

Harmonotes

May 2003

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2003, Issue 5



WILL YOU BE PART OF HOA POSTERITY?

by Jim Bagby, HOA Arm-Waver

New member or veteran, formerly active or wanna be, borderline involved or just getting up to speed, this message is for you: we're about to make HOA history.

The Kansas City Chapter is producing its first CD, and the initial recording session is Saturday, May 31. Will you lend your voice to this multi-purpose project?

A CD will provide us a souvenir for all time of how we sounded in 2003. It's certainly a likely money maker. And it's a chance for you to present to friends and relatives concrete evidence that you a part of something more than four bow-tied drunks under a lamppost.

Remember the interview with **Tony Sparks** of *Bank Street* in the "Singing is Life" video? He made a great point: barbershopping is one of the few venues that lets an amateur shine. And shine is just what we intend to do with this recording, an undertaking aimed at producing a completed product in time for the show next March.

How can you be sure you're in the recording chorus? Check with your section leader immediately to see what songs we intend to do in the first session, and if you are qualified to sing those (or how you can get that way).

We likely will decide on 4 or 5 or 6 songs we know best, and try to get them all recorded at least once.

By the second recording session, June 21, we hope to have "Auld Lang Syne" ready, and other repertoire numbers. The music team is so dedicated to making this a quality effort, *ToneHenge* will NOT be invited to contribute a number. I'm still trying to get over that. In fact, probably most chapter quartets won't be on the CD.

The famed first meeting of what was to become the Barbershop Harmony Society, April 11, 1938, in Tulsa, drew 26 members. Double-gold medal bass **Mo Rector** of the Tulsa Founders Chapter says he has since talked to at least 150 men who said they were there.

How about you? Will you be on the HOA recording, or just lie and say (or wish) you were?



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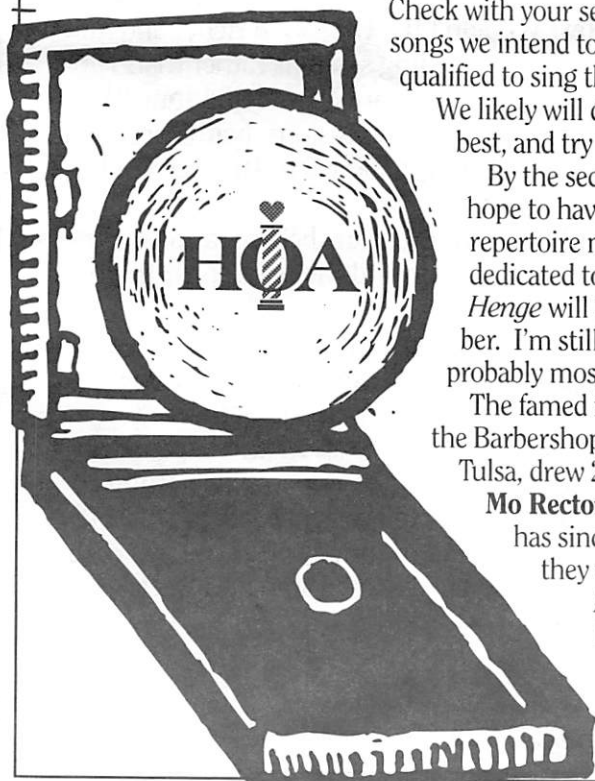
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Congratulations, Al!



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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<i>Staff Reporters</i>	ALL Our Chapter Members!

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, Chapter President

How did you all like my April article? One of the more thought provoking you say? Seriously, there was not a President's article in the publication.

For various reasons, to include abject laziness of the author, I missed the deadline. I was positive there would be plenty of information concerning the just successfully completed spring show that absence of an article by the president would not be missed. After I read the April issue, my thoughts did not change! What a show! I have been involved in some 25 of these endeavors and I can only reiterate what others have said. The 2003 spring show was the BEST.

TO ALL FALLEN BY THE WAY-SIDE MEMBERS (and all regular attendees too):

HOA is in the process of producing a CD. I am sure you all have heard this news. Production of the CD has been in the planning stages since last fall.

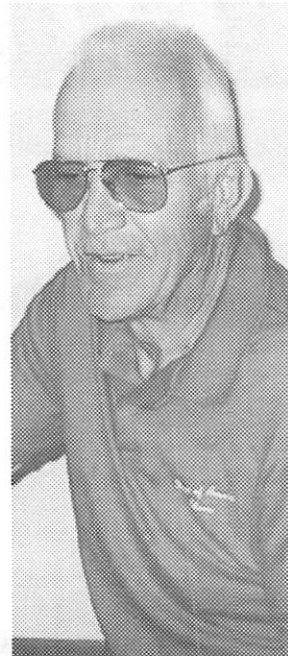
We have an opportunity to showcase just how well we are performing at the present time and show the rest of the barbershopping world how good HOA really is. One little thing keeps popping up. Where are some of the regular members whom we haven't seen for a while? Wouldn't their presence make the CD better? Wouldn't the CD sound richer and fuller if we had 85 or 90 at the recording sessions rather than 70?

The first two recording sessions are May 31 and June 21, 2003. These sessions will be all-day sessions (with appropriate breaks). We should be able to get some 6 to 10 songs "in the can" with these two sessions.

Will you be there? I can't think of any better way to show your support than by signing up and showing up for this project.

I know the guys who attend regular meeting have noticed me sitting down during the entire rehearsal lately. I must apologize but add that due to the continuing chemotherapy, my stamina is considerably less than it was. In fact, I spent last Friday evening/Saturday morning in the hospital getting 2 pints of blood and platelets to replace needed blood. After the blood transfusion, I am feeling so much better and will probably be standing in my assigned chorus spot next week.

Talk with you all later. ~



12TH STREET TURNS IT UP A NOTCH!

by Mark Fortino

Words can't describe the feelings that are running through me right now. I'm on a plane to New York City on business after only 3 hours of sleep last night following one of the greatest contests *12th Street* has ever competed in.



This weekend was the International Preliminary Competition in Lincoln, NE, and what a weekend it turned out to be. Not only did we qualify for the 9th consecutive year, but we also ended the weekend with an overall score of 81.4, which is the highest score we've ever gone into Internationals with.

I couldn't be more proud of the members of my quartet. Since missing the top 20 by literally points last year, every member of this quartet committed himself to push the edge of the envelope, get in shape, duet more, make every rehearsal more focused, vocalize individually outside of quartet rehearsal, study the interpretive plans outside of rehearsal, and NEVER doubt what we are capable of if we really wanted to commit.

People like **Bill Biffle**, **Joe Connelly**, **Jim Bagby** and recently **David Krause** never gave up on us, and pushed us each to get out of our comfort zones, and do things we've never done before, and frankly at times were a pain in the #\$\$#! Especially that Biffle guy!

John and I have been pursuing our quartet dream for nearly 20 years, and you know, after that amount of time, you begin to question if you really can get any better than you already are. Have we reached a level that can't be improved upon? Maybe we really don't have what it takes to get to that next level.

What this weekend proved to me was that new heights can be reached in this hobby. No doubt it gets tougher and tougher the closer you get to that Gold Medal, but if you're willing to let go of your inhibitions, open yourself up to constructive advice that sometimes goes to the heart of who you are as a person, you can succeed.

I share this with all of you in HOA because I believe *12th Street's* pursuit of excellence is running parallel with HOA's pursuit of excellence. Both groups are pushing the envelope, asking its members to get out of their comfort zones, and focus like we never have before.

Our sincere thanks goes out to HOA for your continued support of us through the ups and the downs and the downs and the ups...I'm just proud to report we're currently on the UPS! ~

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)
- 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

WE'RE MOVIN' ON UP!

by Grant Hunget

Boy, did I LUCK OUT! We four rotate who writes the article for each issue, so I get to recap Lincoln & Prelims!



We were very pleased with our performances in Lincoln! Last Fall we averaged in the upper 68's, and were *SureFired!* up with our improvement to a 72.9 average in Lincoln—just 75 points from qualifying!

Landing in 5th place, the four fine groups ahead of us all are previous District Champs, 3 of them being previous INTL qualifiers. After a short break, we're looking forward to getting right back to work...and we have a variety of nice performances lining up for the Spring & Summer. Yes, we're highly addicted!

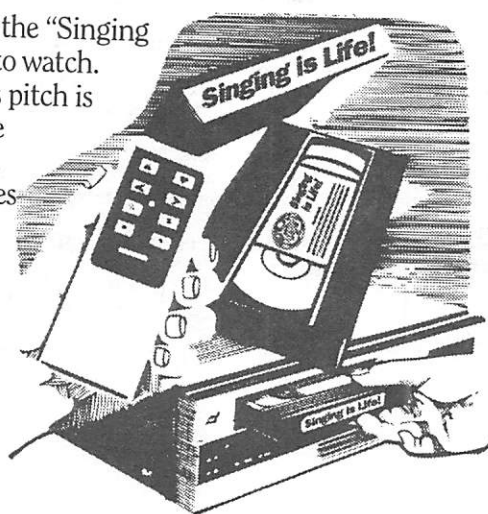
THANKS SO MUCH to all the HOA support we felt from those unable to attend, and to those who made the trip to Lincoln. You guys & gals are the best!

THANKS SO MUCH to our ladies: **Jeffi, Jana,** and **Michelle** for the wonderful support throughout the weekend. They don't like being called "groupies," so we call them "SureThings!" Thanks, gals!

Many thanks to **Bill Biffle**, who has helped us a lot with singing scores,...and to **Jim Bagby**, who gives so much of his time & effort—to us, and so many other quartets! We did find time for a break in March, and took **Jim** and **Joann** out to dinner. Gotta get to *Stroud's* if you haven't been for awhile. Thanks Jim and Joann, for ALL that you do! ~

WANNA IMPRESS AND INFORM A PROSPECTIVE MEMBER?

Just give him the "Singing is Life" video to watch. No other sales pitch is necessary. The chapter has at least two copies available for checkout. See MVP **Ken Neujahr** or Director **Jim Bagby**.



**WANT A PICTURE OF...
The spring show?
The holiday show?
In living digital color?
Matt Bostick and
Ron McIntire have'em!**

HENGERS HUFFING, HURRYING, HACKED

by Ol' Jim

Hey, we thought this was supposed to be a hobby. **Dan** reported last time on the T-H trek to St. Louis for the rousing Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner. Then came two of the best



audiences we've ever had, in the HOA shows at the Music Hall. Then we got to be part of the packages at Richmond and John Knox.

Three of us made it to see *12th Street* and *SureFire!* excel in Lincoln, and half of us took in **Jeff Kready** (son of former *12th Street* tenor **Rick**) wowing 'em as George M at the Topeka community theater.

So it makes us really appreciate **Clay Hines'** line in the great "Singing is Life" video shown at the chapter coupla weeks ago: most quartets have fun; sometimes we have too much fun!

The only downer we've experienced is that there were only two senior quartets in the spring CSD competition, and since one of 'em had already won the district title, the other one took it by default. It was some consolation that the winner was the Society medalist-caliber Central Statesmen from St. Charles and points north. C'mon, seniors, you may not be able to sing as well as us...ok, as well as *Gentlemen of Note*...but you're missing a great opportunity.

Upcoming for all the Hengers and Hengettes: we're gonna' go sing a song in Harmony Hall before the Society is forced to give it up. But that's not until July, so Dan can get rested up first...~

NEED MONEY? SEE AL!

by Jim Porter



Al Higgins and his new best friend, Jim Porter, display the February winnings!

The Harmony Foundation raffle was reviewed by the board after several weeks of heightened interest in it culminated February 4th when **Al Higgins** drew the white marble and won the jackpot of \$1,171—the largest payoff anyone can remember in the history of the chapter.

Our status as a non-profit organization requires we adhere to IRS guidelines, which includes clauses prohibiting the use of raffles to raise funds for the organization. Our raffle was never intended to raise funds for the chorus, and a few procedural changes were made to clearly establish the raffle as a fundraising device **ONLY** for Harmony Foundation.

The principal change made was to require that the expenses of the raffle be paid for out of the pot proceeds and not the chapter funds. Another change was an agreement that winners should be paid in cash whenever possible out of the proceeds of the raffle. (This requirement may force a winner to wait occasionally a week or two to receive the full proceeds of his prize.)

With these changes, the Board has agreed that our raffle is legal under IRS guidelines, and can proceed as before, with all appropriate publicity. We will therefore be highlighting future winners of the jackpot in the *Harmonotes*. ~

MUSICAL NOTES

by Keith Schweer, Music Vice President



As most of you know, after the weekly chapter meeting is over, the Music Team meets in the kitchen. The purpose of those meetings is to review the musical aspects of the just concluded meeting and adjust the planning for the following week's meeting. We discuss what went well, what could have been better, what things to work on the next week, which songs to work on, what directors will do what, what the section leaders/teaching quartet will do, whether or not we'll have section rehearsals, etc. This is work we feel has to be done in order to give you a well-planned, productive and fun meeting. We're going to stop doing it. We'd like to spend more time socializing with the rest of the chapter and, for those that don't go to the afterglow, after the meetings is really the only time to do that. We'd like to spend a few minutes getting to know you better, sing a tag, etc.

Oh, and we're not really going to stop doing our planning. We're just going to try doing it the next day, Wednesday. We'll make some notes on Tuesday evening and use email on Wednesday to do the same thing. We're hoping this will work for us so we don't have to go to the kitchen after every meeting.

Who knows, we might even help with the risers once in a while.....*NAH!* ~

Dear HOA,

Thank you so much for allowing our daughters to sing with the chorus on your show. They had a great time and will remember it for a long time to come.

Of course, it made their dads proud and happy to be a part of this special event also.

We want to compliment you on a GREAT show, and especially your "show stopper" finale. WHAT A PERFORMANCE! Add to that the spiritual emphasis, and for us it was one of the best shows HOA has had. (Now I suppose you want RR4 to top that next year. THANKS A LOT!)

Again, thanks for a wonderful experience, both singing and listening. Keep up the good work, and God bless you all.

The Yoders: Calvin, Mary, Cindy, Mindy, Willard, Velma, Anna



JUST FOUR FUN

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



"I used to love barbershop quartets till I married one!"



"I'd tell her off, but our chorus director told me not to strain my voice!"

Cartoons by John Morris

DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE ISSUE OF *Harmonotes*

Articles and photos are due by
TUESDAY, MAY 20

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

Ten Years Ago- May, 1993

Special Touch, one of our fine HOA quartets, with a total score of 2,111 points in the CSD quartet preliminaries at Des Moines on the weekend of April 16-18, just 25 points under the qualifying score, would be eligible to compete as a CSD alternate at the International contest in Calgary in July.

At the same time we reported on *Special Touch's* pending trip to Calgary, we learned from lead **David Krause** that the quartet had been forced into retirement when baritone **Bud Clark** informed the other three members of the quartet on the way home from Calgary that job conflicts on weekends over the next couple of years would prevent him from participating in barbershopping activities. Too bad! These guys were not only talented, they were great entertainers, especially Bud.

Your *Harmonotes* editor was frantic because the deadlines for *Harmonotes*, the *Serenade*, and the Lawrence Rotary Club's biweekly newsletter which he also edited all fell on the same date. The situation must have improved later, since the may *Harmonotes* came out with a nice, healthy 16 pages!

Thirty Years Ago - May, 1968

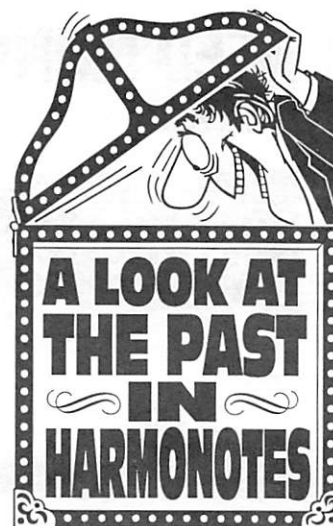
The Foremen, of Fort Dodge; the *Hi-Chords*, of Colorado Springs, and the *Vigortones*, of Cedar Rapids would represent the Central States District in international competition in Cincinnati the following July. Tied for fifth place in the district preliminaries were two HOA quartets, the *BMA Skyliners* and the *Merry Mugs*.

Chapter President **Ed Rooker** mentioned the racial turmoil that prevailed in the Kansas City area that summer and how it failed to phase the HOA membership, 48 of whom turned out to celebrate the 30th birthday of our Society in fine style. The event had to be held in the Muehlebach Hotel because the U.S. Army had taken over our regular meeting place—the World War II Memorial Building at Linwood and the Paseo. The celebration took place in the hotel lobby and got plenty of publicity through KMBC-TV and the *Kansas City Times*, which ran an article on page 3.

Fifty Years Ago - May 22, 1953

From reading between the lines, it appears that regularly scheduled barbershop quartet music could be heard on at least three radio stations in the Kansas City area. **Dick Dixon** had an 11:45 a.m. Saturday program on KCMO. Was that the Dave Dixon whose voice I hear on my car radio promoting the appearance of jazz performers at venues in the area and on that station? There were shows on WHB at 10:05 on Sunday mornings and between 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on KCKN.

The *Rudy Fick Royalties* and the *BMA Gamboliers* were the CSD representatives at the 1953 International contest in Detroit. ~



By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus



ANCHORS AWEIGH!

IF YOU'RE NOT GOING to Montreal, how about joining **Jim Bagby** on an October cruise to the western Caribbean (we end up in gorgeous Cozumel).

Other than the food, fun and travel, the main attractions are the *Aliens* comedy quartet, celebrating their 35th year together, and a barbershop chorus directed by Jim that will present a couple of shows. For more information, get a flyer from our arm-waver, or call *Ed Pio Travel* at 1-800 347-6136. ~



A GIANT HOA TIP OF THE HAT!

...to librarian **Phil Veltkamp**, who has the guest books updated with all our music, and is seeing that every number in the repertoire is available on demand. Now if we could just get guys to pick up the music before the meeting starts, instead of making Phil play pass-out... ~

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following chapter members!

Charles Ames	May 1
John Starcke	May 2
Wade Dexter	May 5
Anthony Fortino	May 6
Carter Combs	May 7
Dan Bowser	May 9
Stew Grosser	May 12
Kevin Beauford	May 13
Dale Neuman	May 20
George Park, Jr.	May 22
Joe Mathieu	May 24
Dominic Pedotto	May 31

From the Heartbeats

by Carol Ramirez, *Heartbeats* President

I never knew a *Heartbeats* meeting could be so much fun, but after the shortest business meeting on record April 15, about 20 of us were treated to a hands-on *Pampered Chef* demonstration of all kinds of gadgets courtesy of **Jeffi Combs**, *Pampered Chef* consultant. Oranges were zested; apples were cored, peeled and sliced in a matter of seconds; and more apples were chopped and added to strawberries and kiwis to make a flavorful fruit salsa for dipping with cinnamon baked tortilla chips—all done with special *Pampered Chef* tools.

The best part? We were treated to samples!

Stoneware by *Pampered Chef* is a popular item, so Jeffi brought a chocolate Magic Micro Cake which she had baked in her stoneware in the microwave for us to sample too. Here's the recipe:

Magic Micro Cake

Use the stoneware fluted pan, spray it well with the spritzer (vegetable oil is fine). Prepare any boxed cake mix, and pour the batter into the fluted pan. Then take any canned frosting and plop spoonfuls of the frosting on top of the batter in the pan. Microwave for 12 minutes on high, take it out and let it cool in the pan for 25 minutes (this step is important!). After that, turn the cake out on one of the Simple Additions squares, or the round platter and it comes out perfectly! It already has icing and it is sooooo moist. DELICIOUS! Enjoy!

Now here's the best part for the chorus: Profits from a separate *Pampered Chef* party fundraiser totaled \$146.38; profits from the April 15 party along with some outside orders totaled \$153.82 netting so far \$300.20. Combine this with the \$200 the *Heartbeats* made from the spring luncheon and we will be able to present the men with at least a \$500 check to help a little with the cost of the CD. Thanks to Jeffi; thanks to *Surefire!*, who entertained at both parties, and thanks to all of you who purchased items. It was great fun and profitable for all.

One more thing: Jeffi did a drawing from the *Heartbeats* who attended the meeting and **Mary Jo Miller** won the right to a 10% discount on all *Pampered Chef* items for the next year!

Our next *Heartbeats* meeting will be a potluck dinner at the home of **Joan Korek**, Sept. 9.

We welcome and encourage all ladies new to the chorus as well as those who've been around for a while to join us. ~





HERE ARE THE NUMBERS FROM OUR 2003 SPRING SHOW by Grant Hunget WHATTA SHOW!

Income:

Ticket Sales.....	\$31,137.00
Everest Program Sponsorship.....	\$2,000.00
Afterglow.....	\$645.00
Total:	\$33,782.00

Expenses:

City of KC: rent, user fee, crowd attendant, ticket sellers, box office supervisor, microphones, upstairs room (tables/security/keys/lock).....	\$6,442.00
Stagehands.....	\$3,185.00
Talent & Expenses (Michigan Jake/12th St. Rag).....	\$3,614.00
Ticket Printing.....	\$0.00
Programs & Inserts.....	\$1,031.00
Printing - flyers/handout cards.....	\$942.00
Postage - (2) mailers.....	\$656.00
Advertising (radio/TV/newspaper/Fax blitz).....	\$7,092.00
Afterglow.....	\$619.00
Hotel Rooms: Director, Ticket Chairman, Suite for Show Committee Meeting.....	\$500.00
Other: (backdrop, light rental, ASCAP fee, Bus for Group drivers, Music Team meal between shows, Ticket Chairman Expense: postage/phone/supplies).....	\$1,582.00
Total:	\$25,663.00
	(+) \$8,119.00

Many THANKS to your dedicated Show Committee: **Dick Korek** (Marketing), **Vince Perry** (Ticket "Master"), **Mike Mathieu** (Afterglow), **Jim Bagby & Mike Neff** (Show Production), **Mike Schumacher** (Buses & Ushers), **David Krause** (Host for *Michigan Jake*), **Al Higgins** (Groups), **John Warrior** (Stage Guru - Lights & Sound). A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to prepare for your Show. Thank them often.

Jeffi Combs and **Linda Schumacher** coordinated a fine group of Ushers, consisting of HOA *Heartbeats*, other HOA wives, and members of the Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines. **THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

Our **WONDERFUL** HOA *HEARTBEAT* Organization put on another fine meal for the Chorus before the first Show. **Carol Ramirez** guided the way. **THANK YOU!**

Joann Bagby prepared food & fed it to the Music Team in between Shows. Your "Sloppy Joanns" are theeeee best! Thank You!

THANKS TO ALL THE HARD-WORKING HOA PERFORMERS & DIRECTORS. WE ALL STEPPED UP, LEARNED & PREPARED A (LOT) OF NEW MUSIC FOR OUR SHOW. There was ONLY (1) song carried over from the 2002 Show—the other dozen were NEW TUNES! **GREAT JOB!**

There were a number of folks who watched over the NOSL'03 (New Offspring Singers Limited '03), during & between Shows. **THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE WITH THESE FINE YOUNGSTERS. THEY WERE GREAT!** ~



AL HIGGINS: CSD's 2003 BARBER SHOPPER OF THE YEAR

by John Petterson

From 1979 to 1983 **Al Higgins** was involved in the *Young Men in Harmony* program in Emporia, Kansas, as event manager. On the day of the event he handled these jobs: quartet pattern; lined up coaches; arranged for video of the event; publicity; awards procurement and presentation to quartets, also plaques and certificates; arranged sanctioning of event by the Kansas High School Activities Association.; coordinated the mechanics required in the high school where the event was held — to assure a day of organized activity.

At one time he was a member of the Hays Chapter, and, at times, he was the only baritone and was kept busy singing with the chorus and quartets.

During the past seven years, 1997 through 2003, he has promoted barbershop harmony to middle school and high school students — girls and boys. By working with music educators, he has brought our form of a cappella singing to a new level. Students and teachers alike are convinced that barbershop chords — tuning, balance and overtones — create an exciting experience for the singers. Ear training can be accomplished so very well — singing barbershop harmony. The bottom line: many people have become excited about barbershop.

Here is proof of the effectiveness of the *Harmony Explosion* under the direction and coordination of our Barbershopper of the Year. From 1997 through 2003, the total attendees were 1,256, which included 238 quartets and 91 schools! This means 1,256 young people have experienced our hobby, 238 quartets have enjoyed our hobby and 91 schools have been involved in *Harmony Explosion*!

If we add the number of quartets involved in the Emporia *Young Men in Harmony* program, where our honoree was assisting, then our 238 quartets grew by 66 for a total of 304!

How does 1,256 compare to the membership of Central States District? Quick math tells me over 50 percent!

Not stopping here, let's add the following district activities to his credit: voting delegate for the Kansas City Chapter at district conventions; has been the district hospitality chairman since 1995, setting up receptions and working at various district functions and has been invaluable to the district presidents.

Without question, Al Higgins has earned and deserves the 2003 Central States District Barbershopper of the Year! ~

SUREFIRE! ...SIZZLES AND SELLS!

Surefire! was superb in serenading the Kansas City Convention and Visitors Bureau, who hosted society site selection aces **John Schneider** and **Ken Buckner**. They were hosted by another member of the convention committee, our own **Mike Mathieu**, in a reception at *Pierpont's* restaurant on Wednesday, April 23.

Before a small but enthusiastic crowd, SF! did a four-song set, winding up with "Kansas City, My Hometown."

If Kansas City lands its 6th convention when the 2008-2010 sites are awarded, blame *SureFire!* ~



***SureFire!* Members:**
Carter Combs, Mike Neff, Don Young and Grant Hunget



Heart of America



May-June Calendar

- May 10** St. Joseph Show
May 17 Leavenworth Show
May 31 1st HOA recording session, UMKC
June 6-8 CSD Harmony Happening (HEP School),
Missouri Western State, St. Joseph
June 21 2nd HOA recording session, UMKC
June 29-July 5 International SPEBSQSA Convention, Montreal

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