

June 2009

Taglines

Greater New York Region 15 is dedicated to advancing four-part *a cappella* music through the original American art form of barbershop harmony by providing opportunities for education, performance and personal growth.

In This Issue

Women of Note
from Island Hills,
Greater Nassau

Sweet Adelines is
Time for Me

Mark Your
Calendars



Dear Heather,

Make sure you check the Region 15 Web site SOON (I promise!) for details of the classes you'll be able to choose at the upcoming TRAX event with the fabulous Betty Clipman and our own terrific Region 15 faculty from Sept. 11-13. Speaking of which, register early and save! Stay tuned for more details and prices from your regional chorus representative.

Enjoy your summer!

Heather Collins
Communications Coordinator

Region 15
Management
Team

Team Coordinator
[Arlene Gunther](#)

Finance
Coordinator
[Jeannie Allen](#)

Education
Coordinator
[Lisbet Kline](#)

Director
Coordinator
[Carole Arqulewicz](#)

Events
Coordinator
[Carol Schultheis](#)

Marketing
Coordinator

A Word from Your Education Coordinator

Starting the second year of my term has been very exciting. The Regional Faculty has been finalized, and the list of all will be on the web site shortly. The newest addition to the Education Coordinator Team is **Alexis DePersia-Norelli as Young Women in Harmony Chair**. Alexis sings with Harmony Celebration, is an YWIH herself and is full of enthusiasm and ideas to get the colleges and high schools in our area involved in our art form. Welcome, Alexis, and a huge thank-you to Laurie Woolever, who unfortunately had to step down from this position due to other personal commitments.

[Dana Dunlevy](#)

**Membership
Coordinator**

[Dolly Power](#)

**Communications
Coordinator**

[Heather Collins](#)

Submissions Deadline

If your chorus or quartet has news to share, [e-mail your idea to Heather Collins](#) before the 15th of each month for consideration in the next electronic Taglines. The next deadline is July 15.

As we continue planning the education we offer, we listen to your comments and are doing everything possible to add what you think has been missing. For **TRAX** this year you will find a return of the **Quartet Showcase** Friday evening where each registered quartet gets to sing a song while we meet and greet old friends. This will take place once Betty Clipman has finished her class on Riser Placement, using Jersey Harmony Chorus as demo chorus.

Betty will have a **special Quartet class** during the six breakout sessions Saturday afternoon, which also will include Director Certification Program testing, arranging + music theory, membership, marketing, and a class on getting rid of the fear and excuses that hold you back from progress.

Using Greater Nassau as demo chorus, Betty will demonstrate how Characterization enhances the overall performance, and Harmony Celebration will demonstrate Betty's points as she shows us how vocal production affects all four judging categories.

We have brought back the **two regional choruses** so everyone gets a chance to sing in a big chorus. Wayne Grimmer from Island Hills and Connie Kash from Twin County will direct these two choruses in our two newest regional songs: "**When I Take My Sugar to Tea**" and "**Tuxedo Junction.**" I am sure you all have received the CDs and music from your chorus by now so you can learn the songs before coming to TRAX. Each general membership class will start with one regional song, directed by different directors during the weekend. Directors, maybe you could add a couple of regional songs to your program each week so everyone gets a chance to refresh them all? Please visit the Web site for a reminder of which songs they are.

And how about a **Nashville Party** for the Saturday evening Dinner & Love Gift Celebration-dressing up in cowboy boots, hats, vest, jeans and doing some line-dancing?

The complete schedule with registration forms will be posted on the Web site and will be sent out to all choruses very shortly.

Thinking ahead, we just finalized the plans for **2011**:

Bev Miller, Master Director of Capital City Chapter, Region 4, and former International President, will be the faculty for Music Leaders/Leadership Seminar May 13 - 15, and **Diane Porsch**, Master Director for Buffalo Gateway Chorus in Region 16, is the faculty for TRAX September 23 - 25. Please add these dates to your calendar right now like you did with the ones for 2010.

The faculty for 2012 education events is currently being negotiated, and we are just checking to make sure we have no calendar conflicts with religious holidays before we announce the faculty for that year.

Finally, a quote from an airline magazine I once read and have tried to live after ever since:

OPPORTUNITY: *"Don't wait for the ship to come in - swim out to it." Have you done any swimming lately?*

Love, Lisbet

**Lisbet P. Kline
Region 15 Education Coordinator**

Region 15 Women of Note

At TRAX 2008, the region adopted a recognition program called Women of Note. Choruses were asked to select one member whose dedication to their chorus and to Region 15 is unfailing. Here's more about two of those women, Betty Banach of Island Hills and Joan Shuster of Greater Nassau.

BETTY BANACH, ISLAND HILLS

Betty joined Island Hills Chorus in October 1968. The chorus had been in existence for five years at that time, and Betty has been a devoted member ever since. She started helping out as a "coffee fairy," setting up coffee and cake after rehearsal. After that, she became the Costume Chairwoman and Betty says she was on that committee "forever and ever."

We have gone through many costume changes since then, and Betty has done wonders with additions and changes-always helping us to look good as a chorus. She has a knack with jewelry, and whenever we have a fund-raiser, she makes old jewelry look like new!

Betty has been on the Board many times, always there with a helping hand. She even got her husband, Chet, involved in helping the chorus many years ago; setting up risers and helping at the regional competitions. Betty notes that Island Hills Chorus is her family.

Betty's home in Glen Cove, N.Y., is a 45-minute drive to rehearsal, but she makes a 48-mile round trip every week, rarely missing a rehearsal. She is present at every singout, always with a smile and ready to sing baritone. She is definitely a great ambassador for Island Hills. We are so proud to nominate Betty as a Woman of Note!

JOAN SHUSTER, GREATER NASSAU

Joan is definitely worthy of this honor, as she is a trusted friend, hard-working and always there when you need her. She is truly a "go-to person" when one needs meticulous work to be done. She shares her expertise at all times-willingly and with patience.

Joan's love of Sweet Adelines has motivated her to work on many levels. She has served as Regional Competition Coordinator for Region 15 for many years, which shows in how smoothly the competitions run. In addition, Joan's service to the Greater Nassau Management Team as both Regional and International Competition Coordinators is invaluable.

Her friendship these twenty-odd years has been steadfast, and I for one cherish that friendship! Her work ethic is truly inspiring, as is shown by the overwhelming support she received in winning this accolade by the chorus members of Greater Nassau.

Well-done Joan! You are a STAR!

From Region 15 Membership Coordinator Dolly Power: *Just a friendly reminder that our "Women of Note" will be acknowledged at TRAX again this fall. Start thinking of the woman your chorus would like to nominate for this honor. Further information will be mailed to you by Lisbet Kline, Region 15 Education Coordinator, along with information about TRAX 2009 and all the activities planned for that weekend with Betty*

Clipman.**New Member's Impression:
If At First ... Try, Try Again**

I always say that I love my life. I have a wonderful daughter, and I love my work. But as a self-employed tutor working evenings and weekends, as well as being a single mom, I have rarely had time for myself. For the past three years, each time I visited my fuel company's office to discuss oil delivery, Judi Ancewicz, a member of Island Hills Chorus would extol the virtues and fun of singing with them. She knew that I loved singing and had done so for many years, but that I just couldn't fit night-time rehearsals into my schedule. Whenever she brought up Island Hills, I sighed and sadly put the chorus out of my mind.

Then, last September, as the new school year began, I decided that I needed to do something for myself. My daughter was grown and on her own, my students required a little less evening time. It was time to find something that I liked to do.... The very next day I opened the mail to find a note from my friend with an invitation to come to a New Member's meeting of the Island Hills Chorus! It was serendipity! I went to that rehearsal and haven't missed a Thursday night since.

I love being a part of creating this amazing sound. I love learning new means and methods for developing my own abilities, and I love the new friends that I've made. I sincerely believe that my joining the chorus was "meant to be," and I look forward to many years of health, happiness, and harmony together!

**Felicia Redfield
Island Hills**

Story Prompts Outpouring

Metro Rhythm member Joann Kornas' story about how Sweet Adelines helped her cope after her 9/11 experience touched many readers. Here are just a few of the things you had to say:

From Greater Nassau Chorus member Janet Prete:

I just read Joann Kornas' article about how Sweet Adelines brought her back to life after 9/11. Thanks to Joann for sharing her story. I never

thought of our organization as "alternative medicine," but the article served to remind me exactly what the music and friendship here can do for the heart and soul. Not only is it good for our well-being, it is a source of healing through the bad times.

From Long Island Sound chorus member Carole Naso:
What an awesome and spell-binding story in Taglines...God Bless you, Joann, and keep you safe within the hugs and graciousness of Sweet Adelines...Thank you for writing and sharing.

From Liberty Oak member Jackie Palmer:
What a wonderful article from Joann Kornas. I haven't read something that inspiring for quite a while. It was nice being reminded what a gift music is.

The Queens Among Us

For Sweet Adelines, the pinnacle of musical achievement as a quartet member is to become a "queen" of harmony. But at least two Region 15 choruses (Evergreen and Harmony Celebration) think EVERY member deserves to be queen. Both choruses think it's a great way for chorus members to learn more about each other.

Here's how it works.

In Evergreen, every chorus member's name is placed into a bag and every other Tuesday, a name is drawn. That person becomes the "Queen" and gets to wear a crown for two weeks. During the first week, she is interviewed by the previous queen, who then gives a little presentation on the following Tuesday about the reigning queen. Evergreen's Pat Rock reports that it has been very interesting to hear about different chorus members. Some have led very interesting lives. After two weeks, the reigning queen draws the name of her successor. Eventually all members will get their turn.

The Harmony Celebration "Queen for a Week" program works in a similar way, with a twist: The reigning queen gets to pick her own successor. Each week, the chorus is treated to a "reveal" of some of the new queen's accomplishments and backgrounds. We've had poem presentations, rap presentations and even a full-blown song parody. And yes, we even give out "head jewelry"

with a little case as a prop.

What a fun way to get to know people!

Now Accepting Nominations

Region 15 is currently accepting nominations and applications for two RMT positions: Education Coordinator and Membership Coordinator. These terms will begin on May 1, 2010. [You can find descriptions of what each position requires at this link on the Region 15 Web site, along with applications.](#)

The Education Coordinator is an International Appointment, meaning that RMT-approved applicants are submitted to the International Leadership Committee for evaluation and consideration. Ideally, each region is encouraged to send **three potential applicants**. The Membership Coordinator is elected by the regional membership; if only one candidate emerges, that person will be appointed by acclamation.

The deadline for applications for these two positions is July 15. Please contact [Peggy DiSunno](#), the new Nominating Committee Chair, to discuss either position as well as the qualifications. If you're interested in "shadowing" or helping the existing coordinator to get a sense of the RMT's duties, we encourage you to reach out to any existing coordinator! We love our jobs, and we love to share them!

Quartets or Quartet Wannabes: What Web Resources Do You Need?

This note serves two purposes: First, to remind all Region 15 quartets to check their Web site listing to ensure it's accurate. If you want your Web site or photo included in your entry, please e-mail [Heather Collins](#). Second, we are planning a Quartet Web page for the site. What sorts of information should be included in this resource? Should this "live" on Facebook rather than on the Region 15 site? Please e-mail [Quartet Coordinator Kat Britt](#) to let her know what you'd like. Your comments and ideas will all be considered.

Region 15's Young Singers Silent Auction Contribution

Did you love the Tony Awards show earlier this month? We sometimes forget that the rest of the world can't just hop on a train and catch a Broadway show like we can. The Young Singers Foundation will hold a silent auction in Nashville and asks each Region to donate a gift item-what says Greater New York Region better than a Broadway musical? The RMT, on behalf of the members of Region 15, would like to donate a gift certificate to a Broadway show that can be redeemed for the date and show of the recipient's choice. To minimize the financial impact on the Region, we are asking if anyone has any "connections" and can help us with this or a similarly themed "Greater New York Region" gift. Contact Dana at dldunlevy@gmail.com if you can help. Thanks!

Dates To Remember

June 25, 2009: RMT Roadshow - Twin County

June 25, 2009: RMT Roadshow - Island Hills

July 13, 2009: RMT Roadshow - Brooklyn

July 14, 2009: RMT Roadshow - Greater Nassau

July 15, 2009: RMT Roadshow - Long Island Sound

July 16, 2009: RMT Roadshow - Heart of Long Island

July 23-25, 2009: International Directors' Seminar/Judge Training (Detroit)

July 28, 2009: RMT Roadshow - Evergreen

Aug. 31, 2009: RMT Conference Call

Sept. 1, 2009: RMT Roadshow - Song of the Valley

Sept. 2, 2009: RMT Roadshow - Liberty Oak

Sept. 2, 2009: RMT Roadshow - Heart of New Jersey

Sept. 11-13, 2009: TRAX 2009 **FEATURING BETTY CLIPMAN!**

Sept. 23, 2009: RMT Roadshow - Hickory Tree

Oct. 4, 2009: Long Island Sound Show

Oct. 5, 2009: RMT Roadshow - Jersey Harmony

Oct. 20-24, 2009: 63rd Annual Convention and Competitions (Nashville)

Nov. 1, 2009: Song of the Valley Show

Nov. 6-8, 2009: In-region training for RMT

Nov. 21, 2009: Hickory Tree Show

Dec. 6, 2009: Greater Nassau Show
Dec. 6, 2009: Evergreen Show
Feb. 27, 2010: In-region Training, Region 15 Faculty, with Nancy Fields
April 22-25, 2010: Regional Competition
May 15, 2010: Harmony Celebration Show (featuring Crossroads Quartet)
May 21 - 23, 2010: Music Leaders/Leadership Workshop with Kathy Carmody
July 7-10, 2010: IES East (Pittsburgh)
Aug. 13-15, 2010: TRAX 2010 with Jim Arns and Renee Porzel of the Melodeers
Oct. 19-23, 2010: 64th Annual Convention and Competitions (Seattle)
March 24-27, 2011: Regional Competition
May 13-15, 2011: Music Leaders/Leadership Workshop with Bev Miller
Oct. 18 - 22, 2011: 65th Annual Convention and Competitions (Houston)
Sept. 23-25, 2011: TRAX with Diane Porsch
March 22-25, 2012: Regional Competition
Oct. 30 - Nov. 3, 2012: 66th Annual Convention and Competitions (Denver)
March 21-24, 2013: Regional Competition
Nov. 5-9, 2013: 67th Annual Convention and Competitions (Honolulu)

For more information on events, visit the calendar on the Region 15 web site at www.sairegion15.org.

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