

# Harmonotes

December 2003

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2003, Issue 12

## THE GENTLEMEN OF NOTE FAMILY AND FRIENDS SAY: "GOODBYE AND GODSPEED, ROD RULE"

by Monty Duerksen, Jon Gathright and Rich Huyck



The lyrics of the song "Friends" really tug at the heart-strings of all who knew Rod... *"Tho it's hard to let you go, in the Father's hands we know that a lifetime's not too long to live as friends."*

The Gentlemen Of Note were introduced as "Four Friends" at our first performance... and even though our name changed, our friendship grew as we sang to and entertained so many people over the years. We all miss Rod very much, but the memories of his love of harmony will make us smile for years to come. *"...we'll keep you close as*

*always-It won't even seem you've gone...cause our hearts in big and small ways, will keep the love that keeps us strong!"*

Rod was not only an enthusiastic quartet man, he also contributed greatly to the administrative life of the Kansas City Chapter. He was a member of the board for years, he served on the Music Team during the early 1980's, was Program VP in 1986, Chapter President in 1988, and Music Vice President in 1989.

And he was frequently the first HOA member to greet a guest on Tuesday nights and get them to sing a song or tag with any members he could recruit on the spot. A real ambassador for our hobby!

Needless to say, **Jon**, **Monty**, and **Rich** are feeling the loss and we want all of you to know that we deeply appreciate your expressions of sympathy.

We are pretty sure that Rod has already recruited three other angels to sing a song and ring a chord!

So now is the time to look forward to the bright future that belongs the *Heart Of America* chorus and strive for the excellence in singing that Rod always sought with such great passion! ~

Quartet Photo by **Matt Bostick**



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*His last words remind us of the choices we make*

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### Page 9 HOA TO RING AND SING AT METRO NORTH Help us reach our goal of \$4,700!

### Page 10 SINGING VALENTINES '04 Chairman **Rich Huyck** already is hard at work on this major money-maker!

# Harmonotes

...is published by the board of directors of the Kansas City, MO., Chapter of SPEBSQSA, Inc., a non-profit organization. Unless accompanied by a byline, all articles have been written by the Editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the officers and members of the chapter. Space will be made available for opposing points of view.

## Heart of America Chorus

The Kansas City, MO. Chapter S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.

### 2003 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD

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

The editorial staff reserves the right to deny publication of material deemed inappropriate for *Harmonotes* and to edit all submissions for reasons of space and clarity (grammar, phrasing, and spelling).

Permission to reprint articles is granted to barbershop chapters as long as the author and *Harmonotes* are acknowledged.

*The utmost care was used in preparation of this newsletter.*

*However, should you notice erroneous copy, please let the Editor know! Comments/submissions may be made to:*

**Todd Anderson**  
17905 East 24th Terrace Court S  
Independence, MO 64057-1332  
(816) 373-8633  
[Harmonotes@comcast.net](mailto:Harmonotes@comcast.net)

### CHAPTER INFORMATION

Chapter meets at 7:00 P.M. each Tuesday night, at:  
St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
110th & Holmes · Kansas City, MO 64105

HOA Website: [www.hoachorus.org](http://www.hoachorus.org)  
Web Address: [jmathieu@hoachorus.org](mailto:jmathieu@hoachorus.org)  
Chapter Telephone: (816) 221-7888

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They care about us—it's the best way to say "thanks."*

# DAVID UPP SPEAKS by Jim Bagby

Longtime Kansas City member **David Upp** died recently at age 54, of cancer. Two days after **Rod Rule's** service, 28 members of HOA—some of them not even around when Dave was active—sang at his memorial service.

As a member of a family that continues to pay a mortal price for the terrible addiction to smoking, I pass along, as requested, this observation from Dave that was among our final conversations:

"It occurred to me that you might want to share this with others. Feel absolutely free to! I have, in effect, killed myself with my lifestyle choices, for pleasures that were small and ephemeral.

"There is absolutely no doubt that cigarette smoking has killed me...Has it been a factor in my health problems the last three years? Probably. Certainly, cigarette smoking increased my blood pressure (as did weight, family background, eating habits, exercise habits and so on), and is probably implicated in the two strokes I've had...

"Do I blame the cigarette companies? No, they never held me down and forced a cigarette into my mouth. Do I blame myself? Of course: every time I lit up a cigarette I was silently making the statement that I would rather smoke than not smoke. Does this turn out to be incredibly dumb? You betcha! Was I addicted to nicotine? Of course; but the desire to smoke is much more complicated than mere addiction: smoking gave me pleasure, aided in concentration, etc.

"I could have quit at any time, and didn't. If necessary, I could have had Donna chain me to the bed (with a long-enough chain for bathroom privileges!) for the two weeks necessary to get nicotine out of my system.

"Do I wish I had made different choices? You betcha, big time. Do I STRONGLY recommend that no one smoke? Again, same answer. At 54, I find I'm not even close to being ready to leave this world. And the physical and psychological "rushes" I got with each cigarette over the years is a very poor trade for (statistically speaking) 8 years off my expected life span. As I said: it was an incredibly dumb thing to have done to myself; and I STRONGLY recommend that no one follows my example. If they do, they'll probably end up the same way." ~



**Philip Morris USA agrees with the overwhelming medical and scientific consensus that cigarette smoking causes lung cancer, heart disease, emphysema and other serious diseases in smokers. Smokers are far more likely to develop serious diseases, like lung cancer, than non-smokers. There is no safe cigarette.**  
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# Heart of America Chorus

## ELEVEN-TIME Central States District Champion!

### CHAPTER QUARTET CHAMPIONS

#### Rural Route 4 - 1986 International Champion

Don Kahl (tenor), Calvin Yoder (lead),  
Jim Bagby (bari), Willard Yoder (bass)

#### Gentlemen of Note - 2001 International Seniors Medallists

Rod Rule (tenor), Jon Gathright (lead),  
Rich Huyck (bari), Monty Duerksen (bass)

#### HyPower Serenaders - 1948 Central States District Champion

Don McPherson (tenor), Ben Franklin (lead),  
Bert Phelps (bari), Dale Warrick (bass)

#### Gambolliers - 1952 Central States District Champion

John Dooley (tenor), Eddie Schliebs (lead),  
Orval Wilson (bari), Jimmy Byrnes (bass)

#### BMA Gambolliers - 1957 Central States District Champion

Barney Wasson (tenor), Eddie Schliebs (lead),  
Orval Wilson (bari), Harold Robinette (bass)

#### The Kippers - 1962 Central States District Champion

\*Ken Gabler (tenor), \*Tom Taylor (lead),  
John Goldsbury (bari), Don Page (bass)

#### The Four Kippers - 1966 Central States District Champion

\*Ken Gabler (tenor), \*Byron Meyers (lead),  
John Goldsbury (bari), Gil Lefholz (bass)

#### The Morning Times - 1974 Central States District Champion

Dave Snook (tenor), Roger O'Dell (lead),  
Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)

#### Corner Quartet - 1981 Central States District Champion

Don Kahl (tenor), Lance Heilmann, (lead)  
Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)

#### Harmony Spectrum - 1982 Central States District Champion

Gene Bowers (tenor), David Krause (lead),  
Jim Bagby (bari), Willard Yoder (bass)

#### Special Touch - 1984 Central States District Champion

\*Rick Kready (tenor), David Krause (lead),  
\*Bud Clark (bari), Matt Moore (bass)

#### KC Connection - 1986 Central States District Champion

Rod Rule (tenor), Wayne Lankenau (lead),  
Rich Huyck (bari), Larry Wilson (bass)

#### 12th Street Rag - 1994 Central States District Champion

\*Rick Kready (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead),  
John Fortino (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

### OTHER CHAPTER QUARTETS

#### 12th Street Rag - 2000 International Semi-Finalists

\*Micah Jeppesen (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead),  
John Fortino (bari), \*Barry Moore (bass)

#### Arpeggio

Marlin Weidler (tenor), Rick Dunaway (lead),  
Ralph Tallmon (bari), Don Newman (bass)

#### Crosstown Four

Dale Neuman (tenor), Gordon Coleman (lead),  
Ron Abel (bari), Val Putzier (bass)

#### Heartland

\*Rick Kready (tenor), David Krause (lead),  
Matt Moore (bari), \*Dale Comer (bass)

#### Mother's Guys

Joe Mathieu (bass), Rick Mathieu (bari),  
Rob Mathieu (tenor), and Mike Mathieu (lead)

#### New and Used Parts

Jerry Garrard (tenor), Mike Neff (lead),  
Grant Hunget (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

#### Sound Alibi

Tom Elefson (tenor), Jerry Garrard (lead),  
Shawn Jeffries (bari), Don Koehnlein (bass)

#### Sounds Like Treble

Niel Johnson (tenor), Rob Varney (lead),  
Al Fehlauer (bari) and \*Bill Bay (bass)

#### SureFire!

Carter Combs (tenor), Mike Neff (lead),  
Grant Hunget (bari), Don Young (bass)

#### Tone-Henge

Bruce Wenner (tenor), Dan Henry (lead),  
Jim Bagby (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

\*Member of other chapters

# HOA IS LOUISVILLE BOUND!

by Vince Perry, HOA Chorus Manager

**HOA** is going to The Show! International Chorus Competition is an awesome experience. And for you newbies to the barbershop scene, get ready, for your ticket of life is about to be punched in a big time way. I promise you that no matter where we place in the contest, you will look back with pride and satisfaction on the Summer of '04 and refer to it simply as "Louisville!" (or for some, "Louisville 2!")

First, a big thank you to all that made *HOA IS CEDAR RAPIDS BOUND!* a great success. The promptness and thoroughness of your responses to each administrative task placed before you were nothing short of incredible. One time I got responses from **Bob Howard** and **Dick Irwin** within 60 seconds after my form & announcing email were posted to the World Wide Web! And there were many others of you that were right behind them—way to go and many thanks! With this type of cooperation we can accomplish anything, including making the trip to The Show!

As your chorus manager I've already been barraged with a number of Int'l questions. So let's make this my first official response to your most frequently asked questions.

## ***WHEN is International this year?***

We will sing on Saturday, July 3, in Louisville, KY.

The Quartet Contest starts on Wednesday June 30 at 12:15 p.m.

HOA will have rehearsals on July 1 & 2 in Louisville, so you need to make your plans accordingly.

## ***Will there be a bus?***

A survey will be conducted like for Cedar Rapids and a determination will be made.

## ***How much is plane fare?***

Best I've found that could be purchased today was \$166 round-trip.

Southwest Airlines has rates as low as \$120 but reservations can only be made within 6 months of the travel date.

## ***How far is Louisville?***

About 510 miles. (Yahoo says 8 hours driving time!)

## ***How much does it cost to go to Int'l?***

Our District does have a travel fund established to help defray the cost of the traveling to contest. Of course at this time, we do not know what the HOA share will be. Registrations (tickets) if purchased by Dec. 31 are \$105.00 for adults. (After that they are \$120.) HOA MAY reimburse you for all or part of a \$105 registration as funds become available in late spring of 2004.

Let me close by saying that I will be traveling to Louisville the weekend of Nov. 21-23 to check-out the hotels and venues the convention will utilize next summer. So...look more info to follow another day! Until then, keep in mind that during the last week of December, I will be submitting our group order for registrations. And though it's not the most convenient of times, money-wise, I will be asking you in December to make a financial commitment by purchasing your registrations (tickets) for you and your family. Again, thanks for all your Cedar Rapids help! NOW let's pull together and set sail...for HOA IS LOUISVILLE BOUND! ~



# A TIP OF THE HAT

1. To the HOA and KCSA leaders and helpers of the Holiday Harmony Spectacular: **Linda Schumacher** and **Kent McClean** (Show Chair), **Mike Schumacher** (Secretary), **Pat Kies** (Treasurer), **Dick Korek** (publicity and show program), **Bob Rutherford**, **Dale Neuman** and **Monty Duerksen** (Ticket sales), **Janet Davis** (Script), **Jana Henderson** and **Don Young** (Afterglow), **Joann Karaff** (Facilities), **Paula Wills** (Production Mgr.), **Connie Homoly** (Sets), **Jim Bagby** and **Jo Kraut** (Directors).

2. The members of the HOA Chorus who were able to sing at **Rod Rule's** funeral, Nov. 17 and **David Upp's** memorial service, Nov. 19.

3. To **Bill Biffle** for his excellent coaching wisdom Nov. 18 and to the unsung heroes who made sure he got to the rehearsal hall.

4. To **Chuck Ames** and the many unidentified helping hands who lent muscle and brawn to move the risers to and from the Sweet Adelines rehearsal hall at the Ward Parkway Shopping Center.

5. To **Mark Fortino**, who was instrumental in putting the final touches on the HOA CD.

6. To **Vince Perry** for his work setting up ticket order forms on the HOA website. ~



# OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

by John Winfiel, Secretary



Officers present were **Marty Oldehoeft** (Executive VP), **Keith Schweer** (Music VP), **Ken Neujahr** (Membership VP), **Dick Korek** (Marketing VP), **Charles Ramirez** (Treasurer), **Chuck Ames** (Operations VP), & **John Winfiel** (Secretary).

At Large Board Member **Carter Combs** was also present.

Absent were: **Dick Irwin** (Immediate Past President), **Jerry Garrard** (Program VP), **Val Putzier**, **Steve Carruthers**, **Jon Gathright** & **Rich Huyck**.

A letter from **Dale Neuman** updating the board on the CD project was read. The letter included a schedule of payments we would need to make. The board discussed how to meet the payment due dates. However, Dale indicated that **Dan Israel** has indicated he will carry his charges over into January. This should allow us to have funds available from the Holiday show and more advance sales of the CD for this purpose. (note: It now appears the CD's will not be available at the Holiday Show, but will be available by Christmas.)

Music VP **Keith Schweer** reported on the progress made on mixing the CD. Keith said the music team will review the positives and negatives of our fall retreat and the preparations for the Cedar Rapids competition at their November meeting.

**Marty Oldehoeft** told the vice presidents he needs them to get their budgets in for 2004, so that he can compile the chapter budget.

Membership VP **Ken Neujahr** reported he will start a new member class on Oct. 28. He also said he is making arrangements to meet with **Dave Hokansen** and the other HOA insurance and investment professionals to discuss the HOA Foundation and it's potential to help the chorus. He also reported he is still working on a manual for his position.

Chapter Officer Training School (COTS) and who should attend was discussed. It was pointed out that the secretary needs to attend to learn about the ASCAP changes. For those who don't know ASCAP is one of the agencies we have to pay royalties to when we use copyrighted songs.

The board discussed the officer's installation dinner and made the recommendation that it be scheduled for Jan. 10, 2004.

Marketing VP **Dick Korek** reported he has 5 sponsors signed up for our March Show, and 8 others considering becoming sponsors.

District House of Delegates representative **Al Higgins** reported that HOA will host the 2004 Spring Central States District Convention. Our responsibilities will be to provide 30 to 40 people to work during the convention. The district convention team will do most of the actual running and planning of the convention. Al estimates that our chapter could make a profit of \$5,000.00 on the convention! Let's remember that when he asks for volunteers.

The next board meeting conflicts with the combined rehearsal, so the board moved the meeting to Nov. 24. ~

# A NOTE FROM "OLY"

by Marty Oldehoeft,  
Executive Vice President

What a dedicated bunch of guys. The number of people that took time—from whatever could have gotten in the way—to say goodbye to two of our brothers and give support to the families, shows the brotherhood that has developed within our chapter.

Another pat-on-the-back to all those who have been at the extra rehearsals, spent the time it takes with their learning tapes, and come to the meetings on Tuesday, warmed up and ready to sing as we get ready for the upcoming Holiday show.

Now we find that a mere 10 minutes a day in the closet will prepare us for the stage in Louisville.

A blessed and happy holiday to each of you. ~



# "ARABESQUE"

We keep singing about it in "Light the Legend." An arabesque in this sense is an elaborate decorative pattern of intertwined lines, usually remindful of flowers or geometric designs. Thus the flames of the Hannukah candles cast a golden arabesque of light. - **Jim Bagby**



# POGOMEUPRI TO DEBUT IN BILOXI

by Mike Mathieu, Society Events Committee

Word has filtered out of Montreal that those attending the 2004 Midwinter Convention in Biloxi, Jan. 25-Feb. 1, 2004, will have the opportunity to hear the first ever concert by *Pogomeupri*, a barbershop group guaranteed to please all in attendance.

This event promises to be one that will go down in history as one of the most relaxing and compact Midwinters ever. All events will be held in the Grand Hotel and Casino. The Grand Hotel is the convention headquarters, and this year we will be utilizing the Hotel/Casino Grand Theatre for all contests and concerts. If Elvis had been at a convention like this there would have been no reason for him to "leave the building".

Our Society "Tour Queen," **Lucy Schneider**, has made all the arrangements for tours designed to quench any touring thirst. There is the Bellingrath Home & Garden Tour in Mobile, a Gator Swamp, and New Orleans City Tour, a Biloxi to Bay St. Louis tour, a Seafood Industry Tour, a Biloxi Schooner Cruise, or a Painted Pot Gallery Tour. If that doesn't satisfy your tour need, there are countless other day tours available in the heart of the Gulf Coast just a mere 30-60 mile drive.

The Convention will also feature the regular Midwinter Convention happenings. There is the traditional Harmony Foundation gathering on Thursday evening, Friday afternoon's AISQC showcase of quartets and the AISQC chorus. Friday evening's show will highlight *Riptide*, *Uptown Sound*, and *Metropolis*. Start Saturday with the "Food for Thought" Breakfast, Saturday afternoon features the senior's Quartet Contest.

The finale of the weekend is the Saturday evening show that will feature *POGOMEUPRI*. If you haven't figured it out, *POGOMEUPRI* is our

Medalist Quartet chorus. The past few years the medal-

ist quartets have been learning a few songs and adding to the excitement of the Saturday show. This year **Cindy Hansen** is adding some special effects and surprises to the medallist chorus. Can you imagine what that will be like?

Also appearing Saturday will be *Gotcha*, and the newly crowned International Quartet Champion, *Power Play*. Any one of those high power quartets would guarantee a show worth traveling for, but when you put them all on stage over two nights, it truly makes for a weekend to remember. Cap it off with the fact that all concerts take place in the luxury of Biloxi's Grand Theatre, attach it to the hotel that you are housed in, and it appears to be an event you won't want to miss. The \$50 registration includes Friday night concert, the Seniors Quartet Contest, Saturday night concert, and an afterglow on Saturday night.

Come and make a week of it, or leave home Friday morning and have a long harmony-filled weekend. Oh, did I forget to mention that the Grand Hotel is a Casino? Bring your spouse along and give her the checkbook, so while we're in the lobby woodshedding all night, she can be in the "next room" winning the biggest jackpot in history. Start saving today and we hope to see you all there! A registration form and instructions appears elsewhere in this publication. ~



## TONE-HENGE CAPTIONS

by Ol' Dan

As every barbershopper knows, a lot can be read into facial expressions. We even practice on 'em looking into mirrors, so we can "sell" our songs to the audience. (and presentation judges) And we get so good at it, all it takes is a glance at a guy, and you can not only feel the emotion of the moment, but you can tell what he's thinking! Here's proof:

It's the picture of Tone-Henge made in Cedar Rapids this fall. Keith is thinkin' "Hallelujah! This is the LAST time I have to compete with this old squirrel!" Bruce is obviously saying, "Mathematically, he can't be older'n dirt...but rope, yes." Jim's emotion: "If you pronounce 'you're' 'YER' one more time YOU'RE dead meat", and ol' whatsisname just added up ages of the other 3 and determined they can't get rid of him and still be eligible for "seniors" competition!

## A CD WORTH OWNING!



The Gas House Gang's Fifth, a new CD lovingly dedicated to **Rob Henry**.

In addition to the Beethoven 5th title track, listen for "Goodbye World," "Ezekiel Saw the Wheel," **Billy Joel's** "Lullabye" and "Hold On."

Highly recommended by Jim and other music team members. Available on GHG Web site: [www.gashousegang.com](http://www.gashousegang.com). ~

## INSTALLATION AND AWARDS BANQUET!

**Al Higgins** has booked the Doubletree in Overland Park for the Installation Banquet on Saturday, Jan 10.

**Date:** January 10, 2004  
**Time:** Bar open 6:30 · Dinner at 7:30  
**Menu:** Green Salad w/ Ranch and Italian dressing

Fried Chicken  
 Barbecue Brisket  
 Vegetable  
 Potato  
 Fruit Pie  
 Rolls w/ butter  
 Coffee and Decaffeinated Coffee  
 Hot Tea and Iced Tea

**Cost:** \$20.00  
**Serving:** Buffet Style

## Info for Dick Korek regarding SPONSORSHIPS FOR HOA 2004 MARCH SHOW

CHORUS MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Company to contact - Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Person to Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*OK to use your name?*

☐ Yes ☐ No

*Would you like to be included in the presentation meeting?*

☐ Yes ☐ No

*Relationship of company/contact person to you?* \_\_\_\_\_



# JUST FOUR FUN

Feel free to submit humorous anecdotes and/or thought-provoking quotes to the Editor!

When I got to work today, I told my boss and the others there that 60 of our guys came out to say farewell to Rod (Rule)—60 guys out of 75 regular attendees, on a rainy Monday morning, in a spot on the far southwest side of our area, one that was a long drive for many. They were VERY impressed. I told them I was proud to be a part of a group that would show its love to one of its own that way, and I meant it from the heart.

— Jim Porter



## DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF *Harmonotes*

Articles and photos are due by

**TUESDAY, NOV. 16**

For more information,  
call Todd at 816-373-8633

## Ten Years Ago: December, 1993

Chapter President **John Pennington** announced that the *Heart of America Chorus* had been invited to compete in the 1994 international chorus contest in Pittsburgh as a "wild card" entry, as a result of our high score at Calgary the preceding summer. But he informed us that the chapter board of directors had decided not to accept the invitation. Here's the reason, as John put it, "we think that (international) competition is for district champions. If not all districts are able to send their representatives, the number of competitors should be reduced (accordingly)."

Four and a half hours of chorus competition is too long. Wild cards aren't needed to attract attendance at International. It's an outstanding event and draws many people who do not compete..." An interesting point of view, isn't it? I suspect that an anticipated shortage of funds may also have governed the board's decision. The board was also considering an invitation to participate in the Buckeye invitational at Columbus, Ohio, the following August.

*The Golden Rule* was the top scorer in the "open" division and in the overall scoring in the 1993 "Bush League" quartet contest members were **Rod Rule, Mike Neff, Don Koehnlein** and **Rich Huyck**.

Membership VP **Ron McIntire** reported that the quest night on Oct. 26 yielded eight guests, two of whom had signed up for membership. One of the newcomers was a fellow named **Grant Hunget**. What a prize that was, don't you agree?

Show Ticket Chairman **Jim White** was getting well organized for the upcoming 1994 annual show. Jim was another prized acquisition. I'll never forget the first night he appeared as a guest at one of our chapter meetings. Immediately after the meeting was over, Jim headed for me brimming with enthusiasm (don't know why he came to me) and called out, "Well, where do I sign up?" Jim as visibly disappointed when I explained that chapter rules required that a prospect attend three meetings before he could submit an application for membership. It would take many columns in *Harmonotes* to chronicle what this man has done for HOA.



By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus



## Twenty-Five Years Ago: December, 1978

The subject of badly needed funding for the trip to the international convention in Minneapolis dominated action taken by the chapter board at its November meeting. Immediate past president **Dale Neuman** agreed to chair the committee planning a candy sale to raise part of the money. Thirty thousand dollars would be required, according to **Clyde Mensen**, who had been appointed with **Gil Lefholz** to head up a steering committee to handle preparations for the trip. One proposal that was actively considered was the arrangement of loans with local lending agencies. There had been a suggestion by the St. Joseph chapter that the two chapters collaborate on a show during the spring district convention to be hosted by St. Joe. The proceeds would go toward the district travel fund. By the way, the chapter secretary at that time was **Steve Abel**, **Ron's** son. Wonder where he is today?

## Fifty Years Ago: December, 1950

A close examination of this edition of *Harmonotes*, edited by **Ham Meisinger**, reveals considerable joint activity with the local Sweet Adelines chapter, this at a time when any type of such collaboration was contrary to SPEBSQSA general policy. For example, editor Meisinger describes the most recent Kansas City chapter meeting as a "good crowd, with several new members and a number of guests." He writes that "a number of Sweet Adelines were present" and adds that "the *Tonettes* favored us with three or four numbers. We want the *Tonettes* to know that was a real treat."

Ham also tells about "WOLVES NIGHT, sponsored by the Sweet Adelines last Friday night, was attended by a large number of (Kansas City) members. The Sweet Adelines chorus of nearly forty members were on hand,...In addition to plenty of good talent, the Sweet Adelines had **John Miller** to MC and keep things moving." ~

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following chapter members!

<b>Dennis Taylor</b>	<b>December 7</b>
<b>James Davis</b>	<b>December 7</b>
<b>John Warrior</b>	<b>December 10</b>
<b>David Glastetter</b>	<b>December 11</b>
<b>Valdean Putzier</b>	<b>December 16</b>
<b>James Kaut</b>	<b>December 20</b>
<b>Jeremy Kaat</b>	<b>December 23</b>
<b>Darrell McCune</b>	<b>December 24</b>
<b>Grant Hunget</b>	<b>December 30</b>

## HEART OF AMERICA TO RING AND SING AT METRO NORTH

by Mike Mathieu

Dec. 20, the sounds of Christmas Caroling and Barbershop Singing will be echoing throughout MetroNorth Mall. The *Heart of America Chorus* will again be singing and ringing for the Salvation Army, for the second year at this location.

We will be performing our regular series of 30-minute concerts around the fountain area at the Mall, which is located east of 169 Highway and Barry Road. We hope to have our CD's available for sale also. As some extra advertising, the Mall has arranged for FM station 99.7 KY to do a two-hour remote broadcast.

Details of the uniform are still being worked out, and will be published in a special handout, as we get closer to the event. Most other details remain the same as in years past. They are as follows:

Whoever can get there at 9 a.m. can assist with riser, sound system and equipment setup. 10 a.m. will begin warm-up in the mall's conference room located behind GNC. Our concerts begin at 11 a.m., and continue each hour with the final one starting at 4 p.m. If everyone assists with the breakdown of equipment at 4:30 p.m., we should be able to leave the mall by 4:45 p.m.

Our immediate goal this year for all of our bellringing is \$4,700. The Army has instituted a new award called the "Grand Award" which will be given for groups that exceed their previous year by \$1,000 or more. Previously the Crystal Bell was given for a \$500 increase over the previous year. The "Grand Award" is a large brass bell, which will be presented at the end of the season. Let's do our best to win this first time award.

Questions should be directed to me directly. Thanks for your continued support of our Salvation Army activities. ~



## MORE BLOOD DONORS

**Jim Bagby** has just completed his 100th donation at Community Blood Bank (12.5 gallons). ~

## END OF 2003 IS LOOMING, MEANING TIME TO REFLECT

by Jim Bagby

**H**as there ever been such a tumultuous period in *HOA* history?

Since the week of our September retreat, less than two months ago, we have lost our stalwart president, a distinguished past president and a former chapter activist—all to cancer. We sang for all of their services. We completed a successful retreat, qualified for international, completed our first CD, presented a Kansas City record amount to Harmony Foundation at the Central States District COTS and launched preparations for the annual Holiday Show coming up only days from now.

And just saying all that does not begin to convey the range of emotions that have accompanied those few amazing weeks. How we'll miss **John Stucker** and **Rod Rule**, two of the most active and dedicated ever on the *Heart of America* risers, administration and quartet roster! Older members will remember **Dave Upp's** booming bass and lively wit.

In the midst of the pain, we celebrate achieving what has been the primary *HOA* goal the past year: return to Society chorus competition. Our 82.9 scoring average in Cedar Rapids earned us the third of four wildcard spots for Louisville.

We've also had some intense effort learning new music for the holiday show, in the usual compressed time. We're missing 10 regulars from the Cedar Rapids chorus, but still had a sign-up that could put more than 70 on the risers, depending on how many newcomers qualify.

One encouraging note has been the number of missing members who've indicated they plan to join us for Louisville. Here's a suggestion from me, the music team and the administration: get back in time for the March show. That's where we'll first perform our new contest up tune, so it will give you a leg up on the July chorus—as well as get to up to date on the rest of the repertoire.

I believe a 90-plus voice *HOA* delegation in Louisville is a possibility—if we continue to recruit well from the ranks of both the new and old. Are you doing your part to encourage folks to return?

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Jan. 10 installation and awards dinner. **Marty Oldehoeft** certainly deserves all our support as he steps up to fill John's big shoes. And we have a raft of good candidates for the BOTY, Ozzie and John Cross awards. ~

## SINGING VALENTINES 2004

by Rich Huyck, SV 2004 Chairman

**2003** has been a busy and successful year for the Kansas City Chapter and before you know it, Valentines Day will be in our immediate future! Singing Valentines has become one of our big money-raisers for the operation of the chapter and we expect another excellent year in 2004.

If you have inspected your 2004 calendar, you already know that Feb. 14 occurs on Saturday next year. We will probably have our heaviest day on Friday, since many of our orders are for office locations. We will also advertise availability on Thursday Feb. 12, but don't expect to have a large demand for that date.

Now is the time to start working to form a quartet for Singing Valentines. We will need as many quartets as can be available on Feb. 13.

Some preliminary activities in preparation for February 2004 have already begun. We have secured (with the help of **Al Higgins**) a headquarters site for our operation during the delivery period. We will be located at the Courtyard Hotel at 500 E. 105th Street. This hotel is just to the south of I-435 and west of Holmes on 105th Street, sort of hidden by the Humana building on the corner.

Also, **John Landry** has worked a deal with a local candy company that will provide the candy on a complementary basis.

We have a couple of volunteers to help this year, but there are many tasks to be completed to help make this year's effort a great success.

If you have any desire to assist in any way, please contact me. I am usually accessible at the meetings or you can call me or email me.

Rich Huyck

Phone: 816-452-8385

Email:

richhuyck@kc.rr.com

With your enthusiastic involvement, we can't fail!! ~



## MUSICAL NOTES

By Keith Schweer, Music Vice President

I want to introduce you to the best rootin'-tootin' bygawd Music Team this side of Kenosha.

**Jim Bagby** – Director  
**Mike Neff** – Associate Director &  
Lead Section Leader  
**Carter Combs** – Assistant Director &  
Tenor Section Leader  
**Grant Hunget** – Baritone Section Leader  
**Dennis Kinghorn** – Assistant Bass Section Leader  
**Kent McClean** – Assistant Bass Section Leader  
**Darrell McCune** – Vocal Coach  
**Bruce Wenner** – Arranger/Copyright Coordinator  
**Jerry Garrard** – Program Vice President  
**Brooke Meyers** – Uniform Chairman  
**Phil Veltkamp** – Music Librarian  
**David Krause** – Coach/Presentation Team  
**Mark Fortino** – Recording Learning CDs  
**Vince Perry** – Chorus Manager  
**Don Young** – Presentation Team  
**Shawn Jeffries** – Presentation Team  
**John Landry** – Presentation Team  
**Mike Schumacher** – Presentation Team  
**Harry Stewart** – Presentation Team  
**Neil Johnson** – Presentation Team  
**Keith Schweer** – Bass Section Leader



*Quite a list, eh?* There are a lot of chapters in our District that do not have as many members. These guys do a TREMENDOUS amount of work behind the scenes to assure that chapter meetings are musically rewarding and that we continually improve our musical skills and performance abilities. We have had a busy and successful 2003 and I

plan to ask each one of them to continue in his role in 2004. Please join me in thanking them for their hard work and dedication! ~

## THAT "VOICE"

By Dick Korek, Marketing & PR Vice President



That "voice" you hear on our commercials—you feel the smile and excitement and know the announcer for the commercials promoting the Holiday Harmony Spectacular is none other than our very own **Dan Henry**.

That's Dan, Navy veteran, educator, AM radio announcer, "disc jockey" then TV-4 weather reporter.

Yep, once again Dan recorded the radio commercials for the holiday show, with the production help of **Jeff Schiller** at Soundtrek Studios. The background music is "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" from the NEW Heart Of America CD.

The *Heart Of America Chorus* is privileged to have Dan Henry as a member! ~

## NEED STOCKING STUFFERS?

**2004 HOA ANNUAL SHOW TICKETS**  
...available approx. Dec. 15!  
**March 13, 2004 - 2 & 7:30 pm**  
**Music Hall - Downtown Kansas City**  
**Headliner - RR4 - 1986 Intl. Champ**  
**Ticket Prices: \$20/\$15/\$10**

**Call Vince Perry: 816-233-0731**  
**OR**  
**email [sjmovp@stjoelive.com](mailto:sjmovp@stjoelive.com)**  
**OR**  
**reserve online: [hoachorus.com](http://hoachorus.com)**





# Heart of America



## December-January Calendar

- Dec. 5** Tech rehearsal, Unity Village Auditorium, 7 pm  
**Dec. 6** HOLIDAY HARMONY SPECTACULAR, 2 & 7:30 pm  
**Dec. 20** HOA/Salvation Army Bell Ringing, Metro North, 10 am  
**Jan. 10** Installation/Award Dinner  
**Jan. 30** Society Mid-Winter Convention, Biloxi, Mississippi  
thru Feb. 1

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Society for the Preservation and Encouragement  
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Kansas City Chapter, Inc.  
210 West 100th Terrace - Apt. #204  
Kansas City, MO 64114-4431

