

Greater New York / New Jersey Region 15

MEMBER OF NOTE 2022

Announced and presented at VocalFest 2022 in Parsippany, NJ



Theresa Moloney Capitaland Chorus

Theresa Moloney was selected by her fellow chorus members as 2022 Member of Note for Capitaland Chorus! Not only is Theresa part of the physical warmups team at the start of rehearsals, serve as a member of the Management Team, but she also chairs our Costume Committee. Theresa has a great sense for costumes, makeup, and the over-all “look” of the chorus. Theresa does exhaustive research for our “couture,” and tirelessly strived this year to find a solution to our 2022 Competition Theme.

She found things online she thought would fit with our director’s vision. She ordered boxes of costumes for the chorus to view and try. She stayed late or came early to rehearsals, so members could try things on. She finally found, through her perseverance, a place locally to rent our costumes. This once again required yet another try on session, which she led without complaint, and her sunny nature was evident in all she did for this.

Theresa is also multi-talented in the voice department. She started with Capitaland Chorus as a baritone. She switched to lead to get the hang of this craft we all love. At the request of the director this year, and again without complaint, Theresa re-learned the contest music in baritone, because the section needed bolstering, and her voice fit in very well. As many of you may know, the baritone line is not for everyone. Theresa is now officially switching and relearning her music from lead to baritone.

All directors would love to clone someone like Theresa for her energy, her can-do spirit, and her flexibility. She is an asset to the chorus, and we are so glad she chose us to join us, help, and add her voice to our song! We are happy to present Theresa Moloney as our 2022 Member of Note!

Congratulations, Theresa!



Dorcas Ross

City of the Hills Chorus

Dorcas Ross joined the City of the Hills Chorus in 1998 and immediately fell in love with the Barbershop harmonies. As a past Treasurer, a past Chorus President, current Board Secretary and lead singer, Dorcas always has the best interests of the Chorus at heart. She is our chorus pitch piper, trying always to start us on pitch! For many years she has co-chaired the Costume/Makeup Committee with the goal of keeping us looking beautiful and “put together” for our audiences. Dorcas has also acted as our Region 15 (and Region 16) Competition Chorus Liaison, making sure that we’re accurately registered and housed in the years we attend competition. Dorcas has also stepped up repeatedly in maintaining communication with our members who are ill, grieving or experiencing unexpected trials in their life. In addition to Chorus responsibilities, Dorcas is an active leader in the Oneonta Chapter of Eastern Star, and maintains a beautiful home and garden along with her retired husband, Tom. Dorcas is an excellent example of a caring, dedicated Sweet Adeline.

Congratulations, Dorcas!



Susan Krystek

Evergreen Chorus

Susan has always been an integral member of Evergreen. She joined in 2012 and it didn't take her long to share her exceptional management skills with the chorus.

In 2014 through 2016 Susan volunteered to be Evergreen's Chorus Competition Liaison for regional contest. She also joined the Management Team as Events Coordinator from 2014 to 2016. After that she took on the job of Team Coordinator from 2016-2018. In 2017 Susan effortlessly headed the committee to coordinate Evergreen's trip to Las Vegas to compete in Harmony Classic. Her enthusiasm for Evergreen and Sweet Adelines as well as her excellent organization and communication skills are a true asset to Evergreen.

Susan has a very demanding job that requires quite a bit of travel. When she's on the road, she virtually attends rehearsal in her hotel room so she never misses a beat. She is a recording listener for the lead section, as well an co-assistant lead section leader.

As if all of that was not enough, Susan was the Marketing Coordinator in 2020 and then stepped back into the role of Team Coordinator from 2021 to the present and helped lead us through COVID zoom rehearsals. In 2021 she also spearheaded Evergreen's Back to Singing Committee which sets the safety protocols for our members and guests. She is one of our Groupanizer and Zoom administrators, as well as keeping our Google docs drive updated for our guests.

Susan says she "loves the balance and contrast of making executive decisions during the day, and then leaving that behind to blend with this wonderful group of women to make beautiful harmony at rehearsal / performances. Benjamin Franklin once said, 'if you want something done, ask a busy person.' I believe that - the busier we are, the better we manage our time."

Susan has left a positive mark on each position she has held and we are extremely lucky and proud to have her as Evergreen's 2022 Member of Note.

Congratulations, Susan!



Sharon Vitkovsky

Golden Apple Chorus

Golden Apple Chorus is excited to announce our Member of Note for 2022 - our director, Sharon Vitkovsky! Sharon officially joined GAC in January 2022, although she has been coaching us for the last 8 or 9 years, so she was already part of the GAC family. She even coached us to a Most Improved medal in 2016!

When our former director announced his retirement, we were thrilled that Sharon agreed to become our new director. She has never directed a chorus before, but she is a natural! And she hit the ground running! She encouraged us to polish our contest songs, and we were able to submit a great video for regional competition. She travels over 60 miles (each way) to rehearsals each week, working with us to prepare for upcoming performances and our annual show. She is quickly learning our repertoire, and putting her own creative spin on our favorite songs. Of course, always a coach, the emphasis is on continually improving vocal skills and vocal production. All the while, her gracious and caring spirit, her sense of humor, love of music and joy of singing shines through, making rehearsals educational, but also enjoyable and lots of fun.

Sharon has been a member of Sweet Adelines for more than 50 years. She is a member of the SAI 3-time international champion Ramapo Valley Chorus, now Harmony Celebration Chorus. She is also the baritone for City Lights, 1992 SAI international champion quartet, and a member of the Coronet Club. Most recently, she competed with award-winning quartet Q-Music. Currently, Sharon is on the regional faculty for Region 15, serving as Quartet Coordinator.

A former music teacher, Sharon was awarded the National Association for Music Education Award in 1993. Now retired from teaching, she coaches many barbershop quartets and choruses. Sharon is married to John, has three children and six grandchildren.

The Golden Apple Chorus is very fortunate to have a Queen in our corner! We thank Sharon for sharing her talent, experience, enthusiasm, creativity and good humor with us each and every week. And we are delighted to name her our 2022 Member of Note!

Congratulations, Sharon!



Gretchen Danby

Greater Nassau Chorus

Greater Nassau Chorus is thrilled to share our 2022 Member of Note, Gretchen Danby!

From her early days with GNC, Gretchen has shown a willingness to be involved and help with anything the chorus may need. From behind-the-scenes administrative support to large and impactful initiatives – she is someone who can be relied on time and time again.

A fixture in our Bass section, Gretchen attends every rehearsal with positivity and a smile! She is always working to improve as a singer, but also wears many hats for the chorus.

She is the liaison for our rehearsal space and event details, and she has spearheaded the operations behind our COVID safety protocols. On top of reviewing the at-home COVID test results of every member, every week, she arrives at our rehearsal space early – along with her team – to take everyone's temperature and ensure we are all ready to go.

Her welcoming and friendly presence has been a light for many. She is known for her enthusiastic and fun emcee turns for our shows and events – whether virtual run-throughs or in-person.

She has also lent her skills on the regional level, helping with protocols for our convention and competition earlier this year and VocalFest.

Gretchen's enthusiasm and can-do attitude make her so deserving of this honor and GNC is truly proud to call her our 2022 MEMBER OF NOTE!

Congratulations, Gretchen!



Susie Goldberg

Harmony Celebration Chorus

Harmony Celebration Chorus is proud to select Susie Goldberg as its 2022 Member of Note. Susie has been a member of the chorus since 1994. During her almost-30 years in the chorus, she has stood out as a role model for what an active, committed chorus member can be. Susie has always prided herself on learning her music promptly, often sharing with the whole chorus clever ways to remember lyrics and tricky spots in the music. (It has even earned her the chorus nickname Susie Goldbrain!)

Susie also always commits to learning her choreography promptly and acts as a resource for the visual team. Her attendance at rehearsals and performances is consistently excellent. In addition to her responsibilities as a singer, Susie is a worker! She has served on the management team several times (including currently) as our Communications Coordinator.

She most recently organized the Secret Pal program as the chorus prepared for its performance in Phoenix, which added an element of fun and togetherness as a result. She has served as a mentor in the lead section to many new members over the years and has been a longtime lead “listener” in our music evaluation program.

Susie is just one of those chorus members we know we can count on. We love her and are so proud to have her as part of the Harmony Celebration Chorus family. She is certainly a member of note!

Congratulations, Susie!



Gina Cicero

Heart of Long Island Chorus

When the chips were down for our chorus, Gina stepped up to take the helm as our Acting Director. Using her skills and techniques, she stood strongly in front of us and showed her commitment to keeping us going. Not only has she been directing us, for a good part of the time Gina has also been our only tenor! How did she sing one part, listen for harmonies and adjust our sound all at the same time?!

We don't know too many people who could manage that with the grace, patience and musical ear that Gina has been displaying.

Thank you so much Gina for being here for us.

Congratulations, Gina!



Becky Woodard

Heart of New Jersey Chorus

Becky is a wonderful, positive role model to everyone in the chorus. Her commitment and enthusiasm are reflected in many ways, from the chapter roles she holds – President of the Board, Assistant Director, Chorus Membership Chair and Return to Rehearsal Contact, and Lead Section Leader – to her high attendance rate, willingness to set up equipment at each rehearsal, and supportive responses to questions.

She's always extremely sweet and kind and the first person to offer a compliment or a smile to brighten your day. She is also consistently welcoming, making a heartfelt effort to greet members and guests alike each week in a friendly and inviting way.

Becky works tirelessly for the lead section and the whole chorus while somehow also being a dedicated member of the baritone section! As an assistant (and officially certified!) director, she leads the chorus in purposeful and productive rehearsals. Becky takes on a great deal of responsibility as president of our board and is able to maintain a dual focus on the big picture and the minutiae involved. She is passionate about singing and this year went from singing lead to baritone in Extension Chords Quartet as well as in the chorus. She goes out of her way to provide information to us all, communicating with our director and membership about whatever matters come up. Becky's hard work and dedication to the chorus and each individual member are plain to see. Her care is evident in all her interactions in person or otherwise; she just oozes Sweet Adeline love and energy in all that she does.

We are proud and excited to honor Becky as our Member of Note. We love you, Becky!

Congratulations, Becky!



Miriam Gonzalez **Hickory Tree Chorus**

As we celebrate the start of fall and our journey back into 'normal' chorus life, it's easy to want to grant Member of Note status to all the women who stayed with us through the past two years as well as the new members who took a chance and discovered the joy of Sweet Adelines in a remote environment. Through it all, though, one member stands out as a shining light – that member, Miriam Gonzalez, is our Hickory Tree Chorus Member of Note for 2022. A retired middle school assistant principal, Miriam is a strong and reliable leader - to say that she works tirelessly on behalf of our chorus would be an understatement. A member of Hickory Tree for more than 20 years,

Miriam has 'worn many different hats' during that time. She has performed in the front row, served on our makeup team, worked as the coordinator of our riser setup, been a member of our chorus management team, including serving for several terms as our team coordinator, and for the last several years has been our fabulous Chorus Competition Liaison for regional competition.

During the pandemic, Miriam added a few more hats to her collection. Taking advantage of the 'remote' time, Miriam coordinated the clearance of HTC repertoire through SAI's Song Assessment tool. She also led the chorus 'safety committee', establishing protocols and guidelines for our safe return to singing in-person. After taking a brief break from the management team, Miriam was reappointed to the team in 2021 and has been serving as our Membership Committee chair. She has also taken an active role in helping to identify members to take on committee leadership roles that have recently become vacant. And as we have returned to regular in-person singing, Miriam leads our physical warmup team. On top it all, Miriam is a faithful and valued member of our bass section.

We are so very grateful to have Miriam in our HTC family and are proud to celebrate her as our 2022 Member of Note!

Congratulations, Miriam!



Marianne Fulfaro

Island Hills Chorus

Twenty-three years ago, when her best friend Sallie asked her to keep her company at a free singing course given by a Sweet Adelines chorus., Marianne Fulfaro had no idea how her life would change.

Nor did she think she'd still be singing her heart out in Island Hills Chorus.

After having to leave teaching elementary school for 35 years due to illness, she searched for new ways and new interests to occupy her time.

She became an avid duplicate bridge player attaining the rank of Gold Life Master.

In 1999, she became of Reiki Master.

She sailed and played golf for many years.

But it is singing that has given her the greatest challenge.

Since she joined Island Hills Chorus, she has always been interested in the management of the chorus. She enjoyed working behind the scenes.

She has been selected team leader three times, membership chairperson three times, program coordinator, and Secretary.

MARIANNE called herself the "Susan Lucci" of Island Hills Chorus. Nominated and placed on the slate for women of note 9 times, she never won. Last year, she refused to be on the slate. This year she forgot to refuse.

Congratulations, Marianne!



Anita Barry Jersey Harmony Chorus

Anita Barry, our choice for “Member of Note”, is the matriarch of our Jersey Harmony family. A Sweet Adeline for 55 years, you’ll find her in the center of the risers, blowing the pitch pipe for us. She continues as an astute bass section leader, a valuable member of the music team and serves to remind us of all regional events and programs. When show time comes, it’s extra chores for Anita who handles the program book. She is a consistent attendee at our outside performances and is always relied upon to be prepared and helpful. We are so proud to have celebrated Anita’s 90th birthday with her this year.

Anita first received this honor in 2012 but we all feel it needs repeating. She continues to be a vibrant, hardworking, contributing member. We all send well wishes for Anita and are looking forward to her 100th birthday celebration!

Congratulations, Anita!



Jennifer Wiseman

Liberty Oak Chorus

The Liberty Oak Chorus is pleased to announce Jennifer Wiseman as the 2022 Member of Note. Jennifer is a Sweet Adeline through and through.

She's a thorough section leader, donates her time to helping members where she can and is a big help to our director when it comes to music, pitches, and just plain enthusiasm! Jennifer is a health professional that has worked so hard and diligently to make sure that all of our questions have been answered in the last couple of years during covid.

She organized our health information for the Region 15 contest and SAI International convention in Phoenix. Jennifer always has the most exuberant and contagious smile on the risers. She enthusiastically serves as board secretary, keeping the chorus organized, while consistently generating new ideas. Liberty Oak and Sweet Adelines are lucky to have this amazing member & leader. Congratulations Jennifer!

Congratulations, Jennifer!



Peggy DiSunno

Long Island Sound Chorus

Peggy DiSunno leads the chorus as if a band of angels gathered on high and prepared a contract for her to sign. The contract read, "You will capture hearts with music". She signed it in gold. Peggy's mission in music began under the tutelage of a high school vocal coach, a Sweet Adeline, who encouraged her to sing and compete in a quartet. It was in this quartet that she found her voice. The rest is history. Peggy joined the Long Island Sound Chorus forty eight years ago under the leadership of legendary director, Jim Strong, whose riotous audience pleasing parodies and over the top costume styles nurtured Peggy's inner "show girl". After many shows and many rounds of cheering and applause, Jim Strong stepped down. Two new directors gave it a try, but were not able to fill his shoes. Energetic, talented, Peggy DiSunno boldly stepped off the risers and picked up the baton. She directed her first show in 2003.

Beloved by all her chorus members, Peggy makes every singer feel like she is the most important person in the room. She listens intently and hears every sour note, flat, and stolen breath and patiently corrects all vowels and diphthongs until the music soars. The chorus knows it is time to move on to the next song when she holds out her arm to reveal her goose bumps. Peggy's aim is to lift humanity's spirits high above the concerns of this world with the magic of music.

During the dark days of the pandemic when singers were stranded on their couches at home, Peggy sprung into action to keep the chorus together. She learned how to Zoom and got the whole chorus to Zoom with her. Who could resist her life affirming enthusiasm and beautiful uplifting smile? Week after week the chorus gathered together on line and worked on their music fueled by Peggy's unwavering belief that setbacks lead to comebacks, that love will find a way. Peggy is a visionary and an ambassador for the entire Sweet Adeline organization. She has served as a Region 15 coordinator, a member of the International Nominating Committee and has coached and helped several other regional choruses develop effective rehearsal skills. She has been the recipient of the prestigious Harriet Walters Leadership Award, which recognizes the qualities of focus, confidence, commitment to excellence and passion. It is with unanimous agreement and appreciation that Peggy DiSunno has been given Long Island Sound Chorus's 2022 Member of Note award. Congratulations Peggy.

Congratulations, Peggy!



Becca Tebano

Saratoga Soundtrack Chorus

Our 2022 Member of Note is Becca Tebano. As team leader Becca is always thinking of the best interests of the chorus. She is a positive individual with a strong work ethic and great leadership qualities. She handles issues with confidence and kindness. Becca has led the chorus through one of the most difficult times we have experienced with honesty and integrity. She steered the chorus through many difficult decisions during COVID and created a management team that is open, understanding and communicates well throughout the decision making process. We could not have done it without her.

Becca does all this while being a Mom and working woman. She is a bright light in our chorus. Her dedication to Sweet Adelines and our chorus makes us proud to name her Member of Note 2022.

Congratulations, Becca!



Jo Cary

Seneca Soundwaves Chorus

Our Member of Note for this year is Jo Cary. Jo has been a part of our chorus from its inception in 1995. Prior to Seneca Soundwaves, she sang with Kanandarque Chorus, Image City Sound and Spirit of Syracuse choruses. That makes her a 34-year member of Sweet Adelines International!

In 2019, Jo had the privilege of going to New Orleans with Spirit of Syracuse to compete in international competition. "What a thrill that was."

Jo has worked tirelessly over the years in various volunteer positions. Previously she was nominated to Seneca Soundwaves in 2016 for Member of Note.

Jo is the Assistant Lead Section Leader, as well as Co-Team Coordinator of the Management Team. She is our User Administrator, Chorus Convention Liaison (CCL) for contest. Jo has worked tirelessly in organizing fund raisers, especially for our chicken BBQs.

Jo has sung all parts in Barbershop and is now Lead with the Chorus.

Jo is married to husband, Richard, who supports her 100% in all her endeavors. She has two lovely teenage granddaughters. She enjoys watching trains, ships and is a member of Animal Adventure Park where she shares her interest with Richard.

She thanks Seneca Soundwaves for nominating her as 2022 Member of Note! It is an honor.

Congratulations, Jo!



Elizabeth Culbertson Hillinck Sirens of Gotham Chorus

Each year, Sirens of Gotham recognizes a Member of Note for their outstanding contributions to the chorus. This year, our Member of Note is the wonderful Elizabeth Culbertson Hillinck!

Since joining the chorus in 2017 Lizzie has been a valuable member of our community, falling in love with Barbershop at a record pace! Lizzie's talents and dedication to Sirens knows no limits. She dedicates an enormous amount of her very wide range of talents to the administrative, emotional and musical health of our organization.

She began her service to the chorus by being an integral part of the Director Search Committee in 2017, then stepped up to take a board position in 2018. Since then she has spent the past 5 years on the board and we are the better for it! Her time as the Membership VP resulted in a streamlined audition and onboarding system and process that resulted in a record size recruitment class. In her role as Marketing VP on the board has benefited from her aesthetic choices, brainstorming, website wizardry and we even made our first Sirens TikTok! This year she was excited to pivot to being treasurer, a key role managing the chorus finances where she is a spreadsheet master.

Within the music leadership she has served as the baritone section manager where she made sectionals fun and educational, and a frequent song coach who is always thrilled to find a new exercise to demonstrate the right rhythm. Her quartet pursuits with Breakfast for Dinner have helped to showcase her breadth of talent – switching from her usual baritone part to the quartet tenor – and her true love of all things barbershop.

Lizzie has been increasingly instrumental within Sirens leadership in the past year, especially during our current transitional period and search for an Artistic Director. She was asked to take on the role of guiding the artistic team and has risen to the occasion, stepping out in front of our chorus rehearsals to coach us on music and performance and is helping to keep our chorus active and engaged, spirits high, and to lead us to great progress.

Lizzie wears so many hats - but beyond all that almost every person who nominated her mentioned how much they appreciate her charming character, her supportive attitude, and her smile. Lizzie is an integral thread in the fabric of the chorus. We would not be the same without her. We are so proud to recognize her as our Member of Note!

Congratulations, Elizabeth!



Noreen Severson

Song of the Valley Chorus

Song of the Valley is proud to introduce Noreen Stevenson as our 2022 Member of Note. Noreen is relatively new to our chorus, having joined during the pandemic, and yet she was unanimously voted our Member of Note. Her exposure to Regional and International events has, up to now, been via Zoom and YouTube. This Vocal Fest will be the first in-person Regional event for her.

Having grown up in Ridgefield Park, N.J., the oldest of five, she began ballet, guitar lessons and singing at the age of eight. She sang and played guitar in church and school groups, becoming the lead singer by her teens. Growing up, she spent many happy hours in her room listening to music such as the Carpenters and Olivia Newton John and singing along. She was in Oliver and Jesus Christ Superstar in school and in a community production of Damn Yankees. And as a Communication major at Seton Hall, and later Scranton U., Noreen obtained her radio license and reported news and played music on their radio stations.

While working in advertising and direct marketing in Manhattan, she met her husband and life became centered on raising their two sons, Neil and Grant. But the boys were in college when the pandemic began. Noreen thought about singing again, and in November 2020 answered a call for singers to sing holiday songs on Zoom with our chorus. She sang with us each week and then continued as 2021 began. By April of that year, after a few outdoor rehearsals, Noreen officially became a member of our chapter. When she found that we needed tenors, she agreed to work on learning that part, although she had previously sung only melody. She enjoyed the challenge and was diligent in practicing her music at home. Then, she and her husband offered their beautiful and spacious backyard for our outdoor rehearsals. In April of 2022, after one year of membership, she was voted onto our Management Team and accepted the job of Communications Coordinator. She's doing an excellent job in that role.

Our members in choosing Noreen as our Member of Note mentioned her upbeat, friendly, enthusiastic personality, and her willingness to help in so many ways. She brought a ray of sunshine to our chorus during a difficult time."

Congratulations Noreen!



Debbie Saucke

Spirit of Syracuse Chorus

The Spirit of Syracuse chorus is happy to present our 2022 Member of Note Debbie Saucke.

Debbie is a 36-year member of Sweet Adelines. She started her journey with the Valley Forge Chorus, went on to be the director of the Carousel Harmony Chorus, and is currently the Membership Coordinator for the Spirit of Syracuse Chorus.

Debbie joined SOS in February 2018 after retiring from her job as a Quality Assurance Engineer with BAE Systems. She has been a highly valued and active member ever since. In 2019, Debbie was appointed as the Chorus Education Liaison with the region.

While we were on Zoom, Debbie created videos that we could use for our physical warm ups. In the summer of 2021 Debbie took on the role of Co-Membership Coordinator, and began the job of whipping our membership program back into shape. As of this May she took on the job solo and helped lead the chorus through our most successful membership drive in years, where we added eight new members! She continues to help guide prospective members through the process. On top of all that, Debbie is always willing to lend a helping hand wherever she can; whether it's helping run a fundraiser or jumping in to lead physical warm ups at a moment's notice, she's always up to the task.

When she's not singing, Debbie enjoys doing jigsaw puzzles, cooking, and gardening.

We love her organized soul and are thrilled to select her as our 2022 Member of Note.

Congratulations, Debbie!



Brenda Liebling Twin County Chorus

With great joy and love, Twin County Chorus has unanimously chosen Brenda Liebling, one of our Bass singers, as Member of Note for 2022. Brenda embodies the qualities we want for our Member of Note - someone who works cheerfully and tirelessly for her chapter. She volunteers to do many things, and when asked, she is always happy to help.

Brenda belonged to a senior chorus, where she met Sylvia Kudan, one of our dear past members. Sylvia invited Brenda to Twin County Chorus in 2005. Brenda loved the sound and was chosen for the bass part. She immediately wanted to help anyway she could. She joined our board and later served on our management team. She worked in the role of event coordinator for several years.

Music has always been an important part of Brenda's life. She played piano by ear when she was small, and after formal lessons, became a music teacher in a public elementary school. She's been singing her whole life, and as a member of Twin County Chorus for the past seventeen years.

Always with a sweet smile, always on time, always ready to help, Brenda lovingly and generously shares her many talents with our chorus. She has been our piano accompanist at our shows and fundraisers. She's done gift basket assembly for the raffles at our fundraisers. She's arranged cookies, sold tons of tickets to our events to family and friends, and has directly and indirectly been responsible for recruiting new members. She is one of our most kind and generous members, in every way imaginable.

Truly an extraordinary member of our chorus, Brenda is Twin County's Member of Note for 2022.

Congratulations, Brenda!