

Harmonotes

November 2003

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

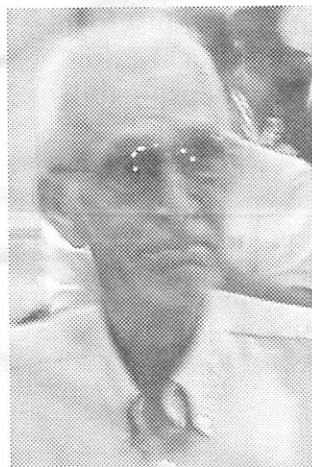
Volume 2003, Issue 11

IN MEMORIAM: JOHN STUCKER

by Jim Bagby

The Kansas City Chapter, the Central States District and the barbershopping world have lost a friend. And he was unique.

Consider: what do you think of when **John Stucker** is mentioned? He may have had the most buzzsaw bass voice ever created. We always kidded him he was a perfect Row 6 candidate. Dedication? Resident chapter mathematician Bruce Wenner figures John covered 200,000 miles in the 25 years he drove to HOA meetings, extra rehearsals, board meetings and performances from his Leavenworth, KS home.



John Stucker
Nov. 5, 1937 - Sept. 24, 2003

Administrator? He was in his second term as chapter president, after holding most other offices, and doing many jobs—as indicated by his earning the 2001 John Cross Award for attendance and attention to detail. It was his guidance that made a reality of the first Heart of America Chorus CD, due out in December.

Let's not forget quartet man. His latest was "*Uranium*," with **Dale Neuman, Tom Steele, Charlie Drake** and later **Mike Mathieu**. Soloist? Who could forget his comic turn on "The Streets of Laredo" on our western show, or his "I come to town the other night..." in the **Stephen Foster** medley?

Outside the chapter, John was widely known for his work in the contest and judging community.

He was certified as a secretary of judges in 1985, served on the Board of Review in that category, made the move up to Contest Administrator when the categories changed in 1993 and served two terms on the CA BOR. He spent four years as CSD vice president of C&J. He served on the BBContest Design Review team and spent another four years as a beta tester for the BBContest. Scores scoring program—by which we operate our contests today. And he was chief technical consultant at each category school for computer and printer problems.

The incoming chairman of the Society C&J Committee, **Larry Clemons** of San Antonio offered this suggestion: "When listing the accomplishments of John, please add that he and I (mostly John) developed the first online quartet/chorus contest entry form. The one that the society uses is a product of John Stucker's effort. We were able to break away from U.S. Mail in the DVP C&J business. John made it happen." (Continued on page 3→)

John Stucker photo courtesy of **Vince Perry**, Chorus Photo by **Matt Bostick**



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*The elusive white marble
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"never wins!"*

**HEARD THE
BIG NEWS?**

**HOA IS
GOING TO
LOUISVILLE!**

**DETAILS ON
PAGE 11!**

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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110th & Holmes - Kansas City, MO 64105

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IN MEMORIAM: JOHN STUCKER

(Continued)

Despite being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer early in 2002—a disease that usually kills with inexorable swiftness—John remained active in the C&J program through the annual meetings in Montreal. On his return, he submitted his resignation, noting he likely would be unable to fulfill his Fall assignments. Normally, a C&J member must be retired five years before he's eligible to be considered for the Judge Emeritus Award given to a relative handful of people.

Outgoing Society C&J Chairman **Lou Benedict** approved emergency emeritus status, **Lani Dieter** of the Kenosha staff got the plaque made in record time and we presented it to John at our Sept. 16 chapter meeting, with **Jane** and their two sons, **David** and **Matt**, in attendance. It turned out to be just one week before John died.

On that bittersweet night, we read tributes from Society luminaries. Executive Director **Darryl Flinn** wrote "It is an honor to add my personal congratulations—not only on behalf of the thousands of performers you have supported over the long years, but mostly on behalf of your brother judges whose experience has been greatly enhanced by your service and support."

Our director music education and services, former CSDer **Dr. Greg Lyne**, said: "We've known one another for quite some time, and I've enjoyed the pleasure of also knowing your talented son, **David**. You have both embraced barbershop singing and have enjoyed this hobby together... Your indefatigable work in the C&J Program is so appreciated, John. What an organized person you are and how much we appreciate your attention to the details that make the contests run so smoothly. We all celebrate you, your outstanding work and the enthusiasm that you've always brought to barbershop singing."

Society President **Roger Lewis** described the Land of Lakes District contest where John served as chairman of judges, and was called backstage by the convention chairman, greatly agitated that a chorus would have to be qualified because they had only 11 men on stage—instead of the required 12. John's memorable line: "I count 12." And Roger wrote later, "He was a very special guy. His care for the competitor, for his fellow judges, and for those who came to enjoy the work of both set an example for all of us."

"Often, his 'gruffness' was given away by a twinkle in his eye... He will never leave our hearts and minds."

And **Dwain Chambers**, John's "boss" as CA category specialist, wrote: "During your 18-year career as a Secretary and as a CA, you have served the judging community with distinction. On behalf of the entire judging community, let me commend you for a job well done... I can assure you that you will be sorely missed within the judging community!"

The HOA chorus was honored to sing at John's Sept. 27 funeral in Leavenworth: "I Believe," "Friends" and "Auld Lang Syne." And his spirit was very much on stage with us on in the CSD chorus contest on Oct. 11, when HOA collected our highest scores ever.

We'll remember John when we sing a tag, drink a beer, hit a golf ball or head for the ski slope. We can only agree with Dwain and Roger: John will be missed. And he'll never leave our hearts and minds. ~

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 Tallimon (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)

Sound Alibi

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

Sounds Like Treble

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

SureFire!

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

Tone-Henge

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

Uranium

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

*Member of other chapters

TO: All *Heart of America* Chapter Barbershoppers

by David Stucker

As I write this letter I realize that it is exactly one week from the greatest tribute to a person that I have ever witnessed. The gift of the music performed by the members of HOA during the funeral services for my father are the most moving and uplifting of any that I have ever experienced. At the time my father's passing, he was living a dimming life with suffering and pain. He has now passed to a better place. My father lived every moment of his life with a tremendously positive attitude and had a fighting spirit that I am still internalizing. I truly hope that the passage of time and the guidance from above will teach me how to be the man that my father was. The experience of last week has helped me glorify the good of my father's life and has given me the strength and solace to continue and grow to be the quality of man that my father was. The comfort that my family has felt during this time of trial has been, in no small part, due to the outpouring of love and beauty that we experienced at the expense and dedication of the great Heart of America barbershop harmony chapter. I will forever be in your debt for taking valuable time out of your rehearsal and retreat schedule to honor my father.

More importantly, this experience has reaffirmed my longstanding belief in the value and brotherhood of our harmony society. It may be trite, but it is also true in my experience, that you truly know who your friends are when there are crises in life. Shortly before my father died, he attended the funeral of **Rob Henry**, another one of our brothers who has recently died from cancer. Dad's attendance at that funeral was also a gift from HOA as he was too weak from his own cancer to make the trip by himself. Instead, **Raymond Schwarzkopf**, a HOA brother and fellow judge, made it possible for him to make the journey. This and too many other acts of kindness have made it clear that the entire HOA chapter has responded to the passing of my father in a manner that is clearly beyond any expectations.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity for some special recognition.

First, to the HOA chapter: Each and every one of you has given the love and comfort of your very special musical gift to my family in an outstanding tribute to my father. You have also made my family feel special even though there were future and important agenda items on your calendar that John or my family would obviously not be part of. Your gifts of love and consolation will be forever cherished.

To Jim Bagby: My father frequently told me that you were his best friend. You have proven your dedication and earned yourself a special place in high places for your understanding and love. No words are sufficient to express my gratitude for your concern and efforts on my father's behalf.

To Mark Fortino: The selfless dedication of your talents in musical and emotional tribute to my father was breathtaking. As we have discussed, I understand how difficult it is to cantor an emotionally attached service. You did what I could not do. Thank you and God Bless You.

To Carter Combs, Mike Neff and Grant Hunget:

I have three new barbershop brothers. You made it possible for me to give a quartet performance of "The Lord's Prayer" back to my father in return for his performance with my district champ quartet at my wedding. Thanks for taking the time out of your retreat to rehearse what was a stellar performance under difficult circumstances. I will not forget your comfort and support during our performance. Your gift is sincerely appreciated and will not be forgotten. Your rousing gospel performance during the visitation focussed the tone of the occasion from sorrow to joy. Your performance was a special gift that put the occasion into perspective for me. I'm lonely for my father but it was his time to pass to a better place. The joy of your music helped me make the transition.

I am certain that I have missed individual recognition of significant individuals but I hope that each of you will take your own credit and smile a smile for John just as he would have done. The lyrics of your song during the funeral are apropos at this moment, "A lifetime's not too long to live as friends." Your performance of "Friends" will live with me for all of my days. I only hope that I will have the same quality friends on my passing as my father did on his. Even though it is nearly twenty-five years later, I still feel a strong bond of brotherhood with HOA, the best chapter that I have ever been a member. Each and every one of you has a special place in my heart and in the hearts of the larger Stucker family.

Barbershoppers are a very special breed of very special people with the HOA chapter being the best of the best. Mere words cannot describe the bond that my father and I have shared with the larger barbershop community and HOA, in particular. Please take the strength and emotion from this experience and win in Cedar Rapids. That would make my father proud! ~



12TH STREET'S LOAD: NOT GETTING ANY LIGHTER

by John Fortino, 12th Street Rag

While one might think as a past district champ (i.e. not having to prepare for a fall contest) that the quartet's work load would lighten up considerably after Internationals, it certainly has not been that way for us. Right after Montreal we started working on music for our new religious album. Several pieces have to be learned for this project, of which there are several that I still have to arrange. Let's hope this Italian gets inspired SOON. We have already had a couple of recording sessions with which we were pretty pleased.



We also had to prepare for the CSD Past Champ Show. Mark and I had greater responsibilities for this year since he was the president of the Past Champs Chorus and I was the lucky guy to be nominated to be the director. Neither of us knew exactly what we were doing, which is par for the course for whatever we take on. Thanks to all the HOA fellers who allowed themselves to be guinea pigs under my direction of "Friends." I really needed the practice for the show. For me, directing you guys again was the highlight of my year. It was a real thrill for me to direct what I think is one of the top 15 choruses in the world.

HOA is singing so well. **Mark** and I and **Micah** and **Barry** hated that we had to leave the convention early Saturday morning. We really wanted to see the set and cheer you on. As it was, we had a show in Hartford CT. with *Saturday Evening Post* that night. They are a great bunch of guys, and while we had fun, we missed being with all our friends and family back in Cedar Rapids at the convention.

Next on the calendar for this year is Ottuma, IA and the HOA Christmas shows. See you all soon. ~

TONE-HENGE TO WIN GOLD IN 2009

by Ol' Bruce

Tone-Henge had more fun than usual this year in the quartet contest, mainly because we decided to forget the points and finally use Tag



Nellie. Our performance was followed by our traditional 4-0 vote that we will never compete again (that's the fourth straight time the vote has come out that way). But—hold on—we might be on the verge of a breakthrough here. In our previous contest (2001) we scored 52.3%—the tone-deaf and humorless judges thought we talked too much—whereas this time we skyrocketed 8 points to a 60.3%—this was obviously a much wiser and more appreciative panel (these guys think we're almost a B quartet! Ha! Joke's on them). See what that means? We're on our way to a 68.3% in 2005, then CSD champs with a 76.3% in 2007, then International semi-finalists with an 84.3% in 2007, culminating with a gold at 92.3% in 2009—if we're not dead by then, of course. Maybe we'll reconsider.

As usual, the quartet did mucho singing apart from the contest performance. Saturday night we started with the HOA hospitality room, then hit a half dozen venues in the Headquarters Hotel. We weren't even through singing after we got home—we had the gall to sing for the Symphony League Sunday night. These music lovers treated us much better than we deserved. After that there's nothing more to do than to recover—that is, after we tell you how proud we are of the HOA chorus and our fellow chapter quartet competitors in *Grandstand*, *SureFire*, and *Sounds Like Treble*. ~

SUREFIRE! "SCHTUFF" by Mike Neff



First off, hearty congratulations to the 73 men who took HOA to an impressive and exciting finish in the chorus contest in Cedar Rapids! What a treat to share the stage with all of you...it was a wonderful and memorable weekend. And thanks for your support of *SureFire!* in the quartet competition. We had a wonderful time, and the applause and cheers you gave us were appreciated more than you'll ever know.

We've had a busy few months leading up to the contest, and I've been a big time "slacker" at writing our next article (it's been my turn for the past THREE months now), so here's a recap of what we've been up to:

Way back in August, we sang at the Buckeye Invitational in Columbus, Ohio. We placed 7th out of 18 competitors and finished 5th in the Entertainment category. Part of our package included a hilarious parody to "Please Mr. Columbus" that even included few jabs at the judges. It was a hoot. Half the panel got up and walked out; the audience went nuts.

Carter, Don and **Grant** took off for Phoenix in September for the Sweet Adelines International contest. While they were there, they rehearsed with fill-in Lead **Mike Schumacher** on a couple of songs we'd be doing with *Zing!* at the Topeka women's chapter show a few weeks later. This "impromptu version" of *SureFire!* was inadvertently dubbed "*MisFire!*".....(insert laughs here). Thanks Mike S., for helping out!

We spent some time with **Bill Biffle** and **Dwain Brobst** during our retreat weekend, and had the great pleasure of singing "The Lord's Prayer" with **Dave Stucker** at **John's** funeral mass. The weekend after the retreat, we appeared in Topeka with *Zing!* on the Sunflower Harmony Chorus' chapter show. We even sang two eight part songs with them - "I Wonder Why/You're Just in Love" and "If There's Anybody Here From Out of Town." It was a really fun show and performance. Maybe we can reprise those songs with *Zing!* on the afterglow of our holiday show...(insert subtle hint _____ here).

And of course the CSD contest weekend came soon after the retreat and the Topeka show. We were very happy with the quartet results and knew it would be a great contest. We improved our Music Category and Presentation Category scores and felt really good about our performances. We'd be remiss if we didn't extend special thanks to **Jim** for his coaching guidance too. Can you imagine if we would have had more quartets in the contest? Who knows...next year, there could be 40! Jim is probably fainting as I type that...

Congratulations to *Grandstand* on their awesome 2nd place finish, *Tone-Henge* dang near cracked the top 20 (go Dan go!) and *Sounds Like Treble* did a mighty fine job on their first time out - way to go guys. And *Sound Alibi*, y'all better be on stage at prelims in April! We missed you up there. And to **Rod Rule**, we have you in our thoughts and look forward to paying you a visit very soon.

Christmas is right around the corner, ain't it?! And it's not even Halloween yet! ~

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE VP

by Marty Oldehoeft



The excitement for HOA goes on and on. We recently returned from a very successful trip to Cedar Rapids where our 1492 point 2nd place district finish will most likely land us

on stage with the other international competing choruses. (That has a nice ring to it). At this writing we are still waiting the scores from a couple districts so by reading time the news will no doubt be out.

The chorus excitement continues with the pre-sales and anticipation of the release of our first CD. Even with a hitch or two the final product could be in our gift sacks by the Holiday Show. Hand shakes and backpatting are due several folks who have put time and effort into this project. I know before I start naming people, I shouldn't because I will leave someone out. I'll say sorry in advance and thank **Dale Neuman** who took the helm and has kept the ball rolling, **Mark Fortino** who has spent hours with **Dan Israel**, and of course **Keith Schweer** and the entire music team. Until better paid, we say THANK-YOU!

More excitement is in store for the chorus with the upcoming Holiday Show at Unity Village with the Kansas City Chorus. This has been one of our singing highlights for the past several years and with the addition of several pieces of new music it sure looks to be a continuation of this tradition.

With all these things going on and what's coming up, what would keep those who haven't been singing with us for a while from making a return to the chorus?

Come on back, guys! ~

CHUCK AMES WINS IT ALL!

Chuck

Ames is one like several in the chorus, he participates in the drawing only when the pot is large, and says he "never wins." On Guest Night, Chuck found out that sometimes one's ship DOES come in, if he just keeps on playing!

The last time a member won the big pot by pulling the white marble was April 29, which was 28 drawings ago.

Once the pot reached \$500 on Sept. 9, interest began to pick up and the pot grew by leaps and bounds in the weeks since as chorus members began offering \$5s and \$10s, even an occasional \$20, in their hopes of landing the big one. **Jim Porter** worked hard to keep up with the demand, and a special thanks goes out to **Jeanne Snyder**, who willingly took on the task of tearing apart hundreds of tickets each night. Each time a member had his ticket drawn and came forward to draw a marble, the chorus chanted "blue, blue," hoping for yet another rollover and another chance the following week.

It was different when Chuck, who hasn't won the drawing since July 2001, came forward. Most chanted "White, white," and Chuck did not disappoint them. It was certainly a fine testimonial for one who has served the chorus faithfully and long, and shows once again what a great group HOA is. Enjoy your windfall, Chuck, we all really do appreciate what you do to keep our chorus program running week after week.

The benefit to Harmony Foundation has been outstanding. Having two record jackpots in the same year has increased our contribution to the Foundation to \$2,880 so far this year, compared to \$1,273 for all of last year. Probably in this area as well, this has been a record setting year. Thank you for all who have participated. ~



Chuck Ames draws the elusive white marble and walks away with almost \$1,300!

Info for Dick Korek regarding SPONSORSHIPS FOR HOA 2004 MARCH SHOW

CHORUS MEMBER: _____

DATE _____

Company to contact - Name: _____

Address _____

Person to Contact _____

Title: _____

Best time to call: _____

Phone: _____

OK to use your name?

☐ Yes ☐ No

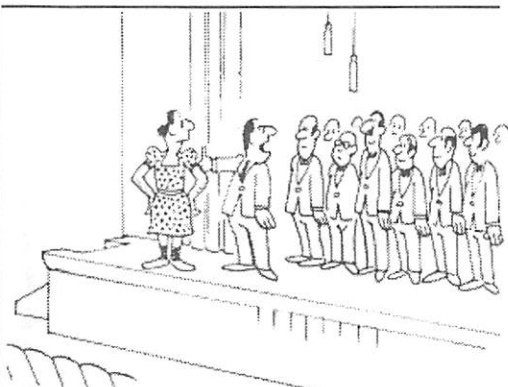
Would you like to be included in the presentation meeting?

☐ Yes ☐ No

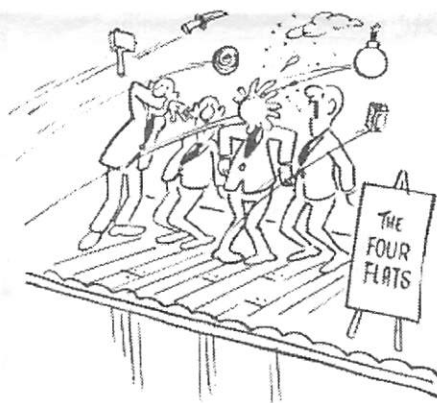
Relationship of company/contact person to you? _____

JUST FOUR FUN

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



"Will someone please explain the term 'dress rehearsal' to him!"



"Better sing one we know—the audience is getting restless!"

Cartoons by Johnny Morris

**DEADLINE FOR THE
NOVEMBER ISSUE OF
*Harmonotes***

Articles and photos are due by
TUESDAY, NOV. 18
*For more information,
call Todd at 816-373-8633*

Ten Years Ago: November, 1993

After three consecutive wins, the *Heart of America Chorus* succumbed to the *Ambassadors of Harmony* of St. Charles who took the 1993 chorus championship by 35 points in competition at Des Moines. But it wasn't all bad news for our guys. Our two quartet representatives, the *12th Street Rag* (Rick Kready, Mark Fortino, John Fortino and Keith Schweer) and *FreeFall* (Myers and Drown, plus a couple of guys from the Lincoln and St. Joseph Chapters) finished in third and fourth place, respectively.

The chapter had moved its meeting place to St. Peters United Church of Christ at 110th and Homes Road and was getting adjusted to the new location. As President **John Pennington** put it, "The facilities are nice, the price is right, parking is free, we have meeting rooms, and you walk in on the same level that we meet on with no stairs to climb," referring to some of the drawbacks of our previous venue, the Municipal Auditorium, Room 600.

Music Director **Jim Bagby** announced that the finale on our annual show on March 19 would be **Jay Giallombardo's** medley arrangement of "Star Spangled Banner," "O, Canada," and Beethoven's "Ode to Joy." The quartet parts would be sung by our own *Rural Route 4* and our featured guest foursome, *Acoustix*.

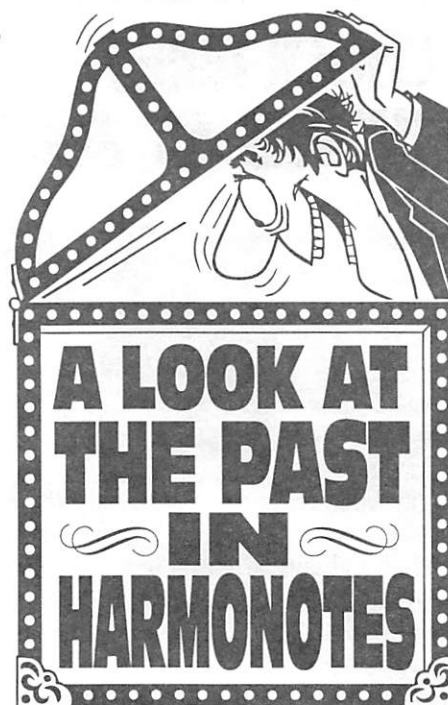
Newly elected officers for 1994 were John Pennington (president), **Mike Mathieu** (immediate past president), **Ron McIntire** (membership VP), **Ron Abel** (music VP), **J. B. Witham** (program VP), **Mike Neff** (treasurer), and **Ron McIntire** (secretary).

Twenty-Five Years Ago: November, 1978

After 40-some years of trying, the *Heart of America Chorus* was finally able to walk off with the central States District chorus championship in the annual contest on October 28 right here in Kansas City. They went on with repeat performances each year through 1984.

Thirty-Five Years Ago: November, 1958

Much of this issue of *Harmonotes* is devoted to the history of a quartet called the *Missouri Pewkes*, no doubt because tenor **Don Thorne** was also editor of *Harmonotes*. The article begins with the statement, "This quartet was actually organized before it was organized but was never really organized." That'll give you an idea of what is to follow. (Continued on page 9→)



By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

Seems that three HOA members (and their spouses, presumably) took the tour to the Hawaiian Islands following the 1967 international convention at Los Angeles. The names of these three worthies are not revealed, but we may presume they were **Bill Wall**, an employee of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers; **Ed Eichman**, a partner in the firm of the Ernst-Eichman Machinery Corporation; and **Don Thorne**, an executive VP of a chain of cemeteries in Kansas.

Also a member of the tour was a tall bass who also happened to belong to HOA. His name was **Joe Costigan**. At the invitation of the Honolulu Chapter, these four competed in a pick-up quartet contest and finished in second place. So that was the date, July of 1967, of the formation of the *Missouri Pewkes*. ~

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the following chapter members!

Kenneth Neujahr	November 3
Roderick Rule	November 6
Albert Higgins	November 7
Dick Korek	November 20
Colin Smalley	November 20
Dick Winter	November 21
Tom Millot	November 22
Brooke Meyers	November 23
Jerry Snyder	November 23
Mike O'Dell	November 24
Todd Anderson	November 28
Vince Perry	November 28

PORTER WEARS A FOUR-GALLON HAT!

In response to the October Harmonotes article, "*Any Gallon Guys In HOA?*," I visited the Community Blood Service and made a donation that completed my 4th gallon. I've been given a pin to prove it!

— **Jim Porter**



A TIP OF THE HAT



1. To HOA Director **Jim Bagby** for leading the HOA Chorus to a successful district contest at Cedar Rapids.
2. **Dick Korek** for his work in establishing sponsors for the Kansas City Chapter and HOA Chorus.
3. To Top 'O the Heap "Mother Hen," **Vince Perry** for securing hotel rooms, district registration and for the hundred other things we've not seen or dreamed of.
4. To **Ron McIntire** for handling the district chorus picture thing.
5. To Music VP, **Keith Schweer** and the Music Team for bringing **Bill Biffle** and **Dwain Brobst** to the HOA retreat.
6. To **Al Higgins** for rolling the HOA Retreat ball providing HOA with another super-dynamic weekend of work on the contest package. And to **Bill Biffle** and **Dwain Brobst**, coaches extraordinaire, for their excellent expert coaching at the HOA retreat in Atchison, KS.
7. Yeah, I know it's his job, but here's a big TOTH to HOA's unsung hero, **Chuck "Riser Man" Ames** for overseeing the risers getting to the HOA Retreat and Cedar Rapids. And a TOTH to **Val Putzier** for pulling the trailer that got them there, to the unrecorded helpers who lugged, tugged and stacked them in the trailer and to all those willing helpers who set them up and tore them down after the events.
8. To **Brooke Meyers** for making sure the HOA tuxes and vests were in shape and ready for contest.
9. To **Carol Ramirez** and the *Heartbeats* who spent many hours upgrading the HOA tear-away vests with silver trim and sparkles for contest.
10. To **Rich Huyck** for stepping up to take the helm of the 2004 Singing Valentines.
11. To the new members who joined HOA in 2003: **Tom Forsythe**, **Thom Tisdall**, **Chris Meeks**, **Rob Varney**, **Al Fehlaue**, **Gary Jordan**, **Doug Brott**, **Gary Mehalic**, **Walt Patterson** and **Tony Strub** who experienced their first district contest and helped to propel HOA into the "A" scores.
12. To the new faces and "re-uppers" who will serve on the 2004 Kansas City Missouri Chapter Board of Directors:

President - **Marty Oldehoeft**, Executive VP - **Steve Carruthers**
 Music VP - **Keith Schweer**, Program VP - **Jerry Garrard**
 Marketing VP - **Dick Korek**, Operations VP - **Chuck Ames**
 Membership VP - **Ken Neujahr**, Secretary - **John Winfiel**
 Treasurer - **Charles Ramirez**, District Delegate - **Al Higgins**
 Board Members: **Kent McClean**, **Thom Tisdall**, **Bob Howard**, **Harry Stewart**, **Rich Huyck** and **John Gathright**. ~

CHANGES TO THE 2003 HOA DIRECTORY

To all HOA Members, PLEASE NOTE:
We have a July 1 copy of the 2003 HOA
Directory on the chapter website at
[http://www.HOACHorus.com/mem-
bers](http://www.HOACHorus.com/members).

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GENTLEMEN OF NOTE THESE PAST MONTHS

by Monty Duerksen

Quartet rehearsal frequency
has been established at ONE
IN A ROW. On Sept. 4, we met
at Rod's home for a "short"
quartet meeting...we sang
through every song in our
repertoire! We love your
enthusiasm & spirit, ROD! The
prayers and concerns of ALL
OF US are with YOU!



SPECIAL NOTE: Last Friday morning, **Carter Combs**
jumped out of bed before breakfast to ensure four-part har-
mony by G.O.N. & COMBS singing "God Bless America" and a
"Mary Lou" parody at the Overland Park Chamber of Com-
merce Breakfast. THANKS A BUNCH, CARTER...You made us
sound great! ~

DID YOU KNOW?

HOA LADIES AUXILIARY FOUNDED IN 1969

by Ron Abel

The listing of Past Presidents of the "HEARTBEATS" in the
chapter directory would suggest that the ladies auxiliary was
formed in 1980 with **Cathie Warrior** as the first president.

The HOA Ladies Auxiliary dates back to 1969! In April of that
year the Kansas City Chapter Board approved formation of an
HOA Ladies Auxiliary. After registering with International and
receiving a charter including by-laws and restrictions, the first
organizational meeting was held and was attended by 25
charter members. **Bev Wasson** was elected as the first presi-
dent in 1969.

Subsequent meetings were held on a monthly basis. Numer-
ous social functions and parties were held, as well as various
projects were undertaken for the benefit of our chapter's
service project, the Institute of Logopedics in Wichita, Kansas.

The current name of "HEARTBEATS" was adopted at the
suggestion of former HOA member **Clyde Mensen** who de-
signed the cover of the ladies auxiliary cookbook which was
published in 1978 as a fund raiser. ~



Photo courtesy of
Ron McIntire

Executive VP marty Oldehoeft greets visitors and guests at they send HOA off to contest this past Oct. 7

FROM THE RISERS

by Monty Duerksen



***So what's
different
today at
HOA?***

More of our seasoned AND new members have become coachable AND have bought the SINGING & PERFORMANCE SKILLS demonstrated by our coaches.

Our SUPERB LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS, (MUSIC, PERFORMANCE, & ADMINISTRATIVE), are providing the discipline plus exemplary teaching necessary for "A LEVEL" performance!!

WHAT IN THE WORLD WOULD MOTIVATE US TO RE-VISIT OLD, BAD HABITS AGAIN...ON ANY SONG? ~

MUSICAL NOTES

By Keith Schweer, Music Vice President

Congratulations to the *Heart of America Chorus!* Our scores, at the district contest in Cedar Rapids, place us third among non-district champions earning us an invitation to the July International Chorus Contest in Louisville, Kentucky as a wildcard entry.

Your chapter Board of Directors has voted to accept that invitation. We have ACHIEVED THE GOAL we set for ourselves, namely qualifying to return to the International level of competition. HOA outscored 7 district champion choruses and accumulated the 12th highest point total of all choruses across the country.

We should be very proud of what we have accomplished—I know I am. But, we also know we can improve even more over the next few months. Your Music Team is in the process of formulating our improvement plan to carry us into Louisville next summer. The *Heart of America Chorus* has not qualified to compete at the International level since 1998 in Atlanta. Thanks to all of you for your effort and dedication. *It's great to be back!* ~





Heart of America



November-January Calendar

- Nov. 4 Joint rehearsal with K.C. Sweet Adeline (@ St. Peter's). 7 pm
Nov. 8-9 COTS, Omaha
Nov. 17 Joint rehearsal with K.C. Sweet Adeline (7 pm @ Ward Parkway Mall).
Nov. 23 Joint rehearsal with K.C. Sweet Adeline (7 pm @ Ward Parkway Mall).
Dec. 5 Tech rehearsal, Unity Village Auditorium, 7 pm
Dec. 6 HOLIDAY HARMONY SPECTACULAR, 2 & 7:30 pm
Dec. 20 HOA/Salvation Army Bell Ringing, Metro North, 10 am
Jan. 10 Installation/Award Dinner

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