



*May the
Blessings, Love,
Peace
&
Harmony*

*of this holiday season
be with you all year
long!*

Your Region 4 Management Team.....

*Sharon, Kathie, Toula, Bev, Sue, Peggy
Wendy, Jonelle, Pam, Marlene, Bethany*

Mark your Calendar! Region 4 Educational and Competition Events-

JANUARY 2012

20-22 Winter Warmup
Faculty: Tori Postma

APRIL

19-20 Region 4 Competition

CHORUS SHOWS

Dec. 4th—Capital City
Dec. 4th—Gem City
2.28.12-White River Sound

Chorus Chatter—Capital City Chorus

It seems that we were just reminded that, indeed, it's December! Last week I'm not sure I could have found my winter gloves and at the grocery store I saw a woman wearing shorts, so short they really only qualified as a costume! Hmmmm....

Our chorus has been keeping busy with rehearsals for our annual Christmas show, a coaching session with our favorite coach, Betty Clipman, and planning for our Special Rehearsal for the Global Open House in January, and our performance at Winter Warmup.

To Scioto Valley Chorus, Pride of Kentucky Chorus, In Sync and Lucky Day quartets, we're still talking about your performances at International competition. Capital City is so proud and happy for all of you. Just in case you've not heard it enough... **THANK YOU** for representing us all so well.

We hope you can meet up with us at **Ransburg Auditorium on the campus of the University of Indianapolis, at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday December 4th**. Bring some family and friends, bring your chorus buddies, cause as you probably know, we're gonna have a really good time! Capital City Chorus will be presenting **HOLIDAY HARMONY 2011** December 4th, at 2:30 p.m., and back by popular demand... the staging of "The Twelve Days of Shopping!" Pretty fun!

Don't keep this a secret... tell everyone. Call, text, twitter or tweet! Check out our web site for even more information and directions, or call Santa's secret direct cell number at the North Pole, for even more details, some of which you may or may not need to know now or later, or ever!

May your days be merry and bright! See everyone in January.

Gale for Capital City Chorus



Guests and members alike happened to show up to CCC rehearsal one night decked out in animal prints... it surely called for a picture of Wendy, Vickie, Stephanie and Darlene! These "wild" women had a fabulous time at rehearsal.



Chorus Chatter—Scioto Valley Chorus

Dreams Really Do Come True!

The eighteen months leading up to Houston were jam packed full of things that members of Scioto Valley Chorus needed to accomplish. Like kind and loving *task masters*, our directors, Char and Kerry kept us moving in the right direction. Our wonderful coaches Betty Clipman, Joe Connelly and Erin Howden checked our movement, corrected our direction, if we faltered, and continued to encourage us.

On October 3, 2011 we presented our dress rehearsal to a packed audience of approximately 375 people in our rehearsal hall at Northwestern Presbyterian Church in Dublin. We were ready to go to Houston, and we knew it!

Beginning on October 16, 2011 waves of SVC members and their families headed to Houston and to the Hilton Americas hotel. What a gorgeous site for this exciting week! The entire venue was wonderful, and as the excitement began to build, chorus members almost had to pinch themselves to be sure we were **really there!** Our first rehearsals were mind blowing! Joe was with us and continued to encourage us by saying how wonderful we sounded and how surprised the entire Sweet Adelines world would be to hear us sing for the first time as “wildcards” on the international stage. There were some doubters, but by and large everyone was beginning to believe that we could make the **Top Ten!!**

Thursday dawned a beautiful and exciting day. We went in mass to the Toyota Center to support our sister chorus, Pride of Kentucky, hoping they would make the **Top Ten!** The Center was buzzing with excitement and we knew that by the time we arrived back there for our performance as contestant #26, the audience would be huge! Slightly after 5PM we boarded the buses, rode to the Toyota Center, experienced the warm-up room and were ready to share everything we practiced for. Nothing can match the feelings we had as we walked that ramp to the big stage! The thrill of hearing the crowd, the announcement of Scioto Valley Chorus and the walk to our places on stage is something than none of us will forget!

continued

SCIOTO VALLEY CHORUS—CONTINUED

How quickly the whole thing was over and how good we felt as we all agreed that we had followed “the plan” and the rest was up to the judges! Sitting in our seats in Section E, where everyone could see us well, we listened to the remainder of the 33 choruses sing before the announcement of the **Top Ten!** Everyone in the Center was on pins and needles as the lucky ten choruses were announced in the order they would perform for the Finals on Saturday. When the announcement of #8 was made as Scioto Valley Chorus the entire floor area erupted in excitement. We had accomplished our dream, and we **really** were going to perform in the Finals on Saturday!

Two more rehearsals and plenty of praise and support from our coaches, friends and family found us ready again to board the buses headed to our Finals performance as part of the **Top Ten** choruses in the world!! Nothing could compare to the “high” we all felt as we stepped onto the ramp behind the huge stage listening to the roar of the crowd as they announced **The Scioto Valley Chorus!**

We gave the performance we had all planned and trained for to thunderous applause. We had standing ovations which were especially warm and wonderful as we reentered the Toyota Center and took our seats awaiting the announcement of the **Top Ten** choruses in reverse order. As the directors and chorus presidents took the stage and the names were called, the tension increased to the point that the air crackled! Chorus members were holding hands as the countdown continued and the scores were read. Realizing that we would be receiving “a Big Girl” medal was such a sweet surprise! When our name was called as **Fourth Place Chorus** the applause was resounding. To be in fourth place in the company of large choruses, as a “wild card” chorus, was a dream come true! Who needed an airplane to fly home on.....we were flying high back to Dublin to begin planning for our future!

continued

SCIOTO VALLEY CHORUS -CONTINUED

What is happening now that we are home and our feet have all touched the ground? We have sung our fourth annual Scarlet and Grey Cabaret on November 11, 2011. This event is always such a good time for everyone and this year it was especially so with “big girl” medals around our necks! Cheering on the Buckeyes, singing our competition songs and “feeling the love” from all our fans was definitely a blast and a great memory to add to our wonderful collection of memories from this fall!

SVC would like to thank everyone who supported us on this exciting journey to Houston. We so appreciated the pep rally that Region 4 held to share their excitement of having two choruses on the international stage. We are looking forward to Winter Warm-Up and Regionals when we can once again all be together to celebrate our hard work and the outstanding women of Region 4.



Sweet Adeline Spotlight....

Jan Wilkins, White River Sound Chorus

50 year member

Let us celebrate the wonderful Jan Wilkins. This October at International in Houston, Texas, Jan was honored on stage for reaching the 50th year of her Sweet Adeline career. A lifetime resident of Indiana, Jan first learned of Sweet Adelines by reading about the Muncie chapter in a newspaper. The Muncie chapter was the oldest chapter in Region 4 until it disbanded in the 1990s. During her first few years with Muncie, Jan was also a part of a younger chorus called Typical City. During her time with the Muncie chapter, Jan sang tenor, then lead, then baritone, and held various Board of Director positions and chaired several committees.



Jan was also part of Muncie's front row, where she has many fond memories. She has always loved the work that goes into preparing for contests and shows. One time in contest, Muncie sang "Get Me to the Church on Time." She remembers there being only a few choreography moves; however, there was one key part to the song that required precise timing. Jan and her fellow chorus members each had a flower bouquet pinned on the back of each of their dresses with a ribbon. (The chorus was to put out the bouquets at a specific moment in the song.) When Jan went to reach for her bouquet, it did not come unpinned! She had to pretend to have a bouquet in her hand for the rest of the song. One of the judges noted that she did not even notice the absence of Jan's bouquet of flowers! Under pressure, Jan acted with such poise and professionalism!

After a great Sweet Adeline start with the Muncie chapter, Jan decided to join Heart of Indiana from 1989 to 1997, where Molly Huffman convinced Jan to sing bass, the voice part Jan has been singing ever since. Jan then moved her talents to Gem City Chorus in 1997 and went to International with the chorus three times, including Gem City's 3rd place finish in 2004. Jan has often traveled to International as a spectator. Her favorite memory was during her very first International in 1974. Major League baseball playoffs were occurring simultaneously in the city, and Jan remembers walking down the street with her three roommates and seeing Bill Cosby and Red Skelton! Jan speaks fondly of her years with Gem City and thought it was a privilege to sing under Jean Barford, a member of her favorite quartet, The Sounds of Music, 1974 Queens of Harmony. At the end of 2004, for three months Jan became Chapter at Large for the first and only time before joining White River Sound, her current chorus, in February 2006.

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Sweet Adeline Spotlight...Jan Wilkins

continued

Jan has a husband, three sons, one daughter, five grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. Jan's husband, Fred, has been a photographer his whole life and has been the official photographer for each of Jan's choruses.

Jan stayed at home and raised her four children for fifteen years before working as a teacher's aide. Jan then decided to go to Ball State University to earn her Bachelors of Science in Environmental Health, followed by two Masters Degrees in Health Science and Natural Resources. Jan had a excellent career working as a county health inspector, retiring eight years ago.

It must be mentioned that Jan has accomplished all of these amazing things throughout her life as a 1940s polio survivor. For almost her entire Sweet Adelines career, Jan has not needed any aid while standing on the risers for rehearsals, shows, or competitions. It has just been within the past two years that Jan has decided to sit during rehearsals. This attests to the fact that Jan is a woman of great strength. Jan is every bit as generous as she is strong. In her 20s, Jan would receive a ride to Muncie rehearsals from another chorus member, so her husband could stay at home with their children. Jan appreciated this act of kindness from her friend, and from then on, Jan made it a point to give car rides to anyone she could help.

Since joining 50 years ago, Jan has seen Sweet Adelines transform by leaps and bounds, especially through choreography and its increasing amount of body movement. Jan believes that Sweet Adelines "can't get any better. It's just fabulous," as she and her chorus, White River Sound, make every attempt to do "everything [they] can to put Sweet Adelines into the world." Jan advises her fellow Region 4 members to "try to promote Sweet Adelines and always try to invite. Thank you, Jan, for sharing your experiences, wisdom, and strength!

Sweet Stats

Jan Wilkins

Voice parts sung: ALL FOUR!

Number of quartets: Multiple "for fun" quartets

Number of choruses: 5

Usual riser position: No specific spot, but likes to have the other three parts nearby

In memoriam.....Jim Miller



It is with a heavy heart that we mourn the passing of a giant in the world of barbershop harmony. Thursday evening, October 27th 2011, we lost the wonderful Jim Miller, otherwise known as "Mr. Barbershop." Jim not only directed The Louisville Thoroughbred Chorus to an International championship six times and The Southern Gateway Chorus of Cincinnati once, but sang a beautiful lead with the well-known and loved Citations quartet. He was, however, much more than a championship musician. He was a loving family man, respected athlete, recipient of two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star and Prisoner of War medal from World War II, a businessman, photographer, and an inspiration to many.

Jim's talents were endless and he was always willing to share his knowledge, enthusiasm and love of barbershop harmony. He directed Sweet Adeline choruses Kentuckyana and Derby City, and coached and encouraged the Pride of Kentucky Chorus in which his daughter Kathy Miller-Hawkins and granddaughter Kris Hawkins-Wheaton sing. He was home cheering both the chorus and Kris's quartet, Lucky Day, during competition in Houston.

Barbershop is a family affair when it comes to the Millers. His son-in-law, Jay Hawkins, sang a mean bass with the International Championship quartets "Interstate Rivals" and "Marquis" and is currently singing with his son-in-law, Drew Wheaton, in "The Franchise" quartet who just won the Johnny Appleseed district contest. The family affair goes on and on with his grandson, J.J. Hawkins, who sings with sixth place Kentucky Vocal Union chorus and his daughter Donnas' son, Billy Crutcher, who sang many years in his grandfather's choruses. Needless to say, they even have a family quartet. Many of us also know the rest of the family, wife Rosemary, daughter, Donna and granddaughter, Stephanie, who worked for years by his side when he made many of us smile at contest with the click of his camera and his creative touch with Miller Photography.

Showman is not a big enough word to explain Jim's bigger than life energy and fire on stage. When he appeared on stage the world was mesmerized and the music he created was from the heart and a true gift to experience. Not only was he a fine musician and teacher, but he had enough love and passion to make you want to work and excel... sometimes with a bit of encouragement the Jim Miller way! He has touched my life and the lives of so many of us in so many ways that he will be forever in our hearts. Thank you Jim, we will always remember "The Sunshine of Your Smile!"

Betty Lou Coleman – Pride of Kentucky Chorus

Miller Photography, 2226 Bardstown Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40205

Chorus Chatter—Gem City Chorus

With our December 4th Christmas Concert fast approaching, November has been an action-packed month for Gem City. We've been thrilled to have seventeen women coming to our rehearsals to work on several holiday songs. They will be featured in our Concert and will join us onstage as part of our Women's A Capella Chorus. You can see them sparkle at 3 pm on Sunday, December 4th at the West Carrollton High School Performing Arts Auditorium, 5833 Student St., West Carrollton, 45449. The Christmas Concert will also feature the talented young men of the Darlington Brothers quartet, the Centerville High School contemporary jazz vocal ensemble Forte and our own regional medalist quartet Uptown Sound. Call (937) 433-1014 for tickets (\$10 in advance, \$12 at the door).

Gem City members were already feeling the holiday spirit as they took part in a Dayton holiday tradition on the Friday after Thanksgiving, singing at the downtown tree-lighting event known as the "Grande Illumination." The mild weather was a special bonus for the thousands of people who came out for the gala evening as well as for the singers who have braved freezing temperatures in years past. After the performance, everyone revived with pizza and camaraderie.

On the weekend before Thanksgiving, Gem City held a getaway retreat with coach and Sweet Adeline extraordinaire Sharon Babb to focus on music for competition. You've heard of dancing cheek-to-cheek.....Well, check out the photo in which members are *singing* cheek-to-cheek! This was an exercise she gave us to demonstrate the blending of sound with those around us. We had a productive and fun time with the fabulous Sharon who is not only an insightful coach, but a literate world traveler with many stories to tell. We're looking forward to working with her again.



We're wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year! Hope to see you on December 4th!

Submitted by Jo Anne Gunderlock

Chorus Chatter—Voice of America Chorus

by Julie Zalewski

VOA Chorus Having a Fabulous Fall

Our chorus has been very busy over the past couple of months. On September 25th we had our first show and what a great success it was! The Ronald Reagan Lodge at Voice of America Park was transformed into a 1950's/60's-style diner complete with jukeboxes and inflatable guitars. On the tables, our guests found bowls made from real record albums and candy root beer floats (which were given away as door prizes). Entitled “*Sundae at the VOA*,” it was a scripted show about a local diner about to go “belly up.” The concerned owner, played by chorus Team Leader, Jane Buehler, enlists the help of a talent agent (a.k.a. Steve Shively, our wild and wacky emcee and member of *E-Ticket* quartet). The acts included in the show were the “acts” that Steve auditioned to help bring in new business for the diner.

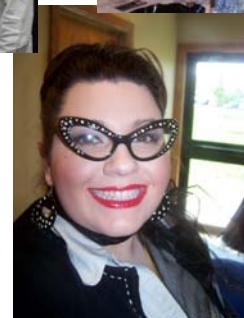
In addition to songs interjected by the chorus (waitresses who would rather sing than work), we had everything from a guitar group, to a saxophone player, to a group of elementary school singers. The children were from Adena Elementary School here in West Chester, Ohio. Led by their music director Stacey Pease, who just happens to be one of our own chorus members, the children stole our hearts, the hearts of our audience, all while their proud parents looked on.

Featured barbershop performers included men's quartets *Forte*, *E-Ticket*, *The Darlington Brothers*, and women's quartets *Sound Advice* and *Uptown Sound*, our current East Central Region 4 fifth place medalists. The chorus sang a variety of “oldies”, including “One Fine Day” and “Breakin' Up is Hard to Do” as well as our two numbers from last April's regional contest. We concluded with “Midnight Serenade,” complete with an onstage lamppost and the chorus wearing “shades.” Homemade ice cream sundaes added to the fun. If you missed it, never fear – we are already making plans for our next show, which will be in the fall of 2012.

Voice of America Chorus members also lent their voices to two Veteran's Day celebrations at St. Theresa School and Adena Elementary school, where Stacey led her entire school in a heartwarming ceremony that honored a large group of veterans, including our own chorus members Rochelle Strack and Beverly McCabe. The chorus led those present in the “Star Spangled Banner,” and later sang “God Bless the USA” and performed our newest patriotic song, David Wright's “Stars and Stripes Forever”. That song should have a warning attached (oh wait, it does), but what a crowd pleaser it is! We were happy to honor those brave men and women who have so selflessly served our country.

To cap things off, on November 14th we were treated to an incredible coaching session with Kim Wonders, director of Metro Nashville Chorus. As many of you know, Kim's chorus just won first place in the AA division of the “Harmony Classic” in Houston. We were attracted by Kim's ability to take a small chorus and identify where that chorus needs improvement and growth—helping them to reach new musical heights. This matched our goals perfectly. Kim provided us with some exciting vocal changes that enhanced our two contest songs. She also offered tips on how to sing with a more resonant sound, totally changing the level and caliber of sound the chorus produced. It will be exciting for Voice of America to apply the new skills that Kim introduced.

We also continue to prepare for our participation in the World Choir Games this summer and to learn holiday music for upcoming December performances. After our fabulous fall, we are looking forward to a wonderful winter. Stay tuned!



Chorus Chatter—Cincinnati Sound Chorus

By Libby McCord

Would any already-pressed-for-time chorus member commit to 200 or more hours a year of extra rehearsals and performances to sing with a small group from within the chorus? Could the group develop a second repertoire in addition to carrying their regular chorus responsibilities? Would the group get gigs? Could a small group benefit Cincinnati Sound as a whole?

Those were some of the questions in September 2009 when the Cincinnati Sound Chorus birthed its ensemble Sound Effects, our very own VLQ. Over two years later, we're happy to report the answers to all of our questions are a resounding "Yes!"

Several hours a month, some two dozen of us practice, perfect, and perform a repertoire ranging from Van Morrison's jazzy "Moondance" to Billy Joel's lilting "Lullabye." Extreme Singing, we called it, the time we had five separate gigs all in one day. Exhilarating. Exhausting. So why do we do it?

Increased confidence was one consensus—you can't hide in a small group, so you learn to master your fear, to sing out, to receive and give feedback. Improved vocal skills was another. Rehearsals are like ongoing PVI's with our director Lynn Hartmuth, and the small membership requires everyone to hold her own—every singer must be disciplined, every part accurate, every voice blended, every time.

We've sung at retirement homes, charity fundraisers, church bazaars, and civic events. It's paying off. All money earned by Sound Effects goes into the general chorus treasury, and this year we've proudly donated time to sing throughout Greater Cincinnati on behalf of the upcoming World Choir Games.

Then there are the intangibles. We've formed deeper friendships—camaraderie is a huge part of the mix. We keep former chorus members involved by inviting them to join us. And last, but by no means least, we get to perform more frequently—that irresistible candy-to-a-baby factor that any Adeline understands.

So why would anyone choose to be in a time-consuming VLQ when she's already a member of a demanding, great chorus like Cincinnati Sound? Perfectly explainable to us.





SAVE THE DATE!

WINTER WARMUP

JANUARY 20-22, 2012

INDIANAPOLIS MARRIOTT EAST HOTEL

7202 E. 21st St., Indianapolis 46219

TORI POSTMA, GUEST FACULTY



Tori Postma, Chorus Director of Mountain Jubilee Chorus, Salt Lake City. She is a dynamic, multi-faceted and energetic woman; a Certified Showmanship Judge; a quartet baritone, and former IBOD member. Our judging panel in April emphasized the need for our regional choruses and competing quartets to get a better handle on

characterization, to further enhance the salesmanship of our musical product. Tori's specialties match our region's educational needs. A quote from Tori says it all: "I want everyone I coach or teach to have increased self-esteem because they have some new tools in their musical performance repertoire".

PLUS.....

- * Catch A Rising Star Contest
- * Show of Champions
- * Open coaching with Capital City Chorus
- * Education! Fun! Camaraderie!
- * First rehearsal for Region 4 World Choir Games Chorus, directed by Jean Barford
- * Breakouts for chapter leaders
- * Friday evening RMT Regional Leader's Reception
- * And so much MORE!!