



WINTER 2008

Border lakes Region 2 In the Headlights

Carole Essenmacher ~ Marketing Coordinator

As part of our "Membership Blitz," Border Lakes Region 2 purchased two billboards on two main highways in Michigan (I-75 and I-94). The large lighted billboards were part of the region-wide campaign to reach more women and create an interest in our Sweet Adelines organization.

In addition to purchasing the billboards we also bought marketing materials such as TV PSA videos, TV promo tapes, radio PSA and regional fliers. Marketing packets were mailed to all the marketing and membership chairs. PSA videos were sent to the TV stations both in Ontario and Michigan and radio PSAs were sent to chapters that were interested. Newspaper ads were purchased in Ontario and Michigan.

A toll-free phone was set up to use for the marketing campaign. Approximately 50 calls were made to the region's toll-free number. Also the

region added a membership "Divas Wanted" section on our Web site including the promo video produced by the region.

Chapter marketing chairs have been asked to report on their chorus membership activities including their successes and not-so successes. There have been a variety of exciting activities reported. Some of those include:

- Guest night with a jungle theme
- Each member of one chorus sent five personal invitations to prospective members
- Held community concert including other choral and instrumental groups
- Performances around town and the malls, passing our information
- October Fest program
- Submitted information to the

local newspapers about members and personalizing the article for each community

- Spooktacular Halloween Cabaret program
- Hillbilly Jamboree show
- Booth at Women's Expo
- Scheduled TV interview with individuals who had never heard of Sweet Adelines but were thrilled to find out

As you can see, Region 2 chapters have been busy with many exciting activities. Many have mentioned how much fun they have had and that they have had a number of guests who are interested in membership.

It is hoped that Border Lakes Region 2 remains in the headlights even now that the billboards have come down. A big thanks to all those who helped in making this campaign a success.



Photo by Keane Michelin

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

Keane Michelin (Shoreline Sound) Team Coordinator ● Lois Kelly (London) Communication Coordinator ● Chris Noteware (Song of the Lakes) Director Coordinator ● Lisa Gilkey (Great Lakes Chorus) Education Coordinator ● Sandra Chaffin (Spirit of Detroit) Events Coordinator ● Becky Cherry (Shoreline Sound) Financial Coordinator ● Carole Essenmacher (Song of the Lakes) Marketing Coordinator ● Donna Brichta (Fenton Lakes) Membership Coordinator

REGIONAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT TEAM

Arranger Education Susan Heimburger • DCP Testing Peggi Starkey • Mentoring Donna Shorkey • Regional Newsletter Linda May • Quartet Education Karen Romanson • YWIH Anne Kotchman & Mary Patrick Web Master Sheila Worthington

<http://www.sweetadelinesregion2.org/>

BORDER LAKES REGION 2 2007 – 2008 REGIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

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BORDER LIGHTS

Sweet Adelines International Region 2 newsletter

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

MARCH 7, 2008

This deadline is firm.

Send to:

Linda May

lindamay@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. Please put the chorus name in the
subject line. No more than 600 words. Sign your articles.

Send ONLY ONE 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

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RMT ELECTIONS

We have received confirmation from Sweet Adelines International that Cathy Hooper, director of **FESTIVAL SOUNDS CHORUS** has been chosen to the position of education coordinator for the 2008-2010 term. Also joining the team as marketing coordinator is Nancy Jo Beckham of **GREAT LAKES CHORUS**, events coordinator Henny Ford of the **LONDON CHORUS** and finance coordinator Becky Cherry from the **SHORELINE SOUND CHORUS**. Congratulations to all of you. The team members serving until 2009 elections are Chris Noteware as director coordinator, Donna Brichta as membership coordinator, Keane Michelin as team coordinator and Lois Kelly as communication coordinator.

January 2008 is promising to be a busy month as we begin to work toward competition in April. Are all your forms completed and sent? Deadline for all forms is January 15.

On Sunday, January 13, the regional management team will meet. Your questions and comments are very important to us and the future success of Region 2. Please advise your members of this meeting and request that any questions or concerns be forwarded to myself or any member of the team and they will be added to the agenda.

Winter school weekend takes place on January 25-26. If you missed the registration deadline of December 21, you can still contact Nancy Jo Beckham at njob@comcast.net. A late fee of \$5 will apply. Hotel deadline is January 11 at the Thomas Edison Inn in Port Huron. Call (800) 451-7991 to reserve your room.



Suggestions for January

As presented in the chapter guidelines, here are the activities mentioned for the month of January:

- Select qualified chapter members as potential nominee(s) to the REGIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM for the following fiscal year
- Plan and prepare publicity for regional competition
- Hold chapter long-range planning meeting
- Meet deadlines for regional competition
- Appoint nominating committee 30 days prior to chapter elections
- Prepare advertising for regional and international newsletters (*Border Lights and Pitch Pipe*)

2008 is upon us and I would like to wish everyone a safe, healthy and financially secure New Year. Economic times are tough right now, both here and across our border. We owe it to ourselves to be particular about where we spend our money and it is important to get the biggest bang for our buck. Your RMT is trying very hard to provide you with quality faculty and appropriate facilities for our regional meetings. All of our expenses have gone up and so it is important we try to book venues ahead as much as we can to lock in the costs. It is important that if you sign up for a regional weekend, that you make every effort to show up. We book facilities based on average attendance and if we count those who sign up and they don't, it skews the numbers for future events. We also lose money when we don't make our commitment for rooms at our regional conventions so please make an effort to stay at our assigned hotels, it is much appreciated.

I would like to thank those who participated in our regional fundraising event at the Michigan Renaissance Festival this year. Your efforts allowed us to rent two billboards for the month of October to showcase our membership nights. Those choruses who participated were the **FENTON LAKES, MICHIGAN NORTHERN LIGHTS, SONG OF THE LAKES and SHORELINE SOUND CHORUSES**. These chapters provided members to work the festival and were able to make money for their own coffers. We made a total of \$7,500 and chapters who worked split \$3,750. Hopefully we can also do this next year but there will be details to come on this. A special thanks to Maria Christian, from Shoreline Sound Chorus who procured this opportunity for us and to Carole Essenmacher from Song of the Lakes who coordinated the workers.

I would also like to acknowledge several donations that were made to our YWIH fund:

- Janie Fritz, Shoreline Sound, \$100
- Great Lakes Chorus, in memory of Alvia Heim, \$25
- Fern Griffin, Great Lakes Chorus, in memory of Alvia Heim \$25
- In memory of Bill Fogarty \$30

As always, we appreciate any and all donations made to Region 2. Please feel free to contact me by phone or email anytime with any questions or concerns.

Becky Cherry
Region 2 Finance Coordinator

■ **LISA GILKEY**
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Greetings, Region 2 and welcome to "Show Us Your Stuff!" This winter regional weekend of education sponsored and presented by YOU was an exciting event to plan. I hope that our first "Lyp Synch Festival," the brainchild of the fabulous Chris Noteware, may become an annual event, along with the continuation of our comedy ensemble contest. And I know that everyone will applaud the future of our organization as we enjoy our tenth YWIH competition. Learning from each others successes is the focus of this weekend. What a wonderful way to honor all the hard work each and every chapter does throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who participated.

I am so excited to congratulate Cathy Hooper on her international appointment as the 2008-2010 education coordinator. I know that Cathy will do an outstanding job on the regional management team. I would like to thank Cathy and her fellow applicants Nancy Liedel and Cindy Sommerville for their willingness to serve the region and support our most important goal of education. I feel confident that, as I leave this position, we are in good hands.

Ladies, it has been my distinct pleasure to serve on the regional management team for the past five years. I have learned much and made many friends along the way. I thank everyone who has welcomed me into their home, their chapter and their life along the way. You are all special to me. I appreciate the support of my chapter, **GREAT LAKES CHORUS**, for their encouragement along the way. And I offer my sincerest appreciation and thanks to all the wonderful women with whom I have served on the RMT over the years. These women are an amazing bunch and I feel fortunate to call them my friends. We in Region 2 are so lucky to have wonderful leaders who are guiding us toward harmonizing the world.

I look forward to the future, to visiting Hawaii for the first time [!], and for the opportunity to serve Region 2 again in the future. In the meantime I'll see you backstage in Dearborn.

And I offer a heartfelt "THANKS" to everyone on the education team, faculty, committee chairs and Task Force members. Without your contributions, this assignment would have been impossible.

*In love & harmony,
Lisa Gilkey*

■ **DONNA BRICHTA**
REGION 2 MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

HAPPY NEW YEAR, REGION 2! I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday and that you are looking forward to an active and prosperous year for all of your chapters!

At fall regional this past October, it was my pleasure to present certificates to those chapters who had an increase in membership. The following chapters received recognition for a membership increase:

3rd Place Chapters

Great Lakes Chorus ~ Heritage Chorus ~ Kitchener-Waterloo Chorus

2nd Place Chapter

Bluewater Chorus

1st Place Chapter

Michigan Northern Lights Chorus

Congratulations to all of the above choruses. Next fall regional we all hope to see a significant change in our chapter numbers . . . LARGER numbers of members that is! If you weren't able to attend fall regional, I hope that the above chapters will be represented at winter regional to receive your certificates, and **MICHIGAN NORTHERN LIGHTS**, your chorus will receive the traveling trophy.

I received some wonderful email and phone calls from chapter leaders and membership chairpersons about their membership / guest nights. Most choruses had one or more nights where they welcomed visitors to their rehearsals. And although I haven't heard if these choruses have some new members or not, it sounds as if they were all successful and everyone had a great time. Many choruses had interesting and unique themes and ideas to make these nights a special event for chorus members and visitors. I received about 25 to 30 calls during the months of October and November from our toll-free number. Most callers said they saw our billboard on I-75, or they went to our Web site and got the number there. Some of the calls I received were very interesting, to say the least, but most were from women who were truly interested in singing.

When a woman called, I would ask how they got the number, then ask where they lived. Did they want a chorus near their home, or were they planning on driving from their work place? How far were they willing to travel to find a chorus? After I got all this information I would give them the names of ALL choruses that fit the criteria, the name and phone number of the membership chairperson, and when and where the chorus rehearsed. I also directed them to our Web site so that they could get more information about the choruses I suggested and also check out other choruses. I wanted to give them as many options as possible.

I also received a list from international with names, addresses, and email addresses from women all over the world who have contacted our offices in Tulsa, Oklahoma who are interested in Sweet Adelines. I took the names of the women in Michigan and Canada (in the Region 2 area) and passed them along to the membership chairpersons of the choruses located closest to where they lived. Hopefully these women were all contacted by the appropriate choruses.

The chapter leaders coordinator position was incorporated with membership this past year. At winter regional I will be meeting with the chapter leaders, along with Chris Perry, to discuss what is going on in our Region 2 choruses. Please plan on attending the chapter leaders meeting, and bring your chorus news, ideas, and problem-solving "hats" to discuss and share with your fellow chapter leaders. I look forward to meeting all of you if I haven't already.

Let's make 2008 the best year ever for Region 2.

See you all at winter regional in Port Huron!

Donna Brichta ~ dreamchaser1951@comcast.net ~ (248) 887-6038

**DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION
PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS:
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Was learning more about the barbershop craft on your resolution list? We are looking for new people to start the director certification program. You do not need to be a director, or assistant director to be in the program. It is great for section leaders and members alike. Registration is \$50 paid to SA International. You fill out a personal evaluation, and then you are set to go! SA has a module book to help you study in areas of musical/technical skills, and management / communication skills. You study the modules on your own, at your own pace, then at the regionals, you come to the scheduled class and take tests.

You may take a test as many times as you want. It's very easy, with no pressure. It's also very rewarding for you. So, this year, add education and self esteem for yourself, by adding DCP courses to your list! You may contact me in many ways.

*Peggi Starkey
DCP Coordinator Region 2
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NEW for ASSISTANT DIRECTORS!
Do you need to talk? Do you need to vent? Do you have any concerns? There will be an hour set aside this winter regional for just assistant directors to chit-chat about this or that. For now, we will call it the assistant director's forum. Peggi Starkey will guide.



**International Education Symposium
IES 2008 July 16-19 at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas**

More than 100 new classes ~ Specialized learning tracks will be available for: aspiring judges, assistant directors (including new second-year classes for those who have previously attended the assistant director workshop at IES), choreographers / visual leaders, coaches, directors: including an extra day of training funded by the international organization for all front-line, contracted directors who register, director certification program members, music educators, novice directors: including an extra day of training funded by the international organization for all front-line, contracted directors who register and who have directed fewer than three years, regional education coordinators, registered quartets, section leaders/musical leaders, vocal production, Young Women in Harmony, all elective: write your own education plan by choosing each of your classes from an extensive list of offerings.

DIRECTLY SPEAKING . . .

Congratulations to Delores Alexander, director of Kitchener-Waterloo on becoming a certified director! Kelli Kelly, director of Song of the Lakes also received her certification as did Cheryl Wagner, director of the Michigan Northern Lights chorus in '06. I want to make sure all of you that work hard to finish this program receive pats on the back from this director coordinator. Deb Welton, member of the Grand Traverse Chorus has completed the program and is awaiting some paperwork from International. Applause! Applause!

One of the hardest things to do in this world is communicate. Directors are always doing great things and I would love to hear about them. Peer pride is something we all can benefit from so let me know what's going on. My job is to work for our directors. It is a pleasure to be an advocate for our musical leaders. Calgary was super and congratulations to Spirit of Detroit under the direction of master director LeAnn Hazlett. They brought some "jewelry" home with them so be sure to check it out. The Harmony Achievement Award looks good on them!

Happy New Year to all of you and best of luck as you follow your leader to the competition stage in April. It's great to be a Sweet Adeline.

*In Harmony,
Chris Noteware*

IES 2008 FEATURES OUR DIRECTORS

Directors are the target group for extra education at the 2008 IES. All choruses are encouraged to take advantage of this exceptional training opportunity by funding their director to attend. Each director who attends will receive an extra day's education, with meals and housing for that day funded by the international organization. Director classes feature top educator Dr. Jim Henry - the booming bass voice of Barbershop Harmony Society quartet champions, Gas House Gang. Dr. Henry is also the acclaimed director of the 160-member Ambassadors of Harmony Chorus and holds degrees in vocal music education, music theory and music composition, including a PhD from Washington University. Joined by Dr. Henry for the extra day of director training are international faculty members Charla Esser, Dale Syverson, Peggy Gram and Darlene Rogers.

International faculty members will teach an assortment of classes specially designed for directors and novice directors as well as classes focusing on vocal production and many electives. IES planners added more than new 100 classes. Your director's expenses include portal-to-portal transportation and registration fee. Registration fee covers education and educational materials, double occupancy on-campus housing, meals, plus tickets to competitions and parties. Attendance at IES 2008 entitles participants to apply for continuing education units through the University of Arkansas.

Registration deadlines and fees: prior to March 15, is \$495. This price includes Sweet Adelines International male chorus directors. To receive the early bird discount, the completed registration form, housing, class selections and full payment must be received by March 15.

The member registration price increases to \$545 after March 15 until May 15. Registration for IES closes May 15. Online registration is available now. Request your 2008 IES syllabus by contacting Meetings & Exhibits Coordinator Nancy Aloway at nancy@sweetadelineintl.org or (800) 992-7464, Ext. 136.

2008! WOW another year has come and gone. A year that has fond memories, a year of accomplishments or, for some, a year of change and losses. We at Bluewater started out in the fall with a loss of six members. Some retired due to health reasons or work commitments. In a small chorus, this can be devastating but we never lost hope or dedication and, one by one, we had guests join us each week and we had a total of 10 new guests. We are pleased to have seven commit and would you believe we now have three mothers and daughters?

I'm sure most think of Sweet Adelines as something that your grandma would join but now with Young Women in Harmony and new modern songs being sung a cappella barbershop style, we see the trend of attracting younger women to our organization. In our chorus one of our charter members came with her daughter and Amy has joined the baritone section and has been a real asset with her technical knowledge. Liz joined our bass section and was enjoying herself so much that her mom, Susan, has been joining us every week in bass as well. Who says basses don't have the most fun? We now have five Susans in our chorus and to avoid confusion, she is the fifth, I'm the fourth, and Susan the third's daughter Emily has joined us. We enjoy having new young members in the chorus and they know enough to wear something warm to practice since there are a number of us that like it cool.

You may ask what we did to bring in new members. We had a very successful Christmas show in November and asked for a commitment in the fall for new voices and Amy, Liz, Susan, Emily, Julie, Felicity, Casey, April, Angela and Ursula joined us each week. April and Felicity are by transfer. So even though we had six members leave us we are thrilled to have our newest members.

Our show was held at First United Church in Owen Sound and was very successful. We sang at area functions this year but our show was a highlight for us as we introduced our new members. Imagine the audience's appreciation when our new members joined us to sing. We also welcomed Friends in Harmony to perform with us. We met this talented group last year during one of our performances.

As we prepare in the New Year for our competition we can't thank enough those that commit their time so that we can continue to improve and be the best that we can be. A big hug and appreciation to our director Sue and also to Lee and Julie for bringing us their expertise. Look out Dearborn. Here comes Bluewater.

CARILLON BELLES CHORUS Simcoe, Ontario ~~ Sharon Lewis

This has been an exciting fall for us. We held our official charter party on November 10. It was an afternoon of singing, cake cutting, and reminiscing about how we started on this adventure leading us to where we are now. It was an honour to have guests arrive from the region as well as our former members. In December, the chorus entertained at the Simcoe Panorama of Lights. We were on stage for about an hour outside on one of the coldest nights, I think. Even though our feet were freezing and stood close to each other to try and keep warm, we sang out with joy, singing Christmas carols to the families that came to see this amazing lighting of the lights. It was also a pleasure to be present to see the Honorable Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, David Onley and his wife turn the switch on to officially open the Panorama for the 2007 Christmas season. We had several singing engagements for the remainder of the Christmas season at churches, and nursing homes. Our quartets also had a busy schedule entertaining. All in all, it has been a terrific fall and now we are looking forward to our official debut at the winter weekend in Port Huron.



RIVERLIGHTS HARMONY CHORUS Windsor, Ontario ~~ Marilyn Arseneault

What a busy fall season we have had. In September we had a very successful guest night. Most of the gals who came out were singers and interested in learning barbershop style of singing and we've gained some new members. There have been many sing-outs to keep us on the go - especially during December. It was very rewarding to see the smiling faces and folks joining in with the music. We all felt that the performance for the Alzheimer's Society Christmas party was so appreciated. The happier the crowd, the more fun it is to sing. Our annual "Pie Day" was very successful once again. A day of fun rolling, peeling, slicing and singing in Sherron's kitchen ended with 81 apple pies. They are delicious and sold like hotcakes (or cold pies)! We have made a donation to needy families in memory of Margaret McTaggart who passed away last January after nearly 40 years as a Sweet Adeline. This was her special project. Now, we will be starting off the New Year, ready to work hard with new music and new friends. Best wishes to all from Riverlights Harmony.

FENTON LAKES CHORUS
Fenton, Michigan ~ Anastasia Ellwood

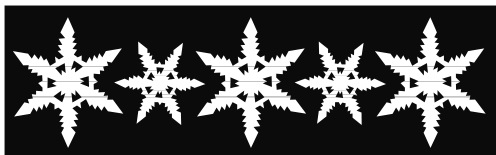
Should auld acquaintance be forgot...? The first line of a popular song sung this time of year. But what does it mean? Simply...don't forget the old days, and be grateful for all the experiences in your life. What a year Fenton Lakes has experienced! Monthly coaching with Jim Arns began in January and continued until regional contest. We must have listened, and his tips must have sunk in, because we are on our way to San Antonio in 2008! We are so honored to be representing Region 2 at the very last IES, as the 4th best small chorus in the world!

Our own Jeanne Lundberg and Jan White stood on the International stage in Calgary and done us proud both as quartet and chorus members. We are so proud of them! Congrats gals!

Fenton Lakes is undergoing an influx of membership as well. We have 3 new members to brag about that have joined in the past several months. Our newest Lead, Kristi Palmer, was asked about her first experience with Fenton Lakes: When I first came to listen to a Fenton Lakes Chorus rehearsal I could hear them singing as I was walking up to the door. It sounded wonderful! I had guessed that it must be a large chorus from the sound ... when I opened the door and looked at the risers...I was shocked! There couldn't have been more than 20 women singing! What a sound! I knew right then that I wanted to audition and belong to this chorus. Kristi, Dawn, Emily. Welcome to Sweet Adelines!

Our concert in December began with a snowstorm. Why is it that when Fenton Lakes sings *Let It Snow*, it does? A lot? Eventually everyone arrived, wearing sparkle vests and smiles. We assembled on the risers for the first show, and >poof< the lights went out. No electricity meant no lights, no sound system, and no heat. But still, the show must go on ... and so it did. The entire first set, and nearly half of the second set, were done in the dark. We must have made a joyful noise unto the Lord though, as we sang the *Gloria in Angels We Have Heard On High* the lights returned to us. An audible gasp rose up from audience and chorus members alike.

Here's to the memories of a great 2007, and wishing all of Region 2 a wonderful 2008! HAPPY NEW YEAR!



FESTIVAL SOUNDS CHORUS
Stratford, Ontario ~ Heather Brown

Happy New Year! I'm writing this on January 1 – well, the deadline is tomorrow and I didn't want to start too soon. The beginning of a new year is the traditional time to reflect on the past year, evaluate many things, and make promises to ourselves to change some of the things we don't like.

I reflect. Ah, the Christmas season was a busy one for Festival Sounds. We entertained at several area nursing homes and shopping malls, and were invited to perform in Stratford's popular Christmas tradition Starbright with David Rogers – what a thrill to sing to an audience of 1,100 people in the beautiful Avon Theatre, not just once, but for three sold-out shows. Running away from that Killer Fruitcake was kinda a kick too! Check out the show's website at www.starbright.ca

The highlight of 2007 for me was our trip to international in Calgary. Six of our members attended the conference – that's one quarter of our chorus that was able to cheer on our Region 2 competitors. What a blast we had meeting Sweet Adelines at Lake Louise in need of a baritone to sing a tune, touring the badlands of Alberta, and hanging out at Ranchmans! Oh yes, the competition was great too -- Holy Cow great. Special congratulations to our friend Lynn Ropp from London who received her 50-year membership award. I was thrilled to be there to see you on the stage in person – your celebratory dinner at the Cheesecake House was yummy too! You 50-year singers sure have paved the way for the wonderful opportunities we have today – thank you.

2007 did not see us competing – not with our Sweet Adelines comrades at least – we did perform in the Stratford Kiwanis Music Festival and received top honours for community choirs - big trophy! Look for us next year in Dearborn.

I evaluate. Our membership drive this past fall was a wonderfully successful one. I am pleased to welcome new members Brenda Atchison (lead) and Annamarie Murray (bass) to our (growing) small chorus!

On a personal note, 2007 was the worst year of my adult life. Family illnesses, deaths, car accident, ugg ... I couldn't wait for this day to arrive to turn calendar away from 2007. As I reflect back on a truly crappy year, many of the bright spots I do remember surround my Festival Sounds friends: your arrived when I needed you most, you spoke kind words, performed thoughtful deeds, gave me your hugs and understanding. I cannot always tell you in person, but I want you to know how much I treasure your forgiveness, support and love.

I promise. Hopefully learning from personal disasters of last year, I want to appreciate what I have, and resist the urge to take opportunities and those I love for granted. Yes, Sweet Adelines is only a hobby to me, but anything worth doing deserves the respect of doing it right – or as close as I can get to right. So, my riser buddies, I promise breathing exercises, being prepared for rehearsals with words and notes, and committing to our chorus goals for 2008, I swear.

GRAND HARMONY CHORUS Waterloo, Ontario ~~ Colleen Cunningham

New meeting place: Parkwood Mennonite Home, 726 New Hampshire St., Waterloo ON N2K 4M1

The highlight of our chorus this year (if not our lifetime) was our show "Acapella Madness." To a sold-out crowd in September at the St. Jacob's Playhouse. We put on a fantastic show! The first half of the show was a spoof on Cinderella using spoonerisms (where the first letters of the words are mixed up resulting in hilarity – ie. Rindercella and the Sisty Uglers). I was in the audience as I had to take a leave of absence and I was amazed at the new songs that had been learned, the comedy and the professional presentation, all rolled out with no awkward gaps. The audience really got into it and laughed right through to intermission. In the second half they were still looking for humor which was sated by the great and very funny Mirage – a men's quartet. The afterglow party allowed the chorus to bask in the good fuzzy showbiz feeling of a job well done. In October we held a "meet the chorus" evening at nearby RIM Park and entertained guests with song and food. We also sang at Lissard House again in early November. We have done this memorial performance for several years now. It is a ceremony which commemorates the lives of patients that have passed on in the last calendar year. It was very moving and our music helped to make the ceremony special.

In December we again held our Christmas Tea in New Dundee to very large crowds. We were observing and learning at the September Music School and so naturally added a storyline to our show. It was very well received by the audience! We borrowed a 10-year old nephew of member Claudia Stewart to act as Rudolph, and he stole the show with his hilarious dancing expertise. The chorus has had a number of Christmas performances including four quartets singing for 300 residents and guests at Parkwood Mennonite Home for their annual Christmas Family dinner. Parkwood is our regular practice facility and we were delighted to help out. Grand Harmony has four registered quartets, but a few substitutions were needed on that evening. For a few girls it was their first experience quartetting and they loved it! We also did another performance at the Salvation Army Senior's Home (Eventide) – it's fast becoming a tradition. We also sang for the Senior Centre Day Care Volunteer Worker's annual dinner to great applause and enjoyment on both our parts.



The last rehearsal night before Christmas is always our annual banquet. Everyone lines up to get on the program and it is always funny and very moving with many past members and friends returning annually to enjoy the "show." Of course in typical Sweet Adelines style there are always copious gifts and cards and even an ornament exchange. Our last gathering was at member Norma Steinman's, as she hosted a Christmas party at her home (Santaland) where we sang and nibbled and hot-tubbed.

After a well deserved break at Christmas we got back hard at it in January. June Dale, master director of three-time international champs North Metro Chorus was our guest coach, and for many members it was a first exposure to this very talented lady. We worked very hard to impress and learn from her. We have taken a break from our annual weekend retreat this year – no overnight stay with our usual raucous Saturday night party and contests. The reason was because we also had to prepare for our performance at music school and also for a recording session in late January. Also, with an upcoming performance to open a summer Blue Jays game against the Cleveland Indians, we had two national anthems to brush up on (to learn and perfect)! So for GH, our retreat this year would be replaced by music school in Port Huron where we look forward to performing for our wonderful region while learning and enjoying all the entertainment perks of winter music school. See you all there!

TRI CITY CHORUS Auburn, Michigan ~~ Stannette Malosky

Greetings from Tri City Chorus. What a busy year we have had – from our successful ice cream social in June, to our Christmas show at the LFA Hall in Saginaw, featuring the very talented men's quartet Party of Four! Becoming a member of the Bay City Chamber of Commerce has helped promote our chorus, with many sing-outs in the tri-city area. This was our second year to also have a booth at the Saginaw Valley State University Women's Expo. From our exposure at the expo, nine women have been coming to our rehearsals! How GREAT is THAT? Looking forward to regional weekend and gearing up for our coaching and retreat in preparation for competition, which means, it won't be long before we start planning for summer - and camping! **How about joining us for our 16th annual Caseville Harmony Weekend at Caseville County Campground? Mark your calendars, first weekend in August. Call or email me (stannette@airadv.net) for details.** See you all in January!

Happy 2008 Region 2! Wow! What a year we've had. Our show, Back by Popular Demand, was such fun. We brought back some of our best songs from years past and boy, when a group has a good feeling for a song, it really makes it a pleasure to sing. And we loved those numbers. It was a real thrill to have MaxQ on our stage. When you get to enjoy the best of the best – it is an amazing treat. They are so talented – the audience loved them and a small group of us thoroughly enjoyed performing a song with them. They are very silly and took the liberty of improvising by stealing some of our boas as they strolled on stage. It was quite a success and we enjoyed working with some wonderful people.

Speaking of wonderful people, Great Lakes has experienced an exhilarating boost of new members. We are thrilled to have new talent and some exciting new friends. As a chorus we are trying very hard to make the overstimulation of joining a Sweet Adelines as fun and un-intimidating as possible.

Sadly, we have also experienced a painful loss of two of our dearest members. In October, one of our much loved and long-standing members, Alvia Heim died after a recent diagnosis of cancer. She was a gracious, fun-loving bass who served Great Lakes in many capacities from board member, show chairman, regional hostessing chairman and our president. Also, just at the end of the year, Mary Pelican, a 46-year member of Great Lakes passed away. Mary was a gentle presence that many of us in Region 2 will long remember. We will miss their sweet smiles and we will miss their lovely voices.

As we begin the New Year we have some exciting ideas for our work as the regional hostesses. As each step is taken, we get more and more excited about Hawaii and working toward improving everything we can for the international stage. But now it's music, voices and work, work, work. Sylvia has arranged for some really rigorous coaching and we are fired up! Our very own associate director, Peggi Starkey, is not only helping guide us musically, but she is also helping with positive thinking, visualizing, and giving tips and hints as to how we can continually turn how we "see" ourselves into that ultimate reality. And what an exciting reality – being on the international stage!

We look forward to seeing you all soon.



The Great Lakes Chorus annual show segment on Da Lai (delay) Airlines. Do we ever NOT sing in airports?



HAWAII-BOUND?

There is still time, and rooms available on the Pride of Aloha cruise the week after competition in Hawaii. Go to www.apstartravel.com to book it, or find out more information about it. Go to BOOK TRAVEL, then "groups." It will look like you need to do a \$500 deposit, but you still only need a \$250 deposit. Next payment is due July 10. Or you may call Peggi Starkey at (810) 937-5071.

GRAND TRAVERSE CHORUS
Traverse City, Michigan ~~ Carly McCall

Greetings from the snowy north and the Grand Traverse Chorus -- what a busy fall and winter we have had! We started off fall with our September performances, "Saturday Night at the Movies!" In addition to presenting the chorus and several small ensembles and quartets in a rollicking evening of songs from movies, our Young Women in Harmony committee also organized a "TC Idol competition" during the course of the spring and summer, with five young singers appearing as finalists on our performances. These singers competed for an audience favorite prize, a judge's prize and a \$500 scholarship! The addition of these young people into our performances really helped boost community interest in our group and the shows and brought some nice press coverage and two very large audiences -- selling out our evening performance with 360 in the audience! We were thrilled to have so many people come out to hear the chorus and our shows and we were also pleased to welcome some music and art notables as guest judges (two of our judges were the coordinator of the public school music programs and the executive director of our area community theatre). We're looking forward to working on building on the success of this year's program as we plan our 2008 fall concerts.

One of our biggest challenges was finding a new home for the GTC to rehearse in. Our previous home, the Grand Traverse Heritage Center, recently underwent a management transition and elected to expand the center primary's services, which include several historical groups and museum and exhibit areas. As museum exhibits and chorus risers don't always meld well, our lease was not renewed for 2008 and we spent much of the fall seeking an appropriate new home. Luckily, we have a friend and supporter in a local businessman, who had recently purchased a new office building and he welcomed us to our new home at the Centerpointe building, where we will begin rehearsals on January 8. Among other benefits, our new location will offer covered parking (!) -- terrific for those snowy Tuesday evenings! Located on West Grand Traverse Bay, we are looking forward to being in this new facility and hope that everyone will come visit us when they are visiting Northern Michigan. You can see our new home's Web site at www.gocenterpointe.com

We once again had a very successful submarine sandwich sale (tying in nicely with the beginning of hunting season) and are now getting ready for our annual Singing Valentines event. With five quartets participating this year, our Singing Valentines could be one of our biggest fund-raisers of the year!

Completing the holiday season, we have had some wonderful smaller performances, caroling in the community, both in some local shopping areas and also some of the retirement homes in the area. We were presented by an area investment firm as part of a customer appreciation event and also sang at an area middle school with an assembly that ended with an emergency drill, where we practiced "lock-down" in the school's locker rooms along with all of the students!

It's been a busy and rewarding fall and we're looking forward to more as we come into 2008. Continuing to perform for the community, welcoming new members and preparing for competition are all things that we are looking forward to as we get started on the New Year. We look forward to seeing all of you soon and welcome you to come visit us when you are in the area! Join us in person or on our Web site www.grandtraversechorus.org

MICHIGAN NORTHERN LIGHTS
Gaylord, Michigan ~~ Cathy Cherup

Our group has been very busy throughout the fall and winter. We ended summer with a performance at our county fair. Labor Day weekend we had a craft sale at a new festival called Thunder Over Waters. We turned our focus to putting on our Christmas show. We had several new members who rose to the challenge of learning the new music! As we prepared for this, our group worked at the annual Renaissance Festival which is held near Livonia, Michigan. This was a huge event and a big fundraising opportunity for our membership! Those who worked were truly entertained by the whole production. We held a bake sale during hunting season at the Jay's Sporting Goods. Those hunters were really hungry this year!

Our membership appreciation event was wonderful. We met and ate and took a hay ride out and about the beautiful countryside.



During our travels, we stopped at a small country store called the Sparr Mall and entertained the shoppers. We even had the privilege of singing to several horses! They seemed appreciative! After that, our contest to find and invent an unusual kitchen utensil gave everyone many laughs and surprises.

Turning our focus to the Christmas show moved us all into breakneck speed. "Christmas Thru' The Year" was a sentimental retrospective of how we can carry the spirit of Christmas throughout everything we do each year. We entertained on December 1 as Mother Nature dumped about a foot of snow on us! So the Christmas season had truly arrived as we finished.

We were also invited to perform a set of songs during the Gaylord Chamber Orchestra's production "A Christmas Gift." We appreciated this opportunity to take part in this beautiful arrangement of music produced by our accomplished local musicians.

Thanks for letting us share our busy season with all of you! We hope to see you all at competition!

A happy and joyous New Year to all our sisters in Region 2! 2008 is both a time for looking back over the past year and looking forward to the coming year. Fall season was an extremely busy one for Heart of Essex! In May, we were invited to appear in a very special show by our Brothers in Harmony in the Barbershop Harmony Society / Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America — a.k.a. the Sunparlour Men's Chorus. They were celebrating their 50th anniversary as a performing chorus as well as the 60th anniversary of the Broadway show, "The Music Man." We attended practices during the summer both as a chorus and with the men as we learned the intricacies of eight-part harmony in the favourite tune *Lida Rose*. Our choreographer, Amanda Mundy, even encouraged the men to "turn it on" for the audience. They really did!

Then came the day of the big show in September. We had a dress rehearsal in the afternoon, a supper break, and then it was show time! The first half of the show was taken by the men who performed tunes from "The Music Man," as well as a selection of barbershop favourites. Then came the intermission, and before we knew it, we were on! The St. Clair College Centre for the Performing Arts was filled to capacity — an audience of 1,500! We let go and really had fun! It was like being at contest but not having to worry about being judged! We were warmly received by the crowd and exited stage right, leaving a trail of green sparkles all over the stage! (I think I saw a gleam of our sparkles on the curtains when I attended a concert this Christmas!) We were invited on stage for the grand finale of *Lida Rose* and a reprise! It was a great evening of memories for us, but it was also a family affair! Two of our members have relatives in the men's chorus. Rose Marie Szmyrko and her son Bill were on the stage at the same time, as were three generations consisting of Rose Purdy, her Dad Rick Long, and her daughter Carlie Atkinson. Truly a night to remember!

In September, we were invited to sing at the Harrowood Fair held at the Harrowood Retirement Residence where we were enthusiastically applauded by the residents. Our picture even made it into the newspaper!

One of our longest-standing members, Lorna Fox was honoured at last year's international convention in Calgary. She received her 50-year longevity award. Congratulations Lorna!

October 20 was the night of our annual dinner dance and show — this year it was the "Hall of Horrors" and everybody was encouraged to come in costume. We were treated to a sumptuous buffet and then it was show time. The audience was treated to musical numbers performed by our chorus and quartets, and some of our songs were even accompanied by skits. A great time was had by all!

We practiced our Christmas songs in preparation for the Christmas season and were pleased to perform at the Malden Park Nursing Home, Kingsville Court Nursing Home, and for a bowling league at the Place Concorde. This last performance was followed by our own Christmas party held at the Riverside Sportsmens' Club. Oh wasn't that a par-tay! Thanks to co-ordinator Joyce Clarke and her Windsor Winter Wonderland Girls for putting on a great show. Skits were performed, jokes (sometimes of a questionable nature) were told, a special song "The Night Before Christmas" was performed (?) by the WWWGirls and then we sang — oh how we sang!

That's about it for 2007. We are looking forward to coaching sessions this winter and spring in preparation for contest 2008 in Dearborn and to meeting our old friends at winter regional weekend. See you there!



HEART OF MICHIGAN CHORUS
Shepherd, Michigan ~~ Sue Wernick

Hello to all of you reading this! Does it seem possible that the holidays are behind us already and that now we are thinking about Valentine's Day and spring! And competition!

In preparation for competition we are holding our annual retreat in January to work on our music, our moves, and just have a great time. Each year we spend two days at a wonderful lodge at a local church camp in our area. We work hard but also find time to play, eat goodies, win prizes, and renew our friendships.

We spent the summer getting ready for our fall show, Hillbilly Jamboree. This is the first show that we have done in several years. The script was written by the show committee and the rest of

us had a great time executing the music and the jokes. Our assistant director, Paula Harper, had this wonderful idea about a hand that didn't show up for their concert, and we became the entertainment. She did a

tremendous job directing the show. Thank you, Paula! We were excited when both shows were well attended. During the evening performance, a meal featuring possum stew, alias beef stew, was served by a local caterer. One of the highlights of our show was our own hillbilly band complete with guitar, banjo, harmonica, washtub bass fiddle, tambourine, washboard, moonshine jug, and a hillbilly wedding! The room was about one and a half feet shorter than the bride so kissing the bride became a hilarious situation. Our thanks go out to the co-chairmen of the show, Carolyn Tubbs and Angela Martin for all of their hard work. Because our local community had supported us so well in contributing, monetarily to our patron ads, we wanted to give something back. Instead of our regular rehearsal, two weeks after the show, we performed a shortened version of the show to the Masonic Home. What a treat it was to see the smiles on the faces of the residents.

Each year we are asked to perform in downtown Ithaca during their Christmas festival. The businesses stay open late and we sing Christmas music throughout the town. This always puts us in the Christmas spirit. Our thanks goes to Karen Wilson who hosted our Christmas party. It has been a custom to invite past members to our party and seeing a lot of them each year brings back such wonderful memories. We always end the evening with the game Dirty Santa and of course singing those Christmas carols, barbershop style.

See you all at the winter retreat!



KITCHENER WATERLOO CHORUS
Kitchener, Ontario ~~ Delores Alexander

Greetings for a Happy New Year, 2008.

The K-W Chorus had a much quieter Christmas season this year but still enjoyed our sing-outs with a variety of groups in the Twin City area. We had a few new ventures this year, one being a new Probus Group that had formed in the city of Waterloo. This lively group of women kept us on our toes throughout the performance. Let me tell you, though, that this had to be the most humorous outing we have ever had. We began the morning, arriving at the locale, only to discover we had only seven singers. We gradually grew to 10 in number and as the voices straggled in, I discovered that we had no pitch pipe; nor did we have one of our regular experienced pitch pipe blowers. We had been hit by a virus and that was that. We solved our problem by sending our president to the local music store to buy a pitch pipe and as she arrived back, we were called out to sing. Anke, our president said she would blow the pitch for us and so off we went. Apparently, email does not work as fast as telephone amongst our ladies because 20 minutes after we began two of our ladies strolled in thinking they were early. They had not received the time change notice and they were shortly followed by another singer. We were so glad to see them and the group for whom we were singing saw the humour in this and led us on with much laughter. I compared the moment to arriving at school to teach only to find out there was a fire drill scheduled and the dental clinic would be in the school doing dental checks. The original plan had to be changed and our ladies just let it happen. We were the talk of the town with compliments galore on both our music and our fun and laughter. It certainly was a "you had to be there" moment but in good Sweet Adeline spirit, the show went on.

We have had many heartaches this fall. One of our members had to put her husband in a long-term facility, we endured the loss of family members and some of our members were cursed with horrific sore throats leading into the Christmas season that put them out of commission. In spite of all that, we attended our annual Festival of Trees celebration to help raise funds for one of our local hospitals. Since this is the last year for this endeavour, we felt privileged to be invited back once again. This has been something our chorus has been involved with for many years.

Our membership night took on a different format this year and from all the comments, I would say everyone had a fun night as well as an opportunity to dive into a new song. We had more guests than we expected and are looking forward to the promise of them coming out in January to pursue the possibility of becoming Sweet Adelines.

We experienced some wonderful milestones this year as well. Our director is now certified and one of our members received her 25-year pin.

2008 promises to be a year of hopeful expectations both in acquiring new members and learning new music. Our goal is to improve our music skills in barbershop style and pursue new opportunities to perform our craft for others.

We wish you all the very best in 2008 and hope that you enjoyed wonderful family celebrations during the Christmas season.

SEAWAY SOUNDS CHORUS
Sarnia, Ontario ~~ Jo Kulik



2008 will be a banner year for Seaway Sounds. As the old year draws to a close we were all resting from one of our busiest Christmas seasons ever. We had 10 performances from the middle of November until December 21. Some were full chorus commitments and others were small group events. Besides all that festive harmonizing, we had a mini retreat with Linda Liddicoatt as our coach working with our co-directors Karen and Michelle. We had a great day and ended the session with a dinner together.

In December we held our fourth annual Christmas show with the Bluewater Chordsmen. The free-will offering this year was our best ever and allowed us to make sizeable donations to local charities for the holiday season. As you can see from the picture, we had a great turnout for our annual Christmas party.

We welcomed our five new members along with many former members who like to keep in touch.

2008 marks our 25th anniversary as a chorus and we are busy planning a Monte Carlo night on June 21. More information will be available as everyone is welcome to join in the fun.

Check out our Web site at www.seawaysounds.com

WATER WONDERLAND CHORUS
Okemos, Michigan ~~ Elizabeth Johnson

Winter—Oops, That's *Water* Wonderland Chorus Enjoys the Holidays: It wasn't exactly a winter wonderland outside when Water Wonderland held its holiday show in December — an ice storm kept many potential audience members away. But there was a lot of holiday cheer inside as the chorus presented its "Christmas at the USO" show. With special guests "Something Big" and chapter quartets and small groups High Fidelity, RingTones, RipChords, and Plus One, the show featured a mixture of holiday music, 1940s pop standards, and patriotic tunes. In addition, the audience participated in a riotous rendition of "The 12 Days of Christmas," a Water Wonderland holiday tradition. As part of the show, Water Wonderland collected donations to send phone cards to soldiers at Walter Reed Army Hospital — more than \$130 was collected, allowing us to send a dozen phone cards.

The chorus made its presence known throughout mid-Michigan this holiday season, beginning with our appearance at Lansing's "Silver Bells in the City" celebration before Thanksgiving. We also performed at the "Wonderland of Lights" at the Potter Park Zoo, a Christmas tea for a local church (where we were introduced as the "Winter Wonderland Chorus"), the Christmas-tree lighting for the village of Dimondale, and at a holiday luncheon for the seniors group that meets at our rehearsal site.

Earlier in the fall, Water Wonderland hosted its third annual "Be a Diva" classes. Picking up on our USO show theme, our flyers announced, Uncle Sam-style, "We Want YOU — to Be a Diva!" The first evening, eight ladies showed up to see what we're all about. By the end of the four-week program, at least half of the women were still interested in exploring the possibilities of chorus membership. Here's hoping they'll be on the risers with us at contest!

Finally, we had a fantastic coaching session with Linda Liddicoatt just after our holiday show, and she has us fired up for this year's competition. With several more coaching sessions with Miss Liddy on the calendar this winter, Water Wonderland is sure to be in fine form by the time we get to Dearborn.

SONG OF THE LAKES CHORUS Davison, Michigan ~~ Phyllis Acre

What a wonderful experience Song of the Lakes Chorus had when we presented our December show at the beautiful Temple Theater in Saginaw. Our featured guests, The Venner Choir from Frankenmuth and The Four-Man Fishing Tackle Choir were a big hit with the almost full house, and the chorus enjoyed being part of the Christmas Extravaganza. The afterglow gave our quartets a chance to show their stuff. Isn't that what it's all about?

We have a busy winter planned, with our annual chicken dinner on January 20, at the Masonic Temple in Flint being the next thing on our agenda. This is always a fun day. We get to sing for our friends and families, as well as serve them a delicious chicken dinner, not to mention having a great dinner ourselves. Then it will be on to learning new music, welcoming new members who have recently joined us, and working to improve our craft, with several coaching sessions planned.

Let's hope the winter weather will cooperate and we won't have too many slip-and-slide nights! We look forward to seeing many of our friends at the winter regional in Port Huron.

In September, Shoreline manned a public relations booth in the city of Troy during their Troy Daze. It was educational for both our chorus members and, hopefully, for visitors to the festival and earned us a spot as entertainers for the same celebration in 2008.

There were many of our Region 2 choruses in Livonia for our fall regional "Colors of Harmony." I truly believe this weekend to have been one of the finest fall regionals ever! Perhaps a great deal of credit goes to our faculty for the weekend – Vickie Wonders Foltz. Not only is Vickie one of our own – a Sweet Adeline; but she is an accomplished actor, which wove itself into everything we experienced in her classes. The energy and enthusiasm Vickie squeezed out of us was something to behold and to REMEMBER! Our show with color choruses was enhanced even more with an outstanding performance by Calgary-bound Spirit of Detroit.

The last weekend of September Harmony campers to our end-of-season gathering at Lakeport, near Port Huron.

Next stop – Calgary – for a wonderful international contest. For those who could watch, the Web cast was fabulous; it seems to get more fine-tuned every year. Michigan's own **SPiRiT OF DETROIT CHORUS** placed 20th and made us proud. Dynamic members Jeannie, Kathy, Dodie and Jan performed well and enjoyed their experience in Alberta. A few of Shoreline's members attended to share in the experience that is Calgary and came home with fond memories. Quartet champions, Four Bettys, and first-place chorus Harborlites were polished and performed with pizzazz and finesse. Now we have another whole year to wait for a high time in

Hawaii, the first week of November – darn!

Divas were (and are) wanted always. In October, Shoreline Sound held our membership drive, after the attractive diva billboards had their introductions on local expressways. If everyone didn't have a chance to actually view the billboards erected on I-94 and I-75 for the region's recent "Divas Wanted Drive," see **page 1**. We are proud to say Nancy Aird, Shoreline Sound membership coordinator for the last 14 years, created the billboard idea many years ago and has been called the founding mother as she dreamed the dream and saw it through until completion with our own Maria Christian developing the means for the region to fund the billboard extravaganza. Shoreline was proud to see Nancy's efforts up in lights!

Cindy Hansen came to visit in Michigan in November, and Shoreline was fortunate to have a coaching session with her to review and sharpen our moves for our competition songs in April. It will be here before we all know!

Our annual Christmas greenery and poinsettia sales program was a success, and we picked up and delivered our orders before Thanksgiving. Added to this year's agenda were luscious cheesecakes. First on our holiday performance schedule this year was a visit to the Rock Financial Expo Center in Novi to sing at the Christmas Marketplace Opening Night celebration. We entertained and rocked the stage, singing to a small audience as well as to the many vendors nearby (who could hear us by benefit of the sound system).

Our next experience was the Shoreline Sound "Music and Marinara" Christmas dinner show

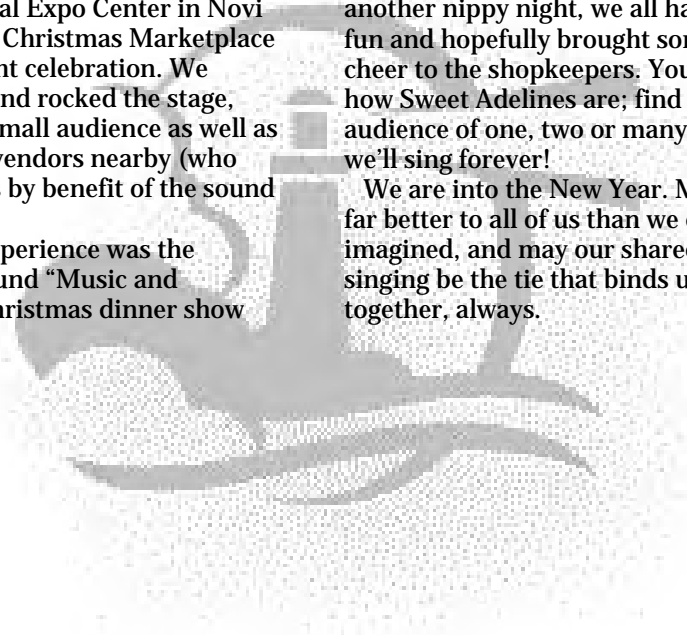
held in December at the Eagles Hall in Eastpointe. Only wonderful things can be said about this evening, especially that it was a sellout. Of course, the season's first severe winter storm hit that night, but even that did not dampen anyone's spirits or keep folks away! We served a delicious spaghetti dinner, complete with a dazzling dessert table and then treated our friends, family and guests to a joyful holiday show, with quartets **INVOICE, NOVELTY SHOP, FUSION, AND JUST FRIENDS** offering their voices in celebration of the season. The Cardinal Mooney Choir and Shoreline Sound also took to the stage, giving their finest in song.

We just can't say enough good things about our coaching session with beloved Jean Barford in December. It had been a while since seeing Jean, but we thoroughly enjoyed our full day's session with her; and the hours sped by, so absorbed we were with everything she shared with us.

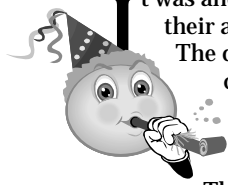
Our chorus Christmas party was fun for all and an evening to unwind a bit and see some of our associate or overtime members we have not seen through the year.

Christmas would not be complete without some strolling and caroling, so about a dozen of us met in downtown Wyandotte and sang in and out of the shops. Though it was another nippy night, we all had great fun and hopefully brought some cheer to the shopkeepers. You know how Sweet Adelines are; find us an audience of one, two or many; and we'll sing forever!

We are into the New Year. May it be far better to all of us than we ever imagined, and may our shared love of singing be the tie that binds us together, always.



NOVELTY SHOP: The Year in Review



It was another very interesting year for Novelty Shop and an even more interesting year for their audiences. Here, for the sake of auld lang syne, is a brief review of 2007:

The quartet debuted their new and outrageous "hospital patient" set in Region 2 competition. News of the performance spread, and rumor has it were invited to Region 17's fall music school as special guests to prove the rumor was true. They were never privy to the rumor, so they believe that may have been just a rumor.

The quartet added several choruses to the list of "Done Their Shows and Made Lots of New Friends and Dumbfounded the Audiences of those New Friends": Region 17's Renaissance Rhythm Chorus in Beaver Falls Pennsylvania and the Pride of Toledo Chorus, as well as the Detroit-Oakland and Pontiac-Waterford Chapters of the Barbershop Harmony Society, sharing the stage with BHS International Quartet Finalists Flipside and local legends and pals Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir. They also performed for the first time (but not the last, they are headed back in April!) for the Shelby Township Public Library. And only one or two people said "SHHHH!"

The quartet also visited some old friends in 2007. They were invited back by the Tri-City Chorus to perform for the Bay Arts Council with good buddies and Pioneer District Quartet Champs Fermata Nowhere (with tenor Sally's husband Pete Burns on bass). They were featured on the County Connection Chorus show (whose director is NS bass Lynne Peirce), the Slamka's 2007 Harmony Hideaway, the Shoreline Sound Show and harmonized again amongst the zucchini and honey rocks at the Howell Farmers Market. They were on the agenda of several Red Hat Society gatherings, always pondering the irony of being the most underdressed women in the room and the only people not littering the powder room with sequins.

Other 2007 notables included the annual Girl's Night Out to see Nunsensations at the Meadowbrook Theater, as well as the welcome addition of another BOB (Beast of Burden) to the Novelty Shop family, lead Susan Gleason's pal Jeff Spires. Baritone Cindy Gazetti moved into a fantastic new drug rep position at Jazz Pharmaceuticals and continued to astound audiences and her other quartet members remembering every word ... in order ... in the disclaimer to the new "The Drugs I Need" (a.k.a. "Progenitorivox") song. Most exciting of all, the quartet has the green light from some pretty notable composers such as Tom Lehrer and the Austin Lounge Lizards to put their music on the quartet's new DVD, which will be available sometime in 2008, 2009 or 2010.

With contest only a few months away the quartet resolves to rehearse regularly, begin singing prior to 9 p.m. at the majority of those rehearsals and be extremely diligent in picking out the very best give-aways on the market for their friends in Region 2. And yes, there WILL be a few (hundred?) new buttons.



Will the REAL nun please stand up? Sally Burns (Sister Mary Cataracts) is consoled by a REAL Sister after performing at the Red Hat Society state convention in June and finding out an honest-to-goodness nun (and Red Hatter!) was in the audience. The Sister is simultaneously consoled by Sally for having been that real nun in the audience.



Novelty Shop poses with local favorites Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir at the Pontiac-Waterford Show in November, the first time in the quartet's history THEY were the quartet wearing the real clothes.



The others watch in horror as Susan, accustomed to hogging the microphone, gets her lower lip caught in one during the performance at Jack and Kitty Slamka's Harmony Hideaway 2007.

In Voice!



Members Diane Catellane, Cathie McClary, Dawn Seigneur, and Maria Christian of second-place quartet medalists In Voice! have been Intensely working and singing as we prepare for the upcoming spring competition. October proved to be an In-spiring month with our performance on the River Raisin Chorus show with Region 17's first-place champion quartet TGIF. We even got a bit of singing in at the fall regional. December was equally rewarding with our guest performance on Shoreline's "Music and Marinara" dinner show. We were in great company with **JUST FRIENDS, FUSION, AND NOVELTY SHOP**. We'll all be at the winter regional looking forward to much fun and oh yeah, some education too. With bass Maria Christian back in school, the quartet has been helping out with her studies. It was a memorable experience as the quartet rushed from a great coaching session with Jean Barford in Ohio and broke speed limits to get back in time for Maria to take her mid-term at Oakland University. Tenor, Dawn Seigneur and baritone, Cathie McClary took turns quizzing Maria. The group effort was a great success. Maria got the highest score. Dawn is busy with her job as a traveling physical therapist and opening up her new yoga school in Ohio. Diane's weeks are busy with her sales and consulting job as well as directing the Shoreline Chorus and her weekends are filled with coaching sessions and quartet rehearsals. Cathie is a Jill-of-all-trades. Besides her sales of industrial tools and equipment she does carpentry work on the side. But we're never too busy to sing!

Check out our Web site at <http://www.invoicequartet.com>

The Spirit of Detroit Chorus would like to thank our Region 2 friends for your support in getting us to Calgary and back. We couldn't have done it without you! We are very proud to be the first recipients of the new Harmony Achievement award medals!

Our annual show was in November. We had a blast! Our guest performers were **FRIENDSHIP RINGS, DYNAMIX, SPOTLIGHT** and the Hum Dingers! The whole evening was filled with great music and lots of laughter.

Please mark your calendars for our "Spirit Sings 2008" show!

* Date: **Sunday, November 23, 2008**

* Where: Ford Community and Performing Arts Center in Dearborn

* Time: 4 p.m.



Andrea Strutz, and LeAnn Hazlett get Spirit's award from Jim Massey and friend.



Harmony Achievement Award: Minimum B level (960 or more) and no more than 67 competing members Spirit of Detroit with 1169 points

Chorus members enjoyed a few weeks off during the holidays. We are looking forward to starting off the new year with renewed energy and focus on our performance at Region 2's contest in April.
Happy New Year everyone!

BORDER LAKES REGION 2

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SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

2008

Jan. 13 RMT Meeting
Feb. 1-3 Winter Regional Weekend
Mar. 8-9 RMT Meeting
Apr. 3-6 Regional Convention - Dearborn, MI
Jun. 21 YWIH Benefit
Jul. 16-19 IES - Trinity University - San Antonio, TX
Sep. 19-21 Fall Regional Weekend - Vickie Maybury
Nov. 4-8 International Convention - Honolulu, HI

2009

Jan. 23-25 Winter Regional Weekend
Apr. 24-26 Regional Convention - Dearborn, MI
Sep. 18-20 Fall Regional Weekend
Nov. 3-7 International Convention - Nashville TN

2010

Apr. 15-18 Regional Convention - Dearborn, MI
Oct. 19-23 International Convention - Seattle, WA

Future International Competitions

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



BLUEWATER • CARILLON BELLES • 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 • W.A.V.E.S.