



Serenade

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The Black Hawk Metro Chorus under the direction Lee Thomsen won the Plateau "A" Chorus

Look out Denver, Here Comes CSD!!!

CSD qualifies 3 quartets, 4 collegiate quartets for Denver

Black Hawk Metro Plateau A Chorus Champs

By Jim Bagby, CSD C&J Administrator

Central States District members and fans attending the international convention in nearby Denver this July will have lots to cheer about! Our spring convention, so ably hosted by the Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Chapter, produced some quality singing in every contest and was a great weekend overall.

Two quartets posted qualifying scores on site, led by **12th Street Rag's** medalist-level performance. The veteran foursome from Kansas City, St. Louis and Omaha finished

with an average of 83.6 points per judge to earn another trip to the Big Show. Also qualifying, with an average of 78.7, were the **Noise Boys** from St. Joseph, Springfield and Tulsa. Finishing third, just 36 points below the necessary 1,824 qualifying points, were our current district champs, **Quadro**, from Kansas City and St. Joseph, -- who had some untimely voice health problems during the weekend.

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Society Events on the Horizon

**International Convention – Denver, CO
July 1-8, 2007**

**Harmony University – St. Joseph, MO
July 29 – August 5, 2007
Weekend Session Aug 2-5, 2007**

**CSD Fall Convention - Kansas City, MO
Oct. 19-21, 2007**

**COTS – Des Moines, Iowa
November 10, 2007**

**COTS – Lincoln, Nebraska
November 17, 2007**

**Mid-Winter Convention – San Antonio, Texas
Jan. 20-27, 2008**

**CSD Spring Convention – April 18-20, '08,
location to be determined**

Central States District Serenade

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Another regular CSD rep to international, **3 Men and a Melody**, qualified out of district earlier -- also with top 10 scores -- so we'll have three district quartets in the Denver field to root for. But that's just part of the good news.



12th Street Rag wowed the audience with their medalist-level performance.



The Noise Boys are headed back to international.

Don't forget this is the year that our 2004 gold medal chorus champs, St. Charles **Ambassadors of Harmony**, return to international competition, where they will be joined by Kansas City's **Heart of America Chorus**. The field in Denver has been expanded to 30 choruses for this first time this year, so it's going to be a long but exciting two rounds, with *AOH* arguably the favorite; let's go cheer everyone on. (I understand the Ambassadors are gonna have about 500 singers on stage!)

Four *AOH* members will be doing double duty as our 2007 CSD collegiate champs: **Blue Notes** from the University of Missouri-St. Louis won their contest with a ripper score of 76.2 points per judge -- which would have



CSD's Three Men and a Melody qualified for international at the Far West District Convention in Reno, Nevada. Photo courtesy of Ray Rhymer, editor of the Far West District publication *Westunes*.

put them third in the regular contest. They led a field of four CSD collegiate quartets who scored high enough to earn a trip to Denver, and a fifth in the field of seven could well earn a wildcard invitation. In fact, the level of the collegiate competition was the buzz of the Sioux Falls convention. (Look for all the contest scores on the district web site: www.centralstatesdistrict.com).



Blue Notes took top honors at the CSD collegiate quartet contest and qualified for the international collegiate quartet contest in Denver.

Taking second in the collegiate quartet contest was **Downpour**, from Doane (Neb.) College. Placing third was **Night and Day**, from Luther College, Wartburg College and the University of Northern Iowa, followed by **SMORGASCHORDS**, from Butler County Community College in El Dorado, KS.

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Downpour placed second in the CSD collegiate quartet contest and qualified for the international collegiate quartet contest.



Night and Day placed third in the CSD collegiate quartet contest and qualified for the international collegiate quartet contest.



Smorgaschords placed fourth in the CSD collegiate quartet contest and qualified for the international collegiate quartet contest.

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To qualify for the Society's international collegiate contest, a quartet has to average 69. Finishing fifth at 68.1 was **Package Deal** from Wichita State University, so those guys have a good shot to win an invitation once all the scores are in. The lowest score among our seven competitors was 65.7. No wonder our double panel of judges was raving both about the participation level (the average Society district does well to have a couple of collegiate entries) and the super quality of the CSD young singers (one of our competitors was from out of district).

The Plateau A chorus contest in Sioux Falls attracted nine competitors; eight of them got entered by the deadline and the other wound up with mic-testing duties, but was scored and evaluated by the judges. We heard more fine singing, with **Black Hawk Metro** repeating as champs with an average of almost 72 points per judge, or solid mid-B

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Sioux City collected the most-improved Plateau A award, under director Lynn Trapp.



Been There was crowned the CSD Senior Quartet Champions at the CSD Spring Convention.

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scores. Under Director **Lee Thomsen**, the 21-man chorus from **Waterloo** won by 20 points over cross-state rival **Algona**, directed by **Kent Madison**.

Rounding out the top five were: **Denison, Iowa**, directed by **Rod Schneider**; the host **Sioux Emperians** by **Harvey Jewell and Dave Sternborg**, and **Muscatine, Iowa**, with 14 men on stage under **Dan Warschauer**. **Sioux City** collected the most-improved Plateau A award, under **Lynn Trapp**.

More Spring Convention Photos



Everyone joins in singing “Keep the Whole World Singing” during the Spring Convention.



Barbershoppers get together to belt out a few tags at the headquarters hotel.



Jim Bagby directs the audience in a tag while he awaits the judges’ decision.

CSD Announces 2006 Barbershopper of the Year
 By Scott Spilker, 2005 CSD BOTY

Our 2006 Central States District Barbershopper of the Year has been a member of the Lincoln, Nebraska, chapter since 1976. He is a front row singer for the Lincoln Continentals and has served the chapter as president for two years. He has served as the chapter show chairman and numerous other board positions. He also has been the chapter show chairman and has twice served as host chapter convention chairman for the CSD conventions.

Our recipient has been awarded Barbershopper of the Year for the Lincoln chapter twice and has received the chapter award for leadership and dedication.

Our recipient has been involved in PROBE(Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors) for many years. He has served as PROBE’s president twice and is currently the vice-president of bulletin editors. He has served as a judge in layout and reproduction category in the annual bulletin contests and is currently the coordinator for this year’s international online bulletin contest. In 2005 our recipient was inducted into PROBE’s Hall of Honor for his many years of dedication.

Our recipient has served the Central States District by serving on the faculty for COTS as an instructor for marketing and public relations. He has served the district as the chairman of the CSD spring and fall conventions.

Our recipient is married to his wife, **Illah**, and has two daughters, **Bridget and Kirsten**. When our honoree is not

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BOTY continued from page 5

singing barbershop, he is employed as a respiratory therapist and is active in the Masons.

Have you guessed who it is yet? Our 2006 CSD Barbershopper of the Year is **Bruce Anderson**. Because of a prior commitment he couldn't be here tonight, but his daughter **Bridget** is running things in his place and is here to accept the award in his place.



Bridget Anderson accepts the 2006 CSD Barbershopper of the Year award for her father, Bruce Anderson, at the CSD Spring Convention as announced by CSD 2005 BOTY, Scott Spilker.

A week later, at the Lincoln Continentals annual show, Bruce Anderson was presented with the award.

Congratulations Bruce!!



Scott Spilker, right, winner of the 2005 Barbershopper of the Year, presents Bruce Anderson with the 2006 CSD Barbershopper of the Year award at the Lincoln Continentals annual show. Photo courtesy of Dick DeLorm, chapter editor.

New London Chapter Comes to Muscatine's Aid for Small Chorus Contest

By J. Mark Roberts, Muscatine, Iowa, chapter

The **Heartland Harmony Chorus** faced a difficult decision at the start of this calendar year. The Central States District Convention loomed large in the distance – and “distance” was the operative word. A convention scheduled in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was far enough away that several members knew that job commitments would keep them from going.

For a small chapter, every member counts when preparing for the contest stage. In past years, this chapter chorus has traveled to contest with a member or two left behind. This year was shaping up to be very different. Nearly half of the chorus knew, with a fair amount of certainty, that they would not be able to make the trip. When taking a count of chapter members who could confirm the trip, it was evident this chapter which has participated in a contest every year since its charter nearly ten years ago was not going to be able to put enough men on stage to qualify for competition this year.

To pass on the opportunity to participate in competition was not an acceptable option. It was time to come up with creative ideas. After tossing around some ideas, **Chorus Director Dan Warschauer** thought he would contact some barbershop friends who sing with chapters that were not planning to compete in this spring's convention. Finding enough members interested in joining the Muscatine Chapter for this trip was more difficult than expected. **Roger Wiese** from the **Davenport Chordbusters** accepted the invitation, but adding one more person was not enough.

Another thought came to Warschauer - contacting a small Southeast Iowa chapter with fewer than the 12 members needed to take the stage. The result was an alliance with the **New London Chapter**. Five of the nine members of this small, but talented chapter accepted the invitation. **Chorus Director Ken Williamson, along with Ken Gray, Ray Robbins, Dan Kelley and Paul Gugeler** began rehearsing with Heartland Harmony Chorus and obtained dual memberships.

The effort was well worth it. With thirteen men plus the director on stage, the Heartland Harmony Chorus demonstrated that this little chorus that wouldn't give up could continue to advance. With a lot of hard work and collaboration, this chorus was able to improve its score by 78 points over last year, finishing with a respectable 756 points. The Heartland Harmony Barbershop Chorus keeps “raising the bar” each year, presenting its members with new challenges to learn and improve in this wonderful hobby.



Kansas City's Todd Anderson wins CSD Bulletin Editor of the Year Award

KC and Manhattan bulletins advance to international contest

By Dean Trapp, Bulletin Contest Coordinator

Earlier this year, four chapter bulletin editors submitted copies of their chapter bulletins to be judged as the best in the Central States District for 2006.

During the CSD Spring Convention in Sioux Falls awards were presented to the top three chapter bulletins in the district. The annual CSD Bulletin Editor of the Year award was presented to Kansas City's **Todd Anderson** for the best chapter bulletin for 2006 for his publication, *Harmonotes*. Coming in second was **Bob Summer** from the Dubuque, Iowa chapter, editor of the *Chord Courier*. Third place honors went to **Karen Nanninga**, editor of the Manhattan, Kansas, bulletin, *InCider Press*. Coming in fourth place was **Rick Ziegler** of Beatrice, Nebraska, editor of *The Beatr'tone*.

Normally the top two bulletins from each district advances to **PROBE's** international bulletin contest. But because the Dubuque chapter published only four issues during 2006, the Manhattan chapter bulletin, *InCider Press*, will be submitted instead. PROBE requires all entries to have published six issues during the year. The winner of PROBE's international bulletin contest will be announced at the International Convention in Denver, Colorado.

CSD had only four entries this year for our district bulletin contest. Hopefully, we can get more editors to submit their bulletins for next year's contest. The purpose

of the contest is not to just see who the best is, but to have your work judged and to gain some valuable feedback and ideas to improve your bulletin as a vital communication tool.

Good luck to Todd and Karen!



Dean Trapp, left, presents the award for 2006 CSD Bulletin Editor of the Year award to Kansas City's Chuck Ames, Operations VP, who accepts the award on behalf of Todd Anderson, editor of *Harmonotes*.

Yankton Hosts South Dakota Division Festival

By Dean Trapp, SD Division Festival Chairman

The 2007 South Dakota Division Barbershop Festival was held on February 2 and 3 in Yankton, SD. It was a very cold weekend, but we still had about 80 men attending. **The Noise Boys** served as the clinicians for this year's festival.

We started out on Friday evening with some of the South Dakota quartets being coached by The Noise Boys. On Saturday morning, the rest of the men joined us and we began rehearsing our mass chorus songs. Some of the individual choruses received coaching during the afternoon, again by The Noise Boys.

On Saturday evening, a show was presented featuring

several of the choruses and quartets from the division, as well as The Noise Boys. The show concluded with the mass chorus singing their three numbers. Between mass chorus numbers, the 2006 South Dakota Division Barbershopper of the Year was named. **Ted Peterson**, from the Sioux Falls chapter, received the honors.

The 2008 SD Division Festival will be held in Milbank, SD, on January 25-26. Choruses in the South Dakota Division include: Aberdeen, Milbank, Mitchell, Pierre, Sioux Falls, Viborg, Watertown, Winner and Yankton.

Photo of award presentation on page 8



Terry White (right) of the Aberdeen Chapter, 2005 South Dakota Division Barbershopper of the Year, presents Ted Peterson from the Sioux Falls Chapter with the 2006 South Dakota Division Barbershopper of the Year. Photo provided by Dean Trapp.

Fall Convention 2007 Kansas City, Missouri

It's Barbershop and BBQ!!!

By Mike Mathieu, Convention Co-Chairman

October 18, 19, 20 of this year, Kansas City is surely the place where all Central States District Barbershoppers will want to be. As the old popular song used to say, "Everything's Up To Date in Kansas City." If you want to come and experience it first hand, you will be able to see that "Everything is Space Age Cutting Edge in Kansas City."

In the last few years, downtown Kansas City has been bursting at the seams and by attending this year's fall convention you will be able to experience all the excitement. Some of the ongoing projects have already been completed and there are scores of others that will be completed by October.

The brand new H & R Block world headquarters has opened a few blocks away from our headquarters hotel, the downtown Marriott. The brand new Sprint Center Arena, the venue for our 2011 International Convention, will be opened the first week in October and is within one block of the H & R Block structure.

The refurbished Hilton President Boutique Hotel has reopened and is located one block from the Marriott Muehlebach. Adjacent to the hotel, the H & R Block building and the Sprint Center will be the brand new

entertainment district. It will consist of restaurants, shopping areas, and other entertainment venues designed to attract tourists of all ages and preferences. All of this excitement is within walking distance of the headquarters hotel.

Other items of note include the only World War I Museum in the country located at the base of the Liberty Memorial, our ever-expanding restaurant population in the freight house district near Union Station, our huge IRS Building located adjacent to the Original Downtown Post Office, and the ever-expanding list of tourist destinations at Crown Center.

Combine this with some of the best Barbershop singing and contests in the world and this will be an event you surely won't want to miss. Complete details are still being finalized, but we are working on events you have never seen before at a Fall Convention. In addition, we hope to recreate some events that are native to Kansas City and have worked well in the past.

If you like to come to town early, you can come in on Thursday evening, spend all day Friday exploring some of the new and exciting things going on in our town. Friday afternoon or evening will begin the quartet countdown. Saturday morning we hope to have a most unique Ladies Breakfast and tour at a new restaurant you won't want to miss. Perhaps you ladies could even hijack a tour bus and force the driver to take a detour to the world famous Country Club Plaza!

Late Saturday morning, the district chorus contest will be kicked off by one of the most phenomenal mic testing choruses you have ever heard--watch the Serenade or your district website for soon-to-be finalized details. In the late afternoon, we will have a huge Kansas City style BBQ hosted by one of KC's world famous BBQ restaurants.

After dinner, it will be back to the Music Hall for the quartet finals, followed by a show of champions that you won't want to miss. After that we will have an old style Barbershop Afterglow featuring all quartets and maybe even a chorus or two!

Because of the size of the headquarters hotel, all competitors will be able to stay in one hotel and no transportation will be required to get you back and forth to the contests. Once you park your car after you arrive, you won't have to get in it again until you depart for home Sunday morning. Don't forget to mark Sunday morning on your calendar, because the church service is one you won't want to miss! Trust me on that one.

As you can see, we have plans galore to make your weekend in the Heart of America, an experience you will always remember. We hope you all plan to come and join us.



Do you want to develop a better chapter? What we learned from Chapter Delegates at the Sioux Falls Spring Convention

By Don Fuson, CSD President

Your chapter delegates came to Sioux Falls to the House of Delegates meeting and had a chance to immediately impact the direction of all the members and chapters in the district. "How is that done?" you may ask. Read on.

Those chapters in attendance contributed to a long list of "what is going well at my chapter." A few of the items included:

- a lot of singing
- making an effort to get to know all the members and increase chapter retention
- planning, and planning some more, to execute on some new events
- getting everyone involved in selling tickets and ads for the chapter show . . . and making a profit to support the other chapter programs throughout the year
- presenting a "fresh face" to the community and asking local music educators "how can the chapter help?" and encouraging them to participate in YIH events

The next question was "could your own chapter do any of these same things, too?" By exchanging success stories around a table of nearby chapter members, we found that we are a strong and supportive community of singers. There are many district and Society resources that already exist to help each local chapter size up an opportunity and then help plan its successful execution, based on local leadership and member resources.

The key is communication. That is a basic building block in terms of relating to each chapter member and understanding what each specific member would like to do at chapter meetings and throughout the year.

Chapter competencies such as singing, performing, being financially stable and constantly looking out for and successfully recruiting new members -- these things are reflections of the local chapter goals and overall vision of what we are all about.

Your chapter delegates saw that the future Society "AIMS" (broad areas that every member and chapter should support) are being restated in this order:

1. **Membership** - we must have a complete and successful membership life cycle.. It must involve recruiting, orienting, developing, retaining and passing on the individual

leadership skills for the benefit of the local chapter. Each member must be sought out to become involved and the chapter leaders must have enough flexibility to keep the fun factor up!

2. **Music** - we sing and we want to do it better. We want to learn more about vocal production so that it becomes second-nature. We want our directors and music teams to teach each Joe Barbershopper things that will allow the music to be learned easily, then be remembered and applied even more easily.

3. **Outreach** - having the growing membership being able to sing the music is just preparation for this -- performing. We want a successful local marketing and affiliation strategy to find new venues for our performances. We want to expand our opportunities within each local community so that new faces may see and hear what the local chapter chorus and quartets can do with the talent that we have (and work hard to improve).

4. **Money** - hey, it isn't free. We must have successful planning to be able to earn enough funds through the local performances and chapter supporters to help us carry out our Society's mission to "keep the whole world singing." Good financial planning and budgeting encourages watching other key points to insure the chapter programs and goals will be met.

Here is the offer:

If you have an idea to help improve the planning of your local chapter, then share it.

If your local chapter has discussed alternatives about programs and events with your chapter members but still need some outside views, then let a district leader know.

If you or your chapter has an "unmet need" then let a district leader know.

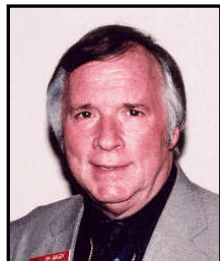
If you have a hankering to help some more people in having fun singing Barbershop, then let me know.

The CSD program administrators will continue to share great ideas in future articles and/or emails to the chapter leaders, always requesting that they pass on the full article or the essence to all the local members. The Society and the District recognize that "all singing is local." Every effort must be helpful to one or more members Chapters

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CSD will look back and say "we saw what we could become and just did it." That might become another guideline to share with those around us. Keep singing!



CANDIDATES PERFORM WELL; DO YOU WANNA JUDGE?

By Jim Bagby,
CSD C&J Administrator

Everybody knows about judges. They're the guys who have the best seats in the house (which they don't have to pay for), are always the butt of emcee jokes and disappear Lord-knows-where before the contest results are even announced. Joe Barbershopper perception: these guys have it made!

Let's look a little deeper. Before most of us ever left for the convention weekend, many of the judges departed their homes before dawn Friday (or even Thursday evening) to catch an early flight, leaving families behind for the weekend, so they could arrive to judge a Friday afternoon quartet session. Then on Friday night, while the rest of the convention attendees are at dinner, and later, at the afterglow or hospitality rooms, the judges are still evaluating quartets - often until 1 or 2 a.m., hoping to get a few hours sleep before the Saturday morning chorus contest starts. That pattern is repeated Saturday night and/or Sunday morning evals.

Welcome to the typical life of a judge. If his flight didn't go through typical delays at Chicago O'Hare, or his contest assignment wasn't in an outlying division of the Evergreen District that might require an extra leg by dogsled to get him out and back, he might be back home by Sunday night, in time for a few more hours sleep before returning to work Monday, contemplating what a wonderful hobby we share.

Multiply all that by a minimum of three or four contest assignments every year. Now why would anyone wanna be a judge? Well, ask the certified guys in our district: in approximate order of years of service **Dale Comer, David Wright, Kevin Keller, Rik Johnson, Bob Swenson, David Krause, Kent McClean, Raymond Schwarzkopf, Jayson Ryner, Carter Combs, Dennis Sorge** and me...and the most common answer you'll likely get is to give something back. That's an oversimplification, but it is basically a labor of love.

Not only that, but each judge has to be re-certified every three years, in competition with every other judge in the category AND the new candidates coming into their category. This brings me to our three CSD candidates who will be invited to the 2007 Category School coming up this August the week prior to Harmony University at St. Joseph.

They are **Bill McLaurine** of St. Charles, a contest administrator; **Dr. Bruce Wenner**, Music Category, and **Mike Louque (Luke)**, Presentation, both of Kansas City. All three are exceptional, as indicated by what they have accomplished in their three years of training (yes, that's generally how long it takes to become a judge; more about that in a minute).

Bill was a candidate at our CSD spring convention in Sioux Falls, but basically did the job of the lead CA, and I can attest he handled the chore like a veteran. It's my job to work hand-in-hand with the CA, and Bill was as good as any of them.

The same weekend, Bruce was given a regular judging assignment in the Northeastern District, and was the only MUS member of the triple panel whose accuracy drew a special commendation from Category Special **Rob Campbell**. Because of his already sterling record as a candidate, Bruce was asked to fill in when the category came up short of a NED certified judge for the weekend.

Mike had the same situation in the Illinois District that weekend, and was tapped to fill a certified slot there. Not only did he ace the assignment, he was up to the always-challenging task of giving the evaluation to Northbrook chorus director **Jay Giallombardo**.

So if you have an interest in any of these three categories, or the Singing Category, you can apply just one time: between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31 of this year. After that window, following the 2007 Category School, you cannot apply again until after the 2010 Category School. The first step is to send me a letter indicating your interest, accompanied by letters of recommendation from two people already certified in the category in which you wish to apply.

For anyone who says "but I don't know anyone in the category," I can only say that probably indicates you need more experience around the contest and judging venue, as a competitor, director or perhaps Harmony University or international convention attendee. That's where you attend classes like "So You Want To Be a Judge," get to know judges, pick their brains and get more exposure to the contest and judging system.

If you have any questions, drop me a line: jbagby3@kc.rr.com I look forward to seeing you at the fall convention in Kansas City!



WARM, WANTED, AND FUN!!!

By Don Blank, CSD Executive Vice-President

Editor's Note: Article is a reprint from the July/August 1997 issue of the New Harmony Horizons, the Rocky Mountain District publication.

We all talk about what is the successful combination of tactics to attract prospects, turn those prospects into members, and then keeping them singing Barbershop for years to come. We've talked about many cookbook approaches for signing and keeping members, and you've all been inundated with twice that much printed material. But their success all depends on you and your chapter's attitudes, and three of those attitudes are **WARM, WANTED, and FUN.**

What makes a meeting **WARM**? It's really tough to put into words, but when you leave a meeting and all the events that go with it, you know whether it was warm or not. Much of it depends on the leadership of the chapter and how they act and what they project when they're handling their responsibilities in front of the meeting. Their enthusiasm and spirit really sets the tone for the meeting. There must be a sincere dedication to Barbershop and the chapter. If not, they will come across as not truly caring, and it will show through. But just as important, every member must help make the atmosphere of the meetings warm. Everyone individually must make sincere contributions through their own enthusiasm and commitment. When everyone kicks in and does their part, meetings will be **WARM.**

We lose more prospects and members because we just don't make them feel **WANTED.** As we've talked about before, all prospects and members have a sign around their necks that says, "I WANT TO FEEL IMPORTANT!" How often do we lose people by failing to read that sign?! The entire chapter has to take responsibility to make everyone else feel that he is the most important member on meeting nights.

There is no other chorus as successful in our organization today as the **Vocal Majority**, and their handling of prospects is topnotch. Every member is registered immediately on 3 by 5 card, with subsequent visits marked accordingly. They are introduced with great fanfare, and their name is in the next chapter bulletin (of course they receive a

copy). Specially bound song books are presented to each prospect, and they sing on the risers with the chorus. Once they become a member, they have a "sign-off sheet" which requires that for their membership badge they have to contact member X, get their badge and that member's signature; same for their new member kit with member Y, and the same for music books, learning tapes, costumes, etc. By the time e is done, he has met many members, they have made him feel welcome, and he's well on his way to being a great new member. If we as a Society are going to be successful in attracting and retaining members, we must read everyone's sign, and make them feel important and **WANTED!**

Last but not least, our organization must be **FUN!** But wait, you say, our chapter is into heavy duty competition, and we're serious! That doesn't make any difference at all – your rehearsals and performances can and should still be fun. When **Keith Lockhart**, the young and dynamic new director of the Boston Pops Orchestra was asked if they have fun, he answered he insisted on it. "If we're not having fun, we should get into another line of work," he said. If professional musicians function best having fun, what does that say about Barbershoppers who are doing this for a hobby? Having fun does not mean everyone talking on the risers, no discipline, and chaos. There can and should be a tremendous amount of enjoyment and sense of satisfaction in hard choral work at any level. But we must work to avoid making it so much of a grind that the enjoyment is gone. It is a very fine line, but if the chapter doesn't keep a sense of fun and enjoyment in what they are doing, you can be assured there are going to be problems. The secret for any chapter is to determine what kind of chapter you want to be and what your goals are, and then set a course to be that kind of chapter and meet your goals, and have **FUN** doing it!

This is a great organization—keep it that way making it **WARM**, make everyone feel **WANTED**, and have **FUN** doing it!



DON'T READ THIS ARTICLE!! REALLY!! ESPECIALLY NEWER MEMBERS!!

By Dan Brown, CSLT Administrator

One of the many things I came away with from the Spring Convention is the ongoing need to improve communication between chapter leadership and District leadership. One item under discussion was the ongoing Serenade usage debate and whether anyone out there actually reads our articles in these issues (hence the title to get your attention). There is also a nagging suspicion that many of our chapters' board members don't have a firm idea as to what they can do to improve how their chapters operate and what resources are available to them.

Our CSD President, **Don Fuson**, discussed the following four 2007 Society aims at the House of Delegates meeting:

- Membership
- Performance
- Outreach
- Finances

We all agree that most of the challenges facing chapters fall under these categories. Our challenge is to bring in and retain members by offering an enjoyable barbershop musical experience, training our directors to provide that experience, provide entertaining performances in public, support our local music programs, and garner revenue while doing all these things. And I'm guessing most chapters have issues with at least one of the above.

Your chapter is not alone in attempting to accomplish these things. There are many programs, especially some director programs of which I wasn't aware, to help chapters improve in these areas. To help improve inter-chapter communication, I will soon be reassigning chapter counselors based on each individual POD so more resources can be brought to bear on helping chapters that are struggling. Given the success of our Chapter Officer Training Session (COTS) strategy last year, we will once again have two sessions in November (November 10 in Des Moines, November 17 in Lincoln) to train your new chapter officers in how to manage your chapter. For you new guys getting called in to serve as officers, the training at COTS will answer many of your questions on how your office works and how the entire leadership team of the chapter works together for success.

To improve District-chapter communication, we will be using a slightly different structure in setting up POD meetings so more are done more often with the goal of at least one, possibly two, meetings per year for each POD. I'm also looking to train more in-District COTS faculty so, starting in 2008, we can set up five COTS sessions throughout the CSD. To do all this we'll be asking for additional Chapter Counselor candidates, site coordinators, and faculty volunteers. If you have given any thought to volunteering to help train and help other CSD members, now is the time to join up. Contact me anytime – my info is at the front of the Serenade.

I encourage every chapter to think of one or two things you need help with and let your current CC and myself know so we can do a better job of meeting your needs in 2007. Chapter planning will be an important area that the CC's will emphasize in their contacts this year. Look at the above items and think of what 2-3 things your chapter can do this year and be successful. Build on that success and don't be afraid to take chances. We'll be here to help.



Reminders from the CSD Secretary

By Mark Fuerness, CSD Secretary

Congratulations to the Sioux Fall Chapter for hosting an excellent Spring Convention and to the competing choruses and quartets, including seven college quartets. I'm sure the results are listed elsewhere in the Serenade. I was impressed with the Denison, Iowa chorus which opened the Chorus competition without a director in sight and finished third.

The consent calendar containing minutes of last fall's District Board and Presidents' Council (House of Delegates) meetings as well as program reports were approved by the delegates of the Presidents' Council. This document is on the District's web site. (According to the District's Code of Regulations, the chapter president serves as the chapter delegate to the House of Delegates

Fuerness continued on page 13

Fuerness continued from page 12

which is referred to as the Presidents' Council.)

Congratulations to the District Convention Chairman, **Bruce Anderson**, for being selected as the District Barbershopper of the Year!

Did you know that you can get a 20% reduction of your Society and District dues if you recruit a new member to your chapter? Bring in one new member and reduce your Society and district dues invoice by 20% for 2008. Bring in more than one new member and reduce your Society and District dues invoice by 20% for each in 2008. Bring in five or more new members and reduce your Society and district dues invoice by 100% in 2008. If you sign up five new members, do the math, that's

100% of your Society and District dues is reduced, or in other words, your Society and District dues for the upcoming year is \$0. Who can't afford that?! Ask your chapter president or secretary if your chapter is participating in this recruitment program for new members! This is all part of the 100% dues reduction plan the Society introduced in 2006 and is continuing in 2007 www.barbershop.org/theclub. Earlier this year, the District decided to match this reduction in District dues as well.

Finally, keep sending me your application for show clearance, all five copies please. Try to do this well in advance of your actual performance so that I can check the dates to see that there are no conflicts. We want to avoid neighboring chapters scheduling shows on the same date, or scheduling shows in conflict with District or Society events.

Attention East-Central Iowa Singers: Mark YOUR Calendars

By John Donehower

You know, that's probably one of my favorite things to say. "MARK YOUR CALENDERS!" It's a sign of a healthy chorus and it's just plain fun. It's a satisfying experience regardless of whether we're announcing the next Annual Show, Singing Valentine program, Church performance, National Anthem or community gig. It's just as fun to mark the next Picnic or Chapter Pizza party on the calendar. Well, with that said, it gives me distinct pleasure to announce the following:

HARMONY HOLIDAY 2007

*Our 2nd Annual Performance
of Holiday Favorites!*

Featuring singers from the **Music Men, the Chordbusters, Old Capital Chorus, Twenty-First Century Vocals, Heartland Harmony and Harmony Hawks.**

Saturday, December 1, 2007
Matinee performance: 2:00 p.m.
Muscatine, Iowa
Hosted by Heartland Harmony

Evening performance: 7:30 p.m.
Iowa City, Iowa
Hosted by Old Capitol Chorus

Specific performance venues to be announced.

Isn't that great news? Harmony Holiday 2006 was so fun that you had to know that there would be a 2007

edition. Special thanks go out to our brothers in the Old Capitol Chorus and Heartland Harmony for serving as hosts for our 2007 shows! Now that we know what we're doing, wouldn't it be great to double up in 2007? Twice as many singers! Twice as many guests! Twice as many audience members! Twice the profit and twice the fun! GENTLEMEN: MARK YOUR CALENDERS!

ATTENTION AREA SINGERS: We do not limit ourselves to the singers listed in the above choruses! If you would like to participate in HARMONY HOLIDAY 2007 or would simply like more information, send me a note at DONEHOWER3@mchsi.com. We would love to have you join us!



Tenor - Ben Knipfer Baritone - Chad Knipfer
Lead - Michael Espinoza Bass - Ben Sigwarth

www.streamlinequartet.com

Contact Information: Ben Knipfer at 319.430.6646 or benk@streamlinequartet.com



Looking for Answers to Help Your Chapter? By Harvey Kiser, CSD, Marketing and Public Relations VP

Do you have questions about improving your great chapter's public relations with the general public and within your own chapter? If your chapter is small or relatively small, you may wonder "Where can I find help?" There are sources of information that are close.

One source is within your own chapter. Do you have an opportunity to obtain ideas from other chapter members? One of our CSD chapters conducted its first chapter retreat one Saturday this past February for 5 ½ hours. The chapter members had lots of singing and brought in another Society director as a clinician to listen to them. My point about the retreat is that this is an opportunity, with a couple small group sessions, to hear new ideas for improvement from your own chapter members.

A second source is our public. Visit and listen to your business supporters. A manager of a local nationwide company, upon hearing that local chapters are charitable 501(c)(3) nonprofit entities under IRS rules, said his company could consider doing more to help in accomplishing our mission.

You may ask 'where can I find this IRS information?' You can look at the Society's Document Center on the web. The following web address will open the Document Center:

<http://www.barbershop.org/web/groups/public/documents/webassets/doccenter.hcst>

A more specific web address for the IRS letters is: http://www.barbershop.org/web/groups/public/documents/native/cb_00145.pdf

The Document Center has an amazing amount of resources. For example, is your chapter facing additional competition from other organizations for Singing Valentines? There is a document on Successful Singing Valentines and one section deals with "Don't Overlook Cooperative Ventures." Here is the specific web address: http://www.barbershop.org/web/groups/public/documents/native/cb_00154.pdf

A third source is to ask questions of other chapters in our district or ask members of PROBE (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors association). I have seen many responses to questions that come from an inquiry by a PROBE member. Let's hear your questions and your answers. I can be a connection to provide answers. You can reach me at kskisers@networksplus.net



Membership Success Stories from around CSD By Dean Beckman, CSD Membership

Recently I asked for "Success Stories" from Chapter Membership VP's from around the district. I was very pleased to hear from several chapters. It was my intent to edit and select passages from their responses but to tell you the truth, the comments made by those that responded were so exciting that I could bring myself to edit anything. Please take a few minutes to read these comments from 4 Chapters within CSD. It certainly reminds me that we are

a GREAT DISTRICT with SUPER members that are doing MUCH to promote this great hobby!

Thanks to **Jerry Johnson - Pathfinders Chorus;**
Dave Rowe - Pride of the Ozarks; **Jim Griffith - Sarpy Serenaders & Gary Drown - Kearney 1733 Chorus** for your encouraging stories!!!

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Beckman continued from page 14

Dave Rowe, Pride of the Ozarks

Recently **Pride of the Ozarks** had its annual show, March 31 to be exact. Prior to the show we contacted more than fifty men, from list used in last fall's guest night. We invited them to the show. After the show we contacted some who had attended, and some new names and invited them to special guest night. Wives and family were included. We had 11 men, 15 women as guests. We had a different sort of practice; showing off what barbershopping is like, some polecats that everyone was included in, some show-off quartets, some woodshedding, etc. We served pizza and soda, etc. The guest night was a success. The following rehearsal a few returned. All the men guests were sent a thank you noted.

Jim Griffith, Sarpy Serenaders

We are working on building our chapter back up to where it was 10 years ago. We started the year with 21 members and our goal for the year is to increase our membership by 50% before December 31st.

So far, we have submitted three applications to Kenosha. All of these new members are 20 years old or younger. Recently, my wife and I went to Bellevue and met with two high school boys and their parents to be sure that the parents understand who we are and what we do. What a great afternoon. We left with two applications and two checks for a year's dues. The parents don't believe in giving anyone their credit card numbers or bank account information so I couldn't talk them into the Easy Dues Installment Plan.

We have several recruiting events planned and will be holding a Founder's Day - Reunion in September. The chapter had the first public meeting to start on September 24, 1987 - 20 years ago - so we are going to see how many of our "**Sarpy Serenader Family**" we can round up for a special day.

It's great to be a Barbershopper - even when you're 80 years old!!

Gary Drown, 1733 Chorus

We are working on three projects...none of which are in effect yet, but getting close.

1. We have begun a foundation for students, completely separate from our chapter treasury, which will allow any student...grade school, high school, or college, to join the Society and our chapter at no cost. We understand that will be put to work soon.

2. We are organizing an octet, which will be traveling to neighboring towns for a night of singing. We will advertise in the local newspaper for men of all ages to join us for.... not a concert.... but for a night of singing, with the intent that we expose them to barbershop, or perhaps thoughts of joining the chapter.

3. We are in process of organizing a competition chorus made up of Barbershoppers from nearby chapters. We are encouraging those chapters to seek non-Barbershoppers from their community to join this chorus, which will rehearse eight times before attending the fall convention. The thought is.... many men will not commit to an organization that meets 52 times a year (or more), but might consider 8 times and then a competition. If they find this is fun and want to do more...then they can join their local chapter.

Jerry Johnson, Pathfinder Chorus

We put 13 first time members on stage in March at our Spring Show and at our last guest night we had six guests (five never been to a rehearsal before). We are up to 93 members as of our Spring Show.

The chapter created a slogan; New members should be 1) Younger than their sponsor, 2) Better singers than their sponsor, 3) Better looking than their sponsor. Not sure if that is always the case but one out of three will probably get them in. (Note Batting 333 in baseball might get you into the Hall of Fame)

At our last guest night (Monday, April 9th) we invited **Patent Pending** as our entertainment, which really pumped up the guests and newer members, plus some of us old timers. We're also planning two more guest nights where we will invite in a guest quartet. This has been going on now for a few years. The chorus has gone from not having enough to compete (less that 35 on stage) 5 years ago to 75 on our Spring Show and hoping for 100 members by contest time.

We just keep reminding our members to keep calling potential members. We've had at least one guest or potential member attend each week since last fall.

We've also started having Membership Nights each month where members we can have a two way conversation about the chapter, what they like, what we might change, and why we sometimes do what we do. Response has been good. We structure the monthly meetings so that, say 0 to 5-year members

Beckman continued from page 15

attend that month, 5 to 10 year members the next months. 10 to 20 year members the next month, and over 20 the next month. It helps us possibly focus on different issues based on their years in the chapter. New members don't have to hear about "what happened in the distant past"

I've rambled enough. But remember "KEEP THE WHOLE WORLD SINGING"

These are great and exciting stories! Membership and growth is a "doing thing" not a "watching thing". Set a goal. Make a plan. Follow through!

Start your planning now for the Fall Convention in Kansas City. It will be a great event. I plan to recognize members with 25 – 50 Music Man of Note achievements at the convention. I hope you all have success over the remainder of the year. Don't hesitate to contact me with thoughts, concerns, questions and your SUCCESSES!!!

CSD number two in Society membership!!!
By Dean Beckman

Congratulations to Chapter's in the CSD!! New Member totals are in and CSD is number 2 in the Society with an increase of 74 new members!! We are only slightly behind the Northeastern District (NED) by four new members!!

This is wonderful news and you all are to be congratulated for your fine works and efforts. Please pass along these congratulations and success to your chapter members. They are undoubtedly the primary ones that have been out there inviting and encouraging guys to come and visit a chapter meeting. Through their encouragement the new member prospect then discovers the Value, Comradeship and Fun of singing harmony!!

Keep the good work and encouragement going out to the members. Have guest nights inviting new guys and reconnecting with those who have not been attending or have let their membership lapse!

Let us rally together to become the Number 1 District in the Barbershop Harmony Society!!

Thanks to each of you for all you do!

Melody Lane sings national anthem at NCAA Track Championship



Melody Lane, from the Greater Ozarks chapter, sings at the NCAA Indoor Track Championship in Fayetteville, Arkansas. The event was carried live on ESPN-U. From l-r, Rod Martin, baritone; Gene Gnuse, bass; Ron Heinemann, lead; and Bryce Hopkins, tenor. Photo by Greater Ozarks Chapter.

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CSD Members Receive Discount on Harmony University Tuition

By Bob Aderholt, CSD Music and Performance

I could not express it any better than the following two letters from **Don Fuson**, CSD District President and **Rick Spencer**, Director of Music Education, Barbershop Harmony Society. Where in the world can you spend three nights away from home, eat very well, sing tags all night long (away from my room, please), and have the Barbershop Experience of your life for only \$170.00 period. Oh yes, did I mention eat ALL THE ICE CREAM YOU WANT!

Now, you say, the Harmony University application says \$195.00. But get this: by you being a member of a chapter here in the Central Stated District, you automatically get a \$25.00 savings. That's money in your pocket to buy that BHS shirt or Woodshedding booklet from Harmony Marketplace that you have always wanted.

Check with me if you are interested in either the weekend or full week Harmony University experience. I will see you in St Joe.

CSD Chapter Presidents,

Please share this memo about this summer's Harmony University with EACH MEMBER in your chapter.

For those CSD members who can and are planning to attend the whole week, that is wonderful. We know that these members will find more ways to enjoy our harmonies and new friendships. For other CSD members who can only afford to consider the weekend, Rick Spencer's note that follows outlines the great reasons to take advantage of the classes being offered during the shortened weekend curriculum.

There is great learning to be experienced and the location is "right down the road" in our own St. Joseph, MO.

Thanks in advance for encouraging each chapter member in YOUR chapter to be involved with another great opportunity for the District within our Society.

Don Fuson, CSD President

Hello Central States District Barbershoppers!

Harmony University is returning to Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, MO again this summer July 29-August 5, 2007. You will find great offerings in our Directors College, Harmony College, Quartet College, or the Weekend Session to meet any of your educational needs.

The Society has been happy to work with your district leadership over the past two years to provide you with special opportunities as members of the Central States District. You will find these opportunities especially in our Weekend Session offering.

Starting Thursday night, August 2, the Weekend Session students will combine with the full-week Harmony University students for the "Mid-term Bash," followed by a special Opening Session just for the Weekend Session students. During the day on Friday and Saturday, choose from three sessions of classes each day, or quartet coaching, or bring your entire chorus for chorus coaching. Last year a chorus from CSD came and received coaching and they are returning again this year!

The Friday night show will feature the popular Harmony College Chorus and the Parade of Quartets, and the Saturday night show will feature the **Next Generation Chorus**, the **Directors College Chorus**, the brand new **Honors Chorus** (under the direction of **Dr. Jim Henry**), **Vocal Spectrum** (2006 International Quartet Champions), and newly added **Ambassadors of Harmony** (2004 International Chorus Champions).

What could be better than that? How about a reduced price for all members of the Central States District? Regular tuition price is \$195 per person. CSD members pay only \$170 for the Weekend Session. Two shows, fabulous instruction from barbershop's best teachers, three nights lodging, and all meals are included in this price. **Prices go up after July 15 so be sure to register soon.**

If you cannot make either the full week or the weekend, but still want to see the fabulous show on Saturday night, it is open to the public and you will be able to purchase tickets.

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For more information please visit www.barbershop.org/harmonyu, or call the Society office at 800-876-7464. Your registration forms are available for downloading for Harmony University at http://www.barbershop.org/web/groups/public/documents/graphics/pub_hucompleteforms3-6-07.pdf

As the Dean of this year's Harmony University, I personally invite you to take advantage of this opportunity.

I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Rick Spencer, Director of Music and Education



Thursday night at 2006 Harmony University's "Mid Term Bash" with CSDers Jim Bagby, Carl Philo, Don Blank, Don Goodrich, Charlie Gardner, Lynne Trapp and Lonnie Miner enjoying the program. Photo by Bob Aderholt.

"Pete" Peterson New Youth in Harmony Administrator, Duane Lawson New Collegiate Quartet Liaison

By Don Fuson, CSD President

I am pleased to announce that **Jon (Pete) Peterson** has agreed to take on the duties of the *Central States District YIH Administrator*. This is a **WIN - WIN** for the CSD as **Pete** has demonstrated the ability and tenacity to put together a YIH Harmony Explosion at Norris High School for the past 5 years. He has accomplished this by involving key persons and resources from Beatrice, Nebraska City, Papillion, Omaha as well as Lincoln, his home chapter.

Pete has shared his success, plans and ideas with other chapters such as Hastings and Ft. Dodge (both chapters put on successful YIH Festivals this past month) as well as offering a "How To" class at this past year's COTS. "We have no secrets" says Pete. "It's just the ability to answer questions in a positive manner and make sure the boys have fun", he adds.

His job, other than being the Asst. Director of the Lincoln Continentals, is as a Field Representative (a visiting college music instructor) for Nebraska Wesleyan University, in Lincoln. This means that he "*has to*" visit high school music departments in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri,



South Dakota, and, of course, Nebraska. Now do you see why this is a **WIN - WIN** for everyone?

I would also like to take the time to thank **Dave Pinkall** for his efforts and continued devotion as the previous YIH Administrator. **Dave** commented that when he retired from the Fremont Schools, he thought that he would have the time necessary to function as the YIH Administrator. But as some of us know, when we retire, that's when we really get busy and **Dave** was no exception. Again, thanks **Dave**.

Pete is going to have a familiar person working with him. **Duane Lawson** has heeded the call to staff the newly created position of Collegiate Quartet Liaison, working with **Pete** under the YIH umbrella. **Duane** will be the contact person with the various college quartets in the CSD area. You may recall that **Duane** first headed up for the CSD what was then known as Young Men In Harmony.

Please welcome **Pete Peterson** and **Duane Lawson** as our newest CSD work team members the next time you see them.

Bulletin Browsing

by Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

Following many years of discussion, the Dubuque chapter's board of directors has established a "Music Men Hall of Fame" in order to honor "those outstanding members of our chapter whose level of participation and contributions of time and talent through the years have stood head and shoulders above their peers." The inaugural group of selections was recognized at the chapter's "Sweetheart Dinner" on February 13. Music Director **John Donehower** announced the names of the 2007 recipients, together with a few of their accomplishments, in the March issue of **Bob Summers' Chord Courier**. They are:

Twenty-four-year member **Merlin Green**, who has served on the chapter board for 20 years, seven of them as chapter president. Merlin is the Dubuque chapter's only four-time "Barbershopper of the Year" honoree.

Dick Wepking, who's a 44-year member with 20 years on the chapter board, chapter president four times and BOTY three times. John says Dick has been interim and front-line music director countless times and was named the chapter's "Director Emeritus" or "Director for Life" in 2004. Dick has sung with many chapter quartets, including "the very popular international competitor, *Graduates*."

Gene Zeimet, a 21-year member of the Dubuque chapter, but since his retirement from John Deere and relocation to Ankeny, Iowa, three years ago, a Des Moines member, but still maintaining contact with the "Music Men" of Dubuque. Gene's 15 years on the Dubuque chapter board include four times as chapter president. Gene's notice at the district and international levels as editor of the *Chord Courier* was one of his more significant contributions to his chapter and his hobby.

John describes **Dale Schultz**, as the "crown jewel for the "Music Men." A 57-year member of the Barbershop Harmony Society, Dale has been recognized for his accomplishments at chapter, district and international levels and, although he has retired from active participation in his chapter, he's still active on district committees. He's been picked as the district "Barbershopper of the Year" and the "CSD Hall of Fame."

Bob Sigwarth joined the "Music Men" of the Dubuque chapter in 1983 and, at that point, John provides only a history of the offices Bob has held, and other accomplishments. They are: program VP (1986-87), chapter president (1988), treasurer (1990-2004), membership VP (2007), "Barbershopper of the Year"

(1993, 1997, 2005), four "Men of Note" awards, father of **Ben**, "Voice of Reason" and "Go-to-Guy" (1983-present).

* * *

In my estimation --- I hope unbiased --- *Harmonotes*, the bulletin of the Kansas City chapter, is the reflection of a large, hard-working, active, dedicated and supportive bunch of Barbershoppers. Editor **Todd Anderson** is to be commended for the job he's doing --- we're all confident that his bulletin will come in at the top during international competition this summer --- but a great deal of credit goes to the chapter officers and individual members. In the 16-page March edition of *Harmonotes*, I count 23 articles submitted by 13 authors, plus 13 excellent photographs (not counting the postage-stamp-sized shots that go with the bylines).

* * *

Editor **Bob Uy** included in his February/March issue of *Harmony Overtones*, the Des Moines chapter bulletin, a letter from member **Harold Parry** in which he describes an interesting experience that occurred during a flight from Des Moines to Washington, DC. He tells how he happened to have his Society button in his coat lapel. The man across the aisle from him noticed the pin and left his wife and moved over to sit with Harold and his wife, **Dorothy**. Turned out to be none other than **Meridith Willson**, who wanted to do nothing more than just talk about barbershopping. Small world, don't you think?

* * *

John Petterson, long time editor of *Harmony Overtones*, the Des Moines chapter bulletin, the *Serenade*, the Central States District bulletin, and *PROBE* *moter*, the newsletter of the Association of Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors (PROBE), died on March 1, 2007, of pancreatic cancer. **Victor Neilsen**, writing in the April/May issue of *Harmony Overtones* tells how John was picked as Des Moines' "Barbershopper of the Year" in 2002, the Central States District's "Barbershopper of the Year" for 2001, and was inducted into the PROBE "Hall of Honor" in 2002. I was privileged to work with John as a contributor to the *Serenade* throughout his service as editor of that publication and found that he was a distinct pleasure to work with. As Victor says, "I don't expect John to be singing in the heavenly chorus as much as I expect he will be creating a bulletin extolling the virtues of that chorus and drumming up interest in others to join. And he will be successful."

* * *

I always enjoy reading **Sharon Ocker's** *Siouxland Saga*, even though it usually consists of no more than one sheet of paper on both sides. Most of his stuff is humor, but it's good enough to make me giggle a bit. In his April issue, he has this one: "A new teacher was trying to make use of her psych courses. She started her class by saying, 'Everyone who thinks you're stupid, stand up!' After a

few seconds, little Johnny stood up. the teacher said, 'Do you think you're stupid, Johnny?' 'No, ma'am, but I hate to see you standing all by yourself!'" On the serious side, Sharon reports that the Siouland Barbershop Chorus is considering a new name that will not include the word "barbershop." He says that a quick survey of the Central States District reveals 27 choruses that include that word in their names, while 36 do not. Sharon also tells us that progress is slow, but I hope they don't come up with a name with "barber boys" in it.

* * *

New *By-Lines* editor **Dick Kury** is certainly doing a fine job of filling the over-sized shoes of the recently retired **John Conrad**. In his February issue, Dick has included an article about the origin of the first St. Louis chapter of the BHS. The item was borrowed from *Sharptalk*, the bulletin of the Macon, GA chapter, edited by **Fred Hinesty**, whose source was notes provided by **David Wright** in his course on the history of barbershop harmony at Harmony University.

O. C. Cash, one of the cofounders of SPEBSQSA was an outgoing man who had a flare for humor and public relations. These traits served the Society well in its early days. It was, we are told, his good humor and public relations talents that led to the formation of the St. Louis chapter.

Following the first meeting of our Society in Tulsa on April 6, 1938, news media all over the country picked up on the story of the new barbershop harmony organization. According to society luminary, **Deac Martin**, after the third meeting of that first chapter, a reporter asked Cash if other barbershop harmony chapters were being formed. Cash replied that his friend, Everett Baker of St. Louis, was organizing a chapter there. Cash's reply, however' was untrue. Baker's name came to his mind because they had sung together on occasion.

On June 2, 1938, the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* reported that E. G. Baker, who was vice president of the Frisco Railroad in St. Louis, was organizing a St. Louis chapter. Baker immediately began receiving phone calls. He called Cash and exclaimed, "What have you done?"

Despite the fact that he and Cash had not previously discussed the matter, Baker authorized his secretary to take the names of interested callers. He proceeded to set up the first meeting of the St. Louis chapter, which soon had 100 members.

* * *

Writing in the March/April issue of the *Beatri'one*, the bulletin of the Beatrice chapter, **Rod Pieper** announces the 2007 "Homestead Scholarship" program for high school seniors. Two scholarships will be granted to graduating high school seniors who meet the following criteria for eligibility: The applicant must be a member of the *Homestead Harmonizers*, must be graduating from high school this spring, and must be

planning to attend college next fall. The deadline for the receipt of applications is May 31, 2007. Rod doesn't reveal the amount of the scholarship, but it will probably be a significant amount for a freshman in his first year of college.

* * *

The on-line copy of *The Hawk's Eye*, the bulletin of the Cedar Rapids chapter arrived just in time for inclusion in this column for the next issue of the *Serenade*. I hope other CSD bulletin editors are considering sending me their editions on-line, if not by paper copy. I know there are many other chapters that are publishing their newsletters but are not sending me a copy. Hope to see more of them next time. BTW, congratulations to Editor Richard Anderson who received his chapter's "Invisible Man" Award, ostensibly in recognition for the fine job he's doing as the new *Hawk's Eye* editor. There's no explanation as to why it's called the "Invisible Man" award. Could it be that Richard is another one of these editors who work hard putting out an outstanding publication, but are seldom able to attend chapter meetings?

* * *

Another almost too late but, as always, welcome bulletin was the *InCider Press*, the Manhattan chapter newsletter, edited by **Karen Nanninga**. A highlight of the past few weeks was a visit to the Central States District by **Jim DeBusman**, Society Music Specialist/Quartet Development, hosted by the Hutchinson, Salina, Manhattan and Overland Park chapters. Nine chapters participated in the four meetings with approximately 165 Barbershoppers in attendance. During his Manhattan visit, Jim was invited to present a "Keynote" address for the local Rotary Club. He also did a "live" radio interview with KMAN AM/FM Radio, which lasted about 15 minutes and covered our Society's mission and his role as a Music Specialist.

As he departed, Jim explained that, "This was one of the finest district visits I've ever made. It was well organized and thus filled with many successful events. I must also take this opportunity to thank **Bob Aderholt** and **Don Fuson** for doing such great jobs of coordinating my visit to the CSD and being such terrific chauffeurs."

* * *

According to the March-April issue of *Cody Corral*, edited by **Bill Krondak**, the Leavenworth chapter members gathered at the "5th Street Deli" in Leavenworth on Monday, April 23, for the annual "Kwazy Qwartet Contest." Contest Chairman **Al Fehlauer** made the rules, certified the judges and obtained the prizes. Each chapter member was given the opportunity to form a quartet and perform a song. Prizes were given in "multiple categories" from the "chewiest" to the most "unbearable." Big winners included **Tracy Dame** and **Jerry Means**, who each sang in at least three quartets. **Tom Lauhon** was a "ringer" who also won a "major award." What lengths will Barbershoppers go to for the enjoyment of their hobby?

Volunteer at International in Denver

Barbershoppers, their spouses, family and friends...who wish to volunteer at the Society's International Convention, July 1-8 in Denver, may register on-line.

Online volunteer registration only takes a couple minutes at http://rmdsing.org/international/volunteer_profile_sheet.htm or go to www.RMDsing.org and click "On-Line Volunteer Form".

Anyone working a four-hour shift will take home a snazzy volunteer shirt with the convention logo patch. If you are unable to register online, call **Tony Pranaitis** at 303-233-6234.

Care and Feeding of the Chapter Bulletin

By Dick Cote, Publisher/Editor, Fullerton, California "Barbershop Clippin's"
Lifted from the May/June 2007 issue of the PROBE motor

Some general principles

First and foremost, if you want to be an editor you have to be a friend to the chapter and its members. It's best to get to know all members by name, what part they sing, if they're in any quartets, get to know their wives, and even something about what they do and have done. In short, you have to know your members and let them know who you are, what you're doing, and why they should take an interest in it. No matter how good you are at mechanical considerations such as using a computer and word processor, if you don't have a good rapport with your members, chances are you won't get very far.

How about the mechanical aspects? In the old days, production of a bulletin was a matter of using a typewriter, scissors, a glue pot, and lots of patience. Cut and paste, literally, was just that. And I think there are still some bulletin editors who use that technique. But my advice is to get yourself a reasonably good computer, a good word processor, and a nice printer. None of these items is very expensive today, and most will do the job quite handily.

You should have a Windows based PC or a MAC to start. I use a PC and do all of my work using the WordPerfect Office X3 software for composition and layout. I suspect that the more popular word processor is Microsoft Word, but even though I have it, I've found WordPerfect to be easy to use, and besides, it came with my first computer and I've grown accustomed to it. I know some editors use preformatted newsletter programs, and I have some of those, but I've never used them because I like the latitude that I have with a good word processor. More on that later.

"I have writers who would really hate to miss an issue, and in ten years of publishing, I have several who haven't missed even one."

Today, you can get a really nice printer for very little money—under \$100 for one that will do the job nicely and will have more capability than you'll ever be able to use. I have three printers. The one I use for final copy preparation is a high quality black and white laser printer. I have two color printers (you don't really need all that) but I got my second one as a premium when I bought my latest computer.

It's the second one that's a real gem. It's an HP Printer/Scanner/Copier model 1210, it's inexpensive and it has wonderful capabilities, not the least of which is that it turns out very nice color or black and white copies. However, one of its best features, from my point of view, is the scanner. With that you can make copies of photos or printed pages, and even use it to do character recognition of printed matter. You can really dress up your bulletin with photos of your members and their activities. That, to me, is one of the biggest selling points of a good bulletin.

Perhaps the biggest factor in the success of your undertaking is what you can put into it. That means, what kind of articles you use, how relevant they are to barbershopping, and how you put them together for maximum interest. But here's the catch—getting articles to use can be a real struggle. I know editors around the country who are lucky to have one or two contributors in a month. The result is that most of what they publish is what they prepare themselves or what they borrow from other bulletins.

By the way, borrowing is a good thing. But getting contributors can be a challenge. The *Barbershop Clippin's* is the envy of the some bulletin editors because I always have at least 15 contributors, and frequently as many as 20. How does that happen? Well, remember what I said about getting to know your members? If you get to know them and to show how interested you are in them,

that's part of the battle. I have writers who would really hate to miss an issue—and in ten years of publishing, I have several who haven't missed even one.

Okay, you ask, how do you get people to write? The first source should be your chapter officers, and while most of them won't contribute an article for each issue, they should do so at certain times of the year. I think the chapter president should try to get a blurb in each month. And the secretary will get in because you'll want to publish a condensation of board meeting minutes.

Anyway, you get the idea. Other sources will be the guy who's responsible for quartet activities, quartet

contacts, the chorus manager, Youth in Harmony coordinators, and social directors such as your afterglow or harmony for lunch bunch chairmen. But I, for one, don't wait for articles to come out of the wood work. I'd be waiting a long time. I see things happening and suggest to a member that perhaps he should write something about it, and that frequently works.

I've been known to be really sneaky and write an article and put someone else's name on it, just to show them what can be done. It works. The main thing is to get your guys into the habit of writing, and the more they write, the better they'll write, and the bulletin will improve as a result.

January Adventures in Albuquerque

Catalyst brings home 5th place bronze medal

By Jim Thomas assisted by Dennis Paulsen and Gene Lutz

Catalyst arrived in Albuquerque for the 2007 Midwinter convention and the International Senior Quartet competition with little to spare as usual. We had each come our separate ways but Dennis certainly deserved the award for the most strenuous trek to the mile high city in sunny New Mexico. He had driven his RV through an ice storm from you know where, as he passed through Oklahoma and Texas. Even so, he was there at least two days before the latecomers arrived.

We all anticipated a very competitive contest and we were correct. Most of the main players from the 2006 contest in Sacramento were still active and had another year of experience (as though that is an issue in a senior quartet contest). We found many supporters from CSD as we prepared for the contest and as usual the Jurassic Larks were primary among this enthusiastic group.

The contest itself was over quickly, and we were all patiently waiting for the final announcement of the medal winners. With the very first announcement, CATALYST was very pleased to be among this group and everyone made their way to the stage with enthusiastic vigor (more for some of us than for others). We don't remember much of the rest of the ceremonies as the medals on our chests were too bright to think clearly.

Catalyst was thrilled with the many congratulatory comments and emails we received after the contest and want to thank everyone that sent along a message. We appreciate the financial support provided by CSD and want to thank **Don Fuson** for quickly reporting our successful results. We also want to thank both **Jim Bagby** for his coaching this

year and **Jayne Morden** for her coaching in 2006, as they were both instrumental in the success of our program for the contest.

Finally, Catalyst would like to encourage all seniors to consider getting involved in the quartet program designed specifically for us. It has been a great experience for us and it is reaching a level of competition that any of us "Seniors" can be proud to be a part of.

The Midwinter Convention itself is a great venue for this contest with the presence of all the medalist quartets from the "Juniors" contest in July and the enthusiastic participation of many senior members of our great society including many of the past senior quartet champions.

Any senior quartet will find lots of support and enthusiasm as they participate in this great annual event.



Catalyst with their 5th place bronze medals from the International Senior Quartet Contest in Albuquerque, New Mexico. From left: Denny Paulsen, Jim Bolluyt, Jim Thomas and Gene Lutz. BHS Photo

John Petterson, former Serenade editor, passes away

By Dave Haase, Editor



John Willard Petterson

August 30, 1939 ~ March 1, 2007

On March 1, 2007, the Central States District lost a dear friend, **John Petterson**. For many years John was the editor of this publication, the Serenade, and his work was always professional and top-notch.

John shared his knowledge of bulletin editing at COTS as a member of the faculty. In 2003, I went to COTS to learn the craft of bulletin editing. That class was special. Besides myself, there was **Dick DeLorm**, the longtime editor of the Lincoln, NE chapter bulletin, *The ReChorder*; **Robert Uy**, editor of the Des Moines, IA chapter bulletin, *Harmony Overtones*; and **Alexander Edwards**, editor of the Hastings, NE chapter bulletin, *The Plains Notes*. Compared to John and Dick, Bob, Alex, and I were pretty green in editing a chapter bulletin, but we took advantage of the situation and learned from them.

John took a "hands on" approach to teaching the craft. He had us covering the COTS that weekend and later on working together as a team to produce a bulletin that was handed out at breakfast on Sunday morning. The

bulletin's name was the *COTS Meow*. John was a terrific teacher and was always there if you had a question or needed help. CSD has lost a great treasure resource.

For many years John was the editor of the Des Moines, IA chapter bulletin, *Harmony Overtones*, where he won CSD Bulletin Editor of the Year many times. In 2002, John was named Des Moines' Barbershopper of the Year.

Later that year, John was named to PROBE's Hall of Honor for his service as the editor of the *PROBEmotor* and as a category judge in PROBE's annual international Bulletin Editor of the Year contests.

Previously, in 2001, John was recognized by the Central States District as its Barbershopper of the Year for his longtime service as the editor of the Serenade and as a member of the CSD COTS faculty.

John Willard Petterson was born August 30, 1939, to Paul W. and Edith L. Petterson in Minneapolis, MN. John died March 1, 2007, of pancreatic cancer at Mercy Hospice in Johnston, IA. John grew up in Minneapolis where he graduated from Roosevelt High School. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He attended the University of Minnesota for two years.

John married Kathryn (Kay) Cosgrove on January 17, 1970. He is survived by wife, Kay; his son, Michael (Catherine) O'Neal-Petterson of Altadena, CA; their children, Zoe and Magnus; his daughter Susan (Kevin) Turzinski of Savage, MN; their children, Samantha, Damon, and Kierstyn; his sister Katherine (Stewart) Shaw of Winona, MN; his brother Charles (Lynn) Petterson of Persia, IA; sister-in-law Diane Petterson (Paul D.) of Stillwater, MN; his Aunt Mary Brockert of Madison, WI; and several nieces and nephews, as well as scores of friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and his older brother Paul D. Petterson.

John was employed by Christian Photography of Urbandale, Iowa, where he repaired professional photographic equipment. He was a member of the Linn Grove United Methodist Church. Organizations of which he was a member include the Masonic Lodge, the Order of the Star and the Des Moines Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. He served as a Norwalk city council member for four years.

John's final contribution to life was donating his body to Des Moines University (Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery) for student's anatomical study.

May John forever rest in peace.

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

June 28 - St. Charles, MO, A-045 - Touhill Theater
Oct 6 - Mitchell, SD, A-018 - Corn Palace.
Nov 3, Hastings, NE, A-061 - Masonic Center(2 shows).
April 4-5, 2008 Mason City, IA – NIACC (3 shows)

Society Events –

Jul 1-8, 2007 - International Convention, Denver, CO
July 29-August 5 - Harmony University, St. Joseph, Missouri
January 20-27 - International Mid- Winter Convention, San Antonio, Texas



Reserve these CSD Dates –

- Oct. 19-21, 2007 - CSD Fall Convention, Kansas City, MO
November 10, 2007 - COTS, Des Moines, Iowa
November 17, 2007 - COTS, Lincoln, Nebraska
April 18-20, 2008 – CSD Spring Convention, Site TBD
October 10-12, 2008 – CSD Fall Convention, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

For more potential dates and events visit www.centralstatesdistrict.com and click on the “calendar” section

EVERYONE NOTE: The next Serenade will be online and in print approximately August 10, 2007.

Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America
Barbershop Harmony Society
Central States District – Kansas City Chapter
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