

Harmonotes

January 2003

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2003, Issue 1

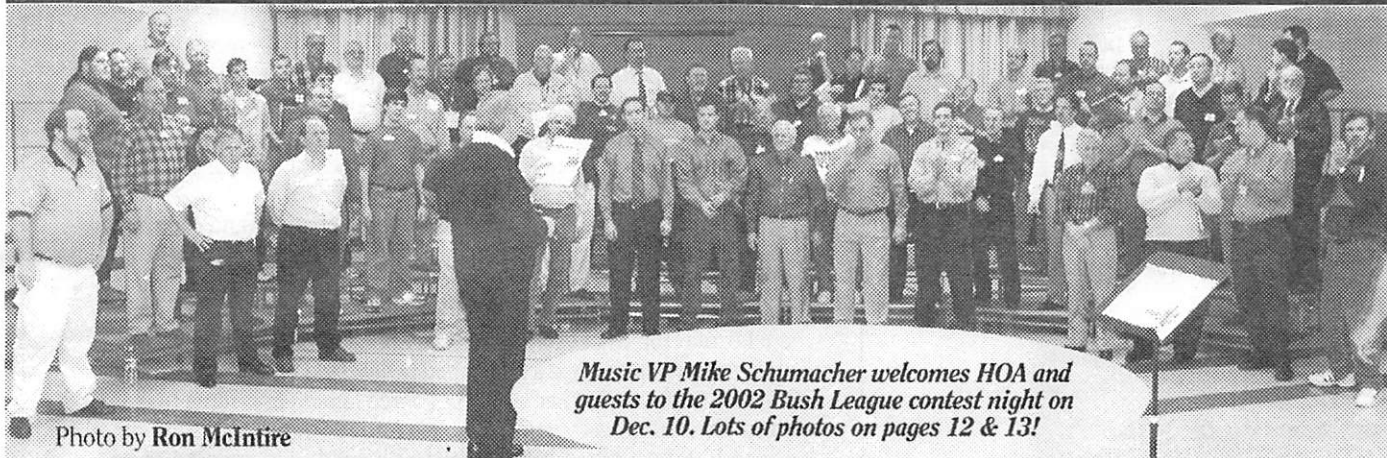


Photo by Ron McIntire

Music VP Mike Schumacher welcomes HOA and guests to the 2002 Bush League contest night on Dec. 10. Lots of photos on pages 12 & 13!

DATE IS SET FOR CHAPTER AWARDS AND INSTALLATION BANQUET

by Dick Irwin



Where will you be on the night of Saturday, January 18, 2003? If you're like most of the Kansas City Chapter members you'll be at *The Yellow Rock Barn*, in Raytown, being a part of the biggest social get-together of the year—the annual Awards and Installation Banquet.

Bring your significant others and join in the fun while we hob-knob with our friends and barbershop families in a country-like atmosphere. For the price of \$21.50 each you can dine buffet-style on carved roast beef and chicken supreme, with lots of trimmings to boot. Dessert will remind you of an old-time ice cream social as you enjoy cake, pies, cookies, ice cream, and other treats, all provided by the generosity of everyone who attends.

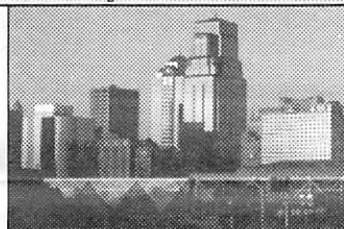
Following the installation of our new officers by **Lud Einess** and the presentation of our BOTY, Ozzie, and John Cross award winners, you will be entertained by our CSD 3rd place medalist quartet, *SureFire*, and former CSD Seniors champs and 3rd place International Seniors medalists, *Gentlemen of Note*.

Check-in begins at 6 pm with dinner beginning at 7 pm. There will be a cash bar available from 6 pm to 10 pm with many of your favorite adult beverages and pop too. Come early and socialize for a while. You might find out something good about the guys you spend so much time singing with, and the camaraderie will bring us all closer together.

Sign-up sheets will be available at each chapter meeting through Jan. 7. But, you don't have to wait for a meeting to sign up. Thanks to the great efforts of **Vince Perry**, you can sign-up online at http://www.hoachorus.com/installation_banquet.htm...or just send me an email at DWI1man@aol.com.

Maps and directions will be available at the January 2 and 7 meetings or you can get them through the banquet web page listed above. If you need other assistance, please feel free to contact me at DWI1man@aol.com or (816)455-8258.

Please note that we MUST have all reservations by January 8. We cannot accept reservations after that date.



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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.

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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

HOA Website:	www.hoachorus.org
Web Address:	jmathieu@hoachorus.org
Chapter Telephone:	(816) 221-7888

Member Of



A VIEW FROM THE TOP

by John Stucker



My, did the year 2002 go by fast!

You have all heard about all my medical problems throughout the year and I am absolutely sure you do not want to hear any more. So I won't tell you about my little episode Thursday before the combined Holiday Show! Yes I will, just to quiet the questions about the bandage on my forehead.

Seems as though I am in my hot tub late Thursday afternoon with a SMALL glass of home-made wine. This is something that I do almost daily. The spa was just a little warmer than usual and I most likely stayed in a little longer than usual. To make things interesting, it is Thursday, one day after Chemo-therapy and my blood count is understandably a little lower than normal.

I got out of the hot tub and went inside to get changed and continue my activities. The downstairs bathroom is just inside the door from the hot tub and I sat down on the stool to start getting changed. At this time I started to feel that I was not going to stay conscious, and tried to get to a position where I could stop what was coming on. Upon waking up, I surveyed the situation and realized I had a rather bad headache! Looking on the floor before me there was a rather large pool of red liquid. After some time was spent in the effort to get vertical, I looked into the mirror to assess any damages. It was readily apparent that I was going to require stitches, so I got things together to tell my wife I would be requiring some assistance. To finish a rather long sad story admitting my clumsiness, I had some ten or so stitches to close a two-inch cut. Healing has been uneventful.

Let's take a look back to the start of 2002 and talk a little about what we have and have not accomplished.

First of all, one of the most important happenings was getting **Jim** back as director for the third time. We set a record and delivered almost 400 Singing Valentines. This program has become our best moneymaker. While Jim had something else to do in March on the show date, we put on one of our best annual shows ever! Seems as though some little known quartet had a gig on the show date. Due to our second place finish at the previous fall convention, we received an invitation to compete in the 2002 Buckeye Invitational. After a LOT of discussion, it was decided to accept the invitation. So in August a small but very focused HOA chorus traveled to Columbus, Ohio and came back home with a trophy that reads: 2002 Overall Champions Male Chorus! In between all this activity, we had several coaching sessions with **Bill Biffle** that may have been one of the major reasons for the performance improvements. In October, we traveled down I-35 to Wichita for the 2002 Central States Fall Convention/Competition. One of the stated goals was to come away with points enough to qualify as a wild card competitor next July in Montreal. We just recently completed a very successful annual Combined Christmas Show with the Sweet Adelines. It is too early to know how much we made but I was told by a reliable source the gross figures would be about \$24,000. This money is vital to support our continuing quest for musical excellence!

The crystal ball I am using is not as clear as I would have hoped for, but there are a number of exciting things we are planning for next year. One of the most exciting is our efforts to produce and release a CD for sale. Not only release a new CD, but prepare the CD using the very latest technology available. We want to continue to improve musically so that when we set a goal to earn the score needed to get back to the "Big Dance" we can accomplish the goal.

Stay tuned, the year 2003 will be every bit as exciting and maybe more so. Hope to see all you real busy people back singing with HOA making the chorus bigger and better. ~

ROUND UP YOUNG SINGERS FOR MARCH KIDDIE CHORUS



by Jim Bagby, HOA Arm-Waver

Our 2003 show will include a specialty act we've not presented in more than 25 years: a chorus of our children and grandchildren.

The last time they appeared, under the name "New Offspring Singers Ltd.," was in the mid-1970s. Many of them have their own kids now, which we hope to be part of the group.

Here's the criteria: children who can sing (and even harmonize) from ages 5 through teens. They must be related to someone in the *Heart of America Chorus*, who'll be responsible for them during rehearsals and performances. They need to be disciplined enough to get on and off stage without parental coaxing (or threats).

The kids will sing "Daddy Dear" with the HOA chorus, and one number, to be determined, on their own. For that one, we'll ask some of our younger HOA members to fill in on the harmony parts. **Brad Bowser** was one of those in the last NOSL appearance. His father, **Dan**, was director of the first HOA Kiddie Chorus, and I did the next a couple of years later.

Learning tapes and music will be provided, and parents will be expected to work individually with the young singers. Out-of-town offspring are welcome, but they must be here for rehearsals on Friday afternoon, March 14, and Saturday morning, March 15. All others also will rehearse on a couple of Tuesdays prior to the show.

Got someone in mind who almost meets the guidelines? See me and we'll discuss individual cases. Let me emphasize we are looking for singers; churches and schools offer plenty of children's groups who are cute and, sometimes, little else. Our group will appear before an audience that pays well for tickets.

This should be fun for us and the kids, and a treat for our customers. Thanks, and lemme know if you have any questions. ~

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), Mike Griffin (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)

New and Used Parts

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

SureFire!

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

The Musical Firm of Schwarzkopf, Anderson, Carney & Bray

Raymond Schwarzkopf (tenor), Todd Anderson (lead),
*Randy Carney (bari), *Burt Bray (bass)

Tone-Henge

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

Uranium

Dale Neuman (tenor), Charley Drake (lead),
Tom Steele (bari), John Stucker (bass)

*Member of other chapters

2003 ANNUAL SHOW EN ROUTE!

by Grant Hunget, 2003 Show Chairman

**Michigan Jake...
will be here March 15!**



March 15th, 2003 will be here before we know it! Dust off your show patron lists, and let them know about tickets right away!! Memorize this Show Ticket Hotline number, and share it with EVERYONE: 816-478-4165. Ticket Prices: \$20, \$15 and \$8.

2001 International Quartet Champion, *Michigan Jake* will be our headliner this year. **Mark Hale**, Lead, is also Director of the current International Chorus Champion, *Masters of Harmony*. Let your people know all this, when selling tickets. Another big selling point will be that, the HOA Chorus will only have (1) repeat song from the 2002 Show! Lots of new music to share with our audiences.

Vince Perry is your ticket chairman this year. I've heard it can be a grueling job, but betting Vince will handle everything with the top-notch attention we're used to when he takes on a project. *Thanks, Vince!*

Dick Korek will once again handle Marketing & P.R. You know we're in good hands when Dick's in charge! He's working on plenty of ideas for TV, radio, and newspaper to get the word out for us. *Thanks, Dick!*

Al Higgins began securing groups late in the summer. If you learn of any groups, please have them call Al at 816-765-3434. *Thanks, Al!*

John Warrior will return for his 21st straight year as our expert Stage Manager, handling the lighting & sound for us. You 'da man, John. *Thanks!*

An "After-Event" will certainly happen. Plans will be announced as soon as possible.

Learn your music early, tell EVERYONE, and let's make the 2003 Show an event to remember! ~

THE LATEST ALIBI

by Shawn Jeffries, Baritone of *Sound Alibi*

Well, the weeks and months leading up to the 2002 CSD contest were a whirlwind of activity for the newly formed quartet, *Sound Alibi*. Between getting 4 coaching sessions in 2 months, constructing new uniforms, learning contest music, and staying actively involved in all the various chorus preparations, we almost forgot to settle upon a name for ourselves! It has been an exciting time to say the least in the 5 months since *Sound Alibi* officially came into existence. Primarily formed in the wee hours of the morning at the afterglow location (The Piano Room) by regulars **Jerry Garrard** (lead), **Tom Elefson** (tenor), and **Don Koehnlein** (bass), it was decided that *Sound Alibi* was the most fitting name of the 3,000 potentials that we experimented with. It was a close thing, with our quartet almost settling for such favorite names as "The Shameless Shamans of Schmaltz" and the ever-popular "Get off My Note." Needless to say, our wives and family members talked us out of such names.

Our quartet has a nice blend of seriousness and spontaneity, as well as various areas of strength and expertise, from solid quartet experience (**Don**), a good ear and internal coach (**Tom**), passion for the hobby (**Jerry**), and a focus on presentation and emotional expression (**Shawn**). We were quite pleased to score in the top half of the quartet semi-finals this year at district, and will be looking for another opportunity to receive some good feedback and make definite improvements at the Spring Prelims in 2003. So far, we've gained some wonderful insights on how to emote consistently from **Dwain Brobst** at the HOA retreat, and are also working with **Jo Kraut** on some singing and tuning issues. What a great ear she has (lucky for us)! **Bruce Wenner** has been fabulous, adding his arranging skills and his feedback on our balance and blend, and we thank him for his efforts as well. We especially want to thank **Jim Bagby** for his coaching, guidance, wisdom, and mentoring as we develop our individual sound and personality as a quartet. It has been a fantastic experience for this newbie quartet to get such incredible support from the chapter, the district, and other chapter quartets such as *SureFire!* and *Gentlemen of Note*. It was a tremendous experience to be a part of the quartet contest, and we are fortunate to have as much support as we did. We talked about it afterward, but the response from the audience when we walked on stage Friday night was overwhelming, and for that, and the continuing opportunity to represent *Heart of America Chorus*, we are very grateful. ~



HOA TO PRODUCE CD

by John Stucker, HOA President

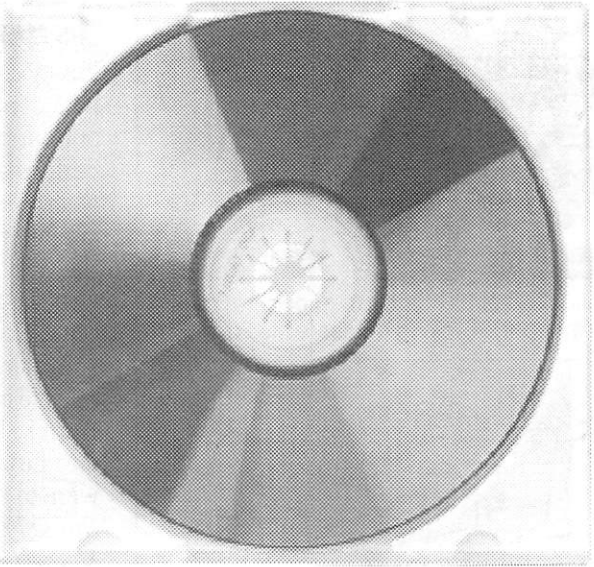


Photo by Don Peck

At the December board meeting a very important decision was made. The music team recommended that we continue the process to create our very first CD. A lot of work has been done in the background to get information on costs and options that are available in the production of a quality product. In view of the way audio technology has gone, it was recommended that we produce a "DVD-ready" product. This means that when it comes to the mass production phase of the product, we can produce DVD's and/or CD's.

The board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the music team.

Now we come to the important part of this article—*Funding*. How do we underwrite a project that will cost some 20% of our yearly operating budget? Well here's how we are



planning to do it:

First, we will offer pre-sales of CD/DVD's. This means that you can pay up front and then get your CD when it becomes available. Your money will go to the funding of the production.

Second, we will accept outright donations to the CD Production project. There will be an appropriate recognition of those donors.

Third, interest free loans will be accepted to help defray the cost of the project.

And lastly, if we have a benefactor (or several benefactors) who would back the entire project with a promissory note we will work with you to determine the proper payback schedule and interest rate.

I can be contacted at e-mail: johnstucker@lwnworth.com or home phone: (913) 682-1385. Thank you! ~

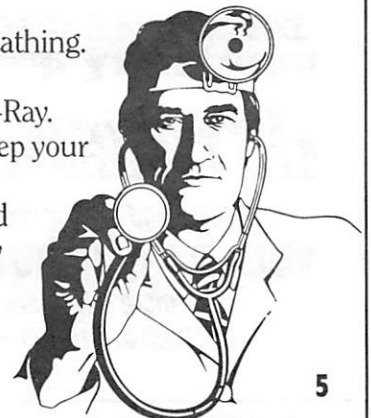
DID YOU KNOW THAT SINGING REALLY PROMOTES GOOD HEALTH?

by Ron McIntire

I've heard for years that singing is good for your health and promotes good breathing. But not until the events of last month did the concept really hit home.

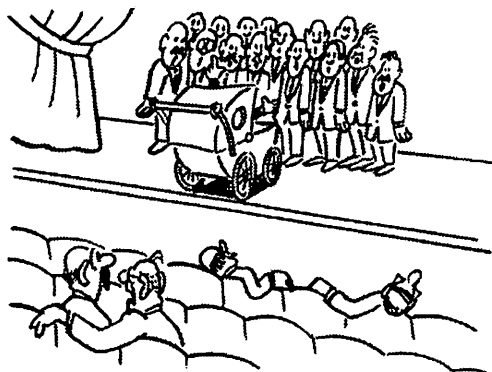
I had a physical in November and as a matter of course, I also had a chest X-Ray. When the technician looked at the film she exclaimed, "Oh my, look at how deep your lungs are. Most people only breathe from the top half of their lungs."

So, when you recruit new barbershoppers you can add to your pitch, "...and we know for a fact that singing will increase your breathing capacity." And why would good lung capacity NOT be an asset to good health? I don't know, I'm still looking for the answer to that one. ~

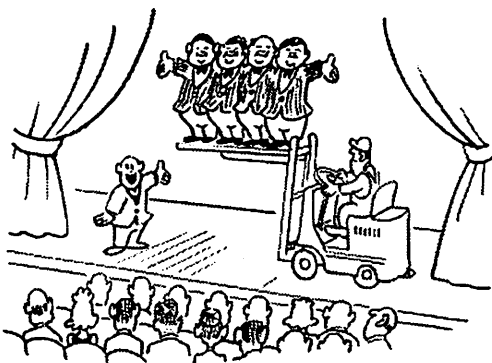


JUST FOUR FUN

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



"He's the youngest director they've ever had..."



"Okay folks, let's hear it for the Hi-Lo's!"

Cartoons by John Morris

**DEADLINE FOR THE
FEBRUARY ISSUE OF**

Harmonotes

Articles and photos are due by

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

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

Ten Years Ago- January, 1993

Newly elected 1993 chapter president **John Pennington** announced plans for a joint performance with the St. Charles chapter (both chapters needed money for the trip to Calgary, Alberta, Canada, for the international contest later in the summer) to be presented on May 26 at the RLDS Auditorium in Independence. Headliners for the show were to be our own *Rural Route Four* and the *Gas House Gang* from St. Charles (who went on to win the gold at Calgary), plus the *HOA* chorus and the *Ambassadors of Harmony*, also from St. Charles.

Awards to deserving members were presented at our Christmas Party as follows: The "Ozzie Award," named for former member and valued coach, **Oz Newgard**, went to **Ron Abel**, who would be serving his third consecutive year as music VP (as I recall, Ron served a total of seven consecutive years in that capacity) and his contributions that resulted in CSD chorus championships in 1990, 1991, and 1992; the "John Cross Award" for the best attendance record during the year went to **Rich Huyck** who maintained the chapter mailing list of 5,000 names and addresses; and the "Barbershopper of the Year" award was presented to **Jim White** for his dedicated work in overseeing housing and convention registrations for our trip to International in New Orleans (1992) and the CSD fall convention last October.

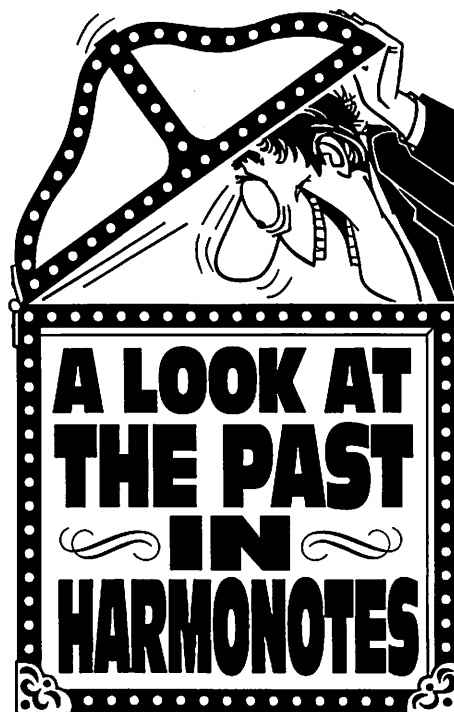
Aileen Beard was picked as "Heartbeat of the Year" for 1992. It was Aileen who came up with the splendid idea of providing a sumptuous sandwich bar for the chorus between the Saturday morning rehearsal and the matinee performance of our 1992 annual show. Wonder if the *Heartbeats* are still doing that today.

Quentin Gates, 1993 president of the Overland Park Chapter, announced his intention at the HOA Christmas Party to take dual membership with the Kansas City Chapter in an effort to foster a closer relationship between the two chapters.

Show Chairman **Lud Einess** reported that the *OK-4*, a great comedy quartet from Oklahoma City and the *Sound Legacy*, 1992 CSD quartet champs, had been booked as headliners for our 1993 annual show.

"Singing Valentines" coordinator **Monty Duerksen** announced that five chapter quartets had committed to presentations all three of the days, February 12, 13, and 14.

Chairman **Dave Upp** announced that although the Christmas Show was an artistic success, only 130 people bought tickets. Dave urged that planning for next year's show begin earlier so as to do a better job of getting the word out. (Continued on page 7)



By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

Twenty-Five Years Ago - January, 1983

There was no dearth of fine quartets booked for the HOA annual show. There were the *Dealer's Choice* and the *Rural Route Four* (gold medal winners in 1963 and 1986, respectively), plus our own *Merry Mugs*, the *Kansas Citians*, and the *10th Street Harmony Music Company* (never heard of then!). **Dan Henry** was to be the emcee for the show. (I didn't see this show. I was sweating out a military tour of duty in South Korea. For the fun of it, I was working with a foursome of young Korean men who were blind. After considerable time and effort, they were able to do a creditable job on "I'll Take You Home, Kathleen," although they never did learn how to pronounce "Kathleen.") **Sorry, there's another gap in my collection of Harmonotes, and we must skip the January, 1998 report.*

Thirty-Five Years Ago - January, 1968

New chapter president **Ed Rooker** predicted a shortage of tickets for the 1968 annual show which would feature the *Nighthawks* of London, Ontario, Canada (they were International bronze medalists in 1961), and the *Vigortones* of Cedar Rapids, CSD quartet champions, also in 1961. Can you imagine booking our show in the Music Hall and running out of tickets?

Editor **Don Thorne** announced the passing of **Fred "Pop" Nelson**, a 25-year HOA member, on Dec. 13. According to Don, Pop was known for his rendition of "Champagne for the Ladies," "Kansas City, My Home Town;" and "If I Had My Life To Live Over," the last song always sung to his wife, **Ada**. *Anybody remember Pop?* **Ron Abel** must have been around; he was the lucky winner of the October "Pay As You Go" Club. And **Joe Costigan** was the chapter treasurer. ~

WHACHA THINK?

Test your barbershop trivia skills!

Questions:

1. Who's the only Heart of America member to win BOTY, Ozzie and John Cross?
2. Who was only international president to present quartet championship trophy to quartet from his own chapter?

2. Gil Lefholz and Rural Route 4, 1986.
Answer: 1. Ron Able

From the Heartbeats

by Carol Ramirez, Heartbeats President

One Tuesday evening when the *Heartbeats* were working on the breakaway vests, **Dale Neuman** stepped up to me and asked, "Are the *Heartbeats* going to do a silent auction this year?" Quite frankly, we hadn't discussed any money raising projects, but it sounded like a good partnership: We could use the money for our part in the Harmony College scholarship and Dale could please his wife by getting twenty or so framed photographs out of their house. Then, **Jerry Garrard**, a former scholarship recipient himself, got on the bandwagon and helped us with promotions. And then, so many *Heartbeats* and chorus members brought items and bought items that in very little time with very little work, we raised \$383.50! Thanks to all of you! For any chorus member who has not been to Harmony College, start checking your schedules and free up some time in August. Applications will be made available in early March.

Congratulations to the *Heartbeat* officers for 2003: President, **Carol Ramirez**; Vice-president, **Jan Putzier**; Secretary, **Sandy Rule**; Treasurer, **Marilou Coleman**; Board Members, **Joan Korek**; and **Donie Peck**; and Sunshine Chairman, **Estyl Bowser**. We would love to have some new members for 2003, so come join us at our first meeting of the New Year on Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. at the church. We will be making plans to help the guys with the Singing Valentines and starting plans for providing lunch at the spring show. Hope to see you there! ~



THE PASSING OF A HEARTBEAT

Former *Heartbeat* of the Year **Ruth Sundermeyer** died Dec. 3 at the John Knox Village hospital. She was 85, and had been in failing health for some time. Her husband **Ed**, is a former chapter leader who has been inactive with HOA since Ruth's health began declining.

Ed was chapter Barbershopper of the Year in 1985, and lead of the first CSD senior quartet champs, *Crosstown 4*. **Gordon Coleman** has since replaced Ed on lead.

Ruth and Ed both are natives of Chamois, near Jefferson City, and had been married 62 years. The *Rural Route 4* sang at their 50th anniversary celebration.

When Ed enlisted in World War II, Ruth did, too. He became an Army specialist in plants and bugs. Ruth served as a Coast Guard Spar. They later moved to the Kansas City area, where he worked for Farmland and she was a nurse's aide in the Raytown School District.

As a *Heartbeat*, Ruth had a recurring role as the reluctant participant in sendoff skits. She will be remembered as the winning "jockey," representing HOA, in the 1991 pre-Louisville festivities. 1

TO ALL REGISTERED KANSAS CITY CHAPTER QUARTETS

by Grant Hunget, 2003 Show Chairman

This criteria has been adopted by the Kansas City Chapter Music Team, to determine which quartets are selected to perform on our Annual Spring Show. It is subject to change each year, as determined by the current Music Team.

The Music Team must determine which quartets exhibit the most suitable level of talent and entertainment for the Show, and must adhere to a determined time allotment for the Show.

Criteria for selection:

1. Being a registered Kansas City Chapter quartet does not automatically secure a performance slot for your quartet on the Show.
2. Chapter Participation & Contribution: If all 4 quartet members are regular attendees, and contribute considerable time or effort to the betterment of the Chapter, likelihood of performing on the Show increases.
3. Performance Level: If the quartet has achieved an acceptable performance level (singing, music, presentation, overall entertainment), and/or has achieved an acceptable placement in competitions, likelihood of performing on the Show increases.
4. New registered quartets after this notification subject to same criteria.
5. To promote youth participation, outstanding *Harmony Explosion* groups may also be invited to perform, at the discretion of Show Committee.

The Show Chairman will contact quartets regarding selection. Quartets not selected for their own slot may be invited to assist with chorus repertoire lead-ins, cameos, etc. ~

SUREFIRE! SOUNDINGS

by Mike Neff

As I type this, the holidays are rapidly approaching and you'd think we'd all be busy shopping, trimming trees and wrapping presents, right? Well, for three of us, that's correct. But **Carter** and **Jeffi** enjoyed a 10 day trip to HAWAII in December (and didn't even bother to consider us as stowaways!). At least he got back in time to sing at bell-ringing. Where are his priorities, right?!

On a serious note, we've had a busy couple of months singing around town, including performances at the opening of the Overland Park Convention Center and the American Royal Concert of Champions. We had the honor of singing the national anthem to open that concert, which was held in Kemper Arena. Someone even snapped a shot of us on the jumbo-tron that hangs above the center of the auditorium. Way cool! Oh yeah, and one dark and stormy night, we picked up some tenor named **Jerry Garrard** standing on the side of the road, and had him fill in for Carter at an anniversary party where we performed. Thanks for helping us out, Jerry!

We're anxiously diving into some new music, getting ready for our annual Valentine's Day efforts and looking forward to the Spring show on March 15. Can you believe it's only about 90 days away? Wow!!! The next few months should be fun and fast-paced for all of us in HOA. We're planning to head to Lincoln, Nebraska for Spring Prelims in April as well, so if you can make the weekend trek, come root for us and the other Kansas City chapter quartets that will be there competing.

On behalf of the quartet and our families, we hope you all have a happy, healthy and harmonious 2003!

— **Carter, Mike, Grant & Don**
SureFire!



MUSICAL NOTES

by Ol' Bruce, for *Tone-Henge*

The *Tone-Henge* schedule is working out just fine—we continue to average one rehearsal for every three performance dates. Even better—our last three performance dates totaled six separate performances, so it comes down to one rehearsal per six performances. Not bad for a bunch of old guys, don't you think?

Nov. 16 found us in Hastings, Nebraska for their chapter show. Since we shared the stage with *12th Street Rag*, we were able to blame the **Fortinos** for our rhythm problems on "Pretty Baby"—golden opportunity to sock it to our chapter buddies. They also had to take a break in the afterglow to clean up the balloon debris before our old chums could take the stage (of course that was after leaving broken beer mug debris for them on both shows—**Keith** didn't quite get it all cleaned up). Both quartets agreed it was all worth it, though—those audiences were terrific.

We felt honored to be able to toss our schtick into those great Holiday Shows. Wasn't it a treat to do the joint Christmas shows again, and at such a fine venue? And then, to get ready for our annual *Tone-Henge* Christmas pig-out, we sang at the Doubletree for the Great Western Association of Operating Millers, or something like that. By getting ready for the pig-out, we mean earning the bread to pay for it—these eight folks can go though a ton of money when we show up hungry (and thirsty). And after that—Christmas—and a Merry one to all of you from the eight of us! ~



MUSICAL NOTES

by Keith Schweer, Music Vice President



On Saturday, Nov. 23, the Music Team had another of our all day "retreats." We had a very full agenda—some highlights follow:

HOA CD – This is the year we make our CD. We've had initial discussions with **Dan Israel** (recording engineer who has produced recordings by *12th Street Rag*, *3 Men and a Melody*

and *Rural Route 4*) and he has submitted proposals to us. President **Stucker** is forming the team to manage the project.

MOVED LATELY?

by **Ron McIntire**,
Kansas City Missouri
Chapter Directory Editor



NOTICE: IF YOU HAVE MOVED, CHANGED YOUR PHONE(S) OR YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

You **MUST** update your address information with the Chapter Secretary or the Kenosha website. To correct your personal information, log onto <http://www.spebsqsa.org> and navigate to the Members **ONLY** page. If you do not have a password, contact Kenosha per the instructions on the website.

The chapter 2003 HOA directory information will be pulled from the Society website. Therefore it is vitally important that your address information be correct. ~

HEART of AMERICA

January-February Calendar

Jan. 11 HOA Awards & Installation Banquet at *The Yellow Rock Barn*, in Raytown

Feb. 13/14 Singing Valentine's

ANY MAN MAY BECOME A MEMBER OF THE KANSAS CITY CHAPTER OF SPEBSQSA!

Developed & presented by The Kansas City Chapter
Music Team - December, 2002

Separately, it is necessary to identify a process, through which new Chapter members qualify for the performing & competition choruses.

The following steps have been developed & adopted by the Kansas City Chapter Music Team, for the purpose of processing new members into the *Heart of America Barbershop Chorus*:

1. Every first-time visitor to a Kansas City Chapter Meeting shall receive a SIMPLE VOICE ANALYSIS. This helps him identify the appropriate section for his voice range, and indicates we are a singing organization interested in more than "warm bodies." Any Music Team member can administer this by listening to his speaking voice, asking about his singing experience, etc.

2. By the time a prospect has attended three meetings, OR when he indicates he is ready to submit an application, each prospect shall receive the STANDARD VOICE PLACEMENT. The Director should administer this if possible. Otherwise, it can be administered by another Music Team member. The Director, and respective Section Leader will then receive a copy of the placement.

3. All new Chapter members shall be provided a packet of current Chorus repertoire music by the MUSIC LIBRARIAN in coordination with the Music and Membership Teams and be instructed to confer with his Section Leader for which songs to learn first, etc.

4. Upon completion of the Membership Team's Orientation Class, each new member then becomes the responsibility of the respective Section Leader. The Section Leader is to instruct the Chorus applicant which songs to concentrate on, depending on the Chapter's current cycle (pre-show, pre-contest, pre-performance; other). The Section Leader and/or assistants have the option of instructing the applicant to stand by him during rehearsals for learning purposes.

5. To determine when the Chorus applicant is ready to be assigned a "clothespin" (position) on the risers, the following will occur: a.) Applicant will notify a Music Team member of his intent & desire to become a member of the performing / competition Chorus. b.) Respective Section Leader will select any 2 songs, at random from the current Chorus repertoire. c.) Applicant will audition the 2 songs with a Music Team quartet or octet, for the purpose of identifying that he can "hold his own" on his singing part. Applicant is to provide a 1-week notice to the Music Team for scheduling. This step holds each singer accountable for the entire Chorus repertoire, and establishes credibility for

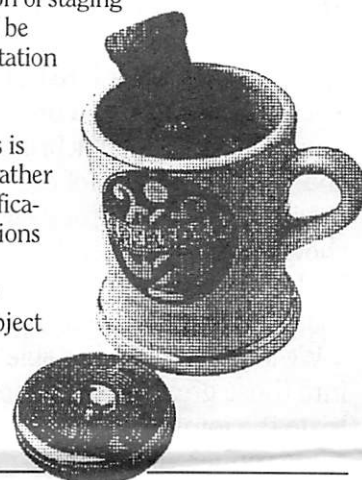
the HOA Chorus with him.

6. Should the applicant's audition not be of adequate quality, he is to ALWAYS receive encouragement and constructive feedback by the Music Team to continue to try, and be advised that there is not a "deadline" to qualify. In extreme cases where the applicant simply cannot carry a tune or sing with the adequate quality the Chorus is seeking, he will be advised accordingly.

7. Upon SUCCESSFUL completion of the 2-song audition, and AFTER he's become a member, the applicant will be presented with his "clothespin" during a Chapter meeting. The respective Section Leader will present the applicant to the Chorus as a qualified Chorus member, and the applicant will "place his clothespin."

8. Prior to his membership application being accepted, indoctrination & explanation of staging and visual expectations will be delivered by head of Presentation Team or one of his representative(s), during orientation if possible. This is intended as informational rather than as a condition of qualification, unless extreme conditions exist.

9. Subsequently, the new Chorus member is then subject to the same taping and qualification requirements as are other performing/competing Chorus members.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the following members!

John McConnell	January 1
Shawn Jeffries	January 1
James Moynihan	January 1
Tom Steele	January 1
Don Newman	January 3
Harvey Shapiro	January 7
Robert Rutherford	January 9
Martin Oldehoeft	January 10
Kent McClean	January 14
G Stephens	January 15
Steve Carruthers	January 15
Bob Burdick	January 25
Roy Manade	January 30

GO MBIEDH AG CANADH AR FUD AN DOMHAIN!

from Dundalk, MD *Charivari*, Tom Wheatley, editor

It has often been said that you can't be unhappy while singing. Putting a song in the hearts of the world just might be the key to peace on earth. Perhaps barbershop harmony might be the key to uniting the world in song. As an illustration of just how widespread our hobby has become, the list below provides the initials of the barbershop organizations affiliated with SPEBSQSA. See how many you can identify before reading the actual names.

BABS, SNOBS, DABS, NZABS, AAMBS, SPATS, BinG!, IABS, SAI, HI, LABBS, HH, EABSSU.

OK, you've had enough time. As taken from the Society's Web page on the Internet, the list is as follows:

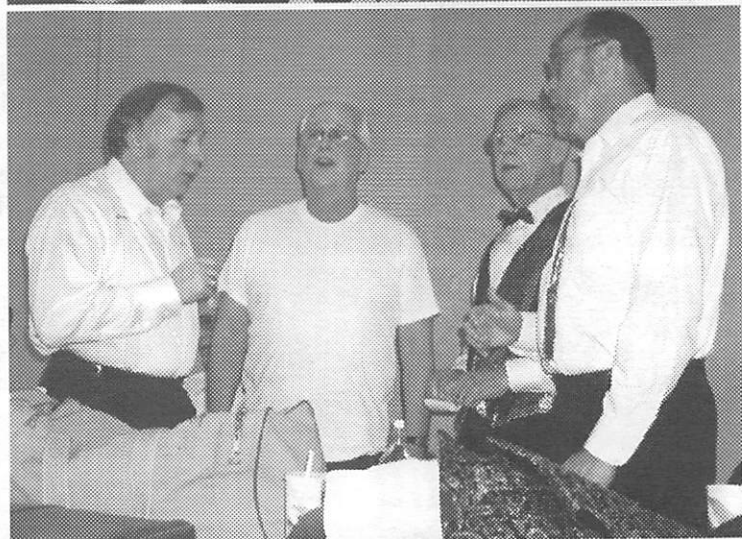
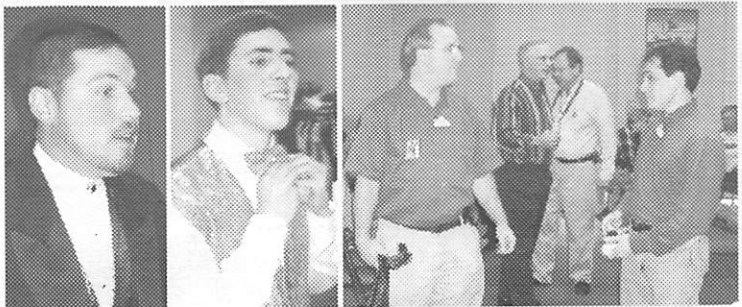
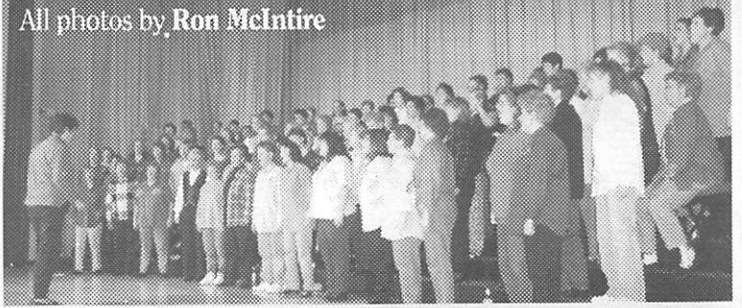
<i>British Assn. of Barbershop Singers</i>	BABS
<i>Society of Nordic Barbershop Singers</i>	SNOBS
<i>Dutch Assn. of Barbershop Singers</i>	DABS
<i>New Zealand Assn. of Barbershop Singers</i>	NZABS
<i>Australian Assn. of Men Barbershop Singers</i>	AAMBS
<i>Southern Part of Africa Tonsorial Singers</i>	SPATS
<i>Barbershop in Germany</i>	BinG!
<i>Irish Assn. of Barbershop Singers</i>	IABS
<i>Sweet Adelines International</i>	SAI-female
<i>Harmony Inc., USA & Canada</i>	HI-female
<i>Ladies Assn. of British Barbershop Singers</i>	LABBS
<i>Holland Harmony</i>	HH-female
<i>East Africa Barber Shop Singing in Uganda</i>	EABSSU

Perhaps that last one seems a little new to you. It should, because it's the newest affiliate. There are currently a total of six choruses and five quartets among its 152 man membership. Welcome EABSSU. Oh, you say that you are still wondering about the heading for this story? That means, "Keep the Whole World Singing" in Ugandan. 🎵



SCENES FROM THE HOLIDAY HARMONY SPECTACULAR!

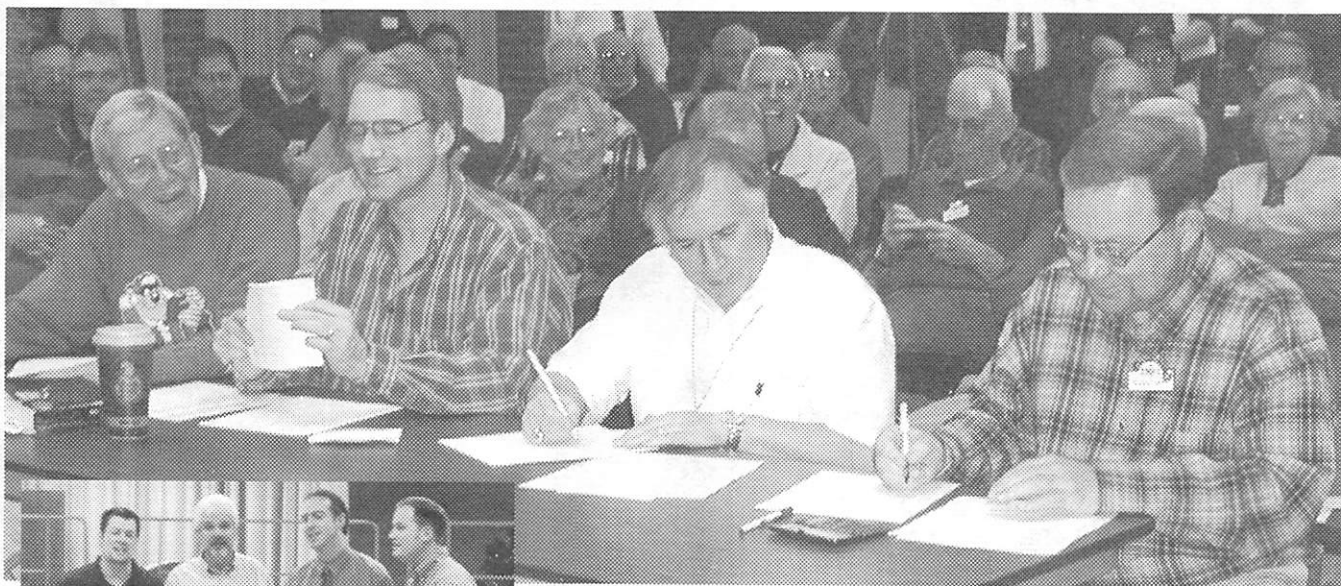
All photos by Ron McIntire



From top to bottom:

Jo Kraut coaches the Sweet Adeline's on Saturday morning prior to the 2pm show, New members *Eric Johnson* and *Kaalan Vander Hamm* at the Holiday Harmony Spectacular, *Don Koehnlein* (l) converses with *Shawn Jeffries* in the dressing room at Unity Village auditorium, The ensemble warms up prior to going on stage, *Tone-Henge* does a little before-the-show practicing.

BUSH LEAGUE 2002



The Dec. 10, 2002 Bush League Contest Judging Panel—**Gene Bowers, David Krause, Jim Bagby, Vince Perry**—discover they have their work cut out for them! Ten quartets competed. *All had a ball!*



At left, from top to bottom:

No Relation - **Rick Mathieu, Randy Stuber, Duane Lawson and Kip Mathew** from *Son's of Liberty*

Bad Gyration's - **Rob Mathieu, Grant Hunget, Dennis Kinghorn, Mike Mathieu**

The Whachamacallits! - **Eric Johnson, Kaalan Vander Hamm, Ron McIntire, Jerry Meier**

Lame Alibi - **Tom Elefson, Jerry Garrard, Dennis Kinghorn, Bruce Wenner**



Page 11 - First column, top to bottom

For Cryin' Out Loud - **Tom Elefson, Phil Veltkamp, Marty Oldehoeft, Jerry Garrard**

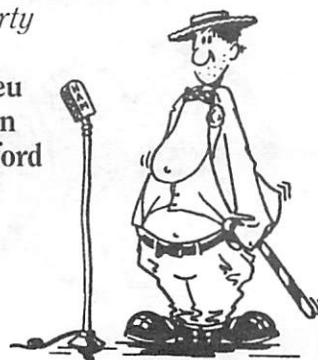
Four Men and a Melody - **Danny, Paul, Jeff Campbell, Brad Stephens** for *Son's of Liberty*

Friendly Faces - **Brian Bliss, Mike Briffen, Ken George, Nick Stuber** for *Son's of Liberty*

Parts Is Parts - **Matt Bostick, Dennis Kinghorn, Mike Mathieu, Rob Mathieu**

The Missing Lee'nk - **Tom Millot, John Winfiel, Brooke Meyers, Kevin Beauford**

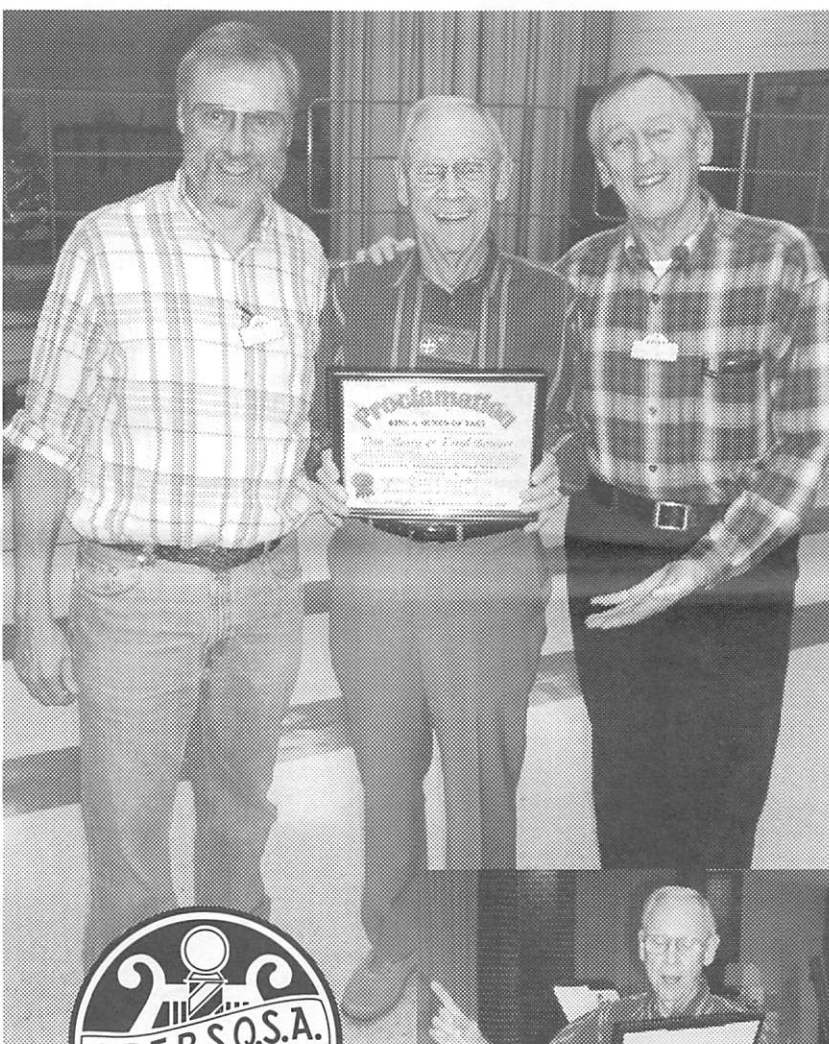
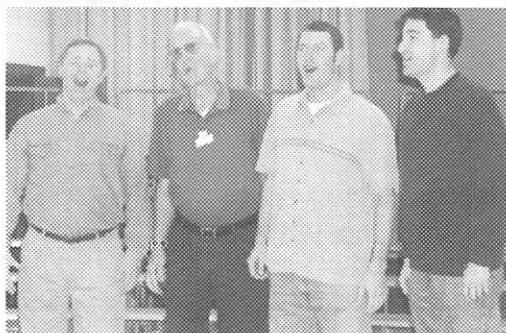
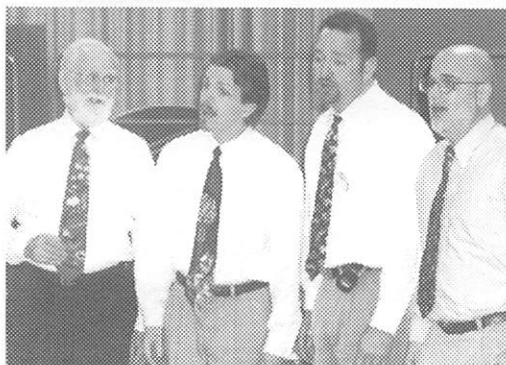
Take Your Pick - **Tom Elefson, John Stucker, Rob Mathieu, Joe Mathieu**



All photos by **Ron McIntire**



And our 2002 Bush League winner is (above) *Lame Alibi*:
Tom Elefson, Jerry Garrard, Dennis Kinghorn and Bruce Wenner.



Above: Dan Henry receives the
"King of Tags" Award from
committee members **Bruce
Wenner** and **Dennis Kinghorn**.

At right: Dan also enjoyed
teaching the HOA chorus his
award-winning tag,
"The Nearness Of You."



A TIP OF THE HAT!

A tip of the hat goes to:



Mike Mathieu, Rob Mathieu, Joe Mathieu, Dale Neuman, Bruce Wenner, Charles Ramirez, and Dennis Kinghorn for helping with the Salvation Army Bellringing effort at the Target store on 119th and I-35 ringing bells and singing. A special TOTH to **Mike Mathieu** for putting the effort together.

To the "Ole Tireless Bell Ringer" **Mike Mathieu** for arranging the HOA Salvation Army Bell Ringing effort at Metro North Shopping Center, December 21, 2002.

Kent McClean and all the unsung HOAer's who helped put the Holiday Harmony Spectacular together at Unity Village, Dec 7, 2002.

To all the HOAer's who sang on the Holiday Harmony Spectacular show at Unity Village, Dec. 7, 2002.

To the 10 Bush League quartets who competed in the 2002 Bush League Quartet Contest, Dec 10, 2002 and a special TOTH to **Jerry Garrard** and **Mike Mathieu** who helped put the contest together.

To the judging panel, **Gene Bowers, David Krause, Jim Bagby** and **Vince Perry** who judged the Bush League quartets and to **Ron McIntire** (who spent so many hours) for lettering the certificates for the winning quartets.

Special TOTH to contingents of the Liberty and Overland Park Chapters for joining HOA in the Bush League Contest.

Carol Ramirez and all the *Heartbeats* who worked on the Silent Auction and to those who donated items for the auction.

To the new-members, **Kaalan Vander Hamm** and **Eric Johnson**, and to **Jerry Garrard** who sang solos ("Shepherd's Come Quick") and to the trio, **David Krause, Mark Fortino** and **Mike Neff** ("I Have Seen the Light") on the Holiday Harmony show.

To the five Kansas City Sweet Adeline's who came to HOA to provide the Sweet Adeline voice parts to help HOA practice for the Holiday Harmony show, Dec 3, 2002. 🎩

Society for the Preservation and Encouragement
of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America
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