



SPRING 2007

## Marketing Your Chorus

*Carole Essenmacher - Region 2 Marketing Coordinator*

■ Marketing your chorus is a matter of becoming familiar with your community and making connections with the area businesses and organizations.

Get to know more about the community where your members live. Find out what affiliations members have in their communities. Where do they work? Are they connected to any schools or churches? Do they belong to other cultural organizations?

Are there businesses where major purchases are made by the chorus?

Join the local chamber of commerce and arts council. Make presentations about SAI and your chorus to other organizations, local business clubs, and schools.

Volunteer as a chorus with community projects. Answer phones for the PBS station, take on a local charity, give free materials to music teachers, perform for free for tree-lighting ceremonies, good citizen banquets, and scout events. Give free show tickets to youth vocal groups including high school, college and community vocal groups.

Work with another music group to put on charitable program.

Become familiar with the area media. Learn the names of the contact person for each and make your name known to them.

Benefits are numerous: Become better known as a positive force in community, raise the chorus' musical standards in the eyes of the community, attract new members, increase the number of performances, sell tickets to chapter shows, obtain financial support through donations and grants from business, foundations, local sponsors, feel good about chorus being respected in the community. Present a positive "diva" image of your chorus to your community!

To help you in marketing your chorus to your respective communities, the Region 2 marketing and membership team is planning a "regional membership blitz" this coming fall. We will provide marketing materials for you to use in publicizing your event. We will supply you with suggestions as to how you can plan your membership drive and help you with organizing such. You will receive more information as the plan is developed.

Get out there, divas, and "Harmonize the World" by starting in your community!



**MISSION STATEMENT**

Border Lakes Region 2 is an organization of American and Canadian women singers which advances musical excellence in barbershop harmony through education and performances.



**REGIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM**

Henny Ford, Chapter Coordinator • Carole Essenmacher, Marketing & Membership • Becky Cherry, Finance • Sandra Chaffin, Events • Chris Noteware, Directors • Keane Michelin, Communication Technology • Dorothy Davenport, Team Coordinator • Lisa Gilkey, Education

**REGIONAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT TEAM**

Arranger Education Susan Heimburger • DCP Testing Peggi Starkey • Mentoring Donna Shorkey • Regional Newsletter Linda May • Quartet Education Karen Romanson • YWIH (U.S.) Anne Kotchman & Mary Patrick

Web Master Sheila Worthington  
<http://www.sweetadelinesregion2.org/>

**BORDER LAKES REGION 2  
2006 – 2007 REGIONAL  
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**BORDER LIGHTS**

**Sweet Adelines International Region 2 newsletter**

Deadline for issue posted on the regional Web site  
and distributed at fall regional

**AUGUST 30, 2007**

This deadline is firm.

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Send to: Linda May

lindamay@ameritech.net

LARGE FILES: LKIRBY@AMERITECH.NET

23611 Glenwood Road

Clinton Township MI 48035-2943

586-790-0008 or phone/fax 586-791-8116

**Send articles by the deadline as a plain email message  
or as an email attachment.**

**No more than 600 words.**

**Sign your articles.**

**Send ONLY your FINAL and COMPLETE draft.**

Send photos by email as a common photo file or send a photo to  
scan. Attach photo information. Photographs will be returned if  
accompanied by a stamped self-addressed envelope.

**CAMERA-READY ADS**

full page 10" x 7" \$110; ½ page 5" x 7" \$55; 1/4 page 3.5" x 5" \$35;  
business card \$25; checks payable to Border Lakes Region 2

Sweet Adelines International  
9110 S. Toledo  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74137  
P.O. Box 470168  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74147-0168  
918-622-1444  
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918-665-0894 (fax)  
[www.sweetadelineintl.org](http://www.sweetadelineintl.org)



**SWEET ADELINES  
INTERNATIONAL**

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## OUR NEW REGIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

- Keane Michelin (Shoreline Sound) Team Coordinator
  - Lois Kelly (London Chorus) Communication Coordinator
    - Chris Noteware Director Coordinator
  - Lisa Gilkey (Great Lakes Chorus) Education Coordinator
  - Sandra Chaffin (Spirit of Detroit Chorus) Events Coordinator
    - Becky Cherry (Shoreline Sound) Financial Coordinator
  - Carole Essenmacher (Song of the Lakes Chorus) Marketing Coordinator
  - Donna Brichta (Fenton Lakes Chorus) Membership Coordinator
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**T**ry as I may to come up with a wonderful message for my last article as team coordinator for Region 2, success eludes me. All I can say is that being on the RMT the past six years has been an unforgettable journey. I will miss working with the outstanding women who have been my teammates; but, as with any journey, there must be stops and starts and turns. Your RMT has road maps and plans in place to continue on with the journey, and I look forward to what is around the next curve.

*Dorothy Davenport*

*Outgoing Region 2 Team Coordinator*

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**2007-2008  
Communication  
&  
Technology  
Coordinator**



**H**ello to all in Region 2. I seem to be in a familiar place as I join the RMT with a new hat. To introduce myself, my name is Lois Kelly and I sing bass with the London Chorus. I live in Chatham, Ontario, about 50 miles from the Detroit-Windsor border. I have served on the RMT in the past as chapter coordinator and I look forward to working with these incredible ladies in the coming year and keeping the communication flowing in Region 2.

I am so fortunate to have made some wonderful friendships in this region and I am excited for this opportunity to get to know you better. My term as CTC begins in May but feel free to contact me at any time. Wishing you all the very best of luck on stage in Grand Rapids.

*Love 'n Harmony,  
Lois Kelly*

## APPRECIATING OUR DIRECTORS

*by Chris Noteware*

**W**henever directors get together it's always a learning experience. Thanks to Sue Murdock, director of the Bluewater Chorus in Owen Sound, Ontario our directors at the winter regional in Port Huron revisited last summer's IES. Sue shared with us some of the highlights of her experience in San Antonio and told us some of the things that she continues to use. Many fine opportunities are offered to our leaders and finding the ones that will work for our groups is sometimes a challenge. IES can be overwhelming and having our leaders share is one way we can all be part of the experience. Thanks so much Sue. You were indeed a fine teacher!

Wasn't it fun to have a new director up on the stage as our "sage" thanks to Grand Traverse director Diane Clark? We are so happy to have her relocate to our region and enjoyed experiencing her teaching techniques. Being a DOCTOR in our region will help all of us get better! Welcome Diane and thank you for sharing all of those fine ideas. Being "your own voice teacher" hit home with me and I heard many people were eager to go home and try some of the lessons learned. Were those women in the front row the "teacher's pets?"

As we head for competition let's take a few minutes to just think of each chorus and the musician that stands before them each week. Anything any of us can do to make our leaders feel validated will only make our region stronger. Remember too that ALL directors can use our respect, attention, and interest. While we of course focus on our own maestro at home ... let's keep the other leaders caring for our musical progress in our thoughts as well. It's a great group of folks. Best of everything to our fine directors. It's a pleasure to serve this special group of Sweet Adelines.

## "WAZ UP" WITH REGION 2 EDUCATION by Lisa Gilkey, Education Coordinator

**W**OW! Have I really been education coordinator for an entire YEAR? Where has it gone – maybe I misplaced it somewhere under all the RMT video tapes and resource notebooks that have taken over my living room. Seriously. How did my predecessors do it, this mammoth job with a plethora of differing responsibilities, divergent committees and self-directed chairmen? How am I going to survive until term limits take over in 2008 and shove me from this position to . . . whatever comes next? More importantly, who in their right mind thought that I should be responsible for the education of 921 women in Michigan and Western Ontario?

I am so pleased to introduce to Region 2 our new education task force. This group of talented, creative, experienced educators and Sweet Adelines has graciously agreed to assist in setting the educational direction of Region 2. Phew! The pressure is off. Now there is a realm to envision and implement our educational growth. Resources a poor education coordinator might turn to and ask the hard questions like, "If I plan it, will they come?"

The "Force" currently comprises:

- Dr. Diane Clark, international faculty, regional faculty, director of **GRAND TRAVERSE CHORUS**, and past education coordinator for Region 23
- Cathy Hooper, director of **FESTIVAL SOUNDS CHORUS**
- Kay Kastens, regional faculty, assistant director of **GREAT LAKES CHORUS** and past regent
- Chris Noteware, international faculty, regional faculty, director coordinator, and retired director of **THUMB AREA CHORUS**
- Greta Somers, regional faculty, certified arranger, **SHORELINE SOUND CHORUS** and past regional board member
- And me, official note taker and question-raiser



Our purpose is to analyze the educational needs of Region 2 and create and maintain a five year educational plan which promotes the musical and administrative growth of our membership. In other words: Goal A of the Region 2 Strategic Plan. And this is just a part-time gig!

Which is where **YOU** [finger pointing in your face] come in. In order to make this team really effective and help Region 2 grow farther and faster than ever before, we need the education team to be more than just one task force and a few chairmen. We need YOU to share YOUR experience with the region. We need you to contribute your organizational skills in small ways which will add up to huge results when combined with the efforts of everyone. Glance through the "Classifieds" in this *Border Lights* and see if there isn't a regional hat in your size. Or dig out that grungy cap in the back of your chorus closet and offer to shine it up for all of us to appreciate.

We're not talking rocket science here. We're talking TALKING with your friends and fellow Sweet Adelines. Shared ideas grow and people sharing those ideas grow with them. Each of you is a leader, an expert at something. Tell me what that something is and I'll tell you who can benefit from a conversation with you. Simple as that.

So be prepared for another year of talented faculty sharing boatloads of knowledge in crowded facilities over too-short periods of time – and loving every minute of it. I cannot wait to see what you have to offer us!

PS: Have I thanked you lately for being so forgiving that information about future educational weekends isn't posted on the Website three months in advance? Well, thanks again. L.

## Education Weekend: We Have a PLACE and You're Invited!

What: Camp Region 2  
When: June 1-2-3  
Where: University of Western Ontario, London  
Who: All of Region 2  
Faculty: Michael Hayden

This trip down memory lane will be a fun-filled, informal weekend of friendship and song. Remind yourself how much fun it was to sing around the "camp fire" and share stories of days gone by. Let yourself relax to the tunes of barbershop and laughter as Region 2 takes a moment to play.

Michael Hayden returns to Region 2 and not just for the directors this time. Friday night we explore how Sweet Adelines compares to other singing organizations. Saturday, start the day out learning to breath and moving to relax. Then focus on personal responsibility and the five things YOU can do to make a difference. Sunday, directors and musical leaders spend the morning improving PVI techniques in a lab atmosphere.

Lodging will be in the campus dorms and meals are included in the price. But the education is FREE. Pricing and additional information will be distributed as soon as available.

### FALL INTO HARMONY

September 21-23

Radisson Hotel Detroit~Livonia  
(Formerly the Holiday Inn Livonia)

Faculty: Vicki Foltz

Yea! The "color choruses" are back and international faculty member Vicki Foltz is coming to lead the way. Back by popular demand, this educational event promises to be amazing. Learn one song over the summer and join us in Livonia for a weekend of coaching, choreo and performance with an emphasis on expression.

### *The Classifieds*

#### CSI Technician

Convention Site Investigator needed to assist in the location and/or evaluation of potential event sites. Good walking shoes and an observant nature required, transportation optional. Phone card will be provided. Contact: Events Coordinator, Sandra Chaffin, slchaff@aol.com

#### Project Managers

Solid project planning background is a plus for these newly created positions of Event Chairman. Be responsible for your own regional event, one project only. Manage a team of experts. Multiple positions to be filled, benefits negotiable. Gantt charts not required. Contact: Education Coordinator, Lisa Gilkey, lisag825@wowway.com

#### Paparazzi

Permission to follow Region 2 celebrities everywhere, exposing their deepest, darkest secrets. Camera equipment and ability to provide digital photos for Region 2 Website

required. Attendance at all regional events encouraged. Includes premium front row seating. Position ideal for job sharing. Contact: Communications Coordinator, Lois Kelly, loiskelly@cogeco.ca

#### Music/Video Librarian

Organized individual with large basement sought for high exposure position. Distribute regional resource materials to the needy, collect used material, fine as needed. Need not be named "Marian". Contact: Lisa Gilkey, Education Coordinator, lisag825@wowway.com

#### Musical Educators

Immediate openings available for highly skilled singers and teachers of musical skills. Work with individuals, small groups, others, as suits your comfort zone. Four-part harmony required, four-year degree optional. Some travel. Contact: Lisa Gilkey, Education Coordinator, lisag825@wowway.com

#### Techno Geeks

Love to wrap cords the "right way"? This is the position for you! Assist the technology challenged faculty and facilitators, ensuring that all presentations are visible and audible to the entire audience. Weekends only. Contact: Events Coordinator, Sandra Chaffin, slchaff@aol.com

#### Administrative

Instructors - Rejoice!  
The only truly acceptable excuse for not running for chapter office, "I'm on the regional team", is now available to you on a limited time basis. Work with individuals, small groups, others, as suits your comfort zone. Assignments may vary. Good communication skills a must. Prior experience not required. Contact: Education Coordinator, Lisa Gilkey, lisag825@wowway.com

#### Database Expert

Investigate changes to the current Region 2 database [it's on the Website, silly] and update as needed.

Maintain as needed. Those fearful of authority figures [directors, coaches] need not apply. Contact: Education Coordinator, Lisa Gilkey, lisag825@wowway.com

#### Education Coordinator

Highly motivated, energetic individual with amazing communication and organizational skills required for two-year position beginning May 1, 2008. Application deadline September 22, 2007. Note: this is an International appointment. Interested candidates should contact any member of the RMT except current Education Coordinator, Lisa Gilkey [she doesn't know we're posting her job!]

Have a job posting in your chapter that needs filling? Post your requests in the next issue of the *Border Lights*



## MONEY MATTERS

**G**ood news for our members! The RMT has decided to hold off one more year on raising the regional assessment rate for our members. This year's regional assessment will still be \$40 per member. In 2008, the amount will be raised to \$45. We are conscious of the fact that the economic conditions in our area are not strong at this time. However, our costs continue to rise, so increases are necessary to meet these increases. Please be sure to budget this regional assessment increase for next year. I will be sending out the letters for this year's assessment in July with another reminder of the increase. Thank you to all who made our Young Women In Harmony silent auction a huge success. Your generosity continues to amaze me and the ongoing support of this wonderful program says a lot about the membership. Several people have made individual donations to the program and it is much appreciated. For our next *Border Lights* issue, I will have a breakdown of the costs that the region incurs and also our income sources. It is an eye-opening experience to see where our money goes and where it comes from. Please feel free to contact me anytime, via phone or email, if you have financial questions or concerns. I like to think I am very accessible to the membership, Just try me!

*Fiscally yours, Becky Cherry - Finance Coordinator*

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## YOUNG WOMEN IN HARMONY

**W**e would like to thank everyone in the region who assisted in making the ninth annual Four Star Harmony Quartet Contest a success.

Lois Kelly was as amazing as always as the emcee for the mic-testing quartet **PAGE FOUR** from **GRAND HARMONY CHORUS** and the four competing YWIH quartets. Our contest was as international as our region with two quartets from Ontario and two from Michigan. **CHROMATIX** (Michaela Slamka, Jennifer Meldrum, Mackenzi Slamka and Kristen Lebryk) from Michigan placed first. **MELODY SISTERS** (Ava Olds, Erin Roberts, Lindsay Highgate and Samantha Highgate) from Ontario, placed second. **HARMONIC MINORS** (Marea Olds, Christy Lundy, Maddie Speller, and Kelsey Roberts) are from London. **HI-LITES** (Christy Whittemore, Stephanie Kent, Melissa Wolak and Claire Tatro) are from Marine City.

When we agreed last year to work together to continue the work of our predecessors in maintaining and developing the Young Women In Harmony Program in Region 2, we had no idea of the scope of this endeavor. And we were not aware of the number of people in the region who make this a successful program. Although we cannot name everyone we have a couple of people and choruses who continue to help build Region 2's YWIH program and especially the Four Star Harmony Quartet Contest. Beginning with Joan Kienitz (and her helpers) who begged and coerced choruses, individuals, and businesses to donate items (and cash) to the silent auction that was a huge success - Thank you! The auction and additional donations brought \$2,265 to the program. And, **RIVERLIGHTS HARMONY CHORUS** made a \$500 donation in memory of Margaret McTaggart. Thank you!

While waiting for the announcement of the winners by the judges (Sylvia Karpinsky, Susan Heimburger, Chris Noteware, Jeanne Lundberg, panel chair Greta Somers and page Rebecca Cherry) we were blessed with a performance by the **YWIH LONDON CHORUS**, under the direction of Marj Dudley, assisted by Anne-Marie Campbell, Jill Schell, Joyce Petch, Liana Jennings and Henny Ford. The 2005 and 2006 Region 2 YWIH Champions **DREAMCATCHERS**

Maureen O'Rourke, Jennifer Meldrum, Caitlin Meldrum, and Kristen Lebryk did their outgoing package, and brought the house down. We are so proud of them.

Thank you to all the chorus members and directors of YWIH choruses for helping to bring the first annual YWIH international mass sing to reality. Marj Dudley, **LONDON CHORUS**, did a marvelous job while having only one rehearsal of the group. Next year we would like to double the number of girls on the stage, so ... We are again asking all of you to help spread the word, find a young woman who likes to sing and help her to learn the songs the chorus will be singing. You can find the music on the Region 2 Web page, link to the Region 2 Songs button and go to the bottom of the page to find *One Fine Day*, and *I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing*. Look for a third song to be added to the Website in the near future, *We Go Together*. Thanks to Polly Snider for making this happen. You can print off the music and help a young woman to learn the words and music. With eight months to learn these songs, the chorus will be fabulous.

We are hoping, also with your assistance, to double the number of quartets competing. Help your young friends, visit your local school and find young women who are interested in a cappella harmony, and we will be successful. We are available to help you, as you help us, spread the word about Region 2's Young Women in Harmony Program.

*YWIH co-coordinators*

*Anne Kotchman and Mary A. Patrick*



## BLUEWATER CHORUS

Owen Sound, Ontario ~ ~ Susan Zammit

At the time of writing this article we are busy polishing our competition package but we at Bluewater don't just sit idle. We host an annual fashion show the first Tuesday in April where we feature new businesses in town. This year, "That's a Wrap" and "Grace's Dress Saloon by Sisters" are featured. Our chorus members wear many hats that night as well as performing, from being models to serving up delicious decadent desserts made by each member. Last year we had a few tables of "red" hats, perhaps we'll see more as it is growing in popularity.

We are pleased to announce that we are incorporated and have applied for a Trillium Grant from the government. Ontario Trillium Foundation grants are awarded to fund capital, operating and/or specific project costs in support of: Arts and Culture, Environment, Human and Social Services, and Sports and Recreation. The foundation makes grants that have province-wide impact as well as grants in local communities across Ontario. You can find more information on the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Website.

Owen Sound will be celebrating 150 years this year and many events will take place during 2007. It is going to be an exciting time and we are planning to be a part of the homecoming celebration.

We have welcomed Patricia Bartholomew to lead and she is excited to be joining us on stage. We have our very own "queen." Jackie Ralph won the Owen Sound idol contest last year and reached the finals for this year. Way to go girl. Jackie is a real asset to our baritone section. Speaking of idols, we are also practicing real hard to win a section idol. We are going to be judged by Julie Beadle. Hmm, wonder if she takes bribes?

We surprised Sue, our director, with a director appreciation night. We stocked her with fun little gifts that she returns for such things as best facial expression. One of our "fun" gifts is a glass headless fish. This gift tends to make its way around chorus and has been for years. The recipient can't wait to "regift" at the next appropriate time.

We would like to thank our coach Lee Davidson for again a great all day workshop. Your expertise and dedication has been a big asset in our chorus moving forward. I know, Lee, you will be there for us in your heart at competition and hopefully we won't disappoint you.

## FENTON LAKES CHORUS

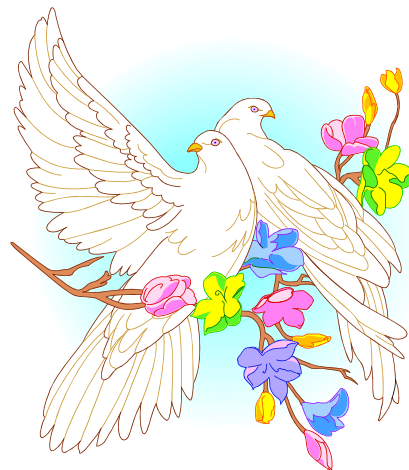
Fenton, Michigan ~ ~ Stacey Knerr

Well we did it! Somehow we all survived another Michigan winter. I, for one, am ready to welcome spring ... and yet, as I type this, there is snow flying all around. Fenton Lakes has been busy, busy, busy preparing for contest. In between rehearsals, and coaching sessions with Jim Arns and Renee Porzel, we managed to hold our first-ever euchre tournament.

The Eagles Club in Fenton was a wonderful place to hold the event, and everyone had a great time. The winner, Kim Wise, took home a prize of \$50. Monetary prizes for second and third place were also given. A raffle was held throughout the night for the players. Some of the gifts included family four-packs from the Michigan Renaissance Festival, a lift ticket from Mt. Holly, a three-bottle package of sauces from Buffalo Wild Wings, gift certificates from local restaurants, and more! We can't thank these places enough!

Kudos to our in-house quartet, **THE FABULOUS SOUND SISTERS**, they will be singing *The Star-Spangled Banner* for the minor league baseball team the Great Lakes Loons on April 14. Buy some peanuts and Crackerjack, and join them in Midland, Michigan for the day!

Fenton Lakes would like to wish our best to everyone at contest this year, and an extra boost of love to those who will be participating in the quartet competition. We'll be cheering for you!





**Party in the Park**  
with The Festival Sounds Chorus  
Saturday, June 23, 2007 7:00pm  
Upper Queen's Park Bandshell, Stratford

Celebrate our Golden Anniversary in Harmony!  
Make a weekend of it ~ Visit the famous Stratford  
Shakespearean Festival while you are here. Enjoy one  
of the many Bed and Breakfasts available.

For more information contact Barb Howlett  
bsilverpond@xplornet.com  
1-519-475-6602

We are getting ready for a big party – our golden anniversary party, that is, and it is going to be HUGE! The Festival Sounds Chorus began 50 years ago as TWS Chorus (Tavistock-Woodstock-Stratford). We look forward to welcoming back all former members, directors, quartets and show MCs to participate with us in an open-air concert in the park. Cake, music from the last five decades, reminiscing with old friends – what better way to spend an evening – or better yet, the weekend! We are hoping to attract many new singers, when they see how much fun we have – we are the best kept secret in town!

Besides planning the biggest party to date – the chorus is eagerly anticipating our next visit from Carol Cook in April. We are preparing for the Stratford Kiwanis Music Festival, where we will be showcasing our talents for the music community.

Festival Sounds sang for the Kiwanis club, at the local Army Navy Centre in March – entertaining the crowd on a very snowy evening with our war-time musical tribute show – as well as an Irish set – outfitted beautifully by our very own Stella Farwell – she is amazing with sparkles and thread! In February, we sang at Ingersoll's Woodingford Lodge. The Red Hat Society members of the senior's residence enjoyed a variety of our tunes. Good Luck to all competing choruses – we'll be back next year.

GRAND TRAVERSE CHORUS Traverse City, Michigan ~ ~ Carly McCall

Greetings from the Grand Traverse Chorus! As we dig out from (hopefully) the last snowstorm of the year, it's a great time to reflect on where we're headed and where we've been. Whew, do we ever slow down?

Since our fall regional meeting, we've been very busy here in northern Michigan. Our December holiday concert was a new venture for us as we usually hold our largest performance in the fall. Though Mother Nature didn't help at all (we had to cancel our dress rehearsal!) we had two terrific Saturday performances. Though audience development is something every chapter can work on, we were very pleased with the 300 supportive friends and family who were there and most importantly, we were happy with our performances.

We have enjoyed two terrific coaching "Kim" weekends this spring, with Kim Wonders in January and with Kim Kraut in March. Both sessions were energizing and exhausting at the same time, as we worked hard and glimpsed the possibilities – and certainties – of our growth and development as a chorus and as singers.

Valentine's Day is for lovers, so they say....but isn't it really for quartets? We were happy to have three quartets performing nearly 40 singing valentines on Feb 14. We're pleased to say we covered four counties with our miles and hundreds of faces with smiles!

We were so thrilled to share the talents of our own Dr. Diane Clark at the January regional meeting. Now many of you understand why we are so excited by our future here at the GTC! We really look forward to sharing our song and sound with all of you in May and we wish everyone good luck and productive work as we get ready to share the stage.

As we look toward the busy summer we always have in northern Michigan, we will have several performances throughout the area and we'll also be getting ready for our September "Night at the Movies" performance. As part of our preparation for that fall concert, we have put together a "Traverse City Idol" contest for young area singers. We'll be having preliminary auditions on April 14 and selecting five young artists to join us on stage in September. Our audience will help vote for their favorite and we will award a \$500 scholarship toward musical studies to one of our region's most talented young people.

So if you're in our neck of the woods or plan on coming up toward Traverse City, please look us up online at [www.grandtraversechorus.org](http://www.grandtraversechorus.org). We'd love to have you visit one of our Tuesday night rehearsals or just say "welcome" to the area!

We'll see you all on May 5!



After a two week holiday at Christmastime, Grand Harmony was anxious to get back into the trenches. So what better workout than to have a coaching session with Michael Hayden. Michael seemed to instantly improve our sound. I personally made him lunch of his specifications – a little ham, cheese and a crunchy apple. Helen May in our chorus had made a large delicious lunch for our director and he dove into that too. He claims to be watching his weight and eating healthy food and his trim figure attests to that. However the night before when my quartet took him to dinner, he stipulated “just one kabob” but then later asked for some garlic bread and then a slice of banana cream pie. Don’t you just love it when slim people cave in? Anyways, Michael did wonderful things with our voice production and sound and was so much fun besides!

A group of ten from our chorus attended a very good January music school in Port Huron and stayed at the Eddy – we always love that hotel just as Chris Noteware said we would. Page Four (Lisa, Mary, Donna and myself) were guinea pigs a volunteer quartet for Dr. Diane Clark’s “Just Call Me Shakespeare” class – wow! did we learn a lot about sub-text and just how much fun it is to have that as part of your “story.” From the howls in the audience (laughing with us of course, and not at us I’m sure), a great time and greater understanding was had by all (thanks again Diane!)

February again brought about our very successful singing valentines fundraiser. We had three quartets (**INFINITY, PAGE FOUR and CUSTOM COMBO**) out filling the full day of orders and later providing us with many funny stories about their experiences. A weekend in February found us in Guelph at our annual retreat, this time at Loyola House. Diane Porsch of Buffalo Gateway Chorus was our coach and she was better than ever! Saturday evening’s fun and games had us in three competing groups doing choreography to a chorus song, *It Had to Be You*. Once memorable group (placing second) came out stuffed pregnant with pillows (their “chorus” very aptly called “Pregnant Pause” - gave a very accusing performance. Lots of fun, great company, great food, great facilities, very hard work and WONDERFUL coaching, made this another very successful weekend. It felt so good to work the contest package hard.

March found us working the package diligently while our director made sure that we kept the gains made by Michael Hayden and Diane Porsch. New costumes were decided upon for the chorus and rounds of fittings and trying on “stuff” also filled time during rehearsals this month.

April started on a sad note, as one of our members (Doreen Koenig, tenor) her husband (Ray) passed away. Her husband was residing at Parkwood Mennonite Nursing Home, where she had arranged

for us to perform last year. We were invited back and performed there a second time on in April, and this time we followed the performance with a regular rehearsal. This facility is wonderful and will become our new home for the hot summer months.

Final fittings for our costumes took place on Good Friday and with dress rehearsal and contest just around the corner, things were not calm in the costume department! We were delighted to again have Michael Hayden back for a night on April 12 and we worked hard to show him we had not forgotten his “stuff.” As Michael couldn’t come on our regular chorus night, the regular Tuesday rehearsal night became a choreo-specific rehearsal. We then followed this with a Sunday rehearsal to get us ready for our dress rehearsal. More polishing followed for our chorus and our two competing quartets (**A TOUCH OF CLASS and PAGE FOUR**).

On May 1, we hosted our families and friends contest kickoff night. Cake and coffee followed while we basked in the limelight. It was a special night for 10 new members who were going to contest for the first time with us. Getting to contest found half the chorus sharing a bus with the **LONDON CHORUS**, 28 from Grand Harmony and 28 from London – a recipe for FUN. We also shared a restaurant with the London Chorus on the Saturday night dinner celebration after contest. We relish our close ties with London.

What a wonderful hobby (?) or lifestyle (?) we share! My husband suspects that I have joined a cult and good-naturedly suggests de-programming! Well, I know everyone has been working hard this past year and the contest will attest to the ever-increasing level of excellence. We wish all the best of luck and look forward to sharing the stage with you in 2007!

Did you get to experience the winter regional? If you didn't, you missed one of the most fun events in our region. Not only are there excellent classes and events to share, but wonderful entertainment. And this year Great Lakes is proud to have won the 2007 comedy contest! All hail to Janet DuRoss, Linda Chelten and assorted participants. It is such fun blending barbershop and silly personalities. The performances are creative and so much fun to watch. Make a note now to come to next year's event. Better than that, get a group together and see if you can dethrone the silliest women in Region 2!

Are you the same as we are? We get to the months between the holidays and contest and a different feeling comes over each rehearsal. We want to make the most of each time we sing together. We get so focused on our voices and our sound. How do we do that with more air? It feels good to gain new confidence, hoping that we each can bring a little more to make those extra points show up on the score sheets. We have done many coaching sessions just since the beginning of the year with our favorites Vickie Maybury, Jim Arns and Gail Jencik. And one of the biggest thrills was being coached by the one and only Dale Syverson! She has so much to offer – not only to each singer, but to how we can better our connection with our own fabulous director Sylvia Karpinsky. What a thrill to work with her.

Speaking of the wonderful Sylvia . . . She enjoyed a special birthday in March and we in Great Lakes made sure the milestone would not be forgotten. The special treatment actually began months ago with anonymous birthday cards arriving often and from many places inside – and outside – the United States. We celebrated with her at the rehearsal before her big day with bouquets of flowers, many more cards, a cake and a presentation of pictures lovingly put into a video and backed by the song *Simply the Best*. What Sylvia didn't know was that it didn't end there. There were multiple spontaneous performances by quartets and octets each day. On her birthday, she found her car decorated, her front lawn "forked" with little pictures of her and her answering machine filled with various renditions of *Happy Birthday*. She, of course, was such a good sport. And we hope that it showed at least a little of how much we love her.

Fund-raising has taken on a new importance this year as we strive to raise the money to replace our risers, chair and trailer that were stolen last fall. To date we have no leads on our precious equipment, so we re-focus and find new ways to make the money. Many thanks to Deb Deljevic, LouAnn Bobrovetski, Janet DuRoss, Lois Zukowski and Diana Gregg who championed our singing valentines this year. They took it on with really short notice and did a super job. One of our fundraisers came to an end in March when we drew the lucky name for our cruise raffle. It went quite well and so far we have replaced the riser chair and the trailer. Thank you to all in the region who supported us in buying the tickets.

Contest weekend is coming up fast and we have been working furiously on so many fronts. This year we will be sporting new red blazers Friday as we cheer on our quartets: **FRIENDSHIP RINGS, NOVELTY SHOP, DCQ**, and the new kids on the block – **VENUS**. Then we also have new makeup and a new costume for contest on Saturday. Mindy Krueger, our makeup chair and Barb Kilcoyne and her costume committee have done amazing work over the last few months and everything looks and feels smashing! Can't wait to see you all in Grand Rapids. Best wishes to all of Region 2.



We ended a March rehearsal with vases of fresh flowers, a cake with Sylvia's photo on it, presents – including a crown of course -- even a cover of AARP's magazine featuring none other than young Mrs. Karpinsky.



Sylvia couldn't even escape the practically non-stop, multi-week, birthday celebration at work. She was surprised by an ensemble here at her school (as she tries to eat lunch) and by the DCQ quartet at a restaurant.



It has been a very busy winter! We enjoyed three coaching sessions with Diane Catallane. In fact, after our lunch break at February's session, Dolores Foreman volunteered to have us entertain a shower in the next room with our new and improved (after coaching all morning) version of *I Don't Know Enough about You*. We never did find out whether it was a wedding shower or a baby shower, but they were a very surprised and happy audience! One song fits both? Can't think of a better way to practice a contest song! Our final dress rehearsal before contest will be held on April 18 at Kingsville Court. The senior residents are always a most appreciative audience.



We at Heart of Essex have been praying for new basses — and our prayers have been answered by the addition of three new basses and one new lead! Way to go bass section! You will see our newbies Rose Marie Szmyrko, Brittany Wilson, Leslie Little, and Leeanne Stiers at contest this year — in fact, you won't be able to miss them! Please give them a warm Sweet Ads welcome when you see them.



At the end of March, our own Joyce Clarke of **MAINSTREET** retired from her job at Clarica Insurance after 38 years! She was given a beautiful glass trophy for team spirit, her phone extension number was officially retired with her, feted at a staff luncheon, and given a new laptop computer. The festivities continued at Heart of Essex the week after with the "official Sweet Ads retirement party" in her honour. Congratulations Joyce!



The same evening, we also celebrated the election of our new executives for 2007-2008. They are as follows: president: Mavis Minney, vice-president: Fran Ferguson, treasurer: Bonnie Rilett, recording secretary: Mary Garrod, corresponding secretary: Claudette Nadeau, and board members: Cathy Fox, Linda Jadischke and Pat Tellier. Our mentor is Dolores Foreman. We have many things in store for the coming year!



Our annual installation banquet and contest after-glow party will be held on May 9 at the Knights of Columbus South Cameron Hall. The punch will flow freely!

Summer promises to be an equally busy time! On June 23 and 24, our chorus will be supporting, participating, and entertaining at the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life. This is a non-stop walk around a course by different sponsored teams to raise money for cancer research. At least one member from each team is required to be on course every hour from 6 p.m. on Friday to 6 a.m. Saturday! The first lap is taken by the many cancer survivors after the pathway is ceremoniously lit by hundreds of luminaries to commemorate loved ones who have passed away from this dreaded disease. Come and cheer us at the Windsor Campground!

On August 11, we have been invited to entertain at a fund-raiser for the Canadian Cancer Society to help children suffering with this disease. This gala event will be held at the Serbian Centre on Tecumseh Road in Windsor. There will be non-stop entertainment by various groups from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. with excellent food available all day!

On September 8, Heart of Essex has received the honour being asked to help the [Barbershop Harmony Society] Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America (aka the Sunparlour Men's Chorus) celebrate their 50th anniversary at their annual show on the stage of the prestigious Cleary International Centre. We have been asked to sing with the men's group in eight-part harmony! It promises to be a great night!

We're looking forward to seeing everybody in Grand Rapids this year. You'll be seeing us for sure because we're the very last chorus to sing! Best wishes to all our sister choruses and quartets in Region 2. Aloha and Mahalo!

*In peace, love, harmony, and joy, Fran and Rose*

**LOCK CITIES CHORUS Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan & Ontario**  
~~ Pat Deatrick, Susan Autore and Sharon Smith-Hinds

■ Hello to everyone from LOCK CITIES CHORUS!

December was busy with performances on both sides of the border. Several of these came from last-minute requests, but our chorus members pitched in and we had one of our best attendance records in several years. Some of the performances were paid, and that was an unexpected, but welcome present.

We are always looking for members and we're happy to welcome two new members to our chorus. They will be performing with us in Grand Rapids this May.

In early March we had a great coaching session weekend with Diane Clark, **GRAND TRAVERSE CHORUS'** new director. Some of our members had attended winter regional in Port Huron, and were excited that Diane would be coaching our chorus. She helped all of us in many ways, and we plan to take advantage of her talent and experience and work with her again soon.

Our chorus is planning a performance in a local theater on the Michigan side, June 16,. The theater is being renovated with grants received as part of the Michigan "Cool Cities" program. By show time they hope to have new theater seating, lighting and sound installed. The acoustics in the theater are wonderful!

We're still hoping to get together with Michigan Northern Lights Chorus and/or any other chorus that would like to get together for a day or two this summer to sing and socialize. An ongoing hope of ours is to have a gathering of the "northern fringe" choruses for a day-camp school in the summer. There are plenty of facilities, all we need are interested people to help plan and attend. If any of you are interested, please contact us at [lockcitieschorus@hotmail.com](mailto:lockcitieschorus@hotmail.com)



Coach Linda Liddicoatt  
and Seaway Sounds  
director Michelle St.  
Onge-Mitchell

**SEAWAY SOUNDS CHORUS Sarnia, Ontario ~ ~ Jo Kulik**

Spring 2007 finds Seaway Sounds preparing for competition with a difference. We are now proud to announce that we are fortunate to have two front-line directors. Seaway Sounds co-directors are Karen Shackleton and Michelle St. Onge-Mitchell. You will remember our feisty little "energizer bunny" from contest '06. This year we will sing in Grand Rapids under the direction of Michelle with Karen in the wings cheering us on. We have just returned from our retreat weekend in Grand Bend where Michelle and the chorus worked with Linda Liddicoatt to add the finesse to our package. Look out Region 2, here we come.

**TRI CITY CHORUS Auburn, Michigan ~ ~ Stannette Malosky**

WHEW! Is winter FINALLY over? Through ice, snow and high winds, Tri City has been busy with singouts, a strenuous retreat with coach, Linda Liddicoatt and choreographer, Judy Herrick, as well as PVT's with our director. (How fun was that?) We also auditioned to sing the national anthem for the newly formed baseball team, the Loons, from Midland. Two quartets from our chorus auditioned as well, and were on TV numerous times when clips of the audition were shown. How exciting it was to sit in the audience and listen to the other candidates audition as well.

Steve Flint, son of Ruth Flint, a chorus member who passed away last November, is generously donating \$1,000 annually to our chorus in her memory. He said Sweet Adelines meant a lot to her and he knew how very much she enjoyed singing, attending the regional workshops and participating in all Sweet Adelines functions. We never know, sometimes, just how much this wonderful organization means to an individual. It certainly is a special group of ladies, isn't it?

We had a very successful Christmas show, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the comedy quartet, **IN A HEARTBEAT**. What energy those ladies have! Comedy quartet, **NOVELTY SHOP** will be performing with us at the Bay City band shell this summer.

Since it FEELS like spring is finally here (?), we begin thinking about summer fun and our 15th annual Caseville Harmony Weekend. If you love being with other Sweet Adelines and singing around the campfire, I have campsites reserved just for YOU! If you don't camp, but would like to join us the first weekend in August, we have motels nearby. Contact me for more info.

We have also added a couple new members to our chorus. YEA!

*From Sylvia Detty, Great Lakes Chorus: Tri City Chorus is sponsoring the Caseville Harmony Weekend on August 3-5. We sing on Saturday evening after the potluck. Camper or cottage.*



## LONDON CHORUS London, Ontario ~ ~ Cathy Pickering

London Chorus is proud and happy that our member, Lois Kelly, has returned to “active duty” on the regional management team as communication coordinator. Lois always fulfills her commitments with dedication and thoroughness and we know she will be a great asset to “the team.” Now Henny Ford and Lois can share the drive to meetings! Thank you so very much, both of you, for the extra time and effort you put forth to serve on the RMT.

This year the chorus decided to donate a portion of the proceeds from singing valentines to the local Heart & Stroke Foundation. February is Heart Month and many of our lives have been affected by medical heart problems, either directly or indirectly. “A Song from the Heart for the Heart” was our theme. Many singing valentine recipients gave additional funds up front for this worthy cause. The patrons at Mustang Sally’s passed the hat and collected \$35.25 to “top up” the donation. It was wonderful to receive telephone calls expressing the happiness and pleasure created by our Singing valentines.

Our chorus was honoured to have Cheryl Curtis, senior area manager for the Southwestern Ontario Heart and Stroke Foundation, attend our rehearsal to accept the donation and briefly explain how the funds are put to use. This was a win/win/win situation for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the London Chorus and the recipients of a singing valentine - that is - everyone except our quartet **IN A HEARTBEAT** and Marj Dudley. A kindly elderly gentleman didn't get stopped at the stoplight and rear-ended Marj's vehicle while the quartet was trying to deliver their roster of singing valentines. It was quite a jolt and certainly shook up the ladies but thankfully nobody was hurt. In true Sweet Adelines fashion, *the show must go on*, and another quartet, **SWITCHED**, delivered two valentines from In a Heartbeat's list while the “crippled” group made necessary calls, took some aspirin and arranged for another vehicle so they could continue on their way. Marj says, “It is times like these when you find out what your friends are made of. This incident confirmed what I already knew: I am privileged to sing with gals made of the right stuff (and that isn't ‘the Wright stuff’).”

If you can't come to us - we'll come to you! One of our bass members, Helen Smith, has not been able to attend rehearsals since January because of ill health. She misses the camaraderie of the chorus members and the singing so much that the basses decided to take their section practice to Helen's home. Helen was overjoyed to be surrounded by her friends again and hear those four-part chords (a member from the other three parts also attended). Everyone felt those “warm fuzzies” and a few tears of happiness and togetherness were shed. The chorus is working hard so we can do our best at the competition in May and look forward to being there, seeing and hearing everyone else.



REAL SWEET: London Chorus members ready to deliver a singing valentine. Nancy Holden, Jill Schell, Maria Zimmermann and Anita Low.



Presentation of a donation from London Chorus' singing valentines project to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Judith Pickering, singing valentine coordinator, Julia Beadle, London Chorus director, Cheryl Curtis, senior area manager for the Southwestern Ontario Heart and Stroke Foundation and Cathy Maxwell, chorus president

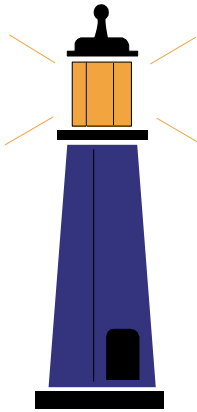


## LONDON'S YWIH CHORUS

As our fourth year is winding down, we want to say “Thank You Region 2,” for your support and encouragement. It was quite a thrill to sing with all of Region 2's YWIH singers at the winter music school. We are currently preparing for our annual Kiwanis contest and year-end show for our family and friends. Then we'll take a summer break, and be back on the risers again in the fall. Ring those chords and good luck at contest!

We're all right at it again ... another new year is upon us, and all Region 2 choruses are filling their calendars with activities.

We all met for winter regional. We learned our new regional song, *A Little Bit of Happiness* under the direction of Linda Liddicoatt. Joan Kienitz ran our YWIH silent auction, which offered quite an array of donated crafts and gifts, with proceeds going to the YWIH's regional fund. Our faculty for the weekend, Dr. Diane Clark, director of **GRAND TRAVERSE CHORUS**, guided us through an interesting mix of classes and discussions on Saturday, using drama and character study in our song texts, improving our resonance and unit sound through our vowels, reconnecting with the power of the Sweet Adelines organization and assessing your contributions to it. Exceptional examples of those who contribute to this organization are Anne Kotchman and Mary Patrick who are taking a turn as co-chairpersons of our YWIH program. After the Four-Star Harmony contest, we were treated to the YWIH London Chorus, directed by Marj Dudley, an outgoing package by our 2005 and 2006 region champions – **DREAMCATCHERS**, and an offering by the YWIH international mass sing members. The ever anticipated comedy ensemble contest brought four tickle-your-funny-bone entrants from **GRAND TRAVERSE, GREAT LAKES, WATER WONDERLAND AND TRI CITY**. Great Lakes came away the winners this year with master mischief-maker and monkey business performer Sue Gleason at the controls.



We were fortunate to have coaching sessions with international men's champion lead, Mike Slamka (from Power Play) who stressed it is necessary to sing "every part of every word." Vowels are uppermost, but those crisp-sounding consonants are just as vital and essential to our total sound.

In March we participated in our awesome retreat held at the Marriott in Romulus and were under the spell of both Kim Hulbert and Cindy Hansen for this annual event. Friday night we got underway with Kim at the controls. It was a tag team with Kim and Cindy exchanging ideas and interjecting them into our package. By suppertime Saturday, we really needed our fuel and probably naps. We had a "hidden talent contest" and witnessed some talents which should be brought out in the open, while we observed other endowments which may remain concealed for a while longer. We laughed till we cried and enjoyed a great release after an intense and concentrated day on the risers. There were games, tag singing and a color personality profile for all members. Sunday morning was spent making last-minute revisions and solidifying our performance package.

And now, the time draws very near for the Region 2 contest back in Grand Rapids, there will be lots of comings and goings at the luxurious Grand Amway. Even if a Sweet Adeline has been through this orchestration for numerous years, the excitement and anticipation still builds and builds until she just can't wait to get on that competition stage and perform and sell to the best of her ability with her quartet or chorus. Can we all imagine back to when we were rookies and relive that joyous, exuberant feeling?! Let's go do it, ladies!

## MICHIGAN NORTHERN LIGHTS CHORUS Gaylord, Michigan ~ ~ Jeanie Kelsey

Greetings from beautiful northern Michigan. MNL is riding high cause we just keep on growing! Two new members, Crystal and Connie have recently joined us, giving us 24. It is amazing how far we have come in a year. The chorus has done a remarkable job recruiting new members along with Maryellen, our membership chairman. Our revitalization along with a lot of enthusiasm and hard work is bringing us to new heights. We owe a lot to our wonderful director Cheryl, who continues to amaze us. She keeps raising the bar while encouraging us to always give our best.

As we look forward to the coming year with our board of directors, two of our newer members, Cathy and Marty have replaced Margaret and myself on the board and bring with them many fresh and innovative ideas. As I step down off the board, I want to thank our team for their dedication to the chorus. Their support and creative ideas have helped us get to where we are today. Keep up the good work!

After all these years, we finally purchased our new risers. It's wonderful to have our very own. Thank you to Bethany and Margaret for making it happen. At the rate we're growing, we'll be adding sections before we know it. We also purchased a video camera to use for rehearsals and coaching sessions, so now we can see what we really look like. Our thanks to Sue for her assistance in the selection and purchase of the camera.

Several of our members had joint replacement surgery this winter. Cathy has a brand new hip and Marie has a new knee. They have been real troupers getting themselves back in shape and on the risers. Way to go girls!

The spring was spent preparing for contest, coaching with Linda Liddicoatt, and bringing our new members up to speed. They have all jumped right in and worked very hard to learn everything in time for contest.

Several members spent a fun evening volunteering by taking phone calls at Central Michigan University for their spring radio fundraiser. The summer will bring our annual performance and sponsoring of the "Promenade des Biscuits" (cookie-walk) at Alpenfest and we still hope to put together a retreat with **LOCK CITIES** since it got cancelled last fall.

Four of us are attending IES in San Antonio in July. Cheryl, Joyce, Marty and I are looking forward to learning a lot, meeting new friends, and having a blast. We will hope to see a lot of you from region 2!

So till next time, keep that song in your hearts!

## SPIRIT OF DETROIT CHORUS Livonia, Michigan ~ ~ Alice LaVigne

### ■ News From the Spirit World

By the time you read this, we will once again have brand new regional champions! Spirit will be proud to share that stage in Calgary with the first place quartet, and the 2007 chorus champs will be strutting their stuff next year in Hawaii — also known as the "paradise of the United States. "Aloha!" (alternate translation -- "Good luck to you!") from Spirit!

Since our Christmas break, we utilize most of our rehearsal time preparing for Calgary. LeAnn will have to decide, with the advice of our coaches, which of our newest ballads and up tunes will be performed in the semi-finals this fall. Our spring retreat will be with the team of Jim Arns and Renee Porzel from Melodeers, who will be visiting us again in September. Betty Clipman and Tony DeRosa will each work their magic with us in June and August. No summer break for Spirit this year — we don't want to miss a thing! Jean Barford coached with us in February and said she would check in on us during rehearsals in Calgary. It will be great to see her smiling face and hear her last-minute words of wisdom.

Spirit has some performances scheduled for this summer, and the usual fund-raisers including our annual show, to keep us financially sound and help fund our marvelous coaching program. Visit our Website at [www.spiritofdetroitchorus.org](http://www.spiritofdetroitchorus.org) for information on our current coaching schedule. You're all invited, so come on down!

Congratulations to all regional competitors for a super contest! Join us as we thank the management team of Region 2, our chorus musical leaders and administration, as well as the coaches that make this "hobby" so exciting and rewarding. The biggest "Thank You!" of all, however, goes to our families and friends whose love and support behind the scenes make it all possible.

P.S.—Don't forget to schedule a blood drive this year. The challenge is still out there. For further information on this year's Blood Battle with Spirit contact Carol McKee at (734) 459-3785 or by email at [gmc729@yahoo.com](mailto:gmc729@yahoo.com)

See you all at fall regional!



Water Wonderland continues to bask in the love and welcome showered upon us by our new region — thanks so much for the terrific party you threw for us at the winter regional weekend! We can't wait to experience our first contest with Region 2, and we've been working hard to make sure our "debut" lights up the contest stage.

This winter, we've been blessed to work with some fabulous coaches and mentors. Linda Liddicoatt has been our primary coach. "Miss Liddy" is quite the taskmaster (taskmistress?) but she pushed our chorus to a new performance level during an all-day coaching session in March, following up on groundwork laid during a visit to the chorus in February. We also worked with Lee Davison at a chorus retreat in January, and enjoyed a visit in March from our chorus mentor and dear friend, Susan Heimburger.

The highlight of the winter for Water Wonderland was Valentine's Day — when three small groups delivered more than 50 singing valentines in a 12-hour period. Valentine sing-a-grams have been a favorite fundraiser for the chorus for many years, and they always result in lots of fun and heartwarming stories about the people we sang to that day. Valentine's eve was filled with anxiety as we all watched the snow and wondered whether we would even be able to get out and deliver our valentines the next morning. But even though the snow closed school on Valentine's Day, the Water Wonderland singers all ventured forth to present barbershop versions of *Cuddle Up a Little Closer*, *Always, I Don't Know Why*, and *Somebody Loves You* to surprised, delighted, and embarrassed sweethearts and friends throughout the greater Lansing area. We were all "feelin' the love" as much as the people who received our valentines!

● Quartet ● Quartet ● Quartet ● Quartet ● Quartet ● Quartet ● Quartet ● Quartet ● Quartet ●



**Important Note:** The following information is intended to supplement, not substitute for, the expertise and judgment of your health provider. While the product is generally safe, this should not be construed to indicate that the product is appropriate in all/any instances.

## Novelty Shop

Product Name:

Pronunciation: (NAH-vul-tee-shahp)

Brand Name(S): The Nuns, The Working Girls, The Lawyers, The Bridesmaids, The Swans, The Patients

Active ingredients include Sue, Lynne, Cindy and Sally.

### Use:

Take product with or without food, with or without liquids, although use in conjunction with chocolate, popcorn and/or alcohol (always in moderation) may result in the product being better tolerated. Dosage is relative. Relatives tolerate product for longer periods of time than the typical user. Always take product with a grain of salt. Stopping use of the product too early may result in boredom, melancholia, weight gain, weight loss, theft of your kidney, car jacking, identity theft or many years of bad luck.

### Precautions:

Extended use of the product may cause restlessness, indigestion, nausea and/or hearing loss. Product should not be used by people with weak sphincter urethrae unless appropriate precautions are taken.

### Other Information:

Continue use if your condition worsens, persists or improves. Product also available in Canada, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Refills soon available on DVD. Check your local listings for time and channel. Product is closed captioned in case user is sitting in front of someone who laughs so loud he/she can't hear the words.

### Warnings:

Product contains nuts. Do not use if allergic to nuts. Do not use if you are grouchy, might be grouchy or ever intend to become grouchy. For indoor or outdoor use only. Product may be habit forming and may result in infection. For infections lasting longer than four hours apply the appropriate time penalty.

## QUARTETS!

### FUSION

Greetings, Region 2, from Fusion quartet. For those of you who don't know us, our quartet was organized in late August of 2006. Members of the quartet are Becky Cherry, Anne Kotchman, Beth Miller

and Dian Sandefur. Beth and Dian are from Region 17, and belong to the Lake Ridge chorus, outside of Cleveland. We are excited to be competing in Region 17 this year but will be the mic testing quartet in Grand Rapids for the Region 2 contest. We will be singing around all weekend so please feel free to come and meet us. Region 2 has always been very supportive of all their quartets, we want Beth and Dian to feel right at home. Good luck to all the competitors this year, we will be rooting you on. ~ ~ Submitted by Becky Cherry

### HIGH FIDELITY

High Fidelity was formed through a happy accident — the four of us raised our hands when our director asked for volunteers to sing on a radio broadcast to promote Water Wonderland's "Be a Diva" membership program last October. From the first time we sang together, we knew there was something special going on. Was that really us making those chords ring? Having found one another too late to sing on our chorus' fall show, we made our debut at the afterglow, billing ourselves as "Radio Flyers," in a nod to our radio performance. We then set our sights on the chorus Christmas show, appearing as "Sounds Like Fun." By the end of December, we decided to take the plunge and become an official, registered quartet. The only thing holding up our application? Deciding on a name! The e-mails flew back and forth with lots of ideas, none of which we could agree on. Finally, we sat down together to make a decision. "I didn't have this hard a time naming my kids!" I remember griping. When we finally settled on High Fidelity, though, we knew we had found the perfect name.

So who is High Fidelity? We are:

**Lead — Paula Hoffman.** Paula is a teacher at Grand Ledge High School, where she teaches English and works with special education students. She joined the Water Wonderland Chorus in 2004, fulfilling a promise she made to herself after she and her husband, Bob, heard the chorus perform with the Capital City Chordsmen at East Lansing's Wharton Center several years earlier.

**Baritone — Laura Olson.** Laura is a real estate agent who enjoys "flipping" houses. When she married husband Dave a couple of years ago, she became mom to a ready-made family of two active teenage boys and a pre-teen daughter. Laura joined the Water Wonderland Chorus in 1999 as part of its "A Cappella 101" membership drive. When she attended the "A Cappella 101" classes, she brought along her mom for support. Her mom is . . .

**Bass — Chari Smith.** Chari is Laura's mom, who came along with her daughter back in 1999 with no intention of joining a barbershop chorus. She caught the barbershop "bug" though, first as a lead, later switching to bass. Now retired, Chari is a sweepstakes maven, who also loves taking care of her grandkids and traveling with husband David on the vintage sportscar racing circuit.

**Tenor — Elizabeth Johnson.** Elizabeth is a marketing manager, freelance writer, and busy mom to four kids. She began singing barbershop way back in high school, and has been a member of the Water Wonderland Chorus since 1995. Although she sang with many pick-up quartets over the years, she was always "too busy" to do any serious quartetting—until she sang for the first time with Paula, Laura, and Chari.

High Fidelity is thrilled and excited to be getting ready for our first quartet competition, and even more delighted that we'll be performing for our new friends in Region 2. Submitted by Elizabeth Johnson, Okemos, Michigan

### SONG OF THE LAKES CHORUS Davison, Michigan ~ ~ Carole Essenmacher

Song of the Lakes Chorus has had another busy year. In January, the chorus had a record attendance at their annual chicken dinner at the Masonic Temple, Flint. In addition to the meal the guests are entertained by the chorus while they eat. We were all tired from serving the guests and keeping the food table full. Then every time Kelli blew her whistle we all ran to perform for the guests. It's a great money maker for the chorus.

The chorus' weekend retreat was held in Flint with Carole Kirkpatrick as coach. Friday evening was spent with Carole fine-tuning our competition songs. Following the wonderful coaching session we held an "Idol" contest with chorus members entertaining. Everyone was declared a "winner." Carole continued with her magic on Saturday and everyone went home excited about the upcoming competition in Grand Rapids. Some of the other coaches who have worked with Song of the Lakes include Cindy Hansen and Michael Hayden, each contributing their own set of ideas for improving the chorus. Our own Chris Noteware and Region 2's, Linda Liddicoatt, have been of great help as well.

We are already working on our show to be held on December 1, 2007, in the Temple Theatre in Saginaw. Song of the Lakes is looking forward to showcasing our chorus in the beautiful theatre and will be working in earnest after contest on the new songs for the presentation, "All Aboard!" We have an exciting script written by Jill Kienitz and some wonderful new music for the program. The show will also include a patriotic and Christmas set of music.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Grand Rapids.

# FOUR-STAR HARMONY CONTEST



**CHROMATIX**  
**2007 Four-Star**  
**Harmony Champions**



**Melody Sisters**  
**Second Place Winners**



**Harmonic Minors**



**Hi-Lites**

by Mary Linda Gauche

Winter regional's Saturday afternoon entertainment began with the ninth Four-Star Harmony Quartet Contest, emceed by Lois Kelly. Contestants were the **MELODY SISTERS**, **HI-LITES**, **HARMONIC MINORS** and **CHROMATIX**. All four entry quartets were wonderful; and, of course, there is always just one first place which went to Chromatix. Its members Michaela Slamka, Jenny Meldrum, Mackenzi Slamka and Kristen Lebyrk will be heading to IES this summer to compete in the YWIH international contest.

Up-and-coming second-place medalists were Melody Sisters.

Excerpted from:

***This Is Your Brain on Music***

***– The Science of a Human Obsession by Daniel J. Levitin***

(this text followed discussion on experiments on the effect of music on the brain)

**W**e found exactly what we had hoped. Listening to music caused a cascade of brain regions to become activated in a particular order: first, auditory cortex for initial processing of the components of the sound. Then the frontal regions, such as BA44 and BA47, that we had previously identified as being involved in processing musical structure and expectations.

Finally, a network of regions — the mesolimbic system — involved arousal, pleasure, and the transmission of opioids and the production dopamine, culminating in activation in the nucleus accumbens. And the cerebellum and basal ganglia were active throughout, presumably supporting the processing of rhythm and meter.

The rewarding and reinforcing aspects of listening to music seems, then, to be mediated by increasing dopamine levels in the nucleus accumbens, and by the cerebellum's contribution to regulating emotion through its connections to the frontal lobe and the limbic system. Current neuropsychological theories associate positive mood and affect with increased dopamine levels, one of the reasons that many of the newer antidepressants act on the dopaminergic system.

Music is clearly a means for improving people's moods. Now we think we know why.

Music appears to mimic some of the features of language and to convey some of the same

emotions that vocal communication does, but in a non-referential and nonspecific way. It also invokes some of the same neural regions that language does, but far more than language, music taps into primitive brain structures involved with motivation, reward, and emotion.

Whether it is the first few hits of the cowbell in "Honky Tonk Women" or the first few notes of "Sheherazade," computational systems in the brain synchronize neural oscillators with the pulse of the music and begin to predict when the next strong beat will occur.

As the music unfolds, the brain constantly updates its estimates of when new beats will occur, and takes satisfaction in matching a mental beat with a real-in-the-world one, and takes delights when a skillful musician violates that exception in an interesting way – a sort of musical joke that we're all in on. Music breathes, speeds up and slows down just as the real does and our cerebellum finds pleasure in adjusting itself to stay synchronized.

Effective music — groove — involves subtle violations of timing. Just as the rat has an emotional response to a violation of the rhythm of the branch hitting his house, we have an emotional response to the violation of timing in music that is groove. The rat, with no context for the timing violation, experiences it as fear. We know through culture and experience that music is not threatening, and



our cognitive system interprets these violations as a source of pleasure and amusement. This emotional response to groove occurs via the ear-cerebellum-nucleus-accumbens-limbic circuit rather than via the ear-auditory cortex circuit.

Our response to groove, is largely pre- or unconscious because it goes through the cerebellum rather than the frontal lobes. What is remarkable is that all these different pathways integrate into our experience of a single song.

The story of your brain on music is the story of an exquisite orchestration of brain regions, involving both the oldest and newest parts of the human brain, and regions as far apart as the cerebellum in the back of the head and the frontal lobes just behind your eyes. It involves a precision choreography of neurochemical release and uptake between logical prediction systems and emotional reward systems.

When we love a piece of music, it reminds us of other music we have heard, and it activates memory traces of emotional times in our lives. Your brain on music is all about ... connections.



## INTERNATIONAL MASS SING JANUARY 2007

### BORDER LAKES REGION 2

&

### SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR 2007-2013

#### 2007

May 3-6 Regional Convention - Grand Rapids  
 June 1-3 Region 2 Summer Camp - Dale Syverson & Michael Hayden  
 July 11-14 IES - Trinity University - San Antonio  
 Sept. 15 Grand Traverse Show  
 Sept. 21-23 Fall Regional Weekend - Vickie Foltz  
 October 9-13 International Convention - Calgary  
 October 20 Great Lakes Show  
 October 20 Essex Halloween Bash  
 December 1 Song of the Lakes Show

#### 2008

February 1-3 Winter Regional Weekend  
 April 3-6 Regional Convention - Dearborn  
 July 18-22 IES - Trinity University - San Antonio  
 Sept. 19-21 Fall Regional Weekend - Vickie Maybury  
 Nov. 4-8 International Convention - Honolulu

#### 2009

January 23-25 Winter Regional Weekend  
 April 24-26 Regional Convention - Dearborn  
 Sept. 18-20 Fall Regional Weekend  
 Nov. 3-7 International Convention - Nashville

#### 2010

April 15-18 Regional Convention - Dearborn  
 October 19-23 International Convention - Seattle

#### Future International Competitions

2011 Houston - Oct. 18-22  
 2012 Denver - Oct. 30-Nov. 3  
 2013 Honolulu - Nov. 5-9



BLUEWATER • CROSSROADS HARMONY • FENTON LAKES • FESTIVAL SOUNDS • GRAND HARMONY • GRAND TRAVERSE  
 GREAT LAKES • HEART OF ESSEX • HEART OF MICHIGAN • HERITAGE • KITCHENER-WATERLOO • LOCK CITIES • LONDON  
 MICHIGAN NORTHERN LIGHTS • RIVERLIGHTS HARMONY • SEAWAY SOUNDS • SHORELINE SOUND • SONG OF THE LAKES  
 SPIRIT OF DETROIT • SUNRISE HARMONY • TRI CITY • WATER WONDERLAND  
 PROSPECTIVE CHORUSES: CARILLON BELLES & WAVES of HARMONY