



The Central States District of the
Barbershop Harmony Society

The Serenade

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Honoring CSD Fixture Randy Weir

Submitted by Greg Long, Des Moines Chapter

Randall R. (Randy) Weir passed away on January 25, 2025 at the age of 71. He loved his family, spent much time with them and talked about them often. Randy was a man of many talents and interests. He taught math to middle school students and provided technical support to the school. He drove a school bus and enjoyed playing cards and dominoes and working on mechanical projects with his fellow workers. He ran the basketball shot clock for Marshalltown Community College. These are just a few of his interests but among the Barbershop Harmony



community, he is best remembered for his enormous musical abilities as a singer, chorus director and quartet and chorus coach.

Randy joined the Barbershop Harmony Society in 1971 which started his rich history in the hobby that lasted 54 years. Although, those of us who knew Randy, also know that he made



Barbershop more than a hobby. Barbershop music and singing coursed in his veins and was a passion for him.

In addition to Barbershop activities, Randy directed different church choirs over the years as well as performing in several Marshalltown Community Theater plays. These included Oliver, The Music Man, Guys and Dolls, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Anything

Goes, and the voice of Audrey II in Little Shop of Horrors.

But, he is probably best remembered by the Barbershop community for directing the Marshalltones of Marshalltown, the Pride of Iowa Chorus of Des Moines, Harmony Central Sweet Adelines Chorus of Des Moines and Harmony Delegation Chorus of Des Moines. He directed the choruses at many district conventions and he attended numerous International BHS conventions around the nation. He was awarded the Barbershopper of the Year with the Pride of Iowa in 2005 and had 5 Person of Note referrals with the BHS. He was proud to be a 50+ year member of the BHS but he and his family were especially proud when Randy was inducted into the Central States District Hall of Fame in 2013 (see photo).

Randy was very talented in teaching Barbershop harmony and coached many choruses and quartets. He was also very active in Barbershop quartet singing and sang with many quartets. His





registered quartets included Good Ol' Boys, Missouri Valley Music Company, The Drivers, Paradigm, and his quartet Sound Legacy won the CSD quartet competition in 1992. He also performed numerous times on the BHS international contest stage. Some of the best quartet memories were singing at restaurants for their server, many people at conventions, and other Barbershoppers who wanted to hear their favorite song. During chorus rehearsals, Randy liked to relive his many memories with quartets and the fun and antics with their members. He was also a great story teller during quartet

performances and usually kept the audience laughing joyously.

Randy made a huge impact on the Barbershop world and he made untold lifelong friends. If you knew Randy or crossed paths with him in some way, you know that these memories of him are just a small part of his Barbershop legacy. He is greatly missed.

A copy of his obituary may be found here <https://www.mitchellfh.com/obituaries/Randall-Weir?obId=35100758#/obituaryInfo>



CSD leadership values member feedback and ideas for the future



Brett Randolph

CSD President

As members of the Central States District, we all share a common passion for barbershop and the joy it brings to our lives. However, to help CSD reach its mission to bring people together in harmony and fellowship to enrich lives through singing, it is essential that when opportunities are provided for members to share their ideas and

concerns, you take advantage of those opportunities. This exchange of ideas and feedback ensures that leadership works to meet the diverse needs of all our members.

This edition of The Serenade is being published a few weeks before the 2025 Spring Convention. The format of this convention has been radically changed from the format of prior spring conventions. The Events Team made these changes based on the feedback we received from our members. A much larger emphasis is being placed on non-competitive events. There are numerous opportunities to bring people together in harmony and fellowship. Here are just a few of the offerings: coaching from the judges for quartets and choruses on Friday and Saturday, classes taught by judges and CSD

talent on a variety of topics on Friday and Saturday, a tag contest on Friday afternoon, a Harmony Platoon on Thursday and Friday, a mass sing event at a local Kansas City shopping center on Saturday, plus there is also a quartet and chorus contest. It is not too late to get registered for the convention and take part in this amazing event!

After the convention, we will be asking you how the changes to the spring convention affected your convention experience and what we can do to improve your experience for future conventions. Additionally, we will be asking all members how district leadership can assist you and your chapters to reach your mission. I urge each of you to participate in these surveys. Your voice is a vital part of the success of the district.

Together, we can ensure the Central States District not only meets but exceeds the needs of its members.

**Be on the lookout
for the post-
convention survey
to share your
feedback on the
new format.**

How to file annual returns to IRS



Jeffrey Arians

CSD Treasurer

Nonprofit organizations with tax-exempt status, such as each chapter of the Central States District, must file annual returns with the IRS to maintain compliance. For smaller organizations, Form 990-N, also known as the e-Postcard, is the simplest way to fulfill this requirement. Almost all of our CSD chapters will fulfill the requirements to file a

Form 990-N (see below). Keeping your chapter current with the IRS is not only an important duty of the Treasurer, but also an important duty of the chapter's board. If you are unsure that returns have been filed timely with the IRS for your chapter, start by asking your chapter's Treasurer. If they don't know the answer, I would recommend asking the rest of your Board of Directors, so you don't have your tax-exempt status revoked.

Who Needs to File Form 990-N?

Organizations that must file Form 990-N include:

- Tax-exempt nonprofits with gross receipts of \$50,000 or less
- Certain smaller organizations that do not meet the filing thresholds for Form 990 or 990-EZ
 - Form 990-EZ Requirements: Gross receipts between \$50,000 - \$199,999, and total assets less than \$499,999

- Form 990 Requirements: Gross Receipts greater than \$200,000 or total assets greater than \$500,000

How to File Form 990-N

The IRS only accepts Form 990-N electronically through its Modernized e-File (MeF) system or an authorized e-file provider. Here's how to file:

- Access the IRS e-Postcard system – Visit the IRS website and use the online filing system (<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/annual-electronic-filing-requirement-for-small-exempt-organizations-form-990-n-e-postcard>).
- Sign In or Create a New Account – Once you click on the “Submit Form 990-N (E-Postcard)” link, you will have to either sign into, or create an account for yourself with the IRS.
- Provide required information, including:
 - Organization's name and EIN (Employer Identification Number)
 - Tax year
 - Principal officer's name and address
 - Confirmation that annual gross receipts are \$50,000 or less
- Submit and receive confirmation – After submission, you will receive an acknowledgment from the IRS.

Filing Deadline

The Form 990-N is due on the 15th day of the 5th month after the end of the organization's tax year. For example, if your fiscal year ends on December 31, the filing deadline is May 15 of the following year.

Consequences of Not Filing

Failing to file for three consecutive years results in

automatic revocation of tax-exempt status, requiring the organization to reapply for tax exemption and pay applicable fees.

Conclusion

Filing Form 990-N is a simple but essential task for small nonprofits. Staying compliant ensures continued tax-exempt status and transparency

with the IRS. Always file on time to avoid penalties and maintain good standing. If your chapter happens to meet the requirements of filing either Form 990-EZ or Form 990 and you have any questions, please reach out to me and I can assist you the best that I can!

Don't miss the 2025 Spring Convention



Doug Brott

CSD Events Chairman

with our esteemed panel of Judges and Judge Candidates available to coach. District Leadership will meet to plan and direct the future of our district and help our chapters to grow and thrive. The Harmony Platoon is back where you

2025 Spring Convention and Contest will be held in Kansas City, MO, April 10-13. The Headquarters Hotel and Venue is the Kansas City Airport Hilton. Classes to help improve your singing, performing, arranging, leadership and so much more is on the docket for this convention. In addition, coaching for both Quartets and Choruses is available

can sing in Random Quartets and see who can win. We have the First Annual Spring Convention President's Tag Contest. Who will be the winner? A Tag Room, open to all, will be open whenever we do not have Contest or the Big Party going on. Just walk in and start singing with whoever is there. A Mass Sing, open to all members and family members of our members, weather permitting, at a nearby Outdoor Mall Area. Saturday Morning brings Coaching Under Glass with Will Lagos Coaching two International Qualified Choruses, SmorgasChorus and Central Standard. Oh, and yes, we also have the Quartet Prelims for the 2025 International Convention and the International Seniors Chorus Prelims for the 2026 Mid-Winter Convention. To top it all off, the Contests, Coaching under Glass and the show on Saturday Night, Featuring 12th Street Rag and BrouHaHa will be LiveStreamed around the world.

You don't want to miss this one. Register at singcsd.com.

Des Moines chapter seeking new Music/Artistic Director

The Des Moines chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, and the Harmony Delegation Chorus located in Des Moines, Iowa has an immediate opening for its Music/Artistic Director. We rehearse on Monday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa.

Job Duties include but are not limited to:

- Providing positive, uplifting artistic and musical direction of the chorus at rehearsals and performances
- Selecting entertaining and appropriate musical performance and contest pieces
- Helping to plan and develop musical shows and performances
- Working with the Chapter Board and members developing short- and long-term chorus goals

Compensation:

- \$450 per month for planning of and directing regular weekly chorus rehearsals
- \$100 for each chorus performance or rehearsal outside of the regular weekly schedules
- Payment of annual BHS dues
- Payment to attend the CSD Conventions as well as the BHS Annual convention and workshops and training as approved by the chapter board
- Payment of other items as approved by the chapter board

All inquiries should be directed to Greg Long, Des Moines Chapter President

email: president@harmonydelegation.com

voicemail: 515-259-0764

Springtime prime for recruiting new members



Don Fuson

Membership

It is coming up to a somewhat overdue Spring season in many parts of CSD. While our northern friends are still getting those sweeping rounds of late snow, the southern climes are already hosting fresh, new yellow flowers to fight the snow!

Many chapters have a spring show for their members, chorus, and chapter quartets.

Now may also be the time to RECRUIT some new volunteers to act as "2nd in Command" for some portion of that chapter planning. That gives an additional set of eyes, set of hands, and a fresh mind, to approach the things that have to be done. It is also an EXCELLENT way to develop chapter members in doing something across all

phases of chapter events planning.

Be it for Spring, Summer, Fall, or even Winter, things happen because of our volunteers. Recognize them every time you can! Reach out to any snowbirds, and carve out some chapter functions that they can support during potential times they are "at home" with family and friends.

Getting to know more about your members ---

During an earlier zoom call, several people reviewed those things we know about members, but also uncovered things that might further add beneficial experience and expertise to the overall chapter needs.

We hope to see many of you at the CSD Spring Convention. Stop us and let's discuss something that will push your chapter forward!

DID YOU KNOW?

Golden Oldies Name Badge

Congratulations on 35 years of Society Membership!



35+ year Society members are entitled to a Golden Oldies name badge. The first badge is complimentary to eligible members.

Ask your chapter secretary to order a Golden Oldies badge for you.

Reminders from CSD Secretary

It seems most chapters were able to get their 2025 chapter leaders updated on the BHS Member Center before the first of the year. If you can't locate a particular chapter leader, contact your State V.P. for assistance. Searching for members by name on Member Center may also provide the information you are looking for. It's always a good idea to periodically check your profile on BHS Member Center to see if your profile needs updating.

Performance licenses are required for chapter performances. Chapter secretaries should send BMI/SESAC license, show clearance application forms, with a check, payable to BHS, to the District Secretary. Applications and checks sent elsewhere may not get to the District Secretary. ASCAP Report Forms and checks should be sent to Society office in Nashville.

Quarteting: Life's great experience

Special Touch

Submitted by
Rick Kready

*Tenor, Special Touch
1984 CSD Quartet
Champion*

For those CSD barbershoppers who might read this article, I am sure that many will have already experienced a lot of the same joys and emotions that I have gained by having been in quartets. The joys of quarteting simply are among some of the best possibilities for our lives. For others who haven't experienced it yet for themselves – I hope you might identify with some of what we share in these stories, and I hope you might accept the opportunity of experiencing it for yourself one of these days, by getting into a quartet. While the quartets typically are founded to entertain others, ... I think and feel that the quarteters themselves, many times receive as much joy as the audience members, and our joy generally is coupled with lifetime camaraderie than the audience

members can't even imagine.

1983 – Special Touch Founded

The quartet had their first quartet practice on August 16, 1983. David Krause had tons of quartet experience from high school, and had won the CSD District Quartet championship in 1982 with Harmony Spectrum. Another quartet champ, the late Roger Odell, had introduced me to David, and wanted to entice him to form a quartet, even though David was in Kansas City, while Roger and I were living three hours away in SE Kansas at the time. It didn't happen right away, but in August 1983 David Krause was at Harmony College in St. Joe, Mo, and happened to be roommates with my dad, Don Kready who at the time lived in far western Kansas, near the Colorado border. My dad mentioned that I just had a job transfer to Topeka – just an hour and 15 minutes west of David's place. Since that was before cellphones in our pockets, David had to go to a payphone to give me a call. He explained that he was at Harmony College for the week, but asked me to not make any other quartet commitments until he got back home the following week, because he had a couple other guys in mind. Although I already had another Topeka quartet visiting with me, I agreed – no commitments until David could get back home.

The following week, David called me to set up what became the first quartet practice for four guys who would become Special Touch. He introduced me to the other two – Matt Moore, who had been schoolmates with David and sang in high school quartets together, plus Bud Clark who was working and living in Sedalia, Missouri, an hour and a half east of Kansas City (the opposite side from me in Topeka). Bud actually had been a student teacher a few years earlier



for Matt and David when they were in high school and as Bud finished up his music degree to become a music educator. In high school, Matt had sung lead, but David wanted him to sing bass, and he was game. Bud was a real musician, so he was not afraid to sing baritone, although he had not had any quartet experience. I had sung lead and baritone in most of my previous quartets (high school, college, and another three quartets after I had graduated), however, I had a strong falsetto, and was a third generation barbershopper, so I too was fine with giving it a try.

If I remember correctly, David already had selected some possible songs, and we decided to get together a couple time per week to prepare for the CSD contest just six weeks later. David was a high school history teacher, so he got permission for us to practice at the school, just a few blocks from his house. Frankly, I think that decision ended up being brilliant. Primarily we practiced on the auditorium stage. We got accustomed to practicing in that setting, and became very comfortable on stage. We also occasionally practiced in the wrestling room, because it had mirrors on one wall which allowed us to monitor our stage presence while we were singing.

Like many new quartets, we had some difficulty determining a name to register for the quartet. I remember one of the suggestions was "Sons of Different Mothers." Haha. I believe we submitted three possibilities, and waited to hear from the international headquarters (in Kenosha, Wisc.) to find out which one would be our name. I remember being a bit surprised when David told us that we were registered as Special Touch. However, I later felt that name ended up being perfect. We generally had our own Special (or maybe a little whacky) Touch added to many of the songs. Bud Clark was, and remains to be, hilarious, and the quartet maximized those entertaining possibilities on many of our songs, but also was able to calm the audience with gentle introductions helping the audience members transition into some pretty deeply emotional ballads, as well. But, I'm getting ahead of myself ...



1983 – CSD Fall Convention and Contest

It truly is amazing how close we already were growing in just a few weeks. Our disciplined hard work on Thursdays and Sundays of each week already was paying off, and at that first contest, after I only met two of the guys six weeks earlier, we finished in third place for the CSD district. Oh yes, ... I also recall that the four songs we did on stage along with some polecat songs and maybe some tags primarily was the entire repertoire at the time, just six weeks into our existence.

After feeling some success at that first convention, David started working on song selections we would need going forward, and I immediately went to work on a business card so we might be able to book some gigs. As you might imagine, third place after only six weeks, was a hugely encouraging result, and the quartet continued working diligently at least a couple times per week putting together a show package and an afterglow package along with a few extras, and started aiming for the Spring Convention where we dreamt of possibly qualifying for the International contest. Yes the singing and harmonizing was of great importance, but we also clearly enjoyed just being together.

We also started getting some excellent outside coaching, and worked to maximize our musical and our staging productions.

1984 – CSD Spring Convention and International Contest

When we got to the spring convention, even though we had only been together for seven



SPECIAL TOUCH

(Topeka, KS, Kansas City & Sedalia, MO – CSD)
 Rick Kready, tenor; David Krause, lead; Bud Clark, bari;
 Matt Moore, bass.* Contact: David Krause, 4917 N. Bel-
 laire, Kansas City, MO, 64119. Phone: (816) 454-0755.



NEW ST. LOUIS VOCAL BAND

(St. Charles, MO – CSD)
 Rich Knight, tenor; Michael Griebel, lead; David Wright,
 bari; Gale Wickham, bass.* Contact: Gale Wickham, p. O.
 Box 12255A, St. Louis, MO, 63157. Phone: (314) 621-
 6314.

another CSD favorite pictured immediately adjacent to us – the New St. Louis Vocal Band.

1984 – CSD Fall Convention and the District Quartet Championship

I might remind the readers that the autumn of 1984 was 40 years ago last autumn. Oh my. As you might imagine, after the first year's success, our quartet continued working diligently, and was able to get even more coaching after having made it to the International stage, so that helped set us up for some wonderful success at the Fall convention, and helped us win the quartet championship, which happened to be held on a familiar stage in Kansas City.

Some of you might know that I am a third-generation barbershopper (and my sons have carried on the tradition even for a fourth generation). My grandfather sang in one of the very early quartets as the Society began. My dad who still is actively involved at 96 years old, and then here I came along. My Dad had competed at the District and the International levels while I was growing up, and while I loved the style of music, I truly had NO expectation of ever getting to be involved at this level, like my Dad. So, winning the District quartet competition was an

months, we really were becoming a better unit – although perhaps a unit that loved to poke fun at each other often, and loved to laugh together while working diligently. Bud's humor and David's beautiful singing, plus Matt's good looks were drawing some fans for the quartet (my responsibility was just to blow the pitch pipe), and it was becoming even more fun to perform together and for those new friends we met along the way.

The quartet did in fact qualify for the International contest which conveniently was held in St. Louis that summer. We got to sing in only the first round of competition that year, and finished in 29th place, but oh my we had a ball. We sang in a lot of hospitality rooms and met a lot of wonderful barbershoppers from all over the world...

The photo in the Harmonizer Magazine that I am including, shows Special Touch, plus show

SERENADE

Page 3



The Special Touch, with members from the Topeka, Kansas City, and Sedalia Chapters, won the 1984 Central States District Quartet Championship. Left to right: Rick Kready (tenor), David Krause (lead), Matt Moore (bass), and Bud Clark (baritone).

• Special Touch led the way through the semi's and into the finals with an impressive rendition of "Every Time I Try To Write a Love Song," which received the second highest single performance Sound score in the contest (their performance in the semifinals brought them the highest Sound score!) These guys from the Kansas City, Topeka, and Sedalia Chapters used "Piano

SERENADE



Roll Blues" for another opportunity to show off the comedic talent of baritone Bud Clark.

overpowering joy!

The December 1984 Serenade Magazine had a couple photos, one brief article, and a slightly revised business card for Special Touch – now including the “District Champ” insignia.

By the way, when we started Special Touch, we collectively only had one child – my (Rick's) first-born son, Jeff.



David was married, but Bud and Matt both were single at the time. As you might imagine, quartet involvement and especially quartet successes impact the entire family. I am sharing a family photo after the district quartet trophy made it to my house in Topeka. I had set the trophy near the fireplace while determining where we might set it on display, and found my first-born son, Jeff, had climbed up on the hearth to gaze down into the trophy cup. Still one of my favorite memories. And, as some of you know, 21 years later, Jeff sang lead in Take 4, to win this same traveling trophy, and was able to peer down into the cup without climbing on the hearth at that point. Of course I greatly enjoyed singing tenor with my son to win that trophy again, and I am sure that I flashed this old photo at him as a reminder.

By the way, here are a couple of photos when Jeff won the District Championship for himself in 2005 with Take 4. Below is one photo onstage – and then another offstage (but still in quartet order), with the trophy and with another generation of kids for Aaron.

I might also mention that I suspect many of the CSD readers of this article also will know my second son, Jon Kready, Jeff's little brother. Jon is a leader in the Central Standard chorus, and is a certified judge in the Performance category, judging and coaching quartets and choruses across the nation and internationally. Yep – this hobby continues dishing out tons of joy throughout our family.



Rick Kready - tenor; Jeff Kready - lead, Aaron Burklund, bass, and Grant Hunget, baritone

1985 – International Contest – Special Touch Making the Top 20

Moving toward 1985, even as I look back, I am sure I never will fully understand exactly why and how our quartet received so much love and attention, but that first year of existence seemed to explode very favorably, and we were invited to perform for so very many local chapters. Lots and lots of chapters throughout the Central States District, but also a number of other chapters across the country, put faith in our dedication to entertaining their audiences. We certainly were having a good time, but we also were refining our performances. We got to share the stage with several International Champs, including wonderful entertainers like Bluegrass Student Union. It was a true honor to be able to warmup the stage for them and other medalist and champion quartets, and a huge honor to get to spend a little time with them back stage, and learn from watching their dedication, and then grow from what we learned to become a better headliner ourselves. .

I mentioned earlier that David Krause and Bud Clark both were educators, so they lined up opportunities for our quartet to sing for students and also for music educators. The Harmonizer Magazine carried an article about some of those activities in the March 1985 edition. That attention brought out even more opportunities to

Special Touch, current Central States District Champs from Topeka, Kansas and Kansas City and Sedalia, Missouri, continues to publicize the Society to young people. In the past year and a half they have sung for approximately 500 music educators and more than 2,000 junior and senior high school students at various music camps, clinics, conventions, concerts and classroom visits. During January they were the featured ensemble at the 50th anniversary convention of the Missouri Music Educators Association. Their performance was taped by the local public television station. The quartet has also been invited to perform at the state convention of American Choral Directors Association and the Missouri Bandmasters Association.

perform, and more opportunities to share our hobby with other people. And, I believe more performances made us even more comfortable on stage, which probably helped propel us to additional successes.

So yes, while enjoying the opportunities of being the reigning CSD quartet champs, we qualified to go to the International Contest again in July 1985. Special Touch got a lot of attention for the quartet's rendition of "You Gotta To Be A Football Hero," as demonstrated in the Serenade magazine article showing Special Touch at the prelims contest in the midst of the song. Like usual we were kind of making fun of "short little Bud" in his water boy sweat suit while I was being a coach and the other two were stud football players. But as one can see in the photo used in the Harmonizer magazine after the quartet finished in 16th place that summer at International, the ending pose in that song – after the tare-away sweats came off, and Bud strutted around on stage, he too became a Football Hero.



The Special Touch

1985 – Performing The Music Man with Professionals

The month after making it to the top 20 at International, Special Touch got another awesome opportunity. The Starlight Theatre in

Kansas City, a 7,700-seat outdoor theatre, regularly has professional Broadway theatre productions, and they had scheduled The Music Man for that summer. I am presuming that the local publicity about Special Touch as a "local quartet who had done good," and perhaps knowing that having us fill the role of the School Board members in that production might sell more tickets locally plus perhaps attract some other barbershoppers around the area, the Theatre arranged to replace the New York actors who had auditioned for the roles, and put us into the show. Since two members of our group, David and Bud, were school teachers, their summer schedules were pretty flexible, and somehow Matt and I also worked it out, and it was a wonderful life opportunity.



At first I think the show's music director was probably unsure about our "nonprofessional" capabilities; but eventually I think he figured out we could ring some chords, and that we probably were hams enough to pull this off. So, we got to do one week of rehearsals, and then seven shows July 29 through August 4, surrounded by and all professional cast of actors, dancers, and musicians. As you might imagine, we had a truly great fun, and shared our barbershop hobby with a lot of people, including "afterglows" with the cast nightly.

1986 – International Contest – Special Touch

The following year, Special Touch competed at one additional International contest. In that 1986 contest, the quartet finished in 29th place. While we still were having a lot of fun as a foursome, and while I think we continued entertaining a lot of great people, ... life, family, and careers made



SPECIAL TOUCH

Topeka, Kansas; Kansas City & Sedalia, Missouri (CSD)
 (l to r) Richard Kready, tenor; David Krause, lead; Matthew Moore, bass; Bud Clark, bari. Contact: David Krause, 4917 N. Bellaire, Kansas City, MO 64119. Telephone: (816) 454-0755.
Gotta Be On My Way; If I Had The Last Dream Left In The World



it difficult to continue the schedules we had been keeping.

We still would, and still do, get together periodically to sing a little and to have a lot of fun together, we just were unable to continue at the contest pace at that time. But yes, we continued individually directing choruses, coaching other quartets, and continued making music in numerous ways. Bud went on to become the head of the music department at Missouri Southern University in Joplin, Missouri. David not only sang in other quartets, but he also went on to become a barbershop judge (stage presence, and later presentation and Performance), traveling all over the country with this hobby. Matt and Rick both have been in several additional quartets.

2014 – A Reappearance for the Senior Quartet Contest

In 2014, the 30-year anniversary of our championship, Special Touch put a few miles on the cars to get together a few time to prepare for one contest in the Senior Quartet category. I have two photos I thought some of you might like to see from that event. The first photo is the official quartet photo taken backstage. The second one has been kind of a hidden private joke within the quartet showing the added box we used to get Bud's head nice and level with the rest of the quartet. It truly is not that much difference, ... but for those who watched us perform 40 years ago, I think you will understand the constant and ongoing joke.

Thank you barbershop and barbershoppers. You have contributed mightily to our lives!



Spring Contest Preview



Carter Combs

Contests and Judging

participate in classes, coaching, platoon, mass singing, tags, socializing, etc. The question for me was, how many might be competing?

I needn't have worried. I'm pleased to report that our Quartet field is larger than anticipated. I had guessed we might have 10-12, but the entry deadline has just passed, and we have 15 top-notch quartets vying to qualify for International this July in Denver. And our Ozark Overtones will be returning to stake their claim to return to the Seniors Chorus battle at Midwinter next January in Pasadena. I'm looking forward to announcing which of our extraordinary groups will be advancing to their respective International contests!

CSD is trying something new & different this Spring, so we weren't quite sure what to expect. Since we decided to move all of our District-level contests to the Fall, that left the International Quartet Prelims and the International Seniors Chorus Prelims for this Spring. This change gives us a lot more time for convention attendees to

In addition, we have several other groups, both quartet & chorus, who will be performing in the Semifinals for Score & Feedback, as part of our newly expanded weekend coaching program you've been hearing all the buzz about.

One big change to note - the Quartet Semifinals and the Chorus Contest are BOTH on Friday evening, so you won't want to miss it. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Update from South Dakota



Cliff Huot

South Dakota State V.P.

Chapters in South Dakota are shifting their emphasis from Christmas shows and Valentine Serenades to spring rehearsals, shows, community sing outs, and the CSD Spring Convention. Members are looking forward to the expanded Spring Convention opportunities to learn and participate in.

Viborg, SD has their 74th annual show "Oh the Possibilities" on March 29 featuring International Barbershop Quartet Champions Midtown.

Des Moines Chapter

A brief history and current statement

Submitted by Greg Long, Des Moines Chapter

The Des Moines Chapter was chartered on Dec. 26, 1945. The first chorus name was Demoinaires. During the Demoinaires chorus tenure of 40+ years, they were the 1956 CSD Chorus Champions and they had two CSD quartet champions – the Hawkeye Four in 1955 and the Jax of Harmony in 1972.

The chorus name was changed to Pride of Iowa in 1988. During the Pride of Iowa chorus tenure of 30 years, they had several CSD quartet champions and one International quartet champion. There were CSD quartet champions Sound Legacy in 1992 and Two State Four in 2002. Jurassic Larks in 1997, Catalyst in 2006, Quodlibet in 2012 and Golden Oldies in 2016 were all CSD senior quartet champs. The CSD novice quartet champion was Voice Over in 2004. And of course, the Jurassic Larks won the International senior quartet championship in 1998.

The chorus name was changed to Harmony Delegation in 2018. Harmony Delegation chorus has had two CSD senior quartet champions – Good Ol' Boys in 2018 and Antique Harmony in 2019. Antique Harmony was also the CSD super senior quartet champion in 2019.

The Des Moines chapter has also had 6 CSD Hall of Fame inductees – Jim Griffith in 1981, Bob King in 1989, Ray Boo in 1990, Jurassic Larks in 2007, Paul Cartwright in 2012 and Randy Weir in 2013. Larry Warrick received the CSD Barbershopper of the Year in 2010.

The Des Moines chapter currently has 30 BHS members



of which 21 of those are Harmony Delegation chorus singers. The age of our singers would allow us to be a senior chorus, but we have not yet made that commitment. We have an active Board of Directors that meets once a month before chorus rehearsals to conduct business as needed. Once a year in December, we have our annual Installation of Board officers as well as a dinner. Our chorus rehearses every Monday night at Grand View University in Des Moines from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

We remain actively competing at Fall CSD Conventions and enjoy providing free concerts at local senior living centers. Last year we sang the National Anthem at an Iowa Cubs game in



Des Moines and will be doing that again this year in June, perhaps making this an annual event. We enjoy being part of a Christmas Show each year. Last December, we were guest singers with the Harmony Central Sweet Adelines chorus from Des Moines on their Christmas Show.

In past years, pre-Covid 19, we had a very active Youth in Harmony program working with local schools. We are excited to start a similar program this year by partnering with a local 8th through 12th grade chamber choir, introducing them to Barbershop harmony. Past CSD quartet champion Fleet Street will join us, acting as clinicians during our day event on May 17. We will perform individually and as a group in our Spring Concert that afternoon.

Just as most Barbershop chapters around the nation, we have lost many members and are at our lowest numbers probably since our chapter was chartered. However, we are forward looking to keep active, keep singing, increase our members and continue to provide quality entertainment and engagement with our community. With the passing of Randy Weir, we are currently working to hire a new Music/Artistic Director to help us meet our future goals.



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