

Greater NY/NJ Region #15

Women of Note

2016

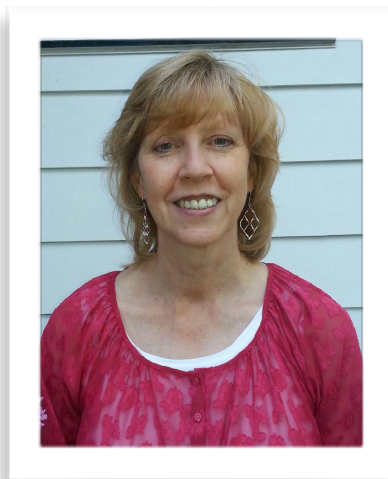
Diane Ostrander
Capitaland Chorus

The Capitaland Chorus is proud to name Diane Ostrander as our 2016 Woman of Note!

Diane clearly embodies the traits which show her commitment and dedication to the chorus. She willingly accepted the role of Chorus Competition Liaison, a huge responsibility. In this position, Diane was extremely organized and thorough, making sure she answered all questions regarding contest weekend as quickly and efficiently as possible. If she did not have an answer to a question, she was bound and determined to find it! Not only did she do an excellent job in her first year as CCL, but she was also part of the Front Row, which required some challenging choreography for this year's competition. Diane made sure her moves were crisp and precise, while maintaining a smile on her face the entire time. Finally, she also volunteered to lead physical warm ups, which definitely kept us moving!

Diane truly loves being in the chorus and it is so obvious with everything she does for Capitaland. She has such a positive attitude, which is contagious, and can be seen both on and off stage.

Honoring her as our chorus's 2016 Woman of Note, we sincerely thank Diane for all she has done and continues to do for Capitaland Chorus.



Chris Sowa
Carousel Harmony Chorus

The Carousel Harmony Chorus is proud and honored to announce Chris Sowa as our 2016 Woman of Note!

Chris is a faithful member of the baritone section and even though she doesn't read music, always learns her music and qualifies in a timely fashion. She sings in a quartet as well, thereby improving her musical skills and representing the chorus in that manner.

Chris is a board member, having served multiple times. She is our chorus contact for performances; a job which involves outreach for possible performance opportunities as well as dealing with those who contact us and coordinating with our Director for chorus availability. She is also one of our emcees, putting on a welcoming and sometimes humorous face for the chorus.

As Social chairman, Chris plans and coordinates the details required for any coaching session, YWIH event or other event that requires refreshments to be supplied, setting up ahead of time and adding her own special touches.

Additionally, Chris is a caring and generous individual, who cares about her fellow chorus members, often going above and beyond when someone is in a situation where she needs something done.

We are pleased to have Chris represent Carousel Harmony Chorus as recipient of the 2016 Woman of Note award.



Dorcas Ross
City of the Hills Chorus

The City of the Hills Sweet Adeline Chorus of Oneonta, NY is pleased to announce that Dorcas Ross has been selected as our 2016 Woman of Note!

Dorcas has natural leadership qualities. She is our "Go to Gal". We often gravitate toward her when a solution to a problem is needed. She either knows the answer or knows whom to contact to get the answer. Whenever we are getting ready for a performance, regional workshop or competition, Dorcas anticipates the chorus's needs. We take it for granted that the preparation needed for hotel reservations and room keys will be completed because she is in charge. In addition to her efficiency, Dorcas's fun-loving disposition makes it a joy to have her as part of our chorus.

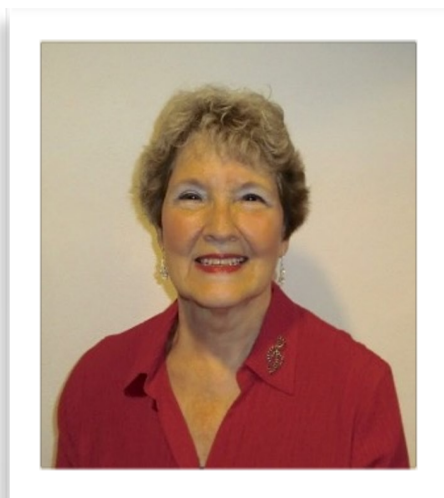
What a lucky day for our chorus when Dorcas was invited by a neighbor to attend a rehearsal in 1998. She immediately fell in love with the close harmony of the Barbershop style of singing and found it to be the perfect fit for her.

Since the day she joined Sweet Adelines, Dorcas became totally immersed and committed to every aspect of chorus life. From 2004 until 2013, she was the chorus' Treasurer, and has been the CCL for our chorus for many years. Recently, Dorcas was elected President of City of the Hills Chorus. If that was not enough to keep her busy, she is also the Co-Chair of the Costume/Make-up Committee. One of her proudest responsibilities is being the "pitch piper" for our chorus. As Dorcas says, "This is special to me, as every member depends on a good pitch to perform well."

She is the lead singer in the quartet "Four of Hearts". According to her, "This has been a joyful experience for almost 10 years."

Dorcas has been married to her husband, Tom, for 49 years. They have one son and three grandchildren. Tom is a native of Oneonta. She, however, moved to this area when she was 8 years old. They both graduated from Oneonta High School and have worked in and around this area all their lives.

In Dorcas' words, "My Sweet Adeline sisters are my family, and they provide strength through the hard times, as singing is the best medicine."



Marilyn Herrmann
Evergreen Chorus

The Evergreen Chorus is proud to name Marilyn Herrmann as our 2016 Woman of Note!

Every Tuesday night in the Evergreen Chorus rehearsal hall, the 'keeper of the pitch pipe' is always one of the first ladies on the risers ready to start the evening! Our 'keeper of the pitch pipe' is our Woman of Note – Marilyn Herrmann!

Marilyn first heard about Evergreen, in 1993, from a parent of one of her students who was a member. Marilyn was known to sing to her students in her elementary classroom. So, Betty asked her to come visit the chorus. Marilyn was "hooked" that evening. She didn't want to wait for a formal Open House that was being held a month later. She wanted in NOW!

Marilyn auditioned for Janie Macchiaroli, Evergreen Director, and passed without a hitch. Marilyn sang Lead and has been a Lead since 1993.

During the twenty-three years in our chorus, Marilyn has participated in all of our Shows, performances and fundraisers. Marilyn has been the attendance taker for the chorus, as well as, the Lead Section. Marilyn was also one of Evergreen Chorus' costume committee members...when costumes were made by a group of the ladies. Marilyn recalls "I wasn't a sewer but, I cut out the patterns on Saturday mornings!"

Regional music schools have always been high on Marilyn's list of priorities as a member of Sweet Adelines. She has attended every Regional Music School since 1993! "I always learn something new and love being with our chorus for the weekend." She seeks out personal voice lessons, attends extra rehearsals and is always there to assist other members. For this reason, Marilyn has served as a Mentor to new members many times.

In recent years, Marilyn has been an 'honorary' member of the Evergreen Music Team. Her input as a recording listener and live qualifier has greatly added to the success of Evergreen Chorus. This year Marilyn accepted the invitation to join the Music Team!

Marilyn Herrmann is an Ambassador for our Chorus and our Region. Her love of barbershop harmony and her selflessness as a member, is evident each week at our rehearsals. She is a "Real Woman, Singing Real Harmony and Having Real Fun!" As Marilyn states, "Doing something I love with a great group of women!"

We love and appreciate you always, Marilyn. Congratulations to you!



Penny Meyer
Golden Apple Chorus

The Golden Apple Chorus is happy to announce that Penny Meyer is our very deserving Women of Note for 2016!

In 1974, Penny Meyer joined the Shoreline Chorus (later renamed Golden Apple Chorus) in Rye, NY. The chorus needed tenors, so Penny started her Sweet Adelines experience as a tenor. She later switched to baritone, and now sings bass! Yes, she is tri-sectional! She was on the Board of Directors for many years, including serving as President for four years. Her first duty as President was to fire the chorus director, and hire a new director. She has been costume co-chair for most of her chorus tenure, and every year, comes up with clever and entertaining installation ceremonies as our Installation Chair. She was Chairman of the November Regional in Tarrytown in 1982, and was a "Big Sister" to a chorus in New Jersey, performing the installation ceremony for that chorus, too. She has sung in several chapter quartets and is always ready to sing - especially the old songs, or funny, silly songs. She is full of wonderful stories about 42 years of chorus history. She is a natural comedic storyteller, and loves to share her unlimited supply of funny songs and funny stories.

In 1995, Penny and other Golden Apple singers were featured in a Nabisco Triscuit commercial. It was an incredible experience, although it had a rough start - the pitch pipe fell into the toilet right before they started shooting, and they laughed till they cried, while trying to dry out and sanitize the pipe!

Penny recently celebrated her 51st wedding anniversary with husband Tom. They have 5 children and 12 grandchildren - lucky number 13 is due in October. She spends her summers in Breezy Point, NY, and is happiest when the whole Meyer clan is there too.

How does Penny feel about her incredible 42 years with the Golden Apple Chorus? Says Penny: "I have always believed Sweet Adelines is a magnet for good, caring people who like to have fun, in addition to loving to sing. It's so much more than a hobby. It is a way of life - a day without barbershop singing is like a day without sunshine!"

You are OUR sunshine, Penny, and we are so proud of our 2016 Woman of Note!



Phyllis Capolongo
Greater Nassau Chorus

The Greater Nassau Chorus is proud to name Phyllis Capolongo as our 2016 Woman of Note!

Over 30 years ago, two strangers travelling for business met while sitting next to each other on their flight. "I started talking to this woman about the chorus," remembers Greater Nassau Chorus's Master Director 700 Harriette Walters. "The rest is history." From that moment, Phyllis Capolongo's life was changed forever and so was the future of GNC. That random meeting set her on a musical journey marked by a deep love for the Sweet Adelines organization, her own chorus, and barbershop singing. Her time with GNC has been characterized by enormous enthusiasm, devotion and passion. It is with honor and delight that GNC selects Phyllis as our 2016 Woman of Note.

From the beginning, Phyllis accepted every job offered to her with energy, drive and commitment. "She doesn't know how to say 'no'," laughs fellow member Kathy Sullivan. She's held every position on the Management Team, from President to Treasurer. She even prepares the chorus tax returns each and every year. But more than anything, she is devoted to creating programs that build relationships within the chorus, the creative force behind our yearly retreats and new quartet club.

That passion grows out of Phyllis's own life experience. A 14 year survivor of breast cancer, Phyllis credits the chorus with being her "support group," never missing a single rehearsal throughout her grueling six weeks of radiation treatment. That desire to motivate and inspire others has been meaningful to all of GNC. "I am so grateful for the retreat she created. It was the icebreaker to get to know members when I was just starting out," remarks a new member.

Her skills at team building are reflected in Phyllis's many years as a successful business executive. She is Vice President of Rebate Billing and Accounting for OptumRx. Her job is demanding, requiring frequent travel, but somehow Phyllis manages to master the songs, learn the choreo, and bring her fabulous stage presence to the front row. Incredibly, she has found time to be in no less than 10 quartets over the years. Happily married to Tony Rannazzisi, Phyllis is the proud mom of daughter, Vanessa, a recent graduate of Hofstra Law School.

Congratulations, Phyllis! Your can-do attitude, positivity, and beautiful smile make us all proud. You help make GNC an organization that is driven, inclusive and fun! You are truly a Woman of Note.



Edie Murphy
Harmony Celebration Chorus

The Harmony Celebration Chorus is proud to name Edie Murphy as our 2016 Woman of Note!

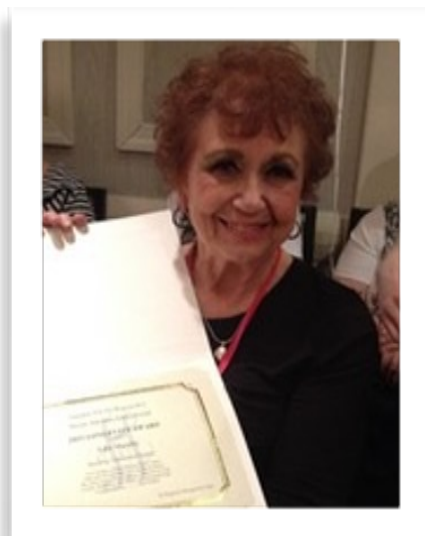
Edie Murphy shines bright among the many precious jewels within the Harmony Celebration bass section. In Spring 2015, she was recognized for an extraordinary 55 years of Sweet Adelines membership. Her enthusiasm and dedication both for this organization, and for HCC, are still going strong. Often, it seems as if Edie has the energy of a first-year member.

A talented quartet singer, Edie achieved fame as the statuesque, stunning bass in the Priorities. She earned multiple Top 10 International medals with the foursome including second place! Edie's voice and radiant on-stage smile have also graced multiple choruses over her barbershop career—a hobby she shared with her late husband Dennis. Before HCC, she was a longstanding, gold-medal-earning member of the three-time International Champion Chorus Ramapo Valley. Edie's eyes light up when she reminisces about her decades-long friendship with the legendary arranger, RV director, and quartet lead Renee Craig. Although Renee's memory is fading, Edie still visits her almost every week at a New Jersey nursing home where she often sparks a smile by singing to her.

Edie is still one of the first members to arrive at HCC rehearsals every Wednesday, with a bright smile ready to greet early guests. At 7:29 PM, however, she's ready for warmups and you better be ready with her! Despite health issues that make it difficult for her to stand for extended lengths of time, Edie performs her heart out at during every rehearsal even when she's taking a break on the sidelines. Visiting coaches often greet her by first name, awed to see her on the risers.

It would be easy for Edie to rest on her laurels and medals, but she grows as a performer every week, soaking up knowledge from every rehearsal and coaching session. She could "take a break" or "retire" from the many administrative tasks required to run an internationally ranked chorus, but Edie is always among the first to volunteer and lend a hand.

Edie Murphy, "what a bass," what a model Harmony Celebration member! We love you!



Monica Moyers
Heart of Long Island Chorus

The Heart of Long Island Chorus is proud to name Monica Moyers as our 2016 Woman of Note!

Monica auditioned for the Heart of Long Island Chorus in 2013, and quickly became a valuable member. With her strong musical background she was able to accurately sing Lead and learned the repertoire quickly. Not one to back away from challenges, after about a year of singing lead she seemed drawn to the harmony parts and switched to Bari, re-learning almost the whole repertoire! She was elected onto the Management Team and served her first year as Membership Chair. She is doing a great job in her newest position, the daunting position of Treasurer! When a new fundraising program was introduced at a Management Team meeting, Monica stepped forward to research it further and initiated the program last year. Because of her efforts in promoting and managing the program, the chorus has been reaping the benefits of a successful fundraising program, allowing the chorus to consider outside coaching and hopefully the purchase of new risers!

Monica has often helped out on rehearsal nights by running some rousing warmups, bringing along colorful scarves, tiny maracas and a collection of unique music to unwind us for the evening. With her infectious laugh, no one can resist joining in and it is always a blast. She recently recruited three other members of the chorus to form a quartet, and has been rehearsing with them in her 'spare time'. Monica is always ready to laugh and do her job. Her boundless energy and nonstop smile is an example for us all.

Outside of the chorus, Monica is a talented guitar and folk singer who at a younger age performed on stage with her Mother and Aunt. She shared with us that talent as she graciously sang for us at our retreats. Monica is a certified Music Together® teacher, is married and has two children- daughter Emily, and son Jordan. She has a B.A. in Psychology, studied the guitar for over 15 years and has 10 years of dance training. She's run music enrichment activities at preschools, libraries, summer camps and elementary schools for 13 years. She also leads drumming events in a variety of settings for music-making toddlers, seniors and every age in between! It seems that there is no challenge too big for Monica!



Sharon Pitoscia
Heart of New Jersey Chorus

The Heart of NJ Chorus is proud to name Sharon Pitoscia as our 2016 Woman of Note!

Sharon is the quintessential Sweet Adeline. She is warm, friendly and so supportive of everyone who reaches out to her. Sharon joined Sweet Adelines in 1998 when she became a member of Heart of New Jersey (her one and only) Chorus.

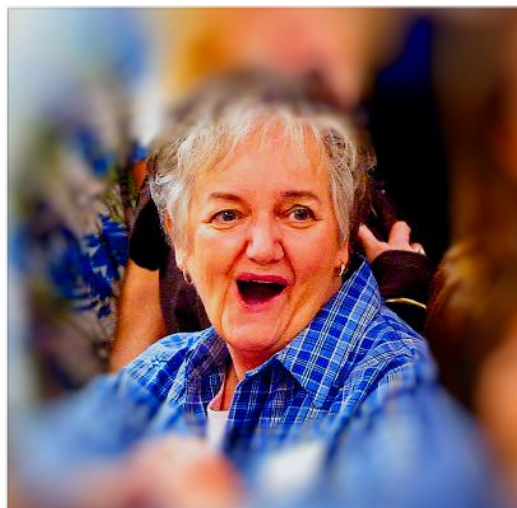
She has an ebullient personality, loads of charm and a beautiful bass singing voice that blends seamlessly with anyone. She is a wonderful example of Sweet Adeline spirit and cooperation. Sharon can be relied on to be at every rehearsal and performance. She is consistently prepared, energized and a pleasure to be around. She always has a cheerful disposition, a sense of humor and something sensitive and thoughtful to say.

Sharon has worked tirelessly as our Treasurer for years. Her appointment to Treasurer was literally a phone call from a management team in desperate need of a financial person. This is no easy task. There are different sets of rules for every event. Every aspect of it must be in order and she is the one who keeps it all organized, not to mention dues, costume fees, reimbursements and year round responsibilities. She comes to every rehearsal with the checkbook and folder, ready to attend to whatever detail crops up (and something always does). She makes it look easy, never complains, and smiles as she quietly smooths out every wrinkle.

In the most frustrating of situations, Sharon is an effective communicator, the courteous, calm voice of reason who gets her points across with patience, clarity and logic.

When Sharon isn't contributing to Heart of New Jersey, she is being a wonderful wife to husband and loyal HONJ supporter Mike, mother to three wonderful children, and grandmother to two beautiful granddaughters!

Sharon's continuously positive attitude has always been a bright ray of sunshine. Her dedication to Heart of New Jersey Chorus and ambassador of Sweet Adelines just trumpets Woman of Note. We think she is the perfect person to represent what our chapter is!



Janene DePalo
Hickory Tree Chorus

The Hickory Tree Chorus is proud to name Janene DePalo as our 2016 Woman of Note!

Janene DePalo was having a lot of fun directing high school musicals, but she really wanted to have as much fun as the student stars she directed. So in 2007, she looked around the local musical landscape and found a place to grow with Hickory Tree Chorus.

She's been singing with HTC ever since –with the chorus, in VLQ's, with Midnight Rhythm and Moonstruck quartets, for three years with the Women's Harmony Brigade, and almost every gig, big or small, that comes our way!

"Janene has grown so much since she joined HTC, and she's an incredible team player," says Hickory Tree Chorus Master Director, Carolyn Schmidt. A star performer who commands your attention, Janene is a part of Hickory Tree Chorus' Visual Team, serving as Co-riser Captain and, bringing her director skills, has been Show Coordinator for the last few years.

She good-naturedly accepted the Lead Section Leader position, only shortly after assuming the Assistant Section Leader title, because she knew she was needed. She quickly grew into the position earning the respect of her fellow Leads. Members love and respect Janene for stepping-up when needed and for the love and respect she shows everyone.

Her friend, Drive! Baritone, and Hickory Tree Chorus associate member, Patty Danner says, "Janene recognizes when something needs to get done and just does it; no recognition needed. She does it for the good of the chorus. I have especially seen this behind the scenes at Hickory Tree Chorus shows."

Janene is a dedicated teacher in the Livingston, NJ school system. It is there that she has directed the high school spring musicals for many years. She introduced barbershop singing to her elementary school students with a small assembly and by helping some of her students, who are Girl Scouts, earn their YWIH badge. Her 'favorite' children though are her nephews, Jaden and Nicolas, and we're pretty sure she's their favorite aunt!

Janene personifies the best of Hickory Tree Chorus –friendly, talented, generous—and for that reason, we are proud to name her Hickory Tree Chorus's 2016 Woman of Note.



Sue Pedersen
Island Hills Chorus

The Island Hills Chorus is proud to name Sue Pedersen as our 2016 Woman of Note!

In 1978, Sue was invited to a performance of the Golden Chordsmen. Their guest on the show was Ramapo Valley Chorus and Sue was introduced to Sweet Adelines. She was very impressed by what she heard and was hoping to follow-up... but with 2 young sons at home, the opportunity never came up. Two years later however, a friend invited her to a rehearsal of the Blue Horizon Chorus and she was hooked. So, in 1980, she joined the Sweet Adelines and after 36 years, she is still as fascinated by this wonderful "hobby" as she was when she first heard this captivating a capella harmony.

Being a member of a small chorus, everyone has at least one job. As a member of Blue Horizon, Sue served on the Board several times, on the music committee and helped with the choreo. The second year in the chorus she became a quartet member, singing Tenor in a newly formed quartet.

Several years later, Blue Horizon and Central Long Island choruses merged to form Heart of Long Island. With a new director, Betty Keating, and a larger chorus, much work was needed to move forward. Sue again served on the board, once as Treasurer and once as Secretary, and on the music committee. She was also on the choreo team.

In 1990, when Heart of Long Island lost their director, Sue moved to the Island Hills chapter and competed in her first International Convention in San Antonio. Soon after becoming a member, Sue joined the choreo team and was asked to be a member of the music committee. She was on the board/team several times, once as Treasurer and several times as Performance Coordinator, a position she holds today. She is now also an assistant director.

About 1998, Sue again was the tenor in a newly formed quartet "Spellbound". Over the years, the quartet has had several personnel changes, but is still together and has competed 7 times and is planning to compete this next competition with a new lead. Sue lives in Smithtown with her husband of 46 years, Chet. Their 2 sons, Kevin and David, each live nearby with their families so Sue & Chet spend many wonderful times with their 4 grandchildren.

Sue has worked as a teacher, computer programmer and now as a bookkeeper for a Real Estate Consulting firm.

Island Hills Chorus is proud to have Sue Pedersen as a member of their chapter and delighted that she is recognized as their Woman of Note.



Gail Bruno
Jersey Harmony Chorus

The Jersey Harmony Chorus is proud to name Gail Bruno as our 2016 Woman of Note!

A member of Jersey Harmony Chorus for almost five years, Gail Bruno always brings a little spark of joy each time she takes the risers. As a member of the baritone section, Gail is almost always in attendance at performances large and small, as well as rehearsals. Gail is a willing participator in so many of our activities necessary for the operation of the chorus as well as special events. She is a front row performer and presently serving as Performance Coordinator on the management team. She has been active in choreography, emcees, hospitality, and countless other positions.

Singing has always been an important part of Gail's life. Starting at age 2 or 3, she loved entertaining her family, continued to sing through her school years in a chorus and a small women's ensemble in high school where, as a senior, she had the lead in their musical. In college, Gail sang with a select women's a Capella group for all four years.

Gail's career brought her to West Windsor-Plainsboro High School where she taught French and Spanish and eventually, after earning a Master's degree, became a guidance counselor, remaining in the district for 34 years. Her passions include a love of animals (especially dogs), travel, music, Broadway theater, reading, gardening, tutoring French and attending local concerts and theater. She is looking forward to exploring tap dancing, Italian, inventive cooking, and photography. This is our Gail, a never-stopping bundle of exuberance and energy.

To add to her always busy life style (and this is the way she loves it!), in 1989, Gail adopted a 2 week old baby girl, Kara Beth who now lives in Hoboken. To know Gail is to love her. Thus, she stays very connected to her daughter and extended family, as well as many many friends, several of which include former students. We are so pleased to have her as part of the Jersey Harmony family and look forward to her smiles, her animated stories, and her presence on the risers for a long, long time to come.



Dolly Power
Liberty Oak Chorus

The Liberty Oak Chorus is proud to name Dolly Power as our 2016 Woman of Note!

From the moment that Dolly joined our chorus, she has been a standout member; both literally and figuratively, since she's on our front row! Dolly has been a Sweet Adeline for many years; and she is well known throughout Region 15 for her emcee skills, and her passion for the organization. Here are just a few of the many compliments her fellow "sistahs" have bestowed upon her:

"Her personality and crazy sense of humor are such great assets and she's got that magnetism that just draws people to her."

"Not only is Dolly a great ambassador for LOC; but for all Sweet Adelines as well."

"Dolly brought to LOC her skills from being a teacher; her heart from caring for folks with special needs; and her soul filled with passion for music and performing."

"Dolly has been so creative with fundraising suggestions; and often takes charge of them herself. She is also a wonderful mentor to our newest members."

"Dolly has served as a transporter for out of town coaches and is always willing to help out when asked to do so."

"Everything Dolly does for LOC is done with humor and enthusiasm. We just love her; and feel so blessed to have her as part of our family."

"Dolly was the first non-director/non-coach/and non-queen member of SAI to be invited to host the SAI webcast several years ago...and she was AWESOME! What an honor!"

Ask anyone in Sweet Adelines if they know who Dolly Power is; and most people, including coaches, will say that they know her name. Dolly embodies the true spirit of SAI. She is a kind and lovable woman who is so giving of herself. Indeed, Dolly works tirelessly not only for her chapter and her Region, but also for the entire organization. Her positive influence on people and her enthusiasm for her chorus is infectious; and fortunately for all of us, Dolly shares these traits with everyone in SAI.



Sandy Coleman
Long Island Sound Chorus

The Long Island Sound Chorus is proud to name Sandy Coleman as our 2016 Woman of Note!

Sandy is a Crazy Quilt of talents and interests. She can be all business, getting the risers broken down, packed up and trucked off to a new rehearsal space which she has located, negotiated and secured in her efficient way. She can and will also track you down until you commit, either yes or no, to a scheduled singing gig, Say no and her eyebrows lower with displeasure. Say yes and her face brightens. She wants you on the risers. She needs you on the risers. Her face is an ever changing landscape of expressions for the world to see. She is transparent, an easy read. When things go well the eyebrows relax and her dimples appear.

Music has always been an important part of Sandy's life. She remembers listening to the traditional Scotch-Irish blue grass ballads her dad played on the radio during the years he owned and operated a coal mine in Morgantown, West Virginia. She would daydream of being on stage, strumming a guitar and singing for a living. She took piano lessons and practiced her songs on the family's upright piano. After moving to Baltimore she studied academics and music at Western High School, an all-girls public school where she was given the opportunity to attend many affordable concerts by the Baltimore Philharmonic. Years later when her children were teenagers she returned to Suffolk Community College to prepare for a twenty four year career as an x-ray technician.

Although she hasn't made her living with song, Sandy keeps the dream alive by listening to music and singing lead with the Long Island Sound Chorus. Her performance style is exuberant, joyful and uninhibited. Her three children Pam, Paul and Janet are her biggest fans and travel long distances to hear her perform. This year, Sandy was voted Sweet Adeline of the Year for her tireless work as our Events Coordinator and costume committee member.

When asked what her fantasy competition performance and costume might look like, she answered with her thoughtful smile. "You mean money would not be an object? It would have to be something everybody would look good in." She paused and then revealed, " We would be wearing a forties inspired two piece outfit with a black knit jersey boat neck top, three quarter length bat wing sleeves and a floor length black sateen skirt that hugs the hips and thighs and then flares out. We would sound amazing and sing "Let Freedom Ring" because I love patriotic songs. And, of course, we would win a medal."

Being a veteran, Sandy looks forward to our 2016 annual show which will have a patriotic theme. Sandy and the entire Long Island Sound Chorus extend thanks and appreciation to veterans everywhere who have served their country.



Jenn Hunter
Saratoga Soundtrack Chorus

The Saratoga Soundtrack Chorus (SSC) is proud to name Jennifer Hunter as our 2016 Woman of Note!

Jenn is a charter member of the chorus who has tirelessly and consistently demonstrated leadership qualities in several roles over the past 10 years. She "jumped in with both feet," with early years as management team leader; and baritone section leader—which she continues to hold today. She has been a very involved participant on the music team since nearly the beginning, always sharing great ideas and volunteering to help bring them to fruition.

Prior to her SSC experience, Jenn sang for a short time with Capitaland Chorus, where she was quickly smitten by the chorus and quartet bug, shortly after the birth of her son in 2002. Jenn has a knack for knowing and showing excellence, as she has received many regional quartet and chorus medals along the way.

Throughout her ten years with SSC, Jenn has been the chorus' own special techie guru; a few years ago she introduced the chorus to Groupanizer as a unifying method of effective communication and scheduling events, and she continues to troubleshoot, inform, update, and research the best ways of managing the system to the chorus' advantage. She also uses some of these skills as she sets an example of service while working continually as our Region 15 Communications Coordinator.

Jenn has gone above and beyond for the chorus this year by stepping up to become an assistant director and taking on the DCP program. Weekly, Jenn challenges us "literally" to step into choreo routines she has masterminded, including the Rosie the Riveter choreo routine which we performed as Region 15's 2014 A chorus champions, entitling us to perform in Las Vegas in 2015. She also had an active choreo role when our very young chorus was able to participate in the 2012 Harmony Classic in Denver, CO, after the chorus won the Regional Small chorus A championship in 2011. Jenn serves the chorus as the head of our visual/choreo team, and weekly gives guidance in a positive yet humorous way that helps to keep the atmosphere fun, lively and spontaneous.

In nominating Jenn, members described her as dedicated, entertaining, saavy, creative, energetic, fun, amazing, witty, super-involved, extraordinary, a fast learner, patient and astoundingly committed. The chorus congratulates and thanks Jenn for continually dedicating numerous hours, volunteering her time on behalf of the chorus and the region!



Dawn Crane
Seneca Soundwaves Chorus

It is with great enthusiasm that our chorus has chosen Dawn Crane as our Woman of Note for 2016!

Dawn has been singing for too many years to count and enjoying every minute of it! Dawn has been our Assistant Director for six years. She recently accepted the position of Co-Director of our chorus. She has been a charter member of Seneca Soundwaves Chorus and has sung with us for a total of 12 years. Dawn was a member of Kanandarque Chorus of Sweet Adeline's International from 1982 - 1995 and sang with a quartet with chorus members called Jubilee. Most recently, Dawn sang with a registered Sweet Adeline quartet called Nuance.

Dawn has been an active member of Harmony Incorporated, where she has performed both in chorus and quartets at the local and international levels. She has served the Seneca Soundwaves Chorus in both administrative and musical leadership roles, serving as assistant director, tenor section leader, performance chair, visual team coordinator and on our management team. She has assisted in directing the chorus at performances and during rehearsals, stepping in when Elaine is absent.

Dawn has a discerning ear and can pick out chorus members' various tonal qualities that need improvement. She strives to make our chorus better each week and brings her wonderful sense of humor to our rehearsals. Her unbridled love of music is contagious and we all strive to make ourselves better singers and performers with her ongoing encouragement. A more worthy candidate for this honor is hard to find and we feel very fortunate to have Dawn as our new Co-Director and Woman of Note for 2016.



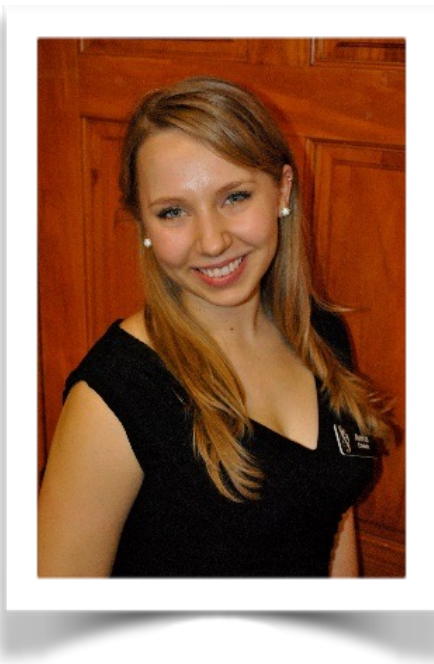
Anna Chelak
Sirens of Gotham Chorus

Sirens of Gotham is proud and honored to announce Anna Chelak as our 2016 Woman of Note!

Anna has served with vibrancy and loyalty on the music team wherein she has helped guide the chorus with regards to our brand, movement, and vibe. She is now going above and beyond also as a management team member. One position alone can be a handful, so to take on two positions is amazing!

In addition to having a wonderful lead voice, Anna is prepared and engaged for all aspects of rehearsal, which makes her a truly extraordinary member of our singing community. She is kind, thoughtful, caring, always open to ideas, and always willing to assist with costume issues.

Anna is most deserving of the Woman of Note recognition!



Pat Novak
Song of the Valley Chorus

Song of The Valley is proud to announce that Pat Novak is our 2016 Woman of Note!

Pat joined Sweet Adelines via Goshen's Hudson Valley Chapter in 1973 as a young mother or three, two boys and a girl. She answered a newspaper ad and found four-part barbershop harmony. Since then she has been passionate about singing harmony.

Through the years, she was a member of Ramapo Valley Chorus, and then Kaatskill Chorus. After several years of not singing with a chorus, she found her way back to Goshen and Song of the Valley. Since then, she has served in various capacities: Music Team, Management Team, CCL, and Marketing Coordinator, a position she has held for the last four years. She is always willing to try something new and tries to keep up with technology. We're so happy that she put our chapter on MeetUp. MeetUp has been a great help in locating women who like to sing.

Pat has some special memories of her time in Sweet Adelines. She sang with her daughter in Kaatskill Chorus with Brenda Crawford directing. Her daughter, Lori, joined the chapter at age 14 and sang with them for three years. Kaatskill won Region 15's small chorus award with only 16 singers on stage. Pat and Lori were two of the 16. Another happy memory is winning second place in a Region 15 Double Quartet Contest with seven of her riser mates at Ramapo Valley. She really enjoyed the camaraderie preparing for the contest and singing for Renee Craig.

Today, Pat is a grandmother of three. She has a passion for antiques and deals in antiques on the weekends. During the week, she works full-time selling and designing ads for a local newspaper. When going from client to client she keeps her ears open always looking for new singers for our chorus. She's a great ambassador for Song of the Valley and for Sweet Adelines International.



Sky Harris
Spirit of Syracuse Chorus

The Spirit of Syracuse chorus is proud to name Sky Harris our 2016 Woman of Note!

Sky is one of our assistant directors and a hopeless devotee to the barbershop style. She has spearheaded our youth program while integrating our mature membership into a chorus that learns and supports each other. She has taught the chorus at large about the history of our organization and is making strides to move us forward to excellence by always pushing us to our boundaries and encouraging us to cross them.

Sky is one of the founders of Lakeside Acapella Harmony camp that takes place every July at Cazenovia College in Cazenovia NY. Sky is the director of the Harmonic Collective, a newly chartered BHS chorus, the Director of the Liverpool High School Marching band as well as a member of Skylark quartet. To top everything else, she is the 2015 recipient of the NAFME award and a newly appointed youth coordinator for Sweet Adelines International.

The Spirit of Syracuse could not be prouder of Sky and her achievements. She helps to make us a better chorus by lending her musical expertise and infecting us with her drive towards a more modern, cutting edge and all-inclusive organization. She is one of the most selfless and humble people you will ever meet. Unassuming, warm and welcoming are just a few words to describe her personality.

For these reasons, amongst others, the Spirit of Syracuse Chorus is happy to be able to honor Sky as our 2016 Woman of Note.



Jennifer Carapazza
Twin County Chorus

With great joy and love, Twin County Chorus has unanimously chosen Jennifer Carapazza, as Woman of Note for 2016!

Every week, and especially at contest time, Jen generously shares her talent and time as the head of our choreography team, and as a front row girl. She works throughout the year on developing our moves, and helping us shine on stage. She shares her ideas and opinions in a positive, fun, and kind way, making everyone feel comfortable, confident, and at ease. She has the style and grace of a leader we will listen to and learn from.

Jen joined the chorus in 1997, a few years after she finished college. She sang throughout her school years, and also played the saxophone in a college marching band. Later, when she felt that the musical part of her life was missing, she went with a friend from work to a Twin County Chorus rehearsal. She immediately fell in love with the barbershop sound, and especially the rich tones of the bass. She has a beautiful baritone voice, and has moves and energy that we all wish to emulate.

Since the beginning, she has found time to help the chorus, having worked in our ways and means committee, and in the show committee. Now, with a full-time job and a young family, she still finds time for Twin County Chorus. Remarkably, she also has time for kick-boxing and Zumba, religious education, and volunteering at community health centers.

Jen and her team work hard to fine tune our choreography, so that it complements the messages of our songs. They each develop ideas, and together present the best choreography plan. The chorus knows that our Director is the one out front, working hard and who is visible. But we also know that our choreographer gives her care, time, and planning each week.

Jen has said, "Being in Twin County Chorus and a Sweet Adeline is not something I do, it is a part of who I am". After having been with the chorus for eighteen years, and having had many changes in her life, she feels that Twin County is a sisterhood that gives her personal support, strength, and comfort. She believes that a night at rehearsal is a great stress reliever, and truly is her happy place.

How lucky we are to have such a devoted and talented member, whose goal is to unite everyone with her smile and great attitude. Jen, we are so proud to name you our Woman of Note for 2016.

