses were just a few points below a B. Any of our judges can tell you that's a remarkable accomplishment, which speaks very well of the quality of our district and the CSD musical leadership. Five of the 16 choruses, incidentally, were Plateau A members -- and if you'll check out the scoresheet elsewhere on the CSD web site, you'll see they acquitted themselves very well.

In fact, Black Hawk Metro's **Proud Image**, the Plateau A champs from the spring, finished sixth overall with 24 men on stage. I hope that says to you, small chorus that was not in Kansas City, "say, we don't have to wait until we have a mob to go compete -- maybe we ought to give Iowa City a try this spring. Or Cedar Rapids next fall." Wichita and Columbia both had fewer than 20 singers on stage, and I bet if you ask either of those chapters, they'll say the entire experience was worthwhile -- both being part of the competition, and getting to hear the other choruses and quartets.



## Looking Ahead to 2008 By Don Fuson, CSD President

We have some great harmonies from the CSD Fall Convention still ringing in our heads, and we are still celebrating the sounds of those quartets (some old with a familiar style; some new with new sounds and new faces). If you missed the weekend in Kansas City, well, just ask someone if it was worth the time and travel. Bet they'll tell you it was a good one.

So now every member can take a quick look back for your chapter. What goals were set? What expectations did your and other members indicate that the chapter should have that would bring fun, singing, potential new members and some new audiences for the chapter?

How did the chapter planning prepare the steps to reach these goals? How did the chapter successfully get some new leaders from the membership in order to reach and complete the scheduled events?

There is probably some axiom about organizations that would be true for most chapters in CSD. It might go something like this:

You can envision a new place to take the chapter in 2008.

You can identify what the chapter members would have to do to reach that place.

You can talk to the other members about supporting this new vision.

You can see that great things happen when everyone has the same goal in mind.

So what is YOUR first step to make that happen?

We know where you will be if you just do the same things.

Your chapter leaders probably talk about these things during the course of the year. Every chapter enjoys leadership through those members who have been there, done that before. We owe a big thanks for 2007 to them.

By now, each chapter also has completed the election of officers for 2008. Welcome some new members who are stepping into some chapter role. Encourage them to attend CSD COTS and share and learn with other chapter officers who have similar issues and opportunities. Each one is seeking to bring more fun, music and members to your chapter in 2008.

But now YOU. You can be involved in the planning, in the alternatives and in the execution of the plans. It is your chapter. You can get involved and help chart a new course to reach the 2008 goals.

What will be YOUR first step to help make that happen?

Come Celebrate the **Hays High Plains Barbershop Chorus**

# 40th ANNIVERSARY SHOW

**Sat., April 12, 2008**

featuring **Vocal Spectrum**  
2006 International Champs

and **Metropolis**  
Five Time International Bronze Medalist

**\$10 in advance | \$12 at the door**

**FOR TICKET INFORMATION CONTACT DON BARBER**  
**785-625-8932 or 785-625-2274**

2pm and 7pm  
Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center  
of Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS





## Jim Bagby, Jurassic Larks Honored at Convention



Jim Bagby, the retiring director of the Heart of America Chorus, is honored by the Ambassadors of Harmony and the Heart of America Chorus with a rendition of "Friends."



John Marshall, the 2006 Hall of Fame recipient, presents the Jurassic Larks with their 2007 Hall of Fame Award.



Jim Bagby feels the love from his CSD friends.



Society Executive Director Ed Watson congratulates the Jurassic Larks on their entry into the CSD Hall of Fame.



AOH director Jim Henry gives Jim Bagby a big hug.



## Three CSD Judges Honored with Emeritus Award

By Jim Bagby, District C&J Administrator

This year, more than two-dozen retired judges, living and dead, were nominated for the singular honor of Judge Emeritus. Eleven were chosen by the Society Contest and Judging Committee. And three of those come from the Central States District. That's a significant number in more ways than one. Since the award was created in the early '80s, the CSD has had only six men so honored. They are: **PETE TYREE** of Kansas City and Wichita, and now living in Colorado Springs, in 1985...the late **C.V. "PETE" PETERSON** of Kansas City in 1989...**JIM BEUTEL** of Louisville and Kansas City, and now singing in Phoenix, in 1986...the late **MIKE HINES** of Des Moines, and **HOWARD MESCHER** of Davenport and now the Far Western District, both in 1997...and the late **JOHN STUCKER** of Kansas City in 2006.

Here are the 2007 CSD honorees:

**M.O. OSMOND "OZ" NEWGARD** - Certified as a Balance and Blend judge in 1960, shortly before he became director of the "Alexandria Harmonizers" in the Mid-Atlantic District. When he retired from government service in 1974, he turned the chorus over to Scott Werner and moved to Kansas City. He became a senior Sound Judge and had 29 years of C&J service when he died in 1979. We will share display of this plaque with the Harmonizers, who like the Heart of America Chorus, have a musical award named in Ozzie's honor.

**ALAN IVES** -- A second-generation Barbershopper and son of a gold medalist quartet man, Alan won his first quartetting spurs in Dallas, where he sang with a Southwestern District championship quartet, the "Roustabouts." The tenor, Al Kvanli, went on to win gold with the "Dealer's Choice." Sears transferred Alan to the Kansas City area and CSD. He was certified in the old Balance and Blend category in 1965, and served as category specialist from 1974-1976, then helped create the new Sound category. Alan was awarded Senior Status in 1979 and retired from the C&J program in 1981 after 17 years. Among the groups he coached was the Rural Route 4.

**LANCE HEILMANN** - Began his barbershopping career with the Lawrence Barberhawks, and later was instrumental in the success of the Heart of America Chorus and the RR4. He was certified as judge in the old Interpretation Category in 1976. He went on to judge in the Dixie and Johnny Appleseed District, and coached international championship quartets and choruses. When he retired in the Presentation Category in 2003, he had served 28 years as a judge.

All three of their plaques read:

THE CONTEST AND JUDGING COMMITTEE HEREBY BESTOWS THE TITLE OF JUDGE EMERITUS IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR MANY YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE, OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AND EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CONTEST AND JUDGING PROGRAM.



## Men of Note Honored at CSD Convention

By Dean Beckman, CSD Membership VP

Congratulations to all our great competitors at Kansas City! While at the convention we celebrated a number of accomplishments of many members within the CSD.

Men receiving acknowledgment for their recruiting emphasis during their lifetime having recruited between 25-49 new members:

<b>Gary Drown</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Jim Bagby</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Jim Nugent</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Harlan Knoke</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>John Becker</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Lowell McCulley</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Pete Stibor</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Roger Lusk</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Gene Zeimet</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Jerry Easter</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Russ Craig</b>	<b>27</b>

Men also receiving certificates for recruiting 2-4 new members from January '07 thru June '07:

<b>Bemo Myers</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Jeremy Albright</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Bruce Martin</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Pete Stibor</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Roland Pond</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Michael Owen</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Tom Wishart</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Ryan Person</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Walter Reichstadter</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Stew Grosser</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Robert Murphy</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Kevin Schwery</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Danny Zammit</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Steve Papson</b>	<b>2</b>

Continued on page 8

**Music Men of Note continued from page 7**

Each of the men who recruited over 2 new members were offered front row seats for themselves and their spouse/companion at the contest! We hope to be able to continue this opportunity for those members going "above and beyond" in their recruitments. Start your recruiting attempts now and you may also have the pleasure of **Front Row Seats** at the next convention!

CSD remains a leader in recruitment within the Society. From January through September '07 CSD members have recruited 130 new members. That places CSD in the # 3 position for recruitment within the Society. Let's continue to strive for #1 in recruitment!



**Dean Beckman, CSD Membership VP, honors Gene Zeimet of the Des Moines, Iowa Chapter for lifetime achievement in bringing in 27 new members.**



**Other honorees present for the Music Men of Note lifetime achievement award for bringing in 25- 49 new members are: Pete Stibor, Gary Drown, Jim Bagby, Jerry Easter and Jim Nugent.**

Look forward to hearing exciting news about "**Homecoming 2008**"! Your Chapter President and Membership VP have been given info regarding this Society/District/Chapter Celebration to be lifted up throughout the Society during the coming year. Get your Chapter involved and Celebrate Homecoming! If you haven't heard about this celebration from you Chapter Officers, please contact me and I can share with you the good news.

Remember –  
Membership is #1, Recruiting is #1, Retention is #1.

Keep up the good work!



**Certified Directors Recognized at CSD Convention**

**By Bob Aderholt, CSD Music and Performance Program Administrator**

At the recent CSD Fall Convention and contests, while the judges were tabulating the scores of the chorus contest, **District President Don Fuson** announced to the audience that **Lonnie Miner**, Hastings, Neb. Chorus of the Plains; and **Lynn Trapp**, Sioux City, Iowa, Siouxlander Chorus; had recently been designated Certified Directors of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Miner and Trapp were presented their Certified Director pins and certificates by CSD Music and Performance Program Administrator Bob Aderholt.

Both Minor and Trapp are directors of their respective choruses. Each has attended Directors College at Harmony University as well as taken several "self-study" courses to complete the Certification requirements. Both have commented that their 'real learning' has only begun.



**Lynn Trapp and Lonnie Minor are recognized as Certified Directors by the Barbershop Harmony Society. From L-R, Bob Aderholt, Lynn Trapp, Lonnie Minor and Don Fuson.**

## J.P. Marshall joins CSD team as new Harmony Foundation Administrator

By Don Fuson, CSD President

Please join me in welcoming J.P. Marshall to the position of CSD Harmony Foundation Administrator.

JP has been a very active Society member for 13 years with his home chapter, Iowa City, and was honored to be that chapter's Barbershopper of the Year in 2001. He has actively sung in quartets and choruses over the years, including being a dual member of the Ambassadors of Harmony (St. Charles, MO), winning a chorus silver medal in 2007.

He has served the Iowa City chapter as Chapter Development VP (two terms) and is currently their Marketing/PR VP and also YIH VP. JP continues his work for the district as a Chapter Counselor and a Standing Ovation Program Evaluator. He is a member of the Harmony Foundation Presidents' Council.

In 2001, JP organized the Eastern Iowa Young Men in Harmony Chorus that performed at that Spring Convention in Topeka. The chorus was 40 young men from the Eastern Iowa area and performed two songs during the evening showcase. JP has also organized YIH events for his chapter, bringing several quartets in to conduct master classes in schools around the Iowa City area. In 2006, JP was the Assistant Convention Chair for that year's Spring Convention, held in Iowa City.

JP lives in Coralville, Iowa, and is a Network Administrator for Paladin Brands, a manufacturing company based in Cedar Rapids. You may reach him at [jp.marshall@pro-technologies.net](mailto:jp.marshall@pro-technologies.net).



## What Could Your Chapter Do With Unlimited Funds?

By J.P. Marshall, CSD Harmony Foundation Administrator

While you think about that, let me introduce myself. I am J.P. Marshall, your new CSD Harmony Foundation Administrator. In the next year I will be talking to you about all the Harmony Foundation programs, including President's Council, Ambassadors of Song, and Founders' Club.

Now back to my original question.

Since unlimited funds are unlikely, we will probably never find out, but my guess is that some of the things you thought about were:

- Running a Harmony Explosion Camp
- Bringing in quartets for your annual show
- Helping to support your local schools' music programs
- Expanding your musical influence in the community

If these were things you were thinking about, you will be pleased to know that there is money out there to fund such events. The Harmony Foundation, our society's charitable arm, not only has money to help with these things but also will help you apply for and receive grants from other locations in your community and all over the country. If your chapter is interested in funding for special programs in the coming year, please contact me and I will be happy to help you.



## New Society Board Member to Represent CSD

By John Marshall, CSD/ILL Society Board Member

I am sure you are aware that I am finishing my 4<sup>th</sup> year as your representative on the Society Board and I have to say it has been a wonderful experience. As you know, there have been a number of changes during that time; moving to Nashville, hiring two new CEOs, marketing ourselves to the world, developing a new logo and changing the way we govern, have been a few of the things that made those years exciting. Not all of the time, has it been fun, but there is no question it has been an extraordinary experience. I want to thank all of you for your support over the years. I can't imagine a more important

time to be in the Barbershop leadership at every level and it was my privilege to serve you. As they say "All good things must come to an end", so it is time for me to move on and let you have a chance to work with new blood.

Your new representative is **Greg Caetano** from the Northbrook chapter in the Chicago area. Greg has served in several positions of leadership in his chapters over the years including, Program VP, Music VP, Assistant Chorus Director and Director. In addition, he has had a wealth of experience as a district officer as, Music and Performance VP, Chorus Directors' Association President, and District President.

I think you will find Greg to be a talented, knowledgeable and personable man to work with and I encourage you to get to know him as soon as possible. Do not hesitate to call on him for help. I know you will give him all the support you have given me and you and he will be successful at moving the District and Society forward.



## SINGING FOR LIFE!

### An International Blood Drive

By Harvey Kiser,  
CSD Marketing and Public  
Relations Administrator

Saturday, May 10, 2008, is a special and unique day for us, our chapters and our Society. We are all invited to participate in a project of giving the gift of music in support of the **gift of life**. The project is called "*Singing for Life*." We can be an integral part of the largest blood donor and recruitment drive ever in North American history. The Society has partnered with **The American Red Cross (ARC)**, **The America's Blood Centers (ABC)**, **The Canadian Blood Services (CBS)** and **Herma-Quebec**.

"The Society always has considered itself as a community-based organization that gives back more than we take," stated **President Noah Funderburg** in his October 1 letter to chapter presidents.

Starting the process is simple. Chapters register on the Society's website: [www.singingforlife.org](http://www.singingforlife.org) that involves providing the chairman's name. The website is password protected. The username and password are in President Noah's letter. The blood center for your area will respond to the chapter chairman to make arrangements.

Each chapter's chairman is provided information on how to organize and coordinate this event. Specific responsibilities are in the job description attached to President Noah's letter.

## Barbershoppers get "Terrific" response at Kansas State Fair

By Lee Richards, Coordinator  
Kansas Men's Barbershop Harmony Chorus

The Kansas Men's Barbershop Chorus" appeared for its` fourth annual performance at the Kansas State Fair on September 8th. The reception we received from our audience of over 1600, both during and following our performance, was **Terrific!!** Also, the comments we heard from those chapters represented in our "Great Kansas Sing Out", echoed the sentiments of the audience. Those chapters represented were; **Colby, Hays, Hutchinson, Manhattan, McPherson, Overland Park, Salina, Topeka and Wichita**. Also, the **MacFoursome Quartet** from McPherson and the Sweet Adeline's **OK Connection Quartet** from Hutchinson sang their Lida Rose medley from the Broadway hit "The Music Man" which was more than well received. Our other youthful quartet, "Wu" delivered their always anticipated outstanding performance.

The positive vibes we received from our morning rehearsal made us feel like we were "Sitting on Top of the World" and why? Well, with the encouragement and direction our chorus that was given by **Dave Norman, Lance Heilmann and Ben McDaniel**, who could ask for anything more, but we did have more.

If your chapter has a show or another engagement that would make it difficult for the chapter to participate on the 10<sup>th</sup>, work with the Blood Center for an appropriate date. The Blood Center is very willing to work with you because of the continuous need for collecting units of blood. You can still publicize your day as a part of the international project. An additional purpose of this day is to expand our community's knowledge of our harmonies.

Chapter quartet(s) are encouraged to perform during the collection process, and chapters can arrange for small ensembles from church or school choirs to participate also. The singing schedule can arrange for quartets or ensembles to sing a couple of songs -- then wait for a new set of donors to arrive, and sing again.



Assistance for publicity will come from the Blood Center in your region. Posters and press releases will be available.

Smaller and larger metropolitan chapters may wish or need to join together in setting up a central blood donation center.

You have more questions? Email your questions to this writer at: [kskisers@networksplus.net](mailto:kskisers@networksplus.net). If an answer is not immediately available, contact will be made with the chair and/or vice chair of the Society's Marketing and Public Relations committee.

Have fun singing and contacting other community vocal ensembles to sing knowing that this program is an international effort to save lives.

**Don Fuson**, our CSD President and emcee for our show, not only gave special introductions on our musical program, but he also emphasized to the audience the importance of encouraging singing of any type in our communities. We all thank Don for his tremendous efforts in supporting and promoting Barbershopping in our district and throughout the land.



**The Kansas Men's Barbershop Chorus performs at the Kansas State Fair.**

# Spring in Iowa City! Don't Miss It!

By John Marshall, Host Chapter Chairman

The CSD Spring convention will be held in **Iowa City** on **April 18 -20, 2008**. You will be greeted with hospitality you will be excited about, great singing from the best of small choruses and an amazing level of singing from exceptional quartets. I can envision five or more quartets qualifying for international from our district and some medalists from that group, maybe even the gold! What a show!

If you and your family are looking for other things to do as well, the world famous Amana Colonies are less than 20 miles away and the Coral Ridge Mall will rival any you can find south of the Mall of Americas. Just 4 miles south of Iowa City is the brand new "Riverside Golf Resort and Casino". As you discovered the last time CSD members were here in 2006, there is a great walking Mall just outside the hotel and the Iowa City contest venue offers many exceptional restaurants and shops that are worth the trip by themselves.

We did not order a tornado this year, but we will still try to make things exciting for you from the moment you arrive. See you in the spring!



## Secretary's Report

By Mark Fuerniss,  
CSD Secretary

Since August 1 of this year, twenty-four performances have been cleared and BMI/SESAC licenses issued for fourteen chapters. Most of the time, all five copies of Form 3016 have been received, with the appropriate signature and fee. (Three copies of the form and your check are forwarded to Society headquarters, one copy is retained for district files.) As soon as your date is cleared, the *Serenade* editor and District webmistress are notified of the date of your performance so that your performance may be listed in the District events calendars. And only rarely have there been any conflicts with neighboring chapters or district or society events. Great job!

The rate schedule at the bottom of Form 3016 is to be read as "per performance." Each performance is considered a "concert." So if you have a matinee show and an evening show, they are to be counted two performances and in most cases a check for 2 x \$28 or \$56, made out to Barbershop Harmony Society, should be included with your completed forms.

The Society Director of Events, **John Schneider**, is currently in negotiations with ASCAP as to procedures for the collection of ASCAP fees. So for the time being at least, you may ignore the instructions relating to ASCAP fees and licensing contained in the May-June issue of the *Harmonizer* (page 8) and the August, 2007 *Serenade* magazine (page 18). John states, "I'm going to have a meeting with the ASCAP folks later in October to try to come up with a better system. Until then, everything with ASCAP should just be put on hold." Please watch for further information regarding the collection of ASCAP fees.

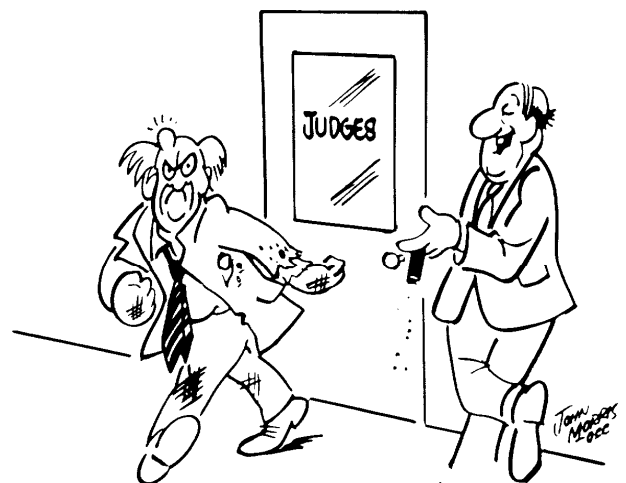
In email correspondence this summer, the board gave the nod to Iowa City, to host the Spring convention in 2008, April 18 - 20. The Iowa City chapter did a great job hosting

the Spring 2006 convention and will do a great job next spring. Congratulations.

At the fall convention in Kansas City, the Presidents Council (House of Delegates) approved a six dollar increase in District dues effective January 1, 2008. The dues increase will be used to print/mail four Serenades and to expand CSD YIH program development.

Also at the fall convention, **Randy Fisher** of the Beatrice, NE chapter was elected to fill the two year District Board Member at Large position being vacated by **Dean Trapp** of the Yankton, South Dakota chapter. Thanks Dean for your work for the District while serving on the board of Directors. CSD District Secretary (**Mark Fuerniss**) and Treasurer (**Paul Cartwright**) were elected to continue in those offices for another two years. CSD can be justly proud of these volunteer leaders.

Thanks to the Kansas City Convention team headed by **Mike Mathieu and Bob Burdick** as well as the CSD Convention team for putting on a great convention in Kansas City last month. Congratulations to all the competing choruses and quartets. We certainly have excellent quartets and choruses in our district!



"HOW'D THE 'CRITIQUE' GO?"



## Director's College – A Week To Remember

By Lynn Trapp  
Chorus Director Development Administrator

One of the greatest experiences of my life has been the weeks that I have spent at Harmony College/Director's College. I can easily say that I have learned more about barbershop and directing a chorus in those times I spent at HC/DC than I have in any other way in the 20 plus years I've been in the society. It is the most intense time of barbershopping possible and I believe everyone needs to experience it at least once in their life time.

This year, five CSD Directors and assistant Directors were given the opportunity to experience it through the generosity of Harmony Foundation, which funded over 100 people to attend. Each of these directors received several hours of instruction in directing techniques, music theory, sound production, and much more. You will be hearing from three of those who were there in August (Stephen Elliot, Gary Shocker, and John Donehower) in this issue of The Serenade. They will be relating their experience at HC/DC and giving you a small glimpse of what it can be like for you.

Scholarships may again be available again this coming year for any Directors and/or Assistant Directors who have not attended DC before. Be on the lookout for emails from me regarding the possibility. You will want to take advantage of this great experience.

## My first Directors College or what I did for my summer vacation

By Stephen Elliott (Heartland Harmonizers and Fremont Pathfinders)

A friend took my wife and I to the Singing Saints show in St. Cloud, Minnesota in April 2006 where I was introduced to and hopelessly hooked on Barbershop. I hadn't even known that Barbershop singing still existed!

When we came home to Omaha I found the Heartland Harmonizers. Two months later I attended Harmony College, to get a 'jump start' in my new love. This spring I became a joint member with the Fremont Pathfinders, and later attended Director's College on a society scholarship.

Harmony U has been the emotional high points of my last two years. What an amazing experience to be in a packed auditorium with 600-800 other people, mostly men, who are

focused on singing a cappella as perfectly as possible that one moment in time. Carpenters, bikers, doctors, clergy, truck drivers—musical craftsmen who have devoted a week of their vacation time and some serious money and effort to hone their skills and share the inspiration of arguably the best large chorus on the planet. 2008 Harmony U was on my calendar before I left St. Joseph.

I've been singing in choirs and chorals since 1959; school, church, college, and community—but I've learned more about voice, tone, and music in the past year in local chapter practices than all those others combined. Harmony U takes all this to the graduate school level.

Barbershop music, well sung and beautifully presented, exhilarates both the performer and the audience. I want to hone my skills so that I can assist my chapters in sharing this wonderful form of music. I'm not there yet, but I'm making progress.

Hope to see you in St. Joe next August.

## Directors College/Harmony College: a continuing learning experience

By John Donehower, Music Men Chorus, Director; Twenty-First Century Vocals, Co-Director

Being one of the lucky recipients of a scholarship to Director's College this year, I was asked to share a few thoughts in the Serenade about what we learned or what may have impressed us most about the experience. Honestly, trying to describe the Director's college experience is a tough one.

I first attended back in the 1990s, whenever I was able, just for the fun of it. Since then, I have attended Harmony College/Directors College 11 or 12 times. Each year, I took courses that interested me or I thought would be fun. Basically, I took a little of this and a little of that.

Then the Society started a program to certify directors which required us to take a specific slate of classes at HC/DC. These were basically "core" abilities that the powers-that-be thought was crucial to the success of a Director. This gave me a bit more direction in my class selections. Just what I needed! I did the course work and earned my certification in 2003. I wish I could say that I am now an expert. I can't, but I am a getting better every day. So, what did I learn at Director's College in 2007? The same thing I am reminded of every year: Just how much more there is to learn!

## My first experience at Harmony U

By Gary Shocker, Davenport Chordbusters

I have always been intrigued by music tempos, interpretation of scores, and the musical theory behind a song. I also had heard many good comments about the experiences by others about Harmony U. My interest in Harmony U came to a point of need when a situation came up with the summer chorus that I participated in where the director couldn't be there on time so we needed someone to "lead" us and I attempted to "answer the call".

Later that year I attended IDAH in the Illinois District at the urging of my chapter's director to take the course for "non-directors", the instructor was **Jay Giallombardo**. I enjoyed that experience enough that our chapter president and director encouraged me to apply for the Directors College scholarship.

Now as to my experience at Harmony College I was amazed at the talent I was amongst! My experience, or lack of, was both exposed and worked on. I learned many new things/techniques. I had my thirst for Music Theory heightened even more; it was almost overwhelming, but very gratifying. The techniques of actual directing and how to



improve on them was and still is challenging. To actually think that I understand what they were trying to teach is very gratifying to me!

The whole week was started on probably the highest note when Dr. Jim Henry gave his keynote address. What a level to try and maintain. Of course we can not forget the closing night either. Personally, having the honor to sing in the Directors Chorus and then watching the Ambassadors of

Harmony close the night out was exciting! I am actually planning my return next year so I can fulfill my commitment to complete my certification. Thanks to the Central States District for the scholarship and the honor to attempt to fill a personal dream.



# Quadrio

Rick, Michael, Matt and Grant

2006 CSD Champs

Contact Grant/913-764-8755  
grant@jwilbur.com

## Still time to join the Holiday Spirit!!

By John Donehower (donehower3@mchsi.com)  
East Central Festival Chorus Coordinator

Wouldn't it be fun to get a large number of Barbershoppers together simply for the camaraderie and fun of singing together? No competition or worry about placements? How about if every Barbershopper in the room were on the stage singing? Standing shoulder to shoulder with men you have never sung with before and still making beautiful music? Not sitting in the audience listening politely? Sounds like heaven to me!

If this sounds good to you too, then you should think about joining us here in East Central Iowa for our 2nd Annual

"Harmony Holiday" Shows. This year, singers from the **Dubuque, Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Iowa City, Linn County Metro, Muscatine, Elkader, and New London Chapters** will be taking the stage together for two holiday programs on Saturday, December 1 at 2 p.m. in Muscatine and at 7:30 p.m. in Iowa City. Joining our 125 singers for these performances of traditional holiday favorites will be as many as eight local men's quartets and N\*JOY, a Sweet Adeline quartet from the Iowa City area.

We still have room for you on our risers! You only have to do three things: 1) Contact me for a complete songs list 2) Attend our one rehearsal: Thursday night, 7:30 p.m., November 28 at the Robert A. Lee Recreational Center, 220 S. Gilbert Street in Iowa City; 3) Show up for the shows on December 1st! It's really that easy to add another great barbershop memory to your scrapbook! Contact me via email for more specifics.

## Bulletin Browsing

By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

By this time, the CSD membership, far and wide, should be aware of the resignation of **Jim Bagby**, renowned music director of Kansas City's "Heart of America" chorus, one of the biggest and best choruses in the district, effective as of the end of the year. The HOA board of directors is hard at work recruiting a replacement for Jim, but fortunately, it won't be necessary to replace him in his entirety. Jim has made it known that he will remain active as usual as a regular member of the Kansas City chapter. So we can still count on receiving the benefits of his 35 years of experience --- while he's still filling out the bass section of his chorus.

In other HOA news, after turning in a superb performance that got them the second place finish at the recent CSD chorus their next major event will be the annual "Holiday Harmony Spectacular" on December 1 at Unity Village in Lee's Summit, Mo. As in the past, this will be in collaboration with the "Kansas City Chapter of Sweet Adelines," plus "ZING", a Sweet Adeline medalist quartet and the 1986 international quartet champions, the "Rural Route 4." I understand the two groups will sing songs in eight-part harmony. Boy, I gotta hear that! For tickets, call **Bob Rutherford** at (816) 765-5371.

Writing in his October issue of *Siouxland Saga*, the bulletin of the Siouxland Chapter, Editor **Sharon Ocker** tells how their guest quartet for their annual show will be "Realtime," 2005 international quartet champions, are the "first true international champs." He points out that the brothers **Tom** and **Mark Metzger** are natives of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; **John Newell** recently emigrated from Australia; and **Tim Broersma** comes from just across the border in Washington State. Makes sense. Sharon also informs us that a "Ladies Chorus" is singing a song with the Sioux City chorus in which the banter goes back and forth as to who can do it best --- louder, holding a note longer, buying cheaper, drinking liquor quicker, etc. "But when it comes to the part about singing lower, the lady bass comes through loud and clear with a very low note we can't touch." I'd like to hear that.

From the *Chord Courier*, the Dubuque chapter bulletin, edited by **Bob Summers**, we learn that the annual show of the East Central Iowa Chorus will be held on Saturday, December 1. The matinee performance will take place at 2:00 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center, in Muscatine, Ill. The evening performance will take place in Iowa City, Iowa, at 7:30 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church. The two shows will be hosted, respectively, by "Heartland Harmony" and the "Old Capital Chorus." Sounds like fun.

The "Homestead Harmonizer's" *Beatri' Tone*, underwent a slight change with the issue of October 2007. Editor **Dan Wiedel** has added colored photographs and other areas in his

bulletin that make it more attractive, and of course, more readable. Looks fine, Dan. In that same edition, **Rick Zigler** editorializes on the value of visiting other chapter functions and especially, the annual district conventions and contests, as a means of striking up friendships with the other Barbershoppers throughout the district. It might involve a little traveling, but as Rick says, "It can be a rewarding experience and worth the trip." Let me describe an experience I had at the recent CSD convention in Kansas City. At my age, it's getting to be hard for me to get around, and I found it quite a chore to walk from the Municipal Auditorium to the headquarters Marriott Hotel which was just a block from the Auditorium. After the chorus contest had ended, I found I had about three hours with nothing to do until the quartet finals came on in the evening. So I struggled up the incline around the Barney Allis Plaza, walked into the Marriott lobby, and sank into a chair, the only one vacant at the time. There were three other people in the same grouping of seats, and we immediately struck up a friendly conversation. They were all Barbershoppers, so there was a lot to talk about. It wasn't long before they got up and left, but immediately another threesome come up and took their seats. And the same friendly conversation struck up with this new group. And when they departed, another group assumed their seats, followed by the same conversation. I was so engrossed in visiting with my new friends that in no time at all, it was almost 7 o'clock and time to struggle back down to my seat in the auditorium. I'm looking forward to visiting again with these fellows during the spring convention next April. Wonder if they'll remember me. Sure hope so.

Writing in the October/November issue of *Harmony Overtones*, the Des Moines chapter bulletin, edited by **Bob Uy**, **Jimmy Trapp** describes what he calls "my bittersweet weekend," the performance of his quartet, "The Heart of Heemstra," in the spring prelims in Iowa City last year. Not only did they commit a "disaster" with an overall percentage of 16.9, one of the judges disqualified the quartet "because he was unable to hear enough barbershop chords from the quartet to judge it as barbershop." But not all was lost. Jimmy tells how he was able later to woodshed with better qualified Barbershoppers and received lots of encouragement from many sympathetic observers. Says Jim: "I learned a valuable lesson. I can't allow the bad experiences to ruin what I love. The good and bad experiences are all necessary because they help to propel me into the future." That's a great position to take, Jimmy.

Editor **Dick Kury** and veteran member **Bob Grubbs** use *By-Lines*, the bulletin of the St. Louis chapter to record remembrances of 53-year chapter member **Julie Goss**, who passed away recently. Says Dick: "He was program manager and had a way of creating unique quartet names for the participant singers." Julie died after a long illness, but he was able to attend chapter meetings now and then. Bob

**Bulletin Browsing – continued from page 14**

tells how Julie was recognized by the Barbershop Harmony Society for his 50 years with the "Gentlemen of Sound." There's always a deep void when an old-timer like Julie dies, but I'm sure he deserved all of the recognition he got.

Only two members of the Manhattan chapter participated in the Great Kansas singout at the Kansas state fair in Hutchinson. They were Chapter President **Terry Nanninga** and **Sam Kvasnica**. Some of the other guys were at the K-State football game, but Terry says they were able to sing under three different music directors with about 65 Barbershoppers from eleven Kansas chapters. That must have been a lot of fun, although Terry admits that the fact that three of his grandchildren live in Hutchinson may have been an added incentive for him and his wife, **Karen**, to make the trip.

## St. Joseph's John Carr wins International registrations for bringing in new member

By **Dean Beckman**, CSD Membership VP

Congratulations to John Carr from the St. Joseph, MO chapter! As a result of his recruitment of a new member, his 1<sup>st</sup> Music Man of Note, his name was placed in the September draw held at the Society Headquarters. John's name was pulled out of the hat and won two "DOWN FRONT" International Registrations to the Convention in Nashville or San Antonio!

Congratulations to John!

## Deadline for entrants in the International Online Bulletin Contest is April 1.

There is no district qualification for the online version. It is open to all PROBE members with the exception that any professional web designer who is paid for maintaining the website is not eligible.

Now, who of us doesn't want to improve our publication? You may have started by just wanting to publish a useful bulletin for your chapter. But entering the contest has, hopefully, made you a better editor. That, in turn, makes things better for your chapter. For all the details, for entry forms and judging guidelines, go to the **PROBE** website, [www.harmonize.com/PROBE/](http://www.harmonize.com/PROBE/) and follow the links for **PROBE** information. It's all there in an easy-to-read format.

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or email [keithschweer@kc.rr.com](mailto:keithschweer@kc.rr.com)

## It's CSD Bulletin Contest time!!!

By **David Haase**, Serenade Editor and **PROBE** Membership VP

It's that time of the year again; time to select which bulletins to send to the CSD Bulletin Contest. As John Elving stated in the preceding article, you need to send six copies of three consecutive monthly or bi-monthly issues to the district Bulletin Contest Chairman. This year **Randy Fischer**, our new **CSD Board Member At-Large**, is taking on that responsibility. Send all entries to:

**Randy Fischer**

**2003 Jefferson Street**

**Beatrice, NE 68310**

Entry and mailing postmark deadline for the CSD Bulletin Contest is January 1, 2008. The top two bulletins will be honored at the CSD Spring Convention and will be submitted for the PROBE International Bulletin Contest.

Communications is a key to good chapter planning and a frequent chapter bulletin, newsletter or other tool helps everyone. This process is about recognizing the editors that put it all together.

**Good luck to all!!**

## Web Site, Schmeb Site! What For?

(Web Site Pointers for PR Officers)

By Hal Maples, St. Charles, MO Chapter



Considering a new web site for your chapter, or a revamp of the old one? If so, it's always important to remember that your chapter's web site is a constant statement about what your organization is,

what it stands for, and who your members are. Through its content and quality, it reminds everyone who visits it whether your organization represents excellence or mediocrity; joy, excitement and fun, or boredom. Through its content and quality, your site can become a means to communicate and shape the culture of your organization in the minds of both the public and your members.

### Who Will Build It?

In most cases there will be someone in your chapter or someone who's a relative or friend of a member who "knows how" to build a web site for you. However, unless that person is a professional web developer, it's usually a good idea to resist the temptation of a free or extremely low cost offer of this kind, as it often can result in a web site you're not pleased with, and in delays and glitches in getting things done. It's better to be selective, and to search for someone who's a society member and professional developer, and known for building classy web sites. Such a person will have both the knowledge and skill to build a site that will represent you well, and an understanding of the particular needs of a barbershop organization. It might cost a few dollars, but it will be worth it in the long run.

### What Will It Look Like?

Since your chapter web site will visually depict "who you are" as an organization, it's important –

That the "look" developed by your webmaster be something that generally appeals to you and your membership – something that makes you say "Yes!" when you see it. Then you'll be likely to promote the site to people you know. If you don't like the look of it, you might not have the same inclination.

- That your webmaster is willing to offer you one or more sample "looks" for the home page of your web site. He's the expert, so if you find him waiting on you to tell him what to do, that can be a problem. As a non expert, you'll probably need a sample page to view in order to have some idea of what you want. You might also tell him about other web sites that you like.

- That you avoid getting caught up in trying to please everyone in your organization with the look you select, and that you be willing to compromise with your webmaster and organizational leadership on what that look should be. Web site development by committee doesn't work very well, so give your webmaster a single point of contact, and make sure he/she is someone whose ability and work ethic you trust.

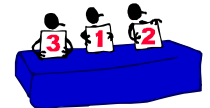
Once you and your webmaster have settled on a "look" for your home page, the rest of the site can be based on that. A big part of determining that look will be the way your chapter name is depicted, so devote some time to the way you want that to look. Your webmaster should be able to help develop a logo if you don't already have one or perhaps a new logo if your old one leaves something to be desired.

Finally, it's usually a good idea to repeat the process of developing a new look for your site every couple of years. That brings freshness that will mean new traffic coming to your site.

### What will it contain?

Here are some standard ideas for "sections" of a chapter web site. They may or may not be applicable, in some cases, to your organization:

- About Us – Text and photographic information about your organization, its mission, its history, activities and performances.
- Calendar – A list of dates and times for your upcoming events
- Members
  - o Leadership
    - Directors – photos, bios and contact info
    - Board – photos and contact info
  - o Members – (if desired)
- Contact Information – email and phone contacts for bookings, membership and other needs.
- Media – possible subsections include photos, sound and video clips, recordings for sale, merchandise etc.
- Press – and index of press releases, news articles about your organization
- Visit Us – Rehearsal day and time, street address, map and directions to your rehearsal site.
- Links section – A page for links to other barbershop and music web sites



### How often will it be updated?

It is best to update the site whenever any information has changed or new information becomes available, and then as quickly as possible. From a public relations point of view, timeliness is everything when it comes to having up-to-date information on the web site. So it is also very important to have a webmaster who is of the "do it now" versus the "do it

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## Web-Schmeb from page 16

when I get to it" school of thought. If your webmaster isn't a member of your chapter, it will be even more important that you are of that same school of thought, so that you will provide him with timely updated information.

**How will it be promoted?**

If you build it, they may not come, unless you also promote it by making everyone aware of its existence and by making sure you always include your web site URL (address – www.YourChorus.Com) in anything you issue in print, email, or on the air. That will be a big component of getting traffic to your web site. Also, a good webmaster will have the knowledge to build a site that will be "friendly" to search engines on the web, resulting in more traffic to your site. The links section of your site can be used to initiate links from other sites back to yours, which is a plus for higher indexing on internet search sites.

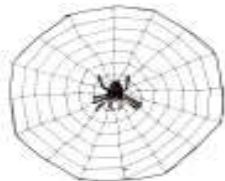
**What about a secure Members section for the site?**

That will depend upon chapter needs and perhaps its size. Your web site can be an important means of communicating information to your membership which you don't want to make available to the general public - about music, board activities, PR activities, upcoming performance and show information for members, and whatever else your chapter may need. There are also available some good ways to automate functions on the web, like chapter broadcast e-mail, chapter roster, patrons and media mailing lists, riser charts and more.

**YourChorus.com (.org, .net, etc.)**

If you haven't selected a domain name for your web site, it may be a good idea to choose one with an ".org" extension, which will identify your organization as non-profit, although that's not a must. Your web site can be a means to communicate effectively with your public and with your members – to demonstrate and develop your chapter "personality". It's important to think of it as a necessity, rather than just something that would be "nice to have". It needs to look great, it needs to look "like you" (your chapter). It will take time and effort to make it good, to make it effective. Its impact on the public and your membership will only be felt over longer periods of time, but the impact can be immense. If you apply consistent effort to it, you will find that your chapter will in time receive greater and greater benefit from it.

*(Hal Maples served as PR V.P. for The Ambassadors of Harmony for five years and is currently the webmaster {www.aoh.org}. Feel free to contact him with any questions at [HalMaples@aoh.org](mailto:HalMaples@aoh.org).)*



# Making Improvements in What We Do

By John Elving, PROBE VP Bulletin Editors

Did you ever wonder how we can make improvements in what we do as editors? How do we put out a publication that not only conveys the news to our chapter members and their families, but is also eye-catching enough to draw their attention to our publication? There are always ways we can improve what we do, but many ask how do we do this on our limited budget?

Never fear! There is help on the way! One of the best ways to improve what we are doing is by entering your weekly, monthly or bi-monthly tome in the district bulletin contest. "Aw, shucks," you say. "My bulletin is just for the guys in my chapter. There's stuff I don't necessarily want others to see that is discussed in our bulletin." That's what I said, too. But let me tell you, when finally coerced into entering the contest, I discovered that help was there to make my bulletin better. I may be of retirement age, but I still want to learn. And learn, I have.

As with chorus coaching, not all comments are useful to me, or work in my situation. As with chorus directors, some things work for my chapter while others don't. They are, however, all valuable and teach me, an old dog, new tricks. The people who judge our bulletin in district and international competition – I dislike the word competition when it comes to newsletters – were only interested in making me a better editor. For the most part, their comments were constructive and helpful. They pointed out areas that I didn't see on my own which will help me become better at what I do – publish a bulletin full of the news that will help my chapter.

So how can I get this great coaching? Simple – enter the **District Bulletin Contest**. Entering the contest so you can get coaching in improving your publication is really quite easy. First, some qualifications need to be outlined. The first requirement is that you be a paid-up member of **PROBE**. This is a reasonable chapter expense, and should be covered by the chapter for all bulletin editors, webmasters, and public relations /publicity officers.

In district judging, at the present time, only hard copy bulletins are judged. If you publish your bulletin on a monthly or bi-monthly schedule, at least six issues per year must have been published.

In January, or shortly after that, each district Bulletin Contest chairman will put out a call for bulletins to be submitted to him. Bulletins considered are for the previous

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**Improvements continued from page 17**

calendar year – 2007 for 2008 judging. Simply choose your best three consecutive bulletins for monthly or bimonthly bulletins and send six copies of each to the district bulletin contest chairman.

It really is that easy. *“That’s nice. But how do I enter the International bulletin contest?”* you ask. After each district contest has been completed, the district chairman will notify the top two district newsletter editors that they are eligible to enter the International Bulletin Contest. If they want to enter that contest, they need to submit new copies of the newsletter or bulletin in the same quantities to the International Bulletin Contest (IBC) chairman. These can be

the same issues, or you can submit different issues if you choose.

**“That’s all fine and dandy,” you say. “But I only publish an online bulletin. How do I get in on all the fun?”**

Again, it’s really quite easy. There will be a call for entries issued early in the year by the International Online Bulletin Contest chairman. Entries will be submitted as URL’s of two consecutive monthly issues, four consecutive bi-weekly issues, or eight consecutive weekly issues. These may be in either HTML or PDF format, but must be accessible via the Internet.

## COTS and Chapter Leadership



**By Dan Brown  
Chapter Support and  
Leadership Training Program  
Administrator**

By the time this edition of the Serenade hits your home, the COTS sessions for your chapter 2008 officers will most likely be completed. CSD went to a one-day format for COTS training in order to lower the cost and allow you to choose which location was closer.

Across the district, only 70% of the chapters send anyone to COTS in a given year.

Across the district and Society, fewer than 25% of all chapter officers attend COTS to share ideas, grab some new approaches to common chapter problems and learn some new ways to improve chapter planning and membership involvement.

If your chapter did send a representative, ask them what they learned that “stuck” when they return to your chapter. Ask them to share some things they did not expect to hear but things that might benefit your local chapter.

If your chapter did not send a representative, ask your board to volunteer to host an upcoming POD meeting and get some mini-training between several chapters at that time.

CSD is indeed in debt to the many chapter members who step up and volunteer to accept a chapter leadership position. Our Society, District and individual Chapters would not be able to accomplish most of what we do without our leaders.

Take the time to thank any outgoing chapter officer and leader for their year(s) of service in supporting your chapter and its members. What did they do that those following in those positions will continue to build on? How did that officer encourage and help develop another member to take over that function? What events did not go “just quite right” and how did that leader learn from and strengthen the chapter planning for the next time?

These “unintended learning opportunities” (some folks call them crisis points) is what happens as we journey through life. It is true in a Barbershop Harmony Society chapter and in any other organization you belong to as well.

We sing our way through it, but it just seems to happen anyway.

COTS is a great way to review what options chapter leaders have and how those same leaders can be a positive influence on the chapter members around them.

CSD can’t prepare any chapter leader for all the possible combination of things that the membership will bring to the local board agenda. What CSD COTS can do is to give each person a well-grounded approach to how to support the other chapter members by developing a plan for the chapter that fairly represents the expectations and goals of the majority of your local chapter members.

Once that approach is understood, then leading your chapter, in whatever capacity you are able, is kind of like riding that bike. You may fall a couple of times before you can enjoy the downhill ride with the wind in your hair.

Now “Tag, you’re it” and hope to see you at COTS.

## Let's Get Together and Barbershop



By Don Blank  
CSD Executive Vice-President

Our Central States District is blessed with a large number of smaller chapters, often with a lot of distance between those chapters. It's very easy being a member of a smaller chapter with 15 or 20 members to think that we're kind of out on an island all by ourselves. Sure, we enjoy our weekly meetings, but sometimes we think we'd like to sing in a larger chorus with other Barbershoppers.

Why not do something about it? How far away are the chapters around you? There are lots of to enjoy barbershopping with your neighbors. Read through some of the suggestions below, and start the wheels turning.

**CHAPTER VISIT** - Get four or five guys together, and visit another chapter's meeting. See the songs that they're singing, how they run their meetings, and what makes their chapter tick. You will learn new things about barbershopping, and they will pick up ideas from you. It's probably best to call a few days before you go to be sure you have the meeting date, time and location right, and that it won't be a problem to have you show up.

**CHORUS VISIT** - It's fun to arrange "home and home" visits between choruses, usually going back and forth once a year. Not only is the singing great, but the socializing and making new friends is a bonus. Both choruses can sing for each other, and then sing three or four songs together. If quartets are there from the chapters, that's a bonus. Obviously, these visits require a little advance planning with the chapter leadership, but it's worth the effort.

**JOINT CHORUS SHOWS** - What often results from chapter get-togethers, is a realization that joint appearances would be nice. For example, the McCook, NE chapter put on a joint show with the Colby, Kansas, for a neighboring community's Fine Arts Group, with both chapters singing separately, and then closing with both chapters singing together. Other chapters have combined an annual show with a nearby chorus, with each still hosting their own shows on different dates, but the chorus for each show is a combined chorus.

**ANNUAL MULTI CHAPTER SINGING EVENTS** - The POD in Central Nebraska started a tradition of once a year hosting a day long Multi Chapter Chorus, rotating each year from chapter to chapter. This means that there is the thrill of singing in a 100+ man chorus once a year, but only have to host it every fourth year or so. This year's event just took place in Grand Island under the directorship of Jim Henry, and the feedback was that there is no bigger thrill for a small chapter Barbershopper to sing in a large chorus, if only for one day. To enjoy the experience of doing with Jim Henry' directing makes it a day to remember.

To be sure, there are other ways to have members and chapters get together, and there are no downsides to doing it with a few or a lot of singers.

And just for kickers, there is one great potential bonus - when some of your members experience the thrill of larger choruses, they might just get motivated to go out and sign up new members to make their own chorus larger.

So GET TOGETHER AND BARBERSHOP!! You will never regret it.

## District and Society Calendar

Forward all five copies of Form 3016 (Show Clearance and BMI License) along with check to Barbershop Harmony Society to Mark Fuerniss to request a show date.

### Chapter Shows

Nov 3 **Elkader, IA**, A-011, Elkader Opera House(2 shows)  
 Nov 3, **Hastings, NE**, A-061 - Masonic Center( 2 shows)  
 Nov 3, **Jefferson City, A-114**, Miller Center  
 Nov 17, **Winner, SD**, A-031, Winner Westside Elementary School  
 Dec 1, **St. Louis #1**, A-052 – Jefferson College in Hillsboro, MO  
 Dec 7-9, **St. Charles, MO**, Touhill Theatre (5 shows)  
 Dec 15, **Florissant Valley**, A-094, Florissant Civic Center  
 March 29, 2008, **Greater Ozarks, AR**, Arend Arts Center  
 April 4-5, 2008, **Mason City, IA** – NIACC (3 shows)  
 April 5, **Kearney, NE**, Merryman Performing Arts Center(2 shows)  
 April 12, 2008, **Hays, Kansas**, Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center  
 April 12, 2008, **Topeka, KS**, Fairlawn Church of the Nazarene(2 shows)  
 Apr 25-26, 2008, **Florissant Valley**, A-094, Florissant Civic Center  
 April 26, 2008, **Wichita, KS**, A-040, Mary Jane Teal Theatre  
 May 10, 2008, **Denison, IA**, Fine Arts Center at Denison High School.  
 Dec 20, 2008, **Florissant Valley**, A-094, Florissant Civic Center

### Society Events –

**January 23-27 - International Mid- Winter Convention,**  
**San Antonio, Texas**  
**June 29-July 6, 2008 - International Convention - Nashville, TN**

### Reserve these CSD Dates –

**November 10, 2007 - COTS, Des Moines, Iowa**  
**November 17, 2007 - COTS, Lincoln, Nebraska**

### And next year . . .

**Feb 10, 2008 – CSD Collegiate Festival, El Dorado, KS**  
**contact Duane Lawson 816-419-2644 for info**

**April 18-20, 2008 – CSD Spring Convention, Iowa City, Iowa**

**October 10-12, 2008 – CSD Fall Convention, Cedar Rapids, Iowa**



For more potential dates and events visit  
[www.centralstatesdistrict.com](http://www.centralstatesdistrict.com) and click on  
 the "calendar" section

**EVERYONE NOTE: The next Serenade will be mailed approximately February 15, 2008.**

Society for the Preservation and Encouragement  
 of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America  
 Barbershop Harmony Society  
 Central States District – Kansas City Chapter  
 816 West 121 Street  
 Kansas City MO 64145

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