



## MJ Mortillaro, Team Coordinator

First I would like to congratulate NRG and Crosstown Harmony for representing Region 22 in Honolulu, Hawaii so very well. Region 22 members & fans in the audience openly expressed how impressed they were with both performances. The international competition features the best of all the regions and we certainly can be proud of our representatives. They truly shared their gift of music with the audience and when you give your all, as each one did, that IS a winning performance!

As I write this article the Holiday Season is upon us, a time when we think of all things to be thankful for. As a Sweet Adeline my list is long.....

- ❖ I am thankful for music in my life. I can't imagine living without song.
- ❖ I am thankful for my chorus, a blend of wonderful women with the same passion for music.
- ❖ I am thankful for a Region that promotes our hobby.
- ❖ I am thankful for our Regional events that bring us together to practice our craft and ring a few chords.
- ❖ I am thankful for the opportunity to serve - in my chorus and on the Regional level.
- ❖ I am thankful for the lifelong friends that I have met through Sweet Adelines.

I know that this list is the same for many of you. I know many of you feel the same way I do - barbershop is just a way of life!!

How thankful the Region is to have 6 members that have been Sweet Adelines for 50 + years. At the Fall School we inducted these charter members to the "Region 22 Golden Girls" These members now are entitled to free registration to the Fall and Winter School for the next 50 years.....Our Golden Girls are:

Doris Harrison - Crosstown Harmony  
Ida Mae Roberts - Stateline Harmony  
Jarmela Speta - Opus 2000  
Kaye Jenson - Opus 2000  
Dorothy Wendorf - Crosstown Harmony  
Sally Eggleston - Cedar Harmony

This charter group's resume includes: directors, judges, Queens, International Board of Directors, Regents, and most likely the best Regional school attendance!

I know that we look forward to welcoming new members to the "Golden Girls" at the Winter School. Be sure to be there to congratulate these very dedicated women. Talk about Catch the Excitement! !

We have much to be thankful for in Region 22. Take time during the season to reflect on what Sweet Adelines has brought to your life. Never take for granted this most wonderful hobby - always keep the excitement and the music ringing!

Happy Holidays! See you in January.....

MJ

## Regional Team News.....

Heather Johnston,  
Education Coordinator

One of the things that keeps playing over and over in my mind is "What can we do to improve the overall level of the choruses and quartets in Region 22?" In some ways the answer, or at least part of the answer, is very simple.....we need to improve the overall level of the individual singer. How can you, as an individual, take steps to become a better singer and performer? Sign up for voice lessons from a voice teacher in your area. Don't worry about whether or not the voice teacher is familiar with barbershop music, good singing is good singing, period. Sign up for dance lessons: jazz, tap, ballet, swing, ballroom, etc. Every type of dance class offered is going to have a positive impact on your performance. Use some of the great vocal warm-up and work-out CD's available. One website you can check out is: [www.vocal.coach.com](http://www.vocal.coach.com). They have both warm-up and vocal work-out CD's. A warm-up CD will simply warm-up your voice; a work-out CD is one that is going to challenge and stretch you vocally. I also highly recommend the "Sing, Baby, Sing!" series available through Sweet Adelines. This series was put together by Darlene Rogers (who just happens to be faculty for our January music school) and the international champion quartet Rumors. This transitions very nicely into another thing you can do to improve your personal performance. Attend any and all Regional and International Music Schools. As I mentioned, our faculty in January is Darlene Rogers. She is a SAI chorus director, coach and professional voice teacher from the Dallas, Texas area. I promise you will leave with more than one tool that you can use at home to become an even better singer and performer! I challenge each and every member to take some time to reflect on your personal goals as well as your chorus goals. Then write your own personal strategic plan to assist both you and your chorus in achieving those goals. Don't try to change everything overnight, but take it one small step at a time. I recently was reminded about an online home organization tool, [www.flylady.net](http://www.flylady.net). One of the things Flylady stresses is don't try to tackle everything all at once. "Cleaning out the spare room" can be overwhelming and can literally take weeks. But if you break it down into smaller tasks such as "Clean out the top shelf of the bookcase in the spare room" you can accomplish the task in a reasonable amount of time and before you know it the entire room is better organized. Another tip was to each day, set the kitchen timer for 15 minutes and then go about tidying up the house. When the bell goes off, you're done. Tidying up for 15 minutes each day will save you HOURS on the weekends. Well, those same techniques can be used for singing. I know how it goes - you start out the week saying "I'm going to sing through all my chorus music". Well, that's the same thing as saying you're going to clean the spare room. Set the timer for 15 minutes and get your music out and start singing. Pretty soon you'll find 15 minutes isn't quite enough. Be careful however. Don't immediately double it; just add 5 minutes at a time. Be flexible too. One day you may have lots of time so will spend 30-45 minutes working on music but the next day you're

schedule is jam packed so you can only get in 10-15 minutes. Even 5 minutes a day is better than none. Remember, this is something you want to do regularly so be sure to set yourself up for success. I hope you can join us for the Winter Music School. You have "Caught the Excitement" and I know you are "Passing it On". Now it's time to take "Ownership" and put plans in place to be the best you can be! Happy Holidays!

Gil Swanson  
Membership Coordinator

It turns out I am writing this during the Thanksgiving weekend having had only three weeks to get over jet lag from International competition in Hawaii. I always include the names of new members to the region in Catch 22. It takes a little research to get that all in order but I'm still working on that for you. I'll announce all of the new members' names when we meet at the Winter Regional in DeForest, Wisconsin. We do have a bunch of new members and we do welcome to you!

International Competition in Honolulu was fun. I have been a Sweet Adeline off and on for about 38 years before I got to sing on the International stage with Crosstown Harmony. Some members find themselves competing at international from the time they join and others never get to do it in their whole life. Actually, that stage experience is not very different from regional competition except for a few things. You can find yourself backstage waiting for some 120 member chorus to get done rocking the rafters. Also your face will appear in close up on the giant screens set up in the auditorium - all 7000 plus people in the audience would not be able to identify you otherwise. You are being a star with glittery clothes and false eyelashes. If you remember to seize the moment and not take yourself too seriously it is the greatest of Fun.

I was in Honolulu a day early for the meeting with regional management team members from the whole organization. Actually, that is another perk of being at one of the international conventions - meeting members from all over the globe. Guess what! Everybody from everywhere is pretty much the same! At the RMT meeting we heard from the International staff, met with our coordinator groups, and all of the regions have pretty much our same issues. I've sent a report of the meeting to our chapter presidents/team leaders and membership chairs. Until I see you again, have a wonderful holiday season.

## Regional Team News.....

Rhonda Puntney  
Marketing Coordinator

Sweet Adelines International recently unveiled their latest marketing campaign, “**Real Women, Real Harmony, Real Fun**” and the new Marketing Center section on the website. The Marketing Center is a veritable online press kit for choruses containing logos, sample press releases, flyers, photos, videos and much more that you can personalize and use to instill a professional and cohesive image for your chorus. This material is not just available to your marketing and membership folks, it is available to ALL members of the Sweet Adelines organization.

The templates section is where you will find many of the marketing tools that we create to market our choruses, including an all-purpose chorus brochure with three different covers, posters, website banners, business cards, PowerPoint slides, newsletter headings, flyers, notecards, and camera ready black and white graphics that are perfect for print ads. All you have to do is supply your own information in the space provided and print.

If you are looking for items to put in the local papers about upcoming events or to publicize successes at regional contest, go to the press materials section. There are several press releases and a 30 second public service announcement that you can personalize and submit to your local media.

International has provided the double treble clef logos, logos for Harmonize the World, Young Women in Harmony, international convention logos, and the Real Women logos at the Logos/Graphics section for members to download and use on their publications and websites.

In case you are wondering where to start to use this new material, you can go to the training library section and read several of the marketing handbooks and guides for inspiration. You'll find a link to Kathy Carmody's Membership Class, the Members Count! Toolkit, the Young Women in Harmony Guide for Chapters, and much more.

Please let me know if you use the Marketing Center and email me samples of your public materials to [rpuntney@lakeshores.lib.wi.us](mailto:rpuntney@lakeshores.lib.wi.us) or [rhondapuntney@yahoo.com](mailto:rhondapuntney@yahoo.com). I'll post it to the blog!

Jennifer Johnson  
Director Coordinator

As we approach the holiday season, many of our schedules become hectic with family gatherings, approaching deadlines, and multiple holiday performances, so much that it becomes a juggling act. Many members ask how to keep up with this finding it difficult to find stamina and energy needed in performances and rehearsals. This is the time when I'm going to bring in my nonmusical profession to aid this edition. I am a registered dietitian, in the public health field, working many with women and young children. Believe it or not, these fields overlap considerably. Remember our body is our instrument. If we do not take care of it, it makes it more difficult to attain and maintain energy and stamina.

The first thing I recommend is regular physical activity. I'm not suggesting that you start a running or weight lifting program. Increase your current activity level, by parking further away when doing the holiday shopping; taking the stairs if they are available; doing simple floor or sitting exercises at commercial breaks or as a part of your morning or bedtime routine. Physical activity will not only improve your mood, but it will increase your stamina and breath support. Pair up with someone in your chorus. When you know someone will be asking you about a goal, you're more likely to do it.

Drink plenty of water. I know I don't have to say too much about this. If you're not a big water drinker, try herbal teas and diluted juices to stay hydrated. It is especially important in the winter months when we spend most of our time inside of a dry heated home.

The final thing is eating a balanced diet. Lean meats, or beans (if you don't eat meat), lowfat dairy, whole grains and plenty of fruits and vegetables should be a part of your daily intake. All of these things will also keep you healthy during these cold winter months.

If we take a step back to our last Catch 22 issue, I put in a scenario for discussion. While I got very few responses, this was a hot topic at our last regional faculty meeting. How do I retain information and skills obtained from the individual instruction? Make sure you take a recorder with you to the session so you can hear the changes you made during the session and remember the exercises that pertained to those changes. Take a PVI with someone else or ask to observe theirs, if you'll reciprocate, of course. You not only learn from your own PVI you'll also learn from your fellow member. Make sure you practice, practice, practice. We tend to revert back to what we feel is normal.



## Regional Team News.....

Shirley VanDeWege  
Events Coordinator

It's hard to believe as I start to type this that by the time we see each other next it will be 2009. Where did this year go? I hope for all of you that 2008 was a Good Year and 2009 will even be Better.

**January 23<sup>rd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 - Winter School:** We will be at the **Comfort Inn & Suites North Star Conference Center**, 5025 County Hwy V, DeForest, WI 53532 - (608) 846-9100. **Cut off date for reservations is 1/12/09.** After that date you might not be able to acquire a room at our special rate. Remember to let the reservation personnel know you are with Region 22, SA. The hotel is about 1 block after you turn off of County Hwy V on the left hand side of the road. We have the entire meeting room space ALL weekend. The **Sleeping Room Rate is \$79.00 plus tax**, with up to 4 people only in a room. All rooms have microwave, refrigerator, coffee maker, iron and ironing board and an extra TV in the bathroom. An FYI the Double-Double rooms have queen beds for added sleeping space. There are several swimming pools and a hot tub. Our faculty is Darlene Rogers. See Heather's article for more about Darlene.

**September 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 - Fall School:** We will be at a **New Location - Ramada in Stevens Point**. 1501 North Point Drive, Stevens Point, WI 54481, (800) 998-2311 or (715) 341-1340. The hotel **Sleeping Room Rate is \$72.00 per night, plus tax**, with up to 4 people in a room only. **Cut off date will be 08/19/2009.** All sleeping rooms have coffee maker, iron and ironing board. Our rooms will all be remodeled by Fall School. I will have more information as this event gets closer. We will also be at the Ramada for Fall School in 2010.

**May 14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009: Mid-America Region 22 Competition-** Will be at the **Cedar Rapids Marriott**. Just an FYI for future use the hotel name is exactly as I just typed it. Address is 1200 Collins Road, NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402, (319) 393-6600. Our overflow hotel is the Baymont Inn and Suites, 1220 Park Place, NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402, (319) 378-8000. The Baymont is located directly behind the Marriott. We will have 2 shuttle buses at the Marriott and 1 at the Baymont. The shuttle bus from the Baymont will run until 11PM at night. I believe the shuttle at the Marriott runs all night. We have all the 220 sleeping rooms at the Marriott and all the 85 rooms at the Baymont. **Sleeping Room rate is \$109.00 per night with up to 4 people in a room, plus Sales Tax at 12%. This price includes Hot Buffet Breakfast at both hotels.** Jo Wyatt - CC, Carol Pann - CRC, and I met in Cedar Rapids from Sun. Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> through Wed the 26<sup>th</sup>. We really spent many, many hours getting everything lined up for competition. You will be happy to know the following: Harmony Mall will be in one good sized room this year. **Photos for both competitions will be taken off stage.** We will be having beautiful draping behind us this year and the

time needed to position ALL our members as we want with out any microphones in the way. We will again have monitors for the Quartet Contest. Our pattern for competition is a little longer then we wanted it to be this year due to our largest non-ballroom room being given away for a wedding on Saturday night. The good thing is the walking pattern is at least half the distance as the past two years.

**\*\*\*VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION** for all Directors and Choreographers as well as chorus members is the following: **the ceiling height in the ballroom at the Marriott is 16 feet high.** The RMT and the CSC wants to give you enough notice on this due to choreography position and moves. I did mention this in the Fall Catch 22 also. We will be at this same location and same hotels for competition in 2010. I would like to suggest if you like to shop and like Amish work, plus lots of other gift ideas, that you arrive on Thursday and visit the Amana Colonies. They are located only 20 miles from the hotel and a GREAT way to spend part or all of a day. They also have some good places to enjoy lunch while shopping. I have 50 sleeping rooms reserved for Thursday night, so if you might want to do this please let me know as I will have to keep close watch on the sleeping room count.

**Competition 2011 and 2012:** We will be in **Appleton, WI at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel**. We will be at one hotel in Appleton. Our actual competition will be at the **Performing Arts Center**, directly across the street from the hotel. More to come as we get closer.

Right now I'm working on Winter School, Membership Leader's Workshop in June, and the Quartet Workshop in November. I'm open for suggestions. See you at Winter School - Remember Catch the Excitement and Pass It On!

Carol Pann  
Regional Convention Chair

It may be the end of 2008, but after my recent trip to Cedar Rapids, and visiting the Marriott Hotel, I am really excited and looking forward to May 2009 and the competition in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. I will be sending out information sheets to each chorus and registered quartet in Region 22. If there are any quartets that will be competing in Region 22, but are not registered as yet, please let me know as soon as possible so I can include you in my mailings.



## Beautiful Sounds.....

### Blue Plate Special

By Doreen Giesfeldt

Did our quartet just lay around while half of us were in Hawaii? No! There was no lolly gaggin! (Where did that word come from?). We still got together because it was an opportunity to duet. We also had time to talk about the two that weren't there. It occurs to me that most of the fun of quarteting is the weekly get togethers. We do enjoy performing, buying clothes and eating, but singing every week just makes you feel good...and yes we missed our other friends and hoped they would bring us presents. They did! So aloha and "have yourself a merry little Christmas" and "Happy Holidays"...and keep your resolution of starting a quartet in the New Year.

### Cooler by the Lake

By Kristine Hincz

The "**Cooler by the Lake**" ladies are enjoying this holiday season singing throughout the community at various events. Martha, Penny, Kristine, and "Pitchpipe Linda" wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with good health, happiness and harmony, in four parts, of course!

### Whistle Junction

By Sue Neuls

**Whistle Junction** would like to introduce our newest member! Her name is Joan Albrecht and she sings tenor. Joan most recently sang with the **Melodeers Chorus** in Region 3 and is currently CAL. We did some voice swapping in June and our lead, Dona, ended up moving to bass and our tenor, Elly, to lead. Sue is still singing baritone. This swap meant having to say goodbye to our good friend Libby who sang bass with **Whistle Junction** all these years. With the changed voice parts, and the addition of Joan as tenor, we have an all new sound. This has been a very interesting experience and we hope you'll like the new **Whistle Junction** sound as well as we do. We hope to see everyone at the Winter School.



### NRG!

By Jennifer Kelliher

Good thing we have a lot of **NRG!** because we've been quite busy this fall! **NRG!** would like to send huge thanks to all of Region 22 for their gifts and encouragement on our road to Hawaii. It was so great to hear all of our friends from Regions 3 and 22 cheering us on while we waited behind the curtains to take the stage. For Debi (bass) and Jen (tenor), it was their first appearance on the International stage with a quartet. What a thrill! We had a great experience and can't wait for the chance to do it all again!

No sooner did we return from Hawaii and it was on with the show(s)! We had a lot of fun at the **Center Point Chorus** show and afterglow, as well as the **Riverport Chorus** cabaret. We were excited to meet Debi's home chorus, **Midwest Crossroad**, at their show on December 6th. We'll finish the year off with some Christmas caroling. If you happen to be flying through O'Hare on December 18<sup>th</sup>, be sure to listen for us! Then we'll be strolling the Cedar Creek Settlement in Cedarburg on December 19<sup>th</sup> for their "Taste of Christmas" event. Finish up your shopping and enjoy some live entertainment at the same time!

Keep us in mind as you are planning entertainment on your upcoming shows and cabarets. We would love to perform for you! Contact Heather at 414-803-8624 or email [hjohnston@wi.rr.com](mailto:hjohnston@wi.rr.com). Happy Holidays to you all and we'll see you at the Winter School!





## Chorus Notes

Cedar Harmony  
By Cyndi Gidley

We're polishing up our old "jingle bells" in preparation for performances at two malls, a Hospice Christmas party, a community dinner in a nearby town, the Waverly Windows Night, and whatever else comes our way. It's such an exciting time of year!

**Cedar Harmony Chorus** was proud to have the most members in attendance at the Fall Music School in Dubuque! It was a great time of learning and fun. Hopefully there will be good attendance at the Winter music school in January, too! We're also proud to have had two of our quartets, **Harmony Rox** and **Plezant Company**, attend Queens College! They brought back a wealth of great ideas to share with the chorus. We also welcome **Pam Craun** as our newest member! We're hoping that the caroling in the malls will drum up more interest and possible new members.....NEVER can have too many!

**Cedar Harmony** wishes a Blessed Christmas to each of you. Avoid the flu, don't overeat, beware of the ice, and whatever you do.....keep singing!!!!

Center Point Chorus  
By Marcy Kirsch

When the curtain opened on "Harmony Beyond the Moon," in Sentry Theater on November 15th, members of **Center Point Chorus** felt as if they had "hit the boards" running. When the curtain closed amid applause from an enthusiastic audience, they turned to each other and smiled. "We pulled it off," was the consensus.

We had a number of hurdles to overcome before show time. To begin with, we were without a chorus director. With two small children and a full-time teaching job, **Kira Morrissey** had reluctantly submitted her resignation. But hark! Into the void came **Roger** and **Kathleen Harris**, former directors of Center Point, who agreed to see us through the show. Their effectiveness was evident. Many comments focused on how well we sang. The fact that we learned our music is credited to baritone **Peggy Urness** who, with a complicated computer program, provided each member with precise notes of show songs. Lead, **Laurel Hoeth**, provided typed sheets of the words of the music. On several occasions, lead, **Fran Peplinski**, served as assistant director. Tenor, **Mary Skyland**, was precise in presenting choreography that she and baritone, **Sheila Tang**, had fashioned.

Though last year was tenor, **Ginny Sojka's**, first show, she bravely stepped forward to embrace the job of show chair and certainly adding to the quality and the sparkle of the show were the five new members who set an ambitious pace for the rest of us veterans. They are leads **Robin Madson**, **Dawn Mews**, **Shannon Steinback**; bass **Sharon Paulsen**, and tenor **Mary Skyland**.

The scripted part of the show, a love story between Jupiter Man and Valley Girl was written by lead, **Marcy Kirsch**. Jupiter Man's costume design of "four arms and blue spiked hair" was crafted by lead, **Laurel Hoeth**, and former baritone **LuAnn Dickinson Hamilton**.

A crowd-pleaser was the performance of the **Center Point Sweetettes**, singers aged four to twelve years who have caught the fever of four-part harmony from their mothers, grandmothers and aunts who are **Center Point Chorus** members. The audience just couldn't get enough of the invited guest quartets, **NRG!**, 2008 Sweet Adeline's Region 22 first-place medalists, and **CounterPoint**, a collegiate male barbershop quartet from northeastern Wisconsin.

Confusing to the Stevens Point ticket buyers however, were posters and advertisements in our area for the Marshfield show which was scheduled for November 15th, the same date as Center Point's show. Ironically, tickets for Marshfield's show were on sale at Mitchell Piano Works whose founder, Ted Mitchell, was the founder of **Center Point Chorus** more than 30 years ago.

**Stateline Harmony...**  
**A woman's acappella barbershop chorus is looking for an enthusiastic, energetic director, male or female, who is willing to inspire musical excellence.**  
**Chorus meets weekly in Janesville, Wisconsin.**  
**Compensation is negotiable.**  
**Apply on line to Carol at**  
**[cspharmony4all@wildblue.net](mailto:cspharmony4all@wildblue.net) or call**  
**815-289-5628.**

Opus 2000  
By Kristine Hincz

"How Sweet It Is", **OPUS 2000's** tribute to Sweetest Day was a great success. So, perhaps it's more appropriate to say How Sweet It Was! We loved having "**Undecided**" perform for us on stage and at our cast party. The chorus has once again dusted off our favorite Christmas tunes and we are coordinating our holiday performances around the community. We were excited to produce a Christmas CD for 95.7FM in Milwaukee. This radio station has been featuring the music of various choral organizations throughout southeastern Wisconsin on their "My Hometown Music" holiday segments.

We've got exciting news about one of our dedicated members. **Judy Clary**. On November 22nd, she, and her daughter, Katrina, became American citizens! Judy is from Alberta, Canada and has been living in Wisconsin since 1999. She discovered **OPUS 2000** and Sweet Adelines has become an important part of her life. Congratulations Judy! We're all proud of you!

We're loving our new rehearsal home in the Yorkville Elementary School in Union Grove, Wisconsin. The school's personnel make us feel at home...it's as if we've been there for years! Jarmela and the OPUS 2000 ladies wish all of our sisters in harmony a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## Chorus Notes

Crosstown Harmony  
By Carolyn Senzig

I'm sitting and gazing out the front window watching the snow drift through the tree branches and cling to everything in sight, making a winter wonderland. To my side is the fireplace shimmering with a warm, reflective and ever changing amber glow. Yes, it's winter in Wisconsin. However, the color of the fireplace takes me back...to not very many weeks ago. I saw that same reflective amber glow, but it was radiating from a gorgeous sunset behind Diamond Head on the island of O'ahu. There was a balmy breeze blowing through my hair as my chorus friends and I enjoyed our sunset cruise just off the Honolulu shore. That was just one of many beautiful feelings, sights, and fun activities that the **Crosstown Harmony** members were able to enjoy by traveling to Hawaii to attend and compete at the 62<sup>nd</sup> annual Sweet Adeline Convention and Competition. Many of us made it a trip of a lifetime....some with our very best and long time friends, and some with our significant other. Would we want to return? You bet! Is there more to see and do? Absolutely! Did you know that a return to Hawaii is on the schedule for the 2013 international convention? Mmmm. Something to think about.

**Crosstown Harmony** also had a wonderful trip of preparation, for our performance in 'paradise', since we won the 2007 chorus championship. Our director, **Brad Charles**, was our weekly teacher, our task master when we needed it, but most of all our motivator and biggest fan. He helped us focus in especially on the Expression and Showmanship categories this year and we improved a good number of points over our Las Vegas appearance in these categories....quite a step up at the international level! As always, every chorus on the international stage has been improving their skills so the upward climb in placement is a challenging one. However, we have taken a step forward on our trip of evolving from a solid performing regional chorus to an international competitor that will be recognized by our dedication to improving in our craft in all categories. Brad and our performance team are already planning more steps in our journey starting right in January and we'll be ready! A special 'thank you' goes out to our Region 22 friends who joined us in Hawaii, cheering us on, and complimenting us on the wonderfully entertaining package we presented.

As I turn back to thoughts of winter in Wisconsin, **Crosstown's** small group has been performing for several holiday events, and for those of you in the local Milwaukee area, you may have heard them at various times on the Christmas station 95.7. They also performed for some organizational Christmas parties and the entire chorus performed at Holy Hill on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Audience members from these events were anxious to know where they could hear us again. This is the perfect time to mention our upcoming Dinner Show at Serb Herb in Milwaukee on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Now that will be special! Wishing everyone a very blessed holiday season 'till we meet again.



Fox Valley  
By Vicki Krause

For your reading pleasure – as we all know, sometimes the life of a Sweet Adeline can be termed "interesting" at best, and we just never know what quirky experiences might come into our lives, but our own **Dawn Miller** just a few days ago, sent us all this e-mail which I have to say had most of us laughing out loud. Here it is – in Dawn's own words.

"Hi everyone, I have a story for you and maybe you can offer some help. Today while I was at Angie's making wreaths etc, my son called me and left a very cryptic message on my phone. Well, when I got home he was at my house, and I asked him what the message was, as it was rather garbled. All I had heard were a few words like "chicken" and "police" and "I'm not sure what to do". Well, I asked him, and he said that when he was taking Lyn (fiancée) to work, there was a chicken running around on Winneconne Ave here in Neenah. Well, he dropped her off at work, and headed back. The chicken was still running around the streets of Neenah. He did not want to see it become road kill, so he parked over by Walgreens and proceeded to give chase to the chicken (45 minutes worth). A teenaged girl stopped to help him. They finally corralled it under a bush, (by the way, you can have chickens in town) - anyway, he picked it up and put it in his jacket to keep it in check. Meanwhile the hen must have been nervous, as it decided then and there to lay an egg in his jacket!!! (it is now in my refrigerator). So, he called the police, and they could not help him other than to direct him to the animal shelter. They were no help either, not being prepared for chickens. He actually then went knocking on doors to see if he could find the owners. The people he found that had chickens told him that it was not theirs, as theirs were all the fancy colored ones. This is just a white hen. very fat and very docile, and very fluffy - a friendly chicken, actually. So, Randy and he put it out back in our shed...Randy being a city boy, not knowing what to do with it either. When I got home it was roosting on an upended piece of patio furniture. It let me pick it up, and it really is a nice chicken as far as chickens go. I put it in an extra dog kennel, with straw, and covered it up in the garage with a heat lamp, and some birdseed and water, as I don't have any corn to give her. Her name is Henrietta, for lack of better ideas. I am willing to collect the eggs, if she is so inclined to lay them, but I would prefer her to go and be with her own people. My question is, does anybody out there have chickens, or do you know someone who has chickens, and would like a free beautiful chicken????? It really is very tame. I would hate to see it end up as KFC. If you have or know someone who would be willing to take her, please email me, and I will bring her to rehearsal Tuesday. I just laugh at the idea of my 30 year old son running around the streets of Neenah after this chicken. I seem to recall that he has a habit of corralling wayward animals, as he helped the neighbors out at my moms farm chase down a goat that went running down (Hwy) 47 when he was 18 or so... please help if you can!!! Dawn"

And like all good stories during the Holiday Season...this one has a happy ending. Henrietta the wayward chicken moved to her new home on Thanksgiving Day thanks to **Kathy Buss**, who has a family member who is willing to provide a home for wayward chickens!!! The Foxy Ladies would like wish ALL of our Sweet Adelines "sisters in harmony" a wonderful holiday season....and a New Year filled with song and fellowship!!



## Chorus Notes

### Heart O'Wisconsin

By Jane Fait

Summer and Autumn have come and gone. Our chorus had a very busy year with so many performances. One performance we enjoyed with enthusiasm was "Locals on Stage". ...a variety show to benefit the Occupational Development Center in Marshfield and Wisconsin Rapids. The support was awesome. We had two shows with full attendance and our new director, **Pat Delisuio** is doing a super job in that position.

Again our cream puff fundraisers were a big hit selling vanilla and cranberry puffs, especially at the Warrens Cranberry Fest. We recently held our show "In the News" on November 15<sup>th</sup> and our special guests were **4 Guyz in Dinner Jackets**, a four-part men's vocal group that sings all sorts of music in a very entertaining way. They are real audience pleasers!

**Heart O' Wisconsin** wishes our Sweet Adeline sisters a safe, fun-filled, and blessed Christmas, and a prosperous and happy New Year in 2009. Keep on singing in Harmony!

### Milwaukee Showcase

By Susan Mattmiller

Turn your radio on! Milwaukee Showcase Chorus has two songs playing on WRIT, 95.7 in Milwaukee. It's been thrilling to hear our songs played over the air. Our holiday spirit doesn't stop there, though. This is certainly our "most wonderful time of the year" when it comes to spreading Christmas cheer via live performances in Milwaukee area nursing homes and at other community events. To all our sister choruses, we'd like to wish all of you health and happiness in the upcoming year!

### River City Sound

Denise Gorski

Just ask any **River City Sound** member what she's thankful for this holiday season and the number one answer will be **OUR NEW DIRECTOR!! Joan Boutilier** became our director late this summer. These past few months have just been magical. Joan is so talented as both a performer and as a director. Her positive approach to everything makes it so easy for us to want to do our very best. It is a great relationship. She may have passed her reign as queen on to **Moxie Ladies** in Hawaii, but she is always our queen.

We just had a very successful show called, Sweet. We tried a new concept this year. It was a dessert fantasia. Kudos to our show team! Not only were our members showcasing their musical talents but also showing off their creativity in designing their own table and dessert to go with it. It was a huge success. Our audience is already asking about our next show.

**River City Sound** would like to say a huge thank you to our quartet, **Limelight**. They recently told us that they are retiring.

They've had a very successful 10 year experience together and have taken home many medals from quartet competitions. You have made us so proud! We love you! Now you get to join us in the audience to cheer on our newest quartets, **JaMpAcKeD** and **Exuberance**.

We'd like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season. Enjoy the spirit, the love and the joy of being with friends and family. Share a song along the way to celebrate the season.

### Spirit of the Lakes

By Midge Hartsuch

Sleigh bells are still ringing in my ears from when we sang for a Celebration for Seniors in a lovely church in McHenry, IL, a tree lighting ceremony in Delavan, WI, a Christmas Cabaret made even more festive with gift-wrapped boxes for raffle prizes, and a Christmas show that we shared with the **Country Gentlemen** to benefit our meeting place, historic Horticultural Hall in Lake Geneva! Then we relaxed with a dinner party with our chorus friends, with singing (of course), and grab-bag gifting. We sent live, seasons-greetings performances (two songs each) to customers, friends, and relatives via cell phone, a fundraiser and singing event that has proven quite successful for us. In January we will have a coaching session with **Darlene Rogers**.

We congratulate the **Melodeers** on their fifth blue ribbon and, we are proud to say, one of the singers, **Kay Franzen**, is a dual-member of our chorus. About ten of our women were in Hawaii, and many of us at home watched the marvelous web-cast of the contest. Needless to say, we were yelling for and supporting our Region 22 contestants! I almost felt like I was there, except for the 89 degree weather, the sand and the surf!

Our co-directors, **Joe and Kay Liles**, missed a couple of weeks in November due to some health issues for Joe. It's good to have them back!! Our fine associate director, **Dottie Kaufman**, masterfully handled the two rehearsals and the chorus performance for the tree lighting ceremony in Delavan.

We're looking forward to great times in 2009 and hope to see many of you at the January school!!



Joe and Kay Liles want to express their deep appreciation for the huge outpouring of cards, phone calls and emails from Region 22 friends, quartets, and choruses after Joe's heart attack in November.

What a wonderful family of singers in Region 22.



## Chorus Notes

Stateline Harmony  
By Carol Pann

**Stateline Harmony Chorus** is enjoying its new rehearsal site. If any of you are ever in the Janesville area on a Monday night, come and visit us at our rehearsal. It doesn't seem like it is already December. I guess the snow we had the other day proves that winter is upon us. Now, as Christmas time approaches, the **Stateline Harmony Chorus** finds itself busy at area nursing homes spreading the sounds of the Christmas season. Merry Christmas to all of Region 22 and a blessed 2009.

Westosha Lakes  
By Pat Riegel

**WLC** has been very busy this fall doing what we love to do—singing! A variety of performances have kept our post-competition momentum going. That momentum launched us into a fun-filled cabaret. The hall was a-rocking, and we, along with our guests, concluded the night dancing to the tunes of Antioch's Lakes Area Swing Band. Officially joining our chorus at her first cabaret was **Nicole Heyl-Horst**, an energetic kindergarten teacher. She brings both dramatic expertise and a terrific lead voice to our chorus. We welcome and enjoy her enthusiasm. Immediately following the cabaret, Hawaii beckoned six of our members. Off they went to cheer on many of our Sweet Adeline sisters. Team leader, **Chrystl Olson**, writes the following about their journey.

"Aloha!" What a wonderful time we had in Hawaii. The magic of the islands seized us the minute we landed. Yes, we all agree that Hawaii is truly a paradise—the warm, friendly people—the gorgeous, natural beauty—the beautiful native melodies. We made many memories, but the one I shall remember fondly is listening to my sister, Polly, strumming her authentic Hawaiian ukulele to the rhythm of the pounding waves. We accompanied her in song and harmonized until the sun slid into the ocean. The international contest was fantastic! Wow, it's amazing how much preparation and planning goes into every performance. **Crosstown Harmony Chorus** and **NRG!** made Region 22 very proud. As my flight departed the islands, I couldn't help but think about next year's international competition. I imagined a long, long caravan of Region 22 members heading to one particular destination—Nashville! It's possible. I know it is. Just think of the fun we'd have!

Now that our hula gals are back, we're busy practicing our holiday package. Santa has arrived early this year in the form of prospective members: **Krista Koske**, **Joan Bornkamp**, and **Gail Spencer**. Speaking of the holidays. We wish you all the happiest of holiday seasons.



Yahara River  
By Sharon Kittle

Well here it is December already and we're in full swing with our holiday performances. We also have some great news. We outgrew our last rehearsal location! Yes, we needed more space, and that's a good thing. So after an extensive search we are graciously being welcomed at Peace Lutheran Church in the "Only Waunakee in the World". We still will be practicing on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., but now our new address is 701 Century Avenue, Waunakee, WI.

We have had a couple of people join us recently and are awaiting further information for finalization of membership. **Laura Cotting** has already passed her audition and will be submitting her paperwork shortly, and joining our Bass Section.

We started a Holiday Chorus, since that's how we seem to gain most of our new members, and had three people join us for the Holidays. One of them, **Diane Skokan**, is anxiously awaiting her chance to audition and join our Lead Section. Wow, she's learning her music very fast, and she's comfy in the front row already.

We've already started to receive coaching and had "**Betty**" **Lynda** come and coach us on our ballad in November and gave us some really great information on what we could do to "tweak" our uptune as well. We'll be seeing her again for our retreat in February, as well as **Paula Steimel**. We can't wait.

Finally, our Silver Anniversary is coming up next year, so we are looking forward to again performing at the beautifully refurbished Stoughton Opera House. What an awesome venue for a performance. It will be October 10, 2009. Hope you will put it on your calendar.

### Ever Heard of Darlene Rogers?

Once you hear her presentations,  
you'll never forget her name  
AND

she is our clinician at the upcoming Winter School!!

- ❖ Darlene Rogers is the director of the Texas Harmony Chorus and a Certified International Faculty member.
- ❖ She has presented exciting and info-packed classes at IES.
- ❖ She is the vocal coach for the award-winning director and Queen, Dale Syverson.
- ❖ She has worked with International Quartet Champs, Rumors, in the production of the "Sing, Baby, Sing!" vocal production CDs.

**Don't miss the opportunity to learn from Darlene Rogers.**

Sign up for the Winter School today!!

## YOUR 2008 – 2009 REGIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### REGIONAL EVENTS

JAN 23-25, 2009 CATCH IT-PASS IT-OWN IT - DEFOREST, WI  
FEB 7, 2009 RIVERPORT DIVA QUEST  
MAR 28, 2009 CROSSTOWN HARMONY DINNER SHOW  
MAR 29, 2009 SPIRIT OF THE LAKES CABARET  
OCT 10, 2009 YAHARA RIVER SHOW

### INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

OCT 19-23, 2010 SEATTLE, WASHINGTON  
OCT 18-22, 2011 HOUSTON, TEXAS  
OCT 30-NOV 3, 2012 DENVER, COLORADO  
NOV 5-9, 2013 HONOLULU, HAWAI

### **CHECK THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL WEB SITES FOR MORE INFO**

MAY 15-17, 2009 REGIONAL CONVENTION/COMPETITION - CEDAR RAPIDS, IA  
JULY 22-26, 2009 DIRECTORS' SEMINAR / JUDGE TRAINING  
SEPT 17-19, 2009 FALL REGIONAL

APR 22-25, 2010 REGIONAL CONVENTION/COMPETITION - CEDAR RAPIDS, IA  
APR 7-10, 2011 REGIONAL CONVENTION/COMPETITION - APPLETON, WI  
APR 19-22, 2012 REGIONAL CONVENTION/COMPETITION - APPLETON, WI

*Join Mid-America Region 22 for the 2009 Winter School!*

# Catch it! Own it! Pass it!

Expand your sound and gain confidence in your singing!

Friday-Saturday  
January 23-24, 2009  
Comfort Inn and Suites  
DeForest, Wisconsin

with International  
Faculty  
Darlene Rogers



Darlene Rogers is the director of the Texas Harmony Chorus and Certified International Faculty member.

## REGISTRATION

(includes lunch on Saturday)

\$40 (early bird, on or before January 15, 2009)

\$50 (after January 15, or at the door)

DCP testing, PVI's, Personal Posture Consultations and quartet coaching will be available from the Regional Faculty. Contact Heather Johnston at 414-803-8624 or [hjohnston@wi.rr.com](mailto:hjohnston@wi.rr.com) to schedule your appointment!

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

#### Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>

Registration opens:

6:00 PM

Classes:

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

#### Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>

Registration opens:

7:30 AM

Classes:

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Crazy Quartet Contest:

8:00 PM - ?

***DON'T FORGET YOUR BADGE HOLDER!***

HOTEL RESERVATIONS:  
 Comfort Inn and Suites  
 5025 County Highway V  
 Deforest, WI 53532  
 (608) 846-9100

Reserve your room at the Comfort Inn and Suites by calling (608) 846-9100. Rates are \$79 per night, 4 persons in a room. (ask for the "Region 22 Sweet Adelines" rate). Deadline to book your room at this rate is January 12<sup>th</sup>!

Visit the hotel website at  
<http://www.northstarconference.com>



Questions? Contact Shirley VanDeWege, Region 22 EVC at  
 815-385-5265 or [sgrma4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sgrma4@sbcglobal.net)

(detach here and return with your payment)

**Catch it! Own it! Pass it!**

**Region 22 2009 Winter Regional School  
 REGISTRATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Chorus/CAL: \_\_\_\_\_ Voice Part: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT ENCLOSED:**

- Registration (adults) \$40.00 (by January 12)
- Registration (adults) \$50.00 (after January 12)
- Registration (YWIH) \$20.00

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND TO:** Shirley VanDeWege  
 306 Kent Road  
 McHenry, IL 60051-3411  
[sgrma4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sgrma4@sbcglobal.net)



