

We are harmonizing members of the Barbershop Harmony Society



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Karen Nanninga, Editor and Publisher

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The Little Apple Chorus singing Barbara Ann, Tuesday June 23 at the invitation of the Manhattan Municipal Band at the Manhattan City Park – the Chorus and Band also jointly performed the Battle Hymn of the Republic

Photo by Kathy Thompson



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View from the front, Summer edition

By **Steve Thompson**

Well, we pulled it off again. A great show with the **Manhattan Municipal Band** and the Summer Church Sing Outs have started. Again, nothing but Kudos' from everyone I have heard from. My wife, daughter and grandkids was at College Heights Baptist Church for our 1st Sunday and even the kids were impressed. (That's saying a lot from 8 and 10 year olds) Every comment I received from our church members was amazing-and

they wanted more. This is probably true for all the churches. The visit I enjoyed most though was St. Joseph's. It just seemed that the residents were so appreciative of our presentation. It just seemed a lot more meaningful there,

The performance with the **Manhattan Municipal Band** was HOT! Literally, it was hot out there, but we still pulled it off. The main comment I heard from several people in the audience was why we didn't perform more songs and that they loved "That Barbershop Sound"!

I actually think that I have converted one of my "Rock and Roll" Buddies over to the dark continued on page 3

The chapter and chorus meet every Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. at the First Methodist Church Activity Center on the corner of Poyntz and 6th Street, Manhattan, Kansas.

InCider Press, a monthly publication, is the official publication of the Manhattan, Kansas chapter of the Central States District (CSD) of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

The Manhattan Chapter is the home of the Little Apple Chorus. The chapter and chorus meet every Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. at the First Methodist Church Activity Center on the corner of Poyntz and 6th Street, Manhattan, Kansas.

For more information about meetings or joining call or write to the Editor. (see below)

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 Membership and Chapter Development VP
 and President ElectBill Hanson
 Music & Performance VP.....Loren Alexander
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 Public Relations VP.....John Thomason
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 Associate Musical DirectorDon Thomson
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 Show Chairmen.....Jim Lindquist and
 Don Thomson
 Singing Valentine ChairmanKen Lyle
 Youth in Harmony ChairmanTravis Troyer
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 Bulletin Editor.....Karen Nanninga
 Web Master.....Bart Bartholomew

www.littleapplechorus.org

Bulletin Editor

Karen Nanninga
 1379 26th Road
 Axtell, Kansas 66403

Phone: 785-736-2870
 email: taren@bluevalley.net

Unless carrying a byline or some form of credit to borrowed sources, all items in this bulletin are by the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the chapter or board. All photos in the bulletin are by the editor, unless otherwise identified.

All chapter officers are expected and chapter members are encouraged to contribute their ideas on a regular basis

Society's Convention and future chapter events

Harvey Kiser, President

Congratulations to **Karen Nanninga** for being awarded the Second Place plaque in the International Electronic Bulletin Contest sponsored by PROBE (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors) - an all-volunteer organization, affiliated with the Barbershop Harmony Society. The award was announced at the PROBE meeting and at the International Convention quartet semifinals by **Jim Bagby**, the session presenter.

The CSD **Ambassadors of Harmony** Chorus, St. Charles, MO and the **Crossroads** quartet distinguished themselves as Champions at the International Convention. The **Ambassadors** received 2,926 of the possible 3,000 possible points -- a 97.5% score. The five presentation judges gave the chorus 498 points out of 500 possible for the second song – Seventy Six Trombones – 100 from three judges and 99 from two. **Crossroads** earned an average score of 93.7% or 8,433 points for three rounds of performances.

Our **Manhattan Chapter** has several events coming up. Our music directors **Ken Lang** and **Don Thomson** along with 11 other members are attending a CSD **Chuck Greene** workshop titled "*Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meetings*" Saturday, July 25 in St. Joe, MO. 26 CSD chapters and 111 barbershoppers are registered. The other 11 are: **Travis Troyer, Loren Alexander, Bill Hanson, Mason Swenson, Bob Swenson, Harvey Kiser, Cam Beatty, Dave Fink, Bob Ridley, John Thomason, and Fred Wachsmuth.**

Some great barbershop harmonizing will be heard at the Saturday evening show, August 1 at Harmony University in St. Joe at the Wyatt Park Baptist Church. The chapter will reimburse members one-half of the \$20 ticket that may be purchased on the Society web page of <http://www.barbershop.org/musicEdHarmonyUniversity.aspx> Performing will be the **Next Generation Chorus** of which **Mason Swenson** is a member. Two other performances are by the **Directors Chorus** and the **Honors Chorus** directed by **Mark Hale**, director of **Masters of Harmony Chorus**. **OC Times**, the 2008 Champion International Quartet, concludes the evening performances.

Barbershoppers of CSD will have the opportunity to hear the **Ambassadors of Harmony** and **Crossroads** at the *Tribute to the Champions* on Saturday, October 10, at 8:00 p.m. at the CSD Fall Convention, Lied Center, Lincoln, NE. The **Vocal Spectrum**, 2006 International Quartet Champions, will also perform. This is an once-in-a-lifetime event and will be one heck of a show. If you are not able to perform with the **Little Apple Chorus** at the convention, you are invited to come and hear these International Champions from CSD. The registration cost of this single event is \$12.00 for convention registrants and \$24 for others including the general public.

Our Musical Retreat is Saturday, August 22 at Rock Springs. The retreat provides all of us the opportunity to hone our barbershop musical craft. We will benefit from the time we have with **Ken Lang** and our clinician **Jim Bagby**.

Oh, the things that I saw

Don Thomson, Associate Director

There are many ways to write a report on a convention. From my perspective there were just a few things that really jumped out at me. First, the California air is wonderful to breathe. I understand why there are so many people who have opted to live in this area. Temperatures were in the 80's and 90's, but with the dry air, to us Kansans it felt like the 70's...perfect.

The next thing that hit me as a little different from previous conventions was the number of young people...both on the risers and in the audience. There is definitely a youth movement underway in the society. We need to jump on board. Hopefully on the 25th of July we will learn what this is all about. On the risers we saw a definite trend to wearing black suits...sometimes tuxes, sometimes suits, but definitely black was the "in" color. Looked very sharp too. We still saw a lot of long ties, and there was one chorus on the international stage which wore red bow ties and cummerbunds. Be sure to keep your red accessories!

Lastly, it was so refreshing to see all of the singers on stage so committed to their task of presenting their songs. At this level you see no slackers. Everyone was on board and in tune with what they were trying to do...from facial expressions to body movements to posture to vowel shapes...all things that we do not emphasize enough because we work on words and notes almost all the time. Hopefully we will use the learning tracks that will soon be issued to do our homework with the notes and words so we can get off the music and concentrate on the performance of the songs and to relating to our audiences.

The International Convention is a place where I can go and completely be submerged in the sounds of happiness. My mind is cleared, my disposition is transformed, and the world becomes a happy and actually spiritual place, which brings peace to the soul.

Then there is the competition. Wow! The chorus competition (my favorite day of the week) was almost unreal. **The Vocal Majority** did their usual flawless performance. They had the highest score ever recorded in a chorus competition. Then came along the **Denver Rocky Mountain** chorus. They performed every bit as well as the **Vocal Majority**, but the scores were not reflected quite as high. They did have scores high enough to have won the competition last year. But, if that was not enough, our Central States representative, **The Ambassadors of Harmony**, blew both of them away! They broke the record which had just been set by the **Vocal Majority** and by a large margin! Everyone in the audience knew when the **Ambassadors** finished their songs that they had won. It was almost an unbelievable experience...scoring 2926 points out of a possi-

ble 3000. That is almost perfect! In my eyes (and my ears) they were perfect, and I was almost overcome with joy and excitement. The chapter purchased a copy of the chorus performances, and we will make sure that everyone will get to witness this marvelous performance. Wish you all could have been there. Barbershopping was raised to a new level last weekend! ♪



The marquee at the Honda Center welcoming the International Barbershoppers

Photo by **Harvey Kiser**

Continued from page 1

side. He has come to the last 2 shows at McCain, and several of our other performances and he truly likes to hear us. I just can't get him to come to a practice and sing with us.

Seriously, the one comment that was echoed by several of my friends in the audience was that our patriotic tribute with the band was very heartfelt and was amazing to watch and hear. One even went so far as to say that we needed to have weekly performances at the park the same way as the Band does. That would be a logistical nightmare in its own right.

It appears-as usual-that we are doing the right things at the right times and we are putting our hearts into our work. Again, I doubt we would be where we are today without the outstanding leadership and guidance of our directors and the time and effort our senior chorus members put into producing a quality product. I cannot emphasize strongly enough as to how proud I am to be associated with the **Little Apple Chorus** and to be counted among such a great group of dedicated people.

Whether or not you know it, we make an indelible mark on our community with our performances and commitment to our community. I personally thank each and every one of you for your personal sacrifice and dedication to the craft. Lastly, I am proud to consider you and your families as part of my extended family. "Sing Together so we all may be heard!" ♪

You just had to be there

By **Bob Swenson**

I know anything I say here will not cause chills to run up your back, nor cause the hair on your arm to stand. But yet those experiences were common to attendees at the just-completed International Convention in Anaheim. **Telva** and I attended most of the competitions, opting to miss only the quartet semifinals on Thursday afternoon.

As to the thrills and chills, there were plenty! From the quartet quarter-finals through the chorus contest, to the Collegiates, there simply wasn't a bad entry! In fact, those who were using their own scoring found it difficult to match the final outcome. It was simply a case of every competitor having quality sufficient to scare the pants off whoever was in first place.

You've probably heard now of the record-breaking performance of Central States District's chorus entry, the **Ambassadors of Harmony** from St. Charles.. The talk of the convention was the match-up between Dallas' **Vocal Majority**, which had won the gold for the last eleven straight times they were eligible, and St. Charles, which is a previous gold-medal winner and had won the Silver medal the last two years, ending up tying **Westminster** in points and just a few points short of the **Masters of Harmony**.

Being from Central States District, I was pulling for St. Charles, but then I watched the **Vocal Majority** put on a show during their contest set that was simply fantastic! So much great choreography and perfect sound and diction dashed my hopes that the **Vocal Majority** could be beaten. It was a record-setting performance. Their score, 2889 points out of a possible 3000, would have won every other chorus contest in history. So the **Vocal Majority** was at the pinnacle of contest mastery and I was resigned to having my favorite chorus wearing the silver medals for a third straight year.

The chorus contest was in two sessions with the **Vocal Majority** singing in the afternoon session, and the **Ambassadors of Harmony** scheduled as number 26 in the evening session. My hopes were further diminished by the fact that **Voices in Harmony**, a very fine chorus directed by **Dr. Greg Lyne**, was chorus number 25, and with two excellent choruses in a row, the scoring judges would not be able to discern enough difference to give my favorite chorus the edge.

But my faith in the judging system was restored fully when St. Charles took the stage. Dressed in sharp, double-buttoned attire, their opening ballad "If You Love Me, Really Love Me" was a thrilling example of selling the song. Clean diction, full chords, and varied volumes, all made me feel good about **Ambassadors of Harmony's** presentation, but was it really better

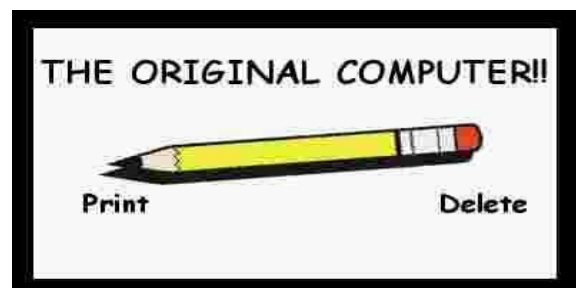
than what I remembered the **Vocal Majority** had sung earlier?

Then **Ambassadors of Harmony** started their 2nd song, "Seventy Six Trombones", and the thrills and chills started to develop. During that song, there was so much going on you couldn't keep track of all that was happening. Director **Jim Henry** changed into a Drum Major's costume, and out of nowhere, the front row began a marching routine in full matching band uniforms, complete with plumed hats! A Big Chinese gong appeared at the back of the risers for a few moments, and all the marching and acrobatics just wouldn't let you see all that was happening as the song developed. It culminated in all 158 members being dressed in shiny band uniforms complete with instruments, and a standing ovation that certainly was the longest in history. Perhaps the **Vocal Majority** could be beaten, but I still had a few doubts.

It was only after the results were announced that my hopes were fulfilled. St. Charles set several new records in what may be the best chorus contest appearance ever. You'd have to be there to experience the electricity and excitement that the **Ambassadors** created. I haven't seen the individual scores, but I understand that of the 15 judges, 6 gave perfect 100 scores. Three of those were in the presentation category where a new total of 498 points (out of 500) were awarded as the highest number of points ever awarded by one category to a presentation. That's three 100's and two 99's, an unbelievable score for a nearly unbelievable performance.

So besides the first 498 score, other records that fell included the first time 6 choruses scored 90 (average) or more, the first score over 2900, and the first time a chorus won every category on every song. It was also the first time two choruses from our affiliates were ranked in the top ten with Stockholm, Sweden, taking 7th place (89.7 average) and Wellington, New Zealand, taking tenth with an 88.2 average.

The quartet contest was equally exciting with CSD's **Crossroads** becoming the new gold medalists, and **The Vagrants**, a collegiate foursome from Santa Fe Springs, CA, (**The Masters of Harmony**) taking the gold in that contest. All in all, it was a wonderful week of fellowship, great singing, and enjoyment, the like of which you'd have to be there to fully enjoy the experience.





Brian Swenson receives the Barbershopper of the Month award for June from president Harvey Kiser

June BOTM

By **Harvey Kiser**, President

We recognize **Brian Swenson**, a *Bari* in the **Late Night Edition**, for his contributions to our chapter. A major contribution recently was his serving on a committee with **Ken Lang** recommending and purchasing the purchase of a sound system with multiple speakers and mikes. This sound system helps to amplify the chorus's performance in an open air theater or in an auditorium with no or limited number of microphones. Also, the system can be used to record chorus and sectional performances. He constructed a box for part of the system so that it is mobile for ease of transport and storage.

Additionally, **Brian** is always willing to help where asked and one of those is warming up the chorus prior to rehearsal. The chorus benefits with his instruction on vowel matching and singing the chords on key. Thank you **Brian** for all that you do for our chapter and chorus and your quartet.♪

**Look Here Guys, Do
The Write Thing**
Help Your Chapter With A News Item
For the Next Issue
Come on, you can do it.



Komments from Karen

Wow, I got second place in the PROBE newsletter contest.. I would say that is pretty good for someone who really did not know what to do when I started. This newsletter is only as good as the submissions given sent to me. Thanks to all of you who send articles.

I would like to thank **Harvey Kiser** for his help in getting articles to me and getting others to send them and filling in with information. He is awesome help. **Loren Alexander** helps proof read the articles when the time slot allows it, then **Terry Nanninga** gives it a finally look before I send it to print, then to **Bart Bartholomew** for putting it on line for us and my final critic, in a very good way. So you see it is not a one person job. Thanks guys.

Do you realize how hard we work to get the newsletter to you the same week as board meeting, so you have all the current information? Again **Harvey** sends the information from the board meeting that you need to know , then I have about a day to get everything in proper format before it goes to the printers and on line. During part of the year I have a Tuesday morning commitment, making my time at the computer even shorter.♪



Here are some interesting facts about records that fell about the Ambassadors of Harmony's victory.

1. First 498 score ever. 100 from three judges and 99 from two others.
2. The first time six choruses scored 90.0 or more.
3. The first 97.5 score ever and the first score over 2900 ever.
4. The **Ambassadors** won every category on every song.
5. The highest score for a foreign chorus with Sweden placing 7th with 89.7.
- 6 The Bay Area scored 89.0 last year, this was good enough for third, this year it was eighth..
7. The **Vocal Majority** score of 2889 would have won every other contest in history.

The Little Apple Chorus at Summer Church Sing Outs



Pictures here show The Little Apple Chorus singing at the Sedalia Community Church, the First Presbyterian Church and College Avenue United Methodist Church on July 12th.



2009 Church Sing-Outs a success!

By Tom Phillips

The Little Apple Chorus has gone on the road once again to offer high quality *a capella* Barbershop music to local churches this Summer. Ken Lang has prepared the LAC for presenting selections from four of our favorite sacred pieces in brief appearances during church services in the Manhattan area. Songs this year include the upbeat "River Jordan" and "Swing Down Chariot", along with the more somber "Sweet Hour of Prayer" and the inspirational "I Believe".

Our first "Sing-Out" was on June 21st and included 6 different church services and an appearance at a local retirement center. On July 12 the LAC performed at six additional churches in Manhattan and the Tuttle Creek Reservoir area, and on July 19 we will sing at

four churches in the towns of Wamego and Westmoreland. September 13 is reserved for singing at church service on post at Fort Riley as part of the annual 911 memorial activities.

Church Sing-Outs are great experiences for both the singers and those in the church congregations. The LAC is honored to participate in welcoming churches as part of their worship, and the congregants get to hear music that is probably a little different than their usual Sunday offerings.

Additionally, Church Sing-Outs allow the LAC to spread the joy of Barbershop music and maybe even spark some interest in potential future barbershoppers. If you know of a church that was not visited this year, and who might like to hear for a Church Sing-Out next summer, please let us know.♪



July and August birthdays

July Birthdays

John Borchers – 20

Bill Hanson – 22

Charles Martin – 24

Bob Ridley – 26

Will Stanfield – 31

August Birthdays

Loren Alexander – 9

Wayne Bailie – 28

Frank Carpenter – 15

Chuck Marr – 18

Steve Seals – 4



"Cliff... you sing a tad flat!"

An Adventure With Harry Harmony



One Sunday morning, a Harry Harmony's wife went in to wake her husband and tell him it was time to get ready for church, to which he replied, "I'm not going."

"Why not?" she asked.

"I'll give you two good reasons," he said. "(1), they don't like me, and (2), I don't like them."

His wife replied, "I'll give YOU two good reasons why YOU SHOULD go to church. (1) You're 59 years old, and (2) you're the pastor!"

Upcoming events

Here is a list of the events coming up soon. They are listed elsewhere and on the web.

July 19 – Sunday Church Performances

July 23 – Joint Chapter meeting with Topeka Chapter

Aug 22 – Music Retreat, Rock Springs with Jim Bagby,

Sept 13 – Sunday Ft. Riley Chapel Performances

Sept 24 – Annual Business meeting at Chapter meeting

Central States District Events

(in which chapter members are participating)

July 25 – Chuck Greene Workshop, St. Joseph, MO, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

July 26 – Aug 2 – Harmony University, St. Joseph, MO

Aug 1 – Harmony University Sat. night show, 8:00 p.m.

Oct 9 – 11 – Fall Convention, Lied Center, Lincoln, NE

Unwritten laws

Borrowed from **Jon Wagner**"

Law of the Workshop:

Any tool, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.

Law of Probability:

The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

Law of the Alibi:

If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the very next morning you will have a flat tire.

Law of the Bath:

When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.

Law of Close Encounters:

The probability of meeting someone you know increases when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with

Law of the Result:

When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

Law of Biomechanics:

The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.



Manhattan, Kansas
Axtell, Kansas 66403
1379 26th Road
Karen Nanninga

**Chapter meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.
Quartet/polecat practice begins at 7:00 p.m.**

Calendar of Events:

July 16	Chapter meeting
July 19	Church Performance
July 23	Chapter meeting with Topeka Chapter
July 30	Chapter meeting
August 6	Chapter meeting
August 13	Chapter meeting
August 20	Chapter meeting
August 22	Chapter retreat and picnic
August 27	Chapter meeting

Deadline for submitting articles for the next InCider is August 6th.

Upcoming Events

**July 25 – Chuck Greene Workshop,
St. Joseph, MO**

**July 26 - Aug 2 - Harmony University,
St. Joseph, MO**

Oct 9 - 11 -.Fall Convention, Lincoln, NE

Thanks to the following for contributing articles–

**Harvey Kiser, Steve Thompson, Don Thom-
son and Bob Swenson**