



# CATCH 22



SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL REGION 22 AUTUMN 2010

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## WHEN I SAY “CATCH THE” - YOU SAY “EXCITEMENT”!

Region 22’s “Catch the Excitement” theme was evident when Dale Syverson, International Faculty member and director of the current International Championship Rich-Tone Chorus, shared her experience, knowledge, techniques, and humor with 290+ Region 22 members at the Country Springs Hotel on September 10 & 11. Dale is a member of the International Board of Directors, 2 time International gold medal quartet winner, 5 time International gold medal winning chorus director, and a Master 700 Director. Her classes included Learning Styles (discovering one’s individual learning style to aid in chorus and quartet experiences), Essential Vocal Skills and Resonation, Blending and Achieving Unit Sound (using volunteers from the membership in attendance), Trapshooting for Music Selection and the Craft of Embellishments. You may hear your director talk about “putting the sound above or below the hand” and “tunnel of vowel”, techniques taught by Dale.

**Pictured right:** Dale teaching the general membership



**Pictured below:** “Blending and Achieving Unit Sound” class with Dale and volunteers. Dale began with two leads and gradually kept adding voices and voice parts. An awesome sound was produced – thanks volunteers!



**REGION #22 SEATTLE SEND-OFF**



**RISING STAR  
CONTESTANT # 9:  
TROUBLE CLEF**

**QUARTET  
SEMI-FINALS  
CONTESTANT  
# 44:  
NRG!**



**CHORUS SEMI- FINALS CONTESTANT # 28:  
RIVER CITY SOUND**

## **TROUBLE CLEF** (Submitted by Susan Musgrave)

Trouble Clef, Region 22 Young Women in Harmony quartet, eagerly awaits Seattle competition!!! We've been practicing every week; even when one of us has to miss because of a family vacation. Heather Johnston, Jamie Ellinstad, Lisa Mushell, Sue Musgrave and June Berg have coached us, so we're diligently working to improve our skills.

All four of us will be 14 years old by the time we compete in Seattle. Three of us, Bethany, Micah and Catherine, are freshmen in High School this Fall. Our tenor, Tessa, is an eighth grader. We really feel that competing in Seattle is our "Lucky Day", and with the help of our moms and Riverport we'll have "Someone to Watch Over Me." We hope to hear you cheering for us at the Rising Star Contest, Saturday, October 23 in Seattle.

We love you, Region 22.

## **NRG!** (Submitted by Jennifer Kelliher)

Luckily we have a lot of NRG! ~ it's been a busy summer and will be an even busier fall as we head towards International competition in Seattle in October! A great time was had by all at our ice cream social in August. Your support and generosity means so very much to us. Thank you so much!

What a great Fall School!! It's always so much fun to catch up with our Sweet Adeline friends from across the region...and get some great education on top of it all. We always come away from those weekends not only with more knowledge about our craft, but with a renewed sense of support from this wonderful region that we're so proud to be part of!

As we turn the corner and head into the Fall months, we're in full swing on our road to Seattle. We'll be singing on the Region 3 Preview Show on September 26, along with our bass, Debi's chorus, Midwest Crossroad, who will be competing in this year's Harmony Classic in Seattle. Then it's on to the Crosstown Harmony Chorus Cabaret on October 3, followed by the Westosha Lakes Chorus Cabaret on October 9. Then it's off to Seattle! We're so excited to represent you there and are looking forward to a great contest. Wrapping up October, we'll be on Fox Valley's Halloween Show on October 30. Hope to see all of you somewhere along the way!

If you are looking for entertainment or a guest quartet on your upcoming shows and cabarets, we would love to perform for you! Call Heather at 414.803.8624 or email at [hjohnston@wi.rr.com](mailto:hjohnston@wi.rr.com).

## **RIVER CITY SOUND** (Submitted by Denise Gorski)

7 weeks 'til Seattle. It's hard to believe it's almost here! River City Sound has been hard at work this summer preparing for our debut on the International stage. We had a fabulous retreat weekend in Freeport, IL with Jim Arns in July. Our resonance must have rattled heaven and earth that weekend because the floodwaters literally shut down the town of Freeport and much of Northern Illinois.

We recently took a field trip to a Melodeers rehearsal. It was great to watch champions at work. We absorbed their wonderful sound and then it was our turn to perform for them. That was quite a learning experience for us. First off, our 43 members taking our places on risers set for 100+ people was overwhelming. Then their cheers and encouragement really got the adrenaline flowing. Adrenaline takes your breath away and sometimes part of your mind! WOW! The experience was an eye opener

for us. It was a just a sampler of what being on stage in Seattle will be like. We celebrated the good points of our performance and made a list of things to fine tune.

River City Sound is getting ready for one of our major fundraisers of the year. We serve our renowned and loved marinated mushrooms at a local festival, On the Waterfront. We'll be there cooking Labor Day weekend and I'm sure we'll add that extra spice of harmony to the recipe to make it a great weekend.

After barely getting the roasters put away from On the Waterfront, we're off to Fall school in Waukesha. What a thrill to work with Dale. We can't wait! We're looking forward to seeing so many of you again. We haven't been together since regional contest. This is going to be great!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. That is the date of River City Sound's show, Tres Sweet. Not only do we serve up some wonderful harmony, our audience is treated to marvelously decorated theme tables and desserts. We're excited to feature and share the stage with The 4 Bettys! Come share a Sunday afternoon with us. See our website for details and ticket info, [www.rivercitysound.org](http://www.rivercitysound.org).

We hope to see many of you at International. We are so proud to be representing Region 22 in Seattle. We'll teach Sweet Adelines International how to .....

### **CATCH THE EXCITEMENT!**

**Region 22 Pep Rally**  
**Seattle, WA**  
**NRG!**  
**&**  
**River City Sound**  
Seattle Convention Center  
Room 4C-2  
Wednesday, October 20  
12:30 PM to 1 PM  
Stop in and cheer for your  
Region 22 competitors !!

# NEWS FROM THE REGIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

## MJ Mortilarro – Team Coordinator

Talk about EXCITEMENT!! 290+ Region 22 members in one room.....WOW what a weekend. I watched as eyes sparkled when they met a friend, I watched arms extended to greet a friend, I watched introductions of new members and I heard much laughter. This is exactly the way our Positive Mental Attitude gets energized. Meeting and greeting and sharing good times.

Before the school even started the air was filled with Region 22 Excitement. I can't say for certain that this is unique to Region 22 but I do believe we have a good thing going here. Now, it is up to us, the Fall School attendees to take this incredible excitement and Pass IT on to our choruses. Each of us needs to fuel the excitement on our own risers. Just sharing all the incredible information we learned at the Fall School should have our riser's mates jumping up and down.

I want to highlight the Town Hall Meeting from the Fall School. One of the topics involved, the State of the Region Report. Believe it or not but the RMT actually takes this report seriously. It is somewhat of a report card for how we are doing. Every year our Communication Coordinator, Joan Machtel, sends this report to the choruses for them to answer. This year we had half of our choruses return this report. Some of the challenges in governing this organization is to fulfill the needs of the membership. Without input from the membership we are making decisions that we think are positive for Region 22 and we may be wrong about those decisions. If you like the direction the Region is headed or the programs we provide then it is really OK to say so - we like to hear what we are doing well. If you would like to see changes then here is your opportunity to answer the questions that way. The point here is - This is your Region and I encourage you to take the opportunity to fill out the report to ensure that your voice is heard.

Region 22 - know that your RMT is working hard to maintain our high standards of educational schools. We are always thinking of ways to improve the skills of our choruses, quartets and the individual singer. Only good things to come for Region 22!

**The Regional Management Team is currently accepting applications for 4 coordinator positions.**

**Three coordinator positions are appointed by the Regional Management Team:**

**Events Coordinator** - Facilitates securing appropriate venues for regional programs and events, including site inspections and negotiation of contracts.

**Finance Coordinator** - Ensures that all financial resources of the region are accounted for in an effective and efficient manner

**Marketing Coordinator** - Develops and provides marketing and public relations programs that promote chapter and regional events, and membership growth and retention.

**One coordinator position is elected by Region 22 Directors:**

**Director Coordinator** - Assesses and communicates directors' needs within the region and represents the interests of the region's directors on the Regional Management Team

Applications are on the Regional Web Site for easy downloading. If you have been thinking about joining this Team, **NOW** is the time. Application deadline is November 15, 2010. Please send applications to Joan Machtel – Communications Coordinator.

## **Carolyn Senzig – Membership Coordinator**

My first few months as the Membership Coordinator have been busy and fun.

I've had the opportunity to meet with and assist a Sweet Adeline from the Valley de Croix chorus in Minnesota, Kim Grossmann, to discuss her efforts in starting a Region 22 chorus in Milltown, Wisconsin. Kim, along with a good friend and former music educator, Cheryl Pepper, are all ready to dig in and make this new chorus a reality. They are busy doing marketing to entice interested singers from around the area. Their first meeting/rehearsal is set for October 14, 2010 at the Milltown Lutheran Church at 113 Main Street. If you have any friends or relatives in this northwest corner of Wisconsin that love to sing, pass the word along. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Special thanks to Red Cedar Sounds director, Dawn Roberts, and the Team's Financial Coordinator, Claudia Hogan, for meeting with me during my travels up to northern Wisconsin. It is so great to have some one-on-one time to do sharing with chorus leaders.

Total number of members in Region 22 as of:

6/3/10 = 552  
7/7/10 = 564  
8/4/10 = 560

Our membership numbers are holding rather steady, which is a good thing, taking women's busy lives and our current economy into consideration. I hope, however, that all members, or at least all chorus leaders, are reviewing the new **Real Guide to Growth** Membership Development program on the SAI website. If we "keep doing what we've always done, we'll keep getting what we always got." It is time to look at some new membership growth ideas and international is certainly trying to help us out with that. There is also a webinar on the **Real Guide to Growth** that any member can access. Go for it! I'd love to hear how you are utilizing new membership growth ideas so that I can share them with the rest of the region!

Enjoy our beautiful fall season and have fun learning new Christmas arrangements and sharing our wonderful sounds within your communities. Our performances are a great way to impress other ladies to join a Region 22 chorus.

### **REGION # 22 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS**

**June:**

**Glenda White - Cedar Harmony**  
**Mary Lou Dunn - River City Sound**  
**Holly Oxley - Yahara River**

**July:**

**Nancy Bushnell – Yahara River**  
**Debra Burrows – Fox Valley**  
**Susan Houle – Fox Valley**

**August: Gail Hartle - Heart O' Wisconsin**

## **Shirley VanDeWege - Events Coordinator**

### **FALL EVENTS COORDINATOR UPDATE**

My EVC article is going to be brief in our Fall Catch 22 issue due to having had major back surgery on August 12th. I just don't have the strength to sit at the computer for any length of time. I will elaborate in more detail on the venues in our next issue. I trust you will all understand my briefness this time?

**REGIONAL COMPETITION – APRIL 7-10, 2011:** Hotel will be the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, obviously in Appleton, WI. The contest will take place directly across the street at the Performing Arts Center. We will be providing a hotel van for the Quartet Contest and buses for the Chorus Contest. Rate is \$104.00 plus tax, this rate does not include breakfast.

**DIRECTOR'S RETREAT WILL ALSO INCLUDE ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS – May 20 -22, 2011:** Venue is the LaQuinta in Madison, WI. The room rate is \$85.00 plus tax, includes a Hot Continental Breakfast.

**FALL WORKSHOP “The Name of the Category is Showmanship not Choreography” – SEPTEMBER 16 – 17, 2011:** Hotel will be the Lodge at Geneva Ridge, in Lake Geneva, WI. Room rate is \$85.00 with four in a room. Hotel will provide a delicious breakfast buffet (not included in room rate). Bring your cameras - the views are beautiful from most areas of the hotel with **ALL** the Fall colors.

**QUARTET WORKSHOP W/ COMPETING QUARTET COACHING – NOVEMBER 4 -5, 2011:** Location will be the Comfort Inn & Suites in DeForest, WI. Room rate is \$79.00 with 4 in a room, includes a warm Continental Breakfast.

**Have a Happy Fall and my very Best Wishes to all our competing members as you take the stage in Seattle, WA (I wish I could be there!)**

Shirley VanDeWege, EVC

## **Heather Johnston – Education Coordinator**

### **Fall School - September 16-17, 2011**

**The Name of the Category is Showmanship, Not Choreography**

**Guest Faculty: Lynne Smith**

Lynne is a bundle of energy that just doesn't stop. She is a member of the International Championship Chorus, Harborlites and serves on their visual team. Her passion for Showmanship has been experienced and enjoyed worldwide, along with her unique way of keeping us laughing while learning. You will not want to miss this action packed weekend!

With the elimination of the winter workshop, the fall school will also host our Novelty Quartet Contest on Friday Night. There will also be expanded education opportunities during the day on Friday. Details are still in process but be sure to save the dates so you can participate in all of the activities!

### **Novelty Quartet Contest**

Friday night, September 16th, 2011 will be the date for Region 22's Annual Novelty Contest. With the elimination of the winter school we are "relocating" the Novelty Contest to Friday night at the fall school. For those that haven't attended winter schools in the past you have missed a most unique experience. The last Novelty Contest was won by the Four Barbie's with their now infamous version of "Barbie Jamboree". The previous winners serve as judges for the contest and prizes are awarded including a much sought after traveling trophy for the first place champions. The champions are also inducted into the 22 Carrot Chorus. Watch for more details as the date gets closer!

## EDUCATION CORNER

Listening is one of the most important skills you can have. We listen to obtain information. We listen to understand. We listen for enjoyment. We listen to learn. And in our chorus or quartet life, we listen to help achieve the ultimate unit sound.

The way to become a better listener is to practice "active listening". This is where you make a conscious effort to hear not only the words that another person is saying but, more importantly, you try and understand the total message being sent. In order to do this you must pay attention to the other person very carefully. How much do you participate in "active listening" at your chorus or quartet rehearsals? When your director is working with another section is your mind wandering or are you truly focused on what is happening? Next week at rehearsal make a conscious effort to be an active listener! Check out [www.mindtools.com](http://www.mindtools.com) for techniques that can be used to sharpen your listening skills.

Directors, we can help our members become more active listeners by asking them for feedback. One of the best techniques that was given to the Fox Valley chorus came from Tori Postma. At our coaching sessions with her, when we are getting to the point of wrapping up the session she will ask the members to find a partner, or form small groups and within those groups the members review, or process everything we've worked on. Tori and I process the changes/modifications as well. Then we process again as a full chorus before running the song again. Taking the time to process really improves the odds that the individual member will retain the information.

Directors, we know that 2 1/2 - 3 hours is a long time to expect our members to stay totally focused and that's where effective rehearsal planning comes into play. Are you planning enough variety into your schedule? Are you mixing fun, less brain-draining activities into your rehearsal? Sometimes we can get bogged down because there's so much to do and so little time. But we shoot ourselves in the foot when we try to cram too much intense work into our rehearsals. Drilling new music in shorter segments will be much more effective than spending 45 minutes to an hour on the piece. Speaking of "less brain-draining activities", how full is your bag of tricks? Do you need some new ideas? Each of you should have received a Regional Directory - contact any of the other directors to ask for help and share ideas. Be sure you have our next Directors Workshop on your calendar, May 20-22, 2011 with Kim Wonders the director of the Metro Nashville Chorus.

**(Submitted by Heather Johnston, Education Coordinator)**

### **It's That Time Again - Part II**

In the last issue of "Catch 22" we talked in a general way about choosing music that is not only strong for our barbershop contests, but also appropriate for our group - whether that be chorus or quartet.

In this issue we will explore the issues more specifically. Let's pretend that we sing in a quartet (some of us do) or we are the director of one of our stellar choruses (some of us are). We are considering what ballad to take into contest next year. Let's say (just for exploratory purposes) that it is "A Friend of Yours", a lovely ballad arranged by Mary Ann Wydra; a certified arranger and our music judge last year. Now I know you probably don't know this song. I didn't either. It is published by Sweet Adelines, so if you want to really explore the comments I'm making here, you might buy it. Then you can either study it for learning purposes, or you may even decide to sing it in contest at some point!

As you explore what is actually present or not present in the music you will always want to keep in mind what your group sings best. Sometimes we get so in love with a piece of music that we forget that it will only be as strong as we can sing it well.

The first thing I will do is explore the ranges. This song has a melody line that extends from B just below middle C to D flat a 10th above that. That's not unreasonably wide. The bass part goes from low D flat to F, a 4th above middle C. The low notes are infrequent, but if our basses can't sing them with focus and musicality, the bottom will drop out of the sound in those areas - which will result in a loss of points in all four categories. Tenor part extends from G, a 5th above middle C to F, a 9th above that G. Not bad. And finally, the baritone extends from A flat just below middle C to A, one octave higher. It should be noted that the range doesn't tell the whole story. Are the notes for each part distributed over the music, giving the voices a rest from singing consistently in the extremes of their ranges? This song and arrangement does a good job with that. How many chromatics are there in the melody? How many awkward intervals in the harmony parts? There are a noticeable number of chromatic intervals in the melody of this song. But, this is usually true in a piece of music that is interesting and a bit more complex. So, the decision is can my quartet or chorus sing it well?

How about the harmony? If this is difficult for you, find an arranger to help you with this. But, as a start, look mostly at the harmony in the chorus. This chorus has strong harmonies. Every phrase ending is either a barbershop 7th chord or resolves to a barbershop 7th chord. Yes, there are a few minor triads and minor 7ths here and there, but they are not predominant. Examine the points of the arrangement that you will be stressing in your interpretation. That's where the strongest harmonies need to be. Weaker harmonies in the verse are less important than in the chorus. The chorus is the "meat and potatoes" of the arrangement (song).

This ballad has a good climax! That's the point where the melody line, chords and the message all come together to bring us that satisfaction of a story well told, musically. And speaking of the message, this one is meaningful. The character is still in love with someone who is no longer in love with her. However, the story is positive and includes some really great lyrics. For instance: "I'll brush the dreams from my eyes" and "tell my heart it mustn't sing".

We've touched on the main elements of the music that we want to consider in our selection process. I like this arrangement. It contains "goodies" for each part that will be fun to sing. The embellishments are strong and I think it's a meaningful ballad for the contest stage. We just need to remember what the key is. Will its idiosyncrasies be reachable for our particular group of singers?

So our exploration of a hypothetical selection is completed. I hope you've been able to follow the thought process, even though you can't see the music. Once you explore your possible selection, if there are areas that concern you, you can always ask the arranger to modify them for your group. Most of us are very willing to do that! Say, it's got a tenor "hanger" at the end and you only have one tenor. The arranger will usually be happy to revoice it for you. Key changes can usually be revoiced as well, to make them sing easier. Some embellishments may need to be simplified. These are possibilities to help you sing better and the judges will often respect that you have made these changes, if they are familiar with the original version.

Best of luck as we continue to make the best choices we can for our groups!

**June Berg - Your fellow director, for a stronger Region #22!  
Certified Music Judge, Certified Music Arranger, Certified Int'l Faculty, and Certified Director of Riverport Chorus!**

## CHORUS NEWS



**OPUS 2000, Directed by Jarmela Speta, Division A Chorus Winners (2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row)  
Pictured above performing on the Showcase at Fall Regional**

This summer has been a busy one for the ladies of OPUS 2000. Singing at the opening ceremony of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in Racine - the community event honoring those battling cancer and remembering those who have lost the battle - was an inspirational performance for all of us.

After convincing our members to clean out our attics and basements, a very desirable collection of rummage in all shapes and sizes was sold at the homes of Jennifer Waite and Lynn Schuldt on two hot weekends in August. These neighborhood garage sales brought us together to purchase each other's "treasures" as well as sing a few songs in four-part harmony for all the bargain hunters!

Pat Kasper, our 2010 Show Chairperson and her dedicated Show Committee are working hard planning OPUS' Saturday, November 20th fall performance - "Barbershop On Broadway". Our show will be performed at the Union Grove High School Performance Center at 7:00. We'll be singing some of your favorite Broadway show tunes in barbershop style, of course. Please save the date...we'd love to see you there!

As your current Small Chorus Award winners, we look forward to singing for you at the Fall School. Jarmela and the ladies of OPUS 2000 extend the very best of wishes to River City Sound and NRG as they head to Seattle!

(Article submitted by Kristine Hincz)

## **RIVERPORT** (Submitted by Rhonda Puntney)

We have worked on new contest music over the summer and are looking forward to a visit from coach Kim Wonders in October!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> – we're hosting a style show at the Radisson Hotel in Pleasant Prairie (by the Prime Outlets). The fun begins at 1:30 PM. Tickets will be \$25. Go to our website [www.riverportchorus.org](http://www.riverportchorus.org) or our Facebook page. There'll be raffles, wine tasting, hor d'oeuvres and lots of fabulous singing!

Two of our members will be competing in the Rising Star competition on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> in Seattle. Baritone Micah Gebel and bass Bethany Puntney will be on stage with tenor Tessa Bauer and Catherine Edgington. Trouble Clef is contestant #9! We are proud to support our young women in harmony.

Toula Oberlies will be visiting September 13 for a visioning session to help us with long range planning and goal setting.

We're looking forward to seeing many of our friends at the regional school on September 10-11.

## **MENOMINEE RIVER**

The Menominee River Chorus shows you how "All Good Cowgirls Go to Heaven or Maybe Not"!? - A story about special cowgirls who meet the main guardian Angel at Heavens Door. Where will they end up once the guardian Angel listens to them?? Come check out the comedy, music and fun on Oct. 16, 2010 at 7:00 PM at Blesch Auditorium, Menominee, MI

## **CEDAR HARMONY** (Submitted by Cyndi Gidley)

Happy autumn!! The cooler weather will be very welcome after the sizzling singouts of this summer! Our favorite is usually the patriotic concert at the band shell in Cedar Falls. The Armed Forces Medley never ceases to thrill the audience as members of each branch stand and accept applause for their service to our country. Isn't it difficult to sing when you have a lump in your throat?

Cedar Harmony welcomes new member Alicia Brown, who is also a first-year school teacher! We're so glad Alicia returned to us after a several year hiatus to focus on school and college! Who says our hobby isn't addicting?

Over half of our chorus is signed up for the Fall music school and it should be loads of fun.....oh, and educational too! We hope to see many of you there.

## HEART O' WISCONSIN (Submitted by Janette Altmann)

Heart O' Wisconsin Chorus is in the midst of our fund raising season selling cream puffs. We started off by being part of a promotion by V & H Trucks Inc. at the annual summer cranberry-growers field day at a marsh near Tomah. We prepared cranberry cream puffs and V & H gave the sweet treats to attendees, as part of their efforts to promote the equipment they have to offer to the growers. We also performed some songs for them. This resulted in good publicity for V & H and also for our chorus.

Last weekend we sold puffs at the American Kennel Club Dog Show in Marshfield. Upcoming is the Central Wisconsin State Fair and then Maple Fall Fest here in Marshfield, ending with the Warrens Cranberry Festival at the end of September.

We are preparing for a show "Remember When," on Sunday, November 14th @ 2 p.m. @ Chestnut Avenue Center for Arts. Each member will be learning new music again, besides "tweaking" our other show tunes. We gained one new member this summer - Gail Hartle, a fine lead.

Some members are looking forward to attending the Regional meeting on September 11th. We have had a busy summer, and it looks like an even busier fall!!

## YAHARA RIVER (Submitted by Pat Lund)

Greetings from the Yahara River Chorus, whose members come from 21 communities in Dane, Jefferson, Dodge, Rock, Waukesha, Walworth, Columbia, Green and Milwaukee counties . **“We get around”**.

**“Lazy days, just right”** for renewing each and every one of us in many different ways. Our schedule has been a bit relaxed after the intense excitement of the run up to regional competition.

One of our members reconnected with her ex in another state and moved away. Good luck, Monica! And, we welcomed Holly to our bass section; watch her go! Jennifer, our director, has re-arranged our positions on the risers to polish and shine voices in new spaces. Angie, assistant director, has been away to Harmony College, returning refreshed and loaded with techniques and exercises to share.

Our Oct 2nd show is at Waunakee HS Performing Arts Center, 301 Community Drive, 2 pm and 7 pm. Match that Melody, with a game show format, is the springboard for new music the chorus is learning. Two brand new quartets have emerged this summer; we are all acting like proud parents! **“Memories are made of this.”** How energizing for all of us to hear these voices blossom into brand new ensembles.

Put Oct 2 on your calendar; come play Match that Melody!

Your face in the audience means so much when we perform!

## WESTOSHA LAKES (Submitted by Pat Reigel)

### **WLC Conquers Barriers**

With road construction running rampant this summer, I'll bet you all have become pretty good at finding detours. Well, WLC's members may be able to claim themselves as experts in this field because right after competition we discovered that the highway leading to our rehearsal site was undergoing major reconstruction. I mean a total tear up! Every week brought a new travel challenge, but that did not deter our passion for singing.

We've been working very hard this summer, learning new music and perfecting some old favorites in order to present you with an exciting, fun-filled evening as we host this year's fall cabaret, *Hollywood Harmony*. Be ready to be greeted by some of your favorite celebrities and to be treated to a night of glitzy entertainment. Guest stars include *NRG!* and the Lakes Area Swing Band. Bring a dance partner and close the evening with some classic tunes.

You may be asking yourself why did she share the construction information with the Region? Well, it's because that it's just possible there may still be a few detours when you make your way to our fall cabaret. But don't let that stop you; you'll be delighted with the night's festivities.

Projected completion of road: October 10<sup>th</sup>

**WLC's Cabaret: OCTOBER 9<sup>TH</sup>.**

VFW Post  
North Avenue  
Antioch, IL

For ticket information call: (847) 603-1054 or e-mail [Bassmama@excite.com](mailto:Bassmama@excite.com)

Want to save \$\$\$? Buy tickets in advance.

## CROSTOWN HARMONY (Submitted by Carolyn Senzig)

Our chorus has been working with our Interim Director, Karen Wysocky, and our coach, Jim Arns, on several new arrangements for our upcoming Cabarets. We have also had a visiting guest director, from California, working some rehearsals with us. You may have noticed our ad in the recent Pitch Pipe regarding our director search as well.....so we are still on the hunt for the best match for the chorus to continue our Incredible Journey towards Houston! We'd like to share with you some of our movement in our Journey.

Mark the date.....October 2<sup>nd</sup>! Crosstown Harmony will be having not one but two (2) cabarets on this date – one at 1:30pm and the other at 7:00pm. **Get Happy** will be a performance you won't want to miss. Along with Crosstown presenting several new selections for your enjoyment, we are also featuring *Chicago Voice Exchange*, a five man *a cappella* group (check out their website at [www.songcvx.com](http://www.songcvx.com)). Our famous raffle baskets will be on display and join in on the 50/50 raffle. Our event will be at the Gonzaga Hall, adjacent to St Aloysius Church in West Allis, WI....the corner of 92<sup>nd</sup> and Greenfield Avenue. Tickets are \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door; and group prices are available by calling 262-255-4274. Talk to your chorus friends; form some car pools; and join us. We'd love to sing for you!

## **CENTER POINT CHORUS** (Submitted by Marcy Kirsch)

As the “new” Center Point Chorus ponders its metamorphosis, we look at a number of successes. With the advent of directors Roger and Kathleen Harris, the Chorus focused on respect for one another. No more of this talking while another is talking. We learned to listen and give each member her “place in the sun.” We threw out negative words like “can’t” when it came to choreography, and discovered that our feet, arms, body, and faces can indeed do what we command. We learned from our assistant director, Kay Preller, that vocal warm-ups, dropping our jaw for air and the imaginary string that lifts our heads and bodies into alignment can become a habit. From the Harris’ advance emails, we came to rehearsal prepared and confident. We were singing better and having fun making music. And ultimately, enlightened with this group charisma, we began to draw new members. Let me introduce Center Point’s five new members and what they say about our Chapter and four-part harmony:

**Elizabeth Hipke, tenor:** “I’m excited to be part of such a wonderful group. I love music and I’m happy to be with other women who love music.”

**Helen Sparks, bass:** “The challenge of using your voice, memory, rhythm, and dance skills are superbly met by singing with Sweet Adelines.”

**Lori Harper, lead:** “Being a member of Center Point has been rewarding and uplifting. I have become a better singer.”

**Barb Garske, baritone:** “It’s great being with women who like to smile and have fun singing. I feel a close friendship as we share harmony with one another. Center Point has two great directors who know barbershop. I’m eager to learn from them.”

**Karen Erickson, lead:** “Singing with these women is fulfilling, satisfying, and fun. We are working together to improve our singing, and thus recruiting new singers to sing with us.”

Girded with such enthusiasm, we look forward to our annual show, “All in the Family Revisited,” on Saturday, November 13, in Sentry Theater at 7:00 p.m., in Stevens Point. Center Point Chorus will sing 14 songs, have 7 costume changes, and through choreographed moves, strut our stuff. And what does the “new” Center Point Chorus say to that? “YES WE CAN!”

The show’s featured male quartet, VOCE’, recently merited 9<sup>th</sup> place internationally. You won’t want to miss them. Get your reduced show tickets now. Contact [sharronklein@hotmail.com](mailto:sharronklein@hotmail.com)

## **SPIRIT OF THE LAKES** (Submitted by Roberta M. Zess)

Seems like we just started summer and it's over. Guess that means that Spirit of the Lakes kept quite busy this summer. We continued our sing outs at the Elder hostel in Lake Geneva, promoted Sweet Adelines and our chorus at one of the largest county Fairs in Wisconsin (Walworth County Fair in Elkhorn) and are in the process of our membership drive. Some of us were even able to squeeze the wonderful fall school into our busy schedules. We are enthusiastically learning new music that we are getting from our directors and music team. We will be adding some of that new music to our two Christmas performances, one being November 21st "Harmony Holiday Cabaret" at the Monte Carlo Room in Elkhorn, WI and our December 12th annual Christmas concert with our "brothers" Country Gentlemen Barbershop group from Lake Geneva at the Horticultural Hall in Lake Geneva, WI. All of you are welcome to join both performances. We would also like to invite all of you to an upcoming fundraiser on September 21st. Our chorus is conducting a fun; get your giggles out, socializing Auction. This is a Tuesday night at 7:00 PM at the Historical Horticultural Hall in Lake Geneva, WI. There will be FREE appetizers, desserts and drinks as well as good company. Hey it's even FREE admission, just bring your check book or hard earned cash for some great "treasures". Our motto - bid often and bid high! Mark your calendars! Hope you can make it!

**FOX VALLEY CHORUS** (Submitted by Vicki Krause)

Once again, the summer has flown by! The Fox Valley Chorus has begun working on two new songs for competition next spring, and is very excited about having a brand new package to present in 2011.

Once fall is in the air, and the leaves start to fly – we know it's time to buckle down and concentrate on the many events and activities for the upcoming year. Fox Valley is already beginning coaching sessions on our competition package, with the first one having been held on August 27 and 28 with Pete Benson, who is a new coach for the chorus.

Hopefully everyone enjoyed the Fall Music School with Dale Syverson and came home with lots of new information, techniques, and ideas!

The Fox Valley Chorus is, of course, very excited about the upcoming International Competition in Seattle. Several of our chorus members are planning on attending and we are all looking forward to seeing and hearing our Region 22 champions, NRG! compete on the International stage!! Those of us who can't be there in person will be cheering them on via the web-cast. (We love you - Heather, Debbie, Shelly and Jenny!)

Last but certainly NOT least, Fox Valley is presenting its first ever Halloween show...**Song Spooktacular** on Saturday, October 30. We will have two shows – 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Middle School, 2626 N. Oneida St, Appleton. Come celebrate Halloween with the Fox Valley Chorus as we journey through the infamous and eerie Hollywood Hills Forest Lawn Cemetery of the stars. You never know who....or what...you'll see or hear in this haunted hideaway!! Tickets are available through any chorus member, or by contacting Joanie Suszko at jsuszko@att.net. and are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door, with a child/student price of \$8.

We hope to see many of you from Region 22 at the show.....*if you dare!!!*

**STATELINE HARMONY** (Submitted by Carol Pann)

Stateline Harmony Chorus is busy preparing for its annual cream puff sale at the Elkhorn County Fair in Walworth. Doesn't seem like summer is coming to a close – it always goes by so fast. After the fair the chorus will be looking forward to attending the fall regional school with Dale Syverson.

In late September the chorus will be performing in Edgerton. The Christmas Chorus will begin in October. It is always fun to spread Christmas cheer through song, especially in the barbershop style.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish good luck to our own Region 22 competitors in Seattle – NRG and River City Sound Chorus. You both will make Region 22 proud.

## QUARTET NEWS

### PREMIERE (submitted by Nancy Charles)

Wow....where has this summer gone?! We can hardly believe how the days have flown by. We hope you have enjoyed your summer festivities, cookouts, family gatherings and vacations as we have.

We have some big news to share with you. In July, our baritone Renee announced she was leaving the quartet to pursue singing lead again. We were sad to hear the news but understood Renee's desire to return to her 'roots'. She had sung lead since joining Sweet Adelines in 1980 and made the switch to baritone in 2008 to sing with Premiere. We wish her the best of luck in her new quartet to be announced soon. We'll be rooting for her as she competes next year in Region 3. Knock 'em dead Renee! Thanks for all the laughs and great memories.

But wait....there's more....even *more* big news. We have a *new baritone!* We are thrilled to welcome Brenda Krueger to the Premiere family!! Brenda has been singing baritone for sixteen years, twelve years with the Cedar Harmony Chorus and for the past four years with the Fox Valley Chorus. She has many years of quartet experience, singing with Plezant Company for seven years and Life's A Pitch since January of this year. She is a past president of the Fox Valley Chorus....*and* we found out she is an awesome baker. Bonus!

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the baritones who auditioned with us. We so appreciate your willingness to do so and hope you enjoyed singing with us as much as we enjoyed singing with you. In the end we felt Brenda was the best match for us. We were pleased to find out she felt the same way! (And would you believe her middle name is Colleen? We're just sure her 'confirmation' name must be Nancy....)

In other news, the Mukwonago Community Library is sponsoring a show to raise funds to expand the existing library. The show will be held on Sunday, September 26, 2010 at 8:00 PM at the Mukwonago High School. Premiere will open with a thirty minute set prior to John McGivern's memories of Milwaukee in the 50's and 60's. Radio personality Jim 'Lips' LaBelle will be our emcee for the evening. A local high school jazz ensemble will entertain in the lobby prior to the show. For more information please visit the Mukwonago Community Library website at [www.mukcom.lib.wi.us](http://www.mukcom.lib.wi.us) and go to 'Expansion News', or call 262-363-6411. This will be our final performance with Renee.

We are so excited to start this new chapter of our journey together and can't wait to sing for all of you! Enjoy the beauty of fall and upcoming holiday celebrations.

Your Premiere Quartet,  
Colleen, Nancy, Brenda and Brenda

## **COOLER BY THE LAKE** (Submitted by Kristine Hincz)

We started our summer singing for "Pitchpipe Linda's" family at the American Cancer Society's Racine Relay for Life. Linda's sister, Mary, is a cancer survivor and her entire family plays an important role at this event. Their "Team Kewpie" supplies hamburgers and refreshments for participants of the Relay.

On a sad note, our tenor Penny's husband, Steve, passed away on August 22nd. He faced the challenge of esophageal cancer with dignity and bravery. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to Penny and the Johnson family during this difficult time.

Singing at three different places made one July evening unforgettable for us. While stopping by to view a new exhibit in a Kenosha art gallery, we heard that the scheduled entertainment for that evening had been cancelled. The Cooler ladies offered to sing and loved the reception we received. Later that evening, we sang at a small restaurant for the owner and a full house.

After that, we were the scheduled performers for a "Dirty Dozen" reunion - twelve friends since junior high school who gather each year to party. We loved sharing our barbershop harmony with them as well.

We'll be singing on OPUS' Fall Show on November 20th - "Barbershop On Broadway". We would love to see you in there!

## **BLUE PLATE SPECIAL** (Submitted by Doreen Giesfeldt)

Look to your left and then look to your right. Every person in your quartet or chorus has something interesting about them. Not only is it an interesting thing to know what hidden talents they might have - but, it contributes to our hobby. Here's what the non-singing part of our talented quartet does: Cindy, our bass, not only plays the piano, harp, ukulele and guitar, she also performs at weddings by singing and playing the piano. She is also skilled at singing each part to demonstrate to the lead how it should be sung; Pam, our baritone, sang an operatic piece at Sunset Playhouse in a recent performance. She is also house manager and does Saturday suppers for the performers; Joan, our tenor, works part time teaching computer-aided embroidery classes and sewing machine classes. She also plays the guitar for her church. Doreen, our lead, writes short stories and poetry enhanced with her pen and ink drawings. She also volunteers in the MPS school system. With all this expertise we run our quartet using our skills to enhance our craft. Everyone has talents we don't know about, so look to your left and then look to the right. If you don't know the person next to you ask their preferred moniker and what they enjoy doing - you will be surprised.

**NEW SENSATION** (Submitted by Jane Richard)

After only a short time together, unfortunately New Sensation has made the decision to disband. We are so grateful to have had this fun opportunity to sing together and thank our friends in Region 22 and our fellow chorus members in Crosstown Harmony and Yahara River for all the wonderful encouragement that was provided to us over the past year and a half. We will have many fond memories of our time together, especially the excitement of being awarded the 4th place medal at this past Regional. Although we will no longer be together as a quartet, we look forward to learning from the amazing Dale Syverson and "catching the excitement" with all of our friends at the upcoming Regional Fall School as well as seeing all of you singing your best at the competition next April! Go Region 22!!!

Angie, Karen, Mary and Jane



Musical Quilt made by Sally Dumke of Twitch Quartet

Raffle tickets are being sold by 22 Karat Gold and the winning ticket will be drawn at the 2011 Regional Convention in Appleton. The picture also includes a display board by NRG! Quartet, featuring their activities as they prepare for Seattle.

## REGION 22 MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

**From the July 2010 Pitchpipe: Diane Jones, River City Sound Chorus, won two tours from Destination St. Louis as part of the Seattle VIP Promotion. Congratulations Diane!!**

**From the August/September 2010 issue of the Pitchpipe Lite: Check out Harmony Roundup on page 11 which features Bekah Peplinski, 12 year old member of the Fox Valley Chorus, who with her mother and aunt competed in the International Chorus contest in Nashville last fall. For a school project Bekah wrote about the experience, describing it as the “Best Day Ever.” Congratulations to Bekah and her family and to Miranda Anderson, Fox Valley PR Chairman who wrote and submitted the article.**



### **“IT’S A RAP”**

**Kate Hadley and friends from River City Sound Chorus closed the Showcase of Champions with a rap in honor of their director Joan “Boots” Boutilier and their upcoming first Intl. contest experience. Members in attendance responded with a standing ovation and will never forget “We’ve got Boots” and Region #22 will forever be known as the “Deuce-Deuce”!**

**Editor’s note: All pictures in this issue are from the Mid-America Region 22 Facebook Albums and were posted by Rhonda Puntney, Joan Machtel and Ann Bartlett. Thanks!**

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**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GETTING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR UPCOMING REGIONAL EDUCATION EVENTS SENT TO YOU DIRECTLY?** Well the Education Coordinator is setting up a "Closed" Yahoo Group specifically designed to send information on upcoming schools and regional events. It will not be used as a discussion forum and all posts will be monitored by the moderator for the group, the Education Coordinator. If you would like to be invited to join this group please send your request to me at [hjohnston@wi.rr.com](mailto:hjohnston@wi.rr.com) and I will send you an invitation to join.

### **CALLING ALL INTERESTED ARRANGERS**

**Region #22 is always searching for new arrangers. Carmen Youra, Region #22 Arranger's Coordinator, would be happy to provide information to anyone that has an interest. You may contact Carmen at [ckyoura@aol.com](mailto:ckyoura@aol.com) or (920) 655-7539.**

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **OCTOBER 2010**

- 2 Crosstown Harmony Cabarets (Gonzaga Hall, West Allis, WI, 1:30 PM and 7:00 PM)
- 2 Yahara River Shows (Waunakee High School Performing Arts Center, 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM)
- 3 River City Sound Show (Community Building Complex of Boone County, Belvidere, IL 2:00 PM.)
- 9 Westosha Lakes Cabaret (VFW Post, Antioch, IL, 7:00 PM)
- 16 Menomonee River Show (Blesch Auditorium, Menominee, MI, 7:00 PM)
- 19 – 23 International Convention (Washington State Convention & Trade Center and Key Arena, Seattle, WA)
- 30 Fox Valley Shows (St. Joseph Middle School, Appleton, WI, 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM)

### **NOVEMBER 2010**

- 6 Red Cedar Sounds Shows (Colfax High School, Colfax, WI, 2:00 PM and 5:30PM)
- 13 Center Point Show (Sentry Theater, Stevens Point, WI, 7:00 PM)
- 14 Riverport Style Show (Radisson Hotel, Pleasant Prairie, WI, 1:30 PM)
- 14 Heart O' Wisconsin Show (Chestnut Ave. Center for Arts, Marshfield, WI, 2:00 PM)
- 20 Opus Show (Union Grove High School Performance Center, Union Grove, WI, 7:00 PM)

### **APRIL 2011**

- 7 – 10 Regional Competition (Radisson Paper Valley Hotel and PAC, Appleton, WI)

### **MAY 2011**

- 20 – 22 Music Leaders Seminar (LaQuinta Hotel, Madison, WI)  
(Directors, Assistant & Associate Directors)

### **SEPTEMBER 2011**

- 16 – 17 Fall Regional School (Lodge at Geneva Ridge, Lake Geneva, WI)

### **OCTOBER 2011**

- 18 – 22 International Convention (Houston, TX)

### **NOVEMBER 2011**

- 4 – 5 Quartet Workshop (Comfort Inn and Suites, DeForest, WI)

## **CATCH 22 SUBMISSION DEADLINES**

All due dates will be the last Saturday of the following months:

**WINTER ISSUE 2010/11 – Nov. 27, 2010**

**SPRING ISSUE 2011 – Feb. 26, 2011**

**SUMMER ISSUE 2011 – May 28, 2011**

**I will acknowledge all received articles.**

**All articles are subject to editing.**

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