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In Dallas

FALL NEWSLETTER 2003

Members of the Board 2003 – 2005

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From the President...

September 30, 2003

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

In the last three years that I have served as the president of American Harp Society in Dallas, I have noticed a few trends developing. Despite our attempts to provide this community with high-quality, useful and interesting programs, attendance from the membership has been dismally low. By contrast, the student activities--Auditions & Evaluations, the Annual Student Competition and the Annual Student Recital in May have had tremendous turnout. For that reason, the board and I have decided to place emphasis where there is the most support--the students. The three main student offerings, mentioned above, will continue, but in lieu of official harp society programs, we are encouraging you to support the many harp-related programs which are already scheduled for this coming year. For your membership dollars, we will do our best to help promote these events.

In addition, our membership is increasingly internet-savvy. At least three-quarters of our constituency have provided email addresses. Our hopes is that we can establish a website for our chapter, which will help us to facilitate information of harp-related activities in the metroplex. My hope is that we can create an interactive website, so that you will be able to post your own information so that you won't have to wait for the biannual newsletter to communicate to each other. Any help to this end would be much appreciated. Please note: we have an official email address now, which is ahsdallas@yahoo.com.

Still, the board and I have agreed that Internet contact cannot replace personal contact. We value the camaraderie among other harpists, which we can only receive by making time to get together. Our fall meeting will be a Halloween party at Becky Scherschell's home in Irving on Sunday, October 26th, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Bring a treat! Dress up if you like. It'll be fun to see all of you!

All my best,

Ellen

Ellen Ritscher

P.S. Directions to Becky Scherschell's house: 605 Hartin Circle, Irving. From Hwy 183, Take MacArthur Blvd. South. Right on Pioneer Blvd. Cross Irving Blvd. Turn Left on Hartin Circle. Look for house on the right with a circular drive.

The Legacy of Charles Kleinsteuber

July 26, 1926 (Buffalo, N.Y.) - June 16, 2003 (Rockport, Maine)

by Becky Scherschell

There are few people we encounter in life whose impact and influence remain with us throughout our lives. As a harpist, teacher, and humanitarian, Charles Kleinsteuber leaves us with an enduring legacy through his own example. Although much can be said about Mr. K, as his students affectionately knew him, he would have been an extraordinary teacher of any subject. Fortunately for many lucky harpists, he decided to become a pedagogue of our instrument.

The career of Charles Kleinsteuber was one of note. During World War II, he played harp and clarinet in the Navy Band and Navy Symphony in Washington, D.C., concurrently studying with famed harpist, Carlos Salzedo. After the war, he graduated from Oberlin College with a degree in music, although he began his studies there before the war as a chemistry major. In 1946, he attended Salzedo's Summer Harp Colony in Camden, Maine where he met a fellow harp student and a native of Camden, Grace Lenfest. They were married June 16, (coincidentally the same date of his death) 1956. He continued his education at the University of Missouri, where he received the degree Master of Music.

Mr. K played professionally with the Buffalo Philharmonic, the Ice Follies, the St. Louis Symphony, the Dallas Symphony, and the American Ballet Theater, and was active in the recording industry in the Dallas area.

Mr. K's teaching career garnered him international acclaim, as his former students perform and teach in major orchestras and universities. Prior to coming to North Texas State University (now University of North Texas) in Denton as Professor of Harp and Music Theory, he served in the same capacity at Stephens College in Missouri, Ball State Teachers College in Indiana, and the University of Illinois. Additionally, he spent many years

teaching at the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan.

As Professor of Harp at North Texas State University, Mr. K was an inspiration to his students, not only through his teaching of the harp, but by example of how he lived his life. He was devoted to his wonderful wife, Grace, and their two children, and displayed a model example of family values. As a teacher, he cared deeply for each individual student, always maintaining superb professionalism in all aspects of teaching.

The most amazing trait which Mr. K innately possessed was his ability to bring all of his students together with an understanding of achieving a common goal, and creating lifelong friendships between them: a difficult feat in a highly competitive area

Mr. K was an avid supporter of the American Harp Society, having served on the Board of Directors from 1969 until 1975, and was Chairman of the Board 1974-75. He also required his students to attend local chapter meetings, and participate whenever possible.

Upon retirement from NTSU, the Kleinsteubers returned to Maine where he volunteered with the Freedom Riders Therapy Group, the Rockport Public Library, and the Penobscot Bay Medical Center, where he served as an escort, and then an operating room assistant.

One of his fondest memories, according to his wife, Grace, is a reunion at the University of North Texas, which took place four years before his death. Organized by Ellen Ritscher, current Professor of Harp at UNT, many of his former students and colleagues attended. His former student, Erica Goodman, of Toronto, Canada, gave a masterclass.

Charles Kleinsteuber: an extraordinary teacher and harpist of international recognition, supporter and creator of lifelong friendships among students, master of humor in teaching moments, professionally precise, modest, and model husband and father, immensely respected and loved. May we, as his students, offer a deserved tribute to him by successfully sharing and enlarging his rich and wonderful legacy throughout our teaching, our performing, and in our everyday lives.

*A Venus harp has been donated to the University of North Texas by W&W Musical Instruments in memory of Charles Kleinsteuber. A plaque given by David Williams, Williams Harp Gallery, which will be placed on the harp, reads:
"A Gift From W. & W. MUSICAL INST. CO. to University of North Texas In Memory of Charles J. Kleinsteuber, 1926 – 2003, Professor of Harp"*

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MEMBER NEWS

Carolyn Carson suffered from two herniated discs, L4 and L5 and a disc fragment and has literally been in bed since February 1st. She is doing better now, but still experiences excruciating pain. If you know anyone who is suffering from lower back pain, she will be glad to give information on therapies and products that have helped in her recovery. Carolyn continues to perform with the Mesquite Symphony on most of the season's concerts. She traveled to Phoenix to play with the Sanctuary Orchestra of the First Baptist Church of Dallas at the Southern Baptist Convention. The orchestra then went to Colorado Springs to participate in the Music Evangelism Conference which will be held in Branson, Mo. next spring. In May, she played the harp at the wedding of Arthur Spratlin, her husband's cousin, and Liz Mavar, who worked in Senator Trent Lott's office in Washington. This was a very elaborate wedding celebration in Biloxi, MS. Carolyn just returned from Indianapolis where she attended a board meeting of the USA International Harp Competition which will be held next July in Bloomington, Indiana. There are currently 72 possible competitors. She is renting the small harps and teaches home-schooled children and adults that have an interest in playing for their church.

Sydney Howell's biggest news is her new website: www.sydneyhowell.com . Check it out and listen to her CD "Romance With the Harp". Sydney's article on Sight-reading on the Harp appeared in the August issue of the American String Teachers Journal. The summer started off with a challenge to play the several pieces including the Ravel's Tzigane with the Ft. Worth Civic Orchestra for the Texas Music Teachers Conference in Arlington. Later in June Sydney taught at Harpfire in Irving again this year. Also She also taught Suzuki Books I-IV at the national Suzuki Institute at Salt Lake City, Utah.

Laurel McConkey appeared on WFAA Channel 8 news on Wednesday, August 6 with Mike Castalucci, "The Why Guy". It was a lot of fun to do, but very difficult to get in full harpist regalia that early in the morning in order to be ready for taping at 6:00 a.m. Laurel also performed at the Oak Cliff Centennial Celebration at Lake Cliff Park on Sunday, September 14. Her rendition of "Stairway to Heaven" was quite the crowd pleaser.

CONGRATULATIONS, EDNA!!!

Edna McClintock recently retired from teaching the harp after fifty years! She has served this harp community well by being a true supporter of harpists and harp events, offering her home for many AHS in Dallas programs, and nurturing students of all ages. Thank you from all of us! Currently Edna is in the process of organizing her music to sell. She has her Christmas music available to interested harpists and will have other music of different styles ready for the spring.

If you are interested, call her at (972) 233-5137.

Marie-Louise Norton and her harp-based band **MicheMalou** have released their new CD '**Otherwhere Otherwhen**' this year. It is available at their concerts, on their website *MicheMalou.com*, as well as from *cdbaby.com*, *towerrecords.com*, and *mrsbsbooks.com*. Their music is being played at numerous Celtic and New Age radio stations. The group features Marie-Louise Norton and Michele Cook on folk- pedal- and electric harps, Colin Norton on guitar/bass guitar and percussion, and Gavin Norton on bodhran and keyboards. A one-hour concert by MicheMalou at the North Richland Hills library on March 11, 2003 (organized by the North Tarrant County Arts Council) was videotaped and shown on local cable television.

Rita Linck recently purchased a rare Lyon & Healy Style 24 gold concert grand harp. The instrument was built in 1915 and owned for its lifetime by Elsa Moegle Jennings. Photos of "The Archangel" and Rita's current discography can be seen on her website: www.RitaLinck.com

Cindy Horstman is busy in the studio completing her 8th CD to be released in January 2004. Her group will perform for the Sammons Center for the Arts Jazz Series on February 4th, and then begin a tour to the West Coast with dates in Los Angeles, San Diego, etc.

Ellen Ritscher enjoyed accompanying the Dallas Symphony Orchestra to Germany, Austria and England this past summer, performing the second harp part to Mahler's Symphony No. 7. Later in the summer, Ellen spent two weeks in Steamboat Springs, Colorado for her fourth year as Harp Director for Rocky Mountain Summer Conservatory. There she had the pleasure of working with talented young harpists from around the country, including three of our student members: Carly Nelson (student of Naoko Stromberg), Jennifer Betzer and Ashley Perez (students of Maia Jourde).

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HARP HAPPENINGS AND UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Friday, Oct. 10, 2003 - 7:30 PM

JILL ROBERTS LEVY in recital:

St. Rita's Catholic Church, Dallas

FREE ADMISSION - underwritten by Texas A&M University- Commerce

Program: Saint-Saens Fantasie for Violin and Harp, Debussy Sonate for Flute, Viola and Harp; H. Buss Fables from Aesop for Violin and Trombone

Performers: Mark Miller, violin; Ute Miller, viola; Jill Roberts Levy, harp; Jennifer Wheeler, flute; Jimmy Clark, trombone

Saturday, October 11, 2003

GAIL BARBER MASTERCLASS/ENSEMBLE WORKSHOP

Gail Barber, Professor of Harp at Texas Tech, will be in town for a **masterclass** and **ensemble workshop**.

Contact Denise Holland (972) 475-2943 email: dholland@texas.net or Laura Logan email: harponit@juno.com for more details and repertoire.

Saturday, October 11 and Sunday, October 12, 2003 - 2:30 PM

Jean Peacock, Scottish Harp - Bedford Celtic Heritage Festival
Leland's Celtic Onstage Theater.

Admission to the festival is \$7 for adults and \$5 with students (with ID) and seniors (60 +). Children 10 and under are free with a paying adult.

www.celticheritagefestival.org for more information and directions.

Monday, October 13, 2003 - 7 PM hor-d'oerves, 8 PM concert

JILL ROBERTS LEVY in recital

Hopkins County Courthouse, Sulphur Springs

\$25.00 ADMISSION - benefiting Sulphur Springs Symphony League

Program and performers: same as above

Tuesday, November 11, 2003 – 7:30 PM

LAURA LOGAN presents a **faculty recital** at

Texas Christian University, PepsiCo Recital Hall

in the Walsh Center for the Performing Arts (corner of University & Cantey).

FREE ADMISSION

Thursday, December 12, 2003 – 8 PM

ELLEN RITSCHER performs Handel's Concerto in Bb
with Dallas Chamber Orchestra

Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration

Tickets available at www.dallaschamberorchestra.org

Octavia Harp Ensemble announces the release of a **new CD** entitled "Moonlight Sonata." It is a collection of Classical and original compositions and arrangements for harp ensemble. The CD features several new arrangements for multiple harps including "Pachelbel's Canon in D," "Gymnopedie No. 1," "Invitation to the Dance," and of course, "Moonlight Sonata." The CD may be purchased through Traditional Sounds at 1-800-385-2467.

HarpFire 2003 was held in Irving on June 30 – July 2. This was the third annual HarpFire camp. There were more than 30 registered participants in the three-day event, which drew students from across the metroplex and throughout the state. **Faculty** for the camp were **Laura Logan** (Director), **Sydney Howell**, **Patricia Diers**, **Denise Holland** and **Guest Clinician Delaine Fedson**. Plans are already underway for HarpFire 2004, which will be held June 28th to 30th in Irving. Mark it in your calendar!

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AHS in DALLAS STUDENT EVENTS

January 31 and February 28, 2004

Auditions and Evaluations, sponsored by the American Harp Society, is open to students of all ages. This year's auditions will be chaired this year by Sydney Howell. Please contact Laura Logan for more details at harponit@juno.com or (972) 313-9561.

Saturday, April 17, 2004

Julia Herrmann Edwards Scholarship Award Competition

The scholarship is awarded for the best performance of a work by Marcel Grandjany. Entrants must be student members of the AHS in Dallas. There will be two categories for pedal harp offered in the competition. Memorization is required for both categories. An entrance fee will be required. Location and time TBA. Contact Laura Logan for more information at harponit@juno.com or (972) 313-9561.

Category I - open to ages 16 and under.
Cash prize: \$150
Required piece: Petite Suite Classique.

Category II - open to ages 21 and under.
Cash prize: \$250
Required piece: Children's Hour Suite.

Sunday, May 2, 2004 – 3:00 PM

Annual Student Recital

Location TBA

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Winners of the
2003 American Harp Society in Dallas Student Scholarship Competition:

Intermediate I - Starley Richard
Intermediate II - Darby Scherschell
Advanced - Mary-Margaret Buchanan (Honorable Mention).

Starley and Darby are students of Laura Logan. Mary-Margaret is a student of Paula Page and Juliette Buchanan. Congratulations to the winners and kudos to all the participants for their hard work and dedication!

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SCOTTISH HARP HARP COMPETITION RESULTS

TEXAS SCOTTISH FESTIVAL, UTA Stadium, Arlington

Saturday, June 7, 2003.

JUDGE: Mary Radspinner

Beginner Youth 1st Place gold Medal: Charlotte Presley
2nd place Silver Medal: Lauren Baggerman
3rd Place Bronze Medal: Andrea Torske
Non placed Angela Bell

Apprentice Youth - 1st Place Gold Medal: Jennifer Kirk

Apprentice Senior - 1st Place Gold Medal: Jill Clark

Non-Graded: Sallie Huffman, Denise Holland, Jean Peacock

Harper of the Day from Clan Lamont: Jennifer Kirk
Most Promising Harper from TSF and Games: Jill Clark
Best Haper of the Day from TSF and Games: Denise Holland
Gifts from Harp and Dragon awarded to: All of the above
Gifts from Melody's Music in Houston: All of the above

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Naoko Nakamura Stromberg

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The University of North Texas
Community Music Program will be
offering harp lessons given by graduate
student Linda-Rose Hembreiker,
beginning in October. The lessons will
be given on UNT campus and anyone
interested should contact Helen Schenk
at UNT's College of Music
(940) 565-4092.

STUDIO NEWS

From the Studio of Patricia Diers:

In the Spring, an ensemble comprised of **Annette Bajema, Rahshemah Boyd, Tori Brewster, Christine Cerone, Lauren McDonald, Cynthia Kuykendall, Erica Wharton, Emma Williams, Lorraine Willoughby** and **Patricia** performed for The North TX Area Art League Juried Art Show at the Center for Visual Arts in Denton. **Annette Bajema** gave solo performances at McKinney Christian Academy, Bethel Church in Dallas, Prestonwood CC Church Luncheon and at a wedding anniversary reception; **Eric Wohlstadter** performed at Akiba Academy and East 61st Fine Shoes & Bags in Dallas, and **Linda Smith** performed at Lake Forest Good Samaritan Village, LDS Lake Cities Ward and a wedding reception in Denton, **Erica Wharton** performed at a wedding in Aubrey. **Annette Bajema, Tori Brewster & Eric Wohlstadter** performed solos on the AHS student recital. Last summer **Annette Bajema, Linda Godsey, Chelsea Oliver, Linda Smith, Erica Wharton, Arlys Wydner** participated in a masterclass with **Ellen Ritscher** at the University of North Texas. **Christine Cerone** gave a solo performance in Grapevine and **Rahshemah Boyd** in Ft Worth, and Port Isabel, TX. **Regina Dale** attended the HarpCon 2003 sponsored by the International Society of Folk Harper & Craftsmen. HarpFire 2003 Summer Camp was very motivating for attendees **Annette Bajema, Lauren McDonald & Erica Wharton**. Patricia enjoyed working again with the registered adult students. Recently **Linda Smith** performed for a wedding in Denton.

From the Studio of Denise Holland:

The harp studio had its Annual Ensemble Recital August 23, 2003. We will have a solo recital October 25, 2003 at 11:00 and a community service recital at Summer Ridge Retirement community December 6, 2003.

Students have been busy performing in different venues since spring. **Brittany Fitz, Haley Hodson, Jennifer Kirk, and Andrea Torkse** all made Division I ratings at UIL or TPSMEA solo contest in the spring. **Jennifer Kirk** also made a Division I rating in ensemble contest as well as a Division II rating at State UIL in solo as well as ensemble competition.

Haley Hodson performed at a wedding in Garland in June. **Tori Crane** and **Katie Crane** performed at a wedding and wedding reception in June and August. Tori will be performing at church in October and at her school for a USO concert in January. **Jennifer Kirk** performed for an anniversary party in June. **George Christ** performed in a harp and flute duet at a wedding and in church during September. **Charlotte Presley** performed for a wedding in July and at the Door in June with her musical group Comrade and will be returning there October 10 and December 13 for a performance at 9:00 p.m. **Gabriella Hayes** performed for a Ladies meeting in August at Lakeshore Community Church. Marilyn Gay performed harp at Ci Ci Young Assisted Living Center in July and at a Triple A meeting in September. **Lauren Baggerman** performed harp at 1st UMC in Rowlett and for a retirement community in June. **Amanda Jagielski** performed at her school talent show as well as graduation ceremonies in May. **Denise Holland** will be performing a Christmas Cantata at St. Barnabus Presbyterian Church December 14 both morning services.

From the Studio of Sydney Howell:

Sydney's students have been very active. **Rachel Anderson** played for a wedding at Thistlehill, Ft. Worth in February. **Alisha Meeves** won third place and a \$600.00 scholarship at the North Texas Assemblies of God District Fine Arts Festival. She went on to the national competition and won a Superior rating and \$1000.00. She also played for a Women's Ministry Brunch at her church. Adult student **Sheryl Walters** played with a flutist for a wedding in St. Louis in May. **Sarah Jane Whinery** played her Suzuki Book II recital in May. She also played for a wedding and a birthday party in August. Sisters **Micayla** and **Brenna Merrifield** each performed solos at the Texas State Dulcimer Festival. **Jansen Trojacek** played for her school talent show. **Hillary Hummel** performed her Suzuki Book III recital. She also played two weddings, and she and **Jamie Nesvadba** attended the Longhorn Music Camp at U.T. Austin in June. **Hillary** has recently been chosen to play harp in the Ft. Worth Youth Orchestra. **Lauren Bridges** played several times for her church, for a wedding anniversary reception and for her sister's Solemn Profession as a Carmelite Nun in South Dakota. **Jessica Hansen** played for two church functions and two weddings. Sydney's granddaughter, **Arrianna Gates**, and three other students, **Lauren Bridges**, **Karen Cross**, and **Rachel Pritchard** attended HarpFire 2003 summer camp.

From the Studio of Maia Jourde:

Ashley Perez played "Be Thou My Vision" at First United Methodist Church of Hurst with the youth choir. **Ashley Perez** and **Jennifer Betzer** attended Rocky Mountain Summer Conservatory in Colorado with **Ellen Ritscher** and **Olive Bernard**. They had a great time, met new friends and

learned a lot about the harp. **Jennifer** performed Pierné's Impromptu-Caprice at RMSC. **Shanna Griffith** went to Houston this summer and had a lesson with **Paula Page**, Principal Harpist with the Houston Symphony Orchestra. **Jennifer** and **Shanna** are working on the Handel Concerto in hopes of going to the Kingsville Young Artist Competition Spring 2004 or Spring 2005.

From the Studio of Laura Logan:

Eleven students from the harp studio of Laura Logan performed a pre-concert ensemble recital at a performance of the Northeast Orchestra in Hurst on May 9, 2003. Several students presented Suzuki book recitals this past year: **Starley Richard**, Book 2, October 26, 2002; **Samantha Stewart**, Book 1, November 11, 2002; **Len Harper**, Book 1, February 22, 2003; and **Karen Ring**, Book 1, May 31, 2003.

From the Studio of Geoffrey Ricketts:

Geoffrey released a beginner book and is available through his school. He has released The PR Trio LIVE Jazz CD as well as The Veil CD. Many of his students are still performing in the area and some new ones have started playing at their churches. More information at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/harpcenter>

From the Studio of Naoko Stromberg:

This summer, **Carly Nelson** attended the Rocky Mountain Summer Conservatory in Steamboat Springs Colorado. It was an awesome experience! **Carly** continues to play in the Greater Dallas Youth Philharmonic Orchestra this year.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Stoney End MARION lever harp. Maple, 34 strings (C up to A) with full set of Loveland levers. Includes: Colorado Superlightweight rigid harp case, compact folding cart, full set of spare strings. \$2900.
Call Rusty at (817) 861-0250 or (817) 272-7325.
email: kimball@uta.edu -ask for a photo attachment.

FOR SALE: Triplett Axline, maple, 30 nylon and composite strings (G to A), Loveland flip-style levers. Height 50", weight 20 pounds. The harp is 6 years old, has a beautiful tone, is in excellent condition (it had one careful owner), and comes with soft case and tuning key.
Price: \$ 2500.
Contact Marie-Louise: (817) 498-9385
email: michemalou@sbcglobal.net

FOR SALE: Used Lyon & Healy folk harp. Natural wood lever harp, green and gold decal on front, very good condition. Purchased 4 years ago in almost new condition. Plate reads THE FOLK HARP serial number 2267 and includes tuning key and cover. \$1, 495
Call 972-254-8580 after 5:00 PM weekdays or
email biologybook@earthlink.net with questions. (DFW area)

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<p>REMINDER: Deadline for submitting information for the Spring 2004 Newsletter is Wednesday, January 1st. Please include your contact information, dates, times, locations and directions for all events. For studio/student information, please limit your entry to 300 words. Contact: Ellen Ritscher (940) 565-3739 or send in Word Attachment to ahsdallas@yahoo.com. Many thanks!</p>
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AHS IN DALLAS 2003/4 MEMBERSHIP FORM



Please mail this form with your remittance by November 1, 2003, payable to:

American Harp Society in Dallas, Inc.
c/o Becky Scherschell, Treasurer, 605 Hartin Circle, Irving, TX 75061

Yes! I would like to join the Dallas Chapter of the American Harp Society:

Enclosed is my check in the amount of _____ for dues for the year 2003-04.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$1,000 for a Life Membership.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____

E-mail: _____ WWW URL: _____

Please check any of the following which apply to you:

Professional Non-Professional Teacher Student Adult Student

Composer Friend of the Harp Other

CATEGORIES OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP:

Regular Member - \$15.00

Student Member - \$10.00

(Age 21 or under, or a student in a college or university.)

Each additional family member - \$5

Contributing Member - \$30.00 Sustaining Member - \$50.00

Sponsor - \$100.00 Patron - \$250.00

Benefactor - \$1000.00 or more, includes a Life Membership.

Late Fee (After November 1, 2003) - \$5

Please pay your dues by November 1, 2003 to insure that you will be included in the 2003/2004 membership roster.

