



# Congratulations!

Congratulations to all of our chorus and quartets who competed this year! We had a wonderful time at our beautiful new venue, and can't wait for it to all happen again next year!



1st Place Overall—Pride of Toledo Chorus (602), Houston Bound



1st Place & Live Wire Start Performer Award—B.L.A.K. Velvet Quartet (606), Seattle Bound

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real women.  
real harmony.  
real fun. 

# Greetings from your Team Coordinator, Donna Knapp



*Donna Knapp,  
Greater Harmony*

Wow, I can't believe one year has passed since I've taken over as Team Coordinator. What a great year it has been for Region

17. Being part of the pilot program for International under Deb Ferenc's guidance brought many new ideas for membership growth to our choruses. Be sure to read Deb's article on the next page.

Sadly we said good-bye to Bonnie McKibben, whose six-year term as Education Coordinator ended. I know all will agree that she raised the level of our educational endeavors and brought in some of THE best there is in Sweet Adelines. We certainly appreciate all that she did. The RMT also bid

farewell to Pam Dickenson who served as an associate, Communications Coordinator, and Membership Coordinator. We thank you, Pam, for your hard work on behalf of our Region. Jennifer Jones and Cindy Sheffler also stepped down as associate members; both decided there were other things right now in their life that needed more of their attention. We appreciate their contributions and wish them well.

At our annual June RMT meeting, we welcomed Kay Seymour as our new Education Coordinator. After one meeting, I can tell you that Kay will be shaking things up and bringing some new and different ideas to our harmony weekends and our education in general. Jennifer Thompson is back on the team as Membership Coordinator. Jenny also has great ideas and is happy to be back in service to the Region. Two new associates joined our team: Michelle Riggi-Smith (Greater Harmony) and Pat Galvin (Pride). We are so happy to have them, and we know they will be

positive additions to the team.

How about a big round of applause to our Convention Committee!! I have heard so many great things about our new venue; I loved it! We probably have no idea how much behind the scenes work went into the organizing and planning to make the contest run as smoothly as it did. Thank you, Lucy, Mary, Sue, and everyone who worked so hard.

Now we are looking ahead to September's Harmony Weekend, September 17-19, with Betty Clipman. You won't want to miss a minute. Saturday night will once again feature a Show of Champions with our top three quartets and choruses, Greater Cleveland Chorus (our 2010 International representatives), the YWIH quartet, and the Most Improved Chorus. We guarantee it will be an action-packed, fun-filled weekend!!

Enjoy the sun and your summer.

In Harmony, Donna Knapp

## 2010 Division A Medalists



*Little River Chorus—Angola, IN  
1st Place Division A  
Director: Betsy Fowler*



*River Raisin Chorus—Monroe, MI  
2nd Place Division A  
Director: Dawn Seigneur*



*Towns of Harmony Chorus—Ft. Wayne, IN  
3rd Place Division A  
Director: Kim Curtis*

## ***Region 17 Scholarship Recipient—Brittany Ward submitted by Maureen Hunter***

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Our congratulations and best wishes to Brittany Ward, our 2010 Region 17 Scholarship Award recipient. Brittany was announced as the winner of the \$1000 scholarship at the Celebration of Champions at the Spring Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. She is from Royal Oak, Michigan and is a junior at Adrian College majoring in music education. She is a vocal music major with concentration in elementary education. Brittany sings in her home Church Chancel Choir, and the Lennawee Community Chorus. She is a soloist at Greenfield Presbyterian Church and a member of “Fermata the Blue” a 6 person women’s accapella group. She also works with the Adrian Symphony Orchestra. Brittany is sponsored by the Voices in Harmony Chorus and their member Sandy Ward, Brittany’s aunt. Region 17 is proud of Brittany’s many accomplishments and is happy to award her this year’s scholarship.



The Region 17 Scholarship has been awarded annually since 1997 and is offered by competitive application to a woman studying in a music related field. She must be a member of Region 17 Sweet Adelines International or have a female relative who is a member of Region 17. A qualified applicant must be entering her sophomore year or above in an accredited college or university, be pursuing a degree with a major or minor in vocal music (performance or education), or a music related field. Application announcements and forms will be available at Fall PHW or can be requested from the scholarship coordinator. The deadline for receipt of completed applications for the 2011 award is March 1, 2011. For additional information contact Maureen Hunter, Scholarship Coordinator at [ma-hunter@embarqmail.com](mailto:ma-hunter@embarqmail.com) or 740-668-7222.

## ***Marketing Moments, Deb Ferenc***

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It’s been a wonderful year for Region 17!

As participants in the Membership/Marketing Pilot Program, Increasing Membership Together with One Message, One Voice, not only have we gained new members in our region, we’ve also raised awareness about this spectacular hobby of ours. More and more REAL WOMEN in our

region are talking about REAL HARMONY and how much REAL FUN we are all having at our Sweet Adeline rehearsals!

I would like to thank all of Region 17 for their participation and support during the past year as we experimented, evaluated and grew, especially those membership/marketing coordinators who took the time to fill out those lengthy quarterly evaluations. Every bit of information we

submitted is helping Sweet Adelines all over the world!

During the next few months, your International Membership Committee, chaired by Fran Furtner with committee members Maggie Ryan and myself, will compile all of the results from the pilot regions to determine which ideas and concepts will be best suited to launch our Global Membership/Marketing Program. We will meet in September and hopefully have a plan for the next fiscal year.

For the next year, as we continue to grow our organization, you can look forward to more ‘internal marketing’. Watch for more helpful marketing techniques and tips on our Marketing Page of the Region 17 website. Harmony Weekend classes will include webinars as well as open forums.

As always, I am open for your suggestions and at any time feel free to contact me directly at [debbbersings@yahoo.com](mailto:debbbersings@yahoo.com)

## 2010 Overall & Division AA Medalists



*Sounds of Pittsburgh Chorus—Pittsburgh, PA  
1st Place Division AA—2nd Place Overall  
Director: Denny Price*



*Greater Harmony Chorus—Gibsonia, PA  
2nd Place Division AA—3rd Place Overall  
Director: Bonnie McKibben*



*Voices in Harmony Chorus—Ypsilanti, MI  
3rd Place Division AA—4th Place Overall  
Most Improved Award (+23 points)  
Director: Lynne Peirce*



*City of Flags Chorus—Canton, OH  
5th Place Overall  
Director: Darryl Flinn*

### Don't miss these exciting upcoming events!

January 21-23, 2011  
Harmony Weekend  
Sawmill Creek  
**Kathy Carmody**

March 11-13, 2011  
Director's Retreat  
Location TBD  
**Pam Pieson**

Sept. 16-18, 2011  
Harmony Weekend  
Location TBD  
**Mo Field**

January 20-22, 2012  
Harmony Weekend  
Sawmill Creek  
**4 Certified Judges**

# Meet Your New Education Coordinator—Kay Seymour



Let me introduce myself as your new Education Coordinator. My name is Kay Seymour and I'm thrilled to be in Region #17. I am a 48 year member of Sweet

Adelines International and mighty proud to say it. I spent most of my time in Region #4 and was the Associate Director of the Gem City Chorus. I had the opportunity, before coming to Region #17, to spend 2 years in Region #8 (Denver Colorado) and sang with the mighty awesome Kathy Carmody. All of that experience showered some useful "stuff" on top of me. I hope to use any and all that I have learned with Region #17 and make us even more awesome than we already are.

I was brought to this "place by the lake" by the Pride of Toledo Chorus and have been their Director since August of 2008. The Region and International has allowed me to be placed in the position of guiding the education of our Region and I'm very, very excited with the prospect. Now, on to the business at hand.

WOW, contest season has come and gone, again! What an awesome job by everyone who walked across that stage; impressive. Congratulations to all of you, no matter what score you might have received—to be there was our goal.

I had a chance to meet with the Judges immediately following the Chorus contest and get some guidelines as to where we should be headed and the trends that they saw in Region #17.

Those have been shared with your Directors and I'm sure they will use them in their preparation for the contest in May of 2012.

My vision is to get all of you a bit more involved, personally. I don't know about you, but I came to sing and that's what I want for all of you. I want to be more interactive on the Harmony Weekends and I think you do as well, so that's where I am headed. Please feel free to approach me and share anything you like about what we are doing and anything you would like to see us improve.

Under the direction of Bonnie McKibben, we have an awesome faculty in place for the next couple of years and **YOU ARE GOING TO LOVE IT!**

In the fall, we will be having **BETTY CLIPMAN**, the one Sweet Adeline in the organization that has done it all: Queen of Harmony, International Gold Medal Chorus Director, Judge (in two categories) International President (a couple of times) and the Champion Maker. If Betty doesn't know the answer, she knows someone who does.

In January of 2011, we will be in Sawmill, Ohio and **KATHY CARMODY** will be our Guest Faculty. She is the Master Director of the 5th place international Velvet Hills Chorus in Colorado Springs, Co. I learned more about running a chorus in 2 years from this lady than all of my other experiences put together. SHE IS AMAZING, and very funny, too. Don't miss her this January 21 - 23, 2011.

Then, March 11-13, 2011, all of the Directors, Associates, Assistants, etc., will be attending a Seminar with **PAM PIESON**, Director of the AWESOME,

AMAZING, INCREDIBLE Harbor Lights Chorus from Los Angeles. If you didn't know, they are 2 time International Chorus Champs and are the best of the best. I will be in the front row for this one. The details are being cleared up and we'll let you know as to the location. If I were a Director—oh, I am—I would be assigning folks to be an Assistant Director so they can attend....hint, hint, hint! The more of our folks that learn, the stronger the chance for our Choruses to get better.

On September 16-18, 2011 in Perrysburg, OH, we have **MO FIELD** coming in from Sweden. She is the Master Director of a small Swedish Chorus which scored more points in the Harmony Classic than I have ever known. Small chorus members—this is your chance to learn from the best.

I have an idea for the January 2012 meeting that you won't believe, so keep your ears open! You are going to be so busy with PVI's, quarteting, singing and dancing that you need to rest up starting now. Watch for details to follow!

Then, in June of 2012, we will be implementing a LEADERSHIP RETREAT for all chorus leadership members, including all directors, visual leaders, and administrative leaders—something for all of you. I can't tell you who the Faculty is, but she is THE ONE! We will spend an entire weekend together honing our skills and you will leave with your head and heart full.

Well, I have a lot to do—gotta run. If you ever need to talk, please know that I am here and available. I love ideas and involvement!

# 2010 Quartet Medalists

**2nd Place**

**TGIF  
Quartet**



**3rd Place**

**Reckless  
Quartet**



**4th Place**

**Fusion  
Quartet**



**5th Place**

**Dynasty  
Quartet**



## ***It's Not About the Medals, Judy Bach, Bass of North South Connection Quartet***

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To walk the competition stage in a quartet has been a dream of mine for most of the 26 years I have been in Sweet Adelines. I had tried to put together a quartet a couple of times but it just never happened. This year I finally got the opportunity and it was a wonderful experience. Honestly, I'm pretty sure that no one else had as much fun on stage as I did!

It is hard work to get a quartet ready for competition and especially when two of the members are snow birds. Last fall when our tenor and baritone left for Florida we had costumes bought and had picked out one of our competition songs. We picked the other song and finalized our quartet's name by email. It is difficult learning songs when two parts are missing, but I loved the challenge although it is hard to ring a chord when you only have a bass and a lead.

Our snow birds came home at Easter which left us only four weeks until Regional competition. We packed four rehearsals and four coaching sessions into the short time we had and before we knew it we were driving to Cleveland.

When you compete in a quartet there is a whole new level of experiences. You belong to a special group of women and everyone is so supportive. When I got the invitation to the Quartet Reception on Thursday I actually got goosebumps! It was great fun and the "experienced"

quartets were very gracious to our novice quartet. Then on Friday there is the walk through and they even let you sing on stage so you know what it sounds like before you compete. Even though we kept to our rehearsal schedule, we still had time to relax and have fun. We went to the boutique, went shopping and had a leisurely lunch.

Finally it was time to go. When our name was announced and we walked on stage, well, what can I say but what a rush! The audience was cheering just for us and even the



judges looked friendly. Then it was over. But there was one more surprise. When we walked into the hall all of the other quartets stood to recognize our efforts. It was the icing on the cake for me.

How did we do? Not very well, in fact we placed last and yes, I'm OK with it. We didn't compete to win. We went for the experience and the fun of sharing our special love of barbershop with each other and the audience. Would I recommend singing in a quartet? Of course! Being in a quartet is fun and it will improve your singing skills. That will make your quartet better and it will also make you a better chorus singer. And that will make your director happy. Speaking of directors, I want to thank Kay Seymour whose guidance made it possible for us to compete and to the Pride of Toledo Chorus for their support.

So grab three people and form a quartet. I want to stand and cheer for you when you come off that stage!

So grab three people and form a quartet. I want to stand and cheer for you when you come off that stage!



## ***Contest Venue Update, Sue Heck***

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Wasn't our last competition a great one? Our committee has heard nothing but great comments about our weekend at our new venue.

We have also heard some "constructive criticism" that we are certainly working on to make things even better for our 2011 competition. We certainly appre-

ciated your patience & support during this transition. We hope we met all of your expectations however if you have any suggestions on how to make things better, please feel free to contact me at any time about anything involving competition & our Harmony Weekends. We want to make all events user friendly so you are getting your time & money well spent out of these events.

Looking forward to another great year!

## *The Rookie Journey, submitted by City of Flags Chorus Rookies*

There are as many different paths to a Sweet Adelines chorus as there are women singing in the choruses around the world. Here are the stories of the the rookies of the City of Flags Chorus in Canton, Ohio. Emily Ucker, Ellen Grimes and Robyn Ramseyer participated in their first regional competition in Cleveland on May 8, and they received their first medals as Sweet Adelines.

**Sue Tucker** added a 3<sup>rd</sup> medal to the collection she started around 1978. Here is her story:

Sue is a rookie for the second time around, if that's possible. She first joined when her children were young, after attending a rehearsal on the recommendation of a barbershopper she'd met. She earned two medals and performed in international competition in Phoenix. It was "truly a life experience I will never forget." She recalls in particular an embarrassing incident in the Phoenix airport when a fellow chorus member's suitcase popped open, spilling its contents, and Sue had to sit on it for her to close it! Her thoughts about participating again in regional competition, "I thought the whole experience was fun, memorable, and I really enjoyed all the wonderful music and talent."

**Ellen's story:** Sometimes things happen so timely in life that it feels like a "sign." My entry into Sweet Adelines feels like that. **Sunday** I was very dissatisfied with my current singing

group and I thought, "I do not have to put up with this." On **Monday** I was surfing the internet for singing groups, thinking that I may have to drive to Cleveland to find a choir. I teach middle school, and **Tuesday** I ran into our high school music director – something that seldom happens. The nearby City of Flags Cho-

and participate in the regional competition. She was happy that "all the rookies had fun and were able to experience the life of our first show together."

**Robyn's story:** For many years I'd thought of finding a chorus, but I never met anyone who sang in one. In February my hometown newspaper insert contained an article on Sweet Adelines; I took the article and marched right to my computer. To my delight I found a chorus right here in Canton. I sent an email to the contact person and received a quick response that they



*City of Flags 2010 Rookies (Left to Right)  
Ellen Grimes, Emily Ucker, Sue Tucker, Robyn Ramseyer*

rus was her suggestion. She said I would have a good time. **Wednesday** I sent out an inquiry on-line. **Friday** Miriam Sprunger called and said, "We will pick you up on Monday" . . . the rest is history. I wanted sisterhood and good singing and I have found both. I have experienced two overnights, stimulating rehearsals, and much appreciated fellowship. (Miriam gave me cabbage plants and perennials yesterday!)

**Emily** started singing with the chorus in August, 2009 and performed in the fall show as a guest. She was attending college and couldn't quite swing the financial obligation to join. As competition in May approached, Emily's wonderful grandmother volunteered to help out so that Emily could become an official member

were having a guest night the following Monday. That was February 22<sup>nd</sup>, and I've been singing with them at every rehearsal since then! I joined the City of Flags Chorus in time to participate in the regional competition, and there I was frequently reminded of college experiences in the marching band . . . hurry up and wait . . . dressing in a confined space with several other people (at least the toilet wasn't in the rear of a Greyhound bus!) . . . standing in line, waiting for the elevator, for breakfast, for the bathroom at intermission . . . the backstage butterflies waiting to perform and finally, leaving the stage wondering how the culmination of all that preparation could be over so fast! I'm looking forward to many years of sisterhood in harmony and more competition medals!

## **Greater Harmony Chorus, submitted by Sandra Strock**

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Greetings from Greater Harmony Chorus! We are again excited to sponsor our Talented Teen Contest as a part of the Greater Harmony Show, to be held on October 2, 2010.

We will have 2 performances, at 2:30 PM, and at 7:30 PM, at the Pine Richland Middle School in Mars, PA.

At our first two practices following the Region 17 Competition, all the chorus members had the opportunity to vote for each of the 26 contestants who auditioned for the 5 spots on our show. Those 5 finalists will perform at each of our shows on October 2, and will be voted on by all members of the audience to determine the winners of the Talented Teen Contest. The awards will be announced at the end of our show that evening. We believe it is a great opportunity to showcase some of the best local teen talent and to introduce them to women's barbershop style of singing and performing.

Since May we have been working diligently to learn new patriotic songs that we will perform at the 2010 National Festival of the States in Washington D.C. during the weekend of June 18-20. Among other songs we will perform Let Freedom Ring, a medley of well known patriotic tunes which our own Jennifer Fogle has arranged in barbershop style for our chorus. Kudos to Jen for offering a splendid arrangement and teaching it to us in time for this grand trip. As time gets closer, we are excited to have this opportunity to sing in our Nation's Capitol. A member of Sweet Adelines will be our tour guide for the weekend. She has arranged for us to sing with Potomac Harmony Chorus on Saturday night. On Sunday we will share a performance with Heart of Maryland Chorus. This will surely be a wonderful weekend of song, fellowship and adventure for us all.

Again this year we will be singing at the Ellwood City, PA Craft Festival over the 4<sup>th</sup>

of July weekend, and will be pleased to perform our new repertoire of patriotic tunes. We will also be performing at five other venues over the summer, so we will be a very busy chorus this summer.

In other news, our Director, Bonnie McKibben, crowned Joan Pickel her "Queen for a Night" on April 20. Joan is among a number of members with perfect attendance who puts forth many "queenly" qualities at all times in her attitude at chorus, as well as that perfect attendance so admired by us all. At GHC's annual banquet Phyllis Jackson was named Bonnie's 2009- 2010 Angel of the Year, and Michele Riggi-Smith was voted by the Chorus as the 2009- 2010 Sweet Adeline of the Year. Congratulations to all three very deserving members of our chorus.

## **Reckless Quartet, Submitted by Nancie Jaicks**

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RECKLESS comes to Region 17 moving at full speed from our first meeting! We first met in February to fulfill the Quarteting "bug" and the rest is history! Some of you may recognize parts of the quartet from quartets of days gone by, most recently from Flipside and RAVE. Peggy Sue Henshey, our Lead and Nancie Jaicks, our Bass, rekindled their barbershop friendship and sound with Tenor, Nancy Egan, who has been out of SAI for 5 or so years. We had to travel to Liverpool, England to get our Bari, Sharon Peters ( not really, but she is British but presently living in Squirrel Hill, PA) Shaz is not new to barbershop harmony as she sang with and later directed Liverpool Ladies chorus (three times LABBS champions) and won quartet gold medals with Penny Lane in 1982! Reckless had 9 rehearsals "under our belts" when we hit the contest stage (which could be seen as Reckless!) but we had a blast! The surprise of earning a 3rd place ribbon gives us all great pride! It is our treat to be your 3rd place medalist and we hope to make you proud! We look forward to singing for all of you at the regional weekends and hope to be part of some of your annual shows!



## ***Sounds of Pittsburgh Chorus, submitted by Ellen DiMarzio***

## ***Sidekicks Quartet submitted by Jen Fogle***

Sounds of Pittsburgh Chorus is thrilled to be Region 17's 2<sup>nd</sup> place medalists and 1<sup>st</sup> place Division AA champions! What a wonderful experience, sharing the stage with other choruses in the beautiful Renaissance Hotel. We loved the camaraderie in the ballroom and being able to see our friends up close and personal, before, after and during the contest. Congratulations to BLAK Velvet and Pride of



Toledo on their superb performances. We're sure they will represent us well on the International stage in Seattle and Houston. Kudos to all medalists and other choruses for a job well done. Now, it's on to other events in our chorus lives! SPC has MANY chances to share our singing hobby in the Pittsburgh area during the months of May, June and July – ten (!) to be exact, which include retirement communities & AARP groups, community picnics, and the National Anthem at PNC Park.

We're very excited and are looking forward to our first coaching session with the incomparable Jim Arns, director of the Melodeers, on August 22 & 23. We also have him slated for our retreat next spring! We hope you will mark your calendar for Saturday, October 9, 2010 for our annual show – *WSPC Radio, Pittsburgh* - featuring current 2<sup>nd</sup> place BHS medalists, Old School. As information becomes available, please check our website for ticket information—[www.soundsofpgh.org](http://www.soundsofpgh.org). In the meantime though, we'll see you at the registration table in Independence for Harmony Weekend September 17-19 since we're your hostesses, so have a great summer until then!

## ***Dogwood Blossoms Chorus—Busy Planting Seeds, Submitted by Maureen Hunter***



Spring is in the air and the Dogwood Blossoms Chorus is busy planting seeds, seeds of barbershop harmony that is. For the ninth straight year, the chorus has again offered and funded full scholarships to the Singing Buckeyes Harmony Camp. This year with the help of the Nothin' Flat quartet, the chorus funded **seven** full scholarships to young women to attend Harmony Camp (that's about one scholarship for every 4 members we have!) We believe planting the seeds of barbershop har-

mony in these young women will not only enrich their lives but also help "grow" future members and leaders of our organization. Wouldn't it be great if each of our Region 17 choruses planted some seeds each year – what a crop we would have! We reap what we sow, and usually we reap more than we sow. What a challenge!

"We are ready for our next contestant" were frightening words to hear for the first time by our quartet. SIDEKICKS took the plunge into the competition arena and were thrilled the audience responded with applause rather than rotten vegetables!!

We were successful in all singing the same song at the same time and executing our choreography without damaging any body parts!



SIDEKICKS is moving forward from our contest journey into other singing opportunities. We are fortunate that we frequently get to share our unique performance style with lots of different audiences. We like to have fun together and spread that fun to as many people as we can. Want to be one of them??? Just let us know!!

# What A Week!—B.L.A.K. Velvet Quartet



B.L.A.K.  
Velvet

B.L.A.K. Velvet arrived at the Renaissance Hotel on Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. It was great to

be at a new venue. Everyone at the hotel was ready to serve and upon arrival, our room was waiting. We quickly made ourselves at home and got ready for the events of the weekend.

Thursday afternoon was spent focusing and rehearsing. We treated ourselves to a great dinner at “The Chop House” and met up with a friendly officer and a camera ready horse named “Cruz”. Afterward, we met with Kay Seymour for some “fine tuning” on our contest set. We were thrilled to work with Kay and we congratulate her, and the Pride of Toledo Chorus, on their Championship performance.

Thursday night we gathered with Region 17 quartets for a fine party, hosted by our 2009 Quartet Champions, “Fusion”. It was great to get together for food, fun, and song. Thank you, Fusion, for a great time!

Friday presented itself with a 9:00 AM sound check for Kathy and Amy with the Greater Cleveland Chorus; followed by the Quartet briefing, Encore Club rehearsal, and quartet preparations with Kay before our time on stage. Wasn't the stage wonderful? We felt like we were competing at a “mini-International”. We really enjoyed our time on stage, and singing third in the pattern allowed us a chance to see and hear so much of the competition.

Before the announcement of results, B.L.A.K. Velvet was able to sing with the Encore Club. How fitting that we could sing and honor Rosella Buehrer with all of her Region 17 family present. It was definitely a memorable moment. As the announcements approached, we were so thrilled to be named your Region 17 Quartet Champions. We congratulate all of our Regional quartet competitors for their fine contest performances. It was an honor to share the stage with everyone.

After our acceptance song we were whisked away for a reception hosted by the Encore club. Special thanks to Encore Club members Dana Kachurchak, Jean Ohtola, and Sally Doverspike for all of their preparations and to our quartet hostess Lynne Pierce. She is the best.

We can't express enough, how much we appreciate your well-wishes and support. It was a thrill to sing for so many of you in your hospitality rooms on Saturday night after the chorus contest. This Region definitely knows how to have a good time.

As we prepare for Seattle, we look forward to additional singing, coaching, fundraising, and sharing the International stage with one of our home choruses, The Greater Cleveland Chorus, of which Kathy and Amy are both members.

Be sure to check out our boutique table at Harmony Weekend in September. We'll also be fundraising with the Encore Club of Region 17. Along with T.G.I.F., Glitz, Park Avenue, Fu-

sion and The Singing Club, B.L.A.K. Velvet will be singing some of our favorites with “YOU.” We definitely look forward to that event.

Again, thanks to all of you for your love and support. Seattle...here we come!

Love,

Bonnie,  
Lisa,  
Amy,  
Kathy:  
B.L.A.K.  
Velvet  
Quartet



## 2009 Regional Quartet Champs—Fusion Quartet

Whew! Contest is over and recovery time is almost complete. Fusion had a great time at contest this year and medaled 4<sup>th</sup>. We congratulate the other medalists, Dynasty, Reckless and TGIF. Special congratulations to B.L.A.K Velvet, who gave a great performance and earned a much deserved win. We would also like to acknowledge all the other quartets who competed. It takes a special kind of courage to put yourself out on the contest stage, the hard work is appreciated by the audience and the judges.

As your 2009 regional champions, we had a lot of great experiences throughout the year. We are grateful to those who gave of their time and talents the past year and also wish to thank our wonderfully supportive choruses, Shoreline Sound,



Spirit of Detroit, and our beloved Lakeridge chorus. You have all been great and we love you.

Fusion had the privilege of hosting the quartet reception on Thursday night and we had a blast. Kudos to all those who participated in the umbrella decorating contest, there are some great candid's of this event on the E.R. Lilly website. We had the pleasure of doing a special PR appearance on early Friday morning of contest weekend at both the local NBC affiliate TV station, WKYC and a radio spot for WGAR. Thanks to Deb Ferenc and her husband, Ed "Flash" Ferenc for setting

these up. A special thanks goes to Ed for being our personal chauffeur, he was wonderful and a pleasure to spend the morning with. Beth, our facebook guru, was able to put the clip on our facebook page for our friends and family to enjoy.

On a sad note, our baritone, Anne Kotchman, has decided to step out of the quartet due to family commitments. Her shoes will be very difficult to fill but Beth, Joyce and I have decided to pursue auditioning baritones. Anne will be with us throughout the summer and will fulfill some commitments already on the books. If anyone is interested, please contact Beth Miller @ [fusion4bass@yahoo.com](mailto:fusion4bass@yahoo.com). We will be putting this out to the sing group as well.

Fusion: Joyce, Becky, Anne and Beth



### Olympic Lessons, submitted by Lynne Peirce

*Every Olympics year, I am struck by the remarkable similarities that we, as chorus and quartet members, share with these amazing athletes. While most of us will never compete on the world stage, we can learn from the eight lessons that these women and men teach us about respect, passion, teamwork, humility, honor and pride.*

**LESSON ONE: Olympians believe in ceremony.** The Olympic Ceremonies are breathtaking and spectacular. Beyond the technology, creativity, and spectacle of these ceremonies, there is a deeper commitment to beauty, ritual, and reverence. The games are filled with ceremony throughout – from the Opening Ceremonies, to the medal ceremonies, to the Closing Ceremonies. For us to live lives of meaning, purpose, and spirit – we must honor ourselves, others, and live in a ceremonious way.

**LESSON TWO: Olympians are passionate.** The Olympics are filled with passion – from the athletes, the host city, and the fans – in person and around the world. It's this passion that makes the Olympics so intriguing, exciting and dramatic. In our own lives and on our own journeys, passion is a key component to growth, success, and fulfillment. So often we hold back our passion – waiting, unwilling to risk. But to live life with depth, purpose, aliveness, we must tap into our passion in an authentic way and use it as inspiration, regardless of the outcome.

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## ***Olympic Lessons, continued from previous page***

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**LESSON THREE: Olympians are team players.** Teams reach the Olympics because their members have learned the powerful lessons of teams: loyalty, discipline, practice, dedication to goals, cooperation. How to take turns and take orders, to assist, to respect and listen to the coach, to protect others by taking a hit themselves. To rise above self interest to mutual concern. To experience the joy of collective endeavor.

**LESSON FOUR: Olympians love to play.** These are Olympic "games". Each athlete started in their sport as a child because it was fun, not because they wanted to win a gold medal, be on TV, or get big endorsement deals. This is a great reminder for all of us. We cannot get caught up in the pursuit of results and forget the value of play.

**LESSON FIVE: Olympians are unified.** Olympians come together to represent their countries and to compete for something bigger than themselves. Olympics are about a greater sense of unity amongst all nations and their Olympic representatives. There is a sense of mutual respect, admiration, and appreciation that exists at the Olympics. The Olympics provide a stage for the world to engage, compete, and interact with one another in a beautiful way. Those whom we compete against, have conflict with, and want to "beat," are just people, like us, who have similar hopes, fears, and dreams. At the most basic and yet profound level, we are all one.

**LESSON SIX: Olympians pursue excellence.** The Olympics are all about excellence. The intense training, incredible competition, and extraordinary pressure of having to focus a lifetime's worth of experience into one single performance, creates an authentic sense of drama that is unique and exciting. However, when we think of "excellence" in regards to the Olympics or other things in life, we often think about "winning." While there will be "winners", there is much more to real excellence than winning by an external measurement or standard. Every Olympian made a commitment to excellence – even though the vast majority of them will not win medals and we'll never even know their names.

**LESSON SEVEN: Olympians see the possibilities rather than the impossibilities.** Most of us give too much power to "impossible" because we live in a world that shouts loudly what cannot or will not be done. While most of us live in the stubborn "today", Olympians live in the "someday". They believe that miracles don't always just happen to other people. They believe they can make their own miracle.

**LESSON EIGHT: Olympians believe in the power of the dream.** In his October 2009 presentation to the IOC, President Barack Obama said, "We reach for a dream... a dream that no matter who we are, where we come from; no matter what we look like or what hand life has dealt us; with hard work, discipline and dedication, we can make it if we try. That is not just the American Dream. That is the essence of the Olympic Spirit"

**And from the anthem of the 1996 Summer Olympics, the voice of Celine Dion described... as no other has better described... the Power of the Dream:** "Feel the flame forever burn, teaching lessons we must learn, to bring us closer to the Power of the Dream. The faith in things unseen. The courage to embrace your fear. No matter where you are, to reach for your own star. To realize the power of the dream.

*Submitted by Lynne Peirce, Director, Voices in Harmony*



## ***Renaissance Rhythm, Submitted by Dottie Wakin***

Greetings sisters in harmony. Congratulations to all winning quarters and choruses at our annual Regional Competition. What a great weekend. We always look forward to reuniting with friends that we have made over the years. Our new venue was awesome.



We recently performed at the Salem Mens Chorus Show. We had a blast and performed before a wonderfully receptive audience. We changed from a Management Team governance to a Board of Directors. We had our induction of officers May 10th. The founder of our chorus, Lorida Harvery, presided over the ceremony. We are busy plan-

ning our annual garage sale and learning new music for our annual show. The show will be held on October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Beaver Falls Middle School, Beaver Falls, PA.

## ***Greater Cleveland Chorus, submitted by Dawn Livingstone***

Congratulations to all the competitors who walked across contest stage this year. Best wishes to Pride of Toledo, we know you will represent us well going to Houston.

The Greater Cleveland Chorus has been very busy these past few months with new members, visitors, short term dual members and hosting Regional contest.

In January we kicked off our Guest nights with the Real Women, Real Harmony, Real Fun Campaign. Despite some questionable weather and snow days, we had 17 guests through the month. We added new members Jenn Carse, and Nora Owens both new to barbershop and welcome transfer members Susie Wenzel and Angela Davis. Barb Everett is a new dual member from Flagship City Chorus. We also sent out invitation for our short term dual members to compete in Seattle, and are pleased to say we have several in the "wings" to soon audition.

Just before contest our Master Director was able to go judge in New Zealand. What an experience and lots of frequent flyer miles...She was able to sight

see a few days prior and she said the after party was an absolute hoot.

We had twelve of our own members participate in dual membership with area choruses, City of Flags Chorus, Flagship City Show Chorus and Lake Ridge Chorus, Opus 2000 Chorus (Racine, WI, Region 22). Congratulations to Judy Laurentzen who picked up a Regional 5<sup>th</sup> place medal with City of Flags and Jean Ohtola who picked up a 1<sup>st</sup> Place Small Chorus medal with Opus 2000 Chorus.

We are fortunate to have eleven members who competed in quartet contests this spring as well. Shannon Underwood came back with a 3<sup>rd</sup> Place medal from Region 16 with her quartet, Flair! She then changed parts and competed as a baritone in Final Call. Jean Ohtola competed in Region 22 with Union Station. The remaining sang in Region 17 with Fast Forward, Final Call, 2<sup>nd</sup> place medalist TGIF and 1<sup>st</sup> place medalist, BLAK Velvet. We are happy BLAK Velvet will join GCC in representing the Region in Seattle.

Our regional weekend was busy as we were the hosts of the convention. We want to thank all of those friends, family and former members of GCC who stepped in and assisted without hesitation to make this one of the best contest weekends. We hope that we were able to make your weekend enjoyable and stress-free. We thank our friend, and past member Helen Lascola who is the Regional coordinator for the boutique and most of all to all of you who spent your hard earned dollars with our vendors. We can say we had a succe\$\$ful weekend.

Our small ensemble has been busy performing at local events and the entire chorus will be performing with the Men of Independence at a barbershop extravaganza concert night in Independence on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Quite exciting as the men recently won the JAD chorus championship. There will be some good singing happening that night. The chorus is also preparing for our show September 11, "Cleopatra, Queen of Denial" featuring TGIF, BLAK Velvet and the Men of Independence as our guests. Visit our web-site for information, [www.gcchorus.com](http://www.gcchorus.com).



## ***Membership Update, Jennifer Thompson***

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Greetings Region 17! I want to first introduce myself as your new Membership Coordinator for Region 17. For those of you who may not know me, I am a member of Pride of Toledo Chorus, have served in many chapter positions including President and currently Vice President. Regionally, I am the previous Team Coordinator. I am extremely excited about being the new Membership Coordinator for Region 17.

We Membership Coordinators have an extremely important position – that of the retention and growth of not only our chapter's but the Region and the Sweet Adeline organization as a whole. We have a lot of weight resting on our shoulders. But – if you are as excited as I am – as a team we will do great things. On a regional level, we will be teaming with the Marketing and Educational committees; meshing our three areas together to make Region 17 a model for others Regions to follow. As we strategize we will be coming to all of you often for input and assistance.

We also want your feedback. Want you to share what has worked for your chapters, what has not worked for your chapters, how often do you have guest night (could be every week – or every week and then twice a year a formal membership drive), what are the results of those membership nights, how did you conduct the evening – were the guests on lookers or did they get up on the risers and sing with the chorus – hook them right from the start; what follow up did you do, was there a formal marketing campaign; if you are tracking other pieces of information you think would be beneficial – please **SHARE, SHARE, SHARE**.

Communication is key. The better we are at communicating with each other about what works – the better we can be – we grow our individual chapters and we grow the organization at the same time. I would also like your input on what you want at Harmony Weekend. I have so many ideas flying around in my head, but these are your meetings and training sessions as well, so again, any input you want to share with me would be very beneficial.

Thank you in advance for all you do. Again, this is a huge job and we have a lot to do. Our organization is getting smaller, not larger. We are members of not only a great organization but a wonderful hobby surrounding us with wonderful friendships.



## ***Director's Coordinator, Jennifer Fogle***

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It is with excitement that we begin a new fiscal year. Last year we experienced success with the chorus coaching program and Director Seminar.

The chorus coaching program will continue this year, offering coaching funding, up to \$800, to all competing C- level choruses. For your information, from this past year's small chorus award winners, two of the three top placements took advantage of this coaching program. Awesome!! Please find the forms online for application to the program.



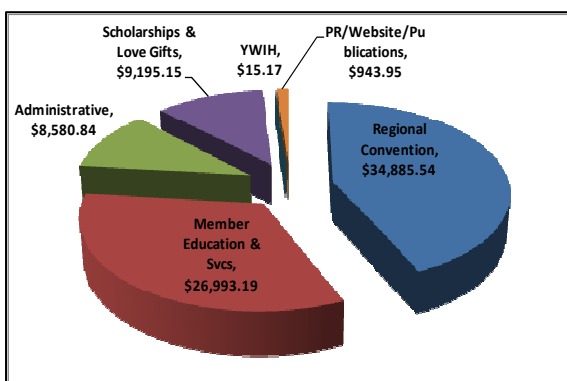
In March, the directors of our Region were blessed with

much information from the wonderfully talented Dale Syverson. This seminar was very successful so we are continuing this educational opportunity by offering another Director Seminar in March of 2011. Our faculty will be Pam Pieson, International Chorus Championship Director and Queen of Harmony. Please set aside the dates of March 11-13 for this event; all directing staff is invited.

Region 17 is busy planning many great educational events and activities. Look for more information as it becomes available. It's great to be a (Region 17) Sweet Adeline!!

# Region 17 Finances, Karen May—Finance Coordinator

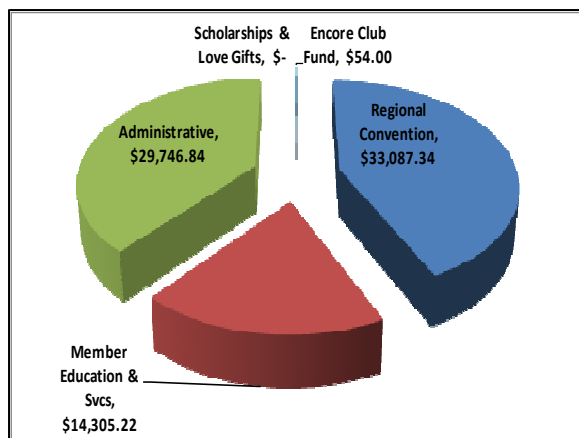
It has been a challenging year for our region. Even though the region has been challenged with high unemployment, high gas prices, and the investment market earning very little interest, the region has maintained their financial stability while giving back to our choruses. We had revenue of \$77,194 and expenses of \$80,614. While our expenses exceeded our revenue by \$3,420, our money market investment



Revenue 2009-2010: \$77,193

took a swing upward with the region recovering \$1,179 that had been lost over the past couple of years when the market took a down turn.

On the positive side, we returned to our choruses \$5,288 for membership expenses incurred by the choruses. We are again offering up to a \$350 reimbursement for membership expenses for each chorus. We covered coaching



Expenses 2009-2010: \$80,614

expenses of \$5,789 for choruses that qualified. We are continuing the program into the 2010-2011 year again for those choruses that came in at a C+ level or below at the competition in May. Another positive for the year was the Director's Workshop. It was a huge success with 32 directors and assistant/associate directors attending.

The RMT works diligently in providing educational opportunities that will benefit all choruses in the region. At our recent RMT planning session we investigated new ideas and programs that will be implemented over the next couple of years. I'm excited as we prepare for our Fall HW in September.

The RMT always welcome input from all our members. Our treasurer's group have met the past 2 HW weekends and shared ideas for fundraising, how much each chorus charges for chapter dues, costumes, etc. A recent survey by one of our treasurers researched the issue of who pays for AEB's, breakfast at competition, etc. It takes everyone working together to strengthen our chorus' financial health.

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