



ANNIVERSARIES!
Harmony Roses-5 years
City Voices-10 years
Danville-40 years
Heart of Iowa-45 years
St. Louis Harmony-50 years
Weekend Edition-15 years
Ambiance-25 years
Junior Misses-55 years



February 2011 Newsletter www.sairegion5.org

Editor – Mary Cummings cummings_mary@msn.com

What's Happening!

Feb. 5..... Ellisville, MO - River Blender's - 8:30 a.m. Annual YWIH "Shop for the Ring"

April 7-9, 2011 Region 5 Competition, Springfield IL

July 16, 2011..... St.L Harmony 50th Anniversary Celebration

Aug 26-28, 2011 Music School/Jim Arns & Renee Porzel

October 18-22, 2011 Int'l Competition, Houston, TX

October 29, 2011..... Annual Show, Champaign-Urbana Chorus

Oct. 30-Nov. 3, 2012..... Int'l Competition, Denver, CO

November 5-9, 2013..... Int'l Competition, Honolulu, HI

November 4-8, 2014..... Int'l Competition, Baltimore, MD

October 6-10, 2015 Int'l Competition, Las Vegas

coming soon!
LIVE WEBCAST

Midwest Gateway Region 5 Convention and Competition
 Only \$15.00 to subscribe
 Watch LIVE or Watch later
<http://www.sairegion5.org/>
 AVAILABLE APRIL 7 – 23, 2011

In This Issue

RMT information2
 Team Coordinator.....3
 Communication Coordinator.....3
 Competition Coordinator3-4
 Marketing Coordinator4
 Membership Coordinator.....4
 Director's Coordinator4
 Education Coordinator5
 Events Coordinator5
 Historian.....5
 Vermillion Valley6
 City Voices.....6
 MetroMix6-7
 CU Sweet Adelines.....7
 Danville Show Chorus8
 Heart of Illinois8
 St. Louis Harmony.....8-9
 Heart of Iowa.....9
 River Blenders9
 Heart of Missouri.....10
 Sound Celebration10

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2011 HALL OF FAME AWARD!

<http://www.sairegion5.org/halloffame.htm>

Above is the link to the Region 5 website that explains the Hall of Fame and the nomination form (downloadable) that should be filled out and submitted to:

Judy Kaeser, Membership Coord.

judy.kaeser@gmail.com

DEADLINE – MARCH 15TH



2010-2011 Region 5 Management Team

<p>Team Coordinator Twilla Duval Twilla_Duval@centralbank.net</p>	<p>Events Coordinator Barb Purdum mudrup@sbcglobal.net</p>
<p>Communications Coordinator Linda Larson Gross lindalgross@gmail.com</p>	<p>Finance Coordinator Bev Dupont bnjdupont@att.net</p>
<p>Directors' Coordinator Becky McDuffee becky.mcduffee@gmail.com</p>	<p>Marketing Coordinator Peggy Leon leonleon@charter.net</p>
<p>Education Coordinator Diane Huber dchuber1@juno.com</p>	<p>Membership Coordinator Judy Kaeser judy.kaeser@gmail.com</p>
<p>Associate RMT Member Dennerly Martinez dennerlymartinez@yahoo.com</p>	

Regional Staff

Chyrel Wessell – DCP Coordinator
chysings@mindspring.net

Michelle Adams – YWIH Coordinator
harmonya@hotmail.com
mladams@swa4safety.com

Diana Killian – Competition Coordinator
Dkillian1@gmail.com

Janet Clark, Metro Mix
Boutique Chairman (BC)

Bev DuPont, River Blenders
Official Panel Liaison (OPL)

Linda Gross, St. Louis Harmony
Webcast Chairman (WC)

2011 Competition Steering Committee

Diana Killian, St. Louis Harmony
Competition Coordinator (CC)
Dkillian1@gmail.com

Barb Purdum, River Blenders
Chair of Regional Convention (CRC) and EVC

Janet Lacavich, River Blenders
Champion Assisting Chorus Rep. (CAC)

Karen Beckler, Heart of Illinois
Housing Chairman (HSC)

Lynn Heidenreich, St. Louis Harmony
Registration Chairman (RC)

Celia Kraatz, Danville Chorus
Information Chairman (IC)

Quick note from the Editor:

Hope you all like the looks of the new front page!
Wow! I truly like the new Region 5 logo – don't you?
The RMT did a great job with the new logos!
Thanks to all!

Cheers! Mary

Next Take Five Deadline—

April 20, 2011

Editor: Mary Cummings
cummings_mary@msn.com



NOTES FROM REGIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

**From Twilla Duvall
Team Coordinator**

Oil for Your Lamp

Mac Anderson founded his company on the foundation of "simple truth." He creates beautiful books that anyone can read in less than thirty minutes. To make each book special, they focus on three things: (1) Great content, (2) Great graphics, and (3) Great packaging to create a "wow effect". Sounds a whole lot like a Sweet Adelines performance or competition weekend, doesn't it!

One of my favorite books from Simple Truths is *Oil for Your Lamp*. The book is about women learning to take care of themselves *first* – not last. It speaks to women of all ages, from all walks of life – a celebration of those who light up the world. Now that the holiday panic has receded and contest journey is upon us, please take a moment to reflect upon the message from *Oil for Your Lamp*.



- We are women who light up the world - With our beauty, our creativity, our intelligence.
- Our eyes sparkle as we talk and laugh among ourselves.
- Our smiles radiate warmth and comfort to those who love us.
- Our faces beam happily when we're engaged in fulfilling work.
- We shine, we illuminate, we enlighten.
- We glow softly when contented and burn brightly when passionate.
- But who's the keeper of the flame? Who will fill our lamps?
- We must do it for ourselves, dear sisters.
- We must fill our own lamps first, not last.
- We must commit to our own well-being and self-care, lest our flames flicker out.
- So take some time, sweet sisters, to rest, recoup, relax, and regroup.
- Take time to fill your lamp.
- The world needs your flame – but first, you need your oil.
- The new "Golden Rule" for women is...*We must do unto Ourselves as we do unto others.*

*"To keep a lamp burning we must keep putting oil in it." ~
Mother Teresa*

**Linda Larson Gross
Communication Coordinator
And Webcast Chair, RCSC**

WEBCAST 2011! We are thrilled to announce that Region 5 will be webcasting the quartet and chorus contests this year. Adrian Leontovich, from Seattle, Washington, will be doing the

technical part of the webcast for the weekend. Adrian is a recipient of the Evergreen District's Barbershopper of the Year award for just this type of commitment and expertise he is sharing!

Our commentators for the weekend will be Liz Hardcastle (St. Louis Harmony, Queen of Harmony, Ambiance Quartet) and Diane Huber (Master Director of River Blenders Chorus, Queen of Harmony, Ambiance Quartet) and Pam Royle and Ann Keller (River Blenders Chorus)

Viewers will enjoy getting to know Region 5 better through their eyes as they share information and introduce special guests to the web-audience.

Please watch your email for a Chorus and/or Quartet questionnaire. This will be very helpful to our Commentators during the contest.

There will be a \$15.00 subscription fee to view the webcasts on the 8th and/or 9th, plus you will be able to watch the archive up to 2 weeks following contest weekend. The Region website will soon have details how to subscribe: www.sairegion5.org. If you have any questions, please email me at: lindalgross@gmail.com

Have fun sharing this news with your friends, family and riser buddies! It is an exciting step for Region 5!

"Shout Out" Would you like to send a brief message to family back home? Or send a thank-you to your favorite Coach or Director? We are now accepting Shout Out orders for only \$5.00. Shout Outs are available for Contest Program or Webcast or Both! See this site to order today!

http://www.sairegion5.org/current_convention/shoppingcart.htm

Deadline for Program orders is March 1, 2011

As always, continue to watch the Current Convention web page for updated Contest information.

http://www.sairegion5.org/current_convention.htm

Group Hug!

**Diana Killian, St. Louis Harmony
Competition Coordinator (CC)
dkillian1@gmail.com**

Who says "You can never go home"? For Region 5, Springfield IL feels like home for our contests and this April, we're "Going Home". We tried Peoria and we can now "officially" say, "Been there, done that, got the t-shirt" or in our world "got the ribbon". Regional Competition will once again be held in Springfield, Illinois. The contest will be held at the University of Illinois-Springfield in the Sangamon Auditorium and we will all be housed at the Crowne Plaza.

Contest entry packets have been sent out electronically by Sweet Adelines International in the form of "e-packets". They can also be found on SAI's website www.sweetadelinesintl.org under the



"Competition/Results" tab. Choruses and quartets can register online there as well.

Our contest is fast approaching, which means that the registration deadlines are too! **Quartet entries are due February 7th and Choruses are due February 8th.** The draw for the order of appearance will be done on February 14th. Late entry submissions, which are assessed a \$100 late fee, must be received by International no later than February 22nd for quartets and February 23rd for choruses. Late entrants will be placed at the beginning of the order of appearance.

The riser configuration this year will be alternate, and will NOT have the inverted center section.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, my door (or email) is open (dkillian1@gmail.com).

Peggy Leon
Marketing Coordinator

Hey, Region 5!

"Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow"---NOT!! What a winter so far & sounds like potentially more bad weather yet to come. Can't afford to cancel rehearsals as we get ready for competition. But looking on the "Sunny Side of Life", we have lots of Anniversaries to celebrate this year! **Congratulations!**

Harmony Roses—5 years
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DYN---The TV Reality show "America's Got Talent" is anxious to see the top talents of Sweet Adelines International on their stage. Producers are asking for Sweet Adelines singing groups to register for auditions and schedule an appointment as soon as possible. Auditions are in January (whoops!) & February. Audition information can be found at www.agtauditions.com. The winner gets a \$1,000,000!

WEBCAST & SHOUT OUTS--Time to register for Region 5's 1st Webcast of our Regional Contest! Family & friends who can't be there in person can see the webcast in the comfort of their home for only \$15! What a deal! The webcast will be archived for 2 weeks, so YOU can see the performances of all the other choruses or quartets you missed while in the Pattern.

Aaaaaaaand--how about sending a SHOUT OUT to be delivered either during the Webcast or also, if desired, in the program?!! Information/links found on Region 5 website www.sairegion5.org

See you soon in Springfield!



Judy Kaeser

Membership Coordinator

"Golden Girls"

The DEBUT of a Brand New AWARD to recognize Ladies in Region 5 who have been members of Sweet Adelines for
50 plus years

Will take place during Contest weekend at the Regional Annual Membership Meeting in Springfield, Ill. on

Friday, April 8, 2011

In addition to the presentation of the "Golden Girls," the annual longevity awards will be presented at the RAMM. The next issue of the Regional Competition Bulletin will list each individually.

Support your members by attending and cheering them on.

How is your chorus doing in gaining new members? Are you, as a chorus member, doing your job in bringing in new faces/voices? **It takes every member to recruit, and a very active committee to put the plan in place and keep them coming back.**

The 2011 Hall of Fame award will be presented contest weekend. Nomination forms are on the Regional Website with a **March 15 deadline**. Who do you know that deserves to be among the ranks of the Hall of Fame Inductees of Helen Ryan, Diane Huber and Marian Hoffman?

Becky McDuffee
Directors' Coordinator

I can feel the excitement mounting as we get closer and closer to our contest weekend. **The draw for order of appearance is Valentine's Day, and the deadline to submit your entry form is one week before that.** I love the day they draw when the anticipation steps up another notch.

Here are the songs we'll be singing around during the weekend, if you want to get them out and dust them off.

- Good Old A Cappella
- How We Sang Today
- Harmonize the World
- That's What Friends Are For
- We are Family

I can't wait to sing them with YOU!



Diane Huber
Education Coordinator

Hello Region 5!

How are you this cold and snowy January? All the kiddies are happy and all the grownups are wishing for a heat wave! **Come on January thaw! (How about February thaw?!)**

On February 12th we will hold a Faculty Training Day with our own wonderful International faculty, Dixie Dahlke, Sandi Wright and Marge Zimmerman. Twenty of us will be trained in Team Building, How to Give PVI's, Arm Waving and How to Raise Your Level just to name a few topics. This faculty will be ready to go to work for YOU! Let us know how we can help and we'll be there.

Be sure to mark your calendars for August 26-27th. This is a music seminar you will NOT want to miss! Renee Porzel and Jim Arns are 2 of our very best faculty and I guarantee you will go home saturated with information for yourself and your chorus.

Enjoy your journey to Regional contest! Spending that weekend together is the best! diane xo.

Barb Purdum
Events Coordinator
Chair of Regional Convention

Plans are being completed for this year's convention. We will be adding the deli/buffet at the auditorium on Friday evening during intermission of the quartet contest. I encourage choruses to think about staying at the Crowne on Saturday night for their private chorus dinners. This is such a great time to be with your members in a fun social atmosphere.

Please contact any member of the committee if you have any questions. We are here to serve you and help you in any way possible.

HISTORIAN – Marian Hoffman
“AND THE ANGELS SANG”

A tribute to Floyd Connett

Floyd Connett's funeral was held on September 24, 1963.

...And on this day, September twenty-first, 1963, a lone stranger approached the Heavenly Gates, and asked to be admitted. Whereupon, a voice from within said, “Do you have your credentials?” The stranger said, “I have none” The voice from within said, “If you have no credentials on Earth, then what have you done on Earth that might qualify you to enter?”

And the stranger said, “My life on Earth was devoted to music, which I brought to the rich and the poor, the young and the old, the strong and the weak....to the crippled. I brought my music that I might ease their burdens thru the medium of song - and to

those who could not see, I told them of the beautiful flowers and the trees, and the tired and weary listened –and they were rested. Even the birds in the trees and the babes in their cribs were enchanted by its wonderful sound. And the voice from within said, “Say no more, for you have proven yourself worthy.” And the gates swung open to admit Him.

Having been divested of all Earthly garb and clothed in a long flowing white robe, he was led to a long corridor that contained many beautiful golden harps and trumpets. He was told to select the instrument of his choice, where upon HE spoke and said, and “If I may have the instrument of my choice, I would choose an instrument that I brought with me”. Opening HIS Hand, HE displayed a small round black metallic instrument which HE put to HIS lips and blew a single musical tone.....and it seemed that the Heavens were stilled except for the soft whirring of wings, as the tone died down. Lo and Behold, all of the Belles and the Adelines and the SPEB'S who had preceded Him to Heaven stood there in a large semi-circle divided into four parts.

Suddenly there appeared a brilliant podium which HE mounted, the clouds parted and formed a vast Auditorium into which came thousands and thousands of angels who placed their harps and trumpets on the fleecy white clouds and sat there to listen. It seemed the stars twinkled more brightly and a beautiful rainbow formed a huge backdrop of color while a soft moonbeam shone a mellow spotlight on HIS HANDS.

The stranger then placed the instrument again to HIS LIPS, blew another tone, hummed the four parts, and brought HIS HANDS down. From the lips and the throats of this great CELESTIAL CHORUS, there came the sounds as from a great Pipe Organ - never had they heard such beautiful music, and as HE moved HIS Hands and the volume increased, the Heavens rang out with great Harmony. If you had listened real close, you might have heard Him say in a soft whisper, “Watch those attacks and releases and that tone quality!” Finally, as this vast audience sat spellbound and marveled at the precision and the talent of this great Director, a golden crown hovered over and finally came to rest on his head. Inscribed on this crown were the word, “Floyd Connett, Director of Heavenly Music”, and he knew then that he had found his place in Heaven, as he had on earth. And as all the Angels joined in on the last note, Floyd looked Earthward, smiled and said, “Hey down there , I'll have a couple of brand new arrangements ready for you when you get here!”

By Rollie M. Myers





♪ NOTES ♪ FROM OUR CHORUSES ♪

Vermillion Valley Show Chorus **Gina Maede**

In spite of the weather, Vermillion Valley had a busy holiday season. Most of the Chorus made a bus trip to Chicago in early December to see WICKED (and shop!) A group went to see STRAIGHT NO CHASER since our last newsletter, and of course we had our "regularly scheduled" visit to sing at Heritage Woods in Dwight, where the residents can't get enough of our a capella harmony. At the "Christmas under the Windmill" event, also in Dwight, the chorus's appearance was described like this in the newspaper publicity, "The Sweet Adelines are back this year to stun us with their beautiful harmonies." That was the same night as WICKED, incidentally, so it was off the bus, into the cars, off to sing in Dwight in the snow (again.) Phew!!

Diane Huber made the trip from St. Louis to lend her coaching skills during one of the predictable Thursday Night snow showers (read storms) and she was back again in January - seems she loves our Illinois winter weather.

The Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs was January 14-15 in Springfield. The talent show included Tori Adams, our young tenor, who was the winner at the Fairbury Fair Talent Contest in the summer, giving her the opportunity to compete at the state level. We are so very proud of her - 4TH PLACE and top soloist in the state! Way to go Tori!!

And so it goes, we will be on Retreat in early February with Tori Postma and her expertise, then a few more coaching sessions (Kevin and Ann Keller). Before you know it, we'll be at Contest. Can you believe it's coming up in just a couple of months? Kathy Filipiak, assisted by Sandy Barnes, is "cracking the whip" following all that time off for holidays and weather to prepare us for another wonderful competition. Look forward to seeing everyone in Springfield.

A group of Vermillion Valley Show Chorus members and friends took a trip to Chicago to see WICKED in early December. Pictured are Becca Adams, Tori Adams and Sarah Schmidgall posed outside the theatre with "Mom" Lisa Schmidgall.



City Voices Chorus **Peggy Bess**

City Voices Chorus was in tune with the holidays!

City Voices members were singing holiday tunes in their sleep after performing three times over 11 days in December, delivering holiday cheer to hundreds of people.

First up was the chorus' annual Holiday Luncheon, held Dec. 4 at St. John Lutheran Church in Ellisville. Approximately 230 people attended, enjoying a delicious catered meal provided by the church and desserts prepared by chorus members, who performed two sets.



The next day, Dec. 5, City Voices Chorus performed as a guest group in a concert series offered at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in Granite City. The chorus and its quartets were thrilled by the fabulous acoustics and appreciative audience of over 100.

Finally, on Dec. 14, the chorus gave a free holiday concert at the St. Ann Library with a small, but appreciative audience of 30. That performance was followed by a well-attended and tasty holiday chorus dinner at Pasta House in University City.

Continuing in their efforts to give in ways beyond performance, chorus members donated food items in December to a pantry supported by the chorus' rehearsal site, Church of the Good Shepherd in Town and Country. At a chorus rehearsal in October, chorus members wore pink and gave donations to the Susan G. Komen breast cancer fund.

Next up, City Voices members will wear jerseys to rehearsal on Feb. 3 in preparation for Super Bowl Sunday. City Voices has a five-hour competition coaching session planned on that Sunday with Tori Postma, director of the Mountain Jubilee Chorus in Salt Lake City, Utah – but the singing will conclude in plenty of time for kick-off.

New costumes from Designing Women have arrived for debut on April 9 as City Voices takes the Region 5 stage in Springfield.

www.cityvoiceschorus.org

MetroMix Chorus **Lynda Black-Smith**

It is Quiz Time with Metro Mix Chorus: Select the best response to the following 6 Sets of clues:

- 1. Summer, fall, winter, spring:** A. The order of the Seasons; or, B. Times of year that Metro Mix is increasing our number of performances. (We do love to perform.)
- 2. "Humps up", "Bubble high" & "In the Mask":** A. Overheard during a Metro Mix scuba diving adventure; or, B. Three of our favorite phrases from our great coaches, Diane Huber and Darlene Rogers.
- 3. "A Wink and a Smile":** A. The title of one of the new songs we are learning; or B. What Bev Hamilton will do when we keep our pitch, tempo and energy all UP, preferably at the same time.



4. Singing Valentines: A. Small electronic musical greeting cards; or, B. Love songs delivered by special request and sung by Metro Mix quartets on Valentine's Day.

5. Practice, performance & particularly high scores: A. Shared by finalists of national spelling bee; or, B. Expectations of Metro Mix chorus at Region 5 Competition in April.

6. ONYXX: A. A lovely black gemstone; or, B. The name of our newest registered quartet with great harmony, lots of enthusiasm and a fabulous photo.

How did you do? Actually, all of the answers are correct except 2.A. Although that might be something we could do when we go to International in Hawaii sometime.

To elaborate a bit, we really are working hard to increase our number of performances all year- round, including luncheons, full scripted shows, ensemble and quartet performances, singing for churches, and we are searching for guest appearances in other chorus shows or events. Singing Valentines are just around the corner with 4 quartets serenading individuals or groups with songs of love.

The phrases, "humps up, bubble high & in the mask", are just a few of the amazing coaching cues that keep us working hard to improve our sound and harmony. With all of our music, including our new songs, Bev and actually all of us, will be winking and smiling as we see and hear the improvement in our rehearsals, in self-evaluation tapes, and when we do well at competition.

Finally, we do want to introduce our newest quartet, Onyx, pictured here. Ann Buckheister-lead, Connie Kilts-tenor, Jan Stump-baritone, and Shar Merta-bass. This quartet has over 87 years of barbershop singing experience combined in one sweet package of entertainment! They share a variety of styles and tunes to help make any celebration a special event.



Finally, that brings us back to the seasons. We are really hoping that this year our winter will be short as it has already been way too cold, and our spring will be bright, warm and harmonious. So, see you all in Springfield in April!

www.metromixchorus.org

Champaign-Urbana Sweet Adelines
Mary Cummings

What a busy holiday season!! We had the privilege of being 1 of three Region 5 choruses that were invited to take part in a program produced by Channel 12, WILL TV, "Winter Voices: An A Capella Holiday", which aired 5 times during the holiday season.

The other choruses who participated were Sound Celebration and Danville Show Chorus. Prairie Blend quartet invited "Illusion" to be part of one of their numbers and the whole hour-long program turned out really well. The other two A Capella groups included

"Rip Chords" (girls from UIUC) and "The Tone Rangers" (men's chorus, Millikin University).

We had such fun singing for several different occasions including the one pictured below at the University of Illinois Secretariat luncheon on Dec. 16th. In my opinion, I think that singout was the most fun of all. They absolutely LOVED us! In this picture, we are performing a version of 12 Pains of Christmas by Bob Rivers. Very funny!



On February 10th, we will be singing a special medley done just for our chorus many years ago that includes all of the University of Illinois fight songs in a special presentation at half time at a Women's Basketball game at the Assembly Hall. If you would like to attend the basketball game, tickets are only \$5.00 and parking at the Assembly Hall during women's games is free! We will be decked out in Illini gear for the occasion. **GO ILLINI!**

Back to work for competition! We're hard at it as I'm sure you all are at this point with coaching dates set, etc. Our new ballad is great and the up-tune is more polished than ever! Can't wait to see you all in Springfield in April (hopefully the weather will be warmer by then!).

We're beginning to plan our Annual Show scheduled for Saturday, October 29th this year. Lots of ideas floating around so far. Keep your eyes peeled for a surprise!

Happy Singing! See you in Springfield!

www.cusweetadelines.org

Danville Show Chorus
Ruth Pancoast

The Danville Show Chorus has really had a busy fall and holiday season. Right after our show in October, we recorded for WILL-TV on the U of I campus as part of "Winter Voices: An A Capella Holiday" program that included several groups including 2 other Sweet Adelines choruses - Champaign-Urbana and Sound Celebration. We received an unbelievable amount of positive comments from friends, relatives and complete strangers who thoroughly enjoyed our performances. The publicity alone was well worth our hard work and snowy travel to the recording studio.

Our Christmas luncheon was once again a rousing success. Despite the snowfall the morning of our luncheon, we had a full house and the silent auction netted over \$1,300, of which the entire amount was given to charity. This year's recipients were Toys for Tots, CASA and the church that allowed us to use their facility.



We did several Christmas visits to senior housing and nursing homes and some caroling for Christmas shoppers. That is what we are about. We even sang under our huge chorus picture in the County Market where we hang as a representative of local talent that the store is promoting.

This is our 40th anniversary year and I have been a member for the entire time, except for the organizational year. I missed being a charter member by about a week and regret not going earlier when I was invited.

We are planning a big guest night for February after our singing Valentines. We always get wonderful comments while we are doing them and plan to use this invitation to get interested persons to visit that night. The picture below is a copy of the invitation we invented for our guest night.



Chillicothe, Illinois, is a river town near Peoria, Illinois. This small town boasts quite a Sweet Adelines history. In 1949, Floyd Connett formed and directed the Chillicothe Belles of Harmony. In 1952, four women from this chorus decided this was so much fun, they wanted more, and the Big Four Quartet was born.

As Mary Waters, tenor for the Big Four during the last five years they sang as a quartet, said in her book, 800 Pounds of Harmony, The Big Four Quartet, "They were the first Sweet Adelines quartet to be accepted as an equal in the world of men's barbershopping."

Along with a show from the Heart of Illinois Chorus, quartet Perpetual Sound wowed the crowd with their rendition of "Bye Bye Blues". Then chorus director and lead singer Gena Sommer, with her own quartet (tenor Joellyn Welch, baritone Kathy Filipiak [Director, Vermillion Valley Show Chorus], and bass Martha Eiter [Director of Sound Celebration]) became The Almost 800 Pounds of Fun tribute quartet. The audience howled with laughter at some of the jokes these women made, but they clapped even more enthusiastically for the great renditions of the songs made famous by the Big Four. A great time was had by all.

Now that we have performed for the Smithsonian, it's time to get back to competition rehearsal! **Please no more snow!**

www.hoichorus.com

St. Louis Harmony Chorus

Judy Kuhl

Happy New Year to all!

Our big event this year is **St. Louis Harmony's 50th Anniversary Gala. SAVE the DATE July 16th**. The entertainment will be non-stop. Memories and pics of time gone by will fill the air. You do not want to miss this event. More info to follow, so check our website: www.stlharmony.org.



We are all so proud of **Ambiance** who is celebrating their 25th anniversary also this year. Congratulations to Sandi Wright, Liz Hardcastle, Diane Huber and Shelly Sweet-Rubinic. Look for them at Regionals.

GUEST PASS



real women.
real harmony.
real fun.

The Danville Show Chorus
of Sweet Adelines

Invites you to join us for an evening of
song and fun.

Monday, February 21, 2011 at 7:00 pm at
Harrison Park Club House

Come out and try Barbershop Harmony

See you all in April!

www.danvillesweetadelines.org

Heart of Illinois Chorus

Lynne Furness

Oh, the struggles of getting to rehearsal during a Central Illinois winter! With only a few weeks left until regional competition, and after a long Christmas break, on January 16, 2011, the East Peoria based Heart of Illinois Chorus participated in New Harmonies, a celebration of American Roots Music, a part of an interactive exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. This exhibit is a part of Museum on Main Street, a program developed to bring large Smithsonian exhibits to small towns across America. We were very excited to be a part of this celebration but alas, snowy, cold weather forced us to cancel rehearsal the week before we were to perform. Since we had only practiced once since our Christmas break, we were a bit worried. Still wild horses couldn't stop us from being a part of history, so we met an hour and a half before show time, rehearsed, and then sang our hearts out for a standing room only crowd.



Sandi also has much to celebrate after much time of studying has been accepted as a candidate in the Expression Category, which means she will be a judge in both the Showmanship and Expression category.

January 28-29 was our Queens College training with two days filled with demonstrations and vocal plus visual techniques from 2 of our 6 International Queens. It was a wonderful weekend of learning. We ended Saturday evening with a chili supper at Sandi's followed by more singing for fun!



One of our newest fund raisers is the **Singing Valentines** campaign. Chorus quartets including regional medalist Shades of Jade and Tetrachords, among others, will entertain loving couples with a selection of 2 songs along with a rose and complimentary CD of our chorus. A gift to remember.

We are gearing up for regional competition and perfecting our music. We have been fortunate to have Jean Barford coach us for a couple of sessions and plan to wow the judges. We continue to be amazed at how much detail and challenge is involved in our craft of singing barbershop harmony. Prospective members are choosing singing and taking time for themselves this New Year! We hope this is happening all across the region!

www.stlharmony.org

**Heart of Iowa
Connie Montover**

The Heart of Iowa Chorus was busy doing Christmas performances during the holidays. We performed for the residents of the Iowa Veterans Home and were warmly received. We also performed at the Marshalltown Mall to help the Salvation Army with their fund-raising. In between singing Christmas songs, we rang the bells and encouraged shoppers to drop money into the kettle. We also sang a Christmas program for residents of two nursing homes.



We performed for a fund raiser in the nearby community of State Center, along with the Marshalltown Men's Chorus. The room was packed, and people showed much appreciation.

Our focus has now moved to competition! We are looking forward to a coaching session with Bev Hamilton in February. We're hoping and praying for better luck with the weather than we had last year when we had to cancel every scheduled coaching! We are also in the process of getting a new costume top.

We look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones at this year's competition in Springfield!

www.heartofiwachorus.com

**River Blenders Chorus
Kathy Schuth**

The River Blenders have been very busy! After our great show, we then had a Holiday Chorus and had a number of ladies join us for the month of November and perform with us in a Holiday Show for families and friends. It was lots of fun.

What a great January the River Blenders have had! And that's in spite of the snow and ice, forcing us to cancel one rehearsal! We started the year with our "Free Voice Lessons" program and have had some lovely guests attending rehearsals after their lessons. Then, on the weekend of Jan. 21 and 22, we had our chorus retreat at Our Lady of the Snows with guest faculty Betty Clipman. Actually, Betty has coached us so many times over the years, she feels like family. Love her, and loved the weekend!!



February is bringing lots of fun too. Our 2nd annual young-women's harmony festival, called "Shop for the Ring" starts off the month, followed by Singing Valentines the following weekend! What fun! And our 2nd ever Trivia Night Fund Raiser on March 19th promises to be fun and entertaining.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in Springfield in April where we will be hosting all of you. Best of luck to everyone at competition, but especially to our own quartets-Voice 4 Voice and Timeless-as they prepare as well.

www.riverblenders.org



Heart of Missouri

Meg Poché

Greetings from the Heart of Missouri chapter of Region 5! We enjoyed a most wondrous and exciting holiday season with lots of traveling show opportunities and culminating in our chorus holiday party before breaking for Christmas. Our show was scripted by way of a treasure chest time capsule that we found. Each item that was pulled from the chest helped to introduce the next song. A picture of Paul Newman introduced the song "Dream" and the WW2 army helmet set the stage for New Design Quartet to sing "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy", and so on.



(In this picture, an audience member models the helmet for us)

Performance opportunities also abounded for singing our Christmas repertoire along with several guest singers as part of a holiday membership drive. Before the first of the year we put

on performances for Lenoir Woods in Columbia, Heisinger Bluffs in Jefferson City, Central Bank Living Windows Festival in Jefferson City, The Moberly, Mo. Area Arts Council, caroling in downtown Columbia and Boone Landing in Columbia. Our performance opportunities continued into 2011 with two shows, one in Sedalia, Mo. and the other in Versailles, Mo.

We're off to a good start in working on all things that make for good barbershop singing. Snow got in the way of our first coaching with Rick Knight a week or two ago, and we're hoping it doesn't happen again this week when Dixie Dahlke is scheduled to coach us! Our director, Marj Friedmeyer, continues to hold us to task each week and works so hard to inspire us. Her weekly "Keynotes" newsletter is full of reminders, good tips, a calendar of upcoming events, and motivational thoughts. Assistant director, Twilla Duvall, sends out her own newsletter called "Rehearsal on the Flip Side" and it serves as a mindful follow-up to everything that came from that week's rehearsal. Assistant director, Lisa Woolridge, is busy planning and developing some fun choreography for our newest repertoire songs. We're just hoping our hand-eye-vocal coordination is up to the challenge! What a great team of leadership and what a fun group of ladies to sing with each week.

<http://homchorus.coin.org>



Sound Celebration Chorus

Linda Morrison

Sound Celebration Chorus

This Christmas season was one of busiest our Chorus has seen. There were many sing outs from the downtown Christmas walk to singing at the local Mall and lots of other venues in the area. There was certainly a lot of Christmas harmony this winter! One of the highlights was being invited to travel to Champaign and tape several songs for a WILL-TV program entitled WINTER VOICES. The show had several A Cappella groups singing Christmas songs. Several Region 5 choruses, which included Champaign-Urbana and Danville, were involved and the finished



program was very entertaining! The program was aired several times in the weeks before Christmas all the way through Christmas day (and beyond).

The Chorus is looking forward to the annual Retreat and Coaching with Ann and Kevin Keller. We always learn so much from them. Friday night will see the crowning of a new "crazy quartet" after an evening of choreography rehearsal. Lots of Chorus bonding and fun will follow, and maybe even a bit of sleep too. Saturday will begin with a terrific breakfast created by our own Lana and then on to a few hours of serious work and great sound.

We can't wait to see everyone at Competition back here in Springfield, and to hear the results of all YOUR hard work!

www.soundcelebrationchorus.org