



Tags & Swipes

INTRODUCING...

Over in Region 4 (southern Ohio), they are taking barbershop to the next generation. In 2006, four chapters of Sweet Adelines, supported by the Young Singers Foundation, started the Greater Cincinnati Harmony Festival for boys and girls, aged 13 to 18, to teach barbershop singing and performance. Fifty-eight students spent three days and nights at Northern Kentucky University learning songs, choreography, and performance skills, culminating in a big show, featuring not only the teens but seasoned barbershoppers from the area choruses and quartets.

This year will be the seventh annual event, and about one hundred young singers will attend. While their classmates may be hanging out at the pool or lounging on vacation, they will pack their bags and head to Miami University for a chance to learn new songs, discover new ways of singing and meet like-minded teens. And after four days and three nights of professional vocal music education, rehearsals and coaching, they are ready for the festival's finale, an "eye-popping, jaw-dropping" (to quote a local

newspaper) public performance alongside their peers and professional singers.

"Gone are the days when families would gather around a piano and sing together for fun, so we strive to support the school music programs in their efforts to encourage young people to find the enjoyment of making music," says Paul Coleman, music co-chair of the Harmony Festival and member of Southern Gateway Chorus of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

This year's Dean of the Festival is Joe Connolly of Southern Gateway Chorus and known to a number of choruses in Region 1 as a great coach. The Director of the young men's chorus will be Nick Gordon, a "graduate" of the Festival and baritone in the collegiate championship quartet Prestige. The young women's chorus will be directed by Debbie Cleveland, lead in the International Champion quartet The Buzz.

With the geographical proximity of so many of our choruses around Boston and in Connecticut, wouldn't this be a wonderful idea for Region 1?



News from your new Regional Management Team



I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the participants in this year's Regional contest. It is the pinnacle of our singing year, allowing us to showcase our best performances, learn from our evaluations, hear our peers, and to be inspired by one another. We plan, prepare and travel from different states and countries to share our musical passion.

This is also a time of transition and planning for our membership and our leaders. Our Regional Management Team and our Chorus Management Teams or Boards are changing leadership. It is important that we make these changes as seamless as possible. An easy change of leadership allows continued forward motion for our membership.

On the Regional Management Team, we are pleased to introduce 4 new coordinators, **Patti Lavernoich**, Events, **Leslie MacDonald**, Communications, **Jessie Oslán**, Marketing and **Deb Richard** in Membership. Please say hello and welcome them to our Management Team.

Springtime! New Beginnings! It is time to review our long range plans for our choruses. What are your dreams and goals? Where do you see your chorus or quartet in the next few years? Who are your new members? Where are you going to find them? Growth is key to our organization and our region. I personally would love to see our region increase its membership over the next few years. Sweet Adelines International has done an amazing job in creating useful tools and ideas for us to use to market our Region. Many of our choruses took advantage of this year's Global Open House campaign to welcome new members. Good for you and your successes!

Our Education program in Region One is one of the best in the organization, we offer educational opportunities summer, fall and winter. Are you taking advantage of the education offered? RQA in the summer, Fall and Winter Regional Weekends. Do you regularly check the Regional website to see what is offered and to be aware of deadlines?

At each Regional Educational workshop, your Regional Management Team and Faculty offer meeting opportunities, classes and round table discussions for you to participate in. I personally look forward to meeting all

the Chorus Team Coordinators and Presidents at both the Fall and Winter Regional weekends to discuss, inform and assist you in your leadership role.

Have a wonderful contest weekend, a wonderful summer and see you in September!

Wendy Davies, Team Coordinator Region 1

The new RMT photo will be taken at contest, but here is a list of the team and their emails:

Wendy Davies, Team Coordinator, w.davies@sympatico.ca
Ruth Widerski, Finance Coordinator, bariten1@yahoo.com
Leslie MacDonald, Communications Coordinator, jlesliemacdonald@hotmail.com
Carolé Mensing, Education Coordinator, cm17av@aol.com
Julie Jeffery, Directors' Coordinator, julieajeffery@gmail.com
Patti Lavernoich, Events Coordinator, eplpfl@snet.net
Jessie Oslán, Marketing Coordinator, jessiebass2000@yahoo.com
Deb Richard, Membership Coordinator, DebRichard@maine.rr.com

THEY WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Core Values

Camaraderie, Musical Excellence, Personal Growth, Professionalism, Open Communication

Strategic Goals

- Provide quality education to enhance musical excellence and leadership
- Promote regional leadership excellence and develop new regional leaders
- Assure financial security
- Maintain membership (retention) and promote membership growth
- Assist Sweet Adelines International in creating a vision for the far future (15 years)

On the Educational Horizon

- Carole' Mensing, Education Coordinator

Thank you –

Congratulations to all of our competitors' participating in this year's regional contest- choruses and quartets- you have worked very hard all year. Now, this is the time of year where we all share our collective Barbershop (BBS) talents with our Region One members- it's our time to enjoy each others' performances, musically and visually! The journey does not end here, rather this is one step in our lives as singers; so, regardless of the outcome- thank you for loving the barbershop style- go now and enjoy the moments!!

AND... **thank you** to all of our audience members- who are family, friends and singers not competing this year. You are our faithful followers of this event and our "hobby" as well as believers in our music. Yay you!

It has been a wonderful, if not successful, 2 years since I began as your Education Coordinator. I **thank you** for your support and attendance at our events. We had have had 2 well attended regionals, an RQA and have planned a local event each year.

I am pleased to be reappointed to carry on another 2 years. DO I HAVE PLANS FOR US!

Last winter we experienced a first, the "BBS Roulette" ...(If you weren't at winter regional- ask your friends about this round robin of speed classes). I bet you can't wait to see what will happen next! Well, immediately next, we have and Regional Quartet Association (RQA) planned for August with Peggy Gram; Jim Arns and our President, Renee Porzel, are scheduled for Fall Regional; then DeDe Nibbler for Winter. In coming months we have Queens scheduled, and a queen's quartet and... much more.

Finally, and importantly, special "*Thank you's*" to our hostessing chorus, Harmony on the Sound (HOTS) and our Planning Committee for the success of this competition weekend.

Carole' Mensing, Region 1 Education Coordinator



Membership: I'm Back!

Deb Richard, Membership Coordinator



It's great to be back! As many of you know, membership has always been a focus of mine. For those of you that don't know me I joined Sweet Adelines in 1985 as a charter member of Royal River. That was when I sang Tenor! I was MDR for Region One back in the days when we had a board and was part of the Team that brought us thru the transition to Team management. For those of you that do know me... yes I still go barefoot.

I've been singing in one quartet or another since 1986. Officially turned Bass in 2000 and "Celebrate!" was born. It's been wonderful singing with my friends Chris, Wendi, and Lisa, and exciting representing Region One on the International Stage.

I live in Old Orchard Beach. The man with the beard and walkie-talkie located in the Sheraton Lobby every Contest (Mike) happens to live with me. We have 2 children and 5 grandchildren and 1 dog, Kia an Australian Cattle Dog. I am lucky to be able to work from home as a Daily Money Manager.

My door is always open to all of you. I am here to help you... listen to you... allow your chorus to sing in harmony. Please feel free to call me at any time.

I am looking forward to seeing what changes you have made and how you have grown. Thank you for allowing me to serve you once again.

In Harmony... your new Regional Membership "go to woman"! Deb

Finance News

- Ruth Widerski, Finance Coordinator



I'd like to thank all the chorus Finance Coordinators and Treasurers for working with me in my first year of being the Regional Finance Coordinator. I had a lot to learn and I thank you all for being cooperative and doing your jobs so well.

As we all go into contest, I hope you all have fun on stage and come off stage feeling like you did your best. Once contest is over, it's time to think about filing your E-postcard if you do not need to file Form 990 (which is most of the choruses in the region) or prepare to file the Form 990 if your gross receipts are \$50,000 or higher. I look forward to seeing you all at contest!

Ruth Widerski

Meet our new Marketing Coordinator....

- Jessie Oslán, Marketing Coordinator

Hello Region 1!

I am excited to take on this new role as the marketing coordinator for our region. I look forward to hearing from all of you so we can share marketing or public relations ideas to promote our region's choruses and quartets.

Speaking of promotion – I'd like to encourage every chorus to evaluate your existing website. Your website is a critical tool for communicating what you do and is an effective and inexpensive way to announce events, promote your group, and share information.

Review the design of your website: banners, images, fonts, colors and make sure your website is engaging and easy to navigate. Your written content should quickly and concisely provide readers with useful information and be kept up to date.

I am working with Pat Marais to update our regional website. Pat recently added a site-map (or road map) at the bottom of the Home page to help you find your way around our site. Please visit www.sai-region1.org on a regular basis to view the updates. Please send photos, events for our calendar or ideas you think would help make our site more user-friendly to: webmaster@sai-region1.org. Our goal is to have a technology-rich website that is useful to members and prospective members without being intimidating or overwhelming.

I will be creating a Marketing page on our website which will include helpful links, as well as marketing tools and ideas that may be useful to your chorus or quartet.

Marketing Coordinators: Please look for an e-mail from me shortly after contest! This is an opportunity for us to network with each other to share ideas that will help individually and collectively increase our outreach to potential members and build brand recognition. If you have any questions or need help with marketing and promoting your chorus, please don't hesitate to send me an e-mail at jessiebass2000@yahoo.com.

My best wishes for every chorus and quartet to have a wonderful contest weekend!

In harmony, Jessie Oslán



... and our new Communications Coordinator...

- Leslie MacDonald, Communications Coordinator



I have been a Sweet Adeline for 25 years and have spent all of that time with the West Island Chorus. I started out as a lead but after starting to sing Baritone in a quartet about 15 years ago, it was decided that maybe I should sing Baritone with the Chorus. I have been happily singing that part ever since. I have sung in 3 quartets and even competed once at Regional Competition with the quartet Sarabande.

In the past, I have been on the Board of Directors of the chorus and am currently on the Management Team in the position of secretary. I held different positions which included Membership and Editor of the chorus newsletter.

In my personal life, I am a retired nurse. I have lived and worked in Montreal, Canada all of my life. I retired after 35 years and spent most of my career working in labour and delivery which I found very rewarding. I just bought a new car to start my retirement with and I am looking forward to all the trips that I can take with it, including going to Regional Weekends. My hobbies are reading, swimming and, of course, SINGING! I live alone with my loyal cat, Misty who tolerates my singing around the house.

I am looking forward to serving the region in my new position of Communications Coordinator and am looking forward to getting to know you and your choruses.

Leslie MacDonald, Communications Coordinator

ROAR is going to ROAR again.

ROAR (Region One Arranging Retreat) will meet once again at Cape Cod: Saturday, June 9, 2012, 10-4 PM.

AN IMMERSION IN ARRANGING

First 12 people to sign-up; beginners very welcome; a few openings still! Understanding how barbershop music is created, its relation to basic music theory, and the practical side of knowing how this all works will make you a better singer, a better section leader, a better director. We'll even have a working lunch with pizza delivered.

Faculty: Linda Masterson, Certified Music Arranger and Certified Music Judge.

Please let Ruth Widerski (e-mail: bariten1@yahoo.com) know of your interest. More info when we hear from you.

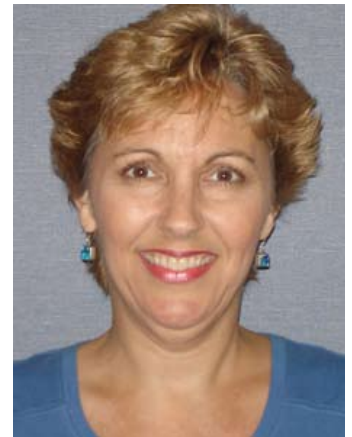
Linda Masterson (wmasterson@capecod.net)

... and our new Events Coordinator

- Patti Lavernoch, Events Coordinator

Greetings from your new Events Coordinator. I think most of you know who I am, but just in case, let me introduce myself. I am Patti Lavernoch with the Harmony on the Sound Chorus. I have been serving as your Registrar for five years, and I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to transition to Events Coordinator and be part of the Regional Management Team.

The Events Coordinator is the Chair of the Steering Committee, so in addition to attending RMT meetings, I also get to run my own meetings twice a year! There are guidelines for running regional events, and it is the job of the Steering Committee to make sure that everything that needs to be done is accomplished. We work closely with the hostess choruses of the regional events, guiding them to help ensure that your weekends run smoothly. As I begin my first year in this position, I want to encourage all of our members to feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or glowing endorsements(!) you may have regarding our regional events. I will make sure that your thoughts are heard by my committee. We are here to make sure that all of you continue to enjoy your regional weekends!



Patti Lavernoch

Chorus Lines



Harborlight Show Chorus

WHO WANTS TO BE A SWEET
ADELINE

The Harborlight Show Chorus (Saugus, MA) did some soul searching this year in conjunction with the January 2012 push for new members. We considered why we wanted to grow in numbers, was a mid-size chorus the best fit for our group, where should we look for new voices. Should we emphasize the music education aspect of the Sweet Adelines International Organization? Perhaps the recent college grad, no longer a member of an a cappella group would find a place with us compelling by giving them an opportunity to continuing singing. Maybe the working woman whose job demands stressful days would find singing in a group a welcome respite from deadlines and commute drudgery. How about the retired woman? She might find all that time on her hand left her wanting little stimulus; we would be a great fit. And of course the "always wanted to be on the stage" diva! We could offer performance competition where everyone in the audience wants you to be great and pours out heartfelt enthusiasm at every show. So we looked, advertised, held open houses at rehearsal. And then SHE found US.

So, to follow up with the marketing plan, I ask her "What was it that made you want to join HSC?"

She answered with this:

"As a new member of Harborlight my eyes were wide with amazement at my first rehearsal. Our society has

made it taboo to be physical with one another, but here I was family immediately and I was welcomed with hugs and pats on the back.

Before they knew my name, or profession they were excited for a new singer. They said "we're sisters" over and over which seems easy to say, but they actually live it out. They call one another, they know secrets, and they cry and laugh together. I do not have family nearby any more, and it is nice to know they really have your back. We celebrate birthdays, mourn deaths, say prayers, and laugh a lot.

Barbershop sound is like no other, you learn how every part is integral and therefore YOU are necessary for a balanced song. It is a whole other meaning of belonging. You, your voice, your section belong to the song. You absolutely FIT.

They are professional, obsessed with quality work, and relentless for perfection. You cannot be a slacker, because if you go down - the team goes down. Their attitude is infectious, and despite a busy home life you, have guilt over not eating and sleeping your music. They treat every song as if they are live on stage, proper posture, smiles ear to ear and absolute sync. They do not live with second best; yet they have a lot of fun."

So...how do we market that!

Heart of the Valley

Well, that was easy ! Spring arrived and we were already enjoying great weather, thank you! Now April showers to bring May flowers will be perfect for Competition weekend.

While winter skipped along in New England, members of HOVC were invited to vicariously experience summer adventures in Africa

via blogs by Ellen Bledsoe. She is our Mt Holyoke student/SAI baritone. Wow! Even the National Geographic magazine couldn't capture the stories Ellen has lived! And knowing Ellen, there is probably is a pick-up quartet singing during their time off from environmental studies. Elephants are the most appreciative audiences of barbershop harmonies!

For some reason, birthdays were high on the lists of celebrations this season! Joyce Monska and Ginny Crowl had parties to share the joy, and for our baritone-away-from-home, Ellen was sent a huge envelope full of greetings and hugs from the chorus! Thanks to Judy Rivard's creative idea, Ellen's 21st birthday was extra special ! And yes, there were several more birthdays to sing about in HOVC, and sing we did!

Speaking of singing, Lathrop Home in Northampton and Keystone Commons in Ludlow invited HOVC to brighten their evenings with song recently. Familiar places to us, it was like going to visit dear friends. Warmly greeted, we performed with joy, and quality sound to make Maggie proud!

Finally feeling more herself, Betty Seelant ,our dear chorus leader,is ready to get on with her life . Her stubborn kidney stones shall be a thing of the past, we hope!

January's membership invitation night was so encouraging! We have had repeat visits from a few women, and auditions passed! Life is good!

Ah! Retreat at Angel's Rest! Once again a March weekend full of singing and performance work. As a sisterhood it was warm and wonderful; as a chorus it was a skill-focused Maggie/Marion Weekend! Though exhausted from our whole efforts, we beamed on Sunday morning for the video camera. Thanks to John LaChance, our hero who is always there for HOVC... we love him!

Competition weekend is here!
The biggest family reunion of all,
it's about Sweet Adelines who love
to perform for each other, with each
other. The joy of singing surrounded
by costumes and glitz...it just doesn't
get any better!

Submitted with love, Joyce Monska

Liberty Belle Chorus

Can it be? Has time flown by so
fast? Is it almost contest time once
again? If all the choruses in the
region are working as hard as the
Liberty Belle Chorus is, Competition
2012 will be the most exciting contest
ever.

We had a variety of performances
this year. Along with a brass orchestra,
a bell choir and a standing room
only audience, we sang a Christmas
concert at St. Malachy's church in
Burlington, MA. This was our second
performance at St. Malachy's and
we sang in honor of our dear friend
and LBC choreographer, Patti Field,
who was a member of St. Malachy's
church. We also sang at a benefit for
Breast Cancer at the "Shoot For the
Cure" ice hockey tournament in Ar-
lington. This was a first for LBC -- we
sang on the ice!! Another memorable
performance, also in Burlington, was
at the 10th Anniversary of the Septem-
ber 11th tragedy. Bagpipers and Boy
Scouts as well as members of the Bur-
lington police and fire departments
stood at attention as wreaths were
placed on a memorial monument in
honor of Burlington's fallen heroes.

LBC is also thrilled to announce
that we have NINE new members
since our last competition and SEVEN
will be on contest stage for the very
first time. We also have 4 new quart-
ets performing for the first time this
year, UnforgettaBelles and Pizazz!
(two all LBC quartets), and Zipline
and Lashes from LBC and the region.



*Liberty Belle on
retreat!!*

*Top: Front Row
shenanigans*

*Middle: The Baby
Belles*

*Bottom: The Baby
Belles with BB*

We celebrated our BB's birthday in February and showered her with lots of love, hugs cake and music.

One of our most treasured members, Edi Whitney, was at a rehab center recuperating from a hip injury. We surprised her by each stepping into her room pretending that we all came individually. After about 6 members visited with her, she became suspicious, so we brought her out into the hallway and entertained Edi as well as the other residents and staff. Not a dry eye in the house. Edi has been a member of LBC for 54 years and is currently an LBC member Emeritus.

Other LBC news... We have had some wonderful coaching this year with Jim Arns, Ann Gooch and Lynne Smith. Ann has been coaching us for many years in vocal production and brings elegance and style to our sound. And Lynne Smith has taught us that it is no longer just plain "Choreography," but it's now "Showmanship", much more indicative of what we do. Our LBC Performance Team, Joyce Aijala and Mary D'Eon, developed a wonderful Showmanship plan and Lynne added her magic touch to kick it up a notch. We also would like to acknowledge Donna Doherty, a beloved member of our Performance Team. Donna sang with LBC for many years, and for personal reasons has not been able to be on the rises with us. This year, Donna and her iPad have been working hard as part of the Performance Team.

We just returned home from a fabulous retreat with Jim Arns, who always brings new excitement and vitality to our package. Jim's incredible musicality and knowledge, as well as his ability to really hear our sound and enhance our music, is fabulous. And, not only did Jim work us hard from Friday night until Sunday afternoon, he also joined us Saturday evening to share in the fun and camaraderie for our chorus dinner and "entertainment." Of course retreat would

not be retreat if we didn't have our silly Saturday night fun and games. This year we were led in our retreat activities by Ria Kittay and her able assistant Peg Deery. To get a little taste of our fun, see the accompanying photos. Our newbies entertained us with their parody to the tune of Alfred the Alligator. And our front row... WOW!! Synchronized swimming in those fabulous costumes and voluptuous bodies. We know why they are front row.

Our Friends and Family night took place April 30th. We performed our new package in our updated costumes. Thanks to Sandy Taylor for making sure we are so well put together and to Kay Martin and her team for making sure we are so well groomed.

We wish the choruses and quartets of Region 1 a successful Competition in Springfield, especially our own UnforgettaBelles with Joyce Nishinaga, Julie Ladner, Mary D'Eon and Elaine Kennison, Pizzazz! with Susan Brierley, Alice Austin, Helen Morse and Lois Jensen, Zipline with LBC Bass, Marilyn Drew, and Lashes with LBC Lead, Heather Roe.

Have a wonderful summer. We'll see you in the fall.

– Charlotte Temple for LBC

Merrimack Valley Chorus

With Spring comes new beginnings, new opportunities and, wait for it... Regional Competition! MVC is looking forward to Springfield, seeing all of our good friends in other Region 1 choruses and quartets, and, of course, competing.

A few weeks before Competition is our Spring Cabaret, where we'll perform our Competition songs for our families and local friends.

We're excited to introduce seven new MVC members, all of whom

joined us in January and February. All are experienced Sweet Adelines who chose us to continue their love of singing. From the dissolved Colonial Spirit Chorus we welcomed Colleen Dougherty, Victoria Rowe, Gina Hubbard, Linda Green and Noreen Rowe. Two former MVC members returned to us this year, Sheenagh Clancy and Diane Kelley.

We started 2012 as the host chorus at Winter Regional in Burlington, MA. Although it took lots of planning and hard work, we enjoyed working with the regional team, the other choruses, and each other.

MVC is again working with some great coaches as we gear up for Competition. Claire Dominick, with her unique perspective, has worked with us twice. A great session with Lynne Smith reminded us of the importance and value of showmanship. Finally, we were fortunate to spend a full weekend with Peggy Gram at our annual Retreat. Every chorus member left Retreat concentrating on proper breathing techniques.

Our March Retreat wasn't all work. The Saturday night talent show included fun skits and great musical entertainment, with both performers and audience dressed up in a variety of royalty-worthy hats and "fascinator."

During a rare serious moment, An-Chian Kao was awarded the Marge Bennett "In Her Footsteps" award. This award is given annually to one chorus member who exemplifies the high standards Marge set for all of us during her lifetime and as a founding member of MVC.

An-Chian, or AC, has supported the chorus behind the scenes in a variety of ways, including audio-video equipment set up for recording our rehearsals and performances, and as director of our annual Show, to name just a few. AC's fellow chorus members truly appreciate her dedication,

knowledge, positive attitude, and wonderful personality.

MVC members are also dedicated to helping one another. After being seriously injured in an auto accident last November, chorus member Jan Engleman has focused full time on her rehabilitation. Chorus members are taking turns visiting and providing home cooked meals to Jan and her husband until their lives return to normal. We're looking forward to seeing Jan back on the risers later this year.

On to Springfield!

Mary Martin

Rhythm of New Hampshire Show Chorus

Springtime in the Garden of Good and Evil

The ladies of RNH have been donning their garden gloves and big floppy hats for their latest public performances of a new radio show called, Garden Wars. This hilarious program, written by RNH assistant

directors, Linda Ryan and Renee Fellows, highlights a time when radio provided our greatest connection to the world outside and takes an inside look at life inside the competitive world of competitive horticulture. Characters like Petunia, Begonia and the vicious Violet Vanderbilt nurture their little seedlings into show-stopping winners. Hilarity ensues when Violet vows to win the coveted cover of Weeder's Digest no matter what the cost!

We're always available to take this show 'on the road', weeds and potted begonias included. Just email at info@RNHChorus.org or give us a call at 800-696-7351!

We're also warming up for our summer SINGsation recruitment drive in July that ends with our annual RNH Barbershop Night at the Ballpark with the New Hampshire Fisher Cats, AA-affiliate of the Toronto Blue Jays. This year's game is scheduled for August 17th at 7:05 p.m. Visit our web site for tickets. Bring the whole gang for a fun-filled family night out followed by a free Atlas fireworks show.

As always, we wish the best to all

of our sisters in harmony at this year's Region One competition. Break a lip, ladies!

Royal River Chorus

Hello all! We've been busy up here in Maine getting ready for this exciting Contest weekend.

Besides our full weekly rehearsal schedule we were honored to work with a couple of new (to us) coaches this year.

We met Diane Porsch at Winter Regional and got to be a Demo chorus for one of her classes, then had an excellent Sunday AM coaching session with her.

We sang Friends at the end of the Demo class and got quite an emotional reaction from the audience. We love performing for our Region 1 friends!

Some of our members who have been with the chorus for decades said this was the most fun Regional Weekend they'd ever attended.

Joan Boutellier, of the 4 Bettys, joined us for retreat weekend on the Maine Coast in March. It was a hard working weekend with Joan challenging us to step up our game and get out of our comfort zone. She coaches from the position of being a Sound judge, chorus Director, and quartet tenor and had many gems over the weekend that gave us new ways to understand how to truly connect with and perform our music. In addition to the coaching, the chorus played games, watched a movie, and enjoyed wonderful meals and snacks.

In other news, we participated in the SAI Global Open House in January. Despite a milder-than-usual winter, a January snowstorm forced



Daisy (Linda Ryan) and Begonia (Pat Stevens) pose with RNH president Donna Bishop to promote their new radio program, Garden Wars airing on a radio station near you this spring!



Royal River with coach Joan Boutellier of the 4 Bettys.



Royal River: There's always a party somewhere!



postponement of our well-planned event and resulted in a smaller number of guests when we held it later in the month. Regardless, we had fun and one guest is now our

set even higher. Here's to a terrific competition. We wish the best to all competitors!

Sue Bonior

Sound of New England

It's always good to be asked to do a repeat performance because the audience liked you the first time! We had that experience on February 4 when we returned to sing at the Trinity Methodist Church in Windsor for the Women's Club Valentine luncheon. After we started singing, I recognized a former co-worker in the audience. That is always a pleasant surprise, and adds to the fun. I hope they invite us again. (Someone there makes excellent cookies!)

February the 14th was a Tuesday this year, so while we sent quartets out to serenade the recipients of Singing Valentines, the rest of us had an official night off. I'm sure we were all home practicing our music, perhaps serenading our own special someone with a lovely lilting baritone part. A portion of the proceeds from this venture went to benefit My Sisters' Place in Hartford, a shelter for homeless women and their children.

At the end of March we had a wonderful coaching session at which we worked on 6 of our newer songs. Imagine it--who knew you could work on more than 2 songs with a coach?

On a recent Saturday morning we took the opportunity to audition to sing at a WNBA Connecticut Sun game at Mohegan Sun. A group of us gathered at West Farms Mall, squeezed ourselves on and around the small platform that was provided, and sang our rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner." I understand that there were 51 auditioners, and 12 were chosen to sing at one of the home games. Yes! We were among the 12. They have asked us to sing on Sunday, June 10 at 5:00.

We just presented our show, "Light Up the Night!" at Conard High School in West Hartford. Despite another brief "power failure" (how fortunate we each happened to have

our own lights!), I think a good time was had by all. We certainly enjoyed listening to our featured guests, the Voices of Gotham from New York City. They are the 2011 Mid-Atlantic District Champions, and will be competing in Portland, Oregon in July. One of their members, Matt Saucier, is the son of our own Ginny Saucier (and brother to Coastline's Vanessa). Thanks to Be S#arp, a student a cappella group from Conard, who got the show started, and to our foursome, Just 4 Kicks, for regaling us with, among other things, hot flashes and a Christmas duck! Special thanks to Cliff Stalph, our emcee. (You must have your hands full, Gloria!) Thanks also to our emeritus members who helped sell tickets and CD's!

We are having an Open House (formerly known as Guest Night) on May 8. We will be learning a new song with our open housees (formerly known as guests), so if you have friends or relatives who live near us, please send them our way. We rehearse at the First Congregational Church in Bloomfield at 7:00.

We are looking forward to singing at Stanley Park in Westfield, MA once again this year. We have sung there for many years, but this year will be a little different. For the first time, we will be opening their season on June the 3rd! We also understand that they have done some renovating, and our stage will be in a new location. Hope we don't get disoriented....

As you probably know by now, we have decided not to compete in Denver. Why, you may ask? Well, there are probably numerous reasons, but mainly, Marion is always telling us to "buy some air." So, we all dutifully went to the air store, and lo and behold, they were fresh out in Connecticut! Apparently, HOTS (maybe with the help of the UConn women) had already bought it all up. What were we to do? We couldn't go to Denver without extra air! So we de-

cidated it would be in our best interest, and in the interest of environmental responsibility as well, to allow the stores of air to be replenished instead. We will not be going for evaluation in Springfield, either, but we WILL be in the audience, enjoying the performance! SONE is going full steam ahead, and we are looking forward to a great retreat in September.

Valley Shore Acappella

Okay, we have all had an amazing year in our chorus. Our director, Steve Wolf, has taken us back to basics. We have been learning things about our craft that is brand new to some of us. Those of us who took piano lessons as a kid had the edge! I won't name names, Betsy, Bev, Karen, Carolyn, (Oh, did I miss anyone?) but certain members knew a thing or two about intervals! Music Theory 101! What has been great is having the ability to transfer this new knowledge to singing. As a chorus, our spirit has been soaring.

Carolyn Mariconi, our fearless leader, (President) found us an incredible venue for our retreat this year. It was in a bucolic setting in the woods of rural Connecticut. We spent the week-end in our own separate space with a private rehearsal hall and fantastic food. What we didn't know was who would be our coach. Steve played his cards close and didn't tell us until just before the retreat. It turned out to be a terrific choice. Mike Gabriella from Road Show Quartet, is a much sought after coach here in the Northeast! Now we know why. He is a really cheerful guy who can do just about anything with his voice. He's sung baritone before but now he sings tenor in his current quartet. Through some hilarious gymnastics, he made us aware of aiming above the note to stay on pitch. We worked hard and had loads of fun. As a coach, Mike was top notch. We hope to

be lucky enough to work with him again. Later that evening, we did what we do best....party! But not before Steve put us through our paces with individual solos by everyone in the chorus. What Paula Tarafa did to her rendition of "White Rabbit" is the stuff of legends! But there was more to come. Steve brought his quartet, Quadraphonic, in to perform a mini concert for us! They were the 2007 Northeastern District Champions. Needless to say, it was an incredible night.

We are looking forward to Friends and Family Night just before we set off for Springfield and Competition. We can't wait to see all that our sister choruses have to offer this year. Valley Shore Acappella has put in a lot of hard work and dedication to our package...we hope you all will enjoy it! See you in May.

Marylou Zinser

DEADLINE FOR FALL ISSUE:

**SEPTEMBER 1st,
2012
(LABOR DAY
weekend)**

This issue will be a print issue, so I have to build in the two weeks for the printer. This deadline, therefore, is firm. Get your articles in and enjoy your Labor Day weekend!

Susan Jones, Ed.

Celebrating the Milestones!!

(With apologies to all listed below! This list was meant to appear in the winter issue, but your editor "lost" it among the many articles submitted.)

MEMBERS FOR 35 YEARS:

Pamela Basinski, Berkshire Hills
Ruthann Bell, Valley Shore
Betty Cirello, Farmington Valley
Kathy Dubree, Berkshire Hills
Judith Hinkle, HOTS
Betsy Kirk, Valley Shore
Rose Linskey, Liberty Belle
Linda Masterson, Cranberry Shores
Norma Murray, Colonial Spirit
Jean Schmidt, CAL
Barbara Stanton, Coastline Show
Janet Cayouette, Coastline Show

MEMBERS FOR 30 YEARS:

Evelyn Epstein, Liberty Belle
Joyce Armstrong, SONE
Margaret Butt, Harborlight Show
Patti Cataruzolo, Liberty Belle
Jean Garrett, Coastline Show
Patricia Graber, CAL
Cynthia Heller, HOTS
Angela Levine, SONE
Barbara MacKenzie, SONE
Kristin Martin, Farmington Valley
Trudy Morine, Heart of Maine
Gwen Sibley, SONE
Connie Stark, Coastline Show
Elizabeth Wynne, Liberty Belle
Ann Aucello, CAL
Helen Derman, Cranberry Shores

MEMBERS FOR 25 YEARS:

Mary d'Entremont, Liberty Belle
Ingrid Friedman, Farmington Valley
Joan Kelly, Liberty Belle
Leslie MacDonald, West Island
Ann Donlan, Harborlight Show
Lynne Marshall, Cranberry Shores
Glenda Bernice LeSauteur, Greater
Montreal
Eileen Weiblen, SONE
Rebecca King, Merrimack Valley

Barbara Kahn, Coastline Show
Janet Mulligan, Merrimack Valley
Laura Murray, MetroWest Harmony
Pat Fleck, Mollycokett
Claire Palmer, Farmington Valley
Bonnie Soutar, Greater Montreal

MEMBERS FOR 20 YEARS:

Lynn Copp, CAL
Cathy VanTornhout, HOTS
Carol Beeso, Post Road
Diane Carroll, Champlain Valley
Gloria Dooley, Harborlight Show
Robin Hudson, Coastline Show
Sharon Cook, Royal River
Elizabeth Maree, Island Grove
Cathy Richards, Royal River
Lisa Rideout, Royal River
Sally Jeffery, HOTS
Judith Sowyrda, Cranberry Shores
Karen Duggan, Liberty Belle
Barbara Wilson, Liberty Belle

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

19-21 September 2012
Fall Regional Weekend
Nashua, NH, Radison Hotel,
with Jim Arns and Renée Porzel
of Melodeers!

25-27 January 2013
Winter Regional Weekend
at the Newton, Boston, Marriott,
with Dee Dee Nibler

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER

Check the Region 1 website for
Updates and Additions

Advertise in Tags & Swipes

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WANTED!!

Someone with experience in desktop publishing and some
Photoshop (or similar program) to be editor of

TAGS & SWIPES

I would like to pass the baton as Editor of this fun newsletter.
I have gotten to know so many wonderful people in the
region and have loved doing this, but other things have
crowded into my life, and it's time to retire.

If you have any newsletter experience, this job is not difficult.
Three times a year for a few days -- that's all. Please email me
with questions or an offer to take over.

Susan Jones - sdjones@sdjones.net