

Region 15 2021 Membership Celebration!

Golden Members and Member of Note Honorees

October 22, 2021

Region 15 Golden Members - 50 years+



Anita Barry
Jersey Harmony



Jan McCaskill
Harmony Celebration



Pam Hyde
Saratoga Soundtrack



Connie Kash
Twin County



Sharon Vitkovsky
Harmony Celebration



Barbara Blaisdell
Greater Nassau



Region 15 Golden Members - 55 years+



Sonny Steffan
Chapter At Large



Barbara McKeon
Island Hills



Brenda Strauss
Liberty Oak



Marilyn Herke
Seneca Soundwaves



Linda Brown
Capitaland





Region 15 Golden Members - 60 years+



Edie Murphy
Harmony Celebration



Joyce Brandt
Hickory Tree



Marge Dederbeck
Harmony Celebration



Region 15 Golden Members - 65 years+



Judy Rowell
Harmony Celebration





Susan Koppenhaver

Capitaland Chorus 2021 Member of Note

Member of Note: Director Susan Koppenhaver!

Sue has been a member of Sweet Adeline's for twenty-three years. She has served as both assistant director and section leader for both Capitaland and Evergreen chorus. Sue has an extensive musical background, graduating from Lake Erie College with a BFA in piano and the Cleveland Institute of Music with a BM in voice. When coaches start talking about "diminished chords", Sue is able to speak their language!

In 2018, Sue became the director of Capitaland Chorus and has kept the chorus moving forward and always improving. During this difficult Covid time, Sue has worked tirelessly to keep the members of Capitaland engaged and interested in maintaining their enthusiasm and commitment to singing together and making beautiful music! Although we all know how draining zoom meetings can be, Sue steadfastly ran weekly meetings to keep everyone warmed up and singing! When the weather allowed, Sue ran rehearsals at the local park or in the parking lot, all the while competing with the traffic and overhead airplanes! She was always sensitive to the needs and feelings of the chorus members and their comfort level with in-person meetings and rehearsals. When they expressed the need for a break from zoom, Sue worked with the chorus to find just the right mix for everyone's comfort.

Sue has a wonderful directing style; she never lets us forget how much potential we have to do great things! She demands the best we can give by creating a fun and nonthreatening environment.

Sue was a member of the Regional Champion Quartet Xclamation!, singing both tenor and lead. Sue drives from Poughkeepsie, an hour and ½ each way to direct Capitaland. She is accompanied by 3 other members who also live in Poughkeepsie and they travel in the "clown car", full of laughter and good times!

Sue graduated from Columbia University with a Master degree in Community Public Health and is currently the Director of the Office of the Aging for Ulster County. She is a member of the Kiwanis Club and serves on numerous boards in the community.

We are all very proud of Sue and Congratulate her on being awarded the "Member of Note" for 2021.

Congratulations Susan!





All Members

City of the Hills Chorus 2021 Member of Note

City of the Hills Chorus will not be selecting an individual Member of Note for 2021. We are so grateful to the majority of our members who, during the 15 months prior to June 2021, logged in each Monday evening for our abbreviated ZOOM rehearsals and “catch up” sessions. Without this dedication and loyalty to the chorus, our return to successful in-person rehearsals in June would not have been possible. So, we’re honoring ALL of our chorus members who share the characteristics of the annual “Member of Note” award.





Carol Schultheis

Evergreen Chorus 2021 Member of Note

Evergreen Chorus is pleased to announce Carol Schultheis as our 2021 Member of Note. She has been a motivational force that has helped to propel our chorus and our region through our growth journey. She is a “Lead” in more ways than one!

Carol has been “behind the scenes” making things happen ever since she joined Sweet Adelines in 1997. She ensured our regional competitions went off without a hitch for 7 years as the Region 15 Events Coordinator. You might have seen her working out the last-minute details while the rest of us were enjoying the competition banquet. When she wasn’t on the Regional Management Team, she shifted to being our Chorus Contest Liaison. She just loves being around everything Sweet Adelines and contest! Speaking of contests, she has attended EVERY International Convention since she joined 24 years ago, and even served as an assistant.

Event coordination skills carried over from the Region to our chorus, when Carol served as co-chair of the Evergreen Show Committee, helping us to put on a “Cabaret” and celebrating a “Season of Joy” after we returned from competing in the SAI Harmony Classic competition.

Carol has been at the core of our chorus as a member of our Management Team for almost her entire Sweet Adelines career. She is always on the lookout for Evergreen opportunities, having served as Marketing Coordinator and as Performance Coordinator. As our current Membership Coordinator, she greets our guests with a welcoming smile (even when it’s covered up by a mask) and has created a New Member Mentor program to ensure all new members feel included and integrated into our community.

Evergreen benefited from Carol’s technological work expertise when she created our first website. When retirement afforded her more time to spend on her barbershop “hobby,” she quickly became a dual member with Harmony Celebration, to continue learning and becoming a better singer. Education and musical growth have always been important to Carol - she has attended several International Education Symposiums and looks forward to all our coaching sessions.

During this pandemic era, Carol has provided valuable insights as a member of the Back to Singing Together transition committee and keeps us informed on the latest transmission rates, while also serving as our virtual Dutchess County Chamber of Commerce representative.

Please raise a glass and join Evergreen in toasting “Congratulations” to Carol!

Congratulations Carol!





Amy Kruse

Golden Apple Chorus 2021 Member of Note

The Golden Apple Chorus is delighted to recognize **AMY KRUSE** as our Member of Note for 2021. Amy joined GAC as a baritone in 2004, and has shared her joy of singing from the front row ever since. She is membership co-chair, and has chaired our annual show multiple times, coordinating ticket sales, raffle sales, script-writing, etc. She has sung in many chapter quartets, mostly as a bari, but also as a lead and tenor. She competed with her quartet Pipin' Hot at regional competition in 2005-2008. Amy is always willing to volunteer for special events, and can be counted on to shine at all performances.

Amy was born a barbershopper. Her mother, Kathy (GAC bass) and father, Bill (Westchester Chordsmen lead) are both barbershop singers, along with big brothers Bill (Alliance Chorus, Columbus Ohio) and Scott (Westchester Chordsmen baritone). In fact, Kathy, Bill, Amy and Scott have performed as a mixed quartet - so wonderful to see such a talented family quartet!

Her love of performing began at an early age, and she was involved in many theater productions in high school. Her crazy sense of humor and creativity is evident in everything she does. Especially at Halloween - one year, she came to rehearsal dressed up as our director Stash, complete with beard and ponytail! It was hard to tell them apart!

In her regular life, Amy is a paralegal, working for Rabin, Panero & Herrick in White Plains. She is also a volunteer firefighter in Ossining, proud to become the first female firefighter of Washington Hook and Ladder Co #2. She serves as dispatcher and secretary of the Fire Investigation Team, and has reached the rank of Captain. For many years, she has volunteered for the Baker Collyer Christmas Cheer Fund, organizing and delivering food baskets to over 400 needy families in the Ossining area.

Amy loves hiking, and completed the grueling requirements to join the Catskill 3500 Club last year, by climbing 33 mountains with peaks of 3500 feet or more. In addition to singing with GAC, and hiking, she also enjoys playing with her adorable nieces and nephews.

Golden Apple Chorus is thankful to Amy for sharing her boundless energy, creativity, talent, humor, and beautiful singing voice with us. Her dedication and commitment to our chorus makes us proud to name Amy our **MEMBER OF NOTE** for 2021.

Congratulations Amy!





Harriette Walters

Greater Nassau Chorus 2021 Member of Note

Greater Nassau Chorus proudly recognizes our director, Harriette Walters as our 2021 Member of Note! Her boundless energy, passion, vision, and commitment to the chorus makes her this year's worthy recipient.

"Oprah Winfrey once said, **"you get in life what you have the courage to ask for."**

Over the last 18 months, our director, Harriette Walters has had the courage to persevere and keep us all engaged and together. Through her inspiration and determination, she has led the Greater Nassau Chorus week after week through unprecedented times. Every week at our Zoom rehearsal Harriette would greet us by saying, "Welcome GNC to Tuesday night, the best night of the week." As each member dealt with the daily challenges of navigating the Pandemic, Tuesday night rehearsals provided a haven for us all. As Harriette opened each rehearsal with inspirational quotes, we would all begin to settle into the comfort of routine and togetherness that we were all so craving. Each week we were presented with a well-planned and educational rehearsal, filled with videos that were meant to inform and instruct along with past GNC shows and contest appearances to perform to at home, together. We were treated to a master class every Tuesday night – just as before the Pandemic shutdown. Harriette did not miss a beat.

As one member said, **"Throughout this pandemic, despite her own personal challenges, Harriette has been incredibly supportive of all members, uplifting, positive and has kept the chorus moving forward. We have thrived under her leadership."**

Another member said, **"Harriette is the light leading us toward a common goal. A goal that keeps us striving to better ourselves as singers and human beings."**

Harriette's dedication to GNC was evident in her planning and facilitating productive virtual rehearsals that were engaging and worthwhile. We sang to her direction, we performed as if on stage and for two hours a week we were all present and, in the moment, making us forget the woes of the week, if only for a short while.

Congratulations, Harriette, you are the heart and soul of GNC and we could not think of anyone who is more deserving of this award.

Congratulations Harriette!





Grace Barreto

Harmony Celebration Chorus 2021 Member of Note

HCC is so very pleased to announce that our 2021 Member of Note is awarded to Grace Barreto.

Grace is an amazing member of our chorus. She has been a member of HCC for several years and has made many important contributions, both musically and administratively. Grace is a person of impeccable character, and she works tirelessly for the chapter.

Ever since she joined the Harmony Celebration Chorus, Grace has exuded a warm, friendly, confident personality that makes our chorus a better place. Music learning has never been a concern for her. She impresses us all with her quick, accurate music learning and her ability to “be off the paper” well before many of our members. She is a lead listener and sets the bar very high for our LEAD section. She sets a positive example for our chorus, both as a singer and as a hard-working member. Whenever a volunteer is needed, Grace is always the first to say, “I can do that!” And she does!

More importantly, everyone who interacts with Grace is always impressed with her ability to take on the task at hand and do it humbly with the best interests of HCC in mind.

She has served on the Management Team as our Events Coordinator for many years, and she quietly and reliably does her job. This responsibility is vital regarding our WEEKLY rehearsal facility, risers set-up and breakdown, and after rehearsal refreshments. What would Scott do without her charging and bringing the microphone to chorus! In addition, she coordinates all our holiday parties and so much more.

We are so fortunate to have her consistent, hard-working, fair-minded personality on our Management Team.

Grace is certainly a worthy Member of Note!

Congratulations Grace!





BJ Hillinck

Heart of Long Island Chorus 2021 Member of Note

Heart of Long Island Chorus would like to recognize our wonderful Director, BJ Hillinck, for the 2021 Member of Note Award. BJ has worked tirelessly through the many challenges that came up from this past. Under his direction he kept us connected "virtually" and then later in the year kept us motivated with in person singing, developing our skills and sound, allowing us to produce several montage videos to keep us connected to the greater community. During that time of challenges, BJ completed his Masters degree in Music Education through NYU. If that isn't enough, why we also feel BJ is this year's Member of Note:

- He is a great director and also a great listener, being careful to make sure he understands what folks need/want before creating a plan of action.
- His tremendous communication skills allow him to clearly and visually give us 'in the moment' tips and explaining techniques and steps to take to improve our sound. And, if the idea doesn't work, he is quick to take a new approach.
- A creative problem solver, BJ is not afraid to think outside of the box, even if at times it breaks tradition.
- An eternal student, BJ eagerly searches for opportunities to continually build on his own skill set, and he is not afraid to seek advice from colleagues when he's unsure how best to proceed.
- His approachable and friendly demeanor makes it easy for members to feel comfortable to ask questions, and he has the ability to know and utilizes everyone's individual talents without pressuring anyone to make them feel comfortable with change.

But most of all, it's his genuine love and appreciation of Barbershop Music, his willingness to share it with us and his contagious enthusiasm that keeps wanting us to come back each week.



Congratulations BJ!





Virginia Dearborn

Heart of New Jersey Chorus 2021 Member of Note

Virginia is always positive and works tirelessly for our chorus with an eye toward equality and inclusion for all. Her heart is with the music, her HONJ family, her community, and is even open to those she has yet to meet. She is always willing to take on a chorus task or project and can be counted on to follow it through to fruition. Her smile is welcoming and ever present, encouraging harmony all around her. She is always enthusiastic and extremely helpful. She is the first to raise her hand and step up for everything and she is also very encouraging for others to volunteer.

She always working to improve her vocal skills and to assist those around her as she learns. She makes sure to be knowledgeable and prepared with the repertoire on the agenda and is able to clarify any confusion. She is warm and approachable and makes everyone feel welcome and included. She is kind, cheerful and dependable and has consistently demonstrated her willingness to assist the chorus both musically and administratively.

Aside from her being a good member and Baritone Section Leader, she is also a member of our Board of Directors. Virginia truly exemplifies the spirit of Sweet Adelines and she is a great ambassador for our chapter. She has added so much to our chorus-- she has worked on many different projects including using the new Song Assessment Tool, has brought in several new members to our chorus, participates in chorus events and attends outside events such as Vocal Fest and other online regional events.

She is always singing in the videos Jeanne has put together this past year. She's eager to contribute and a wonderful representative of our chorus. She is always ready and willing to work in any capacity for the betterment of HONJ.

Whether it be "tech" help, engaging in regional events, or anything musical. As Baritone section leader – she is also always willing to help singers in other parts, Virginia can be counted on to go over and above, always with a smile! She is a wonderful ambassador for not only our chapter, but also for all of Region 15, and Sweet Adelines all over the globe! We are very lucky to have her.



Congratulations Virginia!





Amy Seid

Hickory Tree Chorus 2021 Member of Note

Sweet Adelines are a resourceful, dynamic and hard work group of women. These traits are helping us to prosper in these difficult times. Our candidate for Member of Note Amy Seid has all of these traits and was instrumental in helping Hickory Tree cope with all of the issues we have faced in the past 18 months.

First was the transition to rehearsals on zoom spearheaded by the HTC COOL (connecting our online ladies) Team. Our candidate was part of this team that worked to make zoom rehearsals run efficiently and effectively. Getting out the kinks and turning it into an experience that is both educational and productive. Amy still is out there assisting in bringing those online rehearsals to us and bringing new innovations to our online rehearsals.

Amy has been a part of Hickory Tree since 2014. Has been on our Management Team first as Marketing Chairperson and then as Team Coordinator.

She publishes our weekly "HOT SHEET" which is our newsletter. Everything you need to know about current and future activities are found in the hot sheet. Also links to important e-mails and upcoming birthdays. Keeping track of all this information is not easy but for Amy it's no problem. She never misses a date or an event.

If that isn't enough to do she also maintains our external web site updating the site with new pictures and information when needed. Perspective members often find us through our web site first. The membership chair appreciates the timely information that she gets from Amy. As thanks for all of the time and effort Amy gives to Hickory Tree we are proud to name her our Member of Note for 2021.

Congratulations Amy!





Kara Dashnaw

Island Hills Chorus 2021 Member of Note

Kara joined Island Hills only a little more than three years ago and oh, what an asset she has been! Kara's cousin had recently joined and was finally able to convince Kara to attend a rehearsal. (They loved singing together growing up and even put on shows for their families.) It wasn't long before Kara fell in love with barbershop. And it wasn't long before we fell in love with Kara.

Her first amazing accomplishment was learning the chorus bass repertoire in three months! Before long she was assisting the bass section and is now a co-section leader. Whenever a bass member needs extra help, Kara is there to create voice files and help them with their repertoire.

She has become our "tech whiz", setting up our zoom rehearsals and helping the less experienced with the latest technology. She even made phone calls to help some of our elder members join our zooming so they could stay connected during the height of the pandemic. Seeing the smiles on the faces as these computer novices "saw" their chorus sisters and were able to actually interact with them, made us realize just how dedicated and helpful a member Kara was. She assisted our directors with their zoom slides and videos enabling our virtual rehearsals to run smoothly. Kara also helped put together some of the backgrounds and videos of different artists singing our repertoire songs for the chorus to enjoy at home.

Kara works tirelessly for our chapter. At the beginning of covid, Kara created a chorus slide show, helping to boost our sagging spirits. She has designed flyers, backdrops, and props for several of our shows and certificates and parts of costumes for a recent special award. She created 8 different designs for our group to choose from for our chorus tee shirts.

Now part of the Management Team's Membership Committee, she has helped create a brochure and cards to hand out for potential members. She responds to all chorus emails and encourages potential guests to come for a rehearsal. Her enthusiasm for Sweet Adelines shines through each of these interactions.

As if this all weren't enough, Kara spent many hours redesigning and updating our chorus web-site. And she has even found the time to sing with her quartet which is made up of Kara, her cousin, and our two co-directors.

Kara, with her bubbling personality, is loved by everyone! And oh, can she sing and oh, can she bake. We know this because she often brings goodies to our rehearsals. She even convinced her sister to join the chorus!

Congratulations from Island Hills to our multitalented Kara Dashnaw!

Congratulations Kara!





Sandra Hoedemaker

Jersey Harmony Chorus 2021 Member of Note

Jersey Harmony Chorus is so proud and excited to name Sandra Hoedemaker as our choice for Member of Note. Sandra is an asset to us not only with her excellent vocal participation but contributes in a great number of ways.

She assists the lead section leader, a member of the management and music teams, our communications chair, manages our birthday gram fund raiser, assists in providing social media notices and flyers, supervises Groupanizer and helps develop learning tracks.

Best of all, Sandra always has a kind word and winning smile! Congratulations from all your friends at JHC, Sandra!



Congratulations Sandra!





Laura Partynski

Liberty Oak Chorus 2021 Member of Note

Member of Note: Laura Partynski

Our member of note is a tireless worker and great asset to Liberty Oak. Her positive, upbeat personality and can-do attitude are helping us continue to move forward. Despite the challenges of the past year, she always has a smile on her face. There doesn't seem to be anything she can't do and do well! As an officer of the board as well as an assistant section leader, she is at the forefront of Liberty Oak. She was absolutely amazing while collecting and preparing member recordings for our virtual Bridge over Troubled Waters video. She took the reins of our newly created Tech Team coordinating zoom rehearsals, our website, and all social media. When our regular zoom host was injured last November, she took over as zoom host for almost all of our rehearsals. That's no small feat with a chorus of 90+. Then when a spot opened up on our front row and we needed someone, she jumped in with both feet.

She describes herself as a Baritone or lead, depending on the situation. She has won regional quartet medals as both a lead and a baritone. She has been an international chorus champion with her hometown Chorus, The Melodeers. She currently sings lead in Liberty Oak Chorus and baritone in Anthology Quartet. When she isn't living her best Sweet Adeline life, she is busy with her other life. She's a Chicago girl who loves baseball. She enjoys gardening and cooking which is not surprising since she's also French Culinary Graduate. She has a demanding job working for a major corporation in marketing communications and brand management. She lives with her wonderful husband Dan, and their awesome teenage daughter Anne. She is a lovely, caring, helpful, enthusiastic, and positive woman. She represents the very best of LOC.



Congratulations Laura!





Colleen Marron

Long Island Sound Chorus 2021 Member of Note

Member of Note: Colleen Marron

Just hours before Colleen passed on, one of our members posted a check for her dues along with an appreciative note thanking her for her generous, reliable service as our chorus's Finance Coordinator. The news of her passing came as a shock. Our chorus members could not believe that Colleen was gone. She was always there for every rehearsal, management team meeting, fundraiser, contest and show. Colleen received anesthesia for a dental procedure, came home, went to bed and never woke up. How could it be? Our vibrant baritone extraordinaire would sing no more. Our costume visionary whose Bob Fosse inspired tuxedo and derby ensemble helped us win first place prize in competition would create no more.

Colleen touched every member in our chorus with her kindness and high aspirations. She brought joy to many audiences as a charismatic quartet singer. Colleen did it all during her twenty-eight year membership as a Sweet Adeline. She sang in both Heart of Long Island and Long Island Sound Choruses. She taught choreography, mentored new members and mastered every piece of complicated baritone music presented by her directors. Colleen was like a strict, serious Mother Superior, attending to every detail, until something tickled her funny bone, then, she let loose. Her musical laugh was an infectious eruption of delight from deep within her soul. When Colleen laughed we all laughed with her.

Heaven has received a new angel. It is with love and admiration that we celebrate Colleen Marron as our 2021 Long Island Sound Chorus Women of Note. Rest In Peace, dear friend. You will never be forgotten. The chorus has established The Colleen Marron Angel Fund in her honor to assist members who need financial help with dues.





Jamie Halvarson

Saratoga Soundtrack Chorus 2021 Member of Note

Saratoga Soundtrack is thrilled to announce our 2021 Member of Note, Jamie Halvarson!

Jamie is a long time Sweet Adeline and a charter member of Saratoga Soundtrack. Over the years, Jamie has stepped into many roles to support our success. Jamie has served on our costume and make up committee, management team and our spirit committee.

Most recently, Jamie started to manage our social media accounts to help us stay connected with each other and our community, especially during these challenging times. Jamie is always happy to step into roles that need to be filled and help meet a need of the chorus, no matter what the challenge.

Additionally, Jamie is a strong member of our lead section and is always actively engaged in musical learning and growth. Most importantly, Jamie is a caring, committed and invaluable member of our chorus who deserves to be recognized for her many contributions over her years of membership.

Thank you Jamie!

Congratulations Jamie!





Elaine Macrillo

Seneca Soundwaves Chorus 2021 Member of Note

Seneca Soundwaves Member of Note 2021

This year, the winner goes to someone who personifies everything a Sweet Adeline represents. Elaine Macrillo and three other women founded Seneca Soundwaves Chorus in 1995, which was chartered in 1998. Prior to that, she sang with Kanandaarque Chorus from 1982 to 1995 and was a lead singer in a quartet, *Jubilee*.

Elaine served Seneca Soundwaves Chorus in administrative jobs, including team leader, financial coordinator, show chairperson, membership chair, fundraising chair and chorus grant writer, in addition to being on the music team and lead section leader. She served as our music director from 2010-2020. She served on the Management Team of Region 16 as DCP program coordinator, and Ways and Means coordinator. Elaine has worn many hats in her 39 years of service to Sweet Adelines.

Elaine won the Regional Award for Leadership (Nancy Field Leadership Award) and the Jackie Kraft Assistant Director Award. She served the International Organization in the position of Membership Development Representative, assisting with the growth of nine new regional choruses in a span of eight years.

The Seneca Soundwaves Chorus has flourished, winning "Most Improved Chorus" award at the competition in 2000 and 2004 and third place award for "Small Chorus" in 2005.

In addition to all of her accomplishments, she is an outstanding individual, enthusiastic cheerleader and passionate representative for barbershop harmony. Her positivity is contagious and she remains an inspiration to us all.

Elaine remains a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. Her family means the world to her. They are very blessed to have such a wonderful matriarch of the family.

We are also lucky to have Elaine in our chorus. She is a gem and we are pleased to be able to honor her with this well-deserved award.

Here's to many more years of singing together in harmony!

Congratulations Elaine!





Meredith Rich

Sirens of Gotham Chorus 2021 Member of Note

Sirens of Gotham is pleased to announce Meredith Rich as our 2021 Member of Note!

Meredith brings joy, thoughtfulness, and kindness to everything she does. Since joining Sirens of Gotham in the summer of 2016, she has worked tirelessly for the chapter and invested tremendous time and personal resources into huge chorus undertakings over the years, which include streamlining chorus communications, sitting on both the Logo Development Committee in 2016/17 and the Director Search Committee in 2017/18, and serving on the Board during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now in her second year as President, Meredith continues to shepherd Sirens of Gotham through an extremely difficult and unpredictable time with a gracious spirit full of wisdom, optimism, and compassion.

On top of exhibiting superior leadership skills, Meredith is deeply devoted to our artistic success as a chorus and always comes to every rehearsal ready to learn, grow, and explore her craft along with the group. Her quartet pursuits with The Leftovertones and Breakfast for Dinner have helped to showcase her innate talent as a Baritone and her authenticity as a performer. She's contributed countless repertoire suggestions and provided the kind of rich perspective that has enhanced our ability as an ensemble to tell stories with honesty and vigor. As Sirens of Gotham continues to explore and strengthen our relationship with our sibling chorus Voices of Gotham and our affiliation with both SAI and the BHS, Meredith has dedicated even more time and energy towards setting us up to be stronger than ever coming out of the pandemic.

It is remarkable to everyone how Meredith manages to do as much as she does "behind the scenes," especially during the past year when circumstances have ventured so far beyond normal routine, but she continues to keep spirits high despite difficult decisions and setbacks caused by the pandemic. We are incredibly lucky to have Meredith in a leadership.

Congratulations Meredith!





June Noble

Song of the Valley Chorus 2021 Member of Note

Such a strange and difficult year! Song of the Valley had a hard time choosing a Member of note this year. We're proud of all the members who have steadfastly supported our Zoom and outdoor rehearsals, those who attended our Regional Zoom events, studied their music, and stayed positive about the future of our chorus. But then, we realized that there was one noble spirit who plugged on with determination coming up with creative ideas to keep our chorus together — our director, June Noble.

June has a long history with Sweet Adelines, having joined Flushing Meadows Chapter in 1966. Within six years, she had married Tom, the director, given birth to two children, and emerged as the front line director of the chorus of about thirty members.

Through the years, her dedication to this hobby has intensified. She has directed four choruses, two Sweet Adeline, one Harmony, and one Society. She has written scripts, designed and made costumes, put on shows, edited newsletters, sung in quartets, and traveled to Regional, District, and International Competitions of all three Barbershop organizations in the United States. It became her life.

However, this year was different. June took all the enthusiasm and creativity and focused on our small chorus. She worked on keeping our members engaged and encouraged participation in Regional and International offerings. She encouraged and made herself available to those members who were learning new parts in order for us to emerge from this trial as a stronger chorus. Then, trying to boost morale, she arranged to have Mo and Amelia attend one of our rehearsals as her gift to the chorus.

Now, it looks like we've made it to the other side of the tunnel and we owe it, in large part, to June Noble, our 2021 Member of Note.



Congratulations June!





Evelyn Langenstein

Spirit of Syracuse Chorus 2021 Member of Note

This year the Spirit of Syracuse Chorus is excited to announce that Evelyn Langenstein as our Member of Note. Evelyn, a 30-year member of Sweet Adelines, was a shining light in our chorus as we navigated the landscape of keeping our chorus interested and engaged during a global pandemic. As the current Events Chair for our chorus, she spearheaded an SOS Spirit day where a small group of members hopped in their cards and visited every member of the chorus giving them a small gift of love. Additionally, she came up with innovative ideas to help with chorus morale while we were on zoom such as theme nights and suggested and organized some new fundraisers that we've been able to do during covid to help us financially. She is passionate about membership and specifically goes out of her way to reach out to members during the week to check in on them just to see how they are doing.

Beyond what she does for the chorus, Evelyn has been a member of the Region 15 Convention Committee (RCC) since 2014 as the Official Panel Liaison (OPL), normally this role involves coordinating everything that has to do with the judges, however during covid this meant reaching out to the judges who were slated to be at our competitions to get videos from them to share at our virtual regional conventions. Lastly this year Evelyn took on a new position in the region as one of the Return to Rehearsal Liaisons, who during the spring and summer did research, collected, and shared data with the choruses on best practices for restarting in person rehearsals. As part of that team, she met with representatives of most choruses either individually or in groups over the summer and continues to remain a resource for them while we navigate back to rehearsing full time.



Congratulations Evelyn!





Barbara O'Regan

Twin County Chorus 2021 Member of Note

With great love, Twin County Chorus has unanimously chosen Barbara O'Regan as our Member Of Note for 2021.

Barbara joined the chorus in 2009. She sang in church and in school choral groups for many years before auditioning with our chorus. A successful Internet search led Barbara to Twin County Chorus. She immediately felt that our chorus was a great fit because everyone was so friendly, genuine, and open. How lucky are we!

She has always been happy to help us with various committees. She has helped with our shows by collecting ads, making up cookie trays, and moving furniture. She was Secretary of our Management Team, she has been on the Membership team, and she also served as our Team Coordinator. When the Region moved its annual competition from Philadelphia to Albany, Barbara made sure every detail was handled precisely. With so many changes, we made the transition with no problems, and had a great time.

Right now, she is working as our Ways and Means Committee Chair. Raising funds during a pandemic is not easy, yet she ran a successful lottery, and is looking into other creative ways to raise funds.

In addition to singing and working with the chorus, she still sings with her church choir, works full-time, and enjoys bowling, gardening, and cooking.

Barbara is the perfect example of a Sweet Adeline. She devotes her time to the chorus in any way she can, and sings baritone beautifully. A few years ago, she sang with the Twin Keys in the regional quartet competition. Always optimistic, upbeat, and comfortable in her own skin, she finds a night at chorus something she looks forward to all week.

How lucky we are to have such a devoted and talented member, whose goal is to unite everyone with her smile and great attitude. Barbara, we are so proud to name you our Member of Note for 2021.



Congratulations Barbara!





Congratulations to all our Region 15
Members of Note Honorees
& Golden Members!

