



Taglines

Sweet Adelines International

Chapter News

**Greater New York Region 15
Contest Results 2011**

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Liberty Oak Chorus	617	Drive!	556
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Island Hills Chorus	509	Match 4	501
Jersey Harmony Chorus	485	Xclamation!	476

VocalFest
(Formerly known as TRAX)

Save the date!
September 23-25, 2011

Greater New York Region 15 is looking forward to seeing Diane Porsch at VocalFest this September. Diane is a Sweet Adeline for over 30 years; she is a certified Showmanship Judge, Certified International Faculty, and Master Director of the Top Ten International chorus, Buffalo Gateway Show Chorus.

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Regional Newswire

Directors' Coordinator, Judy Douglas



Famous last words, “we only meet three times a year, and your job wouldn’t be very involved at all!”

I am one of the two new members on the Regional Management Team (RMT). My title is Directors’ Coordinator and my primary purpose is to help our wonderful Directors maintain a “happy place” in which they can brag, complain or just plain talk. Seems easy enough but I found out that doing this is only part of the story.

I have been a Sweet Adeline for 30 years now and have sung with Hickory Tree Chorus, Far Hills Chorus (which was in Region 19), and Metro Rhythm Chorus, of which I have been the Director for almost four years. I also directed Golden Apple Chorus for eight years. I have had the privilege of judging the Harmony Sweeps in NYC (An annual national competition which draws from hundreds of vocal groups from around the country with regional competitions in eight cities) for six years and was honored to crown 'Round Midnight as the winners at my first year there.

I want you to know, after attending my first RMT meeting, that here in Region 15, we are very fortunate to have this group of hard-working, dedicated women running EVERYTHING in the Region. They are responsible for getting coaches, setting up all the classes, running the educational sessions, marketing our successes and helping you with membership recruitment and retention, etc., etc., etc. If that weren’t enough, each of our RMT members is assigned two choruses to help with whatever is necessary. We’ll try to help you find coaches, raise chorus esteem, set goals, improve your music committee and more.

I am proud and happy to be on this team. I hope to get a chance to meet as many of you as possible during my two-year term.

Please look for us at Regional events and let us know how you feel about all that goes on within the region. Please keep in mind that while we appreciate all of your suggestions and comments, we do have to go with the majority of members on matters that concern all of us.

Thanks for allowing me to be on your team.

Finance Coordinator, Pat Miller



After having served on the Evergreen Chorus Management Team as their Finance Coordinator, I am now looking forward to handling the Greater New York Region 15 finances. I am delighted for the opportunity to serve. In a responsible and professional manner, I will be using my prior knowledge and 32+ years of financial experience to help me along the way. Together with the other coordinators, I hope to keep Region 15 strong financially, musically, and educationally.

Although I have only been a Sweet Adeline for about five years now, a newbie, I have familiarized myself and reviewed the Sweet Adelines International (SAI) and Greater New York Region 15 Web sites. I bring a clear understanding of events, procedures and more as it pertains to the organization. I have had conversations with key SAI corporate employees in the membership, finance, and music departments. Subsequently, I have gained valuable insight into the financial requirements and reporting necessary for the position.

In addition to my job managing the region's finances, I hope to assist the team by proposing new ideas while offering assistance in keeping Region 15 running smoothly. I look forward to meeting our wonderful membership at the upcoming educational and social events.

Regional Nominations Chair, Peggy DiSunno

Election Results for the Regional Management Team

In May 2011, the following people began a two-year term on the RMT:

- Judy Douglas, Directors' Coordinator
- Carol Schultheis, Events Coordinator
- Pat Miller, Finance Coordinator
- Dana Dunlevy, Marketing Coordinator

The Events, Marketing and Finance Coordinators were appointed by the Regional Management Team. The Directors' Coordinator was elected by the directors in our region.

Carol Schultheis and Dana Dunlevy are returning to the team. Pat Miller, a member of the Evergreen Chorus, and Judy Douglas, director of Metro Rhythm chorus, will begin this new journey. Congratulations to the four of you for deciding to become a part of the RMT.

I would like to thank all of the candidates who ran for these positions. It is a rewarding, challenging, and exciting experience to be a part of the RMT. I am hopeful that many of you will begin to think about the next year's elections. My nominations committee is now beginning our search for candidates for next fall's election. The following positions will be available:

- Communications Coordinator
- Education Coordinator
- Membership Coordinator
- Team Coordinator

The Membership Coordinator will be voted on by our membership. The Education Coordinator will be appointed by International. The Team and Communications Coordinators will be appointed by the RMT.

There is a two-part application for these positions and job descriptions on our regional Web site (www.sairegion15.org) on the Management Team page under "Job Descriptions for RMT positions." You may also find applications in the Members Only section under "RMT Application Forms." You may contact the current team member for more information. You may also email me at disunno@optonline.net if you are interested in running for the team.

Education Coordinator, Lisbet Kline

International Faculty and Dates for 2011-2014

At the Regional Management Team Spring meeting held on April 30, we reviewed our long-range planning because the region's future contest dates have been changed. That paired with members' financial issues have concerned several chapters, and the RMT members agreed to rethink all educational dates.

After conferring with our already scheduled International Faculty members our future educational events were adjusted. Please make the necessary changes to your calendars.

2011:

- VocalFest (formerly named TRAX) with Diane Porsch September 23-25

2012:

- Regional Contest in Philadelphia March 23-24
- Leadership Seminar with Karen Breidert May 18-20
- VocalFest with Laura Pallas September 14-16

2013 - changed:

- Regional Contest in Philadelphia April 12-14
- Leadership Seminar cancelled (was originally scheduled with Marcia Pinvidic for May)
- VocalFest with Lori Lyford September 20-22

2014 - changed:

- Regional Contest April 11-12
- No Leadership Seminar this year
- VocalFest September 19-21 (Marcia Pinvidic agreed to make the change and become our International Faculty for this event.)

2015:

- Regional Contest May 15-17

Future educational plans are currently on hold until plans are announced by our International Board of Directors after their meeting in June. They are currently investigating possible changes to regional boundaries and have advised the Events and Finance Coordinators not to sign contracts too far into the future.

We will let you know the outcome as soon as we are informed.

Marketing Coordinator, Dana Dunlevy

Not that you need an excuse to talk about Sweet Adelines International, but the Marketing Team is giving you and your chorus more opportunities to sell the friendship, harmony and fun that we share as members of our Region 15 chapters.

Declare **July 23 Sweet Adelines International Day!** Commemorate the day that Edna May Anderson first met with a group of women that would be the genesis of this great organization. Help your chapter Marketing Team develop a unique, creative and exciting event to introduce Sweet Adelines barbershop harmony to your community through this region-wide event. The region will provide support to promote and recognize your activity.

Join your Regional sisters and invite other singers in your community to **VocalFest** - the event formerly known as TRAX. The Region is renaming our annual educational weekend to better reflect the vocal instruction and performances that make it so special. The new name will also help your Marketing Team promote the event in your community, potentially attracting new members.

International took a page from all the hard work our chapter Marketing Chairs did as part of the 2009-2010 Membership Pilot Program and is presenting the first "Sweet Adelines International World-Wide Open House Month" in January 2012. Chapters can recognize the month in whatever way works best for them. We will enjoy online, press, and marketing support from International. Be a part of this historic event and help spread the word. We will have the most impact when we speak with 'one voice, one message.' Visit the Marketing Center at sweetadelinesintl.org for the latest information.

Whoopin' it up in Houston? Show your support for The Greater New York Region with exclusive Region 15 Logo Attire. Visit sairegion15.org, follow the instructions and click on the link on the home page to start shopping! The region receives a portion of each sale only when you logon through our home page. All styles are available in a large selection of women's sizes. Some styles are also available in men's and children's sizes.

Communications Coordinator, Heather Collins

Make Me Obsolete!

This article is to let you know about a great position that will be open on the Region 15 Management Team starting in May 2012 ... MINE!

That's right, after five years of serving the RMT as Communications Coordinator (I got a bonus year because of a change in the team election cycles), I will be stepping off the team on April 30, 2012. I am thrilled to say there is a fabulous communications team in place: Loretta Peskin of Greater Nassau Chorus is doing marvelous new things as the *Taglines* Editor and Kathy Sylvester of Evergreen Chorus is streamlining the Region 15 directory in ways I couldn't have managed or imagined. I personally continue to handle the Region 15 Web site – updating the information regularly. This is a function I am more than willing to handle in the future for our next Communications Coordinator, because it is something I can handle behind-the-scenes.

What does this job entail? The [complete description](#) is on the Region 15 Web site, but this is the way I think about what I do: I keep the region's chapters connected to each other and connected to the International organization. Yep, I am in on all the gossip. How cool is that?

Seriously, this is an integral piece of the RMT structure, and I am eager to see the right person step up and share some great new ideas for making sure we are all in the know.

The nominating committee chair, Peggy DiSunno, is seeking interested candidates. You can email her at disunno@optonline.net for more information. I am also more than happy to discuss the specifics of this position. You can call me at (201) 612-4385 or send an email to heather@voiceonly.com.

What We Seek in a Contest Venue

One of the most common questions that the RMT fields is this: Why do we have our spring regional convention in Philadelphia, which is outside Region 15? Heck, I have been a member of Region 15 for almost 17 years now, and I have always competed in Philly.

The short answer is that the Philadelphia Sheraton, where we hold our convention, is the only facility that meets our minimum requirements for holding the contest AND that is priced relatively reasonably for Region 15 members.

Our Events Coordinator Carol Schultheis, the Regional Convention Committee and the Region 15 team are always on the hunt for alternatives. I can't list everything they have looked at in this story, but rest assured, they look at everything new that they hear about. Which brings me to the point of this article: Some of you have asked how you can help, so I asked Carol to share the minimum "specifications" of any facility that we might consider as the venue for future contests. Here are those requirements:

- One ballroom that is at least 15,000 square feet, with a ceiling that is minimum of 19-foot high
- One ballroom that is at least 7,000 square feet with a ceiling that is a minimum of 12-foot high
- 2 conference rooms that are at least 450 square feet
- 8 conference rooms that are a minimum of 700 square feet
- A minimum of 366 hotel rooms, a majority of them with two beds

If you step back and dwell on this a moment, it becomes quite clear that this is a tall order to fill. But we are willing to consider that the perfect Region 15 contest venue might indeed be in our future. If you think you can help us find it, reach out to Carol via email at schulcl@optonline.net. Her phone numbers are in the Region 15 directory found in the members-only section of the Region 15 Web site.

Regional Liaison Program

For the past year, the RMT has been testing a new way of staying connected with Region 15 members called the Regional Liaison Program. Here's how it works: each chapter has a designated liaison on the RMT, who they can consult with questions, chat about regional concerns and otherwise keep an ear to the ground about Regional and International matters. The word from chapter leader is that this a great way to keep in touch, so we will continue the program in the 2011 to 2012 Sweet Adelines fiscal year. The [complete description of the program](#) can be found in the members-only section of the Region 15 Web site. Meanwhile, here are the chorus assignments for the upcoming year. (Complete contact information can be found in the Directory section on the Region 15 Web site.)

Chorus	RMT Liaison	Chorus	RMT Liaison
Brooklyn	Lisbet Kline	Island Hills	Judy Douglas
Evergreen	Dana Dunlevy	Jersey Harmony	Lisbet Kline
Greater Nassau	Dana Dunlevy	Liberty Oak	Dolly Power
Golden Apple	Carol Schultheis	Long Island Sound	Heather Collins
Harmony Celebration	Judy Douglas	Metro Rhythm	Arlene Gunther
Heart of Long Island	Carol Schultheis	Song of the Valley	Pat Miller
Heart of New Jersey	Heather Collins	Twin County	Dolly Power
Hickory Tree	Pat Miller		

Chorus Reimbursement For Coaching Expense

by Judy Douglas, Directors' Coordinator

Just click on the [Region 15 Web Site](#) - Go to the header marked Resources and then to the box marked Regional Coaches. In that box you will see the description you are seeking, click it, it will then take you to the insert membership identification page. Log on using your Sweet Adelines International membership identification number. You will then be sent directly to the reimbursement form.

Fill out the form, make sure to obtain ALL pertinent signatures. You may scan the form and send it to me at judydoug@optonline.net or snail mail it. I will forward it to Pat Miller, our RMT Financial Coordinator and she will send you a check for the appropriate amount.

If you have additional questions about this procedure please feel free to contact me either by phone at (973) 263-8240 or via email. I am happy to assist you.

Quartet Seminar

Lisbet Kline, Education Coordinator



Love, Laughter and Lots of Learning were 4 key ingredients in what turned out to become a HUGELY successful Quartet Seminar on April 16. While torrential rain fell outside, 34 ladies paid rapt attention to a.k.a. and their coach, Rick Taylor, as they educated throughout the day offering highly motivating and effective classes, skillful demonstrations, and numerous effective ideas for everyone to take home.

They taught how to establish core values, demonstrated unity while maintaining identities vocally, visually and otherwise.

They went through name, costume and coach

selection, demonstrated rehearsal structure and how to incorporate and maintain new skills. Relationship magic and finding your role while accepting strengths and weaknesses were demonstrated with an openness and vulnerability that endeared the quartet to all present. They blew us all away with their singing and performance skills, and they made sure every single one in attendance got a chance to be coached. Those not in complete quartets were coached with an a.k.a. member in the missing part, and the interaction between participants and teachers were filled with openness and warmth that set the tone for the entire day. Tag-singing and performing rounded out a day that will be remembered for a long time in Region 15.

That the quartet donated their fees and only charged the region for their expenses was a further proof of a class act performance by Sue, Janeen, Janell and Harriette.

"I enjoyed the seminar very much! The day was special due to the openness, friendliness and willingness of a.k.a. to help all of us!"

Sue Koppenhaver

"It was a great day of hands in singing with a.k.a. and for them in a coaching environment. I learned new warm up and rehearsal tools to use in the quartet."

Carole Argulewicz

"It was wonderful to learn from such an accomplished Quartet and hear that they have experienced the same types of challenges that we have. It was also great to meet other Region 15 Quartet members and some people who are not currently in a Quartet, but would like to be."

Turning Point Quartet

Lisbet Kline First Recipient of the Harriette Walters Leadership Award

By Dana Dunlevy



Lisbet Kline was named the first recipient of The Harriette Walters Leadership Award at the March 2011 Region 15 contest. The award was introduced at the 2010 Region 15 contest to recognize members who demonstrate the leadership qualities of enthusiasm, confidence, passion and commitment to excellence, exemplified by International Faculty and Master Director Harriette Walters. Lisbet was chosen by the Regional Management Team from a slate of nominees who were submitted from members around the Region.

Lisbet started her Sweet Adelines career in 1975. She founded and directed the second SAI chapter in Stockholm, Sweden (the current Stockholm City Voices), chartered in 1979. She was appointed to the Regional Music Faculty and founded another chorus, now the Baltic Harmony Chorus, before moving to California in 1985.

As a member of Region 11, Lisbet joined South Towns Chorus and became active in the chapter leadership. While still singing with South Towns, she became Music Director of Golden Sands Chorus. The chorus went from 'worst to first' under her guidance, qualifying for the Small Chorus International Harmony Classic contest in 2002. From 1994-2003 she served on the Region 11 Regional Board of Directors.

Since moving to Pennsylvania in 2002, she became Director of Song of the Valley Chorus in 2005, was appointed to the newly-created Regional Membership Coordinator position in 2006, and currently serves as the Regional Education Coordinator.

Lisbet has also served our organization on the International level. Among her many accomplishments there, she served on the Sweet Adelines International Board of Trustees for the Young Singers Foundation from 1996-2003.

The nominations for Lisbet came from many members from around the Region—members of Song of the Valley Chorus, members who have worked directly with her on a committee, members who have simply met her when she visited their chorus. Many had their own personal stories to share about Lisbet, but the same themes kept showing up in each of them—loving, teacher, enthusiastic, inspirational, encouraging, positive, team-player, leads by example. Some quotations:

"Lisbet's sole agenda seems to be the betterment of the organization through the betterment of its individual members."

"Motivating and Inspiring seem to be Lisbet's middle names. I am energized by seeing her in action."

"Lisbet is why I joined. She is an excellent teacher with the intelligence to know when to be flexible."

"Lisbet is a team player willing to listen to all sides before making a decision."

"Region 15 is lucky to have her."

Do you know someone in Region 15 who deserves to be recognized for her leadership? Any member can submit a nominee for the 2012 Harriette Walters Leadership Award. Visit sairegion15.org for instructions on how to submit a nomination.

Is The Art Of Designing Jeans In Your Genes?

by Loretta Peskin

As members of Sweet Adelines International, we strive to achieve visual success in our performances. Each chorus is required to present a unified appearance, a look which has been painstakingly created to blend perfectly with the music.

At Regional Competition in March 2011, there was a variety of attractive outfits that came across the stage. The splendor of color and sparkle intermingled with the music. The outcome was a delightful experience. (A sampling of these looks appears on pages 24-25)

Who chooses those garments? No one person can create a vision for us all. Costuming is a team effort. Just ask any one of the ten costume committee members from Hickory Tree Chorus. For the past year they have been in search of a facelift in the form of a new costume.

Together with chorus members they have surrounded themselves with more than 50 swatches of fabric, pored over countless catalogs and sported sample designs in order to find that new and perfect "look." Rita Peyton, Costume Chairwoman, has their final answer under wraps, "Look for us in our new 'duds' on stage at the Harmony Classic this October 2011."

Blaise from Greater Nassau Chorus (GNC) said, "Adaptability in costuming is a consideration, as we often must add pieces and accessories to portray a character or develop a storyline." The bridal veils and bouquets used in singing the first package in Nashville, allowed GNC to express individuality and were visually pleasing. As the O'Hara sisters in the second package, GNC added "the drapery." No two were exactly alike, but the use of similar colors, shapes and textures maintained a unit look.

The Evergreen Chorus is facing an ever-growing challenge. How do you keep a 14-year-old member in pants that aren't progressively getting shorter?

Has your costume designer ever been inspired by a dress Off the Rack? Stephanie Ofshinsky of Harmony Celebration Chorus (HCC) has. As the granddaughter of an expert seamstress it is clear that sewing is in her blood. Her vision for the black and silver costume came together just weeks before the 2010 International Competition. Penny Teece's home became a sweatshop as the two women along with their crew worked feverishly in the weeks leading up to Seattle.

Sometimes one costume isn't enough. HCC sported their Barbie characters courtesy of creators Jean Schoenlank and Diane Sussuma at regional competition for all to enjoy. With so many different costumes it was like Barbie's Dream house all over again. (Have a look at page 26)

If your chorus is looking to make a costuming change, be sure to check the Web site <http://www.sweetadelineintl.org> and login to the Education Center for costuming tips.

A Letter From Katie Blackwood

To Greater New York Region 15,

I want to thank you for supporting my chorus during a very difficult time. They are true champions to me and I am blessed to be their director. I am sorry I missed the contest again, but it was best for my long-term progress to stay home. The good news is that I am recovering at a rapid pace and headed back to rehearsals, teaching and coaching in April. Before I had my stroke I was feeling the best I had been in a long time, so the good news, is that it was *not* my heart, but possibly something hereditary that can be treated. The bad news is that 700,000 people have strokes every year and the majority are in their 40's to 50's. So again this is my opportunity to reach out to all my sisters in harmony to remind you to take good care of your health. Sadly, heart attacks and strokes are still the leading cause of death in women.

I would also like to thank Deb Poulson, my associate director, who helped to prepare my chorus, along with Jack Pinto, who was generous enough to donate his time, the four weeks prior to contest, and direct the chorus to be ready for this contest. I also have an amazing administrative and music staff who have been of great support to me and to the members of the Liberty Oak Chorus.

I am truly blessed to be a part of such a great community of talent and so many people I can call my friends. The cards and prayers really made a difference. I am looking forward to seeing all of you soon. Congratulations to Harmony Celebration Chorus and a.k.a., both are great champions. And to everyone who competed this year, you are all winners for going on that stage!

In Harmony,

Katie Blackwood

Master Director
Liberty Oak Chorus



Leadership Conference Photos
with Beverly Miller

2011 Quartet Competitors





Photos of competing quartets were taken upon exiting the stage by Loretta Peskin

Quartet News

Balancing Act Quartet by Jennifer Wiseman

We had a WONDERFUL time at competition! Kim and I had competed before, but it had been several years for Kim since her last competition. This was her first time competing as a bass! Pam had not competed for around 17 years, and Mary had never competed in a quartet before!

We were coached by Sylvia Alsbury, Jeannie Froelich, Marilyn Block, and Terri Gottfried, and knew that we had so many supporters out there in the audience!

Our quartet guide from Greater Nassau Chorus, Torie Kramer, was very helpful and kept us calm as we prepared for the stage. We laughed so much during the pattern! Costume malfunctions, last-minute misplacing of things, word goof-ups, and the like just kept setting us off! We pulled it all together in the end and had a BLAST on stage. Our excitement levels were so high. We looked forward to sharing our song that very few people have ever heard before!

And the greeting that we received after coming off the stage and into the arms of our chorus and supporters will never be forgotten! Saturday night and singing in the hospitality suites was also unforgettable. In our very first room, as we sang "Up, Up, and Away", a glass necklace I was wearing as part of our costume shattered when we hit one of the high notes! I didn't think that was even possible!

We will absolutely be coming back for more. We were thrilled to place 6th on our very first time out. We can't wait to implement the advice and comments received from the judges and try to improve ourselves and score even higher. Definitely look for Balancing Act at the 2012 Regional Quartet Competition. We will be the ones who can't stop giggling!

Just4(Kicks)

Just 4(Kicks) is having a great year singing, laughing, and entertaining some great audiences around Region 15. We began the year by getting our full name back. We had lost the "Kicks" to a quartet in Wisconsin some years back, so we are thrilled to have the "kick" back in our lives.

In addition to our performances, we worked on creating a new CD called "Just 4 – Just 4 Fun", which is a compilation of all of our comedy songs. As always, our Region 15 Competition weekend was great fun and our third-place medals made it even better. Our greatest joy that weekend, however, was visiting with all of our Region 15 friends in their hospitality suites. That's where we get our biggest "kick"!

Match 4 Quartet

Wow! What a weekend for Match 4 Quartet! It was the first Regional Competition (ever) for our new bass, Melissa Herkalo, and to receive a fourth-place yellow ribbon around our necks was an experience we will never forget! Winning a medal was a first for each one of us!

The weekend couldn't have been more exciting. As you may know, all four of us are members of the Liberty Oak Chorus. We've had a year filled with "obstacles" both in our quartet and chorus families. So when our chorus won second place you can't imagine how happy we felt! We are so grateful for the outpouring of affection received from our regional family.

Needless to say, after a fun night of sharing our music in the hospitality suites, we had wonderful dreams as we slept with two medals around our necks! Thanks for your support and for the memories!

Turning Point Quartet by Kathy Sullivan



Turning Point Quartet (TPQ), from Greater Nassau Chorus (GNC), began in October of 2010 after GNC's Kathy Sullivan kicked off a successful GNC Singing Valentines Quartet Program. Phyllis Capolongo (lead), Peggy Pecoraro (bari) & Kathy Sullivan (bass) sang in a quartet called Crazy Rhythm in the past, and after several years of not singing in a quartet, they decided to try it again. Once they found out that Lori Britt-Horvath (who

sings lead & bass in GNC) was willing to try singing tenor, they invited her to join them.

Subsequently, Lori earned the nickname "I-can-do-it-all" from her quartet-mates. She prefers the more modest nickname "I-can-TRY-it-all." Of course, this is all part of the good natured fun, which is vital to all TPQ members.

It was clear from TPQ's first meeting that our goals are closely aligned, we share the same approach to selecting and learning music and we laugh (a lot) at the same things. We were encouraged early on by GNC's Master Director, Harriette Walters & Assistant Director, Wendy Pachter, who coached us and confirmed our blend was good.

We loved doing Singing Valentines together and every rehearsal has been a validation that we really do belong together. The hardest part of the journey for TPQ thus far was finding a name. We had many brainstormed ideas from which to choose, including Paprika (what???), but we finally decided on Turning Point, because it means something personal to each of us.

Congratulations

Six days after directing on stage in Philadelphia, Christine Krowles of Twin County Chorus gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Lucy Madeline Krowles. Christine, Joe, and big sister Sydney are proud to report that baby Lucy is healthy and happy.

Congratulations to Lisbet Kline on becoming a grandmother on January 17, 2011. It's a GIRL! Welcome to Kaia!

Congratulations to Chef Denise Klaube from Hickory Tree Chorus who graduated from culinary school in Philadelphia the day before competition.

Congratulations to Jeanne Elmuccio from Hickory Tree Chorus on becoming a Certified Director.

Congratulations to Jocelyn Ramage, who welcomed her first grandchild, Finley Ramage on January 7, 2011.

Happy Birthday Lucille Cappillo our bass singer from Brooklyn Chorus. We at Brooklyn like to think that singing has brought her to the wonderful age of 90.

Congratulations to Dr. Anastasio Rossi on becoming a Certified Director.

In Memoriam

Brooklyn Chorus was saddened this spring by the loss of two of our beloved bass section singers, Sophie Kosowksa and Gert Heuler. Both were long-time Sweet Adelines International Brooklyn Chorus members.

Our Sophie Kosowksa was best known for her humor, wit and wonderful bass voice. She was our own Maxine and could always be counted on to get the chorus chuckling.



Sophie Kosowska, Michele De Vito



Lucille Cappillo, Gert Heuler, Michele De Vito

Gert Heuler, one of our most long-term members, helped Brooklyn become small chorus champions three years in a row! She was very modest about her singing abilities and could always be counted on to sing all of her notes and words accurately.

Sophie and Gert were very good friends to each other, relatives of both women have told us that Sweet Adelines was like a second family to them. They will be sorely missed.

Around the Region

Brooklyn Chorus

by Carol McEvoy, *Taglines* Correspondent

Brooklyn Chorus is heavily involved in our Director Search and is beginning to interview candidates. Our chorus would like to give a "shout-out" to our long-time coach, Sonny Steffan, who makes the trip in from New Jersey every Monday evening to serve as our Interim Director. She tempers her no-nonsense approach to directing with humor and understanding and has given great support to our Assistant Directors. We love you to pieces, Sonny, "our angel." We ask the Region, if you should have any hot prospects, someone who you know would love to lead our chorus of great women and singers, please have them email a resume to bklyndirector@gmail.com.

Golden Apple Chorus

by Margaret Chaffa, *Taglines* Correspondent

Golden Apple Chorus had a fabulous competition weekend; we send congratulations and thanks to all our sisters in harmony who gathered together to share the gift of music. We were very proud to receive the Third Place Division A Chorus Award this year. We would like to thank our coaches, Jeannie Froelich and Lisbet Kline, for sharing their knowledge and infusing us with confidence.

This year we had three first-time competitors on stage, Olga Driscoll, Pat Humphreys and Diane Webster. We needed more basses and were blessed with three. Olga is our newest member. She was raised in Russia and began her musical training at seven with piano, music theory and choral music. As a teenager she joined a girl's band and loved performing. She missed singing and decided it was time to return to the stage and found out about us on our chorus Web site. Olga loves barbershop and performing and we are delighted to welcome her to the Golden Apple Chorus and Region 15.

Congratulations to our director, Dr. Anastasio Rossi, who has become a Certified Director of SAI. Stash is an associate director of The Westchester Chordsmen, an award winning chorus of the Barbershop Harmony Society, sings third voice in Freshmen Again, a very active Westchester quartet and is also a talented arranger. Lisbet Kline was on hand to present Stash with his pin and certificate.

Jocelyn Ramage, our new Team Coordinator welcomed her first grandchild, Finley Ramage on January 7, 2011; congratulations Jocelyn.

We recently installed our new management team who are, Jocelyn Ramage, Team Coordinator; Kathy Kruse, Finance Coordinator; Kim Van Keuren, Communications Coordinator; Diane Buschel, Performance Coordinator; Carol Bellina and Rosalie McAteer, Membership Coordinators; Barbara Ann deFerrari, Publicity Coordinator and Lauren Reid, Ways and Means Coordinator. Penny Meyer officiated at the ceremony and shared with us the following: "It's been said that harmony is achieved through a series of adjustments. Each voice must adjust to keep the performance of the song in time. In the same way, each member must adjust to fit her personality and level of commitment into the total chorus in order to keep harmonious sound in each performance and a feeling of harmony among all members."

Greater Nassau Chorus

by Jen Jablonski, *Taglines* Correspondent

During this spring's annual Regional Competition and Convention, Greater Nassau Chorus was reminded yet again how grateful we are to be part of Region 15. We were honored to hostess the contest, cheer you on, and be of your assistance every step of the way as you prepared to take the stage. During the competition, we sat in our seats crossing our fingers, cheering, and wishing our best to everyone. It was a thrill to watch everyone perform and to note the great progress made over this past year. It's so wonderful to be part of a Region that consistently raises the bar and pushes us all to be even better. By the time it was Saturday night, we were beyond proud to share the stage with you.

We would like to send our best congratulations to Harmony Celebration Chorus, a.k.a., and all of our Region's chorus and quartet performers for putting your best on stage and sharing your gift of music with us. We would also like to offer our thanks and gratitude to the longevity award recipients, including Greater Nassau Chorus's recipients, Carol Beckmann - 15 years, Susan Johns Greenfield - 15 years, Teresa Heuser - 20 years, Randi Mestel - 20 years, Jane Sterling - 25 years, Phyllis Capolongo - 25 years, Sandy Adams - 25 years, Blanche Justice - 30 years, Sue Tietjen - 30 years, Arlene Oberhofer - 30 years, and Chris Freund - 45 years, for the many years you have dedicated to Sweet Adelines International.

We hope that everyone has an enjoyable and musical spring and summer, and we look forward to seeing you in September at VocalFest!

Harmony Celebration Chorus

by Stephanie Robinson, *Taglines* Correspondent

As I write this, Harmony Celebration is exactly a week away from our annual show. This year our guest will be Maxx Factor, the 2011 International Quartet Champions, and we are anticipating a terrific show followed by a rocking afterglow!

This past winter we had one snowstorm after another, it played havoc with our weekly rehearsal schedule. Regardless we moved forward in our plan to continue on a path of vocal improvement. We were thrilled that our persistence paid off at the Region 15 Contest in March. We are extremely excited to be on the road to competition again, our second international contest, and achieved in such a short time together! I don't know about everyone else, but I foresee a good deal of physical conditioning necessary coming in the months. Having had visited Denver, Colorado several times, I know that WALKING at that altitude can be a challenging never mind SINGING at that altitude!

In fact, we have coaches coming in to prepare us for Denver 2012 competition starting this June. In addition we have our Management Team Installation Dinner planned at the end of May. This new team will get us off onto the right foot for the next 18 months of our preparation.

We've also welcomed two new members, a bass and a lead, entertained at a residential facility for the first time, and pulled in a solid chunk of cash at a tag sale for one of our last fundraisers of the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

Our gig at the residential facility came courtesy of one of our members, who has a relative who lives there. We've been striving to think outside the box, so to speak, in terms of performances, and have been exploring innovative opportunities in getting ourselves and our music out into the public. We have our traditional appearance at the Ridgewood Band Shell Summer Concert Series scheduled for August as well.

Harmony Celebration is looking forward to a productive summer and hopes everyone else is, too!

Heart of New Jersey Chorus

by Ellen Greenhouse, *Taglines* Correspondent

Congratulations to the winners, and to all of us for doing our best in Philadelphia!

Contest is over, all that hard work for 6 minutes of recognition. Is it worth it? A resounding **Yes!** What a great organization we belong to. The camaraderie and respect we have for each other, the friendships we have made along the way, the joy of singing and the ringing of those chords. Thank you Sweet Adelines International and Greater New York Region 15!

We are all looking forward to some warm weather and some outdoor performances. Thank you Carolyn Wolfe for keeping us performing. We start the season off performing in Hazlet on Memorial Day. We are brushing up on our patriotic songs. They always inspire us.

Congratulations to our new and I mean "new" management team. We are ever so lucky to have eager newer members jumping in with both feet and serving on the management team. They are allowing us "old-timers" to finally take a break. They exude enthusiasm and they bring renewed life to the team and to the chorus. Thank you ladies!

Thank you to our director, Jane Holden, for her commitment to us and the organization. Looking forward to a coaching session with our very special friend Sylvia Asbury. We are also looking forward to hosting VocalFest weekend. Hoping to bring you some interesting holiday gift ideas in our boutique. See you in September. Have a great summer!

Hickory Tree Chorus

by Rose Marie Gatscha, *Taglines* Correspondent

We may call it Spring, but Hickory Tree Chorus (HTC) is still experiencing remnants of winter weather as we approach May. Kudos to the many chorus members who were able to attend weekend rehearsals to make up for being "snowed in" on two regular rehearsal nights prior to our Regional Annual Convention and Competition in Philadelphia. Our coaching sessions with Jim Arns and Faith MacDonnell were just two steps in our preparation for the international stage and the Harmony Classic in Houston. Section rehearsals, private vocal coaching and afternoon group sings have become a staples as we gear up for the Harmony Classic Competition.

HTC proudly announces that member and Associate Director, Jeanne Elmuccio, has successfully completed the SAI Director Certification Program. Jeanne states, "Music has always been a big part of my life. While I have been involved in many different types of musical endeavors, Sweet Adelines is unlike anything I've ever done."

Chorus members made individual cash contributions to SAI's Christchurch City Chorus in New

Zealand, whose members were affected by an earthquake earlier this year.

Management Team members were elected and appointed in March. HTC's Annual Installation Dinner is scheduled for June 6.

In March, Dana Dunlevy, HTC member and Regional Marketing Coordinator co-hosted an SAI Webinar entitled "One Message, One Voice: Global Expansion," as International prepares the organization to implement the branding, programs and lessons learned through the 'real women. real harmony. real fun.' pilot program that six regions (including Region 15) explored in 2009-10. The archived webinar is available in the Marketing Center at sweetadelinesintl.org. HTC launched its April membership campaign, **Final Round-Up-Singer Auditions** in advance of its May 1 deadline for singers to be eligible to compete with the chorus in the Harmony Classic in Houston.

On Saturday, June 4, HTC members will participate in the Berkeley Heights Relay For Life, the American Cancer Society's signature fundraising event. Chorus members sing the Star-Spangled Banner at the opening ceremony and a core of members walk all night. It has been an eventful spring providing us with much to look forward to.

Island Hills Chorus

by Judy Sanford-Guise, Taglines Correspondent

Island Hills had an eventful weekend in Philadelphia and is proud to be Region 15's fourth-place medalist chorus and third-place midsize chorus. Our three 'first-timers' had a great time, too, as did Wildfire, IHC's newest quartet. Congratulations! to a.k.a., HCC, LOC, Evergreen, Jersey Harmony, and...everyone who crossed the stage! And we're sooooo excited for 'Most Improved' Heart of LI with 'duals' Christina Taylor and Asst. Director Leona Schwartz in her competition debut as HoLI's director.

Since Philly, IHC has been very busy, with performances in Northport and Sachem, as well as welcoming guests and now new Bass Lori Heiss Rivera. And eagerly anticipating our June coaching session with LOC's Katie Blackwood.

We're also counting the days until IHC's "The Granny Chronicles" show, Sunday afternoon June 5 (details at Island Hills Chorus @Facebook; while you're there "Like" us!); and our Wednesday appearances: July 13 at the Sayville Common Group; August 3 in the Huntington Arts Council's Summer Concert Series; and a cool small group gig August 24 singing on the Port Jefferson Ferry crossing Long Island Sound to CT (and back, too)!

And break a lip to IHC Director Wayne Grimmer and 'Round Midnight in the BHS Quartet Competition this July!

Liberty Oak Chorus

by Sue Radford, *Taglines* Correspondent

Spring is here and LOC could not be happier to welcome back our director, Katie, to weekly rehearsals. During Katie's absence, Jack Pinto took on the tasks of working with us and taking us to contest. We were blessed to have Jack with us, and we thank him for sharing his time and talent with us.

Congratulations to Harmony Celebration and a.k.a. for their winning performances at Regional. Good luck to Greater Nassau and a.k.a. in Houston. LOC will be cheering for you. Yeah, Region 15!

There's always something new at LOC. We would like to welcome our newest member, Nancy Giorlando, a former Sweet Adeline. A big welcome to new grandbabies: Maureen Smith's grandson, Matthew Michael, and Sue Radford's granddaughter, Makayla Angel. Barbara Tucker is our newest bride, and several members have found new jobs in the area.

LOC has five chapter quartets who are in the family. We wish continued success to Balancing Act, Chain Reaction, Impulse, and Match 4. Local Color, LOC's newest registered quartet, features Cindy Brill (tenor), Linda Bennett (lead), Victoria Shernicoff (baritone), and Sue Radford (bass). We wish you all the best as you start this musical journey together.

A fun and educational summer has been planned, and we are preparing for two performances. On Oct. 15, 2011, we will be the featured guest on the Oceanires' show. LOC's annual show will be held Dec. 4, 2011. It will feature 'Round Midnight, the 2010 Mid-Atlantic District champions. We invite you to come and enjoy an evening of great music.

We are looking forward to another exciting year with our newly elected board members, President Eileen Welsh, VP Linda Bennett, Secretary Nancy Duke, Treasurer Trish Wolfe, Jeanine Perruso, Jill Langone, Chris Sheils, and Anne Silber. We had a wonderful installation banquet and enjoyed the company of our special guest, Lisbet Kline. It's always great fun when we get together.

Long Island Sound

by Kathy Solomon, *Taglines* Correspondent

Long Island's East End is lovely during the off-season when beaches, restaurants and cute little shops regain that uncrowded, country feeling. The off-season population shift has its drawbacks when it comes to recruiting new members, however. Imagine planning a party where no one shows up! That's what our past membership drives have often faced as we waited all dressed-up with no one to host or entertain.

Then something happened: enter International's *REAL WOMAN! REAL HARMONY! REAL FUN!* membership campaign with a promise of four free singing lessons. Suddenly, women who had been waiting to unleash the singer within found their way to our rehearsals. As a direct result, we now have three new members from this year's Spring campaign!

All we can say is thank you to Sweet Adelines International! The organization marketing is on target! And we know our new singers will add brilliance to our sound in Philadelphia next year. Here's a big Long Island Sound welcome to Lisa Ross, Vicki Walter and Sandy Coleman.

Metro Rhythm

by Deborah Smith, *Taglines* Correspondent

Metro Rhythm Chorus is thinking of changing our name to “Grandmas Galore!” Three of our members, Wilma Errickson, Janet Manfredonia and Gail Kida, each celebrated the birth of a grandchild recently – for Gail, it is her first! The chorus enjoyed a presentation by Dolly Power on April 13 on *Techniques of a Good Emcee*. In fact, we were so inspired that we invited Dolly to emcee our Installation of Officers dinner on May 11.

Other new beginnings included the addition of our new bass, Norine Stewart, who is a harpist and music therapist. She reads music like others read books and is a wonderful addition! Our Director, Judy Douglas, attended her first regional meeting as Regional Directors' Coordinator. She reported to the chorus how impressed she was with the camaraderie and the new ideas that were discussed.

Congratulations to Deb Smith, baritone, on her son, Brian Fallon's, band, The Gaslight Anthem, who were headliners at Bamboozle, a three-day rock concert at the Meadowlands. Among their many “gigs,” The Gaslight Anthem has been the musical guest on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Late Night with Jimmy Fallon, on David Letterman twice, and has performed with Bruce Springsteen in Glastonbury, England. Hmm, wonder where Brian gets his singing talent?

As we look forward to the nicer weather, the chorus is polishing our patriotic package in preparation for community events around July 4! Happy summer to all!

Song of the Valley Chorus

by June Pierson, *Taglines* Correspondent

Our most sincere congratulations to a.k.a. and Harmony Celebration Chorus for their winning performances in Philadelphia. Although Song of the Valley did not compete, we had nine members in attendance to cheer everyone on, to listen and to learn. And, of course, we were beyond excited when our Music Director, Lisbet Kline, was announced as the winner of the 2011 Harriette Walters Leadership Award. All who know Lisbet, know that she truly exemplifies the leadership and personal qualities upon which the award is based. Congratulations for this well-deserved honor, Lisbet! We are so proud of you.

Our spring dinner show, “Lights, Camera, Action”, featured guest quartet, Just 4(kicks), and played to a sold-out audience. Great food and barbershop harmony appear to be an irresistible combination.

In late April, the following members were installed as the 2011 Management Team: Renee Caldwell, Kathy Dembek, Bonnie D'Jovin, June Noble, Jan Petrucci, Stella Root, Rosemary Wisniewski and Lisbet Kline. This is a leadership team that we know can help us reach the boiling point of 212 degrees (as per Bev Miller), so we are anticipating a wonderfully exciting and successful year.

Our first activity is a POP beginning May 31. The capping performance will be an outdoor patriotic mini-concert at the Great American Weekend in Goshen, an event that draws huge crowds to celebrate our country's birthday. If any of you are in the vicinity, join the crowd at 10

a.m., Saturday, July 2, when we will be performing, and then stay for a wonderful, old-fashioned celebration.

Twin County Chorus

by Naomi Rose, *Taglines* Correspondent

We had a fantastic time at the Regional Competition this year, moving up from 9th to 7th place in the region. Our newest members, Hayley Amengual, Annette Schack, along with Carol Buchanan, who had returned after a brief hiatus from singing, were able to enjoy the experience and camaraderie of the competition. This year, Twin County Chorus experienced a strange new phenomenon. This new Saturday morning "ritual" began with a perpetual "taking of the table photos," a fun and amusing way to get us all in the spirit for a day of singing and excitement.

Christine Krowles and Jenn Carapazza deserve special recognition for their dedication to our chorus, performing so close to their respective due dates. Best wishes for the two future Sweet Adelines that have recently been brought into the world.

This spring, the chorus voted to switch from a Board of Directors to a Management Team and we're all very delighted with the new setup. Congratulations to Elise Laine, Nancy Akron, Rosie Amengual, Sylvia Kudan, Linda Gempel, Brenda Liebling, Ronnie Greene, yours truly, and of course Director Connie Kash who will undoubtedly do a wonderful job as part of the new Management Team.

On May 12th we look forward to hosting our "Supermarket Dash," thanks to the Pathmark of Levittown. Our membership drive will begin on May 12 as well, and we have several performances lined up to keep us busy.

It's wonderful to see how much our chorus has grown. We just keep getting better and having more fun. Stay healthy and looking forward to seeing you all at VocalFest!

Deadline For Next Issue:

September 15, 2011

Send Around the Region, New Members Names and Email Addresses, Quartet News, Congratulations, In Memoriam, Advertisements, Digital Photos from regional meetings and more to [Loretta Peskin, Editor](#). Articles must be no longer than 250 words. We reserve the right not to publish all articles submitted.

2011 Competing Choruses





Chorus photos were snapped backstage by Loretta Peskin



New, Returning and Transferred Members

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Olga Driscoll | Golden Apple Chorus |
| Pat Humphreys | Golden Apple Chorus |
| Diane Webster | Golden Apple Chorus |
| Karen Mullen | Greater Nassau Chorus |
| Grace Barreto | Harmony Celebration Chorus |
| Donna Besterman | Harmony Celebration Chorus |
| Joanne Sarubbi | Hickory Tree Chorus |
| Lori Servidio | Hickory Tree Chorus |
| Lori Rivera | Island Hills Chorus |
| Nancy Giorlando | Liberty Oak Chorus |
| Sandy Coleman | Long Island Sound Chorus |
| Lisa Ross | Long Island Sound Chorus |
| Vicki Walter | Long Island Sound Chorus |
| Norine Stewart | Metro Rhythm |
| Hayley Amengual | Twin County Chorus |
| Carol Buchanan | Twin County Chorus |
| Annette Schack | Twin County Chorus |

Regional Candids



A few candid shots. Enjoy!



Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT					
Aug. 29, 2011	RMT Conference Call					
Sept. 23-25, 2011	VocalFest with Diane Porsch					
Oct. 2, 2011	Evergreen Annual Show (Music The Best Medicine)					
Oct. 18-22, 2011	65th Annual Convention and Competitions (Houston)					
Nov. 5, 2011	RMT Training					
Dec. 3, 2011	Harmony Celebration Annual Show					
Dec. 4, 2011	Liberty Oak Holiday Show					
Dec. 4, 2011	Evergreen Holiday Show					
Dec. 4, 2011	Greater Nassau Chorus Annual Show					
Mar. 21-24, 2013	Regional Competition					
May 18-20, 2012	Music/Leadership Workshop with Karen Breidert					
Sept. 14-16, 2012	VocalFest with Laura Pallas					
Oct. 30 - Nov. 3, 2012	66th Annual Convention and Competitions (Denver)					
Mar. 21-24, 2013	Regional Competition					
May 17-19, 2013	Music/Leadership Workshop with Marcia Pinvidic					
Sept. 20-22, 2013	TRAX with Lori Lyford					
Nov. 5-9, 2013	67th Annual Convention and Competitions (Honolulu)					
Nov. 4-8, 2014	68th Annual Convention and Competitions (Baltimore)					

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

Greater New York Regional Management Team

[Arlene Gunther](#), Team Coordinator
[Heather Collins](#), Communications Coordinator
[Dolly Power](#), Membership Coordinator
[Patricia Miller](#), Finance Coordinator

[Judy Douglas](#), Directors' Coordinator
[Dana Dunlevy](#), Marketing Coordinator
[Lisbet Kline](#), Education Coordinator
[Carol Schultheis](#), Events Coordinator

Editor's Note

Ah, Springtime!
Surrounded by colorful blooms and warmth
from the sun. Sing openly into the air while
admiring nature's treasures!

See you at VocalFest in September.

Yours sincerely,

Loretta Peskin



The Greater New York Region 15 of Sweet Adelines International 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.