

***We are pleased to present
and celebrate our
Greater NY/NJ Region 15***



***Members of Note
2019***

Meredith Butler

Capitaland Chorus



"[We have] many reasons to be grateful to Meredith.... Her leadership abilities... [She's] active in the financial well-being of the chorus.... [She] is kind and helpful to her riser mates.... She schedules and periodically leads our participation in physical warm-ups! Meredith truly embodies the essence of a Sweet Adeline!"

Meredith Butler

Capitaland Chorus

Capitaland Chorus proudly recognizes Meredith Butler as our 2019 Member of Note!

The chorus, as a whole, has many reasons to be grateful to Meredith Butler, our Business Manager, as well as a member of our Management Team, where our chorus has clearly shown their trust in her leadership abilities. She is consistently active in the financial well-being of the chorus, scheduling thousands of dollars of revenue for sing-outs all over the Capital District! On a more on-to-one basis, Meredith is kind and helpful to her riser mates, and is also known to smooth the way for newbies who turn to her for information on how our chorus works, procedures to be followed, and ways to prepare for competition. If all that isn't enough, she schedules and periodically leads our participation in physical warm-ups! A longtime Capitaland member and bass singer, Meredith is always prepared for rehearsal and up-to-date with her choreo and music.

Brava to Meredith, who truly embodies the essence of a Sweet Adeline!

Congratulations, Meredith!

Joanne Burdick

City of the Hills Chorus



“We can always count on Joanne’s wonderful organizational skills [She] passionately cares for her fellow chorus members... always supportive and compassionate.... When it is time to organize our biennial show... Joanne’s creativity comes shining through.... [City of the Hills is happy] to recognize her for the many and unique ways she continues to serve us.”

Joanne Burdick

City of the Hills Chorus

The City of the Hills Sweet Adelines Chorus of Oneonta takes great pleasure in announcing our 2019 Member of Note, Joanne Burdick. Joanne joined the City of the Hills chorus in 1999. Soon after she joined, Joanne naturally eased into leadership roles.

One of her major roles is acting as the contact person when organizations wish to hire our chorus. She is the first person to whom they speak. Her calm manner puts everyone at ease as she agrees upon a date, negotiates a fee, and requests a place for the chorus to rehearse before performing. Oftentimes this requires multiple phone calls, but we can always count on Joanne's wonderful organizational skills to get the job done well.

Joanne served on the chorus' Board of Directors for several years and is the baritone in the quartet, Girls' Night Out. She also finds time to sing tenor in the mixed quartet, 4 – Ever Young. Although Joanne retired from her position as Director of Volunteer Services for 27 years at Fox Hospital in Oneonta, she continues to work part-time in the hospital's chaplains' office.

Joanne passionately cares for her fellow chorus members. When a member had a reoccurrence of cancer, Joanne was in constant communication with her and arranged for simple meals to be prepared by chorus members and delivered to the member's home. She is always supportive and compassionate.

When it is time to organize our biennial show, she is an important member of the show committee. We have come to depend on Joanne to organize our "Afterglow", which includes ordering food, coordinating with the venue's team, and setting up committees. But Joanne's creativity comes shining through when she single-handedly creates all of the table settings and favors for the "Afterglow". They are simply awesome!

All the members of the City of the Hills chorus are happy to bestow this award on Joanne and to recognize her for the many and unique ways she continues to serve us.

Thanks for everything, Joanne!

Congratulations, Joanne!

Pat McCann

Evergreen Chorus



“When there is a job to be done, [Pat] is always up to the challenge! During her 23 years with Evergreen Chorus.... Pat seems to have done it all.... Evergreen is sure of one thing – When there is a job to be done, Pat McCann is a willing member. When asked if she’s having fun, the reply, ‘YES!’ Thank you, Pat, for your love, support and dedication to Evergreen.”

Pat McCann

Evergreen Chorus

When there is a job to be done, Evergreen's Member of Note is always up to the challenge! Evergreen is proud to have Pat McCann as our 2019 Member of Note!

In 1996, while working at IBM, Pat experienced a health concern. She was advised by her Oncologist to begin to have FUN! The doctor told Pat, "Find something fun to do to lessen the stress in your life." Taking that advice to heart she began the search to have "FUN!"

In a local newspaper, *The Penny Saver*, there was an advertisement, "Do you Love to Sing? Come to Open House at Evergreen Chorus with free voice lessons." Pat decided to attend Open House and "Fell in Love" with the music, auditioned, and still sings lead. She found what she was looking for.

During her 23 years with Evergreen Chorus, Pat has had multiple jobs.

Pat assists with vocal warm-ups, is Lead Section Leader, and a Recording Listener for her section. Our Member of Note is always up to the challenge of keeping the leads up to date with repertoire notes, as well as, sending out recordings of any changes that occur in her section. She is willing to sing baritone or tenor when it is needed. During the winter months, when enjoying the warm Arizona weather, Pat continues to assist the Leads in learning their music.

Pat is the Visual Picture Coordinator for the chorus. Now that can be a challenging job! This energetic lady is continually researching better ways to make sure that we always look our best for all our performances.

Remember when there is a job to be done, Pat is up for it! So when the time came for nominees to run for the Management Team she volunteered and became our Marketing Coordinator for eight years!

Pat seems to have done it all! When we have our annual Yard Sale, she is one of the "early risers" helping to set up the tables, tag the items, set up the canopies, and even assists with the take down at the end of the day.

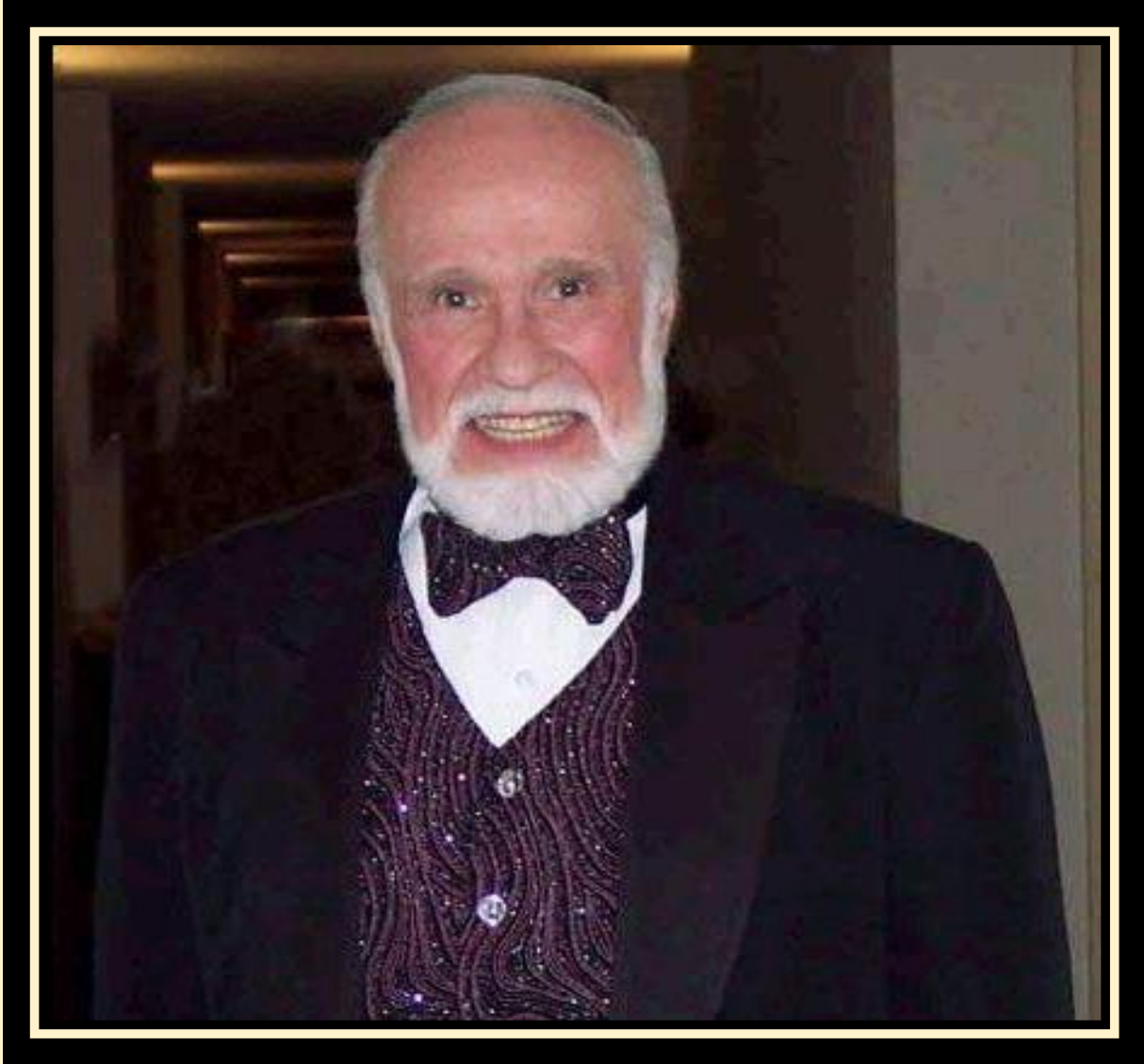
Evergreen is sure of one thing – When there is a job to be done, Pat McCann is a willing member. When asked if she's having fun, the reply, "YES!"

Thank you, Pat, for your love, support and dedication to Evergreen.

Congratulations, Pat!

Dr. Anastasio Rossi

Golden Apple Chorus



“Stash is the hardest working member of our chorus. His energy is boundless.... The Golden Apple Chorus is eternally grateful to Stash for sharing his talent, enthusiasm, creativity and good humor. We are so lucky to have Stash as our wonderful director, and our 2019 Member of Note!”

Dr. Anastasio Rossi

Golden Apple Chorus

In November, 2002, a smiling, cheerful man named Dr. Anastasio “Stash” Rossi walked into the Golden Apple Chorus. He was smart, funny, talented and creative, and we were thrilled that he agreed to be our Musical Director.

Stash is the hardest working member of our chorus. His energy is boundless – he tirelessly directs every rehearsal, attends performances, and leads us to new heights at competitions. At regional competition, he has led us to two Most Improved awards and First Place Small Chorus award. He has introduced us to a wide variety of music, including some fun styles that go beyond barbershop. He also loves to arrange music, and has added many of his exciting new arrangements to our repertoire.

Stash’s life is full of music. In addition to directing Golden Apple Chorus, he is also Associate Director and Music VP for the Westchester Chordsmen, and an instructor at Harmony College. He holds a Doctorate, MA, and Prof Diploma in Music from Columbia University, and a Bachelor of Science in Music from SUNY Fredonia. He is the former Coordinator of Music for the Mount Pleasant Schools in Thornwood, NY, where he taught Choral and Instrumental performing groups, Stagecraft, and was Director/Producer of Westlake High School’s musical and dramatic stage productions. His vast experience in music includes Director, Pace University Glee Club, numerous community theatre and school groups, and Voice Adjudicator for the New York State School Music Association.

He sings in BHS chapter quartets, including Freshmen Again!, a vocal jazz quartet, for which he arranges the voice parts and creates computerized instrumental background accompaniment.

In 2009, Stash received the LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD from the CAB CALLOWAY FOUNDATION. Honorees are selected for their “dedication and contribution to the performing arts in Westchester County”. Golden Apple was so proud to sing at the dedication dinner in Stash’s honor.

Stash was born and raised in Albany, NY, and has been a resident of Katonah for 50 years. He proudly served in the US Navy as a Radioman, and an Officer with the Frogmen in the Caribbean. He and longtime companion Gayle take yearly trips down south to visit his three children, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

The Golden Apple Chorus is eternally grateful to Stash for sharing his talent, enthusiasm, creativity and good humor. We are so lucky to have Stash as our wonderful director, and our 2019 MEMBER OF NOTE

Congratulations, Stash!

Alaina Tutrone

Greater Nassau Chorus



“She is the epitome of everything that Greater Nassau stands for – passion, professionalism, energy, leadership, and dedication. Alaina works tirelessly for GNC... and approaches all her responsibilities with a grace and quiet confidence that is reassuring to every GNC member.... There’s nothing she can’t do, and her enthusiasm and joy of singing are infectious!”

Alaina Tutrone • Greater Nassau

As a member of Greater Nassau Chorus for 14 years, Alaina has demonstrated that she is the epitome of everything that Greater Nassau stands for - passion, professionalism, energy, leadership, and dedication. Alaina works tirelessly for GNC. From holding a position on the Management Team to being a respected tape checker in the lead section - she does everything with a smile, and a calm demeanor we all admire.

As GNC's Competition Coordinator, she cares for every detail of our Regional and International competition experiences. She oversees housing, registration, meals, scheduling, advertising, and all the little details in between. Alaina approaches all her responsibilities with a grace and quiet confidence that is reassuring to every GNC member, whether brand new or seasoned. She puts us all at ease, because when Alaina says it's going to be ok, then we know it will!!

Outside of GNC, Alaina is a well-respected and highly effective special education teacher in the Mineola school district on Long Island. We're sure that the patience, drive, guidance, and love she shows in her work with GNC is exactly what makes her such an amazing teacher. Her students are so lucky to have her.

On top of her Management Team responsibilities, Alaina is also a fabulous member who always brings her "A" game to her performance. Her energy and beautiful visual presentation skills make her a natural in the front row. She is passionate about giving her performance everything she has and stops at nothing to improve all aspects on an ongoing basis. Alaina also is a member of the team that keeps our livestream going, a makeup checker, and handles a million other things behind the scenes!

Our own Harriette Walters shares, "I am thrilled that Alaina is our Member of Note of course, for all the reasons mentioned and so many more. From the very first day Alaina walked in to her first GNC rehearsal, it was evident she was a perfect fit for us. There has never been a time that I have seen Alaina when she is not in her GNC model role. I always smile, relax, breathe, laugh, cry, in all the best of ways when I work with or talk with Alaina about anything at all. The only thing she has not been able to do is clone herself so there is more of her to share! Alaina, you deserve this honor and I am so happy for you! Love you always!!"

There's nothing she can't do, and her enthusiasm and joy of singing are infectious! GNC is so proud to call Alaina Tutrone our MEMBER OF NOTE!

Congratulations, Alaina!

Trish Martini

Harmony Celebration Chorus



“Music mentor. Creative visionary. Tireless chorus evangelist. Those are a few of the roles multitalented Harmony Celebration lead Tricia Martini has played — and continues to play — within the complex script writing the chorus history.... This lovely lead brings her high-wattage smile to every rehearsal and performance.... [Tricia is] one of HCC’s most treasured ‘LEADing’ ladies.... We are so grateful for YOU!”

Trish Martini

Harmony Celebration Chorus

Music mentor. Creative visionary. Tireless chorus evangelist. Those are a few of the roles multitalented Harmony Celebration lead Tricia Martini has played — and continues to play — within the complex script writing the chorus history.

As a front-row performer, this lovely lead brings her high-wattage smile to every rehearsal and performance with HCC and with her Region 15's, HeartStrings, recognized in April 2019 as the Most Improved Quartet. But all the things Tricia does “backstage” are just as vital to what happens in front of an audience.

Within months of joining the chorus, she jumped in with both feet, lending organizational and strategic skills to the membership team and later serving two consecutive teams as Membership Coordinator. In that role, Tricia helped the chorus embrace many members who were completely new to the barbershop world.

Early in her relatively short Sweet Adelines career, recognizing her ability to learn new repertoire quickly and accurately, Tricia was recruited as a lead section recording listener, a role she still embraces passionately.

Along the way, Tricia lent her extensive skills and connections as designer/seamstress to the HCC costume team, which she now chairs. Her committee spent countless hours developing the chorus' latest formal and walk-around looks, researching dozens of fabric options and organizing the agonizing process of getting every member measured and fitted. Even today, she's seeking fresh and unique ways to boost our impact under the lights and amplify HCC's personality.

These contributions are all the more remarkable when you consider the many personal priorities and distractions crowding Tricia's non-barbershop life. No matter how frantic her schedule, she attends almost every rehearsal and upholds her chorus commitments.

For all this and more, Tricia, you are one of HCC's most treasured “LEADing” ladies and our 2019 Member of Note. We are so grateful for YOU!

Congratulations, Trish!

Marianne Savage

Heart of Long Island Chorus



“Marianne seems to have endless energy; always going the extra mile for our chorus.... Over the past year, she has really stepped up to the plate, taking on both Marketing and Membership responsibilities, remaining a diligent section leader, and quartet singer on top of regularly volunteering to help organize chorus events.... She is truly an inspiration.”

Marianne Savage

Heart of Long Island Chorus

The Heart of Long Island Chorus has voted Marianne Savage as our 2019 Member of Note for being a positive leader in our chorus. Marianne seems to have endless energy; always going the extra mile for our chorus.

She has been so selfless on music team (in a new section), leadership team, and quartet despite her busy schedule and other commitments.

Over the past year, she has really stepped up to the plate, taking on both Marketing and Membership responsibilities, remaining a diligent section leader, and quartet singer on top of regularly volunteering to help organize chorus events. Her efforts have brought several potential members to our rehearsals, and her new membership program helps them all to feel a little extra welcome. She has also recently transitioned from the Lead part to the Bass part, working hard to relearn all of our repertoire so that our chorus could have a well-balanced sound.

She is truly an inspiration. Thank you, Marianne, from all you sisters in song.

Congratulations, Marianne!

Esther Krutzel

Heart of New Jersey Chorus



“Esther is a powerhouse of energy and works tirelessly for our chapter. She has truly been a positive influence in the chorus, continuously giving of her time and talents.... Esther’s heart clearly beats for the Heart of New Jersey Chorus.”

Esther Krutzel

Heart of New Jersey Chorus

We have proudly chosen Esther Krutzel as our 2019 Member of Note! Esther is a powerhouse of energy and works tirelessly for our chapter. She has truly been a positive influence in the chorus, continuously giving of her time and talents.

Esther joined Heart of New Jersey Chorus in 2009 after taking a brief hiatus from the Sweet Adelines world. Since that time, Esther has worn many hats: she is our creative choreographer; she serves on the Music Team as Bass Section Leader; and she is our Costume and Makeup Coordinator. Esther also manages our Facebook and Groupanizer pages and she creates CD/DVD's to members and potential members.

In her spare time, Esther sings bass in the Extension Chords Quartet. Every year, she creates a really fun mini-show for a small group of members to perform at our retreat for the rest of the chorus. She often opens her home to us for rehearsals, meetings and celebrations.

Outside of the chorus, Esther has been married for 42 years, is the mother of three daughters and a son, and is grandmother to seven beautiful grandchildren. She has volunteered in many organizations. At her synagogues, she served as Sisterhood President, Board member and VP, sang in the Temple choir, directed the choir, led music at Friday night and Saturday morning services, and taught in the religious school. For the past 39 years, she has worked for her husband's law firm doing electronic billing and transcription work.

In her own words: "It goes without saying that there is something special about being part of the Sweet Adeline's world and, especially, Heart of New Jersey Chorus. I have been blessed with belonging to a group of women whose warmth and friendship have made me feel like I have been a part of this group all my life. I am so honored to be nominated as Member of Note for Heart of New Jersey Chorus, where each and every woman has had such a positive influence in my life and where I truly feel that I get back much, much more than I give."

Esther's heart clearly beats for the Heart of New Jersey Chorus and we congratulate her on being named our Member of Note for 2019.

Congratulations, Esther!

Ginny Plummer

Hickory Tree Chorus



“Ginny is the quiet worker bee who gets things done behind the scenes, no fuss, no muss.... Ginny has a great sense of humor, is a loyal friend and good listener. She does so many tasks in such an unassuming style, it can be easy to take her contributions for granted. No Longer! We are shouting from the rooftops – thank you Ginny, we are so proud of you and feel so lucky to have you as a member!”

Ginny Plummer • Hickory Tree

We are excited to name Virginia (Ginny) Plummer as Hickory Tree Chorus' 2019 Member of Note!

Ginny is the quiet worker bee who gets things done behind the scenes, no fuss, no muss! We need somebody to put up signs for our Craft Fair – Ginny's there! We need to find a party venue – Ginny's in the car! We need someone to adjust our costumes – Ginny's threading her sewing machine! No matter what the task, Ginny is there helping with a smile on her face!

Ginny joined Sweet Adelines in 1973. For the majority of the next 25 years, she sang with Hickory Tree, testing out other choruses for a few years, but always coming back to HTC! She raised her 4 children while singing with us and to her (and our) delight her family attends our shows annually! In the late 1990's she needed a break but came back strong in 2013.

A quick learner and reliable member of our lead section, Ginny is also a PIP (aka tape checker). Her good attendance at rehearsals, retreats and VocalFest attests to her desire to improve her craft. She's been in the front row, back row, left side, and right – each change met without a grumble. In 1987, Ginny won the HTC Golden Sneaker award for her performance at International!

Ginny has taken on many roles and worn many hats during her tenure. She has been a valued member of the costume committee, sewing costumes from scratch back in her early days, through today, when she hemmed all our new costumes two weeks before contest! She was also instrumental in planning HTC's 50th Anniversary Gala last year, including taking it upon herself to refurbish dozens of old costumes for display.

Ginny has served on the management team for many terms as Treasurer, Secretary and lately as House and Properties chair. She has helped negotiate the change of rehearsal venue multiple times and she takes her job seriously! She's always the first one onsite to be sure we're cozy in the winter, cool in the summer and is the last one out to lock up at the end of the evening!

Ginny has a great sense of humor, is a loyal friend and good listener. She does so many tasks in such an unassuming style, it can be easy to take her contributions for granted. No Longer! We are shouting from the rooftops – thank you Ginny, we are so proud of you and feel so lucky to have you as a member!

Congratulations, Ginny!

Sally Hausner

Island Hills Chorus



“Over the course of 40 years, I have been blessed to sing in three different chapters of Sweet Adelines.... Music has always given me pleasure and a sense of calmness.... As my children grew older, I started my own business... It was this business experience that came in very handy...in helping the Island Hills Chorus book many paying performances and earn needed funds.... At age 80, my clock is still ticking!”

Sally Hausner

Island Hills Chorus

Being of Italian descent, my enjoyment of singing came naturally to me. Over the course of 40 years, I have been blessed to sing in 3 different area chapters of Sweet Adelines in my area. Music has always given me pleasure and a sense of calmness. It came in very handy while I was raising my 4 children and running my own business. As a child, I attended the same singing school as Connie Francis. At age 16, even though I can't read music, I wrote a song that was cited in Newsday entitled "What Have You Done to My Heart".

I was the lead in many high school musicals because lead singing is my passion and who I am. While raising my children, my business skills contributed to my receiving the position of Director of Women's Clubs for all New York State. At age 30, I had tea with Pat Nixon! I traveled all over the country representing New York State. My family pitched in so that I could take advantage of that opportunity.

As my children grew older, I started my own business and worked to help it grow for 25 years. It was this business experience that came in very handy, as I have been instrumental in helping the Island Hills Chorus book many paying performances and earn needed funds. I am also a local philanthropist, helping the Lustgarten Foundation. In a 10 year span of time, through my fundraising on their behalf we have grossed \$600,000.00. I am also involved on a local town committee, helping to raise funds to clean our Lake. I have served 4 years as the president of the local homemakers, and I will soon be delivering 250 hats for homeless children.

So, at age 80, my clock is still ticking!

Congratulations, Sally!

Kat Britt

Jersey Harmony Chorus



“Kat is an extremely dedicated director that brings her talents and knowledge to us each week, always providing an uplifting spirit and humor along with a myriad of information to consistently bring the chorus new challenges and the ability to raise the level of our performance....

*We are so proud of our director and friend, Kat Britt,
a Sweet Adeline that truly sparkles!”*

Kat Britt

Jersey Harmony Chorus

The members of Jersey Harmony are exceptionally proud to present our director, Kat Britt, for this year's Member of Note. Kat is an extremely dedicated director that brings her talents and knowledge to us each week, always providing an uplifting spirit and humor along with a myriad of information to consistently bring the chorus new challenges and the ability to raise the level of our performance. She is always attending informational events and coaching, bringing new ideas and approaches to the chorus. She gives generously of her time, in most situations with no compensation. All members get the attention they need whether it be musical advice and guidance or just an encouraging conversation.

In addition to sharing her directorial talents, Kat is a valued member of Jersey Harmony and participates in many of the tasks and positions that keep the chorus running smoothly. She always joins in on fund raising efforts, always making a major difference in the project outcome. Kat helps with communications, keeps an eye on our web site and social media, making contributions and making sure the information is up to date. She is an asset to membership efforts by always addressing our guests and making them feel welcome.

Kat is a 24-year member of Sweet Adelines, has participated in five choruses, acting as Assistant Director in two. Always a baritone, Kat has belonged to many successful quartets, one winning Region 15 and going on to National. She is known throughout the Sweet Adelines world and has barbershop friends everywhere!

Kat and her husband, Rory live in Warren, New Jersey. Being an ardent fan of miniatures, Kat works in a doll house shop and has a village of themed doll houses that she has built and designed. An accomplished artist, Kat performs many styles of Victorian methods and has received accolades in competitive forums, among them many Victorian painting methods and rug hooking. With all of this, Kat still finds time to take part in many events celebrating the history of her community and our country. She spends much time decorating her charming home full of many period collections and working in the garden, both being a sight to behold.

We are so proud of our director and friend, Kat Britt, a Sweet Adeline that truly sparkles!

Congratulations, Kat!

Nancy Duke

Liberty Oak Chorus



“During her time with Liberty Oak Chorus, Nancy has been a very important role model for all of us, devoting her time without hesitation.... Nancy treats everyone she knows with unconditional kindness and care! A true Sweet Adeline and a genuine role model for all! So well deserved!!”

Nancy Duke

Liberty Oak Chorus

It's no wonder why Nancy has been overwhelmingly nominated by our members as this year's Member of Note!

Nancy has been a Sweet Adeline and member of Liberty Oak Chorus for 13 years. She started as a lead and within the past few years, switched to bass! During her time with LOC, she has been a very important role model for all of us, devoting her time without hesitation, serving as an LOC board member in numerous capacities, donating her crafting skills and time for various fundraisers. She also works tirelessly on our regional management team, stringing hundreds of medals for yearly contests and handing out awards! All this done and always with a smile!!

She has been a mentor for the Lakeside Acapella Camp for many years, donating her time to mentoring young boys and girls who wish to become involved with the art form of acapella music. Nancy was a "key mentor" with our own Region 15's 2019 2nd place quartet, Perfect Fourth!

Her family is her life (aside from all her sisters in harmony!) and if I can quote something that was asked of her daughter "What makes you proud of your mom?" Her reply: "Her creativity and her willingness to sacrifice her own wants/needs for ours over the years." And this is what makes Nancy the quintessential mom and grandma!

This is how Nancy treats everyone she knows, with unconditional kindness and care! A true Sweet Adeline and a genuine role model for all! So well deserved!!

Liberty Oak is proud to award Nancy Duke as our 2019 Member of Note!!

Congratulations, Nancy!

Chris Becker

Long Island Sound Chorus



“Her beautiful heartfelt smile is the kiss of spring for everyone in our tight knit chorus.... Chris’s influence on the chorus is foundational, inspirational.... It is with wholehearted and unanimous agreement that the Long Island Sound Chorus declares Chris Becker our 2019 Member of Note.”

Chris Becker

Long Island Sound Chorus

Chris has served as Board President in the past, Chapter Coordinator at present and Sweet Adeline Sister at large for the last thirty-five years. Her beautiful heartfelt smile is the kiss of spring for everyone in our tight knit chorus. Chris has a comforting way of making you feel like you are enough, even if your vowels scream Brooklyn or your breaths are out of synch. She reassures you to stick with it, that you have time to get it right.

In performance photos you will find Chris standing front and center on the risers with her bass section, holding down the root notes to stabilize the ringing chords. Off the risers, she can be seen holding the handles of assorted gift bags with different labels to collect money for dinners, hotel reservations, and charity drives. Her persistence, dedication, and attention to detail guarantees that arrangements for the chorus's planned activities will get done and get done right, and she does it all with a smile.

Not one to seek the spotlight, Chris was talked into joining the chorus by her friend, director Peggy DiSunno, and her sister, Thea DiSunno. She would have preferred to stay home to read a book than to get on stage but Peggy and Thea drew her in on the high tide of their enthusiasm. Over the years Chris has gotten used to the glittering costumes, gesturing jazz hands and razzle dazzle brows and smiles that bring a song to life. She has learned the bass lines and lyrics of countless new songs and has sung harmony in many performances over the years. Chris's influence on the chorus is foundational, inspirational. She is a valued and integral part of her beloved singers' "Sister Act".

It is with wholehearted and unanimous agreement that the Long Island Sound Chorus declares Chris Becker our 2019 Member of Note.

Congratulations, Chris!

JoAnn Borden

Saratoga Soundtrack Chorus



“JoAnn has been very active in the chorus since she became a member. She is the treasurer of the chorus and a baritone section listener. These are responsibilities to which she is fully committed.... There is always a smile on her face. She is a fine example of a Sweet Adeline.... We are proud to present JoAnn as Saratoga Soundtrack’s Member of Note.”

JoAnn Borden

Saratoga Soundtrack Chorus

JoAnn has been very active in the chorus since she became a member. She is the treasurer of the chorus and a baritone section listener. These are responsibilities to which she is fully committed.

JoAnn is always at rehearsal on time. She knows her music, does her homework and participates fully. There is always a smile on her face. She is a fine example of a Sweet Adeline.

JoAnn is a retired Special Education teacher. She is the proud mother of grown children James and Sarah.

Other activities JoAnn enjoys include, being a member of a Bell Choir, directing a beginning Bell Choir, playing piano, hiking and biking to name a few.

We are proud to present JoAnn as Saratoga Soundtrack's Member of Note.

Congratulations, JoAnn!

Peggy Morris

Seneca Soundwaves Chorus



“Shortly after joining the chorus in January 2016, she took on Section Leader responsibilities for the leads, eventually becoming Assistant Director and member of the music team, management team and membership committee team.... Peggy will be our new Director effective October 1. We are excited...and hope that she continues to challenge us and make us a better chorus.”

Peggy Morris

Seneca Soundwaves Chorus

It is with great pleasure that Seneca Soundwaves Chorus awards the winning nomination for this year to Peggy Morris as our Member of Note.

Peggy has been with the chorus since January 2016. Shortly after joining, she took on Section Leader responsibilities for the leads, eventually becoming Assistant Director and member of the music team, management team and membership committee team.

She was Choir Director as Fairport First United Methodist Church – Children's and Youth Choir for five years, and has been involved with various choral groups and bands throughout her life. Having a father who sang in barbershop, Peggy was exposed to barbershop music from her childhood.

To continue building her barbershop skills Peggy plans on taking advantage of regional and international educational opportunities, including VocalFest, the DCP program and inviting coaches to our chorus to help us all improve our skills.

After recently winning the new Director selection, Peggy will be our new Director effective October 1. Peggy's primary goal as director will be to make an impact on our chorus in doing whatever is best for the chorus. Other goals include maintaining the values and current goals of our chorus and to continue to improve upon our barbershop harmony style. She plans to utilize and nurture the talents of the chorus members and to make all members feel valued. This in turn will build a more confident chorus and help to encourage a higher level of personal commitment from our members.

Peggy hopes to provide an organized, exciting and fun rehearsal atmosphere with a focus on qualifying each member on new songs in order to maintain a quality product. She also plans to offer more quartet opportunities within the chorus to encourage each singer's confidence.

Through her personal employment, Peggy has accepted many challenges including those of major projects leader. This position requires her to use leadership and communication skills in problem solving with her co-workers and well as motivational and people skills. Having had a course in Dale Carnegie through her employer, Peggy is in a perfect position to work with the many personalities within a chorus.

Peggy's number one philosophy about her new director responsibilities is: "As goes the director, so goes the chorus"

We are excited that Peggy will be our new director and hope that she continues to challenge us and make us a better chorus.

Congratulations, Peggy!

Sam Bunting

Sirens of Gotham Chorus



“As a singer, musician, administrator, and friend, Sam contributes to Sirens of Gotham on every level.... She exudes positive energy that boosts morale and dedication--a walking embodiment of our core values: joy, ambition, authenticity.... She consistently goes above and beyond to help the chorus.... [Sam is] a dependable friend, inspiring leader, and all around rock star human!”

Sam Bunting

Sirens of Gotham Chorus

As a singer, musician, administrator, and friend, Sam contributes to Sirens of Gotham on every level. Since joining the chorus in 2013, Sam has been a creative and vocal powerhouse whose energy has influenced the chorus culture in the best of ways. We have Sam to thank for our “say yes” mantra, a reminder and invitation to fully invest in the challenge at hand. She exudes positive energy that boosts morale and dedication--a walking embodiment of our core values: joy, ambition, authenticity.

A professional educator and mathematician, Sam has dedicated her life to understanding the way people think and helping people discover their full learning and development potential. She currently is Director of Instructional Design at a major educational software company, the mother of two under the age of 12, and an active dual-member of Harmony Celebration to boot. Her experience made her the kind of leader who successfully propelled us through a challenging time when the chapter conducted a director search simultaneously with preparations for our first International competition experience. Thanks to Sam’s steady and devoted leadership, the membership remained engaged, involved, and prepared through the entire process, ultimately fulfilling one of the ambitious goals we set at her first Management Team meeting: winning Harmony Classic!

In both official and unofficial roles, Sam provides crucial support to our directors, management team, and membership, always keeping the best interests of the chorus in mind. Whether it’s recording teach tracks, coaching quartets, or completely rebuilding our project management systems, Sam is there and willing to participate if it means making it more enjoyable for all. She develops amazing working relationships with chorus coaches and mentors, and in everything she does she somehow manages to keep things both professional and fun. Her sense of humor, incredible talent, and multi-disciplinary expertise make her an essential member of the Sirens of Gotham community. She consistently goes above and beyond to help the chorus.

More than that, it’s Sam’s deep commitment to her friends, family, and teams that is cherished most. She is invested in those she is close to; there are few Sirens who haven’t had an hours-long phone call with Sam to work out whatever is on their mind. A dependable friend, inspiring leader, and all around rock star human, we are so pleased to name Sam Bunting as our 2019 Member of Note!

Congratulations, Sam!

Pat Meade

Song of the Valley Chorus



"In choosing Pat as our Member of Note, members mentioned...the fact that she is always willing to step up to the plate when a need arises. [When she fills in to run rehearsal, she makes it] 'fun and challenging, always smiling and patient.... She gives us confidence.... She is a true asset to our chorus'.... She exemplifies a real Sweet Adeline... She is kind, fun-loving, and a good role model."

Pat Meade

Song of the Valley Chorus

Song of the Valley is pleased to announce our 2019 Member of Note, Pat Meade. At present, Pat is our Team Coordinator, an Assistant Director, Membership Chair, and a participant in the DCP. Throughout her thirty-six years with our chorus, she has held many other positions. She transferred into our chapter, then called Middletown Chapter, when she moved to Orange County in 1970. She was recruited as an Assistant Director and elected to the Board of Directors as Treasurer within the year. She continued serving as Assistant Director and chaired numerous committees and then was elected president in 1982-83. Following her year as president, she gave birth to her eighth child and went on leave. It turned into a thirteen year hiatus and she returned to the chorus in 1996. Since then, Pat has given the chapter her all, even to the point of serving as Interim Director from 2001-2003 while we embarked on a director search.

Born into a barbershop family, Pat started singing harmony at a very young age. Her favorite uncle was a judge in SPEBSQSA. Family gatherings always ended with harmonizing. She has many wonderful memories of singing with the family. In her teenage years she attended many Society shows and had the privilege of hearing a number of International Champion quartets live. Pat says, "Singing, particularly barbershop harmony, has always brought so much joy into my life. Sweet Adelines gives me, and all of us, the opportunity to share that joy with others."

In choosing Pat, members mentioned her long-time involvement in the chapter and the fact that she is always willing to step up to the plate when a need arises. She fills in when our director, Tom, is unavailable, and "makes rehearsal fun and challenging, always smiling and patient no matter how she is feeling. She gives us confidence and advice on improving our voices. She is a true asset to our chorus." She exemplifies a real Sweet Adeline and is always interested in Regional and International news and events. She is kind, fun-loving, and a good role model.

Congratulations, Pat!

Alicia Caron

Spirit of Syracuse Chorus



“Alicia began singing barbershop with the chorus when she was just 15 years old. When it was time to go off to college, Alicia...majored in music education [and then]... acquired a master’s degree..... To everyone’s delight, she returned to...sing with us once again.... She takes on all challenges with a smile and shares her knowledge willingly.”

Alicia Caron

Spirit of Syracuse Chorus

When we invite young singers to our risers, it is always with the knowledge that they will leave us as their lives change – they go to college, they find careers, they move away. It's every chorus' hope that these young women will one day return to barbershop – it's a chorus' dream that a young member will return with a master's degree in music education, and will step on the floor in front of the chorus as an assistant director!

We are lucky and thrilled to introduce the Spirit of Syracuse Member of Note, ALICIA CARON. Alicia began singing barbershop with the chorus when she was just 15 years old. When it was time to go off to college, Alicia headed to SUNY Fredonia to major in music education; she then traveled on to Arizona State to acquire a master's degree. And then, to everyone's delight, she returned to the Syracuse area and sought out the Spirit of Syracuse to sing with us once again.

Since returning to the chorus Alicia has taken on many responsibilities, including lead section teacher, and has earned a position within the chorus as an assistant director. She is a member of Region 16's 2018 quartet champions, SOUNDBYTE, and has recently begun coaching quartets and choruses. She takes on all challenges with a smile and shares her knowledge willingly. Alicia is most deserving of our Member of Note designation.

Congratulations, Alicia!

Marilyn Vokoun

Twin County Chorus



“Marilyn joined in 2008, and almost immediately became one of our hardest working, most friendly, and dedicated members.... Always with a sweet smile...Marilyn lovingly and generously shares her many talents with our chorus.... Always working with careful, meticulous attention to detail, nothing is too small or too big for Marilyn to handle.... Marilyn always brings her dry humor and cheerful manner to everything she does.”

[Marilyn was presented with her Member of Note award on August 14, 2019.
She passed away on August 28.]

Marilyn Vokoun

Twin County Chorus

With great love and affection, Twin County Chorus has unanimously chosen Marilyn Vokoun, one of our Bass singers, as our Member of Note for 2019. Marilyn joined Twin County Chorus in 2008, and almost immediately became one of our hardest working, most friendly, and dedicated members.

Always with a sweet smile, always on time, always ready to help, Marilyn lovingly and generously shares her many talents with our chorus. She was a member of the Management Team, holding the difficult and often challenging position of Financial Coordinator for six years. She came naturally to the job, with many years of experience in accounting positions in the past. In addition to her financial management skills, she has a keen sense of what is fair and right for the chorus.

Before joining the Management Team, she was our Ways and Means committee chair, helping us make more money with our fundraisers than we ever did before. She continued to partner with Ways and Means, visiting places for possible fundraisers, purchasing food, and arranging the delivery of our risers. She stored merchandise in her home for gift baskets, then hosted basket assembly days for the dozens of baskets we raffled at our fundraisers. She arranged a successful used clothing drive among our members, managing the collection and delivery of hundreds of pounds of goods.

Always working with careful, meticulous attention to detail, nothing is too small or too big for Marilyn to handle. From accounting for tickets sold and dues paid, to buying costumes and selling water at our rehearsals, Marilyn always brings her dry humor and cheerful manner to everything she does.

Truly an extraordinary member of our chorus, Marilyn is Twin County's Member of Note for 2019.

Congratulations, Marilyn!

[Note: Marilyn was presented with her Member of Note award on August 14, 2019.

She passed away on August 28.]

Greater NY/NJ Region 15 congratulates all of our Members of Note!

***We thank you for your contributions
to your chapter, to your region,
and to Sweet Adelines!***

You may have spotted that this annual spotlight is now called **Member of Note** (formerly Woman of Note).

Your Regional Management Team made this shift in order to be more inclusive and sensitive. Our ranks include variety – male directors or chorus helpers, and folks who may not identify as women, to name a few. The new name recognizes this gender diversity, ensuring we are embracing the full breadth of our regional talent.

That said, the criteria for this honor are unchanged! A Member of Note is one who: **Works tirelessly** for the chapter; has a **positive influence** on the chapter; and is a **great ambassador** for the chapter.

Whatever the name of this program, we are thrilled to continue shining a light on these superstars who go the extra mile for us!