

May 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

This Month's
Woman of Note:
Jersey Harmony's
Carole Auletta

Peggy DiSunno
Reflects

Remember the
COMACT Award



Dear Heather,

Thanks to the Musical and Administrative leaders of Region 15 for turning out with RECORD ATTENDANCE for our May annual educational/leadership weekend. We hope they're sharing all their wonderful new wisdom with all of you/us.

CONGRATULATIONS, as well, to Liberty Oak Chorus for making the Wild Card cut! LOC will join Harmony Celebration Chorus in Seattle in October 2010 to compete on the International stage. What an exciting time for this region!

Enjoy the rest of this news-packed issue and be sure to tell all your Region 15 friends what they're missing if they haven't opted to receive *Taglines*. I'm shooting for 100 percent. How about you?

Heather Collins
Communications Coordinator

Region 15
Management Team

**Team
Coordinator**
[Arlene Gunther](#)

**Finance
Coordinator**
[Jeannie Allen](#)

**Education
Coordinator**
[Lisbet Kline](#)

**Director
Coordinator**
[Carole Argulewicz](#)

Events

Introducing Your Team Coordinator

Hello everyone. Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Arlene Gunther, and I am Region 15's new Team Coordinator. This will be my first term on the Regional Management Team, and I'm eager to begin.

I've been singing for nearly all of my life, but have been with Sweet Adelines only since September 2000. In fact, I had never even heard of our wonderful organization until my husband

Coordinator
[Carol Schultheis](#)

**Marketing
Coordinator**
[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 June 15.

Buddy found an article in a local paper offering "Free Singing Lessons." That caught my interest. I went to the Ready, Set, Grow program offered by Liberty Oak Chorus and was hooked from the first night. I immediately became involved with the administrative end, serving on the board first as vice president for two years then as president for three years. I currently serve on the music team as an assistant Tenor Section Leader, and on the visual team as one of the choreographers. I have been on the grant committee for several years and have also been in charge of organizing a summer quartet program that was instituted by our director Katie Blackwood when she came on board with LOC. I sing tenor with the quartet Chain Reaction. We've been together in our current configuration for about six months.

I am recently retired from the Township of Brick, where I worked in the finance office for 22 years. I live in Brick with my husband Buddy and my son JR. I also have two daughters: Anna is married to Jason Silva and they have three children, Isabella, Victoria and Lucas. Kelly is married to Brian Scott; they are the proud owners of Mattie, my first grand-dog. Both girls and their families live within a mile, which allows me to see them frequently.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to join the Region 15 Management Team. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns. It is my hope to continue the progressive work that has been done in the past to make Region 15 a premier region within the Sweet Adelines International organization

**Yours in Harmony, Arlene Gunther
Region 15 Team Coordinator**

Meet the 2009-2010 Regional Management Team



Recognize these women? They're your 2009-2010 Regional Management Team. If you see them, hunt them down and chat them up.

Top row, left to right = Dana Dunlevy, Marketing Coordinator; Dolly Power, Membership Coordinator; Arlene Gunther, Team Coordinator; Carol Schultheis, Events Coordinator.

Bottom row, left to right = Jeannie Allen, Finance Coordinator; Lisbet Kline, Education Coordinator; Carole Argulewicz, Directors' Coordinator; Heather Collins, Communications Coordinator.

A Word From Your Education Coordinator

A phenomenal leadership weekend is now behind us, and as I try to get my tired brain to work again I want to tell you how grateful I am:

- Grateful that our first-ever Master Faculty Member Sharon Babb agreed to come and be our faculty AND that she was such a HUGE hit.
- Grateful that you, the Region 15 members and leaders, showed up in record numbers and continued a trend that started at last year's TRAX.
- Grateful that I worked with a team of such dedicated women who went out of their way to make this event such

a success: Carol Schultheis, Events Coordinator; Sandy Robinson, Education Coordinator Assistant; Harriette Walters, Leadership Chair; and Carole Argulewicz, Directors' Coordinator.

- Grateful for the expertise of Carolyn Schmidt and Wayne Grimmer who, with no prior practice on the piano, helped us learn the song "Teamwork." Thank you, both!
- Grateful for the RMT and their proactive vision, which allowed a decision that might have been unpopular at first but now is widely understood: A mere \$10/year regional assessment (less than 3 cents per day/per person) intended to help pay for our increased contest costs, a shell for contest AND to allow us to support a wild card chorus at International (something that is now a reality). Hurrah and congratulations to Liberty Oak for joining Harmony Celebration on the trip to Seattle 2010!
- Grateful that so many of you already are excited about Kathy Carmody, the second of only two existing Master Faculty Members, who will come for next year's Leadership Seminar from May 21 - 23, 2010. It is on your calendar, right?

The next event to look forward to for our region is TRAX on September 11 - 13, 2009. The planning started several months ago. As soon as the schedule is finalized with Betty Clipman, you will receive all the information. In the meantime, here is what you need to know now: The A & B chorus track will be back and the two new songs we will sing this year are:

1. Tuxedo Junction
2. When I Take My Sugar to Tea

I am sure your chorus has relayed this information to you already. Just in case, please make sure you get the sheet music and tapes now so you can enjoy learning the two songs this summer and have fun with your fellow sisters on the risers in September. All other regional songs will be sung during the weekend, so be sure to check up on those, too.

As we get ready for the June Membership Pilot program, each chapter has an incredible opportunity and responsibility to put

our fabulous education in front of the world. Why not use Sweet Adelines International and our mission statement as our inspiration? Sharon Babb taught us to sing it, and we should all memorize it so we can share it with the rest of the world and tell them what we are all about:

Sweet Adelines International: We are a worldwide organization of women singers committed to advancing the art form of barbershop harmony through education and performance.

**Love, Lisbet 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, Judy Douglas of Metro Rhythm Chorus, and Lilas Schmidt of Hickory Tree Chorus.

JUDY DOUGLAS, METRO RHYTHM

Judy has been a member of Sweet Adelines for 26 years! Over the years and with various choruses, she has served as section leader, choreographer, assistant director and director. Judy, a certified director, has attended the International Education Symposium, Director's Seminars and International Conventions (once in a chorus that placed 9th).

Judy has been a devoted member of Metro Rhythm Chorus who has served as interim director on two occasions. Whenever she is needed, she fills the gap. Judy is the true savior of Metro Rhythm, working as our Interim Director and then Director, immediately after the departure of our former director.

Judy continues to work enthusiastically at each and every rehearsal. She is not only working on honing our vocal skills but instilling in all of us a renewed enthusiasm and interest in Sweet Adelines. Her enthusiasm is contagious!

Judy is always available for any chorus member no matter what is asked of her...tape checking... holding social events at her home...reviewing old repertoire...correcting old mistakes...nothing

is too big or too small. In the short time that she has gone from interim director to director, she has attracted three new members who have joined our chorus.

Metro Rhythm appreciates Judy's efforts and unanimously voted her to be our STAR SWEET ADELINÉ for 2008 to 2009. Judy is the "Heartbeat of the Metro Rhythm Chorus!"

LILAS SCHMIDT, HICKORY TREE

Lilas joined HTC in the spring of 1971 and became Costume Chair for the fall show that very same year! Soon after, she became chapter president, a job she has held twice in her 37 years of membership. In those years, Lilas has also been show chair three times, show coordinator three times, chapter secretary, engagements chair, ways and means chairs throughout the decades, chapter secretary, and a member of the costume committee for most of her natural chorus life!

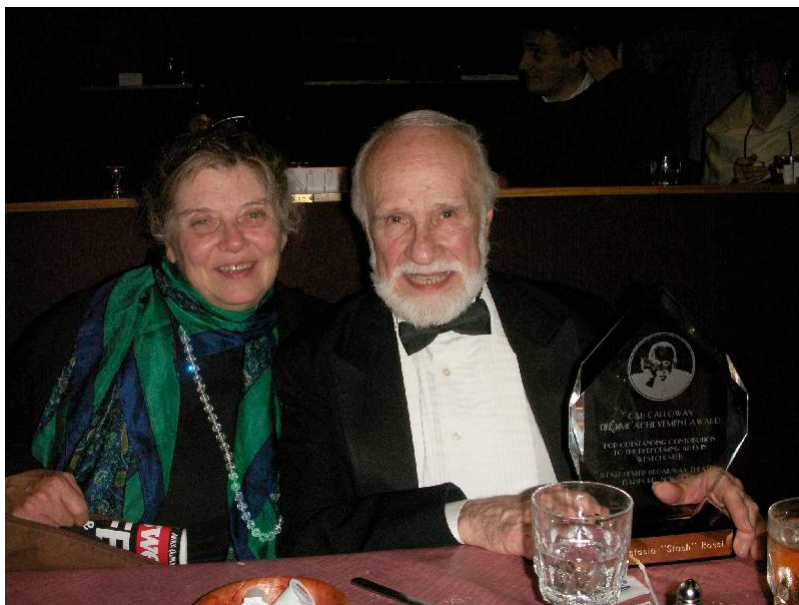
She tells us, "The next time I join an organization, I'm not going to carry anything except my purse!" and it's easy to see how she feels as we picture Lilas arriving at rehearsal with costumes ready for the next fittings. With all the costumes she's designed and sewn for her many quartets and literally hundreds she has sewn for Hickory Tree Chorus, it's hard to believe she's had time to actually sing.

But sing she has, as Lilas not only has served as bass section leader for 30 years, but she's represented our chorus well as an active quartet member since 1972. Lilas says, "Why join anything if you're just going to sit on the sideline?" And, she's never done anything for the glory, but rather because she's wanted the chorus to be successful!

***From Your Membership Coordinator:
Just a friendly reminder to all choruses in Region 15 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 from Lisbet Kline, your Education Coordinator, about TRAX and all the activities planned for that weekend with Betty Clipman.***

Golden Apple's Anastasio Rossi Recognized with Award

Dr. Anastasio Rossi, director of Golden Apple Chorus, was recently awarded a Cab Calloway Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing his significant contributions to the arts in Westchester County, New York. During the ceremony, Golden Apple was asked to perform. The following article includes remarks (in quotes) about Dr. Rossi made during the presentation ceremony by a former student.



"Body and Soul. That was the first song that Dr. Anastasio Rossi learned to play on the piano at the age of 11. As a young boy growing up in Albany, he learned music by watching the keys go up and down on his father's player piano. He went to college at SUNY Fredonia, arriving with a suitcase, \$90 in his pocket and a zeal for learning everything he could about music."

The student went on to describe Stash as, "Funny, engaging and passionate about music, he touched thousands of kids' lives in so many positive ways. You could see how much he loved to teach, to make music with young people and to bring them closer to the power and beauty of music."

Dr. Rossi was a music teacher at Westlake High School for 33 years, Coordinator of Music for the Mount Pleasant School

District in Thornwood, and he performed in and directed many community theater productions.

Some other information from his bio: For the last 14 years, Anastasio Rossi has been the Associate Director for the Westchester Chordsmen in White Plains, a championship barbershop men's chorus. He sings in one of the Chordsmen's quartets, Freshmen Again!, a vocal jazz quartet, for which he arranges the voice parts and creates computerized instrumental accompaniment.

In 2002, Dr. Rossi became the director of the Golden Apple Chorus in Hawthorne, a member chorus of Sweet Adelines, an International organization of women's barbershop choruses. He is a Certified Director in the Barbershop Harmony Society and has held the positions of Director, Pace University Glee Club, and All-State Voice Adjudicator for the New York State School Music Association. A member of the faculty at Harmony College East, Dr. Rossi teaches Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Directing to aspiring barbershop directors.

How Sweet Adelines Brought Me Back to Life After 9/11

I did something amazing in March. I went to Philadelphia and competed in the Region 15 Sweet Adelines competition. I had a great time! You might say, "So what? 800 other women were at that weekend. Why was it so amazing for you?" Here's the answer: A year ago if someone asked me to go anywhere for any reason and stay on the 7th floor of a hotel, I would not have been able to do it. I suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, I went to work early, as I usually do, at the Merrill Lynch tower, the building next door to 1 World Trade Center (WTC). When I boarded the ferry to cross the Hudson River to New York, the sky was clear and I thought to myself, "That skyline is really beautiful!" I didn't realize at that moment that it would be the last time I would ever see it. When I walked into my building, a delivery man was on the phone telling his boss that "they" wouldn't let him take his truck out of Vesey Street. When he hung up I asked him why and he told me

something had hit the Trade Center. I walked to my desk and noticed all my phones were ringing. I picked up the first one and said, "Research." The hysterical voice of my oldest daughter, Margo, was on the line. She said frantically, "A 747 just hit the Trade Center and bodies are falling out of the sky." I told her, "Hang up, I'm coming home."

From my experience when 2 WTC was bombed previously, I knew better than to take an elevator. I walked down 44 flights of stairs to a back door and headed for the ferry slip. Just before stepping on the floating dock, I looked back and up at 1 WTC. What I saw horrified me: flames and smoke billowing far out from the top of the building and bodies falling from the sky, crashing through the ceiling windows of the Winter Garden. I hurried on to the ferry just as it was taking off for New Jersey. When the ferry was in the middle of the Hudson River at approximately 9 a.m., a plane crashed into 2 WTC and a huge ball of fire exploded in our direction. We could feel the heat from the giant fireball that appeared from the side of the building. It burned my eyes like looking at the sun. Later I had to go to an eye doctor for medicine to relieve the pain.

When I got to Hoboken, I jumped on the train to West Orange. While I was on the train, I listened to my portable radio until it went off the air. The announcer said something about another explosion and after that the radio went dead. We all looked back at the Trade Center, which you could see from the train, and a huge cloud of smoke or dust was reaching to the sky. We didn't know at the time that the buildings were starting to collapse. When I reached West Orange, I called my daughter who sounded very upset. She said, "I can't believe those buildings are gone." I couldn't or wouldn't comprehend what she was saying. Later, I watched the event on TV and saw the buildings coming down. I tried to take in what was happening. I couldn't believe that a short time ago I was standing under those buildings. Later I found out that three people from my company were killed, three people from my town, and one from my family, a young boy of 23 who has never been recovered. Many of my co-workers were injured.

I couldn't sleep. I live eight miles from Newark Airport, and

when the planes started flying again the sound of every one that went over my house brought my heart to my throat and cramps to my stomach until I was sure it had passed my house safely. I couldn't go back to work, so I took a sabbatical for six months. When I realized how disturbed I was over the event, I decided I needed counseling. It was all I could do to make myself get in my car every week and go there because I was developing a case of agoraphobia. I only felt safe in my own home, in my own room. I felt that my life was over and I might as well die. I had been left with a lot of fears and would never be the person I was before 9/11.

I stayed close to home for a long time. Then, one day I opened the local weekly newspaper and saw an ad written by Metro Rhythm Chorus inviting anyone to come to their next rehearsal and check them out. The address was very close to my home so I decided to go. I made up my mind that I would not get involved but I just wanted to hear them sing. I remember how hard it was for me to get in my car, drive over there and walk in to a room where I didn't know anyone. As soon as I walked in, women came over to me and welcomed me. They gave me paperwork about Sweet Adelines, which I took but had no intention of reading. Everyone was smiling and chatting, and it made me feel sad. I wanted to feel that good about something but had no hope that I ever would. The group sang, and I was very impressed. I said to myself "I wish I could do that!" I left shortly after and everyone encouraged me to return the next week. Of course I wasn't going to do that, but sure enough, the next Wednesday I found myself getting in my car and going to the rehearsal.

I was tested, and they decided I should be a bass. I was given some music and a CD to help me learn the music. I played it in my car and surprised myself by learning my part in a week. The next week I went back just to return the music and CD. I sang the music with the group and actually found myself enjoying myself a little. For some reason as each Wednesday came around, I found it easier and easier to go to the rehearsal. I tested and passed a few songs. One week, much to my surprise, they told me I had been accepted as a member. I wasn't sure if I felt happy or trapped. I was talked into going to TRAX weekend. That was the first place I stayed outside my home since the 9/11 event.

Christmas was coming, and we learned music to do several shows. I didn't think I could do it, but somehow, there I was on a stage singing at a Christmas show, a hospital, a nursing home and at Lafayette Village. I saw how happy we made the people feel when we sang. Suddenly I had a useful reason to be living again. When I went to the retreat, I found it was a little easier to leave my home.

The competition loomed over me like a monster. I knew the music, that didn't worry me, but to go to a big hotel in a big city and have people depending on me to do my part scared me to death. All the women in my chorus were very supportive, especially my director, Judy Douglas, who seemed to understand what I was going through. She put up with a lot of my phobias and guided me through the weekend. I loved being on the stage, and the friendship and love that I felt from everyone that weekend has changed me for good. For a long time I thought of myself as a "9/11 Victim" but now I think of myself as a "Sweet Adeline Singer". Believe me, this is a much better thing to be. I thank everyone in my group and all the Sweet Adelines that I have met in the past year for helping me turn my life around. I now feel confident that I have something to look forward to in my future.

I'm looking forward with love, harmony and friendship,

Joann Kornas
Bass, Metro Rhythm

Some Reflections Corrections

In my *Taglines* article last month, I regretfully omitted two people that were an important part of my RMT experience. In 2003, the Education Coordinator was Sharon Vitkovsky and the Chapter Coordinator was Mary DiLeo. Please accept my apology for this oversight.

With Love, Peggy DiSunno
Director, Long Island Sound Chorus
Region 15 Nominating Committee Chair

Sign Up for the Marketing Yahoo Group.

And, Don't Forget Your COMACT Application!

ATTENTION! All Team Coordinators/Presidents, Marketing and Membership Chairs must contact Dana Dunlevy ASAP for a Quarterly Chorus Evaluation form from International, which is required for the June Open House Membership Campaign! Please e-mail dldunlevy@gmail.com for the form, which is also available at the Marketing yahoo group. Incidentally, if you are a Marketing Chair who has not joined the yahoo group, e-mail SAIRegion15Marketing-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to become a member.

A final reminder: **COMACT APPLICATIONS ARE DUE JUNE 15, 2009**. Applications can be downloaded at sairegion15.org (in the members-only section). Mail completed applications to: Dana Dunlevy, 42 Afton Drive, Florham Park, NJ 07932.

**Dana Dunlevy
Region 15 Marketing Coordinator**

Reminder: You Don't Have to Be A Front-line Director to Join the Director Certification Program

Hi all! Well it is a new season of sweet flowers and song! Spring is here and Competition is over, but all the great feelings of friendship and love of our fellow singers is still fresh and exciting! I hope you are all gearing up for summer and lots of great singing and of course vacations! I just want to remind anyone who is interested in learning more about our wonderful craft you can contact me anytime! While it is true that we are heading into summer, I don't think it is too soon to start planning for Trax in Sept! I will be there and hope that if there are any candidates needing to be tested, they will contact me with information as to the tests they would like to take. I am looking forward to meeting with you all again and hopefully there will be some new candidates there, too! Have a great May/June and enjoy the flowers and song!

**Robin Critelli
DCP Coordinator**

Now Accepting Nominations

A proposal that originated with the International organization's Regional Leadership Coordinators to revise the RMT appointment/election cycle was recently adopted by a two-thirds majority vote by the corps of Regional Management Teams.

The result of this vote is that the 2009-2010 terms of office for the following RMT positions have extended an additional year to move into a revised appointment/election cycle:

Communications Coordinator, Events Coordinator, Marketing Coordinator, and Regional Team Coordinator.

All regions are now expected to follow the revised appointment/election cycle:

Terms Beginning in Even Years: Communications, Education, Membership, and Regional Team

Terms Beginning in Odd Years: Directors, Events, Finance, and Marketing

What this means for Region 15 is that we are 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!

Dates To Remember

May 27, 2009: RMT Roadshow - Long Island Sound
May 28, 2009: RMT Roadshow - Heart of Long Island
June 3, 2009: RMT Roadshow - Harmony Celebration
June 6, 2009: RMT Meeting
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 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. 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
Oct. 18 - 22, 2011: 65th Annual Convention and Competitions (Houston)

March 29-31, 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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