



Tags & Swipes

Sweet Adelines on the Internet!

How many of you admit to being a bit of a novice when it comes to computers and the internet? Probably a surprising number! After all, our hobby of barbershop singing has never needed computers or the internet to communicate the music and thrive as an organization. But the fact is that a lot of information is now being made available on the internet that used to be distributed in print, if at all.

What information is to be found on the Region 1 website? (Don't admit you didn't know we have a website!) You would expect to find a listing for all of the region's choruses, their addresses, links to their chorus websites, and a contact person. But you can also find out when and where they rehearse. Just imagine! You might find yourself vacationing in the lovely lake district in Maine and think it would be fun to visit a rehearsal of the Mollycckett Chorus in Oxford. Or drop in on Cranberry Shores Chorus in Hyannis, Massachusetts. All of this information is on our Region 1 website!

Another section of our website is the Calendar. The calendar lists not only the regional weekends but also the wonderful shows given by our choruses. For example, for all of you in the greater Boston area, you could find a show by the Island Grove Chorus in Weymouth, Massachusetts in March. What a nice way to spend a Sunday afternoon in early spring.

For those interested in the Young Women in Harmony, there is an entire section on the activities of this group of under-25 singers. A calendar, photos, and a link to the SAI website. For the many of us who started singing barbershop as older women, think of the fun we could have been having if we'd been involved in YWIH. Our website is a place to start

exploring for all those young women in your life -- your daughters, your neighbors, your co-workers ... yourselves!

For those of you who love to sing tags, there is a book of tags you can download from the website. There are 116 of 'em, indexed by title as well as arrangers/performers. This booklet is a gem. And if you are one of the many who love to sing in the regional chorus, did you know you can now download both the sheet music and the learning tracks which can be burned onto a CD. We're moving in a twenty-first century world, for sure.

There is all kinds of information at the Region 1 website. It is definitely worth spending some time to make yourself familiar with what resources we have at the click of your mouse: <http://www.sai-region1.org>.

While on the subject of websites, I also recommend the Sweet Adelines International website. I have always known I could get contest results, but I didn't know I could look up music, by title, by composer, or by arranger. This is a fabulous resource, especially if you are on a committee in your chorus for choosing new music. You can also learn all about the new face of IES, beginning in 2010. In addition, all those wonderful handouts from prior IES classes are available under the "Education" link. If you never had the opportunity to attend an IES, you can still have words of wisdom from the best of the best who were faculty at these events.

And, lastly, if you have a weakness for those double G-clefs, the Sweet Adelines online shop features t-shirts, buttons, mugs, and even clocks with the SAI logo. These is so much to browse. Check it out: <http://sweetadelineintl.org>.

News from your Regional Management Team

- Angie Levine, Team Coordinator



ALOHA Region 1!!!!

Can you tell that my trip to the International Convention in Hawaii was awesome?! I want to truly thank you for the opportunity to meet and network with members of a number of regional teams, everyone sharing ideas of what works best in their region and in their choruses. I would also like (yet again!) to encourage each of you to think about taking on an administrative role in your chorus, and then moving on to sharing your leadership talents on a regional level. Believe me, the learning (and growing) experience is so rewarding!!!!

Back to the musical side of this amazing convention: Members of Region 1 were so well represented by Harmony On The Sound Chorus, Sound Of New England Chorus, and Celebrate! Quartet in Hawaii. The members of Region 1 are truly very proud of your performances!

There have been a few changes to your Regional Management Team. With the recent resignation of Membership Coordinator, Brenda Hall from Royal River Chorus (who will be greatly missed!), Judy Lang (Harmony On The Sound Chorus) moved from her Events Coordinator position to the Membership Coordinator position. Filling the Events Coordinator position (Are you still with me?!), please join me in welcoming Laura Pienkowski (Sound Of New England Chorus) to your Regional Management Team. Laura brings a great deal of organizational skills to your Team from her (former) position as Competition Coordinator. The Team is looking forward to working with Laura!

Please remember when planning your chorus show that I am only an email away (letsharmonize@sbcglobal.net) to clear your show date and to forward information to our Communications Coordinator and to our Tags & Swipes Editor for posting.

Enjoy this amazing educational weekend with our guests, The Buzz! Classes promise to be exciting for all!!!!

In Harmony,
Angie Levine / Team Coordinator
Region 1 - Regional Management Team

p.s. Have you checked out your Region 1 Website lately?!



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)

Meet the newest member of the team

-Laura Pienkowski, Events Coordinator

Good Morning, Region 1! My name is Laura Pienkowski. Many of you know me as the Competition Coordinator, a position I've held for 6 years. But now, I'm introducing myself as the newest member of the Regional Management Team. With Judy Lang moving to Membership Coordinator, I will be taking on the position of Events Coordinator. I'm a 12-year Sweet Adeline, singing lead with The Sound Of New England Chorus. As the Spring Contest season approaches, I'd like to wish everyone the best time on stage and the best of luck. I'm really looking forward to working with everyone on the team and all of you.



Membership

- Judy Lang, Membership Coordinator



Hello Region #1! I have to tell you that I have loved being your Events Coordinator and am thankful for that experience. I have learned so very much about how to organize an event, work with a great steering committee and the staff in the facility. I have heard from many of you about what works and what doesn't. I think we have grown a lot together and have become very good at communicating with each other on a regular basis. I am thankful that it appears that you feel comfortable contacting me about just about anything.

With this relationship development going strong, I am very excited about the new opportunity presented to me. Unfortunately, Brenda Hall found that her "real" life had to take priority right now and she was unable to continue as Membership Coordinator. Membership has always been a passion of mine and so when this opportunity arose, I grabbed it! Brenda's shoes will be hard to fill, but with your help, I will grow into this new position. I hope that we will grow together, both physically as your choruses grow in size and ability, and also in the area of working together, communicating needs and desires, and sharing

the challenges and joys that come with membership in this wonderful organization and region.

Laura Pienkowski from SONE, current Competition Coordinator (CC), will be taking over the position of Events Coordinator. Laura has lots of experience that will serve her well in this new challenge. When you see Laura, I ask you to welcome her onto the Regional Management Team as Event Coordinator.

I also ask your indulgence as we transition in our positions. We plan to pass the baton by contest, but of utmost importance is that you, the membership, know who is doing what. Don't worry about who you call. We'll help you out and steer you in the right direction.

Call me anytime about any membership questions. My goal will be to visit as many of your chorus rehearsals as possible over the next years, and to attend as many shows as possible. Let me know how things are going for you.

In Harmony,

Judy Lang, Membership Coordinator

Directors' Notes

-Lorraine Barrows, Directors' Coordinator



Greetings from Your Directors' Coordinator!

Whenever I send out a group email message to all the directors in Region 1, I am humbled by the list of names. The collected talents of the women and men who stand before our choruses week after week are the true strengths of our region. These leaders who give of themselves in so many ways each week are the driving forces behind the exceptional musical education and entertainment that keep us coming back to rehearsal.

It is my honor to represent their interests in decisions made by the Regional Management Team and to initiate support for programs that will benefit all our members through the education, resources and discussions we develop for directors. The RMT is excited to see so many of our directors and their assistant directors and other musical leaders enrolled in the Director Certification Program. We are also excited to see the level of quality performance continually improving throughout the breadth of our region.

We know it is imperative that each individual's strengths be developed for membership to stay happy and involved. The musical growth of each member is the key to strong performance, strong choruses and a strong region. It was extremely gratifying to see how many more members attended the fall regional; we hope that the inclusion of registration fees in the regional assessment has encouraged this rise in attendance figures. I know the directors of this region are excited when chorus members reach out and seek training from others. Keep up the great work! You are surely going to be rewarded by the training at this Winter Regional--What could be better than a weekend with "The Buzz?"

Use this time of preparation for the spring contests to rededicate yourself to your own education and development as a singer. Your director can't do it for you! She/he wants to grow WITH you and to have fun in celebrating you and showing you off. Give her that chance by digging in at home and coming to rehearsal prepared. She'll love you for it and so will we when we see and hear you on stage!

Lorraine Barrows, Directors Coordinator

ROAR!!!

Ever Thought of Arranging Barbershop Harmony?

Come to a meeting of ROAR (Region One Arranger's Retreat), following this Winter Regional Meeting, at the hotel, Sunday, January 25 at 11 AM (checkout first). We will order lunch there. Debbie Connolly from The Buzz will stay on to teach about Arranging for Young Women in Harmony and Arranging for Today's Quartets. Debbie coaches lots of quartets! Lorraine Rochefort and Linda Masterson will be assisting with a panel. Workshop will finish by 3 PM.

I'm sorry to announce that this year's New England Flower show has been canceled due to staffing and financial issues with the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. I want to thank all of you who participated in the performances at the 2008 Flower Show. We experienced a wonderful opportunity to get the word out about Sweet Adelines and our region specifically, and we had some fantastic, positive comments from the audience.

I hope we will be able to participate in future shows, when the Society picks back up.

Terrie Mavros
R1 Marketing Coordinator

Angie Levine,
Team Leader
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YOUR REGIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

and how to contact them



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save the dates!

Upcoming Regional Events

2009

- ☛ April 30-May 3 - Regional Contest
Springfield, MA
- ☛ August 14-15 - Directors' Retreat with Betty Clipman
Details to be announced
- ☛ Sept. 13-15 - Fall Regional, Newton, MA
Faculty: Dale Syverson

2010

- ☛ January 22-24 - Winter Regional. Burlington, MA
Faculty: Chris Noteware and Vickie Foltz



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Lorraine Barrows,
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RQA DAY

(The reason this article about RQA day, which took place last August, is in this issue is that there was no room in the Fall issue. But taking advantage of opportunities like these are so important to our craft that everyone should know about it and plan for next year. The 2009 RQA day will focus on mix 'n' match and finding quartets for people who are looking to be in one.)

Back to school, barbershop style

Region 1 went back to school early this year at the annual RQA (Regional Quartet Association) day, August 2nd. Although the name implies the day is just for quartets, it has a lot for regular members as well.

The coach for the amazing day was none other than the amazing Dale Syverson. After the introduction, she offered a workshop on tools and techniques for creating a wall of sound, and after coaching a quartet in open session, she talked about lyric ballad delivery, with the emphasis on "whole thought" lyric delivery and the effects of artistic breath timing.

Between coaching two quartets in the afternoon, Dale spent a lot of time on blending skills, offering part-specific techniques for rehearsing a better blend. The last class of the day involved the entire body of attendees singing, and it focused on barbershop embellishments and nuances.

These skills are what makes a huge difference in chorus contest scores, separating the A's and B's. But it is not just about scores. When we sing the words as well as the notes of a ballad, we reach into peoples' hearts, and they feel what we feel. It is a magic moment. And when we can wow an audience with a wall of sound, what a rush we get. It's about the love of entertaining and do it well.

It's all about the breath

How many times do we hear it from our directors and coaches? Breathing is the key to singing. Learn to breathe right, and the singing will improve immensely. As a severe asthmatic when I was young, I was often unable to take full breaths. As an adult, I was dismayed to find out from a lung capacity test at a routine physical exam that I did not even fill half of my lungs on what I deemed to be a huge inhale. So this is what I work on, and these breathing exercises (I hate to call them that) can be done any time during the day, when you're watching TV, driving, taking a break from a hectic day at your desk, or even in bed.

This one is first because it is important to all the ones that follow. Expanding your ribcage and keeping it expanded as you exhale (and singing is exhaling) will give you longer breaths for singing. Inhale so that your ribcage expands out to the sides. You can feel this if you put your hands on your sides as you inhale. Now tie a belt or ribbon around your ribcage at its expanded size. Now practice exhaling, inhaling again, and singing without letting the belt fall. You will notice that your abdomen and diaphragm are what do the work, but your ribs stay out. (Thanks to Geri Gasior of SONE for this one.)

This second one is a Dr. Andrew Weil breathing technique, from his CD *Breathing: The Master Key of Self-Healing*. He calls it the relaxing breath, but it is great for increasing breath capacity and is a long-standing practice of yoga. Place the tip of your tongue behind the front teeth. Exhale fully with an audible whoosh, even pursing your lips in a whistle position. Inhale through your nose to a slow count of four. Hold your breath for a count of seven, and exhale noisily through your mouth, around your tongue, for a count of eight. Do this eight times. I learned from a doctor when I was a teenager having an asthma attack that exhaling through pursed lips with some force, like blowing out a candle, helped expand the lungs because of the breath being pushed back due to the resistance. If you ever find yourself out of breath from exertion, this technique is terrific.

This one comes from Jean Barford and is a great breath builder. But it really helps to do it every day. Take a good breath and sing middle C as softly as you can for as long as you can. Repeat. Then do it twice on D, and two more times on E.

This one comes from SONE's director Marion Devokaitis. We do this at every rehearsal. On the sound of SHHH or FFFF (or some of each), exhale in short bursts to a count pattern of 1-2-3, 1-2-3, 1-2-3-4-5-6-7. Inhale at the commas, but feel your abdominal muscles moving on all of the exhales. Make sure you blow out all of your air or you'll get light-headed.

Don't forget to keep that rib cage expanded!

The last one is another of Dr. Weil's, from yoga. It's called the stimulating breath or the bellows breath and is a technique for gaining energy, or as Dr. Weil says, a quick non-caffiene pick-me-up. Breath in short inhales and exhales through your nose, as fast as you can. You'll find that even ten seconds of this is energizing. His goal for people is to be able to do it for a whole minute. It's really hard.

The last technique Dr. Weil describes on his CD is the combination of the bellow breath with the relaxing breath. Do the bellows breath for a minute, or as long as you've built up to, and follow it with four repetitions of the relaxing breath, 4 - 7 - 8. Do it a couple of times. If incorporated into your day, any or all of these breathing exercises will improve your singing.

Susan Jones, Tags. ed

Chorus Lines



Berkshire Hills Chorus

The Berkshire Hills Chorus had a fun filled Summer, Autumn and Winter season. We participated in "Third Thursday" developed by the Downtown Pittsfield Committee. Our sing out was a success with many in the audience singing right along with us. "Who Knew" (Laurie Boudreau-tenor, Sue Ingui-lead, Debbie Kleiner-bari, Marianne Juby-bass) our quartet and "Double Treble" (Janie Pellish & Naomi Rauff-tenor, Maria Brodeur & Gail Wojtkowiak-lead, Dottie Barnes & Pam Basinski-bari and Barb Hyland & Myra Lawrence-bass) our octet, also joined in the festivities.

In September, Myra Palmer Lawrence, one of our chorus members was married and her octet "Double Treble" sang "If I Give My Heart" before she and her groom exchanged wedding vows. It was a day to remember and hold dear in our hearts.

December 6th was our holiday show "Holiday Harmony". Along with Berkshire Hills Chorus, Who Knew? and Double Treble, special guests included Ashley Adler, Julia Reynolds, and Sonali Reynolds from Young Women in Harmony. Also performing, The Grace Notes of Miss Hall's School, The Bennington Trio, and the St. Joseph High School Chorus.

We have enjoyed many sing outs in the community to celebrate the season: The Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge, MA, Berkshire Medical Center and Dalton, MA Christmas Lights and many nursing homes and retirement villages.

Although 2008 has passed, we will hold our memories close to us. The new year is upon us and we anticipate another musical year with our chorus, octet and quartet.

Maria Brodeur

Champlain Valley Chorus

December 2008 was a month of celebration for the Champlain Valley Sweet Adelines. On December, 9, 1968 our chapter received it's charter. To commemorate our 40th anniversary, we have installed a month-long display at the Clinton County government center in Plattsburgh, New York, to show off some of our chapter activities. We included photographs from the 40 year history: costumes, show posters, our original recipe book, information about singing Valentines and community activities (such as Adopt-A-Highway); our banner and our original charter and information about Sweet Adelines International and our own chorus. We also have brochures and recruitment information available to entice new members to join us in our favorite activity. (See the photo below of our display.)



As usual, the holiday season brought us many activities to perform. We sang at our local mall's "Night of Giving" promotional and fund-raising event, a local business Christmas party and the holiday concert hosted by our brother barbershoppers at St. Peter's church in Plattsburgh.

Colonial Spirit Chorus

How fortunate we are to have family, friends, health, heat, electricity and water. Yet, this past December's ice storms tested our reliance on all of these to keep our lives on track. "The show must go on" became our mantra during this time and we performed in

our traditional venues in Acton and Littleton despite our personal temporary set-backs. Our last performance in December was caroling on Acton's Town Hall steps and we wondered if anyone would brave the cold night to come out to join us in the community holiday sing. We were thrilled to see so many parents with their children come, and the smiles on their faces as we all sang Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer reminded us again how the gift of music lifts everyone's spirits. It's great to be a Sweet Adeline!

We look forward to the New Year with hope and determination to incorporate the new skills that our choreographer Amy Dunlap tried to impart to us. She always makes everything look so easy and natural – all we have to do now is remember all that she taught us! January and February will be great months for learning more as we eagerly anticipate Winter Regional plus special coaching from Nancy Field and Karen Rourke. Then on to one of our greatest educational times – our retreat in March. Several of us are planning on going to Nashville in October to experience the thrill

of watching International competition live (the webcasts are tantalizing, but seeing it live will be a treat) and our chair Heather Mullins is doing a great job ramping up the excitement.

Congratulations to our new Assistant Director – Victoria Rowe! Victoria has been with CSC for several years, has been a front row person, head of the Music Staff, Lead Section Leader and Lead in The Metta Four quartet. We are proud

to have her in this new position and look forward to her guidance.

We have been developing our Marketing plans using the Real Women campaign templates available from SAI and are glad to have some professional layouts rather than trying to do it all ourselves. It is so nice to have the tools we need so easily accessible to us.

Pat Marais

Cranberry Shores Chorus

Greetings from Hyannis, and welcome back to all the contestants who proudly represented Region 1 in Honolulu. Our chorus was with you in spirit throughout the week.

We used a new approach this Fall in an effort to spark interest and acquire new members. Our "Harmonize the Holidays" program began in early October. The program was well publicized, and women were invited to join us for six weeks to learn our holiday repertoire and to perform with us in our holiday performances. During that time they became familiar with the Sweet Adelines organization and the Cranberry Shores Chorus. They also had the opportunity to attend one of our Saturday coaching sessions with Gail Jencik. Approximately ten women participated, and several are in the process of becoming members. It was a pleasant experience for all, and chorus members were impressed with the enthusiasm and quick learning of the repertoire by our holiday singers.

We had four Christmas performances. Our first was at the Cape Cod Mall's Night of Giving. This was our second year at that venue. We had two holiday strolls; again, one at the Cape Cod Mall and one along Main Street in Hyannis. Our fourth was at Highfield Hall in Falmouth.

December 2 was our annual holiday party at the home of Dee Pelletier -- a great evening of good food, good cheer and, of course, lots of singing.

As in the past, we collected food at a December rehearsal for a local food bank.

Once we ring in the New Year we shall start preparing 'BIG TIME' for contest, with lots of coaching, Retreat and hours of individual practicing. Many of us plan to attend Winter Regional; hope to see you there.

Sally Anderson

Farmington Valley Chorus

Happy new year to all our Region 1 sisters! May 2009 be a great year of development and success for all the Region 1 choruses!

Farmington Valley Chorus had a busy fall, beginning with one of our favorite annual performances: Connecticut day at the Big E. We also enjoyed several sessions with our new vocal coach, and welcomed some new faces to the risers

thanks to monthly guest nights.

In addition to these activities, we focused much of our attention over the past few months on preparing for our 2008 show, "Let's Get Away From It All," which took place in Wethersfield, CT, on November 22. The show was an evening of travel and adventure, with special guests including the men's quartet Four Aces, as well as Region 1's own Joyride! and Without Warning. Thanks to all the show committees and the whole chorus for making the show a success!

Now we're preparing for our singing valentine program in February and (of course) regional competition in May. We're looking forward to some great coaching sessions this spring, including a fun and productive retreat in March. Can't wait to see you all again in Springfield!

Happy new year!

Susie Milner

Greater Montreal Chorus

Greetings from "up north". Greater Montreal has been busy this season. We began with our September membership drive, with plans to welcome several new members to the fold. The end of October brought a coaching day with Sandie Nason. We worked really hard with and for Sandie, showing her all the skills on which we have been concentrating -- vowel production, singable consonants, whole word singing, and using a story line to guide our emotions for each song. We are also eager to have a coaching session with Lorraine Rochefort, scheduled for February.

We have been involved in sing-outs at senior residences, an arts festival, commercial venues, and we are looking forward to our big show in May. We are currently engaged in our year-end fund raiser, selling handmade, wonderfully perfumed soaps, thanks to our chorus manager, Louise Cauchon.

From all of us to all of you, we wish a happy, productive, and musical 2009.

Yours in Harmony, Shira Karpati

Harmony on the Sound

As you are reading this you are probably snuggled up in a warm woolen sweater and drinking a hot chocolate, after all it

is winter! Just a few short months ago winter was nowhere in sight, and we had one of the greatest opportunities of our lives when we travelled to Hawaii for International. For at least fifteen of our members this was the very first time we had ever been to a Sweet Adelines International Competition. For many of us this was the first time we had been to Hawaii. Hawaii truly is a paradise and what a fabulous time we all had!! We owe our coaches Jim Arns, Joe Connelly, and Vickie Maybury many thanks for their encouragement and guidance. Of course, we all recognize that without the support of our family and friends we would never have been able to leave our ordinary lives behind and experience the camaraderie, music and beauty of International in Hawaii. A special thank you to all our supporters in Region 1, those that were in Hawaii and those that stayed behind. You will never know how much your warm wishes, hugs and smiles meant to us. The support we received was tremendous!

In December we had a low key month trying to recuperate after the months of intense rehearsals. A group of members did some caroling at St. Joseph's Manor (our regular rehearsal site) to bring the holiday spirit to the residents there. They enjoyed some holiday cheer and some of them even joined in. It was a great time enjoyed by all and our thanks to Jan Dalgard for organizing this event.

HOTS will be busy in the upcoming months. We kicked off January with our Annual Chorus Day! This was a great way to shake off the post holiday blues and get back into the swing of things! Right after regional we will be getting our membership drive underway. There are so many women out there who just don't know what they are missing! In February we are having a fund raiser that should be loads of fun and help increase the bank account. We are already gearing up for our third annual Fairfield Idol Show and we will be holding our auditions in March. Our web site is also undergoing some changes and updates. Soon our member's only pages should have all the information that our members could possibly need.

As if that wasn't enough to keep us busy we also have 2009 Regional Competition

to prepare for. The singing is what keeps us coming back week after week and what better way to pass away the time in the dead of winter. Hope you are staying warm! All the members at Harmony on the Sound wish you the best in 2009!

Heart of the Valley

As I write the news of HOV chorus, my sisters and I are energized by the coaching session we just had with the one and only Marion Devokaitis, director of award winning SONE. Our director Maggie Hawlicheck knew what she was doing: pump us up before the holidays to give us something new to work on even as we sang with our families at home! Since both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve fell on Wednesdays, darn it, no regular rehearsals for HOV.

Turning back the clock, November was different! Before Maggie took off to compete with SONE in Hawaii, she led HOV in a rousing Sunday afternoon performance at the Lathrop Community. It's so good to feel appreciated; folks loved us! When Maggie returned we were all set to sing Thanksgiving weekend at the famous Yankee Candle in So. Deerfield MA. Santa came to visit, but we knew it was OUR "jingle bells" the kids, moms and dads wanted to hear. Two performances in one afternoon in the same venue proved to be a great idea!

While Maggie was away HOV was in the very capable hands of HOV members Ginny Crawl and Judy Pease. Every holiday song we ever knew was pulled out and freshened up!

Our October membership drive was fun; it's always good to have guests come and "try us on for size". A few new voices choose to join each year, and we are so pleased to share the joys of Sweet Adeline life.

Speaking of joys, our dear members Jo Sweeney and Maxine Sumner have surprised us with their talents in the kitchen. Maggie's October birthday, November bon voyage wishes, plus our Christmas party gave these talented ladies an excuse to bake and decorate a cake once a month. Are we spoiled! The fact that this fall was our 25th anniversary of being chartered is yet another reason to celebrate! Begun as Mt Sugarloaf Chorus,

Heart of the Valley Chorus is strong and looking forward to the next 25 years!

With our sights set on 2009, HOV and the Pioneer Valley Chordsmen are in the planning stages of a spring Cabaret. Joining forces and talents to entertain the public, raise some funds and have a great time singing....what could be better!

Joyce Monska

Island Grove Chorus

The Island Grove Chorus has been busy this Fall and Holiday Season. In October we held a fundraiser fashion show and concert at the Viking Club in Quincy, MA. The Dress Barn graciously provided the clothing for our event while friends and family members of the chorus volunteered to "strut their stuff" for the show. Chorus members formed teams to create raffle baskets for the occasion as well, each basket filled with items of a specific theme.

On December 7th we had the opportunity to sing at the outdoor Holiday Stroll in Hingham, MA. It was cold, but a fun dress rehearsal for our Holiday concerts on December 9th and 14th at the Heritage Methodist Church in East Weymouth, MA and our own concert held at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Braintree, MA. The Quincy Point Bell Ringers performed at our concert after which we all enjoyed a delicious assortment of goodies baked by chorus members.

In the New Year we will be gearing up for our Spring Concert with the Southeastern Philharmonic Orchestra to be held at the Elks Club Lodge at in Weymouth, MA. For ticket information please contact Joanne Rawson at (781) 843-4355.

We are also looking to recruit new members to Island Grove Chorus. We



plan on conducting a contest to see which current member comes up with the best "membership" drive flyer. A little friendly competition may help get the juices flowing to engage us in growing our membership.

Liberty Belle Chorus

LBC has been busy these past months. Our biggest news has to be our show, "Celebrate the Music." The name of our show fits perfectly into what we do at every rehearsal, and as BB said on the front page of our show booklet, "We celebrate the music every week when we come together to work as a team." Our music was fun and upbeat, from "You Can't Stop the Beat", to "Fit as a Fiddle", to "I Got the Music in Me", to many others. We had our show at The Westford Academy Performing Arts Center in Westford, MA, a new venue for us, found by our Venue/Facilitator, Susan Brierley. It was fantastic – great acoustics, good location, and very welcoming to us. Perhaps Westford Academy will be our new home for future shows. We were fortunate to have Vocal Spectrum, the 2006 International Barbershop Harmony Society Champions, perform as our special guests. We also had some terrific dancers from the West Concord Dance Academy, Amanda Burke and Cameron Delay, performing a zippy dance number while we sang "Puttin' on



Photos from Liberty Belle's show, "Celebrate the Music": left, director Barbara Braxton; above, top: Helen Morse and Deb Surdel; above bottom: Mo Haley as Music

the Ritz". A special thank you to Flyin' High, and Just for Fun, for entertaining us as well. Thanks to Clare Holland and her team for pulling it all together seamlessly.

The week before our show, we had incredible Chris Noteware to put the finishing touches on the show and give it pizzazz. All of you who know Chris know what energy she can infuse into a chorus. She came to us through the generosity of Bobbi Parris, one of our chorus members, who placed the winning bid for Chris's coaching services at the Calgary International Convention last year. During the coaching session, every suggestion Chris made was followed by an enthusiastic "Oh Yes!!!" from the chorus. And we like to think that the good fun, humor and energy we had during the show, was in part, due to Chris's coaching.

Our special coach, Jim Arns, came to work with us in November, full of energy from his amazing performance at International. We had the distinction of being the first chorus he met with since his big first place win at International (he hadn't even met with his own chorus yet). To celebrate his Championship, we literally rolled out the red carpet and crowned and "robed" him. Jim and the Melodeers wore geeky glasses as part of their costume, and Jim wore high-water black pants with suspenders, white socks and black shoes with a too small tie on a white shirt. To welcome him, and in honor of their clever package, some of us dressed up as "music geeks" and we all wore "nerd" glasses. Our own BB, actually dressed to match Jim's look at International. Can you imagine!! She looked terrific -- and soooooo funny!!! Of course our session with Jim was invaluable as always, improving sync issues and smoothing out the rough edges. His perspective on judging categories fueled his comments and his natural energy did the rest to make our 3 hour rehearsal feel like ten minutes!!

And other news... one of our members, Amy Bischoff, invited the Barbershop Sweethearts, a wonderful group of young singers from Boston University to a rehearsal. They sang for us, we sang for them, and they also joined us on the risers for a good part of rehearsal -- it was good fun for all!

Our Marketing and Membership coordinator reports that we have added new, enthusiastic women to our chorus since our Guest Night in September. We have been averaging 1 new member each month since May. One of our new members, Pam Florian, is already in a quartet. She sure caught the barbershop bug quickly! Many of our new members are bringing in friends to check out the barbershop world. Even if they don't join, it's a great way to spread the joy of our singing world.

We've had quite a few performances during this holiday season. Some of us sang at the 95th birthday celebration of the mother of one of our members, at the tree lighting ceremony in the town of Arlington, as well as at the mall in Chestnut Hill. We also sang at Academy Manor, the residence in which BB's husband Frank spent his final days. BB told us about the woman in the hall on a long stretcher-like bed who had been at Academy Manor for more than 20 years and was in the room next to Frank's. Her eyes were big as saucers even though she can not talk.

And lastly, a special thanks to Dolly Brown, who has been writing the LBC news in Tags & Swipes for about 6 or 7 years. Dolly has decided it's time for someone else to take over. That's me...

Charlotte Temple

Merrimack Valley Chorus

January is a month of beginnings, and as 2009 starts, MVC is bidding farewell to a dear friend known by many of you in the region -- Marie Green. When you read this article, Marie and her husband, Walt Cummins, will have relocated to Prescott, Arizona.

Marie's been a Sweet Adeline since 1989 when she joined Profile Chorus. After hearing members of the chorus harmonize in a restaurant, she realized how much she missed singing. Marie transferred from Profile to MVC in 1998 when she was working in Burlington, MA, and it was more convenient to come to rehearsals in Wilmington straight from work. She's served on the Management Team (Membership Coordinator), the Music Staff (most recently as the tenor section leader and the Director's

Assistant), and she's taken on countless chorus work assignments. A few years ago the chorus recognized Marie's value by awarding her the chorus "In Her Footsteps..." award, named for the late Marge Bennett.

Can you believe it? It is taking seven members to fill the musical and administrative voids in the chorus that Marie has left behind! Her departure will be felt by many quartets, including the one with whom she harmonized most recently, Fascination.

What do we know about Marie outside Sweet Adelines? Marie has been singing since she was a little girl growing up in Waltham, MA. She earned a Bachelor's degree in mathematics at a time when computer science was not offered. Her long career as a computer software engineer made her well suited to take charge of our chorus web site. Marie reads music well, and she has an uncanny memory for pitches. She used to play classical piano, and taught herself how to play the guitar. She sang in various church choirs and some madrigal groups before venturing into the world of a cappella music. Besides singing, Marie enjoys walking, hiking, reading mystery novels, knitting, needle working, and playing table tennis. As a (non-smoking) lung cancer survivor, Marie has helped many others going through cancer diagnosis and treatment, by sharing her personal knowledge and experiences.

We're missing Marie already, and we're sending her our love and thanks. We wish her and Walt all the best in their new home in the Southwest.

- Terry Lee

Mollyocket Chorus

The Christmas season was a busy one for us. We sang to a full house in a "Christmas for Teens" concert, to shoppers at the Auburn Mall and at four assisted living/nursing home facilities. "Christmas for Teens" is also our chosen charitable activity. We contribute money



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for Christmas gifts for a homeless teenager and collect personal-sized toiletries all year, which are distributed to needy teenagers. Our performance at "Christmas in Harrison" was postponed because of the December 11th ice storm, which no doubt affected scheduled performances or rehearsals for many of our Sweet Adeline sisters in Region 1.

Looking back a few months, once again this year we had a delightful and inspiring time singing for the Sunday River Christian Ministry atop North Peak at the Sunday River ski area. We rode the lift to the North Peak Lodge on



Mollycokett Chorus in Holiday Spirit

a beautiful October morning where a capacity crowd was assembled on the outdoor deck for the service. The minister is Rev. Donald Coverdale, husband of Mollycokett member, Janet Coverdale.

We held two Guest Nights in September and were delighted to find three potential baritones and one new lead. They sang the Christmas music with us. We continue to look for a new director, but in the meantime, we are fortunate to have Pat, our director of ten years, Wanda, our assistant director, and Bonnie, bass section leader share directing duties. Thanks to encouragement of the Region 1 ROAR group, and the great teaching sessions of Lorraine Rochefort and Linda Masterson, Mimi Wetzel managed to write a new simple and singable arrangement of "We wish you a merry Christmas" for us.

We look forward to seeing many of you at Winter Regional in Danvers.

Mimi Wetzel

Post Road Chorus

Well, Post Road, being a small chorus as you all know, needed to come up with a way to add some much needed funds to the coffer (no surprise there, huh?). So, we came up with the idea of having a yard sale which was held in a church parking lot in Shrewsbury on October 4th. It was not only a good way to clean out our attics and garages and so forth, we made some decent money

forward to a few weeks off in December to catch our breath. In November we presented our musical comedy, *Stay Tuned!*, to an enthusiastic and supportive audience, who loved both the hilarious script as well as our guest performers, *Tucker-man's at 9*. Then, once we had finished with show preparations, Profile embarked on a performance schedule that took us all around Southern New Hampshire and even out to the Seacoast! We sang our holiday package at the Christmas tree lighting at Amherst's Salzburg Square and for the residents of the Hanover Hill Healthcare Center in Manchester. Our recent experience as the "Mistletones," as a complement to the wonderfully talented and innovative Christine Lavin, was a performance that we particularly enjoyed. Another favorite this year was the Candelight Stroll at Strawberry Banke, a beautiful (but cold!) walk through a snow-covered, historical Portsmouth neighborhood covered in twinkling white lights. We are so grateful for all these chances to share our music with folks who appreciate the holiday-themed tunes. They love to listen ... and we, of course, just love to have a whole lot of fun!

As I write these words, the year is already fast drawing to a close and making way for 2009. Another year means another upcoming chorus competition, which will be here before we know it! Profile is already hard at work on a brand-new contest package, and after a brief hiatus in 2008, we're very excited to be heading back onstage this May. With the help of incredible coaches like Lorraine Rochefort and Karen Sweeters, we're sure we'll have some great new stuff to share in Springfield. We're looking forward to reuniting at that time with our sisters in song. A very happy New Year to all of you!

Deanna Dean

and it provided an excellent opportunity to distribute flyers to the female customers extolling the virtues of attending our Guest Night which was held about three weeks later.

The Guest Night did bring in some women, some of whom have already auditioned. The support from all chorus members was fantastic for both of these events.

We have had the pleasure of bring out our Christmas repertoire and have performed in various locations over this joyous season. We now have begun to buckle down with preparations for competition which I'm sure is on every chorus' agenda.

Profile Chorus

Profile Chorus has been incredibly busy these past few months, and we're looking

Royal River Chorus

The party is always a fun time and a nice change of pace at the end of a busy year for our chorus. But now it's only 8 months to International contest and we're committed to making this our best performance ever. Our long-time coach, Betty Clipman, was with us in December and gave us a good workout and great

advice on our contest ballad and new uptune. She'll return every few months to make sure we're where we need to be to make a strong showing on the International stage. As part of our commitment, we plan to compete for evaluation only in Springfield, so we're in spring contest mode along with the rest of you!

In the meantime, we will have had our first "Girlfriends Day" of '09 by the time you read this. We printed 1000 colorful guest passes which members are handing out and posting to invite women to a day of learning what barbershop-style harmony is all about. Our fall '08 membership effort netted us some wonderful talented singers, so we hope for similar results this year! Fundraising for our Nashville trip is a given, so if there's an RRC CD or cookbook you've been meaning to get but haven't yet ... we'd love to hear from you (details on <http://www.royalriver.org>).



Royal River members Rhonda Williams, Norma Marks, Gloria Nye and Laurie Cornwall enjoy the chorus' annual cast-off gift-swapping party, where many unwanted treasures end up hidden around the home of the unwitting hostess. This year's hostess, Judy Liberty, told us: "Some elves actually made it into our [master bath] room and put many candles around the jacuzzi, artfully entwined with gold garland! If only I could guess who managed to pull that off, I would tell her what an absolute hoot it was to discover. My husband went in ... and when I heard his whooping and laughing, I ran in, and pretty much fell on the floor in hysterics. I plan to leave it as is almost forever."

Sue Bonior

Sound of New England

HAPPY HOLIDAYS to all of you in Region #1! Hope they were as wonderful as you wished. SONE's

holidays were celebrated with performances at the McLean Home, The holiday party for the Hartford Transplant Association, and for the Festival of Trees in the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford. We also presented, for the first time, our own holiday show in West Springfield, MA. The season was busy but fun.

Our trip to Hawaii was, what else, fabulous! We had a marvelous experience on stage and International Convention was as exciting as ever, maybe even more. Imagine! Melodeers scored more than 3,000 points and their "nerdy" performance package was wonderful. Did you all get to see it on the webcast?

And now it's back to reality and the cold. We have already started our preparations for contest in May. Just like every other Sweet Adeline chorus we have coaching and a retreat planned over the next several months. But first we plan to see all of you in Danvers for the upcoming Regional Weekend with "The Buzz". Be sure to be there as I know classes will be the best.

Finally, Thank you once again for all your support and encouragement on our journey to Hawaii. Region #1 is the very best!

Carol Rooney

The Valley Chords

Our fall was filled with fundraisers to fill the coffers. We all emptied out our basements, garages and closets and donated the items to the Valley Chords. We set up at the Fireman's field for a huge Tag Sale and sang our way to through the day. What a blast!

We had an exciting holiday season with 6 performances in the Upper Valley region. We sang at a few of the local nursing homes, assisted living places and at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center where we really made the halls ring. We were energized by a pre-holiday visit to the men's barbershop chorus rehearsal where we really "rang their chimes" with several of our holiday tunes. Then they joined in for a couple of holiday favorites!

We are looking forward to coaching in February and March as we prepare for

Competition. Our blessings are sent to you all for the New Year.

Judy Dixon,
President of the Valley Chords.

Valley Shore Chorus

Our Chorus has been on the go since the leaves on the trees turned red and gold. Autumn always seems to be a busy time leading up to the holiday season. Naturally one of our favorite times is Halloween. What Sweet Adeline worth her glitter wouldn't love the opportunity to dress up as strange and wonderful creatures! So, of course, we all came in costume to our rehearsal night party at Village South. The residents are our biggest fans and we show our appreciation by bringing goodies to share. Carolyn Douglas, known for her flare and dramatic turns, arrived as a bathroom fixture...I'll leave the particulars to your imagination! Our esteemed president, Judy Alvord, couldn't make up her mind, her left side was a devil, right the angel! Speaking of angels, Ellen Wildman was seriously miscast as one. Merlin the wizard was also there, better known as our director, Heidi Zacchera. We sang, we ate, we partied! It was a great night.

November was the time for International competition in Hawaii. What a venue! A few of us had a little party at Carolyn Mariconi's house to watch the Webcast on the big screen. It was a terrific show. The talented performers wowed us with their creativity and incredible musical abilities. We congratulate all the competitors, especially The Melodeers with Jim Arns, #1 chorus, and The Moxie Ladies, #1 Quartet. Applause, applause! Also starting in November, we opened our doors to visitors for Holiday Chorus. Shortly before that, we welcomed our latest member, Paula Tarafa. She joins us from Ivoryton, CT. Paula is a spirited new member and we're thrilled she picked us! We shift gears to overdrive starting at Thanksgiving. This year, the chorus performed at Gillette's Castle, located on an overlook of the CT river. A beautiful spot anytime of year! Then we performed at Village South for their corporate cocktail party... very elegant. We

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soldiered on to do the Saybrook Stroll, a street fair put on by local merchants on Dec. 5th. Well, after all that singing, we were all a little parched. Fortunately, the local eatery was nearby where we ate, sang and were serenaded by a Marachi Band! In between all the festivities, our daytime quartet, Sparetime, was also singing in the season with many performances. We had return gigs at Academy Pt. in Mystic and Crescent Pt. in Niantic in December. Observe from the picture below of Sparetime in our full regalia, Jane, Joan, Karen, Judy, Carol, Ellen, Cathy, Marylou and Jeannette, pitch piper extraordinaire! In the middle of December, one of our favorite gigs is the Festival of the Trees in Hartford. It is a gorgeous array of decorated trees and seasonal music. We close it out every year with a variety of songs from "Rudolph" to "Jingle Bell Rock". This year, we're doing back to back gigs. We sing at Salvation Army Residential Center, also in Hartford.

our sister choruses a very happy, healthy and prosperous Holiday and New Year....2009!!! See you at Regional in January.

Marylou Zinser

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The people who live there are sooo appreciative of our music. We love to sing for them.

We are breaking with traditions for our Holiday Party. What! Another Sweet Adeline party? Of course, it's part of our DNA with a little G clef thrown in for good measure. Our happy group is descending on Tommy's, another local eatery, for fun, frolic, yankee swap and adult beverages!!!

We wind up the holiday singing season with a strolling performance at The Simsbury Inn, where our own Ellen Wildman toils at her job! We wish all