



Heart of America



February-March Calendar

- Jan 30 - Feb 1 Society Mid-Winter Convention, Biloxi, Mississippi
- Feb. 7 Harmony Explosion (Olathe North)
- Feb. 13-14 Singing Valentines
- Feb. 17 Joint chapter meeting at HOA, featuring **Bill Rashleigh**
- Feb. 19 1st extra show rehearsal
- Feb. 21 All-day Music Team planning meeting
- Feb. 26 2nd extra show rehearsal
- March 2 **Bill Biffle** coaching
- March 4 tentative extra show rehearsal
- March 12 Tech rehearsal, Music Hall
- March 13 58th annual show, "From the Heart," Music Hall, 2 and 7:30 p.m.
- March 23 **Rosemary Calderon** staging of contest uptune



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Harmonotes

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2004, Issue 2

HOA EXCITEMENT ABOUNDS

by Jim Bagby, Ye Olde Arm-Waver



There's such a delightful flurry of activity these days in the Society's second-oldest chapter, I scarcely know where to begin. But since the memory of a highly successful awards/installation dinner is fresh, that might be a good place.

As one of the originators of the Ozzie, whatta thrill it was to see **Mark Fortino** receive the music award. As awards chairman **Bruce Wenner** noted, this honor is so special it's not bestowed every year. And for his countless, dedicated hours of work to make "From the Heart" a reality, Mark was truly deserving—aside from all the many things he does for our chapter.

But I suspect the music team would agree that other than **John Stucker** and **Dan Israel**, no one was more responsible than Mark for birthing our first HOA CD. At the same time, we owe a great debt to **Vince Perry, Dale**

Neuman and the music team under the continued leadership of **Keith Schweer** for making the project such a success.

It's also a pleasure to congratulate another key member of the team, **Jerry Garrard**, for taking home the John Cross Award (pretty elite group preceding him!) and **Al Higgins** for his well-deserved choice as Barbershopper of the Year.

If I sound wound tighter than usual, it's because we've just completed lining up the clothespins for a March show chorus of 82 members. By the next *Harmonotes*, it's inevitable that some of those signees will not have qualified, or been attrition victims for other reasons. But that's such a major jump in numbers from where we were a year ago, I have to be gratified and encouraged that we'll again put 90 on stage before long. Do I hear 100?

In addition, a conservative estimate is that there are a dozen more members unable to be on the March show whom we expect to join the Louisville competition group. And that does not count any new members we bring in between now and the start of Louisville preparations—which will be in full swing by early April. Take a look at Keith's article for some of the coaching and scheduling already planned.

Speaking of planning, don't forget we have, tentatively, extra show rehearsals set for Feb. 19, 26 and March 4 (all Thursdays), plus the tech rehearsal at the Music Hall on Friday, March 12. And under our new 2004 attendance policy, every member is expected to make every meeting/rehearsal unless you've told your section leader in advance why you can't be there. Call that common courtesy, as well as dedication...

Speaking of the new lineup, it includes five of the aforementioned Fortino clan. It's the first time, as far as I know, that HOA has had five members of one family in the chorus. And with the addition of grandpa/papa **Ron**, along with **John** back active and bringing son **Jonathan** (joining **Mark** and offspring **Anthony**), it's the first time for three generations in the chapter since **Walter, Calvin, Willard** and **Wes Yoder** sang with us in the mid-1980s. That IS something to celebrate.

Speaking of Yoders, Calvin and Willard plan to be with us in Louisville. Remind them of that when you see 'em with the *RR4* on the March show.

Finally, it's gratifying to see the initial response to the tape-and-improve-on-your-own program. Our progress and success are, first and foremost, individual responsibility. And if you'd like an exercise that will really help your vocal and tonal center skills, sing along with the learning quartet on "Auld Lang Syne." Match their attention to pitch and intervals—always open and on top of every note, with resonance, freedom and quality. They start in G and they finish smack-dab in A-flat, which is what we must do to pound (as **Joe Connelly** would say) that marvelous tag.

So sing AND listen. We're gonna' do a lot of pounding this year. ~



Members **Jerry Garrard, Mark Fortino** and **Al Higgins** were honored during HOA's 2003 Installation Banquet!

Photo by **Vince Perry**

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Support these businesses!

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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.

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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:

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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

<i>HOA Website:</i>	www.hoachorus.com
<i>Web Address:</i>	webstaff@hoachorus.com
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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 Fehlaue (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



FROM THE PREZ

by Marty Oldehoeft

By this reading most of you know the 2003 award winners announced at the banquet on Jan. 10. I think they deserve one more "pat-on-the-back" in print. The John Cross (attendance and all chores) award was earned by **Jerry Garrard**. The Oz Newgard "Ozzie" (music contribution) award was earned by **Mark Fortino**. The trophy given by *RR4*. The Barbershopper of the year (significant and unusual service) award winner was **Al Higgins**. Gentlemen, we thank you for all the hours and dedication you give to our hobby!

Now that we are in the new year our vision is becoming more focused on the upcoming events. Although we are working on new music for the March 13 annual show, learning a new up-tune for Louisville, our immediate focus is on what has become a major event for HOA—SINGING VALENTINES. **Rich Huyck** who is this year's SV chairman has his crew moving the 12-14 quartets toward performance quality, thanks to **Jon Gathright** and **Monty Duerksen**. At the SV headquarters and beyond our appreciation goes to **Ron McIntire, Phil Veltkamp, Dick Korek, Vince Perry, Al Higgins, John Landry, Mike Mathieu** and **Gordon Coleman**. Looks like all is in order for another fun and rewarding Singing Valentine activity on Feb. 13 and Feb. 14. Both the chapter and Children's Mercy Hospital will benefit from this event.

I would be remiss if I didn't complete the list of this year's board. Due to some errant button pushing on my part, the Board members at large were omitted in the last issue of the Harmonotes. We are pleased to include on the 2004 HOA board—**Kent McClean, Thom Tisdall, Bob Howard, Harry Stewart, Rich Huyck** and **Jon Gathright**. ~



A THANK YOU NOTE... FROM TED DALBERG OF THE SALVATION ARMY!

The *Heart of America Chorus* is great and a wonderful friend to many including The Salvation Army. I regret that I was unable to attend the performance this year however I too was out generating those needed dollars for the Army.

I was playing in a brass choir in Lawrence and throughout KC for about 3 hours of playing plus the travel time. We did well because people are blessed by the music of the season.

I want to thank all of the Chorus for their dedicated service to benefit others. May God continue to bless and use your given talents. ~



HARMONY EXPLOSION!

by Al Higgins



Preparations are underway for the 8th annual Harmony Explosion event to be held on Saturday, Feb. 7 at Olathe North High School.

Invitations have been sent to music teachers throughout the metro area. Entries are due on Feb. 3. Several schools have already indicated that

they will be attending and are forming and preparing quartets for the quartet contests.

The day will start with registration at 8:30 am followed by a general session, chorus rehearsals, and preliminary quartet contests in the morning. After lunch there will be more chorus rehearsal time followed with the quartet finals and the awards and the day should be concluded by 4:30 p.m.

HOA Associate Director **Carter Combs** will conduct the warmup session and direct the boys chorus. The KC Chorus of Sweet Adelines Assistant Director **Diedra Brown** is in charge of the arrangements the girls chorus.

HOA chorus members will again be needed to help with the day and should be planning on being available on Saturday, Feb. 7 to help run the various programs.

The Rotary Club of Downtown Kansas City and the Motel and Hotel Association of Greater Kansas City are again sponsoring the awards.

The quartet champions will once again be invited to appear with HOA on our annual show, March 13.

More later. ~

SALVATION ARMY BELLRINGING 2003

by Mike Mathieu



Our Bellringing campaign for 2003 proved to be the best one yet for the Heart of America Chorus. Much like the old phrase that says, "give until it feels good," this year we "Rang until we felt great!" The extra efforts by some of our members, and the overall effort at our Metro North performances are to be applauded. I would like to single out some of those efforts.

The Bellringing Advisory Council, of which I am in the 13th year of a 3-year term, historically rings bells on the day after Thanksgiving at two Wal-Marts. Being out of town this year, I was replaced by **Jim Bagby, Gordy Coleman, Jim Davis** and **Dale Neuman**, who each volunteered for a two-hour shift. Thank you all for going the extra mile.

Then the *Gentlemen of Note* donated fees from performances they did during December. Their generosity alone amounted almost \$500 in donations to get the ball rolling. It's amazing that in addition to all the time donated by those guys, they also just sign over their performance fees. They also spent over a half-day at the **Mike Murphy** Radio Days promotion at KC Masterpiece.

Next we had our chorus MetroNorth performance on Dec. 20. We had a good turnout, and a vast majority of the members stayed for all six performances. It is a test of our endurance, but proves rewarding in many ways. On Tuesday, Dec. 23, I asked if anyone would be interested in singing and ringing, since it was our regular meeting night but there was no official meeting. **Rob Mathieu, Dick Irwin** and **Dick Korek** joined yours truly for over two hours of singing and ringing at Wal-Mart on 75th and I-35. Donations were great that night, as the closer to Christmas, the higher the generosity gets. Still being in the spirit, and getting excited about hitting our quota, I took my equipment out of my trunk and rang at a Hy-Vee on 69 highway and 119th Street on Christmas Eve day for about three and a half hours.

When we got our sub-total, we were still about \$113 short of our goal as of the meeting on Jan. 6. **Jim Bagby** said to me, "pass the bucket, we'll get that shortfall." So we passed a cardboard box down the risers and collected another \$196, which was rounded up to \$200.

In 2003 we raised \$3,566.55 total. This year we raised \$3,450.91 at MetroNorth, \$213.89 at Wal-Mart, \$338.90 at Hy-Vee, \$200 by passing the bucket at our meeting, and various other member's checks, plus matching gifts from some checks brings our 2003 sub-total to **\$4,649.70**. I believe at MetroNorth I stated a goal of \$4,700. Truly a great effort by all involved. Over \$600 more than we have ever collected. We should win a "Grand Award," which is a brass bell for \$1,000 over the previous year. The effort is commendable and a huge thanks to all for that effort. ~



TONE-HENGE TIME

by Ol' Bruce

Another *Tone-Henge* article proclaiming our lazy practice practices? NOT! We decided to get serious—by a vote of 1-0, with three abstentions. The reason? We have four shows coming up this spring—HOA, Denison Iowa, Colby Kansas, and Bella Vista Arkansas, and our stuff is getting rusty. I'm planning to spend the month of February in New Zealand (why is the flaky one always the tenor?), so we're putting on a big push in January to get ready. Big push for us, that is. Even learning a new song!

The first of the appearances will be one song on the HOA show. We considered using *Lizzie Borden*, but this could result in physical harm at the hands of some of our nonviolent chapter brothers. (If you want to hear it, just cue it up on the HOA learning CD—except that we don't do it as well as *New and Used Parts*.) So what you get is a song you've heard before with an ending you haven't. Stay tuned. ~

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Details in this adjacent article! →

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!

by Mike Mathieu

As an added extra to this year's show weekend, we have again negotiated a reduced rate for a stay at the Downtown Marriott. For \$80 you can park your car at the covered lot under the Marriott early Saturday morning, check into the hotel, get to the Music Hall in time for the Saturday morning run-through, and you won't have to get back into your car until Sunday morning. No fighting the downtown traffic, no scrambling for a parking place, have a prime rib buffet for dinner, take a power nap in between shows if you like, catch the Afterglow after the show, then take the elevator up to your room when it's all over.

The Entertainment Book has a coupon for the *Pam Pam Restaurant* and another for *Lilly's* in the *Marriott*. I will have a sign up sheet for a between-show dinner at the Pam Pam on Saturday. If you sign up, it merely indicates your intention of eating; no money is required at this time. The meal will start at 4:45 PM on March 13. (FYI-*Italian Gardens* has closed.) Then after the evening show, you can join us at the Afterglow, and what an event it should be!

Imagine sitting in your chair within a few feet of where our Society started. Yes ladies and gentlemen, this year we will have our Afterglow in the Barney Allis Lobby in the Downtown Marriott, Muehlebach Tower. It is in that lobby that **O.C. Cash**, **Rupert Hall**, and two "draftees" met before singing into the wee hours on that famous evening in 1938. Here almost 66 years later we will be partying again right where it all began.

12th Street Rag, *the Rural Route 4*, and other quartets will be ringing chords in that famous location. Don't miss this opportunity to be there as we relive a part of our great history. Seating is limited as the lobby is not near as large as our normal ballroom. To be guaranteed a seat, get your ticket requests in now. We will again have reserved tables. \$5 is the cost for the first 200 seats, or \$50 for a table of 10. If we sell more than that we will have additional standing or obscured vision seats in the Tea Room for \$2.50. This event will probably be sold out, so buying tickets in advance is highly recommended. As it says above, this just could be a night to remember!

It promises to be an exciting and highly rewarding weekend, so get on the bandwagon and make a weekend out of it. Last year we had 24 rooms sold to members who decided to make a weekend out of it. If you'd like to be a part of it, we have a good supply of rooms reserved for Friday night also. Contact me personally to make your room reservations. Any questions should be directed to **Mike Mathieu**. ~

2003 BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS



Two photos at top: Ron Morden, CSD President installs our 2004 Officers, **Second row of photos** shows Oz Newgard award winner **Jerry Garrard** receiving his plaque from **Grant Hunget**, **Mark Fortino** accepting the Ozzie Award from **Mike Neff** and **Al Higgins** is singled out by **Vince Perry** and HOA as our 2003 Barbershopper of the Year. **Third Row:** **Joan Korek** receives Heartbeat of the Year accolades from **Carol Ramirez**,...**Mark Fortino** and **Dan Israel** enjoy some levity and the 2004 Heartbeat Board is installed. **Finally, at bottom right:** The camera doesn't lie. One has to wonder exactly what **Linda Schumacher** is getting ready to do as **Jim Bagby** directs!



JUST FOUR FUN

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

Two peanuts walk into a bar.
One was assalted.

A jumper cable walks into a bar.
The barman says "I'll serve you,
but don't start anything."

"Doc, I can't stop singing
"The Green, Green Grass Of Home."
"Hmmm. That sounds just like
Tom Jones syndrome."
"Is it common?"
"It's not unusual."

Two hydrogen atoms walk into a bar.
One says, "I've lost my electron."
The other says, "Are you sure?"
The first replies, "Yes, I'm positive..."

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were
chilly; but when they lit a fire in
the craft, it sank, proving once and
for all that you can't have your
kayak and heat it too.

What do you call a fish with no eyes?
A fsh.

DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE OF

Harmonotes

Articles and photos are due by

TUESDAY, FEB. 17

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



Ten Years Ago: February, 1994

Chapter president **John Pennington** announced the pending production of "Missouri Harmony Spectacular, Take II," the second annual show to be presented jointly by HOA and the *Ambassadors of Harmony* of St. Charles. The performance was scheduled for March 12 at 7:30 p.m. at Hazelwood Central high school in North St. Louis County.

HOA members extended condolences to Music Director **Jim Bagby**, whose father passed away Jan. 18. Well-known throughout the Society, **Jack Bagby** was a long-time member of the Oklahoma City chapter; he edited the *Ricochet*, their chapter bulletin, for 25 years. You many already know this, but it's interesting to recall that Jim's grandfather was a charter member of the Colorado Springs chapter and his four brothers were also barbershoppers.

Your *Harmonotes* editor expressed his total shock and amazement that, according to remarks at a recent chapter board meeting, not all HOA members read and assimilated every word in his monthly copy of hi chapter bulletin. Can that still be true today, Todd? What a shame!

New members were **Bob Terry**, who, according to his auditioner, sang "all parts well"; **Mike Louque**, a transfer from the *Harmonizers* of Alexandria, VA; and **Fred Law**, a former member of the Overland Park chapter. Wonder where they are today?

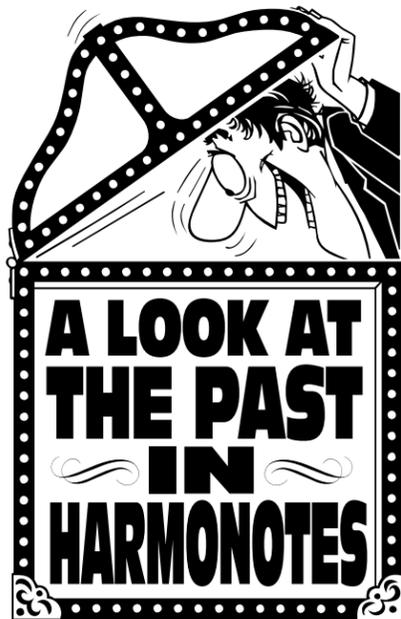
Twenty Years Ago: February, 1984

Dale Neuman was editor of *Harmonotes*, and the chapter was meeting at Ridgeview Christian Church on Sni-A-Bar Road.

Lots of activity was reported in this edition of our chapter bulletin. **John Warrior** was apparently the show chairman and had an article about the upcoming show on March 10. We're extremely fortunate that, although John no longer attends chapter meetings, he's always on the job each year, operating the equipment back stage at the Music Hall during our annual show. What would we do without him?

Al Benz had details regarding the Afterglow following the show. It was to be held at in the Imperial Ballroom at the old Muehlebach Hotel. Tickets were \$3 each.

(Continued on page 3)→



By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

HEARTBEAT HIGHLITES!

by Sharon Oldehoeft, 2004 Heartbeat President

We send a big *Heartbeat* Thank You for a wonderful Awards Dinner and Program. The food was delicious and we congratulate all the Award winners, especially **Joan Korek**, our *Heartbeat* of the Year. You men really can put a party together!

Ladies, we will have had our first Board Meeting by the time you read this. We invite you to join us in support of your HOA member. Events, dates and times are forthcoming and we will get this information to you. *Heartbeats* meet 4 or 5 times a year at the same place and same time that your HOA member meets on Tuesdays. We hope you will join us for business, fun and fellowship at our next meeting. We could call it a "Ladies Night Out." Why let the men have all the fun? See you soon. ~

THOM'S TURN TO WIN!

by Jim Porter

Three months after **Chuck Ames** won the record jackpot in our Harmony Foundation raffle, one of our newer members, **Thom Tisdall**, drew the white marble in the raffle on Jan. 13, and walked off with the pot of \$285 in cash. Thom has been a regular participant in the raffle since he joined the chorus last year, and has had his ticket drawn 5 times before, but each time he drew a blue marble. Persistence paid off for Thom in a big way on Jan. 13. Congratulations, Thom, you have been an excellent addition to the *Heart of America Chorus* in the year you have been with us, and a great example to many of us who have been in the chorus much longer.

So far this year, we have taken in \$341 for Harmony Foundation. Keep up the good work; maybe next time it will be your ticket that leads to the big winner! ~



The late **Jim Bell**, who had a public relations responsibility, had a long biographical sketch on **Keith Schweer**. Did you know that Keith was a clarinet player? A food service manager at Research Medical center who married is dietician? At one time the Central States District secretary? I could go on...

Tenor **Don Kahl** reported on recent *Rural Route 4* activities. Did you know that Don's father-in-law, whose first name was **Glen**, operated the "Pizza Glen" in Clinton? Don also expounded at length about his conversation with a recent HOA guest by the name of **Gary Steinkamp**, whose father was at one time a staff member at SPEBSQSA headquarters in Kenosha.

Thirty-Five Years Ago: February, 1969

Here's a bit of "Heartbeat" history. **Bev Wasson**, **Barney's** wife, announced the receipt of chapter board approval for the establishment of a ladies auxiliary in accordance with guidelines set by SPEBSQSA headquarters. Activities would be limited to promoting and assisting in support of *Logopedics* (now known as *Heartspring*) and helping the chapter with shows and social activities. According to Bev, "Special emphasis will be placed on making new wives feel as if they 'belong'." It's interesting to note that an SPEBSQSA restriction required that members of the auxiliary be non-singers. Wonder why? What if they were Sweet Adelines?

My email address is: jedexter@mailstation.com ~

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following chapter members!

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Doug Brott | February 2 |
| Myron Hultgren | February 8 |
| Charles Greene | February 12 |
| Jim Bagby | February 14 |
| John Fortino | February 18 |
| Sal Iannazzo | February 18 |
| Brian Seydlitz | February 18 |
| Jim Porter | February 20 |
| Kallan Vander Hamm | February 21 |
| Lud Einess Jr | February 24 |
| James Speck | February 26 |
| Jon Gathright | February 27 |

MUSICAL NOTES

By Keith Schweer, Music Vice President



I understand that we have 82 (including **Jim**) signed up for the March show. That's terrific. We may lose a couple before the show, but that's still a nice increase over last year. Hopefully, we can continue to build on that for Louisville and beyond.

We are still working on our coaching schedule for 2004. Here's what we have so far:

March 2 – **Bill Biffle** to continue singing improvement program

March 16 or 23 – **Rosemary Calderon** to give us

our staging package for Look Me Up When You're in Dixie

One Tuesday in April - **David Wright** or **Dwain Brobst**

May 8 (Saturday) – **Don Kahl** returns home for an all-day singing coaching session

Tuesday in June – **Bill Biffle**

Tuesday or Saturday in June – **Dwain Brobst**

As you can see, this is a work in progress, but we want to do all we can to improve our singing and performance skills as we approach that Saturday in July when HOA returns to the International contest stage in Louisville.

Recently, at the suggestion of singing coach, **Bill Biffle**, we have instituted a "self-coaching" program for the chorus. The idea is that each member records himself singing, either at home or with the chorus. Then, at home, you listen to and critique yourself. Following is a partial list of things you might listen for:

- Pleasant, resonant, supported tone
- Consistency of tone quality as vowel or pitch changes
- Continuity of sound (singing all the word sounds and singing to the ends of the phrases)
- Overdoing diphthongs
- Singing in tune (not sharp or flat)
- Singing in a way that blends in with the rest of the chorus
- Singing correct vowel sounds that match with the rest of the chorus
- Accurate, on-time attacks
- Basically, are you singing your best?

Being sure to use a decent quality tape, not holding your recorder too close or too far away, being sure your battery is fresh are all things that can help assure a good self evaluation.

If every member of the chorus will participate and conscientiously work to improve his individual singing skills, the results could be amazing. If you have any questions or are not sure how to go about coaching yourself, please talk to one of our directors, your section leader or anyone else on the Music Team. We want to help you sing your best, because it is only through individual improvement that we will realize overall improvement for the chorus. ~

SUPPORTERS: THEY'RE OUT THERE!

by Dick Korek,
Marketing Vice-President



Gentlemen, we, the *Heart Of America Barbershop Chorus*, have so very much to offer this city, our community. Each and every

one of you should have had the opportunity, following one of our shows, to visit with the audience. Shake many hands, see the smiles and hear promises of returning for more fun entertainment in the future. Does our city realize that we are Ambassadors for Kansas City in our various appearances in the Midwest and at Internationals? Maybe not, but that is slowly changing. As we become the best we can be, perform to the best of our capability, absorb everything we can from the music team, we all become winners.

We are marketable. We entertain. We are recognized at the International level and are very good at what we do.

It's a gradual learning process for me to get the HOA story and the Society story across to the local media. Seems I've become a bit of a pest. I call it "quality persistence."

The 10 "sponsors" have come on board after being given the opportunity to find out just who the heck we are. Many never heard of us; now they want to help, see us in action and find out more. All will be at one of the March shows and most will be at the afterglow.

Help me locate companies to be "sponsors" for the year 2004. Sponsor money can be used to cover expenses for Louisville.

We need people, companies that believe in us, will support us. It's up to us to find them. ~

THE BOARD ROOM

by John Winfiel, Secretary



The 2004 HOA Board met for the first time on Jan. 12. Officers present were **Marty Oldehoeft**-President, **Steve Caruthers**-Executive VP, **Charles Ramirez**-Treasurer, **Dick Korek**-Marketing VP, **Keith Schweer**-Music VP, **Ken Neujahr**-Membership VP, **Chuck Ames**-Operations VP and **John Winfiel**-Secretary.

Board Members At Large present were **Thom Tisdall**, **Dick Irwin**-Immediate Past President, **Bob Howard** and **Rich Huyck**.

Music VP **Keith Schweer** reported that he is still working on the coaching schedule for 2004. **Bill Biffle** is confirmed for March 2. He hopes to have **Rosemary Calderon** here on March 16 to teach the new staging package for "Look Me Up When You're In Dixie." Keith reported we would have a "Self Coaching" demonstration on Jan. 13. He

also reported that extra rehearsals are scheduled for Feb. 19 and 26, as well as March 4. The deadline to turn in qualification tapes is Feb. 19 and the qualification deadline is Feb. 26. The music team is asking that every singer attend every rehearsal. When someone has to miss, they would like that person to call his section leader in advance.

Keith also reported that the music team is considering eliminating Sunday morning sessions at the Fall Retreat, and is considering adding a Saturday only mini-retreat before international.

Membership VP **Ken Neujahr** reported he has five new men waiting to start a new orientation class.

Operations VP **Chuck Ames** reported the extra rehearsals on Feb. 19 and March 4 will be held at the Sweet Adelines rehearsal facility. The Feb. 26 rehearsal will be at our regular site.

Marketing VP **Dick Korek** reported that he got our entry in to CARA on time. CARA is the Contemporary A Capella Recording Awards. Dick also reported that he is meeting with *Kansas City Power and Light* about possibly becoming an HOA Sponsor.

Dick Irwin reported that his preliminary investigation has shown no significant saving to the chapter would be incurred by publishing the **Harmonotes** online.

Uniform Chairman **Brooke Meyers** proposed that the board consider buying some new uniform parts to give the chorus a variety of choices. He brought a red vest and tie and a black shirt to be worn with our black tux. Brooke reported that red was chosen to allow a new uniform for Christmas time and for Singing Valentines, as well as providing more variety for other shows. He reported that if we purchased all three pieces we would receive a 20% discount, which would put the cost to the chorus of \$100 per set. The board asked Brooke to ask the supplier for payment terms and to look at the possibility of getting only the shirt and tie now, and the vest later. The board was concerned that the budget would not allow such an expense right away.

The board met in a special session Tuesday Jan. 20. We voted to participate in a holiday show again next year. We also heard back from Brooke that we would need to put up one-third of the new uniform cost as a down payment. Due to remaining budget concerns and divided opinion on the color choices of the new uniform pieces, the board decided to postpone a decision until we can arrange to see the new pieces under stage lights. We also recommended that Brooke consult with **Eileen Huyck** and any other costuming experts he can find for recommendations of the best choices for us. ~



**OUR SECOND 1,000 CDS
...ARE HERE AND AVAILABLE!**

You can order them online at
www.hoachorus.org
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BEWARE THE EFFECTS OF WINTER DRYNESS ON YOUR VOICE

Taken from *Primary Care Matters* and used with permission. Special thanks to **Niel A. Johnson, MD, FAAFP, MAJ, MC Chief, Primary Care Services**

WELCOME TO THE WINTER OF 2004!

January-February are historically the coldest months of the year in the northern hemisphere. To survive and be comfortable we heat the spaces we occupy. This obviously is necessary, but there is a downside. Warm ambient air can hold more moisture than cold air, so when cold air is heated without adding more water vapor, the relative humidity decreases and the resultant dryness makes an impact on our respiratory system.

YOUR NOSE AND THROAT are passageways for air to go to and from your lungs. Air rushes in through these passageways delivering oxygen. Then air is blown out, which carries away the carbon dioxide that the body needs to get rid of. These channels serve two other important functions: they filter and moisturize air. Tiny hairs in the nostrils help sweep out foreign particles and prevent their entry into internal

organs. The mucus lining the walls of the nostrils and the throat traps and collects the rejected filtered-out material. When you inhale air that may contain smoke, dust or other

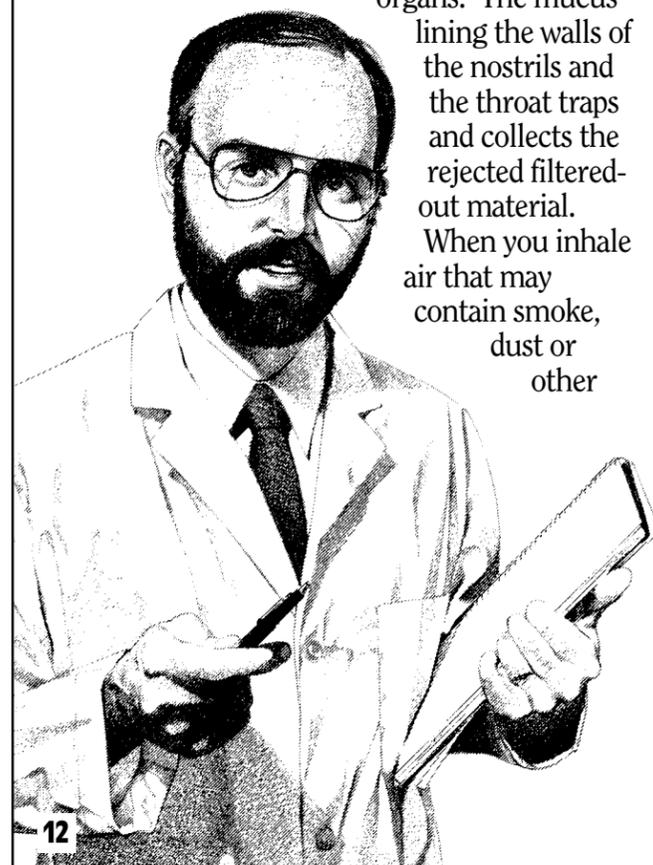
pollutants and also is very dry, the challenge to the nose and throat is intensified. The passageways, more precisely the mucosal cover lining them, serve to moisturize incoming air. The flowing air picks up moisture from the mucus by evaporation. The good news: cells in the lungs work better if they receive air with optimal relative humidity. If the mucosal cover is moist, the passageways can accomplish the task. The not-so-good news: if this cover isn't moist enough, air rushing through further dries out the coating in the nose and throat, leaving it more viscous or thicker. The residual mucosal material will not flow over the underlying membranes and keep them moist. Dry passageways not only are uncomfortable; they also function less effectively.

WHEN YOU VOCALIZE, i.e. you make any sound, outgoing air goes through the larynx or the vocal apparatus (what we used to call the vocal cords). If the air is dry, it picks up moisture from the surface of the larynx. This loss of moisture is NOT good because the sensitive membranes dry out. You feel the discomfort and because a dry membrane doesn't vibrate like a moist one, the vocal quality is distorted and the voice sounds hoarse.

A protective coating lining all these passageways—nose, throat and larynx—crucial to comfort, vocal quality, and good health.

Some knowledgeable vocal experts believe pathogens love compromised surfaces such as a dry passageway. Bacteria that cause respiratory infections find such places quite hospitable and the surfaces of their structures, especially *Streptococcus*, are such that they adhere, almost like Velcro, to anyplace they can attach themselves to. Some bacteria have become increasingly resistant to antibiotic therapy and can present a treatment challenge to physicians. It's not possible to avoid these micro-organisms altogether because they are so pervasive. But they are harmless unless they thrive and invade body organs and systems.

A healthy passageway is lined with a moist



mucosal coating, a physical barrier that helps prevent pathogens from gaining a foothold: the surface is smooth and "bugs" find themselves on a slippery slope. They can't stick around and multiply. There is no absolute way to avoid respiratory infections, but spraying supplemental moisture and lubrication does supplement and "repair" the physical barrier and will reduce the body's vulnerability. A couple of analogous situations where an efficient coating or barrier protects a vulnerable surface: A silicone cream rubbed onto the hands protects the skin from caustic substances. Sometimes water is the enemy. A garden tool, e.g. a shovel blade that has been cleaned and coated with a film of oil, resists corrosion because the oil forms a barrier that keeps air and water away from direct contact with the metal so it doesn't oxidize or rust.

WHEN IT'S COLD, heating and circulating air reduces its moisture content. In hot weather, air conditioners lower the humidity. So the air we breathe, much of the time, is drier than what our bodies would prefer. Some of us may not notice, but most people can discern dryness within closed areas such as bedrooms and offices. Airplane cabins are classic.

Dry air can compromise comfort, vocal quality and vulnerability to illness. When nasal, throat and vocal apparatus tissues dry out, the nostrils and throat get an uncomfortable scratchy / itchy feeling and, because dried out membranes in the larynx do not vibrate like moist ones, the voice sounds hoarse. We sometimes call hoarseness, or any impaired vocal quality, "laryngitis," descriptive perhaps, but not necessarily a correct diagnostic term because laryngitis literally means an inflammation in the larynx.

The real world is filled with factors that can negatively impact our throat comfort and vocal quality. The environmental air we breathe, in large measure, is beyond our control. To some degree we can add moisture with humidifiers and we can filter out some of the undesirable elements, but we can't spend all of our hours in confined areas that are engineered to our specifications.

We can choose to limit vocalizing, but most of us have jobs which involve using our voice. We can learn proper technique and we can avoid abusing our voice by not shouting, speaking or singing longer or more aggressively than we should. **MOST IMPORTANT, WE CAN DRINK PLENTY OF FLUIDS SO OUR BODIES ARE KEPT SYSTEMICALLY HYDRATED.** Adequate fluid intake is good for many parts of the body and for many reasons.

Many things can cause a vocal problem; dryness possibly is one of the easier ones to remedy. However, if hydration methods do not produce results in a few days or if there are signs of infection, a physician should be consulted.

Sometimes, no matter what we do, the accumulation of "vocal stressors" such as dry air, smoke, dust and extended vocalizing produces discomfort and impaired vocal quality. When exposed to these situations, the body simply is unable to keep up with the increased demand for additional moisture and lubrication. The result is we become uncomfortable and we are hindered in our ability to do what we must do or want to do. Supplemental moisture can be very helpful. ~



Dry air can compromise comfort, vocal quality and vulnerability to illness.

EXECUTIVE WEST IS HOA'S LOUISVILLE HOME

by Vince Perry, Chorus Manager



I just received word that HOA will be staying in the Executive West Motor Hotel (shown above). It is located at the entrance of The Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center, which houses the contest venue called Freedom Hall. The hotel is very large with over 500 rooms and will also be the home of *The Sound of the Rockies* and *Southern Gateway* choruses. The headquarters hotel is called the Galt House and is six miles north in downtown Louisville.

Presently we are coordinating rehearsal times and other functions with the other choruses. If everything works out, we will rehearse on Thursday and Friday at the Exec West with times to be published later. A combined after-glow is also being considered, as is a Saturday morning breakfast buffet.

The Central States District Rally is usually held on late Friday afternoon.

The *Ambassadors of Harmony* are staying at the Downtown Holiday Inn, so in all probability we will be visiting them for the rally.

The next function that must be performed by all is to complete a detailed room reservation, including check-in, check-out dates, room type,

occupant's names and credit card info. This needs to be completed by Feb. 16 so that your "HOA Is Louisville Bound Committee" will have time to put all the information together and still meet the Int'l Housing deadline. For your convenience I will have the HOA Housing Reservation Form online; check the Member's section for access. I will also have a few hard copies that you may complete and return. Understand, everyone needs to complete this task.

As always, if you are not sure if your spouse will be accompanying you, it is better to make a reservation for her in a double-double room so you will have a room to cancel or share with a roommate. Rooms will be hard to get when the Society starts taking room reservations Society wide in a few weeks, so it's best to hold on to as many rooms as we can for as long as we can.

Finally, I would like to thank the many people who have helped me this past year in my duties as your chorus manager, annual show ticket chairman, webpage guy, and webstore manager. Meeting and working with each of you has been a blessing of extraordinary proportions. You are the greatest! Life is good as a HOA Barbershopper in 2004! ~

A TIP OF THE HAT

A big TOTH to **Mike Mathieu, Rob Mathieu, Dick Irwin** and **Dick Korek** who rang bells for the Salvation Army at Wal-Mart on 75th and I-35 in Overland Park on Dec 23rd. According to Mike they collected close to \$500 in their kettle. All the money collected was added to the total money raised by the chapter.



To Ron McIntire for putting together the Singing Valentine CD from the 2000 *Gentlemen Of Note* recording to help the Singing Valentine quartets learn the music.

To the members of the music team who created the learning tape masters of the new songs; to **Phil Veltkamp** for collecting and organizing the 2004 voice-part repertoire CD's, including, the new songs for the '04 Spring Show; and to **Rich Huyck, Ron McIntire, Neil Johnson** and **Mike O'Dell** for burning the CD's.

To the 58 HOA men who sang an average of 54.5 man-sessions for the Salvation Army Dec. 20 at Metro North shopping mall; to **Chuck Blair** and **Andy North** who both sang with HOA even though they were not yet members of HOA; to HOA directors: **Jim Bagby, Carter Combs** and **Mike Neff**; to **Mike Schumacher**, who did his magic with the sound system; to **Chuck Ames, Val Putzier, Steve Carruthers** and the unsung helpers who wrestled the risers.

To head cheerleader and bucket passer, **Mike Mathieu**, for his circulating through the crowds to collect money for the Salvation Army. ~

BARBERSHOPPER OF THE MONTH!

OCTOBER 2003 Anthony Fortino

In grateful appreciation for your excellent choreography that helped the *Heart of America Chorus* win 2nd place at the 2003 CSD Chorus Contest in Cedar Rapids, IA

DECEMBER 2003 Kent McClean

In grateful appreciation for your hard work in managing the *Heart of America/Kansas City Sweet Adelines* 2003 Harmony Spectacular

EXTRA MILE AWARD

DECEMBER 2003 Mike Mathieu

In grateful recognition for your devotion and unrelenting work to set up the 2003 *Heart of America Chorus* Salvation Army Holiday performances at the Metro North Shopping Mall



OUR CONGRATS TO AN HOA GRAD!

The Faculty, Staff and Graduating Class of DeVry University announce that Alexander Ray Scott is a candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Technology in Telecommunications Management on Friday morning, Feb. 27 at 10 a.m., at the Community of Christ in Independence, MO. Social Hour will be held at 9 a.m.

