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December 2009

Taglines

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

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Dear Heather,

I hope this last *Taglines* newsletter of 2009 finds you happy, healthy and hopeful about the year to come. While the past 12 months have been very rough on our entire nation, we are so proud of the many accomplishments our Region has achieved, including the [recent national appearance of Greater Nassau Chorus on network television](#). The entire Regional Management Team hopes for even greater things for our Region 15 sisters and brothers in 2010. Most of all we wish you a peaceful, prosperous and harmonious 2010.

Heather Collins, Communications Coordinator

RCC Seeks Shell for Competition

The Regional Competition Committee (RCC) has heard from the college that loaned us the chorus shell for last year's competition. Unfortunately, they will be using the shell during the time of our 2010 competition. Therefore, we must find another source for a chorus shell.

If you have any ideas, connections, suggestions of schools, groups, etc., who may possibly have a shell we could use, please contact Joyce Brandt (CRC) at 908-273-0441 (day) or

Submissions Deadline

If your chorus or quartet has news to share, [e-mail your idea to Heather Collins](#) for consideration in the next *Taglines*. The next deadline is February 1.

Add This E-mail!

Please add this e-mail to your list of important contacts: The address for Region 15 Team Coordinator Arlene Gunther is arlenegunther@hotmail.com.

Seeking "Round the Region" Editor

Some Region 15 members have expressed an interest in a return to a newsletter that contains Round the Region gossip items about each chorus.

If you are interested in coordinating or editing a special edition of *Taglines* that includes these items, potentially two to three times a year, please contact Heather Collins at heather@voiceonly.com.

At this time, the regional communications team does not have enough resources to produce this newsletter, so if we don't find a volunteer, we regret that will not be able to produce it.

908-647-5987 (evening & weekends) or via e-mail at jbrandt@centralpres.org or jkhbrandt@verizon.net. We are also reaching out to anyone who would like to become actively involved in helping the RCC in its search. If you would like to help with following up on suggestions, making phone calls, etc., please also contact Joyce.

We know there is a shell out there somewhere that is just waiting to come to our competition; we just need your help to find it!

A Note from Your Education Coordinator

With Christmas just around the corner, most shows done for the year and holiday performances winding down, it is time to reflect on the past year and where we are going in 2010.

We saw huge support for Region 15 educational events again this year, and I cannot thank you enough for participating in the high numbers you did despite the tough economy.

Our region was one of the few who voted with 100% participation in the recent International Board election. We were also one of the regions that participated 100% in the Membership Pilot program. We saw our competing chorus AND quartet place among the top competitors at the International Contest in Nashville, and we became a region that will send two choruses and at least two quartets to Seattle next year. (Since a.k.a finished No. 11, the quartet is qualified to go back without competing at regional again. This will allow Region 15 to send a new quartet winner to the International Convention in 2010 and, who knows, maybe even a wild card!)

We were represented on the International Board of Directors by our own Harriette Walters, who continues to make us proud as the Master Director of our International 4th place chorus Greater Nassau Chorus, as the baritone of a.k.a, and as an International Faculty member teaching, coaching and writing articles for the *Pitch Pipe*.

So how do we top this in 2010?

We will start with Regional Faculty training by International Faculty Member Nancy Field on February 27 in Baldwin, N.Y.,

then continue to plan the schedule for Master Faculty member Kathy Carmody, who will be with us from May 21-23 for Directors, Music Leaders and Administrative Leaders training. August 13-15 for TRAX, we welcome Jim Arns, International Champion Director of the Melodeers Chorus, and his Choreographer, International Board of Directors and International Faculty member Renee Porzel.

But it doesn't stop there.

Dates are set for the next couple of years with faculty like Bev Miller for our Leadership weekend from May 13-15, 2011, and Diane Porsch for TRAX from September 23-25 2011. Laura Pallas is on deck a future TRAX with a suggested date of September 14-16, 2012, and we hope Lori Lyford will join us for TRAX with a suggested date of September 20-22, 2013.

We are also looking into the possibility of alternating Quartet Training and Faculty training every other year. You will hear more about that, when it is all settled.

[Finally, I want to remind you to use your Regional Management Team and your Regional Faculty and Coaches listed on the Web site.](#) We are all available and also have some Internationally Funded Visits still available. These visits are for choruses in need of musical and/or administrative help. Our International organization will pay for the mileage, and the RMT will assign a coach/faculty person to help, depending on the chorus' needs. If your chorus is interested in receiving this help, please contact me ASAP.

To all of you, a huge thank-you for a terrific year, for all your help and input, your interest in making us all become better singers and chorus members, and finally for allowing us to serve you and your needs.

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah, Lisbet

Region 15 Women of Note

At TRAX 2008, the region adopted a recognition program called Women of Note. Choruses are asked to select one member whose dedication to their chorus and to Region 15 is unflinching. At the latest TRAX event, the 2009 Women of Note were named. Here are bios

for three of them. Future issues of Taglines will feature the additional ones.

RUTH MARTIN, EVERGREEN

Evergreen Chorus is pleased to present Ruth Martin as our 2009 Woman of Note. Ruth became a member of Sweet Adelines in 1962 as a member of South Dutchess Chorus. She then moved to the Colonial City Chorus, which eventually merged with another chorus to become Evergreen.

During Ruth's 47-year tenure as a Sweet Adeline, she has worked in many capacities to help her chorus. Ruth has been an active member of the board for many years, including two-and-a-half years as president. She was also active on the Membership Team for years and enjoyed making contact with prospective members through phone calls and notes in the mail.

For the past several years, Ruth has offered her assistance to the Finance Coordinator by taking over the collection of dues, and the record-keeping that goes along with this job. Ruth has also been the chorus Music Librarian for several years, keeping track of the music and making the copies for chorus members.

This past year has shown Ruth's devotion to Evergreen in yet another capacity. Ruth seriously injured her shoulder this past winter, yet she was at rehearsals and coaching sessions as soon as she was able to attend them. In July, she had a serious gall bladder attack and had emergency surgery but was back on the risers in two weeks!

Ruth is a true inspiration to all of us, and we cherish her membership and her friendship! You can see why Ruth is Evergreen's Woman of Note.

BOBBI FORAN, TWIN COUNTY

Bobbi Foran joined Sweet Adelines in 1972 as a member of Central Long Island Chapter. In 1982, she joined Twin County Chapter and has been an active member ever since.

In addition to her duties as a Baritone section leader, Bobbi has been serving as Membership Chair of Twin County Chorus for over a decade. She is usually the first cheerful voice that a prospective member hears upon inquiring about our chorus. Most of our "Divas" who have joined in the past decade have

been emboldened by her constant but gentle prodding to try a practice quartet, to make sure they have a learning tape or music to borrow, or to know which section leader to consult to move towards an audition. She is in constant communication with all prospective members by phone in between rehearsals until they pass.

Bobbi is always prepared at our performances, answering questions about what we do, and handing out business cards and contact information, always with an engaging smile. Even with the weight of these duties, she is always one to volunteer for any job that needs doing. In fact, Bobbi is usually one of the first people to reach out to the current members who may be having a crisis of some kind with a simple phone call, or personal visit.

Bobbi is an outstanding example of what we are most proud of as a Sweet Adeline: smiling countenance, cheerful attitude, forward thinking and always supportive of her chapter whether performing in the front row, or in her daily life. Twin County Chorus is proud to honor Bobbi as this year's Woman of Note.

BARBARA MCKEON, ISLAND HILLS

No one needs to tell this Sweet Adeline to smile, because with Barbara a smile comes naturally.

Barbara McKeon has been a Sweet Adeline for 46 years. Married to John, she spends her time between her home in Levittown, N.Y., and Trail's End in Virginia on the Delmarva peninsula.

When Barbara first became a Sweet Adeline, she sang tenor in Central Long Island chorus and then joined Island Hills in 1970. There she went from tenor to bass with no in between. Barbara has served Island Hills in many capacities, from the Ways and Means committee, to the management team, running the annual show, to Chorus hospitality chairwomen. She also has managed to run our annual Garage Sale for the past 10 years.

Barbara is one of the finest examples of all that a Sweet Adeline should be. She is loyal to her chorus, always shows kindness and good manners, and is diligent. You can always depend on Barbara being there to help. Her cheerfulness is contagious. She will turn

anyone's frown upside down.

Barbara McKeon personifies the true spirit of Sweet Adelines. She is definitely a Real Woman!

A 'Gleeful' Return from Nashville

Greater Nassau Chorus is still beaming from the amazing contest in Nashville and the new honor of representing Region 15 and the Sweet Adelines International organization as the 2010 4th place chorus.

Since coming home to Baldwin, the excitement has continued. On November 17, standing on the same stage as the world-famous Rockettes, Greater Nassau had the opportunity to bring *a cappella* harmony to the opening night of the Radio City Christmas Spectacular by performing the holiday classics, "Carol of the Bells" and "I'll Be Home for Christmas."

The following rehearsal, on November 24, Greater Nassau was filmed by CBS News Sunday Morning for the nationally broadcast segment, "A Gleeful Song," which aired on December 6 (the morning of our 50th anniversary show!) This segment highlighted the renewed popularity of glee clubs and show choirs in America since the hit TV series, "Glee." Mo Rocca first featured Central Ohio's Olentangy High School Show Choir, the Keynotes, whose members discussed how their hard work paid off in excitement, achievement, and confidence.

Then, through his visit with Greater Nassau Chorus, Rocca showed how such aspects of "show choir" membership persist and develop beyond the school years. During interviews with Rocca, Master Director Harriette Walters and veteran members, Arlene Oberhofer, Sylvia Giallombardo and Blanche Justice spoke about the relationships and teamwork essential to the growth, enjoyment, and success of the ensemble -- a theme which resonates with many Sweet Adelines choruses and quartets. During the segment, GNC was featured singing portions of "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and "I Never Knew / I'm Getting Married in the Morning." [A full transcript of the show can be found here.](#)

Greater Nassau Chorus would like to express our appreciation to the members and choruses from Region 15 for your outpouring of support and well wishes!

Marketing Sweet Adelines

How often have you heard "Membership/Marketing is everyone's job"? Yikes, that sounds like work! But did you know you already market membership in Sweet Adelines International every day?

To anyone who knows you as a Sweet Adeline, to anyone who may be, or knows, a future Sweet Adeline, you market the organization by the way you present yourself in your daily encounters. People will judge Sweet Adelines by your attitude, speech and appearance.

Sure, we have days when our sun refuses to shine; we pull on sweats, tug a baseball cap over our naked face and complain about the rain. But go to "work" each day with a song in your heart, a little lipstick, and lots of laughter, and you show the people you meet that real women sing real harmony and have real fun with Sweet Adelines International.

Marketing membership in Sweet Adelines is the easiest job you'll ever have!

Dana Dunlevy

Hickory Tree Mourns Bettie Hatem

Hickory Tree Chorus mourns the passing of our beloved friend Bettie Hatem after a long, courageous battle with myelofibrosis/leukemia.

Bettie sang baritone with us for 20 years and was indispensable as a writer, graphic artist and administrator. She produced elegant-looking fliers, show programs, forms, letters, guidebooks and every kind of printed material, for us and Region 15. She was everyone's go-to wordsmith and copy editor.

Bettie was a born teacher. She taught anything she knew -- from computer use to cooking -- to all comers. She knew how to get your kid into college, how to find a place to eat in Paris, and how

to stop your email from doing that weird thing. She knew, and she explained it clearly to even a complete beginner.

But more than all this, she was everyone's friend, confidant and adviser. There was no one she didn't like, no one she had a bad word to say about, no one who couldn't find a sympathetic ear when they dialed her number. Hers was a kind, gentle and generous heart, and we'll miss her terribly. We invite all who knew Bettie to join us in honoring her with a donation to the Young Singers Foundation.

Dates To Remember

Jan. 30, 2010: RMT Retreat

Feb. 27, 2010: In-region Training, Region 15 Faculty, with Nancy Fields

March 21, 2010: Island Hills Show at 3 p.m.

April 22-25, 2010: Regional Competition

May 8, 2010: RMT Meeting

May 15, 2010: Harmony Celebration Show (featuring the 2009 BHS Champion Quartet Crossroads)

May 21 - 23, 2010: Music Leaders/Leadership Workshop with Kathy Carmody

July 7-10, 2010: IES East (Pittsburgh)

July 15-17, 2010: IES Central (St. Louis) with a YWIH Festival on July 16 and 17

July 22-24, 2010: IES West (Palm Springs) with a Visual Leaders workshop on July 21

Aug. 13-15, 2010: TRAX 2010 with Jim Arns and Renee Porzel of the Melodeers

Aug. 23, 2010: RMT Conference Call

Sept. 25, 2010: Long Island Sound Show at 3 p.m.

Sept. 26, 2010: Long Island Sound Show at 3 p.m.

Oct. 19-23, 2010: 64th Annual Convention and Competitions (Seattle)

Nov. 6 or 7, 2010: RMT Meeting

Nov. 11-13, 2010: IES Pacific Rim (Auckland, New Zealand)

Jan. 29/30, 2011: RMT Retreat

March 24-27, 2011: Regional Competition

May 13-15, 2011: Music Leaders/Leadership Workshop with Bev Miller

September 2011: IES Europe

Sept. 23-25, 2011: TRAX with Diane Porsch
Oct. 18 - 22, 2011: 65th Annual Convention and Competitions (Houston)
March 22-25, 2012: Regional Competition
Oct. 30 - Nov. 3, 2012: 66th Annual Convention and Competitions (Denver)
March 21-24, 2013: Regional Competition
Nov. 5-9, 2013: 67th Annual Convention and Competitions (Honolulu)
Nov. 4-8, 2014: 68th Annual Convention and Competitions (Baltimore)
Oct. 6 - 10, 2015: 69th Annual Convention and Competitions (Las Vegas)
Oct. 18-22, 2016: 70th Annual Convention and Competitions (Las Vegas)
Oct. 10-14, 2017: 70th Annual Convention and Competitions (Las Vegas)

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

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