



CATCH 22



SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL REGION 22 WINTER 2011 - 2012

REGION #22 "EXCITEMENT" IN HOUSTON!

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CONGRATULATIONS TO PREMIERE, NRG!,
CROSTOWN HARMONY & DOUBLE TREBLE
REPRESENTING REGION #22 WITH EXCITING
PERFORMANCES AT THE INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION IN HOUSTON!

*CROSTOWN HARMONY WITH 41 COMPETING
MEMBERS PLACED 31ST WITH A SCORE OF 1056!*

*PREMIERE PLACED 26TH WITH A SCORE OF 1136 - A
NEW "BEST" FOR THEM!*

*NRG! PLACED 44TH WITH A SCORE OF 1013 IN THEIR
FINAL COMPETITION TOGETHER!*

*DOUBLE TREBLE PLACED 12TH IN THEIR FIRST RISING
STAR CONTEST!*

(See comments from Crosstown Harmony, Premiere and NRG!
in the Chorus and Quartet News in this issue.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO 2012 INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS!

QUARTET: MARTINI

CHORUS: MELODEERS

DIVISION A CHORUS: ALBA SHOW

DIVISION AA CHORUS: METRO

NASHVILLE

RISING STAR: THE FOURCE

NEWS FROM THE REGIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

MJ Mortilarro – Team Coordinator

I cannot believe that we are in the New Year.....but you know what they say, time flies when you are having fun!

Looking back at 2011 we have to smile.....there were many successful chorus events, the membership took advantage of every educational opportunity and contest was a thrill as we set records and increased scores. Then the announcement was made.....Region 22 is being disbanded.

I can honestly say I wasn't surprised that the International foot print was going to change....after all, there was a task force looking at Regional Boundaries and at the same time another task force was looking at Contest. As the smallest region in the organization I knew that we would be impacted. However, I never imagined that we would be split four ways.

I want to assure you that the only reason we were split was membership numbers! We are financially sound and all other indicators have us going in the right direction. In my heart I believe that we have been split to spread our unique brand of excitement to Regions 2,3,5 and 6.

I look forward to 2012 to make more lasting memories for Region 22. The next 15 months will be that of celebration for all the members of 22! We will welcome former members, present members and all the new members to Region 22 with the Internationally driven membership drive.

What do I say to all of 22? Let's turn up the excitement!

Happy New Year
MJ

Heather Johnston – Education Coordinator

I can't believe that 2011 is behind us and we are heading into 2012! Time sure does fly by. I know that December/January is mid-year in our Sweet Adeline year but this is always a good time of year to take a look back at where we have been and what we have accomplished and where we may have fallen short. Then look forward at our upcoming plans, are they realistic, are we still on track for where we are headed, do we need to tweak them?

To help educate the individual members of our Region we offer a FREE faculty visit to each chorus in the Region. Several choruses have already taken advantage of the opportunity (Heart O'Wisconsin, Red Cedar Sounds and Riverport), don't miss out on this opportunity! The visit can be customized to fit your specific needs. Contact me now to set up your visit!

Carolyn Senzig – Membership Coordinator

As part of our Regional One Voice One Message plan, as we head into that wonderful month of January and our worldwide marketing of our chapters and our affiliation with Sweet Adelines International, Rhonda (Puntney) Gould, our Regional Marketing Coordinator, and I hosted a webinar on November 30th. During this event, Rhonda updated those in attendance, via the webinar or conference call-in, about the changes on the Sweet Adeline website that make designing and personalizing brochures, business cards, postcards, etc. soooooo very easy for us....AND Rhonda is offering to help any chapter in designing the marketing materials they might still need for their January membership drive. What a wonderful offer of helping hands. Thanks Rhonda!

Those involved in the webinar shared some of the activities that they have already implemented within their chapters and their plans for the guest night(s) in January and beyond! Remember that you are encouraged to partner with other chapters in your area to add to the fun and share the planning. Unique ideas for this effort are encouraged.

If your chapter hasn't worked out your membership drive efforts for beyond January, please submit to me no later than February 1, 2012 in order to be eligible for up to **\$1050** in awards. Don't forget to utilize the REAL GUIDE TO MEMBERSHIP GROWTH available online on the SAI website for all sorts of ideas to get all members involved, develop creative marketing plans, how to plan your guest nights (which really can be every rehearsal night), and how to really grow your chorus.

Hoping that your Christmas Season was joyful and that your Membership development months ahead are exciting and successful!

A Warm Regional Welcome!

By Carolyn Senzig, Membership Coordinator

I am happy to welcome new ladies to our wonderful barbershop harmony hobby per recent Sweet Adeline International regional reports. I know that the Christmas season must have been filled with the unique sounds that only their Sweet Adeline chorus' could have offered. These new members will be so ready for our competition season just ahead. How exciting!

Center Point
Laura Nieland

Sound of Madison
Jennifer Jones

Opus 2000
Emily Walters
Megan Walters

Menominee River
Leone Bust
Linda Sieman

Fox Valley
Julie Haywood

Spirit of the Lakes
Kailyn Mather

Cedar Sounds
Gail Thomas

Crosstown Harmony
Katelyn Haas

Kay Liles – Director Coordinator

DECEMBER . . .

All of our wonderful Region 22 directors are loving this time of year. There are beautiful songs to sing and perform. It seems we have all had successful shows, cabarets or sing outs. Our audiences love this kind of music as well as the choruses, and the weather has helped us out this year too.

Now on to JANUARY . . .

Contest music! How good can it get . . . retreats, coaching and working really hard. Don't we all love this kind of work?

A little reminder, speaking of contest, is there is a new Competition Handbook available. The directors might want to get one from SAI or you can print it out. Just follow this link: <http://www.sweetadelineintl.org/pdf/competitionhandbook.pdf> There are major content changes and if you want to get the hard copy, contact Carol Swartz at carol@sweetadelineintl.org or 1-800-992-7464.

The international membership drive is also in January, so let's get our guests as hooked on barbershop as we are.

RHONDA PUNTNEY GOULD – MARKETING COORDINATOR

Using Smart Phone Technology at Rehearsal

Many of us have discovered that the digital voice recorders provide individual singers with a clearer sound when we are recording ourselves during rehearsals for evaluation. The DVRs are easy to use once you're used to them and enable you to send the evaluation recording mp3 file to your section leader in the form of an email attachment.

Enter the smart phone.

It took my 15 year old to show me that there is a voice recorder app on my HTC Evo. The sound quality is just as good as my old Olympus DVR, and I'm able to email the recording to my section leader immediately (if it's good, that is) thanks to 3G or 4G networks. There are about half a dozen of us in Riverport now who regularly record using our cell phones.

Since this revelation, I have been on the lookout for phone features and apps that I can use for my Sweet Adeline activities.

My phone has an 8-megapixel camera, and I've found that I rarely use my digital camera any more. This means I have a camera on hand at all of our events. There is a video feature as well, which has come in handy to record choreography when I've needed a quick refresher.

I have found several free apps that have been helpful too. Musical Lite is a free app that contains a pitchpipe. Barbershop Tags has dozens of downloadable tags for you to try, though it's geared toward men. It's even sectioned into part-dominant units! The Old Capitol Chorus (BHS) in Iowa City, IA has their own app! Hmmm....now that is an excellent marketing device!

My suggestions here are strictly for Android phones. I just got an iPad, so it will be interesting to see what that can do as we gear up for competition!

JOAN MACHTEL – COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

I Had a Dream.....(maybe a nightmare)

It happened on the night following the RMT Conference in Houston TX, October 17-18, 2011. I usually don't remember dreams but this one was very vivid. My poor brain just didn't go to sleep. We had just learned the future of Region 22 and I had very mixed emotions. I could not get excited about dissolving Region 22. We worked so hard to keep our region up-to-date and "Excited." I woke up the next morning thinking about my dream - how Region 22 could be represented by everyone in the region at our last International contest, 2014. The winner of the 2013 Region 22 contest, our last Region 22 contest, will represent us but....here is the dream...

- All members of Region 22 applied for dual membership to the winning chorus.
- The winning chorus selected the contest music and sent out the music and learning tapes to all Region 22 Choruses to learn.
- Each chorus learned the music as written and sang on the tapes.
- Here comes the magic.
 - Region 22 held 6 Saturday rehearsals (monthly/bi-monthly???)
 - All participating directors were listed as co-directors and actually stepped out of the chorus at variously planned times to direct.
 - I dreamed all 550 of us were on the International Stage, everyone wearing a combination of Black and White for costumes.
 - The judging panel was agape watching us take the stage and did very little writing during our performance.
 - The end picture had all of our directors out front.
 - The dream ended with us doing our Regional songs for the Entertainment Package.....yes, we were in the top TEN!

Is this a pipe-dream??? Probably -where would they get enough risers for 550? Even the family choruses are limited to 250. BUT, could Region 22 present a chorus of 100-150??? What would there be to lose???

Your RMT is brainstorming on making our last year one of celebration of our accomplishments and friendships. Somehow, I think we will all carry 22 with us when we join our new regions.

Dream On – Joan Machtel, Region 22 COC

CAROL PANN - CRC

As many of you know the RMT had decided to look for a new CRC, but no one was interested in taking the position so the RMT has asked me to continue on as the CRC for Region 22 for the next two years. I am thrilled and happy to be back. On November 30 and December 1st some of the Convention Committee met in Appleton to begin preparations for the upcoming convention. One of the big changes will be the way the bulletins are distributed. I will be sending the bulletin to our Region 22 Webmaster and she will put the bulletins on the Region 22 Website. I will notify all Presidents, Team Coordinators, Team Leaders, Directors, Quartet Contacts, and Regional Personnel when the bulletins will be posted on the Region 22 Website. These people will be notifying their members that the bulletins are posted on the website and you will be able to view the bulletin on the Region 22 Website. I am currently working on the bulletin and hope to have it posted on the website by the middle of December. If there are any quartets who are not listed in the regional directory and are planning on competing please let me know as soon as possible. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at this year's convention.

**REGION 22 SENDS A HEARTFELT THANK YOU
TO SHIRLEY VANDEWEGE.**

Shirley has decided to resign as Events Coordinator and we wish her the very best.

For several years Shirley has made sure that contest went off without a hitch. She made sure our educational events were comfortable with the best sleeping room rate possible. And she did that with a smile....Thank you Shirley for all of your efforts.

EDUCATION CORNER

The 4th edition of our look at the judging categories covers the Showmanship Category. Straight from the Judging Category Description Book (JCDB) it states "The visual characteristics of the barbershop style include high energy, natural body movement (in addition to planned choreography), facial animation and unity of a contemporary visual appearance." I really can't say it better than what is written in the JCDB so much of this article is direct excerpts.

The showmanship judge assesses the performer's ability to incorporate the intangible art of showmanship into a performance that creates and communicates magic. She rewards a performance wherein:

- Thorough advance attention has been given to all details of preparation, so that no visual or music flaw creates such a distraction that the impact of the total performance is weakened
- An appropriate mood is established and the performer appears so relaxed, poised and self-assured that the audience is readily able to respond to that mood.
- The separate music and visual facets of the performance enhance and support each other, combining to create a total, entertaining performance.

The focus of the showmanship category is the evaluation of the salesmanship of the musical product. The showmanship category has been divided as follows: Performance 0-70 points and Preparation 0-30 points (per song). I think sometimes we focus too much on the preparation portion of the category because that is the portion that is most tangible (entrance/break/exit, costume, make-up, etc.). I think we also sometimes put too much emphasis on the "choreography" part of the category. Choreography is the planned body movement used in a musical performance. The purpose of choreography is to visually enhance, illustrate and add meaning to the musical presentation. Choreography should also enhance the musical product. The style with which gestures are executed must be compatible with the musical mood. Effective gestures also encompass a greater scope of motion than would be used to illustrate the same idea in one-to-one communication, because the dramatics required of an onstage performance are greater.

Selling the music is the primary focus of the showmanship category. Costuming, makeup and choreography are a few of the tools available to assist the performer in making the musical sale. And remember, there must be two parties to any sale: a seller and a buyer. In order to consummate the sale, the product - the music performed - must be of acceptable quality.

While the average audience is not sufficiently educated in the barbershop art form to recognize the finer details of an arrangement, the general public can distinguish between performances that are in tune and those that are not. The average audience can also recognize the basic qualities of musicianship that are inherent in a good musical performance. No amount of clever choreography, dazzling costumes or exquisite makeup can compensate for a lack of accuracy and basic musicality. Good vocal production techniques are an integral part of the musical product examined and evaluated by the showmanship judge.

If you are a director, quartet member, visual team leader, choreographer, section leader, assistant director, costume chair, make-up chair, etc. you need to read the JCDB. There is a wealth of information about the barbershop art form and offers us a clearer understanding of how our performances are adjudicated. Would you play any sport without reading the rule book and understanding the game?

Submitted by Heather Johnston, Education Coordinator

FALL SCHOOL - SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2012

The final Region 22 Fall School will be held September 21-22, 2012 at the Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc. To give you the biggest bang for your buck we will again offer classes beginning at 1 PM on Friday afternoon. Our musical faculty for the weekend is Vickie Dennis, Master Director of the Houston Horizon Chorus. Vicki is a dynamic and highly talented musical leader who uses her unique and positive style of teaching, coaching and managing skills toward the enhancement of the Barbershop style of music. We are also excited to offer classes with Toula Oberlies. Toula is a member of the Capital City Chorus in Region 4 and currently serves as Region 4's Events Coordinator. Toula has been a member of the International Faculty and visited Region 22 several years ago as faculty for our Ruth Uglow Leadership Seminar. This is going to be a jam-packed weekend that you won't want to miss.

Friday night we will wrap things up with Region 22's Annual Novelty Contest! This final rendition of our Novelty Contest will be bigger and better than ever so start putting together your act now and watch for more information in Spring!

Saturday night we will hold our annual Showcase of Champions with performances by our international bound competitors and highlighting the many successes of Region 22.

This is an event you will not want to miss, watch for more details and be sure to register early so you don't miss out on all the fun!

CHORUS NEWS

CROSSTOWN HARMONY (Submitted by Diane Dunk)

Crosstown Harmony wishes to thank all of you for your support as we represented Region 22 in Houston. We know what a privilege it is to be able to perform on the International stage. We are also very grateful that our assistant director, Kari Schwartz, was able to step up to direct us when our regular director, Karen Wysocky, was unable to due to the sudden loss of her father. It is truly an honor to be one of the 33 best Barbershop choruses in the world! We are also very proud of the quartets, NRG and Premiere, who represented the region so well.

As soon as we returned from International Competition, Crosstown began preparing for several Holiday Chorus events with our guest chorus members who practiced and performed with us. In addition to our Christmas show at Galilee Lutheran Church in Pewaukee on December 9th, Crosstown performed at San Camillo's Nursing Home in Milwaukee, Dave and Buster's restaurant in Wauwatosa and at Christ Church in Mequon. It was fun singing with Ally and Cydney Birmingham (daughters of Ilsa) and former Crosstown members Gail Bensing, Bekah Leinbach, Jan Albrecht and Norma Held.

We hope everyone in Region 22 had a wonderful holiday season, and that 2012 will bring many good things your way!

RIVERPORT (Submitted by Rhonda Puntney Gould)

The fall of 2011 has been one to remember for Riverport! We've been busy with a successful show, coaching with Kim Wonders and Heather Johnston, a wedding, and lots of performances!

We held our second Winter Wonderland Style Show and Wine Tasting event on Sunday, November 13 at the Radisson Inn in Pleasant Prairie. Guests were entertained by Riverport, By the Book, and Double Take, and viewed fashions from Coldwater Creek.



Riverport Chorus and By the Book Quartet sang during the ceremony at Rhonda and Mike Gould's wedding at the Racine Public Library on October 29, (see picture, left) and sang later at the reception as well (see picture below).



We were the featured entertainment at the Wisconsin Library Association annual conference on November 3 at the Hilton in Milwaukee. Our very own Rhonda Gould was president of the Wisconsin Library Association in 2011.

We've had several holiday performances already at Bass Pro Shop in Gurnee, IL, and Christ Lutheran Church in Paddock Lake, and a few private parties. We have performances scheduled for the city of Mequon tree lighting ceremony on December 16, a private event in Racine, Bass Pro Shop on December 24, and we'll be back at the WGTD live radio show in Kenosha on Saturday, December 10.

We have been gearing up for our 6th Annual Diva Quest, which will be held on Saturday, January 28 at the Waterford Union High School in Waterford, WI. Auditions will wrap up soon, and the participants will be announced immediately afterwards. Stay tuned!

And finally, check out our new website at www.riverportchorus.org!

Happy holidays from Riverport!

OPUS 2000 (Submitted by Kristine Hincz)

The OPUS ladies enjoyed performing on our November 19th show, "A Christmas Carol" (It Aint Dickens)! Thanks to Pat Kaspar, our Show Chair, and Jane Adams, our Script Writer/Producer, it was a great way to usher in this holiday season. Premiere, as our guest quartet, really made the season bright! Having our three new members on the risers was a thrill for all of us. We welcome Emily and Megan Walters and Kathy Jacobs who made us proud...learning new music and performing as if they were part of OPUS for years!!! For sure, they're Sweet Adelines through and through. Our show is over, we're caroling around the town, but we're not settling down for a long winter's nap, that's for sure, There's new music to learn, choreography to develop, and, well...you all know the rest! Jarmela and the ladies of OPUS 2000 extend their very best wishes for a great holiday season and a healthy, Happy New Year!

STATELINE HARMONY (Submitted by Carol Pann)

Stateline Harmony Chorus has been busy preparing our Christmas Chorus for performances. We were thrilled to have four guests come and sing with us for the Christmas season. Like everyone else we are looking forward to the holiday season, but not the cold weather that it brings, but every day brings us closer to spring and the convention in April. Holiday wishes to all of the choruses in Region 22.

HEART O' WISCONSIN

We were extremely busy during the past months getting ready for our "Christmas Concert" at the Marshfield Chestnut Center for the Arts on Sunday, December 11th. Our theme was "Christmas is a Feeling". Our very talented MC, Jim Freund, delivered the very fine script and the audience was entertained by a special male guest quartet "One Button Short" who delighted all attending! We were fortunate to have a quartet and double quartet within our chorus to add to the holiday spirit for our show.

Our chorus has been blessed with five new members in 2011 and would you believe they are all LEADS! Mary Brooker, Gail Hartle, Jo Anne Leonhard, Bea Stockheimer and Jamie Weinfurter – we welcomed them with open arms!

We owe a debt of gratitude to our fine Assistant Director, Mary Castner. She has diligently and effectively been working with the chorus to plan a very good show. Also thanks to Dottie Allen who helped coach our group and bring out the best music for us – the breath supports, dynamics and to blend with each other. It was extremely helpful!

A very healthy and blessed New Year in 2012 to all the choruses!

Submitted by Jane Fait

THE CREAM PUFF SURPRISED HER!

Our Sweet Adeline Chorus, Heart O' Wisconsin, sells cream puffs as a fund raiser, in vanilla and cranberry flavors. We have a custom-made food vending trailer and sell at several events each year. The most challenging is Warren's Cranberry Festival where we usually sell 5,000 over the three days. It takes nine ladies per shift to keep up with the customers. On the last afternoon the next person in line was a tall young man who requested one cranberry cream puff in a to-go box. That was not unusual, but when he quickly looked over his shoulder and slid a small black box through the window, our cream puff fund raisers changed forever.

The customer requested "Would you please put this in the top of the cream puff?" as he cracked open the small box. A multiple stone diamond ring winked at us! Stunned, I asked if it should go inside the puff. That was quickly vetoed by the young man and my co-worker. I made a small slit in the cream puff top and tucked the ring among the powdered sugar.

The ladies stuffing cream into shells watched him go around the side of the trailer to join a young woman on one of the few open patches of grass. There amidst several hundred people milling about the food vendors tucked between a building and the sidewalk, he went down on his knees and presented her the to-go box. In a few seconds he turned to our trailer with the thumbs-up sign. We cheered and she turned red upon finding out she had an audience. Of course, that made us want to sing! So we encouraged them to come to the front of the trailer when they were done eating. While whipping, assembling and dispensing cream puffs, handling money and doing dishes, someone dug out the pitch pipe and we debated what song to sing. A little later the couple made their appearance. We stopped the mixers and had customers wait while the nine of us bunched at the window to sing "I Don't Know Why I Love You Like I Do".

Our tired faces had special smiles as we wrapped up our fund raising event season!

Submitted by Ann Wegner

YAHARA RIVER (Submitted by Pat Lund)

You all will identify with this...

When you practice and practice, new and old songs to fit the theme, sell tickets, create costumes, submit to the make-up plan, design and implement sets/stage décor, do the technical rehearsals, play around with those butterflies that once again inhabit your tummy, and smile, smile or maybe not, if you're a ZOMBIE, it's show time!

Well, any way you slice it, this is work; it's play, it's music. It's what we do! We all emerge on stage energized with all that sweet adrenalin pumping like mad, confident and ready to perform. But, the best comes after the show in the Lobby with your friends and relatives, other Sweet Adelines, those special supporters who buy show tickets, save the date, fill the seats, and GLOW with the excitement your show has put on their faces, in their eyes...oh, WOW! You know you have touched their spirits. Isn't that why we sing?

What's the date of next year's show? We can't wait!

November first rolled around a few days later and we started the competition journey by learning a new ballad. We were coached by Joan Boutilier a few days after Thanksgiving, and look forward to lifting your hearts in April in Appleton...that ought to be a song! Not exactly April in Paris, though!

Underlying all the above is the strategic planning process that we started during the summer. Our Team Coordinator interviewed every member, in one-to-one sessions using the same set of questions, about our hopes and expectations for ourselves, individually, and for the chorus as a whole. The second phase of the process took place at our Christmas party, where the input gathered by the interviews was shared. The task of that evening was looking for themes among the interview responses and then prioritizing them. Those items of the greatest importance to all were forwarded to the chorus's January Retreat. Here chorus goals and objectives, short and long term, will be developed.

By choice, through strategic planning, and as a result of geography, now in Region 3, we are becoming what we only guess at, dream about, and imagine in part. We are YRC, ready and looking forward eagerly to the New Year as Sweet Adelines. Happy New Year to each of you!

RIVER CITY SOUND (Submitted by Denise Gorski)

River City Sound has been focusing on membership this past year. We have had three guest series. We have met some wonderful women and have introduced them to the joy of barbershop harmony. Our latest guest series has been devoted to Christmas music. Everyone loves Christmas carols, guests and members alike. We have several singing engagements coming up during this holiday season. Our guests are going to join us on the stage, singing and sharing our holiday cheer.

In addition to targeting new members, our wonderful membership team hasn't forgotten our current members. They've started a project called "WOW" (woman of the week). Each member has submitted a bio and each week we get to learn something new about the women we stand next to on the risers. What an amazing group of women!

This year, as in several years past, our chorus has adopted a family in the community for Christmas. We had the joy of decorating a beautiful tree and complimenting it with gifts galore for the whole family. The wonder of the season is sharing. We hope that you all are able to share in the magic of the holidays with family, friends and community. We wish you happiness and a blessed New Year.

RED CEDAR SOUNDS (Submitted by Karen Hoepner)

The *Red Cedar Sounds* started out the week of their cabarets with a performance for Women's Night Out at the Colfax Clinic on November 3rd, sponsored by Mayo Health Systems, where they sang a few numbers and enjoyed the light supper

It was hard to believe this was our 5th annual Harvest of Harmony cabaret- "Opening Night, Stars on Broadway" on November 5th. After members spent most of the afternoon and evening on Friday decorating the lobby, tables, risers and gymnasium to produce a Broadway atmosphere, we were ready to perform our show numbers for the two enthusiastic crowds at 2:30 and at 6:00. While enjoying their soup supper and dessert the audience was entertained by a violin and piano duet, *Kindred Spirits*. The *Red Cedar Sounds* were escorted to the stage by the *Dunn County Northern Lights* chorus who performed their Broadway debut as our guests later in the program. Also joining us as guests was a Young Women in Harmony quartet *Trouble Clef* who did an excellent job. The *Red Cedar Sounds* and quartets, *Totally Connected*, *Just Us* and *Just Us 2* performed a number of familiar Broadway numbers and went on to perform their own songs as the "Stars on Broadway" for the finale. Regardless of all the hard work and hours spent getting ready, the chorus and quartets enjoyed their time putting on another successful show for the communities surrounding Colfax WI. Our directors Lois Barrett, Jen Dworak and Dawn Roberts did an excellent job of getting us ready for our performances.

On November 19th the chorus was excited to have coaching by the Region 22 representative, Heather Johnston, who gave us advice on vocal production and vowel matching. It was a very great experience.

Christmas performances loom in the near future where we are entertaining at the Hospital Tree Lighting in Bloomer the first week in December, as well as the Bloomer Woman's Club Christmas Party and Maturity Matters Party in Bloomer the same week.

Working diligently on our competition music and conducting a number of guest nights in January are our future goals.

SPIRIT OF THE LAKES (Submitted by Roberta Zess)

First of all Congratulations to all the members in Region 22 who sang so beautifully at the International Contest! We hosted a viewing party the night of our practice. We set up a projector to an iPad and watched the wonderful sounds of Sweet Adelines on a big pull down screen. We almost felt as if we were right there in the auditorium with all of you. Our chorus was so honored to be sitting with Polly Merrill (words and music) and Joe Liles (arrangement) when their song "Time For You" was performed. It gave all of us chills, even some tears.

The contest inspired us to start working on Christmas songs and contest songs. "City sidewalks, busy sidewalks, dressed in holiday style in the air there's a feeling of Christmas, children laughing, people passing, meeting smile after smile and on every street corner you'll hear"... The Spirit of the Lakes Chorus. Yes, we've been busy singing, a Christmas Cabaret in November and a Christmas show with our "brothers" the Country Gentlemen in December. We've even started our "SWEET" membership campaign with our Christmas Cabaret. We invited women in the community to come sing four songs with us in our Christmas Cabaret and if they like to sing again in the Christmas show. We had an additional NINE singers! We just hope that they enjoyed themselves so much they want to stick around! (See picture below.)



If two shows in two months isn't enough for us, we've pushed out another CD! "Brand New Day" is on stands now for only \$10 - a great gift! You can order one by visiting our website www.SingingStartsHere.org or contact any of our chorus members.

The end of the year wouldn't be complete without taking a little rest during the holiday season. We will then be eager and pushing forward to the new membership campaign in January and nailing down our contest songs! Wishing you all the success and happiness for the New Year!

WESTOSHA LAKES (Submitted by Sue Bebee)

Our Cabaret was really fun and very successful. We did a 70's theme and even did a little spoof on the old Laugh In show. Some of our jokes were really silly but then so was Laugh In. Thanks to Whistle Junction for being our guest quartet. We were so glad you could join us and as always you did a wonderful job.

Congratulations to NRG and Premiere for their wonderful performances at International. We were so proud of you. And I would be extremely remiss not to mention Crosstown, who through extreme adversity scored their best ever. We love you and salute you!

We helped out our beloved VFW and sang our patriotic package for their Veterans Day celebration. We have several Holiday performances coming up this month for area hospitals, villages and churches. We also have our annual Holiday Party coming up.

Once the holidays are over, we will start preparations for regional contest.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to each and every one of you.

CENTER POINT CHORUS (Submitted by Marcy Kirsch)

The Center Point Chorus of Sweet Adelines promised “Happy Trails” to those who attended the fall show, “Sweet Western Harmony. Evident that the Chorus had fulfilled that promise were the audiences’ “happy faces” as they left Sentry Theater the night of November 12. In our wrap-up discussions, we concluded that the heart of the show’s success was, as a Chorus, we had studied and taken on the persona of an imaginary Annie who was an expert with a gun, but inexperienced in love. The adherence to that persona colored our showmanship, made it consistent, and came across the footlights. **Wendy Franklin** and **Laurel Hoeth** wove Annie’s personality into the choreography and they were often snapping us into character with calls of “Put on your Annie.” This approach to taking charge of who we are in a song was so successful (and such fun), that we will continue to pursue it in future performances.

You’ve heard the adage: “You can’t see the nose in front of your face?” That was the case with Center Point and our newest member, **Laura Nieland**. Laura lives right across the street from Harmony House, where we rehearse. One evening, Laura took it upon herself to walk just a few steps across the road to find out what Sweet Adelines was all about. Laura is the member we all want. She’s a recent college graduate (with a music emphasis). She has a clear, accurate lead voice. She learns the words and choreography easily, and she’s not afraid to pitch in wherever help is needed. However, since we can’t clone Laura, we expect to expend a lot of energy in attracting new members to Center Point. We will be part of the world-wide open house in January implemented by Sweet Adelines International. We have plans in the works to invite the Marshfield Chorus to rehearse with us, and then travel to rehearse with them. Our expectation is that a combined (and larger) chorus will be an enticement to invited guests.

CEDAR HARMONY (Submitted by Connie Melugin)

Happy New Year from Cedar Harmony Chorus in the cold state of Iowa. Yes, we know that Wisconsin is also cold so we share your pain and frostbite.

Our fall activities kept us busy planning and presenting our WINE--WOMEN--and SONG annual show. It was the premier experience for us and a very satisfying one. The wine tasting expertise provided by a local winery was informative and very delicious. It was so successful that I am sure we will keep this idea in our files for future use.

Getting fired up for our holiday performances kept us on our "tic-tac-toes", literally. The opening of the 23rd annual Festival of Trees at the Performing Center for the Arts set the mood in November. We continued in December with appearances in several surrounding communities. Our quartets were also in demand for their own unique musical talents to help the public celebrate the season. The public does love our glitzy costumes especially this time of year and so do we.

Along with starting to gear up for our spring competition, we have an important performance scheduled the last weekend of January. A show choir from one of our local high schools has a fundraiser for their program and for the second year we have been invited to perform. They also invite the show choir from the University of Northern Iowa. We feel it is an honor to share the stage with these two outstanding singing groups. It again proves that anyone with a love of music can share their gift no matter what their age. It will be fun to show them what we can do with "Dancing Queen". It should be a great evening!

Hope everyone in Region 22 is staying well and warm and we will see you in the spring.

MILWAUKEE SHOWCASE (Submitted by Deb Wenzel)

It's been a fast and fabulous 2011 for the Milwaukee Showcase Chorus.

Our Board of Directors decided to stir up a little fun and excitement by introducing themed rehearsals every now and then. Our first one was held Halloween night, and the theme was "Celebrate Fall, Harvest and a Pinch of Halloween." Members were encouraged to arrive early to mix and mingle and to come in costume. Nearly everyone, including our director (who made quite a dashing vampire, by the way), were decked out in their "spook-tacular" best. The array of clever and creative costumes was truly impressive.

We kicked off the Holiday season with a dazzling Christmas show, "The MSC Christmas Shopping Network," on Nov. 19th at Martin Luther High School (Greenfield, WI). Raffle items were incorporated into the script and skillfully presented by our "MSC Show Host," Paul Wolf, for the first half of the show while the second half was dedicated to traditional and sacred Christmas music. Performances by guest quartets Sizzle, Easy Days, Noted, and By Request were an absolute delight. Martin Luther High School's choir, The Troubadours, added their considerable vocal talents to the show as well, and they were magnificent. Since so much of Christmas is about children and fun surprises, a troupe of adorable tiny dancers from Miss Anita's Dance studio popped up in a few numbers and danced their way into the hearts of everyone. We closed the show with Silent Night. Accompanied by Troy Hergert, a very accomplished and gifted guitarist, we performed the song in the tradition of Hans Gruber as it would have been heard originally.

Our annual Christmas Chorus wrapped up the Holiday season as well as 2011. We invited guests to sing with us for the Holidays and have fun sharing the Christmas spirit with audiences that included retirement centers, The Widow and Widowers Club, and Vision Forward Association (formerly the Badger Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired). We hope that, once our guests get a taste of the chorus experience, they will make a New Year's resolution to stay on as permanent members.

FOX VALLEY CHORUS (Submitted by Vicki Krause)

By the time everyone is reading this, we will be in the New Year! Happy 2012 to all of Region 22!

The Fox Valley Chorus had a wonderfully busy 2011....Our annual show, "A Wedding to Die For", was a great time for both chorus and audience alike – and our first ever 'murder mystery'. We can tell you now – the cook did it!! The chorus expanded our musical repertoire for our show music, taking on the challenging "Bohemian Rhapsody", which turned out to be big hit, as well as other non-traditional songs, such as "Mack the Knife". Great fun!

We took a good part of the month of December off (not counting the Chorus' Christmas Party, of course!) – but then we'll hit the ground running when we return on January 3. We'll be working on our contest set, coaching with Pete Benson in February, and also coaching with both Lynne Smith and Tori Postma in March. We are very excited to have so much expertise to help us on our way to be the very best we can be for competition!

We are also planning an Open House/Membership Drive for January 17, 24, and 31 – so are busy preparing for attracting new faces to our ranks, and arranging for the type of fun, food, and harmony we want to make these three evenings a success.

Best wishes for a blessed New Year from the Fox Valley Chorus!!

QUARTET NEWS

ATTENTION ALL COMPETING QUARTETS:

22 Karat Gold is trying something new this spring for our Quartet Reception. We are going to hold it on Thursday Night instead of Friday Morning. It will begin at 8 PM to give everyone time to get there and have dinner. We'll serve light appetizers and are hoping to have a cash bar available. We wanted to let you know early so you can plan your travel schedule accordingly. Watch for more details in the convention bulletin and in your e-mail from 22 Karat Gold! Keep singing!

NRG! (Submitted by Jennifer Kelliher)

NRG! would like to thank Region 22 for their gifts and encouragement on our road to Houston. We enjoyed our time on stage and were excited to be able share the experience with both Premiere and Crosstown Harmony. We are so proud of you both!

We've had a wonderful time competing at both the regional and international levels over the past five years. It's been a privilege and an honor to represent Region 22 throughout that time. While we feel it is time for us to part ways, our memories of the fun we've had at regional events and singing on your shows and cabarets will last with us a lifetime. The love and support Region 22 has shown to us throughout this journey is incredible and we are beyond grateful for it. We'll carry the friendships we've made with so many of you on into the future – you can never have too many sisters in harmony!
☺

In Harmony,

NRG!

Jenny, Shelly, Heather, and Debi

PREMIERE (Submitted by Nancy Charles)

Hello Region 22! We had a great time performing at the International competition in Houston. We were pleased with our 26th place finish and hope we made you proud. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the wonderful members of Region 22 who have supported us on our journey. Your well-wishes meant so much as we were preparing for competition.

We had our first Christmas sing-out in Cedarburg on November 18th. Nothing like a little pressure to whip those Christmas songs back into shape! We had a great time singing for the patrons of the Cedarburg Settlement shops. It was fun singing for people who had not heard 4 part harmony before. We also had the opportunity to sing on two shows this fall, for the Fox Valley and Opus 2000 choruses and for Crosstown Harmony in December. We had a great time with each group. You ladies are fantastic!

As we wind down 2011, we are focused on coaching, performing and preparing for our next competition. We look forward to Regional competition in April. Until then, we wish you and your families the joy of the season and the all the best in the New Year. See you in Appleton!

Your 'Premiere' Quartet,

Colleen, Nancy, Brenda, and Brenda

NOTED (Submitted by Laurel Meyer)

Greetings to Region 22 from Noted! ...who's that, you may ask? We're a new quartet from the Milwaukee area that formed in the spring. After passing our chorus quartet auditions this summer, we made our debut performance on the Crosstown Harmony cabaret in the fall and will be singing on Christmas shows for Milwaukee Showcase and Crosstown Harmony. Between preparing for singing valentines and learning songs for contest next spring - we're already finding ourselves quite busy!

Although our quartet is new, you may recognize our faces from our choruses and previous quartets. Lead Rita Bertrand sings with Melodeers Chorus, and has sung with several Region 22 quartets in years gone by like Certifiable and Four for Harmony. Bass Marianne Tofte sings with Milwaukee Showcase and was previously in K'motion, Metro Gold and Intoxicatin' Rhythm. Tenor Laurel Meyer sings with the Crosstown Harmony Chorus and sang in Undecided Quartet. And last but not least, Teri Junek is our "novice" quartetter. Teri just earned her second chorus gold medal with the Melodeers Chorus, but grew up listening to her mom Rita's quartets so has learned much about quartetting through osmosis like so many other "barbershop brats."

Noted can't wait to get a chance to hang out with Region 22 in Appleton at our contest this spring and sing you a song or two (or three or four...)! In the mean time, stop by our new Facebook page at facebook.com/NotedQuartet and say hi.

In harmony,
Noted

TWITCH (Submitted by Becky Janz)

TWITCH would like to wish lots of love and holiday greetings to our sisters in Region 22. Whichever holiday you celebrate, we wish you a very "Happy" or "Merry" one.

As this holiday season unfolds and the year draws to a close we reflect on the events of the past year; loved ones we've lost, triumphs that we shared, friendships that were renewed and new friends that were gained. TWITCH is so very grateful and honored to be called your sisters and as well your friends. We wish you only the best the rest of this year and in 2012. Before you know it spring will be here and with it our Regional Contest in April.

As always, we look forward to seeing our regional sisters during the coming months and hope to sing for you soon. Contact Rochelle at lovebbshop@hotmail.com or 414-510-8416.

Rochelle, Sally, Cricky and Becky

WHISTLE JUNCTION (Submitted by Sue Nuels)

During the summer WJQ rehearsed regularly but juggled lots of life things. Each rehearsal was a happy little oasis in the week. We picked up some new music, some challenging and some darn right comical, and sang at several senior centers from LaGrange Park to Elkhorn. We sang on the Westosha Cabaret in October. The ladies of Westosha, clad in "flower child era" costuming, were so delightful and so much fun! It was quite a treat to be a part of the whole event. WJQ is busily working on holiday music preparing for the Spirit of the Lakes Cabaret in late November. And "YES" we have selected music for contest and are toying with yet another outrageous plan. Be prepared...fun is coming your way! Happy holidays from all of us at Whistle Junction; Sue, Dona, Elly, and Joan

NEXT DOOR FOUR (Submitted by Sharon Kittle)

Well here it is December and we are done with our Fall show. So our Elvis costumes are now in the back of the closet. That was so fun being Elvis Zombies. But now we need to look forward to February when we will again do our Singing Valentines. Last year was the first time we had ever done this because we were so new, but it was such a great money maker for us (\$400 in one day!), and, it was so much fun, that we decided we wanted to make sure to plan this every year.

The fact that Valentine's Day falls on a weekday is usually kind of problem for most quartets because they are still in the workforce. Fortunately for us, two of us are retired (Nancy & me), and Kay and Diane have some flexibility within their jobs that they can take off with enough notice given to their employers.

So, come the middle of January, we will start putting up posters in grocery stores, local businesses, and last year we even got a gig off of Craig's List. We sang in a Dentist's Office, a high school art class, a nursing home, a Financial Planner's office, a couple of private residences, and a very large grocery chain. That was the most fun. We totally embarrassed the manager in front of his employees and a store full of shoppers. The guy's wife was filming the whole thing and he was funny 'cause he nervously talked out loud to himself during the whole time we were singing to him. He was such a good sport! There were so many cell phones being held up that we thought our performance might show up on YouTube.

As we were leaving the store, Diane went up to one shopper who was standing in line with his bouquet of flowers for his valentine and she said to him, "the flowers are nice, but next year try us" and handed him one of our business cards. He said, "thanks I will!"

The Yahara River Chorus' Quartets (Charisma!, By Request, and Next Door Four) did kind of a quartet retreat one Saturday and invited Lynda Kever, one of the Four Betty's to coach all of us. We each spent two hours with her and she really helped us with a lot of showmanship ideas that definitely make a difference in our presentation. She's a great coach and well worth the money.

So Next Door Four is doing exactly what we set out to do, we are having a great time together, but not competing, but we still want to do a good job.

COOLER BY THE LAKE (Submitted by Kristine Hincz)

The Cooler ladies were thrilled to share OPUS' holiday stage with Premiere. It was a privilege having them as our guest quartet! CBTL recently entertained a senior group at a local church known as the Amazing Grays - a truly fun group who love the barbershop style of singing. We're singing all our favorite Christmas tunes around town and simply enjoying all this time of year brings to us. Pitchpipe Linda, Martha, Penny and I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year!

CHARISMA (Submitted by Deanna Grade)

Charisma! sends holiday wishes to our Region 22 friends. We've had a great fall and are counting down the weeks until competition (was April always just the 4th month in the year??). We were thrilled to have a Back-to-Back-Betty weekend in early November, with coaching by Betty-Lynda on a Saturday followed by coaching with Betty-Joan on a Sunday. In between the coaching sessions, we were also lucky enough to experience one of the great joys our craft can offer: we sang as a surprise at an 80th birthday party for a woman who loves barbershop. The warmth that filled the living room as we sang came from more than just the fire in the fireplace! It reminded us of the pure pleasure of giving a small group an evening filled with music. Neither Deana, April, Jody, or I will forget it and hope that you, too, will have the opportunity soon to touch someone's heart with your voices.

BLUE PLATE SPECIAL (Submitted by Doreen Giesfeldt)

Of course our quartet is always on top of everything and making early New Year's resolutions is at the peak of our list. Please feel free to borrow our resolutions for your own enlightenment. They might or might not make you a better person. It hasn't happened to me yet but I'm working on it.

My own personal resolution is to actually look at my music in between rehearsals (did I just hear a guffaw?). I also will look at the words. Note to one of our quartet members who apparently doesn't look at the words either - in Marshmallow world the line is "it's shining so your nose won't FREEZE not bleed."

Collectively we will actually sing at least 7 minutes before regaling each other with sparkling commentary about where the best buys are on fruit that week. And the last resolution is, we will institute Rock, Paper, Scissors this next year to decide who will drive us to the gig to which we are heading. Pouting and whining is getting boring and "my car isn't clean" won't cut it anymore. A final resolution - tell your quartet how much fun they are and how glad you are to be part of such a good time. Happy New Year!

TROUBLE CLEF (Submitted by Susan Musgrave)

TC was excited to perform for the Red Cedar Sounds Chorus show on November 5 in Colfax, WI. What a great time we had! We also loved performing in our local city of Burlington, WI for the Downtown Merchants' Open House, for caroling after the Dec 2 Christmas parade, and for Breakfast with Santa on December 3rd.

We're four busy high school girls that love to ring chords. We'd love to sing on your show or cabaret. Call Susan Musgrave at 262-763-2839.

Region 22 Trivia:

Mid-America Region #22 was officially founded on May 1, 1975. The first Region #22 Convention/Competition was held in Madison, WI May 13 – 16, 1976. 15 choruses and 11 quartets competed with Sequels Quartet and Racine Chorus declared champions. According to the Summer, 1976 Pitchpipe Magazine, attendance at that convention numbered 775!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2012

28 Diva Quest (Waterford Union High School) Riverport Chorus

APRIL 2012

19–22 Regional Competition (Radisson Paper Valley Hotel and PAC, Appleton, WI)

SEPTEMBER 2012

21–22 Fall Regional School (Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc, WI)

OCTOBER 2012 - NOVEMBER 2012

30-3 International Convention (Denver, CO)

MAY 2013

16–19 Regional Competition (Radisson Paper Valley Hotel and PAC, Appleton, WI)

NOVEMBER 2013

5–9 International Convention (Honolulu, HI)

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Attention! Attention! Region 22 is looking for people interested in arranging! Please email Carmen Youra: ckyoura@aol.com if interested.

CATCH 22 SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Deadline dates will be the last day of the following months:

SPRING ISSUE 2012 – Feb. 29, 2012
SUMMER ISSUE 2012 – May 31, 2012

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

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