

One Voice

Midwest Plains REGION 7

SPRING 2011

A Midwest Plains Region 7 Sweet Adelines International Publication

Battle of the Barbershop Stars!

There is still time to nab an
observation spot

for Region 7's outrageous

"BATTLE OF THE BARBERSHOP STARS!"

June 3-5, 2011, Kansas City Marriott Downtown, 200 W. 12th St., KC, MO

Featuring two barbershop star director/choreographer teams

*Jim Arns & Renee Porzell and

*Jean Barford & Cindy Hansen

as they battle it out with YOU as their chorus members!

Registration for this crazy weekend of learning, laughter and song is \$99 per person...the experience of singing for and learning from the best of the best for an entire weekend...**PRICELESS!**

All registrants should have received a chorus assignment and information to get the music and learning tracts. If you have registered and have not been notified, please email Rosemary Olas (rosemaryfc7@embarqmail.com) or Alison Crannell (alison.crannell@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

Getting to Know You

Sound of the Heartland Chorus



Even as you enter a Sound of the Heartland rehearsal, you can *feel it*.

It's what motivates a busy professional to put aside her work, a dedicated mother to part from her family for the evening, a careful teacher to put aside the papers she's grading and a retiree to break for a few hours from her daily routine. It's Thursday night and

each of the women showing up for rehearsal know they can expect an experience they don't find elsewhere during the week.

The music is prepared. The interpretation is honed. The choreography is rehearsed. Vocal skills are taught and attended to. Yet, there's something else present that's absolutely intangible. It's the inspiration for rehearsal. It's the sense of joy!

The chorus is not so much a chorus as an ensemble. With 17 members, the ensemble is clearly one of the smaller choruses in the region. But big, full sound sometimes comes in small packages. They break the conventional wisdom that "*less is less*". It's an ensemble that delights in blazing trails. It's a group that has aspirations to be innovative in the Sweet Adelines organization and appealing to those outside of it. All of this is created and nurtured by an intuitive and artful director.

real women.
real harmony.
real fun. 

Getting to Know You



Sound of the Heartland director, LaDonna Cheatham fell in love with Sweet Adelines Int'l when introduced to a prospective chorus in McPherson, KS, in 1982. That unexpected meeting gave her the opportunity to find out what God knew all along, that she was a performer, singer, director and educator. She learned everything she could about our craft as quickly as someone would teach her and became an official member of Sweet Adelines in 1986. She became the director of McPherson Chorus in Jan 1985, a Certified Director shortly after the program began in 1996, and a Master Director of the current 2011 Region 7 Div. A Champion & Audience Favorite Award Winner, Sound of the Heartland Chorus. She has competed internationally both as a director & chorus member and has earned as high as 5th place in a quartet & 3rd place in a chorus. LaDonna has been a member of the Region 7 music staff for several years, making learning tracks, and coaching choruses and quartets regularly.

Even with all that, her first love is her high school sweetheart, Tony. They moved to McPherson from southwest Kansas in 1977 and live there along with their two sons, two daughters, & 4 grandchildren (who are clearly her second love). LaDonna and her husband are the owners of several businesses, one which they are just now starting. They love to go to the lake north of KC, watch & play sports, spend time with their children & grandchildren and are beginning to enjoy some extended traveling.

Membership

from Phyllis Van Horn,
Region 7 Membership
Coordinator

Is your chapter struggling just to maintain current membership numbers, let alone grow to the size you were five years ago? If so, you're not alone. Sweet Adeline chapters world-wide are struggling to grow. The same is true for many other volunteer organizations. We all can think of reasons for declining membership, the Economy primary among them; aging population, work-place demands, other hobby options are other valid reasons.

Like most all other Sweet Adeline regions, Region 7's membership has shown a steady decline over the past decade. Your Region 7 Management Team believes our chapters can maintain their memberships and even thrive, despite what's going on in the world around us. The five regions that participated in the "One Message, One Voice Pilot Project" in 2009 experienced a much smaller membership loss than all the other regions. Your Management Team believes that with a little extra effort, Region 7 can show a net membership increase of 20 new members!

You already know the effect shrinking membership numbers have. Effects like fewer members to share the workload so education and fundraising suffers, a decline in performance quality so your competition scores don't improve, you may not get as many sing-out opportunities, poor morale and less fun. Well, your Regional Management Team believes it doesn't have to be that way!

That's why the Region 7 Management Team is announcing a membership challenge beginning May 1, 2011 and running through April 30, 2012. The chapter with the second highest percentage of membership growth will receive 20 free registrations to a Region 7 music school. The chapter showing the greatest percentage of membership growth will receive (Are you ready for this? Drum roll, please) one coaching session with the coach of their choice, up to \$1,000. Now, isn't that incentive enough to make you want to spread the word to friends, future friends and complete strangers telling them how much fun you have at your chapter events?

Meanwhile, your chapter has an assignment. If you want to win a challenge as exciting as this, you have to have a plan. Your president or team leader has already been told to expect a call from an RMT member. Then, she's been asked to help her chapter set a membership goal. Next, she'll ask you to help her create a plan to attract exactly the kind of members you want and retain most all of your current members. Please be flexible if your chapter leaders should ask you to find some extra time outside of rehearsal to meet with the RMT representative. You'll want to be there when the prizes you have a chance to win are announced!

News from the RMT

As of May 1, 2011, Region 7 welcomes 2 new members to the Regional Management Team!



Jill Vanderpool from RiverSong will begin serving the Region as Finance Coordinator.



Sue Moore from Sound of the Heartland Chorus will begin her term as Marketing Coordinator.



Rosemary Olas from Show Me Sound Chorus will be transferring from the role of Finance Coordinator to that of Events Coordinator.

These changes mean we must say fond farewells to members of the RMT who have been serving the Region faithfully for several years.



Linda Smith, Kansas City Chorus, is “retiring” from her role as Events Coordinator. Having served as Finance Coordinator before that, Linda has been a “go to” gal for the Region and we will miss her many talents and contributions.



Jane Tham, Harmony Central Chorus, will be leaving the role of Marketing Coordinator, having held that position for 6 years. Jane was instrumental in the development of this new role and has served our Region tirelessly, especially through the introduction and implementation of the International “One Voice” campaign, securing Region 7’s role as a beta site.

We want to extend our thanks to both Linda and Jane for their years of service and wish them both the best. We’ll still be seeing the around (and may be calling on them, again!).

2011 Regional Competition Results

Congratulations to our winners!

| Award | Score | Name |
|--|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1st Place Quartet | 604 | Legacy |
| 2nd Place Quartet | 580 | FEVER! |
| 3rd Place Quartet | 570 | JAZZ! |
| 4th Place Quartet | 537 | Applause |
| 5th Place Quartet | 533 | Harmonia |
| Most Improved Quartet | Improved 86 Points | Wild Hearts |
| Quartet Audience Appreciation Award | | 4's Company |
| 1st Place Chorus and 1st place Division AA Chorus | 596 | Wamego Dutch Mill |
| 2nd Place Chorus and 2nd place Division AA Chorus | 557 | Acappella Omaha |
| 3rd place Division AA Chorus | 533 | Emerald City |
| 4th Place Chorus and 4th place Division AA Chorus | 521 | Harmony Central |
| 5th Place Chorus, 1st place Division A Chorus, Ruby Pike Award | 514 | Sound of the Heartland |
| Kathy Cornish Star Chorus Award | | Sound of the Heartland |



1st Place Quartet
Legacy

Star Award Winners:

Debra French, RiverSong
Linda Rousser, Wamego Dutch Mill
Joni Klawitter, Harmony Central



**1st Place Chorus and
1st place Division AA Chorus**
Wamego Dutch Mill

Butterfly Award:

Jeanette Hines, RiverSong

For Your Calendar

| Date | Description | Faculty | Location |
|------------------------|--|--|--|
| June 3-5, 2011 | Battle of the Barbershop Stars | Jim Arns/Renee Porzel Jean Barford/Cindy Hansen | Downtown Marriott Kansas City MO |
| August 5-6, 2011 | Leadership Retreat | Kathy Carmody/Dr. Leslie Galbreath | Northwest Missouri State Maryville MO |
| August 20, 2011 | Wichita Chorus Annual Show | | Wichita KS |
| August 27, 2011 | Emerald City Chorus Annual Show | | Wichita KS |
| September 16-17, 2011 | Fall Music School and Tribute to the Top | Vickie Maybury | Capital Plaza Hotel Topeka, KS |
| October 1 | Harmony Central Annual Show | | Des Moines, IA |
| October 18-22, 2011 | International Convention | | Houston TX |
| November 5 | Acappella Omaha Annual Show | | Omaha, NE |
| November 11-12, 2011 | RMT Strategic Planning Meeting | | TBD |
| December 10 | Sunflower Harmony Christmas Show | | Topeka, KS |
| February 3-4, 2012 | Winter Music School | Sandy Robinson Marron | TBD |
| March 29-April 1, 2012 | Regional Competition | | Overland Park Convention Center |

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If not, go to the Region 7 website and click on the link! You will receive an e-mail that will provide a link for you to confirm your subscription. Once you have clicked on that link, you will be subscribed.