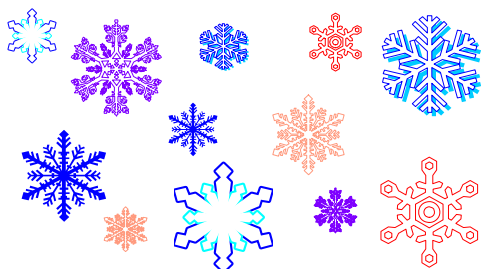




WINTER 2007



**“A Musical Winter Wonderland”  
Border Lakes Region 2  
January 26-28**

**Thomas Edison Inn**  
500 Thomas Edison Parkway  
Port Huron MI 48060

Hotel and Registration Deadline  
**January 12**

Registration: FREE to all Region 2  
members who pre-register  
\$15 to non-Region 2 members  
**\$5 late fee, payable at the door**

Registrar: Marianne Marchand  
27735 Rialto  
Madison Heights MI 48071  
248-545-0955  
marmar@post.com

Room rate: \$89/night (every size  
room) + 6% state and 2% local taxes  
Check-in time: 4 p.m.  
Make hotel directly with the  
Thomas Edison Inn:  
1-800-451-7991

Faculty: Dr. Diane Clark  
International Faculty Associate and  
Certified Director of the Grand  
Traverse Chorus

There will be a **Young Women in Harmony** silent auction during the Region 2 “Musical Winter Wonderland.” Joan Kienitz has again volunteered to head the Region 2 YWIH silent auction committee. Like you, we are intent on spreading the love of singing four-part harmony to our young singers.

Region 2 is very active with the YWIH program. We make presentations in schools, have young singers on our shows, and support YWIH Choruses. And last but not least, we hold the Four-Star Harmony Quartet Contest each year during our annual winter regional weekend. From this contest the region assists the winners to attend and compete in the YWIH contest at the International Education Symposium in San Antonio.

We are now asking you, as an individual or as a chapter, to make a silent auction donation that could be mailed or given to Joan or taken to Port Huron. All donations are tax-deductible and a tax form will be sent to you for your donation.

Donation suggestions are: Any craft items you make, purchased products that are made in the Michigan/Ontario area, a basketful of interesting items, handmade afghans and quilts, artwork, clothing, autographed items from famous people, jewelry, autographed books, wine, or any other new things that you would like to donate. One idea to share is from Song of the Lakes Chapter who is collecting money from their members' returned empty beverage cans.

Joan will need to know ASAP about what you plan to donate so that she can prepare a listing of the donations. If you plan to contribute, please let her know who will be contributing, the kind of donation and its approximate value.

You may reach Joan at: [fritzki@mindspring.com](mailto:fritzki@mindspring.com) Please arrange to have the items delivered to Joan at the winter event early on Friday evening, or you can email her for her address in the event you will be mailing the donation.

*Thank you for considering making a donation to this worthy cause.*

*Anne Kotchman and Mary Patrick*

*YWIH co-coordinators*

*[kotchman@comcast.net](mailto:kotchman@comcast.net)*

*[mapatrick1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mapatrick1@sbcglobal.net)*

**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/>

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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 spring regional

**APRIL 6, 2007**

This deadline is firm.

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  
800-992-7464 (toll free)  
918-665-0894 (fax)  
www.sweetadelineintl.org



Best wishes to all of you for a happy and healthy 2007. In addition to the chapter shows, plans are in the works for some wonderful events.

We look forward to seeing many of you in May at the regional convention in Grand Rapids and at the RMT installation breakfast.

In June, we look forward to a Region 2 summer camp with Michael Hayden and to Region 2 faculty training with Kathy Carmody.

In July, the International Education Symposium will be held in San Antonio, Texas; and in September, Vickie Foltz will be the faculty for our fall regional weekend.

Then, in October, the international convention will be held in Calgary, Canada, with our Spirit of Detroit Chorus and our Region 2 quartet contestants.

Come May of 2007, term limitation will mean the end of my six years on the Regional Management Team. It has been an awesome journey for me.

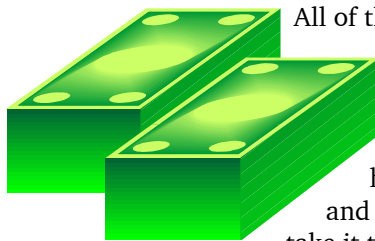
Although I will miss being active on this team, I leave knowing whoever steps into this position will receive the same amount of support and fellowship from the team as I have enjoyed and will also bring with her many new ideas and interesting insight that will keep Region 2 moving forward!

*Dorothy A. Davenport*  
Region 2 Team Coordinator

## **MONEY MATTERS**

Once again, we are heading into a new year with new optimism and hope about our chapters, our region and our international organization. We are all seeking new members, ways to revitalize our existing members and looking for funds to pay for the many things necessary to excel in our craft, e.g. coaching, music, costuming. Our chorus life parallels a lot of things going on in our personal life, such as economics. How do I pay for that new dress, a new refrigerator or my chorus dues?

We have priorities in each discipline, it's up to us to manage them and sometime make do with what we have. Need a new dress, how about changing the look of the one we have, same goes with costuming, maybe a revamp of an existing costume would make sense for a chorus with limited funds. Need new risers? Maybe we should look at repairing or refurbishing the ones we have. How about a new contest song? Consider using the one you have for an extra year, this would save on purchasing a new arrangement and also on extra coaching needed for new music.



All of the above seem like small things but small things add up (no pun intended), and in these tough economic times, we need to think of how our members can financially afford this hobby. Ways and means projects are probably one of the hardest things to implement throughout the chorus and our region. If you have an idea for a fundraiser, take it to your board and/or team, or if it is something that the region could do, please feel free to contact one of the RMT members. We are always looking for ways to generate revenue and take some of the burdens off of the membership.

Many of our regions are facing the same problems we are, not just financial, but declining memberships. There are so many choices out there for women that we have to make it worth their while to choose us. I know at the regional level that we think long and hard about any increases in regional assessment, they are not done on a whim. We have to pay whatever you do, so it's important to us to keep costs down. We try to provide the membership with the best in faculty and facilities but unfortunately, the costs for these continually to rise. The regional management team will continue to strive to keep your needs in mind, whatever benefits you, benefits us as well. Meanwhile, please contact me if you have specific financial questions or concerns.

*Fiscally yours,*  
*Becky Cherry*  
Region 2 Finance Coordinator

### **Prevention's Anti-Aging Guide ■ How to take off 10 years and more – and look and feel better than ever** *by Andreas von Bubnoff and Joanna Lloyd*

70 percent of the factors influencing life expectancy are due to good choices and good luck, not good genes. *Prevention* asked dozens of scientists studying aging exercise, nutrition and relate fields which changes deliver the biggest payoff.

... #13. Belt out a tune

Exposing yourself to music might help boost your immune system: In a study done by Robert Beck, PhD, a professor emeritus at the University of California, Irvine, levels of an infection-fighting antibody called IgA increased 240% in the saliva of choral members performing Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*. ... (Submitted by Jeanne Lundberg)

# The Three R's of PR by Carole Essenmacher

TARGET YOUR MARKET \* KNOW THE TOOLS AND USE THEM \* GET CREATIVE

**RESEARCH** Start early, long before PR campaign begins. Become familiar with the media in your area by researching it and recruit individuals from your chorus and community to help you.

Assign a member to be the liaison for a particular media contact. Look for the media that reaches your target audience. Know the media deadlines. Don't forget to use the media Web site community calendars for informing the public of your event. Attend workshops given by media and institutions. Check the media Web sites to research their staff and programming.

In addition to researching the media you need to also become familiar with the businesses, groups, schools, and organizations that could be used for contacting women and for sponsors.

Create your own "Finder Binder" with names and numbers, emails of media contacts including deadlines. Create your own "Finder Binder" with names and numbers of the community leaders of groups, organizations and business contacts that could be potential members, sponsors, and supporters of your chorus.

**Before you start to write the news release, ask yourself:  
"IS IT NEWS?"**

Create a "Media Kit" including release, pictures, CDs, DVDs and anything that can "sell" your chorus to the media.

- Timeliness (Happening now)
- Importance (How many people does it affect?)
- Proximity (Happening close to home, or to people close to home)
- Novelty (Unusual)
- Prominence (famous or interesting/exciting people)
- Emotion

## PRINT MEDIA

Become familiar with the area newspapers from beginning to end or get this information from someone who knows.

Look for other printed media available in your area. Magazines etc.

What sections of the papers would reach the audience you desire?

Ask for names of reporters and editors you will be contacting.

Become familiar with the editors and writers (especially the entertainment editors)

Present an exciting (Diva) image to the media.

Invite the news paper photographer to attend a rehearsal.

What sections of the paper are free such as letters to the editor, community calendars, and entertainment coverage.

## TV MEDIA

Know both week-day and weekend TV programming.

Be sure to know the coverage area of the stations you contact.

Ask for names of Community Relations/News Assignment Desk Director.

Ask for Managers-Producers-Directors of the programs you select (Community Calendars, Community News, News programs, interview formats).

How could cable TV be utilized?

Send a DVD and suggest that this be used in an interview or schedule a quartet.

## RADIO

Research the area radio stations. Which ones would reach your target audience? Ask for help from chorus members. Know the names of news director, assignment editor, public service announcement director. Send a CD of chorus to help insure an interview. Ask for programs that have interview formats.

## RELEASE: WRITE THE NEWS

Use chorus or Sweet Adelines stationery. Find out if they prefer snail mail or email. Include the five 'W's, Who, What, When, Where, and Why. The 'Why' refers to why you should attend: It is inspiring, exciting, "come and celebrate" etc. Be sure to include local members from each community.

Make the release catchy, creative and includes all the necessary information. Make it easy to read. Keep it short and to the point. Be sure to proofread. Include the name, phone and email number of the contact person(s). Make it clever, unique and classy. Include a short cover letter if you are seeking a special appearance (interview or singing group) or feature story.

Send the release to several individuals at the same place.

Send a photo to add interest.

Print media is double space in lower case letters. Other media is double spaced done in all capitals

## REPEAT CONTACT

Make a follow-up phone call. Prepare yourself ahead of time as to what you want to say. Make the conversation brief and to the point.

Introduce yourself and briefly refer to the information already sent. You may need to re-send the release and other material if requested. You may need to send a longer, more detailed cover letter and press release and a fact sheet. Call the newspaper and TV news assignment desk about a week before and the day before the event and invite them to come to do live coverage of the event. Convince them how exciting and newsworthy the event will be. Call media several months before an event to invite a media personality to MC or make an appearance at the event. Be sure to contact media afterwards and thank them for their cooperation.

*You can contact me at [caress@tds.net](mailto:caress@tds.net) or 989-823-7813 if you have any questions about developing a plan to utilize the media. **The main thing to remember is to START EARLY.***

## Direct from our Director Coordinator

It is indeed a happy new year from a few lucky choruses who have been searching for leadership and FOUND it!

### Welcome New Directors

Julie Banfill ~ Heart of Essex  
Diane Clark ~ Grand Traverse  
May Downs ~ Riverlights(Windsor)  
and

Region 2 has added a transfer chorus to our roster.  
Merry Lu Jordan is the director of the Water Wonderland Chorus in Lansing (formerly in Region 17.)

Congratulations to our master director Diane Catellane for her fine leadership with Shoreline Sound as they fulfilled their dream of going to the international stage in Las Vegas.

Many choruses had fall and December shows. Pats on the back to all directors who helped their groups take center stage and do what makes us who we are – entertain!

We watched our two master directors Julia Beadle, director of London, and LeAnn Hazlett, director of Spirit of Detroit, sing their hearts out in Vegas. Congratulations LeAnn for your wonderful reign as QUEEN LEAD in Spotlight (did you buy their CD yet?)

And NorthStar – we were so proud for all of you. Julia being the “lead” in two groups just makes all directors in Region 2 even MORE proud of what we are in this barbershop world. Busy women who make it look easy. Now that’s a miracle!

Take a moment if you can and write a note to YOUR musical leader. Each of us know how important good leadership is and letting our leaders hear from us “just because” is a good way to keep the conversation going. Our directors want what is best for you.

*Happy New Year!*

*In harmony,  
Chris Noteware*

## YWIH News from Anne and Mary

We both are looking forward to working with you as we begin another new year and are so excited about sharing our love of a cappella music with the young women in our region.

Plans are underway for our first YWIH mass sing. Our hope is to have young women from all areas of the region (including the daughters and granddaughters of your members) participating in the winter event, January 27, at the Thomas Edison Inn in Port Huron. The chorus will perform after the YWIH quartet contest while the judges are deliberating. Marj Dudley from London Chorus will direct this year.



The two YWIH songs that the chorus will sing are now on the Region 2 Web site. Just follow the link “Region 2 Songs” to the bottom and there they are. Those chapter YWIH coordinators who attended our meeting in September in London received the music.

Please share these two songs with interested young women, in middle school or high school; even if your chorus cannot sponsor a quartet to the contest. There will be a rehearsal on Saturday, January 27 prior to the contest. It will be listed on the winter regional schedule.

The Four-Star Harmony Quartet Contest registration form and information request form have been updated and are now available on the Region 2 Web site.

*Anne Kotchman and Mary Patrick*

*You can contact us at*

*kotchman@comcast.net*

*mapatrick1@sbcglobal.net*

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Singer, songwriter and composer Frank Zappa once said that he first fell in love with music as a kid after he had a kind of religious experience at his grandmother’s funeral. He said, “The choir was singing, and I could see from the way that the candle flames were wavering that they were responding to the sound waves coming from the choir. That was when I realized that sound, music, had a physical presence and that it could move the air around. ... [I realized that] music is, literally, a recipe for sculpted air.” ~~ from *American Public Media, 480 Cedar Street, Saint Paul, MN 55101*

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## DIANE M. CLARK

Our faculty for the Region 2 Musical Winter Wonderland, January 26-27, is Dr. Diane M. Clark, one of the newest front-line directors in the region. Diane moved to Traverse City in August to become director of the Grand Traverse Chorus, and she brings to Region 2 a wealth of musical, vocal, and barbershop knowledge and experience.



She holds a BM degree from Rhodes College, an MM degree from Indiana University, and a Doctor of Arts degree in music from the University of Mississippi. She retired in May 2006, from a 35-year career of university teaching at Texas Tech University for three years and Rhodes College in Memphis, for 32 years. Her specialty subjects were applied voice, vocal ensembles, music theory and literature, and public speaking.

She was an active vocal performer throughout the mid-south and southwest areas. In 2005, she and Sweet Adelines colleague Kim Kraut presented a recital in Memphis entitled "From Bach to Barbershop." Since her arrival in Michigan, Diane has become a member of the Michigan School Vocal Music Association and is currently singing with the Grand Traverse Chorale at Northwestern Michigan College.

*Diane is looking forward to meeting and interacting with the singers of Region 2.*

Diane joined Sweet Adelines in 1992, and was a member of the Memphis City Sound Chorus for 10 years and their associate director for five years. She was quickly invited to join the faculty of Region 23 (Heart of Dixie Region) and later served that region as education coordinator and DCP coordinator. She also coached annually at the region's quartet workshop. She entered the director certification program and attained the rank of certified director. She began arranging studies and was accepted into the international music arrangers program. Four years ago she joined the international faculty and has coached and taught in Regions 4, 6, 9, 10, 16, 23 and 25. She also teaches regularly at the International Education Symposium.

The past two summers Diane made "the great commute" (450-mile round-trip) to sing with the Metro Nashville Chorus, and she helped them win the 2005 Buckeye Invitational Small Chorus Championship as well as the 2006 Harmony Classic Division A Championship.

Though her specialty is vocal production, Diane offers a variety of classes on her international faculty resume, and for our winter meeting she will teach the following classes, which have been selected by regional leaders:

**Who, Me? Creative? (Friday night)**  
**Just Call Me Shakespeare (Saturday morning)**  
**The Score is Vowels 95, Consonants 5**  
**(Saturday morning)**  
**Is This a Hobby – or a Lifestyle?**  
**(Saturday afternoon)**

## What Is "Harrisville?" Where Is Harrisville?

Harrisville is a very quaint little town just north of Oscoda. It sits right on the edge of Lake Huron's beautiful shore. It is a town that the barbershoppers and Sweet Adelines all share a common interest in on Labor Day weekend.

We all flock to Harrisville State Park, if you are a camper. For those who are not, there are bed & breakfast places, motels and cabins. The singing of tags will be heard throughout the campground well into the night, despite the ranger's plans to keep quiet hour a ritual.

When Labor Day weekend rolls around there is an annual craft fair that takes a large section of US-23 and M-72. It runs all day Saturday and Sunday. On Friday and Saturday afternoon about 5 p.m. usually, the Sweet Adelines Mass chorus rehearses in the state park. Then on Saturday evening, anyone who wants to sing can sign up and sing at Maria Hall. Quartets and choruses, and of course the mass choruses all perform there. Sunday a parade goes through town about 1p.m. and ends at the harbor after which everyone starts congregating in the harbor for more singing. You will need to have a chair or blanket to sit on in the harbor, and God-willing, the weather will hold out and it will be a nice day.

There are many cabins in Harrisville and Greenbush (four miles south of Harrisville); there are B & Bs and a few small motels. Oscoda is about 12 miles south of Harrisville and Tawas is about 29 miles south. Alpena is north of there by 32 miles. If you enjoy peace, "God's country," and the beauty of Lake Huron, then Harrisville is definitely the town for you.



If you would like to join those of us who are regulars in Harrisville over the Labor Day weekend, please do. We would love to have you there and show you what Harrisville is all about. Please feel free to email me personally at [mytins@wowway.com](mailto:mytins@wowway.com) and I can send you information for places to stay. If you are a camper and wish to camp in the state park please make sure you get your reservation in six months EXACTLY to the date you want to arrive. The campground fills up fast. Hope to see you in Harrisville in 2007.

*In harmony, Sandy Burns  
Shoreline Sound Chorus*

## Novelty Shop: Meeting, Greeting, Competing and Eating



**N**ovelty Shop has enjoyed a busy fall, meeting new friends, greeting old friends, competing in a very loud talent show and trying out a lot of restaurants together.

The quartet continued its tour of Region 17 choruses, sharing the stage with their good friends In Voice! for tenor Dawn Seigneur's wonderful little River Raisin Chorus in Monroe. Then it was on to Pittsburgh where the quartet performed with international finalists B.L.A.K. Velvet for bass Bonnie McKibbon's outstanding Greater Harmony Chorus (that's B.L.A.K. Velvet and Novelty Shop in the picture. Novelty Shop are the ones in the glasses.)

The quartet also continued to improve how well and how often they eat together. After setting the record for the most courses and smoothies ordered for four people at a Pittsburgh Applebees, the quartet feasted at Fishbones in Greektown prior to winning the Pfizer Pharmaceutical Rep Talent Show at the Atheneum Hotel. Next to Shoreline Sound's Hospitality Room, the Pfizer sales crew was probably the most wild and crazy audience the quartet had ever sung for. They hooted and hollered after seeing their Pfizer colleague Cindy Gazetti sing the quartet's new Prescription Drug Song and do the amazing disclaimer without missing a beat or a single word. They had also enjoyed more wine than Novelty Shop had enjoyed at Fishbones so the quartet enjoyed the crazy Pfizers as much as the crazy Pfizers enjoyed the quartet. Maybe even more!

December was the time to reflect and celebrate the holidays and their fifth birthday (!) with their friends and family. The quartet had dinner together at McCormick and Schmick in Troy with their BOBs: tenor Sally Burn's husband Pete, bass Lynne Peirce's husband Tom, baritone Cindy Gazetti's husband Tod and lead Susan Gleason sister Ginny. They bought the BOBs gifts and made them eat lots of seafood and steaks to thank them for their help, love and support in 2006 and to bribe them to continue hauling their stuff around and taking care of their young children in 2007. After a very long and luxurious meal the quartet sang for their waiter and a birthday party. In spite of requests to sing all over the restaurant, just like in Cinderella they realized the time had come to call it a night and head back to Cindy's. And it wasn't just for the pie. They are still haunted by the memories of those time penalties.

What's up in 2007? The quartet can't wait to share the stage with Flipside, international finalists in the Barbershop Harmony Society on the Detroit-Oakland Gentlemen Songster's two-nighter in February. They will be doing a performance and educational program for the Shelby Township Library in May, visiting the Slamka Fest in July, traveling back to Pennsylvania in September for the Renaissance Rhythm show, headlining the County Connection show in October and then the Pride of Toledo show in November. And plans for a very entertaining... and unusual... DVD are in the works, as well as a Web site!

Somewhere in there they will write a bunch of new words to a bunch of new songs and compete. While they won't be at the Musical Winter Wonderland (bass Lynne is tied up with the Region 17 music school which falls on the same weekend) they will see you at Region 2's contest in May.

If you want to say "hi" and can't seem to track them down, look in the restaurant.

## Friendship Rings

**W**ow, where did the time go? It seems as though we just came off stage at regional contest in May, and now we are singing *Auld Lang Syne* and planning for 2007. Of course, we were thrilled with our "wild card" placement qualifying us to compete in Las Vegas. That city is like being in another world! The quartet traveled to Egypt, had dinner in New York, and wine in Paris; Peggy and I even watched the fabulous fountains of the Bellagio from the top of the Eiffel Tower!



The contest experience was truly a wonderful one. We had such fun bonding with the three (3!) other quartets wearing the same shirts we had on the day of the quartet briefing.

The contest itself was a great learning experience, and while we left lots of room for improvement, we can hardly wait to earn an opportunity to go back again.

The fall and holiday season brought us many opportunities for singing. We have enjoyed several performances and we also offer our thanks to **SPIRIT OF DETROIT** and **GREAT LAKES** for inviting us to appear on their shows. Our promotion of **GREAT LAKES-SHORELINE SOUND** show, live and in person, on TV 2 Fox News at 8 a.m. was certainly an interesting way to start a week!

Sweet Adelines around the world are a wonderful, supportive group, and the women of Region 2 lead the way. We are so grateful to everyone who wished us well, took a moment for a hug or kind word and for the overwhelming financial support provided by so many chapters, quartets and individuals. We offer our thanks (and an extra plate of rice krispy treats) to our coaches, Bruce LaMarte; and, Chris Noteware, you are a grand, gracious and generous lady! But our special thanks go to Dodie, Kathy, Karen and Julia, the wonderful women of **NorthStar**, who shared their experience, their expertise, and even their cash with us. Their **Friendship Rings!** (And rocks!)

W/love  
Patti, Sandy, Peggy and Nancy

## BLUEWATER CHORUS Owen Sound, Ontario ~~ Susan Zammit

With the holidays behind us and a new year starting we now focus on the competition, but where would we be without our senior Adeline sisters and I don't mean the over-50 crowd. This year we will celebrate anniversaries, birthdays and as well what we all work toward - winning a ribbon.

At Bluewater we celebrate Sue Murdoch's tenth year as a director. Not only is Sue our director but she is also a charter member along with Marsha Crawford, Vi Hill, Ona Kreis, Jean Murphy, Joan Porter and Joan Satchelle. That is over 26 years of experience each. Imagine! Think of the value and expertise these ladies bring to the chorus. I'm sure we have met someone in our organization that have been a member longer than this and has inspired us to continue to learn more.

We focus on membership and recruitment but we should also focus on membership retention. How? We all stay for the love of music, the friendship, the performance, the experience but I think our chorus goes one step better. We are prepared, we use our strengths within the chorus, we make our members feel important and respect one another.

We have regular social time, support one another in trying times, work well together and, most importantly, have fun. We presented our newest members with SA pins at our Christmas dinner and two members received a five-year pin. It makes one feel good to receive a gift.

We have made a few changes this year such as not having a formal membership night but we still advertise in the local paper. We have one new possibility and also from last fall another two. It is important to follow up with our guests as they may commit over time. Sue is gifted in this area as she always stays in contact with the prospective.

We also fund-raise a dollar at a time such as donating at board meetings the cost of what we would spend on a meal since our meeting usually occurs over a supper meal. The board so far has been taking turns donating a meal for the meeting. We are not going to have secret pals this year as it was felt that some felt strained at the expense. We will still give each other encouragement however. We also volunteer our time supervising at a youth dance. Think of the fun. We had a very successful show in November and raised a lot of money with a silent auction with items that were donated. We will decide at our next board meeting on a major fundraiser but this gives you some idea on how a dollar can be raised without much work.

What a thrill it is to sing for your audience and know they appreciate and applaud us. Not the least is the thrill of winning. I look back over the last ten years of becoming a member and think of how much I have developed and learned. We have one super great organization. If there is still a member out there that has not benefitted from music school than encourage them to attend. The experience outweighs the cost. I can remember a "senior" member attending a workshop and all of a sudden it made sense to her what our director had been saying about good breath support. Another person, another way of saying it and another person is inspired. Let us inspire and support each other.



Sue Murdoch, our director, presented 5-year pins to Sue Gamle (left) and Mary MacDonald (right) at our Christmas dinner.



Recipients of Sweet Adelines pins (our new members the last few years) L - R Jackie Ralph, Kay McCartney, Lynn Jackes, Marlene Harwood and Ona Kreis presenter

## TRI CITY CHORUS

Auburn, Michigan ~~ Stannette Malosky

What a busy year! Lots of singouts, coaching, learning new music, and a very successful Christmas dinner show! Now down to business tuning up our competition songs. We were fortunate to have a few new members join us this year, and a couple more prospects from the Saginaw Valley State University Woman's Expo, where we had a booth promoting our chorus and barbershop harmony. We also entertained visitors to the Expo, with an evening performance. We are planning a coaching retreat in February and are looking forward to seeing all of our "sisters" at regional weekend in January. We are saddened at the loss of Ruth Flint, who became a Sweet Adeline in 1988, when she joined the former Lake Huron Chorus, and later became a regional board member. Ruth had a great sense of humor, loved to sing, and joined Tri City Chorus a couple years ago. She was able to go to Las Vegas to see our Region 2 chorus, Shoreline Sound, perform on the international stage, and attended our recent Part School. Her passing certainly was unexpected! Many members of our chorus and some former members of Lake Huron Chorus joined to sing at Ruth's wake service. What a moving experience. About \$250 has been donated to our chorus angel fund, in Ruth's memory. We will surely miss her. See you all in January!

## HEART OF MICHIGAN CHORUS

Shepherd, Michigan ~~ Liz Miller

Whew! I think we are all relieved that the busy holiday season is over. There is nothing like giving thanks for all we have or celebrating the magical season of Christmas. What terrific memories we've made, starting with helping the local blood drive, and then participating with Breckenridge Yard Sale Days. We sang to our costumers and made a great profit to boot. What fun! We were asked to perform at the Shepherd Women's Tea to raise monies for less fortunate children's Christmas gifts. What a worthwhile, heartwarming experience. Then on to joining the Shepherd Orchestra Christmas concert held at Alma College. We actually had time for coaching with our multi-talented Miss L. Liddicoatt and ending the season with local caroling and chorus Christmas party. Gearing up for competition. Don't we ever get a break? Happy new year!

Ara Dammer from Tri City Chorus received her Star Award Pin last fall along with 27 other Sweet Adelines who have been in the organization for 25 years. Congratulations, Ara!

Happy New Year Region 2! Whew! I don't know about you, but Fenton Lakes was *busy* toward the end of 2006. It all started in October, when we were asked to help celebrate the First Annual Scarecrow Festival in Frankenmuth. We had a great time serenading the shoppers, and since it was the end of October, we even snuck a "wintry" song or two into our repertoire. Imagine the looks on peoples' faces when they heard "Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow!"

One of our favorite venues as a chorus is Christmas caroling, and boy, did we ever get opportunities to show off our holiday spirit! Santa hats and sleigh bells in tow, we traveled from Frankenmuth to Fenton between Thanksgiving and Christmas. JingleFest in Fenton is always a great way to start off the season. While caroling in Frankenmuth, we were joined by a fellow Sweet Adeline, visiting from the West Coast (of Michigan). After a quick invitation, she jumped into the front row, added her lead to ours, and belted out "Jingle Bells" right along with us. Before we could get her name, or the name of her chorus, she was gone <poof>.

But now that the holidays are over, I bet you are asking yourself, "What am I going to do on these long dark nights?" Well, I can't answer for all of them, but if you are a euchre lover, then you should be joining us for our First Ever (and hopefully annual) Euchre Tournament on February 10 in Fenton.

More information will be provided on the Region 2 list, so keep your ears (and eyes) open for details. And if, for some reason, you just can't wait, email us with questions at [FentonLakesPR@hotmail.com](mailto:FentonLakesPR@hotmail.com). We are really looking forward to seeing everyone there, and having a wonderful time.

Fenton Lakes spent last summer getting ready for the Buckeye Invitational. We donned our sepia costumes and ran the Great Race. It was great seeing all the choruses and quartets on stage. We would like to extend congratulations to everyone that performed at the Buckeye. A special HOORAY goes out to **GREAT LAKES CHORUS** (or is that Sterling Heights Chorus <g>). Way to go girls! Ya done good. FLC geared up for a guest night as well. We have started focusing on the younger crowd, hoping to share the love of barbershop music with those that are fresh out of high school. One of the ways we have done this is by using a myspace account. Drop in and take a peek. [www.myspace.com/singlikeadiva](http://www.myspace.com/singlikeadiva) Take care everyone!

GREAT LAKES CHORUS Sterling Heights, Michigan  
Karen Behrendt

Happy 2007 Region 2! What a busy holiday season for Great Lakes! We had such a super time doing our holiday show with **SHORELINE SOUND**. The stage was beautifully set and we had raves for our winter white outfits. We danced with snowmen and even did a little touch of Rockettes. And when the curtain went up and the audience saw the combined choruses in our finest holiday sequins – we could hear the ooh's and ahh's of the audience. What fun! Everyone had a wonderful time and Metropolis was excellent. Many thanks to both committees for doing such a seamless job and pulling two big choruses together so well. Bravo!



GLC costumes from our show with Shoreline Sound: Lynn Patzert, Mindy Krueger, Sandy Korthals, Kay Kastens  
**OUR NEXT SHOW: OCTOBER 20 (Sweetest Day)**

On a discordant note: Our trailer containing our risers, signs, ramps, and our custom-made riser chair were stolen from the parking lot of St. Thomas Lutheran Church (where we rehearse) in October. There has been no sign of them and we have been working to acquire another trailer and buy a new set of risers. A new riser chair has been donated and welded. Thank you! to **SHORELINE SOUND CHORUS** for loaning us their extra set of risers and their trailer for our holiday performances.

Along with our recurring holiday performances, we also had the honor of performing at the Max Fisher Theater for the "Macy's Day of Harmony" sponsored by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. It was an excellent opportunity to perform for people who may have never before heard barbershop harmony and they were a wonderful audience. Our final time of being together for the year is at our Christmas party. We so rarely get time to just socialize and enjoy each other's company. This party is always a great way to end the year together. We have plenty of food and drink, but it's the games that make their mark. This year included a holiday quiz and making members into angels with . . . toilet paper! Let's just say there are some very creative people out there! We enjoyed listening to **Friendship Rings** and **DCQ** and are very proud to have heard the debut of our new quartet – **Venus**. We look forward to all of them competing in the spring. Also new: we welcome some of our newest members (since last summer): Chris Mueller, Barbara Smith, Marilyn Guns, Carla Pecorilli, Lisa Jackson and LouAnn Bobrovetski.

Speaking of competition, we are working feverishly and coaching as much as possible. The new year brings a new energy to work hard, learn how to sing our best individually and enjoy the sound of a chorus coming together and ringing chords. For those of you that we don't see at winter regional - see you in the spring.

We continue to enjoy our brand-new risers and to welcome new members to help fill them (Jan Dewitt – Lead, Margot Conway – lead, Jane Stoltz – lead and soon-to-audition, Betsy Bee - bass – congratulations to all!). We all enjoy having more space and of course the security of new and stable risers. We were able to give some of our old risers to an elementary school with the proviso that they needed fixing and we also gave some to the men's chorus in the city as they would borrow them on occasion.

Dianne Ritz has been reorganizing our storage corner at the church to make it neater and tidier. Two file cabinets block off the "room" and a portable screen make it almost nice to look at. We found out a mouse in the church has been living under our old risers so now there are traps there as well!

In October, we had the privilege of performing at a memorial service for Lissard House in Cambridge, Ontario (nursing home), to honor and celebrate the lives of the residents that had died during the past year. This was the second time we've been asked to participate. It continues to be a very moving event for both the chorus and the families as names are read and the candles are lit in memory of each life.

In November our annual Christmas Tea once again saw huge crowds enjoying our luncheon and songs. Our invited crafters always enjoy our show and add to the shopping feeling of Christmas. As well we had door prizes, a silent auction with more than 70 items and a draw on a lovely basket made by our very talented Helen May.



We had about eight new members performing with us for the first time which made it very special. To top it all off, as an added bonus to this wonderful family and friends performance, we did very well financially despite our rock bottom price for tickets! Once the Tea is over, our Christmas season really seems to begin for our members!

In December we had many performances at retirement residences and nursing homes which also helped to put us in the mood for Christmas. Many of these also fell on our regular chorus night (which is handier for our director and some members who drive many miles to participate). After one such event in Elmira, Ontario we walked to Joyce Ireson's home where we were treated to an incredible buffet of hors d'oeuvres and Christmas treats.

We also got a good start on a new song while we were there – Christmas holiday homework! After another performance we all went back to Norma Steinman's home in New Hamburg for a "sing and a nibble" plus a soak in the outdoor hot tub. What a wonderful ending to our 2006 year!

We also ended our Christmas chorus season with our annual Christmas banquet at the Cortina Club in Kitchener. Madeline Grimm once again acted as our MC and

did a super job as usual...a lot of her antics and letters always brings laughter to the point of tears.

The chorus sang to our many guests and former members. Every quartet sang, pickup quartets sang and there were readings and skits and our traditional ornament exchange. This event is wonderful and brings back memories of church Christmas concerts only with better music and more laughs - not to mention an open bar!

After just two weeks off for Christmas holidays, we started back with a vengeance to get ready for our coaching session with Michael Hayden in January 14. Our new uptune is ready for coaching and we are thrilled to have Michael with us.

The date has now been set for our next show - September 15 in St. Jacobs, Ontario – mark your calendars! Now the work begins! Our Web site has also been revamped and contains all-important performance and show dates. Please drop by and have a look!

[www.harmonize.com/grandharmony](http://www.harmonize.com/grandharmony)  
On a more serious note, early this fall, one of our lead members (Carolyn Heinmiller) was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and is now in the midst of chemotherapy. Doctors were able to operate and remove the tumor and the prognosis is good.

Our wonderful friend Greg Backwell painted a beautiful motorcycle portrait for her (Carolyn's other passionate hobby), and we presented it to her at chorus one evening in November. Our prayers and best wishes are with Carolyn and her family and we look forward to seeing her smiling face and having her upbeat enthusiasm back in chorus in the new year.

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

Greetings from Gaylord Michigan! We had a busy fall and holiday season as we performed for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, the Gaylord Council of the Arts, Arts Week Celebration, Christmas strolling in downtown Gaylord, the Christmas party at Aspen Ridge Nursing Center, and the Daughters of Isabella at St. Mary's Catholic Church. In October we had a member appreciation night at our membership chairman's house that included a hay ride and an outdoor performance for the local residents at the famous Sparr Mall. A great time was had by all us with great food and fun following which included a "Dust Bunny" Contest with prizes for the largest, most creative and smallest entries. What a hoot!

The November A Capella Gold Part School was awesome, with eight of our members attending, covering all four parts. The

members nominated one person from each section to attend the school with the chapter picking up the registration fee. The ACG quartet was so warm and friendly they made the whole learning experience a lot of fun. Their show on Saturday night was the best. We haven't laughed that hard in a long time.

Welcome to our newest members, Amy, Naomi and Marianne. We are so happy to have them join us.

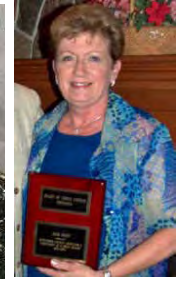
Mid-winter will find us getting geared up for contest in May, with several coaching sessions scheduled. We should have our largest group on stage this year, so we are very excited. In closing, the Michigan Northern Lights want to wish you all a healthy, happy New Year filled with the joy of harmony!

## HEART OF ESSEX CHORUS Essex, Ontario ~~ Fran Ferguson & Rose Tako

Two of our best-loved ladies, Joan Stott and Cathy Fox received special 25-year awards at the fall regional held in London. Congratulations on over 25 years as Sweet Adelines! These special ladies have worn many hats at Heart of Essex: Joan has been on numerous committees including the music and membership committees, has been a bass section leader, warm-up coach, and assistant director. Every Wednesday night she can be found on the risers, her beautiful bass voice setting the harmony for our chorus. Cathy has been a member of our competing quartet, Mainstreet for 12 years and is a member of the music committee and lead section leader. We appreciate the talent of these ladies as they assist our new director, Julie Banfill.



Cathy Fox



Joan Stott



In November, we started rehearsing our Christmas package. We had performances which included singing at a florist's Christmas open house in Belle River, and nursing homes in Windsor. It really put us into the Christmas mood to share our beautiful music (and of course the infamous Twelve Days After Christmas!) with the many happy shoppers and swinging seniors! One little lady even got up and danced to every carol we sang, even the serious ones!



December saw the introduction of our new ballad for contest. Director Julie and the teaching quartet (quintet, sextet, octet or however many!) really did a good job of helping us to get into the song! Four coaching sessions with Diane Catellane have been arranged to help us prepare for contest.



We ended our fall season with a Christmas party at the Ye Olde Grande Taverne in Essex complete with narrators and emcees Amanda Mundy, and Pat Tellier, the Belle River Gang (Amanda Mundy, Pat Tellier, Mavis Minney, and Cathy Mulawka), Power Surge, one of our fun quartets (Pat T, Donna Goetz, Linda Jadischke, and Mary Ellen Demeris) entertaining us with a song meant for mature audiences only—Ring the Bells (with bells placed at strategic places on their persons, if you get the drift—nudge- nudge, wink-wink!) At our party, we welcomed our newest member, Rose Marie Szmyrko into Heart of Essex. Her “fair face beamed” as we serenaded her with a heartfelt rendition of *Sweet Adeline*. With her eager enthusiasm, she will be a



**We played a spirited game of pass-the-gift which proved to be almost as much fun as the Grinch Gift, but with less bloodshed!**

real asset to our chorus!

Well, it was a busy but exciting fall! We at Heart of Essex wish all of our sisters in harmony in Region 2 a Happy New Year filled with harmony, peace, love and joy! See you at winter regional in Port Huron!

## MEET OUR NEW DIRECTOR

Julie has been married to Russ for 35 years and is the mother of two girls, and Mimi (grandmother) of two boys. She retired from Chrysler after 29 years of service.

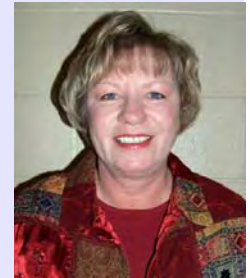
Julie attended the very first meeting to form the Heart of Essex Chorus and is both a founding member and a charter member. It took a few months for Julie to decide which part fit her voice best — in fact, she still sings tenor to the “oldies”! Eventually, she became a bass and joined Joan Stott as bass section leader.

Julie sang in two non-competing quartets, but she always wanted to compete. That dream was met when she became a member of your competition quartet, Mainstreet. She has competed with them for 12 years!

Julie was on the membership committee for many years and has organized our annual retreat. She has also participated on the dance committee, show committee, and has handled ticket sales. Julie became our assistant assistant director during Joan Stott's absence, and then stepped up as assistant director when Joan retired from the position.

After successfully completing her director's audition this September, Julie was voted in by the membership to take up the position of director of Heart of Essex Chorus. It is an excellent partnership! Julie knows just the right mixture of challenge and praise to get the best out of us! When she directs us, her face shines with beauty and grace — this is what music means to her. She is an inspiration to all of us!

Please help us in welcoming our new director, Julie!



**Heart of Essex Chorus is pleased to announce the appointment of our new director, Julie Banfill**

All Regional Weekend "The Wright Stuff" seems so long ago now but those who attended David and Sandy Wright's classes will still remember words of wisdom that they can build on. Congratulations to the regional management team for scheduling this couple as the guest faculty. At the award ceremony, the London Chorus was presented with the award for the most new members this past year which included a certificate, a trophy and a cheque for \$200. THANK YOU Region 2! This year the membership-marketing team created a new award DIVA (Dynamic-Inspirational-Vocal-Artist).

Each chapter submitted their chosen chorus member and London Chapter congratulates our DIVA, Carol Plumb. Carol attended all music school classes but, because of a prior commitment, could not be present at the award ceremony. In true DIVA style Carol responded with the following words; "Hi everyone. Now that I'm over the shock of it all, I wanted to sincerely thank the London members who selected me for the new this year, DIVA award. I never would have imagined after eleven months with the chorus that the acronym DIVA would be applied to me! In my mind, everyone in our chorus is a DIVA and I am in awe every week of the talent among us. This past year has been a wonderful experience for me. I have attended Cabaret, Masonville Manor, Ingersoll St. James Church and VON walkathon/anniversary in Parkhill singouts, as well as attending my first contest in Dearborn in May . . . winning a medal already! I've attended two fall Region 2 music schools, Port Huron and London - although unfortunately I was unable to attend the evening when the DIVA award was announced . . . maybe just as well as I probably would have fainted from the shock in front of all those people! I know this a very short list compared to what all of you ladies have achieved over your many years as chorus members, but you are the role models for me, so I'm off to a good start. I really enjoyed the Christmas dinner in Lambeth and helping at the garage sale at Nancy's place in the summer. I am really looking forward to the November show." After reading this message from Carol you realize what a great choice for DIVA Carol is and how fortunate London is to have her as a chorus member!

The London Chorus's November show "We'll Meet Again" may be over but the memory lingers on. We were truly "buzzed" by the BUZZ! Words like "Wow" and "Dynamite" were used to describe them. NorthStar performed so-o-o well - as always. We were proud to boast that half of the quartet is from the London Chorus and the other half make themselves right at home here so it seems they're part of us. The London Young Women in Harmony chorus was a pleasure to see and hear. We are so fortunate to have dedicated leaders and parents who support these young ladies - our future Sweet Adelines.

Special mention goes to our "soldier" Brenda Cameron, who stood like a statue for 45 minutes while the audience got to their seats and settled. She made a dramatic and symbolic statement

which set the tone for the entire segment. Because our show was on Remembrance Day, the first act was a Rosie the Riveter theme when, during World War II, the women went to work while the men fought the war. The first act was set in an airplane factory and the chorus sang songs from that era.



**Donna Lainchbury, Julia Beadle, Karen Romanson and Cathy Pickering are Rosie the Riveters keeping the home fires burning for London's "We'll Meet Again" show that had a World War II theme on Nov. 11, Canada's Remembrance Day.**

About the same time as our show took place the London Free Press featured an article which told of Canadian war brides traveling to Halifax on the train and that 18 couples were renewing their wedding vows on Pier 21 on the Halifax waterfront. I have to give this quote from that article. "One by one, clutching small bouquets of red roses, the women steadied themselves on the arms of military men and women who escorted them down the aisle. A few metres ahead, their longtime loves - decked out in medals and boutonnieres - sat and waited while 'the harmonies of a barbershop chorus rang out.' Each couple then promised to 'have and

to hold'." Just think - our chorus sang the "Love & Marriage" medley in a setting from WWII - and war brides from then were being serenaded by a barbershop chorus in Halifax. Small world eh!

Small groups from the chorus have been merrily out and about singing Christmas music spreading the joy of this festive season to others. Our Christmas Party was organized by two of our members, Reeka Spence and Josie Synesael, who could make a living organizing parties. The theme was Country Christmas and the requested attire was country. WE ARE READY FOR CALGARY BUT IS CALGARY READY FOR US? The delectable dinner was a western buffet consisting of corn bread, pork and beans like none other, grilled vegetables, the meatiest tastiest western back ribs, grilled chicken breasts, salads, s' mores cheesecake and sliced fruit.

The Stardust Cloggers were there to dance for us and teach us a couple of dances. The Shania Twain look-alike contest was a great hit. There was a choreo quartet contest and the best country D.J. spinning tunes for us. Minnie Pearl attended and Annie Oakley too. Many chorus members performed a variety of acts which highlighted talent, imagination and humour. On the serious side, while the chorus was in a circle singing Christmas carols by candle light, a basket was passed to collect donations for the Women's Community House. All attendees agreed this was a great Country Christmas and our gratitude goes out to Josie and Reeka for thinking of all those little details!

To kick-start 2007, on January 12 at 8 p.m. the London Chorus is excited to be guesting on The Essentials show at Mother Teresa Catholic School. The Essentials is a male a cappella quartet that started singing during the summer at the Merla Mae in London as students. They were guests on our show a few years ago and have continued to improve and perform around the world. They are featured guests on North Metro's show March 17. The next day, Michael Hayden will be in London to coach us. January 26 we hope to renew acquaintances with many of you at Winter Music School in Port Huron.

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



Every so often something happens in a chorus that gives each member a wake-up call. In October when many of us were enjoying ourselves in Las Vegas, one of our members decided to take her daughter and new granddaughter to Connecticut to visit her folks. On the way, they hit that terrible weather in upstate New York and had a dreadful accident. Mom and Babe were virtually unharmed, but Grandma, our own Jane Diehl, was seriously injured. Jane suffered broken bones in her leg, hip and back and gave all of us a major scare. In early November, Jane was transferred to Mercy Hospital by ambulance to be closer to home. One Thursday night, all dressed in our shiny finery, our chorus turned up at Mercy Hospital for our rehearsal and Jane was able to join us. There was never a more serious rendition of "Friends" sung as we all embraced the miracle that brought Jane home to us. There is no simple way to define friendship within a chorus ... but that night was as close as we will ever get. Seaway Sounds Chorus had a very busy Christmas season with performances on both sides of the Bluewater Bridge. The highlights again were our shows (one on Dec. 12 with the Bluewater Chordsmen in Sarnia and another two days later, on our own, in Port Huron). In lieu of ticket sales, we asked for a freewill offering the profits of which we donated to local charities. We were thrilled to realize collective collections of nearly \$1,000 from our generous patrons. Once our expenses were paid, we made donations to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Port Huron and to the Women's Interval Home in Sarnia. We had a great coaching session in the fall with **FUSION**. It was very rewarding to have each section of our chorus coached by an "expert" who sings that part. It was so good that they are making a return visit in January and we are all looking forward to another successful day with them. Check out our Web site for further information on our chorus. Visit us at [www.seawaysounds.com](http://www.seawaysounds.com)

## KITCHENER-WATERLOO CHORUS Kitchener, Ontario ~~ Lee Potje

Here we are well into the new year and we want to congratulate two members of our chorus who have added something new to our world - two new babies have arrived. In October, Julie Roth gave birth to a little boy, Matthew -- little brother to Jack -- and another great grandson to Hazel Owens of the chorus. And in November, Sherri Stuebing gave birth to a future Sweet Adeline -- Isabella Faye. We had a busy fall season right through to Christmas with many performances. We started off the Christmas season performing twice at the Festival of Trees. Lots of gorgeous decorated trees in our city hall rotunda to set the atmosphere. Finished off the Christmas season by giving a concert for the May Court Club of Kitchener-Waterloo - a women's service club that raises funds for women and children in need. Our special guest chorus that evening was the St. Agnes Children's Choir. I believe it was W.C. Fields (I know, you young singers are saying who's W.C. Fields?) who said "Never perform with animals or children." They do tend to steal the show without even trying. Lots of "aren't they cute" could be heard from the audience (they never said that about us!) It was a wonderful evening of Christmas music. A great evening all around with a good audience, and we raised a lot of money for a very worthwhile organization.

## WATER WONDERLAND CHORUS

Okemos, Michigan ~~ Elizabeth Johnson

*Meet the Newest Member of the Region 2 Family  
— the Water Wonderland Chorus*

When members of the Water Wonderland Chorus got the news that our request to switch from Region 17 to Region 2 was approved, we were thrilled—and our delight continued to grow with each message of welcome we received from our new Region 2 sisters in harmony. We really appreciate the warmth and love that have greeted us at every turn, including the cheers and applause for our members who attended the fall regional weekend. The 24-member Water Wonderland Chorus meets on Tuesday nights in Okemos, Michigan, where we rehearse under the direction of Merry Lu Jordan, our director for the past 18 months. In a way, we have Region 2 to thank for Merry Lu, since it was the repeated encouragement of Linda Liddicoatt that led Merry Lu to audition for the directorship, which had been open for nearly two years. During that time, the chorus "stayed the course," continuing to meet weekly on our own, with periodic morale-boosting visits from such folks as Susan Heimberger, another Region 2 angel. With Merry Lu's talent, enthusiasm, and flair for fun, the chorus has grown and flourished.

We held our first Diva class in the fall of 2005 and brought six new members into the chorus. This fall, we held our second Diva program, and had five prospective members join us on stage in December for our second annual Christmas benefit concert — a new chorus tradition that Merry Lu instituted the year before. We're looking forward to competing in a new region this spring, and anticipate that our new Region 2 affiliation may even help us attract new members (yearly competitions in Grand Rapids being a much easier "sell" than Cleveland!). We look forward to meeting many new friends and connecting with old friends as we experience the warmth and harmony of Region 2.

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

### "It's Magic!" is a Family Affair

Magic was in the air as Song of the Lakes Chorus presented their annual musical production, 'It's Magic!' in Davison, Michigan. With magical music and fanciful costumes, (including fairies and woodland creatures) the audience was delighted and enchanted as they entered the land of make-believe with the chorus. It was particularly exciting for three members of the chorus as they performed in their first SA show together as

grandmother, mother, and daughter.

The 60-voice chorus boasts a number of mother-daughter, and sister combinations. This year the Song of the Lakes Chorus has five mother-daughter sets. Among those is a three-generation family, Jenavieve McMurray, her mother Jill Kienitz (McMurray), and grandmother, Joan Kienitz, who recently appeared together for the first time in a Song of the Lakes Chorus musical production.



Jena, who is 13, has been dreaming of joining the organization for years. This wish all began when she first sang at the ripe old age of six with her sister, mother and grandmother in the Sweet Adelines Region 2 Mother/Daughter chorus. After performing with this group for four years during various Sweet Adelines regional weekends, she finally got to attend a Song of the Lakes Chorus' guest night. She was hooked right away and knew she wanted to become a Sweet Adeline. Now that she is a member she is looking forward to many years of singing with this organization as well as singing baritone in a YWIH quartet.

Grandmother Joan has been a Sweet Adelines member for over 25 years and has received her 25 year membership pin. Mother, Jill, will receive her 25-year pin this year and Jena remarked that she would be 37 when she receives hers. Jena has a younger sister who is waiting in the wings to become a Sweet Adelines member as well. "It looks like they are here to stay", Grandmother Joan remarks, "What a thrill to sing with a daughter and granddaughter and I hope there will be many more years to share this amazing "magical" hobby!



## FESTIVAL SOUNDS CHORUS Stratford, Ontario ~ Heather Brown

Wow – what a fall season this has been for Festival Sounds. We've been working (and playing) very hard.

We retreated to Embro, and had a weekend with Carol Cook in September. The neighbours must have wondered about the sounds coming out of our PVI's! We learned a lot, and have been reminding ourselves to implement all the strategies into our music.

Michele Kimet came to us in November to polish choreo for our dinner show "Sentimental Journey III" – paying tribute to musical memories of the World War II era. Our audience enjoyed home cooked scalloped potatoes, ham and sweat dessert treats before listening to our interpretation of the musical sounds of Duke Ellington, Irving Berlin and Vera Lynn. We were proud to share the stage with our guest quartet A Touch of Class. Although she was late to parade, our own Twyla Dufton deserves a huge salute for her kitchen duties! Festival Sounds is growing again – we welcomed 2 new recruits, Jeannie McHardy and Jackie Kirkman to the stage to join us for the last 2 numbers – great to have you with us. Following the show, we recorded a special version of 'Swing Medley' that was sent to our beloved friend Lois Perrault, who moved to Perth, and then enjoyed the Cast Party at Stella and Don Farwells. Thanks Stell!

Our small chorus has 4 members with birthdays in November. Doing the calculations, we vote for February as the month for the most hanky panky!! We celebrated with cake and coffee, regardless.

December has been a blur – we sang at several senior's residences and carolled at the Festival Mall in Stratford, spreading good cheer and harmony. A visit to Santa gave us a chance to submit our Christmas wish lists! Our Christmas Party was our finale for the year – enjoying a fabulous buffet meal, friendship and song, and our secret sister reveal.

Upcoming for Festival Sounds – planning for a fundraising show in conjunction with the Stratford Kiwanis Center in March. Ttfn (tah tah for now!)

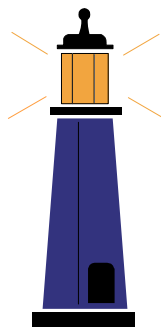


Our Fall Fling camping getaway at Lakeport in September generated only a few families; many of our regulars couldn't make it. We did, however, have representation from Tri-City, Great Lakes and Shoreline Sound Choruses with a total of 17 dodging the raindrops at our Saturday night potluck.

2006 Fall Regional in London: The renowned husband and wife team of Sandi and David Wright were our faculty and covered topics from "The History of Barbershop" inclusive of "Competition: the Psychology of a Winning Performance". Our lineup for the Saturday evening show included fifth place regional quartet winners DCQ, first place regional quartet North Star, International Queens of Harmony Spotlight, and 2005 regional champs Shoreline Sound. We also were favored with an impromptu song from YWIH tenth place international winners Dreamcatchers who brightened up everyone's evening. Many awards (up to 51 years of membership!) and beautiful 25 year membership pins were presented as well. Shoreline's own Patti Britz (she'll always be "ours") thanked Shoreline for letting her sing one last time with us before the new champions are crowned in Las Vegas. As if we would object ... we of Shoreline will always hold Patti dear to our hearts, be she in Baltimore or elsewhere!

... and they say what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas – ha! I can't believe that, especially if you are a Sweet Adeline! Each and every one of the attendees in the Thomas and Mack Center probably has multiple stories to tell. This year's contest was the most well attended since 1995 in New Orleans with 10,000 competitors and audience. There was so much to see, casinos, eye-popping hotels, glamorous shows, side trips to Hoover Dam, Bryce Canyon and such.

But, wait ... why were we in Vegas in the first place? Oh yes, we were there to see the best of the best, and we certainly did. Salt finally won their crowns as 2006 Queens of Harmony with a very entertaining package. Second and third place quartet winners were Four Bettys and Razzcals, who also have worked long and hard at this "hobby". Salt also walked away with a brand new award. The "Audience Choice Award" for the most entertaining quartet. One hundred random audience members voted for this honor, and Salt was most assuredly ENTERTAINING! Seventh place medalists, Spirit of the Gulf, were the proud winners of the brand new "Most Entertaining Chorus Award". In the chorus competition, with a modest 119 on stage, Rich Tone Chorus came away the clear winners this time with Melodeers and mighty North Metro in second and third places, respectively. Shoreline particularly enjoyed seeing former friends and members Rhonda Vega (now Melodeers) and Judie Sharpe (Pacific Sound) on stage in the "big girls" choruses. Shoreline members would, of course, been more content to have placed higher in scores



but were just out-and-out thrilled to be on that lively international stage! Folks back home watching us on the Web cast said they loved our package, and the commentators raved about us as well!

On a very sad note, our love and comfort goes out to special Jean Barford, who had to leave Las Vegas early, before her chorus Gem City competed. Jean was called home as her mother was gravely ill, and her mom did pass away. This gracious lady has recently fought her own battle with illness and won, and we all wish her peace and warm, lasting

memories of her mom.

Back to normal ... the Tuesday after International competition, it was reported that the Great Lakes Chorus trailer, holding risers and a special chair for member Linda May, was stolen from the church parking lot where it had been stored. Everyone looked for a small miracle, hoping the disgruntled thieves would leave the trailer (undamaged) somewhere once they discovered its contents which were only valuable to this outstanding chorus.

The much-anticipated A Cappella Gold Part School, held in November at the Airport Marriott, was an excellent workshop. Each of these knowledgeable and personable women gave so much of themselves from their combined experience and education. No one could walk away from that weekend without having absorbed something positive, something more to add to their singing tools and skills. Saturday we spent much of our time in four separate break-out rooms tutored by Bass Susan Lamb, Baritone Tomi McEvoy, Lead Kim Hulbert, and Tenor Bette Gorton but also were able to attend mixed sessions "The Tuning Point" and "Interpretation-The Language of Barbershop" plus sit in on individual quartet coaching sessions held by Kim Hulbert and Bette Gorton. Sunday Kim chaired a session on "The Healthy Voice" (which we all want to have) and more coaching was available. A few tidbits, heard by Bette Gorton in the Tenor break-out room – but worth sharing with all – were:

It's perfectly acceptable to be able to sing more than one part.

Every breath is an opportunity to relax (and we must keep the voice relaxed).

Consider doing more duet singing at rehearsals; it's beneficial to the entire chorus.

Think of descending (especially) and ascending singing as a "Slinky" with smoothness and fluidity.

Some of Shoreline's downriver members plus a handful of our east side members gave their second annual holiday performance at Ray Hunter's Garden Center in Southgate just after Thanksgiving. Shortly after that we were thrilled to perform jointly with the ladies of Great Lakes Chorus at matinee and evening shows at the John Armstrong Performing Center in Clinton Township.

We drew 2006 to a close with our chorus party, again at Lakeland Manor, participating and interacting in a murder mystery. May each and everyone of you do the same in this joyous season and share your love with all.

## ■ News From the Spirit World

Happy New Year, everybody! Off we go into 2007 after celebrating a joyous holiday season. We're looking forward to the brand-new year with renewed enthusiasm for all the challenges and opportunities that come our way.

Of course, we all recognize the best way to accomplish the exciting goals we've set for ourselves in 2007 is to review the beginnings, works in progress, and accomplishments.

Best of all, it's great to reminisce about the ringing overtones in our personal, as well as our Sweet Adelines "lives." Spirit has come out of 2006 with memories in a tapestry of music, community service, and most of all, becoming closer as friends and sisters.

As a performing chorus, we worked hard to focus on the goals we set for ourselves. Our "fearless leader," LeAnn keeps an open mind to the newest methods, ideas, and techniques. She brings new concepts to us through chorus and quartet coaching, classes and seminars, and from judges in every category. We trust and do our best to take advantage of all her hard work on our behalf. The regional contest in Dearborn was the most exciting one ever for us and we have a new opportunity to raise our personal best on an international stage in Calgary. The work toward that goal began right after regional and has resumed January 2. There is goal number one for 2007. LeAnn reminds us from time to time that she wouldn't drive all that way every week if she didn't have faith in us. And how about **Ruby, Friendship Rings, NorthStar, and Spotlight?** We are so proud to feature them on our show and performances.

As to community service in 2006, we received an award from the Red Cross for the most successful blood drive in Region 2 on our annual show in November. Kudos to **GREAT LAKES** for second place! You can look forward to a new challenge from us this year. Put a blood drive on your calendar right now. This is one competition that is important to everyone — not just Sweet Adelines. Saving lives is the goal here.



Last year was the year we brought Christmas "Spirit" to nursing homes with a majority of Medicaid patients. There wouldn't be a holiday program in the budget for the residents without our "carolers." Margaret Lockard brought her guitar for the sing-a-longs and associate director Marge Dugan provided a chuckle or two. Wow! It was a tossup as to who had more fun. It looks like this program will be an annual one for Spirit. Goal number two — more gifts of life and joy to our communities.

Lastly, we were closer to each other on a more personal level. There were many get-well cards sent. We shared the happiness of a new bride. We offered up prayers, sent cards, made phone calls, and visited our ill, and were so glad to see them when they recovered. We shared the joy of a new little boy born to our President, Andrea Strutz. It was an uphill battle for her all the way, but Sebastian made it at an admirable two pounds, six ounces. He was home for the holidays.

We couldn't say the same for two other of our own. Both Jim and Alice Steckel had been having health problems for quite a while and we did our best to cheer them up during those hard times. Alice lost Jim the Tuesday before Christmas. She was glad to see so many of her Sweet Adelines friends sing at the evening service and attending the funeral, as well. It was good to know that she wouldn't be alone but spending the Christmas holidays with her family — especially the grandkids.

Joan Potter was taken from us as she waited for a stem cell transplant the same day that Alice lost Jim. Joan was one of those special people who was willing and able to help out with music, administration, or anywhere a helping hand was needed. She was truly a model for us all and is sorely missed. As I write this, we are preparing the luncheon for Joan Potter's memorial. Since we will be singing the songs she requested, everyone is checking notes and words. Joan would be very disappointed if our performance was less than the best. She never was less than the best for us.

2006 was a year of hard work, achievement, joy, and sorrow for us individually and as a chorus. No one knows what the future will bring, but we fervently wish to build on the good things we have accomplished together and hope to share in a healthy, happy, and fulfilling new year with all our friends in Region 2.

## Why Do Humans Sing? How does music affect us? (Compiled by Linda May from Internet resources)

- Music profoundly affects the human brain.
- Music is found in every culture.
- Children perform better at other tasks when they have been taught music.
- Music stirs emotions like patriotism, brings back memories, deepens religious prayers.
- Humans may have sung before they spoke (like mice and whales ``sing.``)
- Maybe we sing just because we can or it makes us feel good.
- You've sung in church and at sports events and in shows and in the shower. You've probably sung to a baby, but have you also sung to a pet?
- Music therapy developed around the theory that music is healing.
- It helps us be more physically coordinated.
- Ancient cultures passed down their stories in song so people would remember the lore.
- Lots of music research on this link:  
<http://parenting-baby.com/Parenting-Baby-Music-Research/Music-Research.html>
- Music connects you to your own culture and ethnicity and records history.
- Music psyched up primitive tribes to attack a neighboring village. (Not recommended for attacking the next suburb.)
- Music can mesmerize listeners.
- Group singing connects you to people you want to be connected to.
- Group singing is a signal that you are safe among family and friends.
- Group singing makes you feel strong when you are with each other.
- Group singing makes you feel accepted.
- Group singing is fun.
- Singing may help you be a better problem-solver or be more perceptive.
- Singing helps you be more spontaneous and creative.
- Music may be biologically imperative.
- Music can help you have extraordinary experiences, extend your education and general knowledge.
- Does singing the kind of music you sing help you understand who you are?
- You can comfort someone with music.
- You can publicize news with music.
- You can record history with music.
- Your life partner may find you more interesting if you are a singer or musician.
- Even windchimes -- that play unpatterned random notes -- can please us.
- Music is communication, like talking and writing.
- Set something to rhyme or rhythm so you can learn it (like ``the ABC song.``)
- Ritualistic music can focus our thoughts on a goal.
- Moving when singing (choreography!) can help with physical fitness.
- If you are alone, singing to yourself can make you less lonely.

- Humans sing songs they learn from other people, so song styles evolve, just like language.



*The Singing Neanderthals: The Origins of Music, Language, Mind, and Body*  
by Steven Mithen  
Book Description from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

The propensity to make music is the most mysterious, wonderful, and neglected feature of humankind: this is where Steven Mithen began, drawing together strands from archaeology, anthropology, psychology, neuroscience--and, of course, musicology--to explain why we are so compelled to make and hear music. But music could not be explained without addressing language, and could not be accounted for without understanding the evolution of the human body and mind.

Thus Mithen arrived at the wildly ambitious project that unfolds in this book: an exploration of music as a fundamental aspect of the human condition, encoded into the human genome during the evolutionary history of our species. Music is the language of emotion, common wisdom tells us. In *The Singing Neanderthals*, Mithen introduces us to the science that might support such popular notions.

With equal parts scientific rigor and charm, he marshals current evidence about social organization, tool and weapon technologies, hunting and scavenging strategies, habits and brain capacity of all our hominid ancestors, from *australopithecines* to *Homo erectus*, *Homo heidelbergensis* and Neanderthals to *Homo sapiens*--and comes up with a scenario for a shared musical and linguistic heritage.

Along the way he weaves a tapestry of cognitive and expressive worlds--alive with vocalized sound, communal mimicry, sexual display, and rhythmic movement--of various species. The result is a fascinating work -- and a succinct riposte to those, like Steven Pinker, who have dismissed music as a functionless evolutionary byproduct.

## Grand Traverse Chorus Remembers Their 2006 Show



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### BORDER LAKES REGION 2

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### SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR 2007-2009

#### 2007

Jan. 26-27 Winter Regional  
March 24 RMT Retreat  
May 3-6 Regional Convention – Grand Rapids  
June 1-3 Region 2 Summer Camp – D. Syverson/M. Hayden  
June 22-23 Region 2 Faculty Training – Kathy Carmody  
July 18-22 IES – Trinity University – San Antonio  
Sept. 21-23 Fall Regional – Vickie Foltz  
Oct. 9-13 International Convention – Calgary

#### 2008

February 1-3 Winter Regional  
April 3-6 Regional Convention – Dearborn  
July 16-20 IES – Trinity University – San Antonio  
Sept. 19-21 Fall Regional – Vickie Maybury  
Nov. 4 - 8 International Convention – Hawaii

#### 2009

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

#### Future International Competitions

2010 Seattle - Oct. 19-23  
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