

2015 Women of Note

Peggy Bastone

It's every chorus leader's dream to find a volunteer as willing as Peggy. Not only does she take on almost every task she's asked to handle—and then some—she does so cheerfully, with serious attention to detail. For Harmony Celebration she manages the chorus housing accommodations for competitions, assigns mentors to guide new members keeping discreet tabs on their progress, and evaluates qualification recordings for lead section members. With her high-wattage smile, who needs sequins?

Nancy Plante

A radiant person, inside and out, Nancy brings joy to every Heart of Long Island rehearsal, laughs easily and often, and projects a positive attitude. She is our immediate past Team Leader, who never failed to get the job done in a timely and efficient manner. She is a reliable, tireless, generous person always willing to go the extra mile and do anything to help. She has remarkable time management and organizational skills, and is a valuable member of our chorus.

Flora Beth Cunningham

A 35 year member of Sweet Adelines, Flora has served as City of the Hills director for 28 years. She has been in a medalist quartet and currently sings with Euphoria Quartet as well as a mixed group, Syncopation. A life long singer, Flora has been a member of the Baltimore Symphony Chorus, among others, and has sung at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. She is also an arranger for her chorus and quartet. The chorus is thankful for all her hours of dedication!

Lori Schnipper-Nastasi

For 35 years, Lori has served as GNC's Visual Team leader and resident choreographer, creating routines, developing and leading a talented visual team, and collaborating with coaches, our Director and music staff to consistently elevate GNC's Showmanship and Expression skills. A demanding job, requiring patience and diplomacy, yet Lori has managed to make it seem effortless! To our wonderful friend and true ambassador for our chapter - bravo, Lori!!

Kerrie Blum

HONJ has had a very transitional year and everyone has pulled together to make it a positive outcome. Kerrie has demonstrated leadership by stepping up during this process, assuring momentum as things move forward keeping everyone involved and clearly informed each step of the way. For the second consecutive year she is co-chairing our annual show. She is organized, conscientious and can always be counted on.

Michelle Metallo

Most Wednesdays, you'll find Michelle in the front row of Hickory Tree Chorus, where she has been for most of her 20 years as a Sweet Adeline. She is currently assisting with the leadership of the front row. She has worn many different hats including Ways and Means Chair, Secretary, Finance Manager and Team Coordinator, and for the last several years she has served as our Engagements Coordinator. To top it all off, the end of the last fiscal year, she willingly stepped in to complete the term of the Finance Manager who had to step down midyear.

Toby Selda

Through the last 25 years, Toby has been involved in many areas of the running Island Hills Chorus from several terms on the board to being in charge of costumes. She has had success as a member of the music team and a bass section leader for many years. Numerous extra bass practices have been held at her home, and occasionally she has also hosted coaches and had coaching sessions or extra rehearsals for all four parts. Her basses try to live up to her strong work ethic and follow her example.

Alice Tempel

Alice has always taken a responsible role in the chorus operation, both musically and administratively. Presently, Alice is the lead section leader, pitch pipe blower, and assists in voice-placing prospective members. She is the Management Team Coordinator and also works on the finance committee as the dues collector. Whether it's a performance, fund-raiser, social gathering, or just plain "grunt" work, you can pretty much expect that Alice will be there.

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Deb Frimmer

As a new chorus member, Debbie immediately ran for a position on the board of Liberty Oak Chorus, got elected and did a two year stint as Secretary. She devoted herself tirelessly to any project she became a part of and there are many. Debbie constantly gives of her time every week to help with equipment set up before rehearsal begins. She has even visited new member's homes to work one on one with them on choreo. She always greets everyone with a warm smile and unselfishly puts her heart and soul into whatever she does.

Deanna Sargent

Deanna has a beautiful tenor voice and serves as Saratoga Soundtrack's tenor section leader. She sets high standards while at the same time providing support to help each member reach her goals. Deanna is always smiling and has a positive way of encouraging people that never makes one feel judged. She frequently helps lead us with vocal warm ups as we develop our skills as good barbershop singers. She is also a member of Regional Quartet Champs, One Track Mind.

Victoria Tisch

Vicki works tirelessly in her role as Sirens of Gotham's Chorus Convention Liaison, and now as our Communications Coordinator. She has a positive influence on the chorus always going beyond what is expected. When the position of weekly newsletter editor became available and she picked up and continued it seamlessly without missing a beat. Equally important, she is a proactive thinker, always planning and looking ahead rather than being reactionary to something that has occurred.

Sarah Leo

Sarah is recognized as a gifted resource, helping the Spirit of Syracuse to polish its showmanship and choreo plans with a joyful passion. As lead section assistant, Sarah never hesitates to reach out to others on the risers. In her role as Communication Coordinator, Sarah launched the Chorus's first ever Tumblr page, "The Barbershop Babe". Through weekly blog posts, Sarah gives potential future members a more intimate view of what it's like to live and breathe the Sweet Adeline life!

Irene Corolla

Irene believes that barbershop acapella singing is an art form that expresses the mood of the soul without the use of instruments. She is proud to be part of the Long Island Sound Chorus and to sing bass in her quartet, "At Last." She has also shared her art talent with her chorus by designing all show backdrops and stage sceneries throughout the years. Irene has been enjoying barbershop music for the past 14 years when she first joined Sweet Adelines.

Linda Schneider

Linda quickly volunteered to become Seneca Soundwaves's Financial Coordinator and works tirelessly to maintain and balance our budget. Her budgeting skills are meticulous, thorough and easy to understand. She also coordinates our fundraising efforts with other chorus members. Linda has a great smile, infectious laugh and great sense of humor. She is a team player and constantly volunteers for various jobs. Her positive "Can Do" attitude is contagious and her warm personality adds so much to our chorus in so many ways.

Sheila Palsma

A charter Member of what is now known as Song of the Valley, Sheila has been an active member for 22 years, with some years off for raising a family. Sheila has served on the board and held the positions of both Performance Chairman and Hospitality Chairman off and on for many years, presently serving as both. Sheila is also the official Pitch-Piper for the chorus. Sheila is known for her talent of writing parodies for various chapter functions and celebrations. Her sense of humor and wit were most evident in these parodies.

Nancy Akron

Nancy has served as a board or team member for Twin County Chorus most of the last ten years, in the role of Treasurer. She has held many volunteer positions, including show and costume chairwoman. She has been on the music committee, the ways and means committee, and bass section leader. She has competed with two quartets. She often volunteers to design flyers, collect money, make phone calls, host meetings and more! She has also been our wonderful, hilarious, and entertaining emcee at our performances for the past ten years.