

LINCOLNAIRE CHORUS TO CELEBRATE 40 YEARS!

The Lincolnaire Chorus will celebrate their 40 year anniversary as members of Sweet Adelines January 15, 2011. A party will be in the works for former alumni and current members.

The chorus chartered with 30 members on January 15, 1971 directed by Mary Jo Cranwell and two active quartets Windjammers and Four'Tunettes. The Chorus was in Region 7 when they chartered.

In 1973 after the resignation of their director, Karen Koch agreed to "fill in" until a director could be found. This turned out to be thirty-one years later she was still directing the chorus. Karen Koch made music her life. She was never content to travel the same old road. She studied the craft and developed her skills, taking advantage of self-instruction opportunities.

Sweet Adelines International recognized Karen's fervor for technical perfection; she served eight years as Director of Musical Activities for Region #20 and was appointed to the International Faculty in 1980, soon advancing to Faculty Specialist. Karen was elected to the International Board in 1989 and served as secretary and vice president. She became President of the International organization in 1993 and held that office until 1995. In 2001 Karen achieved Master Director Status at Regional Competition when the chorus scored 611 points!

In 2002 Sweet Adelines International adjusted regional boundaries. Region 20 was eliminated and the choruses were dispersed in four direc-

tions. The Lincolnaire Chorus became part of Region 7 to our South, rejoining our former friends. Lincolnaire competed in Region 7 in 2003 for the first time since 1976.

The chorus has achieved many awards and medals throughout the years. Their first medal was won in 1976 when they placed 3rd. They had 49 members on stage. This was also the year they were placed in Region 20 after boundaries were changed and had to leave many friends in Region 7.



In 1983 the chorus received their second medal. The chorus placed second with 48 members on stage. This was the year competition was held in their home town of Lincoln, NE. In 1991, with 45 members on stage and in 1992, with 48 members on stage, the chorus placed second each year.

Finally in 1993 the chorus took their first championship with 47 members on stage singing their up tune "Georgia Brown" and ballad "All The World and Its Gold". In 1994, the chorus qualified to participate in their first International competition in Reno, NV where they placed in the top twenty with 57 members on stage. This began the chorus' winning streak until they placed second in 2003.

Karen resigned as long time director on April 13, 2004. Since this time the chorus has faced many challenges and a rocky climb back up. Now the chorus is back on track with two great co-directors Pat Henry and Karen Randall. This summer they have gained six new members with hopes of growing even more in 2011. This

past year at regional contest the chorus was awarded second place small chorus.

Chorus Directors

Karen Randall was introduced to barbershop when her Mother, Bette Karre, joined the chorus in 1980. While still in high school, Karen didn't sing in the chorus but helped out on shows by running the spotlight or whatever her Mom would sign her up to do. After a phone call from Bette after competition in 1991, Karen joined the chorus in June of that year. Karen has held several positions within the chorus, Treasurer, Section Leader, Tape Evaluator, and for the last 4 years, Co-Director.

Along with her 5 Regional Chorus championship medals, Karen earned a Novice Quartet Regional award in 1993 with Pat Henry in "Dazzle", and 3 second place Quartet Regional medals with her Mother and Sister in "Rave Revue".

Pat Henry sings tenor and is a Charter Member of the Lincolnaire Chorus. She started singing barbershop harmony in 1970. She has served in many different areas of the chorus, served in different areas in 3 different Regions and is now back in Region #7. Pat is now a Co-Director of the Lincolnaire Chorus. Pat directed the Great Plains Chorus, Ozark Belles in Springfield, MO, and started a chorus in Branson, MO. Pat won two different Regional's, 1978 & 1984 in Region #20 with her quartet. She loves to teach the art of Barbershop Harmony. She is a widow, has 4 grown children, 9 Grandchildren and 1 Great Grandson. God has blessed me richly with the gift of music and I love sharing the ministry of barbershop harmony.

The chorus has been busy this summer with member recruitment and performances at the fair and sharing their music with many retirement homes. Two new quartets formed this summer. Fever! Is Karen Randall, LaRee Eck-

man, Stacie Truax all from the Lincolnaires and Annette Wallace a member of Acappella Omaha. Nostalgia is Pat Henry, Barb Cockerill, Bev Grossoehmig and Bette Karre all members of the Lincolnaires.

The chorus will be busy this fall with their style show Cruisin' into the 50's October 9 and their Holiday show Come on a Sleigh ride with the Lincolnaires December 12. Their Holiday show will be open to all female singers who are invited to sing with the chorus starting Oct 19 to learn the holiday music and perform with them.

The chorus is excited about their growth and can't wait for our new members to experience competition this fall and meet all the wonderful people in Region 7.

