



Fourcaster Lite

June 2011 Issue

Mark your Calendar!

JUNE

3-4 Leader's Retreat
Faculty: Patty Cobb Baker

SEPTEMBER

9-10 Quartet Workshop
Faculty: Jean Barford

23-24 Chorus Coaching
Faculty: Jean Barford

NOVEMBER

4-5 Chorus Coaching
Faculty: Jean Barford

JANUARY 2012

20-22 Winter Warmup
Faculty: Tori Postma

APRIL

19-20 Region 4 Competition

Leaders Retreat—June 3 & 4th

All of Region 4's musical leaders have the opportunity to attend a fabulous Leader's Retreat, being held at the Doubletree Guest Suites in Cincinnati/Sharonville!

Guest International Faculty is none other than Patty Cobb Baker, Vocal Coach and Teacher, Touche Quartet Singer, IBOD member, International Secretary, Chair of the Regional Leadership Committee, Vocal education coordinator for Harborlites Chorus and Owner of ExpressYourself! WHEW!!!! Talk about credentials!!!

Special sessions will be held on: The Human Body as a Musical Instrument; Breath Support with exercises; Balancing and Blending the voice with Horizontal Singing; Going for the Flow; Enhancing your teaching skills; and further development of PVI programs.

EDUCATION?~YES!!!!

FUN?—YES!!!!

CAMARADERIE? DEFINITELY!!!!

Thanks Region 4 for this GREAT opportunity!!

FourCaster Articles can be submitted ANY time during the month for publication in the following month's issue.

Article deadlines are the last day of each month!

***So don't delay...send your article in TODAY to
FourCaster Editor: Sue Pelley, suepel@aol.com!***

The more chorus and quartet news I have to publish...the BETTER!

CHORUS CHATTER

COLUMBUS CHORUS, submitted by Jane Underwood

It's spring in Central Ohio, and it's been raining. In between the rain drops, the members of Columbus Chorus have been busy singing in the community, preparing for competition and installing new officers. Even though we had worked on our competition pieces before January, there is just something about ramping up the work before competition that makes it so much busier and exciting. This year we had a brand new member (very very new) going to competition with us; seeing the process through Lynda's eyes (explaining "all in ones" is always a treat) made it new for all of us. Even though it made for an earlier competition day than usual we also enjoyed seeing and cheering the competition packages of the smaller choruses. We're very happy with our 2nd place medals, and had a great time on stage.

The Sweet Adeline's year ends with such a flurry of activity – persuading people to run for the Management Team, holding elections, deciding on our Sweet Adeline of the Year, and installing the new team. This year Columbus honored two members as **Sweet Adeline of the Year** – our team manager **Mary Stanley** and music team member **Sandy Lust!** These two members have worked diligently and creatively for the betterment of Columbus Chorus.

Change is in the air with the appointment of Kathy Larkins as co-director with Master Director Mary Ellen Guntzelman. Earlier in the spring Mary Ellen voiced her desire to work with a co-director as she worked out her plans to eventually retire as the director of Columbus Chorus. We applaud Mary Ellen, Kathy and the Management Team for providing the chorus with the comfort of knowing there is a continuity plan evolving and that Mary Ellen will have back-up as needed as the plan is developing. As Kim Lawrence noted during the installation, Mary Ellen will use her whip while Kathy uses her taser to bring Columbus Chorus into our new era. Columbus Chorus co-directors have style, class and panache – sweet!

CHORUS CHATTER

WHITE RIVER SOUND

WRS has been busy busy busy! Competition in April—WE LOVE our 3rd place medals! I think some of our members are still sleeping with theirs around their necks!

Our Installation featured a scary Godfather theme! Congrats to **Sweet Adeline of the Year, Kay Rodewald**, and our coveted **Director's Award for Musical Achievement** went to **Gaby Allen!**

It's now on to fundraiser gear as we host two back-to-back Bike Rallies—the Morse Lake Metric and the June Bug ride! We bake dozens and dozens of cookies, which our riders LOVE—and we also serenade them as they ride with a variety of chorus quartets!! Lots of fun for us and we raise LOTS of money for our treasury!

CHORUS CHATTER

CAPITAL CITY CHORUS

THE DAY THE LIGHTS WENT OUT IN COVINGTON

SING! What a joy to be singing again with and for those who love the harmony of barbershop! And what a surprise when the lights went out on Friday, and with superb timing, right after From The Heart walked off the stage! And Shirley Robertson had a smile on her face when a convention center staff member looked through the convention center freight elevator window and said, "We'll get you outta there." The convention center staff and Duke Energy came through with only an hour and sixteen minute delay in the contest. Whew!

We want to congratulate Capital City's quartets, all in the top 10, with She's My Alibi capturing the Most Improved Quartet award. Kudos to Marlene Brauchle being named the Coach of the Year. At our end of year celebration, Mary Ann Shields was named Capital City's Sweet Adeline of the Year.

Capital City Chorus is thrilled to be your regional chorus champions! Now that we're back home (some have finally stopped wearing their medals, even while sleeping), we're preparing for a couple of upcoming special performances, and one is the 500 Festival Memorial Day Service on the Circle at the end of May. We're looking forward to the work and preparation for international competition in Denver 2012 and will be proud to represent Region #4.

CHORUS CHATTER

PRIDE OF KENTUCKY

Pride of Kentucky is hard at work—blasting off for HOUSTON!!! We continue to be thrilled to be representing Region 4 at this year's International contest! And gosh, it seems like October is right around the corner!

We've been busy with fundraising—our annual chorus garage sale is right around the corner!

And we've been busy with coaching. Dale Syverson spent the day with us a few weeks back, and it was a fabulous experience for everyone. Awesome Joe Connelly continues to work his magic! We're working on a FUN filled and LIVELY show package that we hope we get to perform in Houston!

Our summer is filled with extra rehearsals, coachings, a retreat, and our Houston Dress Rehearsal on Saturday October 8th!

And we're also especially proud to be providing the entertainment for the September 29th, Kentucky Medal of Honor Patriot Night Ceremony at the YUM Center in Louisville! It promises to be a very special evening for all of us!

CHORUS CHATTER

CINCINNATI SOUND-2011 A GREAT YEAR INDEED!!



MORE CHORUS CHATTER FROM CINCINNATI SOUND!



CHORUS CHATTER

VOICE OF AMERICA, submitted by Lois Rafferty



Maria—teaching a TAG at a recent rehearsal! You Go GIRL!!

Fun abounds at every meeting of the Voice of America (VOA) Chorus. At the very first rehearsal our Director Traci Martin made it clear that IF we were not having fun, then something was wrong. So we are all about having a good time and making some great harmony.

Regional competition was a wonderful experience for the entire chorus, especially for our brand new Sweet Adeline members. We had plenty of time to rehearse, laugh, practice choreography, laugh some more, have an adult beverage and laugh some more again. Talk about having a relaxed environment to bond in! We hope to always be able to convey to our audiences that great singing can be and is great fun as well.

“How do you solve a problem like Maria?”

At VOA chorus we put Maria, who is 13 years old, on the front row so all her fans could see her. And at rehearsal, we have her teaching all of membership new TAGS. This amazing young lady is a “barbershop brat,” who has an amazing singing voice. She’s great at teaching us TAGS, and has no problem demonstrating all four parts. After competition Maria and her entire family were heard singing “Jingle Bell Rock” at a local Covington restaurant that had been taken over by the VOA chorus for our group celebration. We are very blessed to have Maria Zink and her singing family. (We should note that mom Bonnie is now a new baritone at VOA!). Some of our members think that Maria is a Queen-in-waiting. Others just want to grow up and be Maria in their next life. So next time you see Maria at a barbershop event, ask her to sing the baritone part to the TAG of “Sleepy Time Down South”. I’m sure she will surprise you!

Being part of the chartering of our new VOA chorus has been a great experience for all of us. We are blessed with so many helpers from Region 4 as well as mentors who seem to come when you need them the most. We hope to be part of many regional events as well as looking forward to competing again in the future.