

# CATCH 22

SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL REGION 22 SUMMER 2011

## “PACK THE EXCITEMENT!” 2011 Region #22 Convention Appleton, WI April 7 – 10

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Calendar of Events

- ✚ Regional Management Team Dinner and Installation Ceremony held on Thursday evening
- ✚ Combined Chorus and Quartet Briefing held at noon on Friday
- ✚ Parade of Flags ceremony kicked off contest at Fox Cities PAC
- ✚ Appleton Mayor Timothy Hanna proclaims April 7 – 10 Sweet Adelines Week-end and welcomed all in attendance
- ✚ Impact Quartet from Region 3 served as official mic testing quartet
- ✚ 11 quartets compete - NRG! named quartet champions on Friday evening
- ✚ 15 choruses compete (including 2 for eval. only and 1 video eval.) with River City Sound named chorus champions on Saturday afternoon
- ✚ Heather Johnston opened Mass Sing in the Radisson Paper Valley Lobby on Saturday evening. Regional directors led regional star songs and new quartet and chorus champions entertained.
- ✚ 22 Karat Gold Reception closed the evening with entertainment by many regional quartets and the 22 Karat chorus. By the Book Quartet received the Region’s Most Improved Quartet award (+ 71 points)!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR REGIONAL WINNERS!

### Quartet

1. NRG! (615 points)
2. Premiere (613 points)
3. Twitch (582 points)
4. Life’s a Pitch (499 points)
5. By the Book (496 points)

### Chorus

1. River City Sound (623 points)
2. Fox Valley (608 points)
3. Yahara River (570 points)
4. Riverport (560 points)
5. Milwaukee Showcase (539 points)

### Most Improved Chorus

Milwaukee Showcase (+40)

Spirit of the Lakes (+40)

### Division AA Chorus Winners:

1. River City Sound
2. Fox Valley
3. Yahara River

### Division A Chorus Winners:

1. Spirit of the Lakes
2. Opus 2000
3. Westosha Lakes



**REGIONAL QUARTET CHAMPIONS – NRG!** (Photo provided by Read Photography)

What a wonderful contest weekend we shared with all of you in Appleton! A great stage and a great audience of all of our Region 22 friends made for a great weekend. We were so thrilled to once again be named the Region 22 Quartet Champions, giving us the chance to represent the region in Houston this fall. We are also very excited that we get to share the stage with our Region 22 friends, wildcard quartet, Premiere! As always, many thanks to our choruses for your love and support...Crosstown Harmony, Fox Valley, Midwest Crossroad, and Melodeers...your NRG keeps us going!!

In no time after competition weekend, it was off to Marshfield for a quartet workshop with the Heart O' Wisconsin chorus. Some gals from Centerpoint Chorus and Fox Valley Chorus also made the drive. We had a great day sharing information on various quartet-related topics, as well as putting some groups together and testing out their vocal blend. Hopefully we'll see some newly formed quartets from that part of the region the next time we're all together! ☺

We also had a blast performing on the Heart of Harmony men's chorus show in West Allis in May. While it was a cold, rainy spring day outside, the barbershop harmony was fabulous inside! We enjoyed singing both their afternoon and evening performances, as well as their afterglow, and met some great barbershoppers and fans along the way.

Summer will bring lots of rehearsing and coaching as we prepare for Houston. Watch our Facebook page for upcoming events and keep us in mind as you are planning entertainment 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).

See you at the Fall School with Lynne Smith!

(Submitted by Jennifer Kelliher)



**REGIONAL 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE & INT'L WILDCARD QUARTET - PREMIERE**  
(Photo provided by Read Photography)

What a contest! We had a great time competing in Region 22's quartet competition in Appleton. We are very proud of our silver medalist performance and 613 score. It was a nerve racking six weeks as we eagerly watched quartet wild card scores being posted after our contest. We are elated to share that we have officially been invited to be a wild card at the International competition in Houston! Of the ten wild card quartets selected, we landed in the 5<sup>th</sup> slot, score wise. We're excited to be competing with such great quartets this fall.

We'd like to congratulate NRG! and River City Sound on their first place finishes at contest! These were awesome performances by both groups. We are so excited to be competing with NRG! in Houston!

We've been quite busy learning new music. The tables have turned...since we 'forced' Brenda K to learn thirteen songs with us in a time span of about seven months; we're now learning several songs that she already knows. Well, they say that turnabout is fair play, right? We've got a full coaching schedule planned and several performances and shows lined up for the summer and fall. It's been rewarding to share our music with such a wide variety of audiences.

Finally, congratulations to all the competitors who took the stage in Appleton. It was a great weekend filled with music, fellowship and laughter. We wish all of the wonderful ladies of Region 22 an enjoyable, memorable summer with lots of brats, beer and of course, fun in the sun!

Your Premiere quartet,

Colleen, Nancy, Brenda (a.k.a. BK) and Brenda ☺

(Submitted by Nancy Charles)

## REGIONAL CHORUS CHAMPIONS – RIVER CITY SOUND

(Photo provided by Read Photography)



What a fabulous contest weekend! Appleton is a beautiful new venue for Region 22. We're looking forward to next year already. Kudos to all competing quartets and choruses for all of their hard work on music, choreography and their total package. I spoke to several local Appleton residents who worked the events and the level of talent on stage surprised them. They had no idea what they were in for when they hosted a Sweet Adeline Competition.

River City Sound is very honored and humbled to be your chorus champion this year. It was a very big win for us. We have been working so long to finally cross that 600 mark. We were extremely proud that our director, Joan Boutiler, could wear her master director pin at our next rehearsal. We know she's a Master Director already but now she's wearing it because of our accomplishments!

We have started our chorus year with a bang. MJ was our guest speaker at our installation banquet. A good time was had by all, of course.

New, challenging music was in our hands before we came down from cloud nine. As we work through the music, it gives us goose bumps! Can't wait to see what it does to our audiences!

The chorus is hosting a membership series starting 6/8. I'm jealous. The guests get Boot's undivided attention for 3 weeks. Oh wait, ...we get that EVERY week! We hope we can spread the barbershop fever to our guests. If they don't get it now, we have another guest series in the Fall.

We have a few singing performances that we're looking forward to this summer. Also, plans are in the works for our Rockford Labor Day festival called "On the Waterfront". This is where we are able to show off our alter egos, the chefs in all of us. We serve our award winning marinated mushrooms to the hungry crowds. Yumm!

Have a wonderful, safe summer everyone! We'll see you all again soon at Fall school. Until then, River City Sound is "Flyin' high for the mile high city"!

(Submitted by Denise Gorski)



WOW what a contest!! Spirit of the Lakes Chorus thoroughly enjoyed being in Appleton and the convention center. What an amazing experience to be on stage and among great singing friends. We want to thank all of you for your support and encouragement to all the choruses in our region. Spirit of the Lakes was ecstatic to hear our name being called as the 1<sup>st</sup> place small chorus and one of the choruses to win most improved chorus. The ladies of the chorus have been sharing the trophy, which has been displayed at Wal-mart, a few selected schools and businesses in the area! We love telling everyone our story. Our music team thought we were so good that we are putting together another CD!!! Look to our website [www.SingingStartsHere.org](http://www.SingingStartsHere.org) in late July or early August for details on the release and of course to purchase your very own copy!

We also held our annual Spring Cabaret at the Monte Carlo Room in Elkhorn, WI. With the theme as “Round Up at the SOTL Corral”, we had a hog-killin’ time (a really good time)! We dazzled the crowd with *Lawanda Darlene the Rodeo Queen*, and broke smiles with *Achy Breaky Heart*. SOTL raffle baskets were a hit as always with one audience member winning FOUR and our cute little mascot pony aka Megan Button winning a few herself! The crowd was also entertained with the Texas Roadhouse Dancers and the Limber Timbers Square Dancers. This will be one Cabaret that will be hard to beat, but the show committee is already working on our Christmas Cabaret which will be held November. We will keep you all posted! Enjoy your summer and get out and sing!!!!

(Submitted by Roberta Zess)

### **Carol Pann – Chair Regional Convention**

First of all congratulations to all of the competing choruses and quartets at our recent competition in Appleton. Everyone who gets on that stage is a winner. Thanks to all who helped with the convention. A special thank you to Angie Williams – my brave director who helped tie some of the medals for me. A very appreciative CRC thanks you.

I am looking forward to competition next year in Appleton. Please be sure and let anyone on the convention committee know what you liked about this year’s competition and if there is anything you would like us to improve on if possible.

### **Martha Johnson - Crosstown Harmony Booth Chairman**

On behalf of all of us at Crosstown Harmony, thank you for your support of our booth at Regional competition in April. Going to International is not an inexpensive endeavor and every dollar helps. We hope you are enjoying your purchases and putting them to good use. Those new water bottle koozies have certainly helped to make *our* risers more colorful! We look forward to kicking up our heels in Houston.

Our sincere congratulations to our new champions River City Sound and NRG!, as well as to all the competitors; we all know what effort goes into any competition and everyone should be very proud of the great product they brought to that stage. The scores certainly showed that Region “Deuce Deuce” is hard at work, honing our skills, striving for consistency, and all those other things the judges are always encouraging us to do. We hope to see some of you in Houston; we’ll be listening for you! Thanks again.

### **Region 22 Competing Quartets Donate to YWIH**

Each year the competing quartets exchange good luck trinkets. This year, 22 Karat Gold requested that in lieu of exchanging with each other quartets make a donation to the Sweet Adelines International Young Women in Harmony program. We are pleased to announce that the quartets generously donated a total of \$225. Thank you for support of barbershop harmony within our youth.

(Submitted by Heather Johnston)

## 2011 - 12 REGIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM



(Photo provided by Read Photography)

**Row 1: Shirley VanDeWege, Events Coordinator, Heather Johnston, Education Coordinator, Carolyn Senzig, Membership Coordinator**

**Row 2: Joan Machtel, Communications Coordinator, MJ Mortillaro, Team Coordinator, Vicki Powers, Finance Coordinator, Kay Liles, Directors' Coordinator**

**Not pictured: Rhonda Puntney, Marketing Coordinator**

### **MJ Mortillaro – Team Coordinator**

Well then Region 22.....we may be small but we know how to perform at Regional Contest! Our scores reflect the commitment each quartet and chorus has for singing excellence.....how exciting for all of us to be part of this Region where we find our scores going higher every year.

**Sincere congratulations to our winners - River City Sound & NRG!** They definitely “unpacked” their excitement and thrilled us with great performances

But there is more.....**Let's celebrate with our Wild Card Quartet Premiere!** Congratulations ladies – your terrific performance won you a wild card invitation to contest!!! Three times Region 22 will be announced in Houston at International Competition ----- now don't you like the sound of that!!!

I have heard only good things about the P.A.C. in Appleton. It was fun singing in a professional auditorium and a great thing – we are back there again next year.

I am so proud to say “I am a member of Region 22!” In the past 5 years I have watched as this Region has become stronger singers, choruses and quartets – Some of you caught IT, some of you pass IT, some of you own IT and some of you are IT! But what I know for sure is that every member of Deuce Deuce knows the power of personal commitment to the Region 22 Excitement!

I know we just had contest but I am already looking forward to Appleton 2012! In the meantime keep singing and ringing those barbershop chords!

The Regional Management Team attended an educational seminar with Patty Cobb Baker this May. It was a wonderful weekend spent together planning and putting together ideas for Region 22's forward motion. You can guess that Membership was a big part of the weekend.....HOW to grow our membership and HOW to get more members involved at the Regional level.

Taking this guidance into consideration, it was determined that term limits would be a good idea not only for the RMT Coordinators, as International has determined, but also for the committees that are an integral part of the Team. This concept helps to create an atmosphere of change and encourages new member involvement. The intent is to make it easier for a member to commit to a chair position when they know the length of their term.

Change is good – it creates new ideas and keeps the excitement at a high energized level and that IS what Region 22 is all about. **Catch the 22 Excitement!**

## **Carolyn Senzig – Membership Coordinator**

If you have been checking out our Sweet Adeline International website, or have been tuned into announcements from your Membership or Chapter Leader, the phrase “One Voice, One Message” is not something new to you. Through this international global expansion campaign, each of us will be able to heighten global awareness for our organization in 2012 and beyond. It is a collaborative way for every member, chapter, and region to be a part of teaching the world to sing. It is a unique membership promotion that will benefit everyone as we help our organization continue the fine educational opportunities we have come to expect.

A regional task form has been formed to determine how our region will plan to increase public awareness of our wonderful hobby, and then capitalize on the increased awareness with coordinated chapter promotional events to attract new members. We will look at our membership history and develop plans for our membership future; develop short term and long term goals; implement creative marketing ideas; and gather regional data as we move forward. Guidance, support, and resources will be available through international, as well as your Regional Management Team. Watch for more detailed information on this regional plan on our website later this summer, and you won't want to miss our Fall Regional. Rhonda Putney, our Marketing Coordinator, and I will be doing a session offering more details on the One Voice, One Message Global Expansion Region 22 Plan.

### **Total number of members in Region 22 as of:**

February = 534

March = 540

April = 533

May = 538

### **New members since the Spring edition of the Catch 22:**

**Yahara River Chorus:**

Jody Bauer

**Fox Valley Chorus:**

Lynn Christiansen      Andrea Heesacker      Kate Johnson      Tamara Putney

**Westosha Lakes Chorus:**

Beverly Leding      Janaet Masters      Linda Masters

**Milwaukee Showcase Chorus:**

Jasmine Mayek      Diane Wuteska      Terri Lynn Doucette

**River City Sound Chorus:**

Jennifer Hawk

**Riverport Chorus:**

Ashley VanSchyndel

**Cedar Harmony Chorus:**

Lana Hochreiter      Karolyn Smith

**Heart O' Wisconsin Chorus:**

JoAnne Leonhard      Beatrice Stockheimer      Jamie Weinfurtner

*Welcome to our organization! We are so happy that you found the friendship, fun, and harmony that continually make a difference in our lives. We look forward to meeting you at the Fall Regional.*

Enjoy your summer months everyone and keep on singing. ☺

## **Shirley VanDeWege - Events Coordinator**

**WOW!! What a Contest – we did indeed “Pack the Excitement” and we all let it out in Appleton!!!**

**Congratulations** to every member of Region 22 that took the stage on April 8th and 9th. What an exciting contest and from the comments I heard a Great Time was had by ALL!!!

Thank you for all the great emails the CSC received from many of you as to how much you liked the venue and wanted to come back again. Well, the judges also like the PAC and said we should never leave this venue. The RMT had their Spring meeting on May 13th and made the decision to return to the **Radisson Paper Valley Hotel and the Fox Valley Performing Arts Center not only in 2012, also for 2013 and 2014.** The RMT trusts you will be as excited about this as the TEAM is?

We just completed a very good Director’s Workshop with Kim Wonders from Nashville, TN. Although I was not in the session I certainly heard nothing but glorifying words as to how good the two day session was. I’m sure by now those of you who had directors attend the workshop have started using some of Kim’s ideas.

**NEXT UPCOMING EVENT: FALL SCHOOL – SEPTEMBER 16TH and 17TH – REMEMBER Fall School has been moved to the Olympia Resort, Hotel and Spa located at 1350 Royale Mile Road, Oconomowoc, WI 53066. Phone Number is: (800) 558-9573 or (262)369-4999.** Cutoff date for reservations is **August 31, 2011. This is also the cutoff date for Registration for Fall School.** The rate for the sleeping rooms with up to four people in a room is \$85.00 plus tax. Remember to register as a chorus if you want to save on the state taxes by using your chorus tax exempt number. Cancellation of guestrooms is required a minimum of 48 hrs. prior to the event. The Olympia is a non-smoking facility. This rate of \$85 is good one day before and one day after the event should any of you want to take advantage of using the Spa. If you are interested let me know. If we have enough ladies wanting to use the spa we would receive a special rate. I don’t know at this time what it will be, however, I will try to pin the hotel down and send this information to each chorus by way of your leaders. Check in time is 3PM with check out at 11 AM. There are some adjoining rooms available on a first come, first serve

basis. If you would like to have adjoining rooms please indicate this when you make your reservations. All the rooms have refrigerators, coffee pots, hair dryers, irons and ironing boards, and free internet connection. There is a microwave on the second floor for all to use as well as 10 available for rental at \$10.51 per day which includes the tax. These also are on a first come first serve basis.

Just a reminder – Heather is planning on some classes starting at 1PM on Friday the 16th. Not sure if you can get into your room before then, however there is no harm in asking. It always depends on the number of rooms used the previous night of the upcoming event.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at our **2011 Fall School Extravaganza!**  
Have a safe and wonderful summer!

## **Kay Liles – Directors’ Coordinator**

I am very excited to be your new Directors’ Coordinator for the next two years. I think we have the greatest region and directors in all of SAI! I have sent an email to all the directors introducing myself and touching base and if I have missed any of you please contact me at [kliles@wi.rr.com](mailto:kliles@wi.rr.com)

This past weekend we had a Director’s Retreat in DeForest, WI with Kim Wonders, Master Director of Metro Nashville Chorus as the International Faculty. Associate Directors, Assistant Directors and Section Leaders were also invited to take part in the wonderful learning experience. A big thank you goes to Jennifer Johnson, outgoing Directors’ Coordinator, for putting this school together.

As the new coordinator, the first thing I would recommend is for all directors and anyone interested in musical knowledge to get involved in the DCP program. It is just full of usable information for you and your chorus. Joanne Bischoff is in charge of the DCP. For any information on this program, email Joanne at [jbischoff3@wi.rr.com](mailto:jbischoff3@wi.rr.com) It is an honor to be a certified director in this wonderful organization and this is how you get there.

## **Heather Johnston – Education Coordinator**

### Education Faculty

In the last issue of the Catch 22 I explained the responsibilities of the Education Coordinator. In this issue I would like to add some insight into the Education Faculty. In Region 22, participation in the Education Faculty is by invitation only and selection is done by the Education Coordinator. I look for women that have a high level of expertise in the various aspects of our craft: vocal production, arranging, the visual performance, etc. I also look for women that have the skill to teach and/or communicate in a clear and concise manner. They also need to possess a passion for this unique art form and a desire to share their knowledge to bring the members of Region 22 to a higher level. Members of the Regional Faculty are called upon to do chorus visits, typically upon request of the chorus director. They also provide Personal Voice Instruction's (PVI's) and quartet coaching at regional education weekends. These women give up attending classes themselves to provide personal attention to our membership. Faculty does receive some compensation. If they are working at an event they receive free registration, mileage and reimbursement for their hotel room (actual cost up to 50% of a double room). Since the faculty is typically working during our regional education events they are encouraged to attend all "specialty schools" (i.e. directors workshop, quartet workshop, etc.) and receive a discount on the registration fee. The region also tries to schedule training for the faculty every 2-3 years. If you or someone you know would be interested in serving on the faculty please let me know.

## **Joan Machtel – Communications Coordinator**

Hi Region 22 – I can't believe that I have been your Communications Coordinator for almost 8 years. Time flies when you are having fun and yes, being on the Regional Management Team has been fun. I've talked and worked with many Sweet Adelines, chorus, regional and International levels. I've grown in this leadership role, taking on many responsibilities that I would have never dreamed of doing. My time on the Regional Management Team will end at the end of April, 2012 as I have served the maximum time allowed. So.....I am searching for you, our membership, to consider stepping up to the next level of leadership. I have been very fortunate to hold this position at a time when computers have become a household tool. Communications via e-mails, websites, Facebook, yahoo groups, and cyberspace have made this position very do-able. No more re-typing of documents when changes are made – I love COPY, PASTE AND DELETE. File cabinets and boxes of papers have been replaced with CD's and minimal hard copies – one 2-drawer file cabinet holds files, cds and supplies. Of course, I will be available to help/direct my successor. Below are my job responsibilities and the way I have been doing them.

### **Communications Coordinator – Regional Appointment**

- Receives communications from the International organization and disperses to the region – **usually via e-mail**
- Maintains internal communication channels among the region, chapters, and individual members – **usually via e-mail**
- Develops and maintains the regional leadership database – **On computer, now using Access 2003 but can easily be converted to Excel or Word tables**
- Is responsible for regional Web site and database design, implementation and maintenance, with input from the Marketing Coordinator – **I have delegated this to our Webmaster**
- Maintains a complete record of regional meetings and activities – **I use my laptop and type minutes as they happen, format them and then e-mail them to RMT**
- Is responsible for recording and preparing minutes of all meetings of the regional management Team –**On laptop computer**
- Distributes copies of minutes to members of the team, regional chapters, and the Meetings and Corporate Services Department at International Headquarters – **via e-mail**
- In consultation with the RMT, prepares and submits year-end Team Report to the Meetings and Corporate Services Department at International Headquarters by established deadline – **via e-mail**
- In consultation with the RMT, prepares and submits summary of Annual Regional Report to the Meetings & Corporate Services Department at International Headquarters by established Deadline – **via e-mail**

### **Each team member is responsible for:**

- Maintaining contact with appropriate staff members at International Headquarters
- Maintaining comprehensive records and forwarding materials to successor
- Training her successor
- APPOINTING STAFF TO ASSIST WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES AS NEEDED

A copy of the RMT application form can be found at <http://region22.org/teamapp.html> Once filled out, it can be sent to me to forward to our Nomination Committee.

**THANKS for your consideration of this. – Joan Machtel, Region 22 Communication Coordinator**

## **Rhonda Puntney – Marketing Coordinator**

Webinars are rapidly becoming a preferred means of training in the workplace and beyond. With the right software, facilitating training, presenters, and attendees can be an easy and rewarding process. I have recently presented webinar workshops for a national library organization based in Chapel Hill, North Carolina and the regional library system in Green Bay, and in both instances I didn't have to leave my office to do so.

Sweet Adelines International has offered several webinars over the past few years on a variety of topics, but much of their emphasis is in the areas of marketing and membership. Often I am unable to participate in the live webinar, but they are all archived online in the Members Only section of the SAI webpage at [http://www.sweetadelineintl.org/Marketing\\_Center/Webinars.html](http://www.sweetadelineintl.org/Marketing_Center/Webinars.html). You'll need to log in to the site to access it.

Here's a list of archived webinars you'll find on the site:

### **One Message, One Voice: Global Expansion**

The results are in from the 2009-2010 Pilot Program. Six volunteer Pilot regions explored the value of creating a unified identity (a "brand") for Sweet Adelines International and evaluated the effectiveness of new member recruitment using cohesively branded images and collaborative promotional tactics.

### **Cold Start A Chorus**

While serving on the Regional Leaders Team for Region 34, Jill Wardrop developed a Cold Start Program designed to motivate and educate regional leaders who are focused on increasing membership in their region as well as the general member or non-member who is interested in forming a new chapter in a remote location. Learn more about how your region can develop an effective plan for annual membership growth by cultivating new choruses in remote areas.

### **The Vocal Lesson Plan**

The Vocal Lesson Plan section in the Real Guide to Growth handbook features sample teaching plans, music, illustrations and handouts. This Webinar offered additional educational tools and ideas to be used by directors, assistant directors and music leaders in correlation with membership growth and retention efforts. -

### **Real Guide to Growth Webinar**

The Real Guide to Growth handbook\* was created with our members in mind. It offers easy to understand processes that will help chapter leaders link the chorus' membership strategies into one organized, achievable action plan. Webinar presenters provided a thorough review of the concepts and strategies offered in each section.

### **Jump Start Your Marketing for New Members Webinar**

This webinar featured the following topics: What is Marketing; Three Phases of Marketing; Secrets of Successful Marketers; Web sites; Plan, Innovate, Analyze, Improve; Build Brands; One Voice, One Message

### **Director's Role in Membership Growth and Retention Webinar**

This webinar featured the following topics: Membership and the Director, Chorus Member Expectations, Chorus Member Needs, A Director: An Educator, The Director's Role in Recruitment, The Director's Role in Retention, Action Plan Templates, A Director: As Leader, The Director's Responsibilities, The Director's Commitment

### **Marketing Your Chorus Webinars**

These webinars feature the following topics: Examining the condition of your chorus, Creating goals, Defining each member's responsibilities, Using the Marketing Center, Target marketing, Preparing your chorus, Executing your marketing plan, Turning guests into members, Retaining Members

### **Member Orientation Webinars**

These webinars feature the following topics: Embracing new members, Getting to know each other, Getting to know the organization, Benefits of membership, A big sister program, Communication is key, Getting involved, Member recognition, Member expectations, Director's role

### **The Rookie Program Webinar**

The Webinar featured the following topics: The Importance of Developing a Rookie Program, Preparing a Rookie Program, Scheduling the Program , The Introductory Lesson, Nuts and Bolts of the Program, Recognition, Evaluation and Follow-up

## **EDUCATION CORNER**

**(The following article is from guest contributor, Lynda Kever. Lynda is from Region #3, lead in the International Championship Quartet The Four Betty's, and an Approved Music Judge.)**

### **SONG AS STORY: EFFECTIVE STORYTELLING, COMPLIMENTS OF THE MUSIC CATEGORY**

The primary purpose of every performance is to connect with the audience, to move that audience in some way through the stories we present. The Music category is the sturdy framework that allows this magical communication to occur.

The singer's first task is to choose which story she wishes to tell and find an arrangement of that story that fits her abilities. Here's where the 0-30 points for song and arrangement come in.

Barbershop is generally in the major mode with minor sections sometimes used for flavor; minor chords are more challenging for most singers to tune well, so major mode will be a more successful choice. The song should also imply a wide variety of chord progressions with dominant to tonic resolutions (the "two bits" part of the familiar "shave and a haircut" phrase) rather than the "amen cadence" of hymns. This dominant/tonic progression is one of barbershop's significant characteristics.

Other significant characteristics are the use of four-part chords, the melody in the lead part, strong chord components in the bass part, and the use of the 11 acceptable chords as the basis of all arrangements with minimal use of secondary harmonies. The Major Triad, Barbershop 7 and Dominant 9 best enable lock and ring. The other eight chords are used for "spice" and variety (See the JCDB for a more thorough discussion of the chords and appropriate voicings).

The lyric is part of the song and falls under the Music category's purview as well. Lyrics should be like a poem that has meter and unity, and they should build to present a satisfying story, in the same way that the melody and arrangement build to a simultaneous climax. Religious and patriotic songs are not acceptable for competition, nor are songs with lyrics or parody lyrics in questionable taste. The music judge will evaluate these issues. She will not, however, address political correctness.

The Music judge evaluates the suitability of the song and arrangement to the storyteller/performer. If the singer has chosen material that is outside her skill level, the Music judge is obligated to so advise her.

Barbershop uptunes are often backbeat, but waltzes and downbeat songs (such as marches) are appropriate as well, as is the occasional “stomp” tempo within a song. Frequent meter changes detract from the unity of the story, and so should be kept to a minimum and in the character of the story being told. Ballads are performed in a rubato style while maintaining the implied meter of the song.

Many creative devices are available to the arranger, and all may enhance the story’s presentation: swipes, echoes, and embellishments; solo passages; patter; bell chords; instrumental effects; and key changes. Though not all of these devices are suitable for contest, each can emphasize the message or rhythm or energy of the song to further enmesh the listener in the story.

The Music judge is the only evaluator of the song and arrangement. A performer who chooses her material carefully to meet these criteria will have the best chance at scoring all 30 points.

The greater weight in the Music category, 0-70 points, is given for performance. This is appropriate, as ALL the elements of performance are within the singer’s control.

The first and most fundamental element is vocal skills, which crosses into all categories. In the Music category, vocal skills affect chord and interval accuracy, tuning, chord clarity, and section unity (all four judges evaluate unity), as well as phrasing (also evaluated by the expression judge), and dynamics (evaluated by sound and expression judges, as well). In addition to using strong vocal skills, the performer must also sing correct words and correct notes, correctly tuned (the sound judge also evaluates accuracy).

The Music judge is the gatekeeper of the barbershop style, which is found in the way the performer manages tempo, rhythms, musical unity, phrasing, and dynamics. A deep understanding of these skills will not only enhance the performer’s storytelling ability and connection with the audience, but will also garner greater points from the Music judge.

The Music judge evaluates the performer’s use of tempo (appropriateness and consistency) and the other elements of barbershop style. All these tools should be used to tell a story that grows constantly from the first chord to the pinnacle of the song, and then reinforces the emotional message of the story through the tag. The performer needs musical energy to carry off this well-unified performance, and to reach the audience.

Finally, once all else is mastered, musical artistry is the height of success in this category. When all the elements of the song and arrangement are combined with the performer’s vocal skills and understanding of the barbershop style, the singer can take the audience by the hand at the beginning of her story and keep them captivated to the end. This effect comes with the addition of “heart”: warmth and sincerity. The Music judge is seeking artistic, energized projection of tone. This is living barbershop, no longer just notes and words on a page.

All these Music category elements, combined with the skill of the performer, provide a seamless platform from which the singer can involve the audience in her story, with appropriate emphasis, and without the distraction of chords that jar the ear, phrases that are patterned, or inappropriate dynamics or tempo—nothing to pull the listener out of the thrill of the message. This is what the barbershop audience craves: a magical performance we can be drawn into and made part of; a performance we wish we had delivered ourselves. This is what the music category is all about.

## **THANK YOU FROM THE REGIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM**

Throughout the year there are members of our region that step up to volunteer their time and talent in helping our region grow in their knowledge of our art form and to keep our regional events running smoothly. We'd like to express our thanks to these devoted volunteers from this past year.

**Educational Faculty:** Dottie Allen, Joanne Bischoff, Jennifer Johnson, Sheila Koplitz, Connie Milestone, Karol Redmond, Paula Steimel, Karen Wysocky, Carmen Youra, Sally Eggleston, June Berg, Jarmela Speta

**Committee Chairs:** Joanne Bischoff, Carol Pann, Carol Christiansen, Gwendolyn Chapman, Carmen Youra, Sylvia Edleback, Shelly Brantman, Margaret Kahovec-Janosz, Jeri Settles, Dottie Allen, Sue Schmid

**Additional Volunteers:** Gil Swanson, Carol Hillard, Sue Bebee

This 2011-2012 Sweet Adeline year is one that will be filled with growing excitement and it may be the right time for you to consider offering some of your time and talent to make a difference in our region. You don't need any formal qualifications and the regional leaders will help train and mentor you. Sometimes all we need is an extra pair of hands at one of our regional schools or competition - it can be as simple as that - or you can really make a difference by taking one of the chairmanships under a specific coordinator's role. You can determine how small or large of a commitment you'd like to make. Any time you can offer would be of help to the region. However, have you thought about what's in it for you?

Often times it is just fun and/or educating to be a part of something bigger. You get to learn how and why some of the regional decisions are made. You get to be one of those 'spokes' that keep our regional wheel moving forward. You could even learn skills that could be useful in your chosen career.

Ask yourself, do I want...

...to do more with my Sweet Adeline hobby

...to do something I'm good at

...to try something new

...to do something with my spare time

...to meet members from other areas of our region / other chapters

...to try out the type of work I might want to do as a full-time job

Feel free to contact any Regional Team Member to ask questions about basic volunteering or perhaps even about becoming a coordinator on the Team. This coming year we will be looking for candidates for the roles of Team Coordinator, Education Coordinator, Communication Coordinator, and Membership Coordinator. Volunteers are invaluable to our organization and really are a benefit to our entire regional membership. Perhaps now is the time to experience more of what membership in Sweet Adelines is all about. We can become more than we ever thought we could be through the act of volunteering.

## **2011 FALL SCHOOL EXTRAVAGANZA!**

Mark your calendars for Friday and Saturday, September 16-17, 2011 and plan to attend the 2011 Region 22 Fall School! We'll be back at the Olympia Resort and Conference Center in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, located at 1350 Royale Mile Road. <http://mapq.st/lpcdcX> Registration costs are \$45 in advance (before August 31) and \$60 after August 31.

The guest faculty is Lynne Smith, Certified International Faculty and member of Harborlites Chorus. Classes will begin at 1 PM on Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Classes throughout the weekend will include:

- Rip your Shower Curtain Open
- Get Comfortable Acting-Barbershop Style
- Me and My Character
- Discover Your Chorus or Quartet Image
- How to Create the Visual Plan
- Never Wear a Bow on Your Butt (for frontline and assistant Directors)
- Grant Writing 101

Friday Night will wrap up with our Annual Novelty Contest and Saturday Night with our Annual Showcase of Champions!

The room rate is \$85.00 per night with up to four people in a room. This rate is available one day prior and one day following the function date. Cancellation of guestrooms are required a minimum of 48 hours in advance of arrival date. Check in time is 3:00 PM with check out time at 11:00 AM. It is a non-smoking facility. There are some adjoining rooms available on a first come first serve basis. If you would like to have adjoining rooms please indicate so when you make your reservations. All the rooms have refrigerators, coffee pots, hair dryers, iron and ironing board, and free internet connections in each room. There is a microwave on the second floor for all to use, as well as 10 available rental microwaves again on a first come first serve basis (\$10.51 fee per day, including the tax). There will be a discount offered for use of the Spa if we have enough interested members. If you would be interested in using the spa, please contact Events Coordinator Shirley VanDeWege. **The cut-off rate for reservations is August 31, 2011.**

There will be something for EVERYONE so don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity! Registration forms will be out by July 1.

**22 Karat Gold is thrilled for all our Region 22 competitors who walked the stage this past April. We are especially proud of NRG! And River City Sound Chorus for their wonderful performances. The weekend was a blast, and we wanted to thank all of our generous supporters who purchased tickets for our Musical Quilt (generously crafted by Sally Dumke) and our 50/50 raffle! We were able to raise a total of \$972! All fundraising efforts of 22 Karat Gold go toward the support of our International quartet competitors and to support any quartet education opportunities that develop in the region. Thank you to all and Houston, watch out for Region 22!!! (Submitted by Shelly Brantman)**

## QUARTET NEWS

### **TWITCH** (Submitted by Becky Janz)

What an outstanding Regional contest we had! Twitch is thrilled to be your 2011 3<sup>rd</sup> place medalists... again! We would like to thank our home choruses, Crosstown Harmony and Milwaukee Showcase and our adopted home chorus, Opus 2000 for all their love and support. We would also like to thank all of Region 22 for the well wishes throughout the weekend. We had a great time singing on stage, in the chorus hospitality rooms as well as the hallways and Harmony Mall.

We would like to congratulate NRG! on their winning quartet performance. We know you will represent Region 22 well in Houston. We would also like to send congratulations to Premiere on securing a Wildcard spot for International. What an honor to have two such wonderful quartets representing Region 22. We congratulate River City Sound on their outstanding 1<sup>st</sup> place performance. Your hard work paid off and we are thrilled for you. We also congratulate, By the Book for winning the Most Improved Quartet award. Way to go ladies!!!

You'll be happy to know that Becky's ankle has healed nicely and she no longer has to wear the walking cast; though she now sets off the scanners at the airport. A big "THANK YOU" to all that provided "packhorse" service and helped her get around during contest weekend.

Our schedule in the upcoming months has dates reserved for rehearsals, performances and of course a few road trips to glean all that we can from our coaches; though we can always squeeze in another performance. We look forward to seeing our regional sisters in the coming months and hope to sing for you soon. Contact Rochelle at [lovebbshop@hotmail.com](mailto:lovebbshop@hotmail.com) or 414-510-8416.

Rochelle, Sally, Cricky, Becky

### **LIFE'S A PITCH** (Submitted by Darla Hackel)

Life's a Pitch was beyond thrilled to place 4th at regional contest in Appleton!! We could not have been prouder that our hard work last winter paid off in a big way. It was also so much fun to see our friends in the region again! Sadly, awesome, long-time Region 22 lead Nancy Beyer has decided to take a break from Sweet Adelines and LaPitch at this time. We wish her all the best and will miss her. However....we have regrouped and a little shuffling has taken place! Baritone Lynda Meyer will be singing lead! And in breaking news, Fox Valley's own Carol Christiansen will be filling our baritone position! So, like the energizer bunny, we just keep going and going and going. We are very excited to get started and will have a fun summer putting it all together!

### **TROUBLE CLEF – YWIH QUARTET** (Submitted by Susan Musgrave)

The girls are not rehearsing right now because baritone Micah, is on doctor's orders and may not sing for a month. She has calluses on her vocal cords. They are planning to continue singing together and anxious to rehearse and perform again. They are thinking ahead to the competition in Denver in 2012. In the meantime, is anyone looking for a young quartet to perform on a show??

**TOTALLY CONNECTED** (Submitted by Karen Hoepner)

Totally Connected ( Connect 4 before we registered) sang as one of the guest quartets at a benefit for a local women's shelter on February 6<sup>th</sup> (Super Bowl Sunday). The benefit was titled, "Hearts in Harmony" and featured a number of barbershop quartets in the area.

The quartet didn't decide to compete in Region 22 competition until February, so we rushed to get registered and enter competition before the deadline. It was a totally awesome experience and we are all glad that we took the initiative to do so. Thanks to all of the competing quartets for their support and encouragement. We all enjoyed the experience, taking the advice of one of the seasoned competitors to enjoy our time on stage so we would remember it forever. What a great experience!

**BY REQUEST** (Submitted by Jennifer Johnson)

The spring convention was our first official regional event. We are so appreciative of all the support we received not only from our own choruses, Milwaukee Showcase, Stateline and Yahara River, but all of the choruses and quartets who graciously welcomed and supported us through the weekend.

We are thrilled to be attending the Barbershop Harmony Society's Quartet College being held in St Joseph's, MO in August. We will be coaching for 7 days with internationally known coaches. in addition to classes We can't wait to share our experience with you and hope you will consider it in the future. We look forward to representing not only Region 22, but Sweet Adelines and women barbershoppers as the first all female quartet to attend Quartet College.

We'll see you in September!! We'll always sing for you.... By Request!

Always in Harmony!!

Angie, Marie, Jane and Jen

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

"Are you going to be long?" I ask my bass, Cindy. "You've been in there 45 minutes." "I'll be out when a commercial comes on." Did I forget to mention that at the Grand Geneva in Lake Geneva the rooms have a TV in the mirror in the bathroom? Indeed, it is quite the *de rigueur*. I almost believe she will soon appear and then realize we have cable in the room. However annoying that was, I find myself at 3 in the morning contemplating buying a magic bullet from QVC. But I'm concerned they would be aware I was ordering from a bathroom.

The next day we do a lovely stroll and sing for the Great Lakes Region Music Therapy Association convention and then travel around Lake Geneva. Whilst pondering the lovely day I was reminiscing about all the places I've been courtesy of Sweet Adelines. What fun! Perhaps one day while you are watching TV we will be appearing in the bathroom for you.

Sing like you know the words.

## **NEXT DOOR FOUR** (Submitted by Sharon Kittle)

Greetings to all of our sisters in harmony. Four members of Yahara River Chorus (Nancy Bushnell, Tenor, Diane Skokan, Lead, Kay Hinck, Baritone, and me, Sharon Kittle, Bass) have gotten together to have some fun and sing some songs. We are a registered quartet with SAI, but none of us are interested in competing, so we'll only be performing with our chorus and wherever we might be able to perform in our area.

We performed on our annual Fall Show back in October, and also in a couple of holiday performances as well. But on February 13 and 14, we went out and did Singing Valentines. What a blast! If you have never done them before, give it a try. All we did to advertise was make up a half-sheet flyer with our picture on it and told them the dates we would be doing them, what they would receive for their money and who to contact. We figured if we got one we'd be lucky. We actually got ten requests and a couple that came in at the last minute when we were already booked solid for the day.

We have a little work to do on how we schedule them for next year because we were doing a lot of running back and forth between smaller communities in the Madison area. But fortunately for us, we had the able assistance of Anita O'Keefe who drove us to most of our "gigs" and also acted as our official photographer. We sang to a Financial Planner, a Metal Arts Teacher at a High School, a Manager of a Copps Store, and a Dentist to name just a few.

And finally on March 8<sup>th</sup> we had the opportunity to do a whole performance for a Women's Club by ourselves. What fun! And now we have our next performance scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>, we can't wait!

We are looking forward to doing something silly for the Novelty Quartet Contest at our Fall Regional Seminar, so look for us there.

## **CHARISMA** (Submitted by Deana Grade)

What a rockin' competition for the deuce deuce this year! We're absolutely crazy with joy that two quartets are going to international - NRG! and Premiere! You make Region 22 proud!

Charisma! had a great growth year after our hiatus from the bright lights of the competition stage. We're so thankful for all the support shown us by YRC and the region as well as from our family and friends. Under the tutelage of our coach, Joan Boutillier, we hope to continue to improve and make our barbershop sound as tight as our friendship with each other. See you all next year!

Charisma!

Jody Johnson, Deana Grade, April Luedtke and Joan Rettig

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

The Cooler ladies extend congratulations to NRG! This year's quartet competition was exhilarating! Congratulations are also in order for Premiere, who will be singing as a wild card entry in Houston! Our quartet was thrilled to assist in the Chorus/Quartet registration in Appleton where we got to extend our best wishes first hand to everyone.

Penny, Martha, Pitchpipe Linda and I wish everyone a great summer, and remember...it really is Cooler By The Lake!

## **22 Carrot Chorus Rehearsal - July 16**

**If your group has ever won the Novelty contest at regional school, You are a member of the 22 Carrot Chorus! Did you know that the next Novelty competition will take place Friday September 16, 2011 at Fall School in Oconomowoc?**

**Kate Hadley, Bass of the 2010 Novelty winners, 4 Barbies, with "Back to Back and Boobie to Boobie" and Rapper Extraordinaire of River City Sound's "Boots Boots Baby" has written a parody to present at Fall School by the 22 Carrot Chorus. Bunches of Carrots are asked to come to a multi Chorus Picnic and Campfire on **July 16, 2011** at the home of Bonnie Plumley, who lives near New Glarus, Wisconsin. **The Carrot Chorus Rehearsal will be at 1:30pm**, and picnic and campfire with YRC and RCS members arriving at 3pm. Please e-mail Bonnie at [bonsingsbari@yahoo.com](mailto:bonsingsbari@yahoo.com) for directions and more information.**

(Submitted by Bonnie Plumley)

## **CHORUS NEWS**

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

What an awesome experience in Appleton. I've decided to change the name of our chorus to the 'Magnificent Seven'. I was so proud of their accomplishment getting on stage and extremely proud and honored to have Angie Williams as our director on stage. The chorus is currently preparing to sing the National Anthem at the Beloit Snapper's Game in July and August. We are also looking forward to entertaining audiences throughout the Stateline area in search of new members who would like to learn all about singing barbershop harmony. It is also that time of year for our annual fundraiser – selling cream puffs at the Walworth County Fair. Please come and say hi to us at our cream puff booth. We are looking forward to seeing many of you at our fall school. Have a great summer.

## **YAHARA RIVER** (Submitted by Pat Lund)

**Yahara River Chorus** is pumped by both the music we heard, the friendships we renewed, and the opportunity to compete in very early April. It seems like just yesterday! Since then we have dived into the deep end learning new songs, in a new way.

Yes, we do have a Fall Show – put **October 29** on your calendar. Four, maybe five, new songs are in process and will debut at the **Haunted Harmony** show at the Stoughton High School PAC. More details will be on our website, as soon as possible.

We are gearing up for Long Range Strategic Planning to begin shortly after the show and be completed during our annual retreat. To get ready, our new Team Leader is doing one-on-one interviews with members and a project team is gathering related information to buttress the planning process. Courtesy of Jennifer, our Director, we have been infused with insights on scoring, becoming A singers, understanding BLYNCH. We are fresh from a coaching session with Kim Wonders that was, of course, WONDERful!

To keep our spirits light and smiles all around, each weekly Currents for the next 30 plus weeks will provide an in-depth biographical spotlight on our members, one by one. Not exactly Enquirer stuff, but we are lovin' it.

We do not expect to have a dull minute all summer. Wishing you all the same!

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

Summer, here we come! Cedar Harmony is busy brushing up on old songs and learning a few new ones for our summer singouts. What fun it is to ring our chords in the Cedar Falls band shell or at the big Sturgis Falls Festival! It's a lot easier getting dressed in the summer costumes than those comp outfits--less make-up, too!

The chorus will miss two of our members who have needed to resign. Thank you, Grace Barter and Linda Peacock, for your years of loyalty and friendship.

Plans are underway for a fall show/function of some type, different than we've ever done! It's time to stretch the imagination. You'll have to wait to discover the finished project!

Cedar Harmony thanks Susan Hansen for a great job as president this year! Now we await the bursting-with-energy new president, Jo Wyatt. Those of you who know her understand this description! To welcome new officers and new board members, a special ceremony complete with a great potluck (naturally) was held. The new year will focus on adding new members, as some of us seem to age and run out of steam! This hobby takes a lot of sacrifice, money, and commitment; but it sure is worthwhile, isn't it?

Enjoy your summer and stay safe!

**RIVERPORT** (Submitted by Rhonda Puntney)

Summer is shaping up to be a busy one for Riverport!

We have already had Kim Wonders coach us on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, and we are working on new music for performances.

We are sponsoring a rummage sale again this summer at Sippie Miller's home at 20315 75<sup>th</sup> Street (Highway 50) in Bristol, WI the weekend of June 16-18.

We have performances coming up on Friday, July 8 at Bristol Days; an SC Johnson corporate event on Thursday, July 23; Thursday, November 3 at the Wisconsin Library Association conference in Milwaukee; and we'll be performing again on WGTD radio's live holiday show on Saturday morning, December 10.

At regional in Appleton we installed our new management team: Julie Quesenberry, team manager; Lois Brennan, assistant team manager; Sue Bearrows, financial manager; Pat O'Dowd, secretary; and Rozane Bird, Dona Grebe, Sue Nelson, Donna Sanders, Mary Rizzo as members-at-large. Director June Berg is also a member of the management team.

Welcome to our two new members, Ashley VanSchyndel and Donna Minkley!

And finally congratulations to each and every competitor at this year's regional competition from all of us in Riverport Chorus! Special congratulations go to our regional champs, NRG! quartet and River City Sound Chorus, and to our wild card competitors, Premiere quartet! See you next year in Appleton!

**OPUS 2000** (Submitted by Kristine Hincz)

Congratulations to all our champions...River City Sound, Spirit of the Lakes, and NRG! Since OPUS 2000 was the final contestant in this year's lineup, we didn't get to hear any of the actual competition, but we know there is much to be proud of in our region. Thank you RMT for a great contest and to our own Joanne Bischoff for all her efforts in making sure everything ran smoothly.

The OPUS ladies have been busy doing what we love best; that is, singing at various community events. It was our pleasure to be the featured entertainment at a church's Mother's Day celebration, a nursing home party, as well as a corporate event in Racine. The four-part harmony was enjoyed by all.

Jarmela celebrated her recent birthday at a party attended by both OPUS and Chicago Metro (her men's chorus). It was a challenge keeping this a surprise. A big thank you to Jane Adams for hosting it in her condo's beautiful community room. Check out the pictures on OPUS' Facebook page.

Planning a fall show is next on our agenda, so you can be sure the days will simply fly by. We wish all our sister choruses a great summer filled with singing!

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

What a great regional competition we had! Appleton's PAC was a wonderful venue for contest – a class act all the way! And speaking of class acts – our heartiest congratulations go out to the River City Sound Chorus for their first place win. Looks like they've "raised the bar" one more notch, and we will just need to work that much harder and smarter!

Of course, it goes without saying that we are extremely proud of *NRG!* and their first place win in the quartet competition. We love you, Heather! Not to mention, our very own....*Life's a Pitch*. We are so proud to have a quartet of that caliber in our chorus. Major congrats to Nancy Beyer, Lynda Meyer, Darla Hackel and Karen Newhouse. And, last but not least, congratulations to *Premiere* and our own Brenda Krueger, on their (it was very, very close!) second place win.

Fox Valley Chorus has a busy summer planned. Our major focus as individuals is to work toward making each and every singer in the Fox Valley Chorus an "A Level" singer. Toward this end we are going to have a series of Personal Voice Instructions (PVI's), either one-on-one, or in small groups, as well as focusing on working at home on specific vocal skills. Thanks to Heather for constantly providing us with strategies to be the best singers we can be, both personally and as a group!

Additional summer activities for us include an outdoor performance with the Fox Valleyaires men's chorus on June 26, as well as a performance in the Town Square in the town of Berlin on June 28. We will also be singing the National Anthem at a Timber Rattlers baseball game, and doing a "church crawl" – singing for several area churches on Sunday, July 24.

Mark your calendars for our Fall Show – which will be held on Saturday, November 5 – more details to come!

Once again congratulations to the winners and to *all* the competitors at this year's competition from the Fox Valley "Foxy Ladies"!

## **CENTER POINT** (Submitted by Mary Peplinski)

The chorus is busy working on our fall show which will be at Sentry Theater in Stevens Point on Saturday November 12, 2011. This year we are having a western theme. More details will be forthcoming. For tickets or information contact [marypep@wi-net.com](mailto:marypep@wi-net.com) or phone 715-824-2550.

This spring was our return to the competition stage after taking two years off. It's amazing how hard it is to get back into the competition mode. Over a third of our on stage chorus had never sung in competition before and it was a challenge to find a way to help them appreciate what it means to compete and what type of preparation is needed to have a successful performance. Our directors, Roger and Kathleen, have years of barbershopping experience and did a great job sharing the many aspects of competition with the newbies. However, there is no substitute for experience. The Tuesday after competition we gathered to watch our video and discuss our scores. Even though we came in at the bottom, the discussion was very uplifting. Our new members had finally experienced the fun and excitement of being part of Sweet Adelines International. They were now more than just members of a local chorus. They belonged to a world-wide organization. They had seen all of the other choruses, as we had sung first, and now had something with which they could compare. They were looking forward to improving their skills and helping Center Point take a step up. We thank them for all of their hard work and we look forward to next year with renewed vigor and enthusiasm.

### **WESTOSHA LAKES** (Submitted by Sue Bebee)

This has been a building year for us. We have 4 new singers and a baby. We are so happy to welcome Bev, Linda, Janet and Julie, our singers and Aria our baby. She was actually on stage with us at competition and we were a little worried that she might make her debut right there, but she held off for a couple weeks. She is healthy and quite beautiful and we know that she will return to the stage again someday.

Contest was exciting as always and we send our congratulations to all.

Our annual garage sale is coming up in July and we are busy cleaning out our garages and basements. We also have a couple performances coming up this summer. One is for a 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. How exciting! We also will be busy working on new music for our cabaret coming up October 8<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars. We'd love to see you there.

### **MILWAUKEE SHOWCASE** (Submitted by Deb Wenzel)

Milwaukee Showcase Chorus is thrilled to have been recognized as a "Most Improved" chorus at this year's Regional Competition, having improved our score by 40 points from the previous year. We are also extremely proud of our own Rochelle Hackmann (Tenor) and her quartet, Twitch, for taking third place.

With Competition now a fond and happy memory, we're shifting our focus to creating our annual show. The working title is "The Milwaukee Showcase Chorus Presents the Christmas Shopping Network." Join us in our "Marshmallow World," and enjoy "Retail Therapy" MSC style on November 19th at Martin Luther High School in Greenfield, WI.

### **CROSTOWN HARMONY** (Submitted by Diane Dunk)

Crosstown Harmony has been working very hard since evaluation at the regional contest to make use of the comments we received from the judges to help improve our International performance in Houston this October. What a pleasure it was to perform our "Swan Song" package for Region 22! Congratulations are also in order for River City Sound winning this year's contest with the highest score (623) ever achieved in Region 22. We are also very happy to announce that not only do we have a new member who will be coming with us as we "take-off" for Houston, but some ladies from Westosha Lakes have decided to take advantage of dual membership to be able to experience the excitement of performing on the International Stage. If you haven't considered dual membership, please think about it. In addition to being able to sing with more fun-loving Sweet Adelines, it can also give you the opportunity to walk across that International stage yourself instead of just watching from the audience or webcast.

Our newest member is Judy Kaplan, with a professional nursing background and a love of singing. Judy even attended our last regional convention in Appleton, even though she wasn't singing with us on stage. Welcome, Judy!

But Crosstown isn't just preparing for International. On Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm, we have a performance scheduled with Festival City Chorus in Franklin Park. It's even free admission for the best of two worlds: women's and men's barbershop! We'll also be preparing for guest nights in June, as well as our Cabaret on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **HEART O' WISCONSIN** (Submitted by Jane Fait)

On April 8, 2011, eight members from Heart O' Wisconsin Sweet Adelines traveled to Appleton for Region #22 competition week-end. Our chorus did not compete this year, but we were the very first chorus to have a DVD sent in for evaluation only.

On Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> we sang at the Chestnut Avenue Center for the Arts in Marshfield. We were in full costume and special make-up and sang the ballad "Among My Souvenirs" and the uptune "By the Beautiful Sea." It was then sent in for evaluation only to the judges.

We enjoyed seeing all the choruses and quartets compete at the Fox Valley Performing Arts Center. We had an exciting week-end.

### **Tribute to Lois Butler**

The Heart O' Wisconsin Chorus lost a very dear friend and charter member on April 15, 2011. Lois Butler joined the chorus in 1977 when it chartered. Singing was one of Lois' passions. She was a great story teller and had a wonderful sense of humor. Some of the memories of Lois shared by chorus members include:

Lois would bring a rubber chicken to competition to keep everyone laughing.

Lois served on the Ways and Means Committee for many years raising more money than anyone else could for the chorus.

Lois and her husband would travel to Texas in their Air Stream Camper and she would take all the scarves that she sewed along with her. If someone admired a scarf she would say "you can buy it." Lois sold to everyone!

A member would go on daily walks and stop and visit with Lois who had been on dialysis for years. They would sing and chat and Lois was always interested in how the chorus was doing. She always had a smile and was proud she was a part of such a fine group.

Lois said that her greatest pleasure in Sweet Adelines was to walk across the stage at Regional Competition in her fancy costume and special make-up and felt like a queen. Lois, we know you are walking across the stage in heaven and looking down at the Heart O' Wisconsin Chorus with pride.

## **RED CEDAR SOUNDS** (Submitted by Karen Hoepner)

The Red Cedar Sounds have had a busy year, starting with our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Cabaret in November. This year our theme was "Calendar Girlz" where we went through the calendar year in music. The cabaret auditorium was decorated with 12 huge calendars depicting the months of the year, complete with lights and decorated trees for each holiday or season. Each of our girls dressed in costumes depicting a season or holiday. Again the chorus and quartets, Totally Connected and Just Us, put on two performances- one in the afternoon and one in the evening with dessert in the afternoon and soup/dessert in the evening. We thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are already getting music and ideas ready for our next cabaret on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

After the shows the chorus, with the help of our coach, worked hard on getting ready for the Region 22 Competition in April. The chorus hadn't competed for a couple of years so everyone was excited to have the experience again. We improved our scores from our last competition by quite a few points. It was a great weekend for everyone.



## **DUAL CHORUS MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS REWARDS**

(Submitted by the dual members of YRC)

Double the Pleasure, Double the Fun may be a familiar slogan from Wrigleys, but it can also be used to describe the 2011 Sweet Adelines Region 22 contest for the dual members of Yahara River Chorus. The five members of YRC (pictured above) doubled their time on stage representing four choruses in this year's contest.

Angie Williams, the Assistant Director and Tenor Section Leader at YRC, is also the Director of the Stateline Harmony Chorus. Stateline is the dual chorus of LaDonna Steinert who sings both Bari and Lead at YRC, and Lead with Stateline. Marie Grafwallner-Huseth is on the music and costume committees and sings Bass and Lead at Milwaukee Showcase Chorus, and duals with YRC singing both Bass and Lead. Sylvia Edlebeck is the Webmaster for both YRC and River City Sound Choruses and sings Tenor and Bass. And Bonnie Plumley is on the visual team for both YRC and River City Sound, and always sings the best part, Baritone.

Contest day in Appleton was very exciting, filled with finishing musical touches on the contest set, costume, hair, and make up checks, and the competition pattern..... Times TWO! Angie and LaDonna started their day with an 8am Stateline rehearsal followed at 9am by YRC. Then off to don the beautiful blue and silver dresses and kick off the contest as Contestant #1. Marie also began with 8am MSC / 9am YRC rehearsals and took the stage as Contestant #4 with MSC. Then back to the hotel to change from purple and black, to teal and flames and join the YRC line up as Contestant #10. Sylvia and Bonnie began with YRC at 9am immediately followed at 10am by a RCS rehearsal, a pattern that was soon to repeat. At the end the YRC set, Once Upon a Time and The Moment I Saw Your Eyes, Sylvia and Bonnie hastened off the stage. They had only a few short minutes to change costumes and jewelry, draw a few deep breaths, and take the stage with their dual chorus, River City Sound, as the very next to compete, Contestant #11.

Dual Membership is Double the Pleasure, Double the Fun, Double the Music, Double the Time, Double the Friendship, Double the Work, Double the Drive, but is also Double the Rewards. LaDonna and the Stateline Harmony Chorus sang their hearts out performing for the first time at contest under the directorship of Angie Williams. Priceless! Marie rejoiced as Milwaukee Showcase Chorus earned Most Improved gaining 40 points, and placing 5<sup>th</sup> overall. Yahara River Chorus celebrated a new chorus record, 3<sup>rd</sup> place, with a score of 570. And the dual success continued with Sylvia and Bonnie winning a blue medal and a return trip to Sweet Adelines International stage, representing Region 22 in Denver 2012, with a chorus high score of 623 for River City Sound Chorus.

There is no doubt that dual membership helps us learn smarter, sing better, and share the best of barbershop with both of our choruses. We could not do it without the love and support of all of our chorus sisters. We would also like to send a shout out to our awesome Directors for supporting our dualness. Thank You Jennifer Johnson – YRC, Angie Williams-SHC, Frank Marzocco- MSC, and Joan Boutilier- RCS!

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**Attention! Attention! Region 22 is looking for people interested in arranging! Please email Carmen Youra: [ckyoura@aol.com](mailto:ckyoura@aol.com) if interested. Also, for more information, please attend the arrangers' break-out session at the September school this fall.**

### CATCH 22 SUBMISSION DEADLINES

All deadline dates will be the last day of the following months:

FALL ISSUE 2011– Aug. 31, 2011  
WINTER ISSUE 2011/12– Nov. 30, 2011  
SPRING ISSUE 2012 – Feb. 29, 2012

Send articles to:  
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I will acknowledge all received articles.  
All articles are subject to editing.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### SEPTEMBER 2011

16 – 17 Fall Regional School (Olympia Resort and Conference Center, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin)

#### OCTOBER 2011

8 – Westosha Lakes Cabaret

18 – 22 International Convention (Houston, TX)

29 – Yahara River Show (Stoughton High School, Stoughton, WI)

#### NOVEMBER 2011

5 – FoxValley Show (St. Joseph's Middle School, Appleton, WI)

5 – Red Cedar Sounds Cabaret (Colfax High School, Colfax, WI)

12 – Center Point Show (Sentry Theater, Stevens Point, WI)

19 - Milwaukee Showcase Show (Martin Luther High School, Greendale, WI)

#### APRIL 2012

19 – 22 Regional Competition (Appleton, WI)