

President/Team Leaders' Meeting Report
Saturday, January 22, 2011
8:30 – 10 am
Saw Mill Creek Lodge, Sandusky, OH

All choruses were represented at the meeting except Indi-Anna and Laurel Harmony.

Donna Knapp announced that Bonnie McKibben, Director of Greater Harmony, is moving to Hawaii. She and her husband have purchased a business in Hawaii and are completing a life-long dream to live in Hawaii. She will take GHC to contest in May and then join her husband immediately after contest. GHC is now conducting a director search. **Please spread the word and have interested parties contact Donna at dgknapp@comcast.net or 412-303-2741.**

Maureen Hunter, YWIH Scholarship representative, reminded us about the scholarship that is available to Region 17 member of relative of a member. Applicant must be majoring in the field of music and be in her second year of college. Maureen also recommended that every chorus support Harmony Camp financially and by getting high school students to attend.

Brenda Bernhardson, Communications Coordinator, made the following announcements:

- Music for regional songs will be posted on the regional website. You will have to purchase the charts if you don't have them.
- Online survey for this weekend is also on the regional website. There will be a drawing for all those who complete the survey; one-\$50 prize and two - \$25 prizes will be awarded.
- The Beacon is later than usual. Brenda hopes to get out this week. She apologizes, but, for those who did not know, Brenda was in China and adopted a beautiful little girl.
- All registration forms for Harmony Weekends are on line in MS Word. They are fillable forms. If you have questions, please contact her.

Towns of Harmony announced that it will celebrate 50 years this year.
Greater Cleveland is celebrating 25 years.
Dogwood Blossoms is celebrating 30 years.

Mary Schwartz made the following announcements:

- **There will be ONE riser configuration this year for all choruses; therefore, you will not have to choose which one you want.**
- **There will be ONE draw on March 28. All choruses will be in the draw so large and small choruses will be mixed up for the contest.**
- **Pictures will be taken on stage from the back of the auditorium. Patty Schaffer has a new lens that will make this possible.**
- **More good seating will be available this year since the photos will be taken from the back**
- **We are trying to get smaller screens**
- **Most things are basically the same as last year**
- **Quartet reception will be in the Whitehall Room on Thursday evening.**
- **The bed tax went up, so there will be a very slight increase in the room rate**
- **Breakfast will be served to all from 7:30-8:30 am. All choruses will eat together at the same time on the second floor. It will be a plated breakfast @ \$18.60/each. If your chorus eats breakfast, you will get a separate room to use just like we did last year. You can leave the breakfast and go to your private room for your pre-competition rally and rehearsal. This room is also yours for the day and you can use it for a hospitality room in the evening.**

Sue Heck, Events Coordinator, made the following announcements:

- **If you cannot be at a weekend, please let Sue know. Both Laurel Harmony and Indi-Anna did do this for this weekend. Thank you.**
- **Be sure to let Mary Schwartz know that you received the information from International and Regional about contest. Just a brief email stating “got all info” will do.**
- **The regional contest packet should be completed by the end of January and posted on the Regional website in a timely manner.**
- **You should have received the packet from International both online and in the mail.**
- **Mary Schwartz is retiring this year after 20 years. Claudia Hole will be replacing her. Lucy Regueyra is also retiring in 2012, and Pat Galvin will be replacing her.**

- Sue would like to do something very special for Mary, and she is requesting pictures and greetings from every chorus so that she can have someone put together a digital scrapbook. Mary will also be given a Director's Chair!
- Sue was just re-appointed by the RMT as Events Coordinator for the region. However, at the end of this two-year term she is ineligible to remain on the RMT according to International 6-year term limit. She reminded the presidents and team leaders that we need applicants for regional positions. The application is online. Please think about those in your chorus with leadership potential, and encourage them to complete the application. Or let someone on the RMT know who they are, and we will contact them. Of course, applying does not guarantee a position; but we always need names in the pool. Questions: please ask anyone on the RMT. Marketing and Team Coordinator are also up in the next two years.
- Also, please be vigilant about completing and submitting ALL registration forms correctly and in a timely manner. It makes Susan LeMonte and Sue Heck's job much more difficult when the proper forms are not used and continual changes are made because of incorrect information.

Donna Knapp, Team Coordinator, made the following announcements from the RMT:

- Please be sure to communicate all applicable information to your chorus that you receive from the RMT and/or International. Members are not being informed. For example, some members had no idea who was getting longevity awards at the luncheon.
- The RMT has again approved \$350 matching funds for Membership for 2011. Receipts and documentation should be sent to Jennifer Thompson, Membership Coordinator. She will approve, send to Karen May, Finance Coordinator, and you will receive your payment from Karen. This is a dollar for dollar matching fund; i.e., if you only submit \$315 then that's all you'll get back. Questions should be directed to Jennifer Thompson.
- Every January the region recognizes the chorus who has grown the most in the previous year. It was decided that, starting this year, a traveling plaque with the chorus' names on it will be given instead of a certificate.
- We are looking for a nominee for the MENC International Award. We have had two previous winners from Region 17: Jennifer Perry and Ann Kotchman. If you have a suggestion, please let us know.
- International is providing In-Region Training this year on Saturday, June 25, 2011 from 8:30 - 4. This will be held at the Doubletree in Independence, OH. Kathy Carmody will be the guest faculty, and the focus of the training will be

membership recruitment and retention. It was decided that the Region will encourage every chorus to send TWO representatives to this training preferably your marketing and membership chairs AND your director. The Region will fully fund these representatives with ¼ room (if they have to arrive Friday night), continental breakfast and lunch. Others may attend but, of course, will have to pay full price. Deadline for registration is June 1.

- **There is a Directors' Seminar March 11-12 with Pam Pieson, Director of Harborlites Chorus and former lead of Panache. The cost is \$99 which includes a reception on Friday evening, lunch on Saturday, and Pam's presentations. Rooms, breakfast and dinner on your own. This is open to directors, assistant directors, directing staff, DCP participants, and musical leaders. Flyers were sent to all directors and were put in everyone's mailbox this weekend. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Fogle, Directors' Coordinator. This is a fabulous opportunity for YOUR CHORUS!!!**
- **Congratulations and thank you to Dawn Seigneur who stepped in to replace Jennifer Perry as the YWIH Coordinator. There were 5 quartets registered and 4 competed in a great contest on Saturday evening.**
- **International is conducting a Directors' and Arrangers' Seminar July 20-23 in California, PA. The RMT has made the decision to fully fund all FRONT LINE DIRECTORS in our Region the early registration of \$450. Please have your director go to International's website for all information. This \$450 is for room, meals, and all classes. This is drivable for everyone in our Region. Questions should be directed to Donna Knapp, Kay Seymour or Jennifer Fogle. Your chorus should register and pay for your director; submit copy of registration to Karen May, Finance Coordinator. You will receive reimbursement on or about August 1.**
- **Because we are funding the International Directors' Seminar in July, we will not be funding chorus coaching for C choruses or below in 2012. The coaching funds are available until May 2011 because this comes under our old budget. Questions to Karen May or Jennifer Fogle.**
- **Kay announced that there is a Leadership Seminar with Peggy Gram booked for July 27-29, 2012. Watch for more details. This will be for all chorus leaders and directors.**
- **Deb Ferenc announced at the meeting that many of our choruses are not yet on Facebook. The only ones she could find are City of Flags, Flagship City, Greater Cleveland, Greater Harmony, Indi-Anna, Maple Mountain, Pride of Toledo, and Sounds of Pittsburgh. If your chorus is on Facebook and is not listed, let Deb know. She also announced that there will be a webinar from International on Social Media in the fall of this year.**

- **Voices in Harmony was honored at the show on Saturday night for its generous contributions to the YSF in the past two years. They have been our highest contributors!!**
- **Harmony Weekend is set for September 16-18, 2011 in Perrysburg, OH. Guest faculty is Mo Field, Director of Stockholm City Chorus, Sweden. Mo is an expert on small chorus success as her small chorus is 7th Internationally!! CITY OF FLAGS is the hostess for this weekend.**

Note: We neglected to thank Pride of Toledo for doing such a great job as hostesses this January weekend. We certainly apologize for this oversight and ask that our sincere thanks for a job well done be conveyed to the chorus.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Knapp, Team Coordinator