



The American Choral Directors Association  
of Ohio

# OHIO A.C.D.A. NEWS

Vol. 1 No. 2

Feb. 1969

## State Convention Planned for July 27-28-29

Tentative plans for the annual Ohio A.C.D.A. Convention are being set for July 27, 28, 29 at Capital University in Columbus. At the present growth pace of membership the State A.C.D.A. Board felt that the central location and convenient air conditioned facilities

would provide the best situation for our 3rd convention. South Central Region Chairman Ron Kenreich of Westerville will be the local General Chairman. President Wilson will be making plans with the new president elect for an exciting convention. We hope to have a record attendance with clinicians from

all over Ohio as well as a guest clinician. Last year sessions included clinicians from eight Ohio colleges and from five high schools. Registration form and other information will be included in the April issue of the NEWS. We hope you can arrange your summer schedule so that we can see you in Columbus!

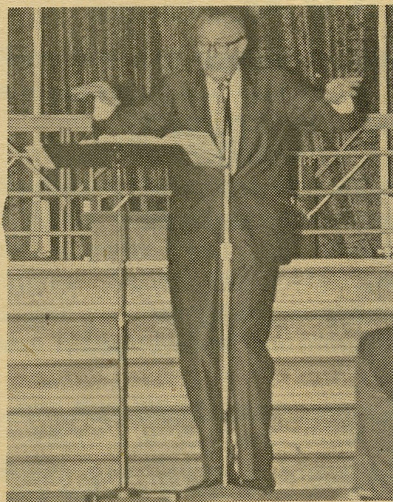
### Regional Chairmen

Regional A.C.D.A. chairmen will be assisting in the production of Ohio A.C.D.A. News by assuming responsibility for two major tasks. They will be gathering information about proposed college-high school-church concerts in their areas for publication in the NEWS,

### Represent NEWS

and will also contact possible advertisers in their regions. District Chairmen may also be contacted to help in the effort.

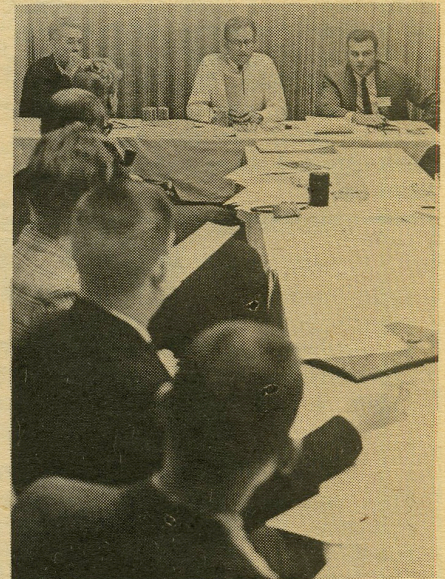
### Dr. Charles Hirt Addresses Convention



CHARLES HIRT

Our national A.C.D.A. 2nd. vice president Charles Hirt was a popular man at the O.M.E.A. Convention this month in Columbus. He presented three sessions on "Choral Literature in Perspective," "The Contemporary Choral Scene," and "The Music Educator As A Choral Conductor."

Dr. Hirt met with the executive board to discuss A.C.D.A. activity in Ohio. He also discussed implications for Ohio members in the planned 1970 national convention in Chicago.



Larry Tagg, Treas.; George Wilson, Pres.; Ernest Hisey, V. Pres. lead State Board in session.

## State A.C.D.A. Board Meets

The Ohio A.C.D.A. Board met in Columbus February 9th. State officers, all five regional chairmen, and several district chairmen were in attendance.

Plans for the summer convention were discussed, progress for Ohio A.C.D.A. NEWS was outlined, and the various committee projects were reported. Larry Tagg presented the first state treasurers report and membership services or activities were discussed. Regional chairmen are expected to arrange for music reading sessions in their areas.

### A.C.D.A. Reading Session Held



Ohio A.C.D.A. hosted a music reading session in conjunction with the O.M.E.A. state convention in Columbus Feb. 8th. It was held in the Columbus Board of Education Building. Martha Wurtz of Ohio University, Richard Wesp of Cincinnati Anderson High School, and Marshall Turley of Mansfield City Schools were directors. Music for Girls Chorus, Male Chorus, and Chamber Choir was presented. President Wilson was chairman.

## The President's Views—

In the October issue of Ohio A.C.D.A. News reference was made to the relationship of national A.C.D.A. and A.C.D.A. of Ohio. Since that time we believe the apprehension which seemed to exist before has been dissipated.

On October 25th I had the opportunity of meeting and talking with Wayne Hugoboom, Executive Secretary of A.C.D.A. from Tampa. Our discussion covered many areas pertaining to na-

tional A.C.D.A. and A.C.D.A. of Ohio. Wayne informed me that the national organization is growing rapidly and consequently has experienced some "growing pains." He did assure me however of national A.C.D.A.'s support and spoke well of our organizational efforts in Ohio. Many of the states are now in the process of writing their constitutions and are using ours as a guideline. In addition, our fine newsletter, under Editor Ernie Hisey's guidance, has been favorably received by both members and officers of our parent affiliate.

## Ohio Honors Choir Proposed

All members have received information on the planned Ohio Honors Choir from committee chairman, Sam Shie of Hamilton. The information will include an application for a student nomination. The intention at present is to develop a competitive state choir of high school age students directed by A.C.D.A. members. This group will appear as the clinic group for the State A.C.D.A. convention every summer and perhaps other occasions. Mr. Shie hopes for an immediate and strong response for participation.

President Theron Kirk has been most explicit in his praise for the work that has been done and is being done in the state. Morris Hayes, North Central Division Chairman, has also been most complimentary in relation to A.C.D.A. of Ohio; consequently I believe we are all committed to the same goals for A.C.D.A. — that of providing relevant services to directors of choral music.

In this regard I would like to mention the High School Honors Choirs which A.C.D.A. of Ohio is sponsoring. Sam Shie, Hamilton Taft High School,

President George Wilson

has mailed each member a letter of explanation plus an application blank. We hope your interest and support will enable us to initiate the first Honors Choir at the state convention to be held in July.

### NEW LUDWIG CHORAL PUBLICATIONS

S.A.T.B.

HOW LONG WILT THOU FORGET ME, O LORD? (L-1130)

Edward J. Beebe 30c

FOR THY CHURCH WE THANK THEE (L-1128)

David Plank 25c

LET ALL THE EARTH SING PRAISE (L-1127)

David Warren 25c

BEHOLD, GOD IS MY SALVATION (L-1126)

Theron Kirk 30c

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Walter Rodby  
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S.S.A.

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Ruth DeCasare 25c

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(Literature available upon request . . . YES, Box 1115, Newark, Ohio 43055)

## Ohio Choral Events

Urbana College—2nd Annual Festival of Arts, Feb. 14, all day. Six guest experts in Music, Art, Literature, Dance, Drama, Inter Media. Select high school students and public invited. Janet Ebert, Director of Music.

University of Dayton—Sunday, Feb. 23rd—8:30 p.m. and Friday, April 11th—8:30 p.m., University Choir, Singers Ensemble: Lawrence Tagg, Director.

Ohio State University—February 23rd—3:00—Merston Aud.—O. S. U. Chorale (40 voices). Free—Tallis, Bach, Ravel, Copland, Petrassi, Penderecki,—Maurice Casey, Conductor.

Baldwin-Wallace College—January 26—Festival Chorus and Orchestra (140 voices) "German Requiem" by Brahms, Terrance Anderson, Conductor.

Cincinnati—March 11 Nat. A.C.D.A. Treas. H. Maier. M.T.N.A. convention—Luncheon Tuesday noon.

### OHIO A.C.D.A. NEWS

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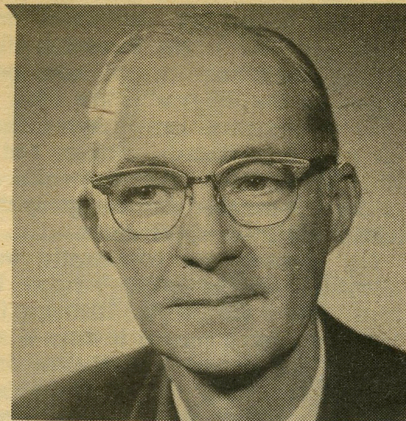
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## Candidates for State President



JOHN VAN NICE

Choral Director at Findlay College. Community Chorus director and OMEA adjudicator. Graduate work at University of Illinois, Carlton College, and University of Iowa. Public school experience in Colorado and North Dakota. N.W. Regional Chairman A.C.D.A.



MARTHA WURTZ

Director of Ohio University Singers and Chairman Music Education Dept., Ohio University. Graduate of Central Missouri State College and Washington University. Public school experience in St. Louis area. Dist. chairman A.C.D.A. Choral clinician and adjudicating experience.

## Candidates for N.W. Region Chairman

RICHARD DEAN

Choral director of Toledo Waite High School.

EARL LEHMAN

Chairman of Music Dept. Bluffton College. Studied at Bluffton and Ohio State. Taught in public school and is OMEA adjudicator. A.C.D.A. Dist. 3 Chairman and past president Dist. III OMEA. Church music.

## Candidates for E.C. Region Chairman

WILLIAM HAMILTON

Choral Director at Glenwood High School in Canton, and Stark County Branch of Kent State. Graduate of Heidelberg and Kent State. An adjudicator and former District 8 officer OMEA.

LANNY HISEY

Choral Director at Alliance High School. Graduate of Capital University. District 8 A.C.D.A. Chairman. Church Music. Former District 7 A.C.D.A. Chairman.

### Miscellaneous Notes

Selected by the nominating committee as state secretary for the balance of current term is Loretta Conrad, 29750 Detroit Rd. (Apt. 1), Westlake, Ohio. She succeeds Sandra Schlub who recently resigned.

Appointed by Mr. Wilson to work with District Chairman on membership is Mrs. Ethelda Humphrey, 83 Buena Vista Ave., Youngstown 44512. She will concentrate on increasing membership among church choir directors and newly graduated school directors.

National A.C.D.A. committee on high school choral music includes Ohioan Ernest Hisey, Avon Lake.

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## DO WE EDUCATE OR ENTERTAIN?

Pewaukee, Wisconsin is a small town just 30 miles via freeway from metropolitan Milwaukee. An estimated 70 per cent of its 2,600 inhabitants are commuting breadwinners. The economic status of the community is generally considered to be lower middle class.

Pewaukee High School has 412 students in grades nine through 12. Seventy-seven of these students are members of the a cappella choir. Another 30 or so are members of a secondary singing group. The difficulties of class scheduling in a school with a small number of students, classrooms, and teachers prevent another 80 or so interested students from being members of a choral group.

I am the only vocal music teacher it has ever had, but there has been an instrumental program of the nonstring sort for many years.

The cultural background of my students is limited in all fields including music. Among the parents of the choir, only 12 hold college degrees, and only eight students consider their home as having any sort of cultural atmosphere—classical record collections, concert-attending parents, and the like. Only about 10 had attended any sort of a concert before entering the ranks of the high school's choir.

It is quite apparent that the attitude of the students toward various cultural affairs seems to change drastically with membership in the choir. Tickets to symphonic concerts, recitals, operas, and even musicological lectures are readily accepted but only within the membership of the choir. We offer a team-taught course "Introduction to Fine Arts," made up almost entirely of choir members.

The only non-school musical influences in the community seem to be the churches, and the presence of a few piano teachers. Membership of the church choirs has sharply increased since the development of a choral program at the local high school, much to the delight of the local clergy, most of whom attend our concerts faithfully.

The a cappella choir performs approximately 30 times during the academic year. This year's repertoire includes from four to five hours of music, little of it memorized, all thoroughly rehearsed during five hour-long rehearsals each week. We have performed the Schubert Mass in G, the Bach "Jesu, Meine Frende," the Piket "Sea Charms," Amahl and the Night Visitors, most of the Messiah, and a vast number of motets, madrigals, and other small choral works of relative worth. Carssimi's "Jephtha" was performed on

Wisconsin's educational television channel. We preset two "full-dress" concerts per year in the Pewaukee High School auditorium (more commonly known as the old gym"). The other 28 or so performances include appearances for local organizations, contests and a short spring tour. The choir also includes a 16-member chamber group that makes additional appearances.

Our concerts are consistently well-attended with audiences ranging between 300 to 600 people. Realizing full well that a large number is there to see Johnny sing, I have nevertheless done little "entertaining," hoping desperately that the audience would improve along with that of the singers. For the most part it has.

The 1959-1961 audience included children who played tag in the aisles, teenagers who came and went at will, and adults who applauded between all movements and even during rests. Post concert comments were: "It was lovely, but why didn't you do songs the audience knows," and "What possible purpose is there in singing in all those foreign languages?" The 1963-1964 audiences were just as large, but included fewer children, stationary teenagers, and adults who carefully figured out exactly when to clap. Comments often heard now now are, "I don't pretend to understand the music, but I am impressed and proud that my son has a better understanding than I," and "I am beginning to look forward to your concerts because I know I will hear music that is new to me."

The issue seems whether the role of the choir in the community is to entertain the public or to educate it. The public that once expected pure entertainment had now apparently resigned itself to being educated not only by the performances themselves, but by means of elaborate and carefully prepared program notes and translations, and eventually will perhaps be "entertained through education." This is a lofty goal, but a probable one in view of progress made to date.

A sort of poll taken among the choir members brought forth these results: 17 feel that the choir should entertain the public, 19 have the opinion that it should strive to educate it, 21 are in favor of a combination of the two, and 7 made observations that read something like this:

I feel that though the role of the choir in the community may be to entertain or educate the public, the primary purpose of the existence of our group is something altogether different. The mu-

sical development of the group as performers: the expansion of the individual singer's knowledge of music, literature, history, vocal production, and the technical problems of singing; this should be the prime consideration of the public school choral conductor, regardless of the wishes and attitudes of the public.

This being close to my own feelings about the intentions of public school choral activity should be, moves me to be more than pleased that without rehearsal as many as seven of my teenagers have readily echoed my sentiments.

The basic nature of a choir's activities—hard work, competitiveness, emotional charges, feelings of accomplishment, travel, the public spotlight—provides all the entertainment a group of students could wish for. In view of this I can find absolutely no reason to attempt to entertain these students or their parents and friends, with all the reams of non-musical activities that are supposed to be much fun doing. When it can be fun to sing and to listen to great music, why settle for less?

Partial reprint from 1964 M.E.N.A. Journal.

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