



## The Berkshire Hills Chorus Sings at



Tanglewood, the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, is a musical institution in the home county of The Berkshire Hills Chorus. Their highly anticipated Tanglewood on Parade event is an annual all day affair, encompassing performances by both the Boston Symphony and the Boston Pops. There are also plenty of family fun activities. The event draws crowds of approximately 12,000 people each year.

This past summer, on August 2nd, the Berkshire Hills Chorus had the honor of being asked to perform during the event! In

an hour long intermission from the staged performances, our chorus strolled through the lawns singing songs to thousands of people picnicking in the sunshine. Some of the patrons enjoyed our performances so much, they chose to leave their blankets and follow us around in order to hear more of our songs.

At one point during the show we invited the crowd to join us in singing America the Beautiful with an octet singing the overlay. As we finished the song to big cheers and applause we noticed many

members of the audience in tears.

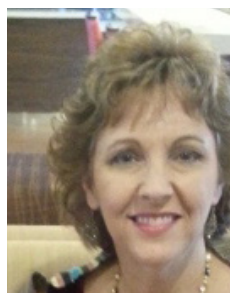
The event was the highlight of our summer. It felt like such an honor, not only to be asked to perform, but to bring barbershop music to an audience of classical music enthusiasts and have it be so well received. We hope to be invited again next year!

**Leslie Murray and Meg Murray**

# Your Regional Management Team (RMT)



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**THEY WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU**



# Team Coordinator - Wendy Davies

## Happy New Year!

This is such an exciting time! It is time of new beginnings, resolutions and goals. It is the time of year when we begin our preparation for contest in earnest! Coaching sessions are booked. Many choruses are holding Open House programs to welcome new members. It is a busy time, but such a fun time!

What have we learned in 2016? How will it affect what we do in 2017? It is a good time to ask yourself, whether you sing in a chorus or a quartet or as a member at large, how has each one of us contributed to Region One.

I thought this would be a good opportunity for each of us to re-read the Sweet Adelines International mission statement. So here it is:

"A worldwide organization of women singers committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony through education, competition and performance."

This statement begs us to ask ourselves, how have we personally advanced our art form? Have we attended as many educational workshops as we could, have we encouraged our

fellow members to get involved and participate at every opportunity? Are we encouraging our choruses and quartets to attend and compete at our regional conventions; this is after all, our opportunity to measure of the growth of our skills of singing barbershop harmony. Do we perform in public as often as we should to expose the public to our style of a cappella music?

By staying involved and engaged, we can inspire others to want to do the same. YOU can be the inspiration among your peers!

A bit of business.....you may recall, just a year ago the International Board of Directors proposed a new style of regional governance, your RMT discussed the proposal at length, participated in webinars and ultimately voted along with all the other regions. The proposal as such, was declined by the majority of regions. However, the discussion to amend the current model continued and a modified version of the original proposal has been put forth and the Regional Management Teams have been offered the opportunity to participate in a "Pilot" project. While in Las Vegas, attending the International competition, RMT members met on the Monday for discussion about the "Pilot" proposal,

amongst many other things, and then followed up with their entire teams at a later date. It is inevitable that there will be a change in governance style sooner rather than later, so your Region One RMT has opted to participate in the "Pilot" project beginning May 1st, 2017. We will be one of



twelve regions participating in the "Pilot" project. There will be more details shared at the Region One Team Coordinator's meeting on January 28th.

Wishing you a successful 2017 and have fun preparing for our spring contest!

## Wendy Davies

### Regional Management Team for 2017-2018

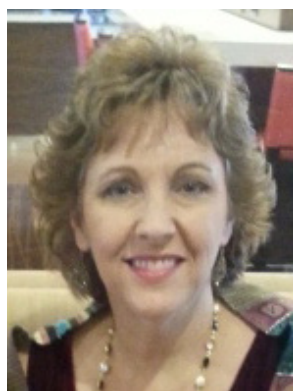
Between September and December, 2016, the election of Directors Coordinator and the new Regional appointments (to take effect on May 1st, 2017) were made. The new and renewed appointments to the 2017-2019 RMT will be:

Directors Coordinator:	Eileen Gioe, Merrimack Valley Chorus
Events Coordinator:	Patti Lavernoch, Harmony on the Sound Chorus
Finance Coordinator:	Becky King, Merrimack Valley Chorus
Marketing Coordinator:	<u>Jessie Caynon</u> , Rhythm of New Hampshire Chorus
<b>Continuing in their positions:</b>	
Communications Coordinator:	Leslie MacDonald, Acappella Sounds Chorus
Education Coordinator:	Heidi Zacchera, Chapter at Large
Membership Coordinator:	Deb Richard, Royal River Chorus
Team Coordinator:	Wendy Davies, Acappella Sounds Chorus

*We wish to thank Pat Marais for her time, efforts and enthusiasm during her tenure as Marketing Coordinator.*

# Events Coordinator - Patti Lavernoich

## Happy New Year!



Newport has proven to be a popular location! You booked many more rooms than was needed to fulfill our contractual obligation. Was it the venue and the low cost of the rooms, or was it the fact that it was harder to come for the day because of the location? I'm always anxious to get your feedback. It helps me look for future locations that will satisfy your desires. I provided a survey at the registration desk this weekend. I hope everyone picked it up, filled it out and returned it. If you did not get a survey and would like one, please email me at [epfpf@snet.net](mailto:epfpf@snet.net), and I'll send it to you.

A huge shout out to Valley Shore Acappella Chorus for all their hard work during the Winter Regional Weekend. From the time they found out the location for their hostess weekend, they were so excited to bring everything to fruition, starting with their theme, "Set Sail for Newport!" They are a small but mighty chorus and show that with a little creative thinking and enthusiasm, even a group of their size can host a regional weekend.

The next available weekend for a hosting opportunity is Fall 2019. The dates are September 6-8. This is the weekend after Labor Day weekend, and it's earlier than usual because International Convention is the week of 9/21 that year. I have not chosen a location yet, but if your chorus is interested, please let me know!

Upcoming Events are shown below and on the next page.

Mark your calendars, and don't forget to check the Region 1 website often for details on upcoming events! Information for each event is also sent by email immediately following the end of the event prior to it. So, as soon as this weekend is over, choruses and CAL members should keep their eyes open for the first contest mailing. Thank you to Gail Comeau, our Region 1 Communicator for getting all of this stuff out.

Warm wishes for a terrific 2017!

**Patti Lavernoich**

Upcoming Events			
Event	2017	2018	2019
Winter Regional Weekend and YWIH Program	<i>Complete</i>	<b>January 19 – 21</b> Springfield Marriott Springfield, MA	<b>January 25 – 27</b> Newton Marriott Newton, MA
Regional Competition	<b>May 4 – 7</b> Symphony Hall Springfield, MA	<b>May 12 – 15</b> Symphony Hall Springfield, MA	<b>May 9 - 12</b> Symphony Hall Springfield, MA
International Education Symposium (IES)/ Rising Star Contest	<b>August 2 – 6</b> University of Maryland College Park, MD		



# Education Coordinator - Heidi Zacchera

## Hi Region 1!

Further comments from showmanship judges:

I am excited to be back in the saddle again as Education Coordinator! I have lots of ideas I'd like to put in place.....

I have been focusing our regional education on the areas the judges felt we needed some further work.

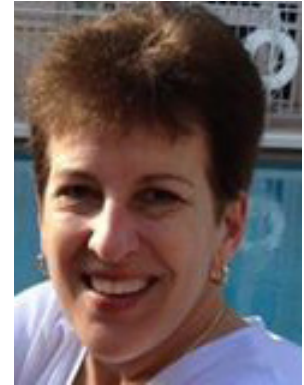
This past fall we spent time experimenting with a new approach to learning vocal production/resonance. It was met with some very positive feedback, people loving the small group approach, so we'll be carrying that concept over to our winter regional meeting!

Something new to experiment with, our showmanship judge wrote: "how some people are afraid to take risks and develop a character.....we are moving toward a cappella musical theater. ALL must play".

"It is always about communicating emotion to the audience. So the characterization depends on the songs. Use of facial expression and body language to "tell the story" is expected from all singers, in order to send the message of the music to the audience. Theater games are a great tool to use."

"Theater games, mime work, and lyric subtexting are all great ways to get the chorus out of stand and sing mode. Members have to be willing to go to that new place and all tell the same story."

There are many different ways to transcend the message of the songs.



The Regional Faculty has been hard at work thinking of innovative ideas to "change things up" at our regional meetings.

If any of you have ideas, suggestions, etc. let me know!

Remember each chorus is entitled to 2 visits/year. Contact me to arrange them!

**Heidi**

hzacchera@aol.com

## Upcoming Events - Continued

Event	2017	2018	2019
<b>RQA Day</b>	<b>August 12</b> University of Hartford Hartford, CT "THE BUZZ" Quartet "The BUZZ will be retiring in 2018, so now is the time to hear them!!"	<b>August 4</b> University of Hartford Hartford, CT Betty Clipman	<b>August 3</b> University of Hartford Hartford, CT
<b>Fall Regional Weekend</b>	<b>September 15 – 17</b> Sheraton Hotel Framingham, MA Vickie Maybury	<b>September 21 – 23</b> "Bling" Quartet	
<b>International Competition</b>	<b>October 9 – 14</b> MGM Grand Arena Las Vegas, NV	<b>October 15 – 20</b> The America's Center and Edward Jones Dome St. Louis, MO	<b>September 16 – 21</b> Smoothie King Center New Orleans, LA

North Atlantic Region 1 - Sweet Adelines International

## Directors Coordinator - Eileen Gioe

### Hello Region 1 and Happy New Year!



Here we are again – a new year and a new contest season. Time for excitement, coaching, recommitment to our choruses and our craft. It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year, as far as I'm concerned.

Thank you to all my fellow Directors for re-electing me as the Directors Coordinator. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help – classes you would like, info I can find, a shoulder to cry on, whatever you need. Big THANK YOU to Liz Carey who also put her name in the hat for the Coordinator's position. I'm sure we'll be seeing lots

more of Liz on the regional scene in the future.

Remember that the RMT offers scholarships to Directors every year. Depending on finances, up to three \$500 scholarships are available so **be sure to get your applications in by May 1**. With IES in Baltimore, I'm thinking these will be sought-after this year, so don't delay!

Best wishes for happy choruses and  
beautiful harmonies,

**Eileen Gioe**

## Contests and Special Events



## Chorus Lines



### Acappella Sounds Chorus

*(Formerly West Island Chorus)*

What a busy year 2016 was for our chorus! We started with a great coaching retreat with Joan Boutilier. It was at a beautiful retreat centre close to Montreal. She worked us hard but we still had the energy for our traditional talent show/party on Saturday night.

This was a particularly special year for us since we celebrated our 50th anniversary as West Island Chorus. We received our charter 50 years ago in August. We wanted

to celebrate this in a very special way. We organized a special event for November which included a brunch, an evening show and an afterglow party. We reached out to as many former members as we could find. Many people travelled from far and wide and we had arranged for a block of rooms at the hotel where the brunch was being held. The brunch was a great success with much laughter and some tears. The show was dedicated to our past and future. We had a fashion show of costumes from our past, video clips of past members and family members sharing their thoughts and experiences. We even sang a historical medley of some of our old songs.

We ended the show by unveiling our new name Acappella Sounds Chorus. We had kept it under-wraps until then. We are now

looking forward to another 50 years of harmony.

Then came all of the Christmas singing to end up the year. We sang at various shopping centres, a school and a hospital. In one of the malls, we were even recorded for a local radio station. After a well deserved holiday break, we will be back getting ready to go to Competition in Springfield in May.

Hope to see you all there!

**Leslie MacDonald**

# SAVE THE DATE

# RETURNING IN 2017

## INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM



SWEET ADELINES  
INTERNATIONAL

**August 2-6, 2017**  
University of Maryland, College Park, Md.



## Boston Skyline Chorus

As the snow begins to pile up, and before Contest prep starts, it seems the perfect time to curl up with some hot chocolate and reminisce. This Fall, Boston Skyline Chorus packed a full schedule, so I may need a second cup!

In September the City of Somerville held "Riverfest" at Assembly Row, a daylong celebration of this trendy neighborhood. We at BSC were happy to join in the fun, hosting our own community table where we could do what we like best: share our love of singing.

The next month we performed at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro at the "Best Years Expo": an event to highlight how to get the best out of life after 50 (not that any of us are at that stage!)

Russell's Garden Center in Wayland held their 10th annual "Ladies'



Night Out", and BSC just had to be there! Amidst local vendors offering food and wine samples, lighted trees and sparkling ornaments, BSC sang a selection of holiday favorites to complete the festive spirit.

For our annual show, BSC presented "A Swinging Nightclub"! Our rehearsal hall at Temple Emunah, with the inspired vision of our show chairs Michele Bokun and Peg Deery, was transformed into a radiant dance hall. Guests included "The Boston Lindy Bomb Squad", a swing dance troupe, the A Cappella group "The Copley Cats" as well as our own quartets, "Bari'd Treasure", "Intuition" and "Just in Time". What a party!

BSC has welcomed five new members this Fall season: Anne Schafer, Natalya Waye, Stephanie Delahunt, Beth Anderson-Balmer and Madeline Anderson-Balmer. We're so happy to have you, Ladies!

Karen Sweeters, Harmony on the Sound Chorus' director, joined us for a coaching session, focusing on that sometimes puzzling category: expression. Yet, in no time, she cleared away any confusion and we greatly appreciate her invaluable instruction.

Holiday performances included caroling at the "Crafty Yankee" shop in Lexington, at the Faneuil Hall Marketplace in Boston, and for the Concord Women's Club. And we closed out 2016



with our annual holiday party. This year, we held a stocking decorating contest and once again our creative (and competitive!) members outdid themselves!

As 2017 begins, we are looking forward to seeing everyone at Regional Weekend in Newport.

**Best wishes to all for a Happy New Year!**



**Janice Mottolo**





## Berkshire Hills Chorus

Kicking off the new year, we're excited about Singing Valentines as a fundraiser for our chorus! We have a few small groups to cover all of Berkshire County. One of our quartets has done this and just loved seeing the reactions of the recipients. It was so much fun and very satisfying!

We recently were coached by Linda Kever, the Lead from the award winning Four Bettys Quartet, and will soon have a Skype coaching session with Diane Porsch. Looking back to May, we were thrilled to place second in the Division A competition with our Co-Director, Pat Feldman, who was the Novice Director winner! Two of our members, Sarah Connell and Jill Topham were excited to compete for the first time. Since then, Beth Smith, Janice Toran, Paulette Ryder, and former member Maria Brodeur have joined our chorus. Our wonderful Directors, Pat F. and Gail W. attended the Director's Seminar in New Orleans in August and learned lots of good things from Dr. Jim Henry!



*Pat Feldman, Gail Wojkowiak--Co-Directors of Berkshire Hills Chorus, and Kathy Kokes, Champlain Valley Chorus at Director's Seminar in New Orleans*

Our summer schedule began at the Stockbridge Memorial Day Parade Ceremony, then the West Stockbridge Historical Society where a 90 year old man was honored on his birthday. We tromped through tall grass and sang under a tent for a benefit for the Riders Mills Historical Association nearby in New York state, and enjoyed entertaining the residents of Craneville Place Nursing Home on a Saturday morning (not too early). The highlight of the summer was our first performance at Tanglewood on Parade in Lenox, MA, the summer venue of the Boston Symphony Orchestra! In October, we had a recording session at

Pittsfield Community Access TV which was good advertising for our November show "Shine Your Light". Four quartets from within our chorus performed, including Voices in Accord, Treble Ahead, Soirée, and Bar Flies who did a fun spoof on the election. We also tried a sing-a-long which was well received.

We enjoyed our annual caroling at Berkshire Medical Center's Tree of Life Ceremony, then sang in the ER after. The Red Lion Inn, Sugar Hill Senior Living, Sweetwood Retirement Community, and a concert in New Lebanon, NY kept us busy. Then the

Colonial Theatre asked us to perform in the lobby at the intermission of "A Christmas Carol" and we said yes! A highlight of the season was from a quartet in our chorus singing a verse of "Silent Night" in German. Tenor Laurie Boudreau had done a solo in the past, and this year added Lead Theresa Krzysztof, Baritone Leslie Murray, and Bass Tamara Hitchcock. It was lovely!!

It's been a great year!

**Pam Basinski**

**Your voice has a place in our chorus.**  
Visit [www.sweetadelines.com](http://www.sweetadelines.com) to find a chorus in your area!



## **International Competition 2017**

**Las Vegas, Nevada**

**Order of Appearance:**

*International Quartet Semifinals - Region 1:*

**VOCE - Contestant # 5**

**Region 1 Winner of Regional 2017 Contest - Contestant #37**

*International Chorus Semifinals - Region 1:*

**Harmony on the Sound Chorus - Contestant #28**

*Harmony Classic Div AA - Region 1:*

**Farmington Valley - Contestant # 3**



## Coastline Show Chorus

*Nice to see you, what has Coastline Show Chorus been up to you ask?*

Well, in May, we sang patriotic songs at the Attleboro Memorial Day ceremonies. Rain postponed the parade but not a heartfelt program. It was wonderful to see the room packed on a rainy day.

You won't believe it but Northeastern District Champs five years running and Season Two Sing That Thing winners Vocal Revolution invited us to share the stage at their annual show in Lexington in June. We had so much fun and it was a great show! Where was that? Cary Hall in Lexington, a beautiful venue.

What do many of you do in the dog days of summer? Hit the Cape! Well we were close, on one of the hottest days of the summer CSC was proud to sing for the White Cliffs Country Club in Plymouth in mid-August. We had a blast and the audience gave us a wonderful reception.

Did we slow down in the fall? Not so much, in September we performed our contest set plus Proud Mary for our Sweet Ads sisters at the Fall Regional in Cromwell, CT. We felt great energy coming back from the attendees.

Coastline represented Region One at the International contest in Las Vegas in October; it was a thrill to say the least. Nine members of the chorus had not yet competed at this level, and some of them may still be processing all they saw and heard. It was our pleasure and pride to see our own Evie Doyle honored with her 50 year pin. I keep telling her it is one thing to sing in Sweet Ads for fifty years but another to still sing well, and she does!



We also had the opportunity to meet our e-pen pals of A Cappella West from



Perth Australia, who were performing at internationals for their first time. It was a pleasure to sing for them, with them and to hear them sing.

Did we pause after that? Not really, we sang at the Veterans' Day ceremony following the parade in Uxbridge in



November. The parade and ceremony were very well attended in this little town. We enjoyed the several local student bands that also played.



Region One with all of the support, lessons, encouragement and shared music. We appreciate Region One!

**Sarah Douglas**

gracious host. The show was sold out and there are murmurs of adding a performance next year.

We are learning new music and rehearsing other music while the regular rehearsals are on hiatus during the holidays.

And what is coming up in the new year?

We will have a FUN, new membership program beginning at rehearsal February 22<sup>nd</sup> and in the spring we already have some shows and special coaching sessions lined up.

It is good to be a chorus that is part of



*Farmington Valley Chorus*

## ***Not Just Another Holiday Show***



**Trivia with Shari and Nancy**



**Jump Start**



**Break the Mold**



**Opera guy**



**Opera girl?**



**Hardee Family singers**

## ***12 Days of Christmas***



**Three French Hens**



**Four Calling Birds**



**12 Drummers Drumming**





## Farmington Valley Chorus

Brrrrrrr –it's cold. It was 6 degrees today. I want to go back...back to August when things were heating up within Farmington Valley

and our summer Acapella Palooza competition. It was too close a call for Cheryl and Cathy between the Sweetles singing "8 Days a Week" and the ladies performing

"Oh What A Night", so they decided both mini choruses would win coveted medals. The ladies received the "Shut The Front Door" clapper medals and the Sweetles received the "Back The Truck Up" clapper medals. A fun, friendly way for each of us to learn to work together to put on a show; from choosing and rehearsing the music, to the choreography, to the costumes. We celebrated our performances and the end of a successful summer with a huge cake.

In September we performed for the Eastern Stars – a service group one of our members has been a part of for a long time - in all of her free time when she's not working and singing with us. It was their annual formal banquet. It was fun to be a part of all the glitz and glamour. In November we welcomed Lynda Kever from the Four Betty's to coach us for an evening. She is fabulous and fun. The most energized Wednesday night we have had in a long time.

December was busy, busy, busy and fun, fun, fun. A group of us sang at The Harwinton Winterfest. In past years this has been a strolling event – strolling around the town area, freezing, singing here and there. This year they had us in a nice, warm tent and people came in to hear us...or to just get warm. No matter, it was warm and fuzzy feelings all around with Christ-

mas Carols and Cruella Deville thrown in there just to make sure they were listening. A small group of us also did

a flash mob at the Simsbury Library one afternoon. Though we were much too loud for a library – they loved us anyway and didn't shush us out into the cold. Our annual holiday show was a huge success.

The biggest audience we have had yet for this yearly event. We called it "Not Just Another Holiday Show". We stepped out of our comfort zone with no matchy-matchy costumes, but instead wore ugly festive sweaters, and even invited "outsiders" to join us. Along with our four in-house quartets (woot! woot!) we had the Hardee Family Singers, Opera Guy, Sue Mollica - piano woman, and the Simsbury High School Cabaret Singers. A little trivia with scampering elves delivering candy canes, and a rousing 12 Days of Christmas audience sing-along enhanced the fun. There was nothing but joviality and laughter

downstairs at the reception afterwards where the mile long tables (a little exaggeration, but it seemed like it) stuffed with food offerings from all the chorus members was hoovered clean within moments. It was amazing – the show and the food disappearance. Speaking of amazing – we have 3 "new" amazing members filling out our ranks. Newby Marissa Tassinari singing Lead, and the return of Heidi Adam and Sue Gunas- former Farmington Valley-ers. They are so welcome. We're stoked. We have a few more really talented ladies in the works too, and hopefully initiating the Global Open House will get us even more members to make those risers rattle and shake in Springfield and Las Vegas.



Oh What a Night!



8 Days a Week

Our performance manager, Carolyn, is keeping us out of the cold with a performance in Wallingford in January and two other performances in February. We love it. This is why we practice, and rehearse, and sing (Measures 4-20) 4,000 times, - all to make audiences smile. Speaking of singing things 4,000 times - back to reality and working on contest tunes. Mo Field will help us slug out a new uptune in January and we get to see Harriette Walters again when she visits with us in March. We're sure she and Donna Dougherty are going to be



Acapella Palooza Medals



awesome steering this Regional weekend. We're looking forward to it.

As my mother would say "May the cold ocean breezes never go up your beedeezes".

**Nancy Propfe**



## Harmony on the Sound

Harmony on the Sound has been busy these past several months. Our well attended Champfest series, which usually presents during the summer, was held in the beginning of October and what an event it became! In our new rehearsal space at St. Nicholas we were able to accommodate approximately one hundred attendees and 650 through our Facebook live feed. This year Associate Director Lisa Giorgio's Champfest Team took top honors.

Just a few weeks later we performed our Holiday concert which sold out! Table seating and goodies were made available. It was a tight squeeze to get these two events polished on time but our directing team was undaunted!

Our Tenor section is super excited to be spending a little quality sectional time with the effervescent Annette Landry, Regional multiple medal winner (and the 11th top Tenor in the world last year!). Annette has been gracious enough to agree to share her skills with our Tenors and we can't wait to see what's in store.

HOTS is now gearing up for the run to Las Vegas 3. With coaching from Betty

Clipman and Mo Fields and, of course, our own Karen Sweeters we're starting to feel excited about our trip to International this fall!

**Paula Glen**

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## Heart of the Valley Chorus

Our news since we last reported is bookended with two HOV weddings. Elsa and her beloved longtime partner Pete tied the knot in September, getting married in an outdoor gazebo at a local park. And Betty, one of the founding members of our chorus, rang in the new year with marriage to Jerry, her new love and a fellow Barbershopper. Of course there was Barbershop singing at the reception! A small group of the chorus was part of the New Year's evening entertainment. Alas, Betty has had to depart the chorus as she begins her new life which includes a new location quite far from HOV rehearsals. Betty served as our Management Team leader for many many years and we wish her all the best and more singing with Jerry.

Speaking of singing, the chorus was invited to entertain participants of a Hampshire County ACTIVE AGING conference that was held in Amherst, MA recently. Participants spent the day exploring and digesting facts about growing older with an emphasis on the things that will contribute to happier and healthier aging. During our performance at the end of the day, we decided to enhance the day's



learning by including information about the benefits of singing for an individual. Our script was customized to the occasion and was a very welcome ending to their day as we told them, and showed them that music contributes to good health...that it boosts energy, soothes the soul, makes you smile...that it can trigger the release of "feel good" chemicals...and that in general being an active participant in the world of music will help to keep you feeling great! Agreed?

And speaking of feeling great, a small group of HOvers jumped through many hoops and red tape in order to sing to sick individuals in the hospital over the

holidays. After signing papers to pledge confidentiality and stating in writing that we had all had flu shots, we were escorted to a variety of floors and wards to carol for patients. The smiles and thank you(s) and even a few "sing alongs" of very sick patients during the holidays swelled the hearts of the singers and invalids alike...let's all keep singing in 2017!

**Christine Nolan**

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## Island Grove Chorus

### **ISLAND GROVE CHORUS 25th Anniversary Was Especially "SWEET"!**

ISLAND GROVE CHORUS (IGC) joyfully marked its 25th Anniversary with its "SILVER BELLES" Concert in 2016! We performed at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Braintree, Massachusetts during the recent holiday season. The theme was: "25 Years of Music, Friendship, and Harmony."

Our last founding charter member of IGC who still performs, a 50-year Sweet Adeline, Mrs. Judy Wilmot, can be seen at the extreme right edge of the photo. (Go, Judy!) We enjoyed performing during 2016 with relatively newer members like Meri Power-Ayer, Martha Roberts, Suzanne Flannery, Cindy Bondi, and Maureen McCarthy swelling our ranks, and then went on to welcome our very newest member, Brianna Shetler, right before the holidays! (A Tenor, no less!)



IGC's 25th Anniversary Year was made especially "sweet" by our 2016 Region 1 Audience Choice Award win, led by our creatively-inclined Director, Pat Hoitt. The "sweetness" continued with the 2016 Region 1 Novice Quartet Award going to IGC's very own, in-house quartet, "The Fourmidables." IGC will be continuing its membership drive in 2017, along with its emphasis on delivering performances

throughout our communities. We strive to spread the wonderful gift of song!

**Adelene Ellenberg**

## Merrimack Valley

It's hard to believe another year has come and gone! As we say goodbye to 2016, MVC has been so fortunate to close out the year on so many high notes! In November, we put on another successful show, celebrating our "Freedom to Sing." Our featured performers, Town Meeting, a local folk group, were a wonderful treat for our audience, and offered a unique compliment to our Sweet Adeline sound. In December, MVC was fortunate enough to be invited by St. Matthews to perform a benefit concert at their parish in Acton, MA. The audience was delightful and attentive as we gave many people their first experience enjoying barbershop, and then followed up by ringing in the sounds of the season! Finally, our year was capped off by one of my most

favorite annual events of all; the MVC Holiday Party! Diane Kelly, our Host Extraordinaire, treated us to an assortment of performances and friendly games. Somewhere, a very satisfied MVC-er is coveting her prized "Happy Feet" video while another laments her "Tai-Chi For Beginners." Just before the end of the evening, Carol Waterhouse surprised us all with such a sweet and sincere treat, reminding us all to believe in the magic of Christmas. It was such a lovely reminder of how special all of my Sweet Adeline friends are, and something I will not soon forget.

On another note, as we head into the new year, it seems difficult most days not to notice the divisiveness that seems to surround us lately. I recently came across a quote that has stuck with me: "Hope is the ability to hear the music of tomorrow." I feel so fortunate to be part of an organization and a

region where every person works together, each doing her own part to, literally, harmonize the world. Happy New Year, everyone. Dona Nobis Pacem ("Grant Us Peace"). Peace-out, Region 1.

**Marianne Hartford**



## Post Road Chorus

We are so looking forward to the upcoming regional weekend in beautiful Newport and the opportunity to be coached alongside the amazing Coastline Show Chorus. It is sure to be a fun-filled weekend of learning, singing, and laughing.

We had a wonderful holiday season which included sing-outs at Old Stur-

bridge Village (a 19th century New England living history museum) and the Worcester Senior Center, as well as for the residents, families, and friends of the Briarwood complex where we hold our weekly rehearsals. It was our pleasure to bring the joy of the season to our audiences.

Many of our members attended the Worcester Men of Song's annual Christmas show held at Mechanics Hall. We have been lucky enough to join them on their show in the past and hope to again in the future.

We also enjoyed Millennium Magic's fantastic show. It is so good to catch up with our "old" friends and watch as they continue to dazzle us!

**Peg Forget**



Regional

Chorus

WRW2017



Photos by Sue Bonior/  
SuMacDesign



## Profile Chorus

Well, we did it! After losing our originally booked show venue due to a scheduling glitch, and after several panic attacks, Profile managed to find a new hall, sell ads and create a program book, assemble and raffle off a dozen baskets, transport and set up the risers, create and paint props, decorate the stage, and put on not just one but TWO fantastic performances, both in the same day! Because there is so much hard work that goes into putting a show together, we decided we wanted to perform it more than just one time. It was very much like

a day-long chorus retreat, with the sense of camaraderie and intensity that can only be experienced when we are all convened in one place -- with NO other interruptions and nothing else to do but concentrate on the music and the task at hand!

With 20+ tunes in both Act I and Act II (plus a small group and two quartets), the chorus sang over 40 songs in the two combined performances, interspersed with many pages' worth of dialogue written by the brilliant and wildly creative Kay Bilodeau. Our members were brightly dressed as denizens of the well-known town called Whoville, and it was probably the most colorful we have ever looked while standing on the risers! (See pic.) Special kudos to our brave members who managed to memo-

rize their lines within a short window of time and put on very entertaining portrayals of some very funny characters. It was often hard for the chorus members to keep straight faces!



Also, a **big thanks to Boston Accent**, who was our featured act during the evening performance and executed a flawless set for our enthusiastic audience. We felt very fortunate that they were available on our show date, that we had a venue where they could sing, and that the weather did not conspire against us -- for once!

In addition to our show, Profile did manage to squeeze in a couple of performances at Merrimack Outlets, which is always a enjoyable few hours singing and bringing holiday spirit to shoppers and their families. We had a reasonably warm

day for our first outing, but the second event was a quite a bit chillier. Those are the days when those disposable "hot hands" -- tucked into gloves and boots to keep our extremities from freezing -- are worth their weight in gold!

N o w that the new year is upon us, and as we are easing back into the rehearsal routine, we are looking forward to Winter Regional and our upcoming coaching sessions in February

and March with the amazing Diane Porsch. This is the toughest time of year to live in the Northeast, as we all well know. Here's hoping that Mother Nature behaves herself and keeps those snowstorms to herself on those key dates. But we'll have shovels and snowblowers at the ready ... just in case!

See you all in Newport!

**Deanna Dean**





## Rhythm of New Hampshire Show Chorus

Happy New Year to all of our sisters in song!

As we wind down our 10<sup>th</sup> year as a chapter in SAI, the Rhythm of New Hampshire Show Chorus (RNH) was very busy during the late fall and into winter. It all started with a visit from SAI's own Super Coach, Karen Rourke of Boston Accent fame in early October.

Karen whipped us all into our best singing shape by rearranging our group and providing up close and personal coaching to all of our members.

When asked what her favorite thing about working with RNH, she said, "I love working with RNH because everyone is so open to trying out new ideas and giving feedback on what's working for them vocally. I also love that there's always a sense of fun and humor in the room along with the intent to improve." We all had a great time and are now singing even more harmoniously.

If you've had the "Karen" experience, you know she always comes with great tips. The Rhythm of New Hampshire has been working with Karen since we started as a group. Karen has noticed the benefit of working with us long-term because "I love seeing improvement in individuals over the years and being able to point that out. We're also able to keep things consistent in terms of vocal skills and expectations.

Since Karen had put us all in our place, we could get to the fun stuff - performing!

Rhythm of New Hampshire was privileged to share music with audiences both young and old. In October we performed with many middle, high school, and college choruses at the Voices of the 603, where our very own Director, Jessie Caynon, was a faculty

member for the day. We started the Holiday season early on November 19th at the Merrimack Outlets Tree Lighting. Everyone loved our songs and harmonies. We were able to share the Christmas repertoire several times this season at Libraries, nursing homes, association parties, at Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth, NH and for young families at The Upper Room in Derry. We had a blast this Christmas season.

RNH can't wait to see what 2017 holds in store for us!

**Leighann Maher**

**WRW2017 - Inner Circle**





## Royal River Chorus

Royal River Chorus wishes all of you a Happy New Year. We have been very busy throughout the fall season and into the new year. We have had several coaching opportunities. One of the first was shared with Merrimack Valley in one of the "break-out" classes at fall regional. Karen Sweeters coached us. Her coaching style is always inspiring and a fun learning experience. Karen Rourke came to Maine providing PVI and sectional coaching for all RRC members that could attend. A huge thank you to our own Deb Richard for opening up her home as the venue for this awesome opportunity. Karen Rourke has this uncanny talent when it comes to voice placement. Next time you see us, you might be thinking "Is that Bass singing Lead?" "Wasn't she a Baritone and that other one a Bass?" "And that one over there? Tenor? Seriously?"

Our big news is our new space! Chris is in director heaven and well, the chorus likes it pretty much too. We are now rehearsing at Lunt Auditorium at OceanView located at 74 Lunt Road in Falmouth, Maine. We were thrilled that our first use of the rehearsal hall was a weekend of coaching with Jim Arns. We worked hard on our two new con-



grabbed onto the holiday season with offerings to come to 3 rehearsals, learn 3 holiday songs and then sing them with us at a few casual performances. This was fun and a great way to share our craft and spread some holiday merriment. We even had a few member's grandchildren sing Christmas Chopsticks with us.

Our December 19 public holiday concert at The Maine Girls Academy in Portland was preceded by an hour-long vocal workshop

The youngest incoming freshman Tara Hefernan, a piano player of six years, and the only girl (electronic keyboardist) in the Portland Conservatory Jazz Band, said, "I really enjoyed how everyone was in sync. It was a more traditional sound, which surprised me... a blast from the past in a good way." The workshop was born out of a friendship between the academy's Executive Director, Candace Anderson-Ek and Laura Russell, a Royal River Assistant Director. The two hope to host an intensive workshop for students in March using the Young Women in Harmony curriculum.

I could go on and on, but I have a deadline to meet. So I will just end with - The winter is long and if you find yourself in our neck of the woods some Thursday night, stop on in. We'd love to see you. Oh, and like us on Facebook (Royal River Chorus, SAI).

In Harmony,

**Hope Perkins**



test songs. Yes, two new songs for contest stage. Jim also worked with Laura Russell and a new song she is teaching us. We cannot wait to share them all with you.RC

conducted by Chris Ferguson with eight students and alumnae joining the chorus on the risers.



## Valley Chords Chorus

Energized from our participation in the Fall Regional Weekend, the Valley Chords were able to keep our voices strong and our hearts warm through the end of 2016. We closed out the summer with some sing-outs at a local "Old Timers Fair" in Etna, NH and a balloon festival in Thetford, VT. We were able to sing for our supper at the United Methodist Church in White River Junction, VT, our old rehearsal spot, and provide dinner time entertainment at the Bugbee Senior Center (also in White River Junction, VT) where we now meet on Wednesday nights for music and merriment. One of our members is a Dartmouth College Employee which created an opportunity for us to perform at the Dartmouth College Art Works - an evening for employees of Dartmouth College to highlight artistic talent.

By late October we had begun to dig into a fun holiday repertoire and shared seasonal cheer at an open house for a local art gallery. We also enjoyed singing for and with the residents of the Cedar Hill assisted living and memory care communities. It is always heartening to see those with memory loss respond to old, familiar tunes! Unfortunately, the weather failed to cooperate with us for our last holiday sing-out which was cancelled due to icy roads. We took a



brief respite from our holiday repertoire to open a Dartmouth College Hockey game with the National Anthem. A few new voices joined us for the holiday season and we're hoping that they stay with us into the New Year!

We look forward to starting 2017 with a bang. We are currently brushing up some of our standards to celebrate the retirement of a prior Valley Chords member, including one piece with original lyrics to personalize her send off! In addition to solidifying and adding to our musical repertoire we are working with new software to enhance

our communication and organization. Rehearsals are brimming with energy and those of us who are attending, can't wait to bring back home even more tools for education and empowerment from the Winter Regional Weekend in Rhode Island!

**Robyn Jacobs, MD**

## Quartet Notes

### VOCE



"Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights." Pauline R. Kezer

What an amazing year it has been for VOCE. We were privileged to win regional contest in May 2016 and represent Region 1 at quartet competition in Las Vegas 2 alongside our wild card friends in Boston Accent. The love and well wishes leading up to and

on that International stage were palpable and just overwhelming! We were humbled, proud and excited to open up Friday's Quartet finals as the 11th place mic testers! It was an electrifying experience to perform on that stage again and we felt you cheering us on from all over the country!

(Continued on Page 21)

## Valley Shore Acappella Chorus

People say change is good. Well, we've been experiencing lots of changes in our chorus this year! We made the decision to move the base of our rehearsals from Middletown to East Lyme in September. Our new community has welcomed VSA with open arms. Since October, we've had many visitors and have added 3 new members to our group! Our rehearsal hall is in the town's community center next to the town library and schools. Our visibility to women who might be interested in joining a singing group has increased noticeably! We've been thrilled to introduce harmony singing to a brand new audience. Onward 4-part harmony!

It seems like we've been partying all through the Fall! First we hosted an Open House in October at our new place. There were 12 visitors that night and every week after that 1st night, we had new guests! The following week, our Director, Angie Clark, travelled to Las Vegas for the SAI competition with her quartet, VOCE. The previous year was their first time on the International Stage and they placed 17th with goose bump producing performance! This year VOCE placed 11th and were the mic testers for the quartet finals! We were tremendously proud of them. Of course, we had to celebrate when Angie returned.

In November, we performed at the Chester Garden Club Tea where Music was the theme! The place was packed and the food was classic British High Tea. We were treated like visiting royalty and hope to go



back next year. We also had a number of performances for Veterans Day. In Manchester at the Arbors, we sang at a moving program including many Vietnam vets. The mayor of the city spoke and honored all the vets present. We also sang at our new rehearsal hall at a Veterans Day breakfast. Many of the audience joined us in singing the patriotic music. Singing at these venues with local heroes reminds us that freedom is not free.

Soon we were starting our Christmas performances. Starting at the Niantic Town Green, we welcomed Santa and his sleigh with a rousing rendition of "Here Comes Santa Claus". The following week, we were in Ivoryton for the town tree lighting. It was pretty spectacular. We strolled and sang at the Ivoryton Playhouse, firehouse, and the local radio station. It was like being at a Christmas carnival! Again we performed at the Arbors for the holidays and sang for

Holiday Brunch at the East Lyme Community Center. We've been very busy this December!

Now that the New Year has arrived, our chorus has been busy preparing to be the assisting chorus at Winter Regional! If you haven't been to a regional weekend lately, make sure you come to this one! Harriette Walters, 700 Master Director, from Greater Nassau Chorus is the faculty. The venue is fabulous in the gorgeous town of Newport, R. I. So don't forget to mark your calendars for January 27th to the 29th! We'll have an incredible experience together!

**Marylou Zinser**

(VOCE - Continued from Page 20)

We'd like to thank our coaches who helped us get to this point, Mike Gabriella, Joe Connelly, Debra Lynn, Karen Sweeters as well as our rehearsal "home" and weekly fifth ear Anne Wilson. We'd also like to thank our choruses, Millennium Magic and Valley Shore Acapella for their constant support, love and understanding.

As you may have heard, VOCE is "branching out" and searching for a new tenor. It's been a dynamic ride with Annette and we reached many goals together. We wouldn't

change any part of the journey we have shared with Annette and we are grateful for all she has given. VOCE hopes to be a foursome once again very soon! We look forward to introducing you to our newest member and know you will welcome her into our awesome Region 1 family with open arms. We are focusing on Vegas 3 and

looking forward to enjoying that journey with a new Region 1 Quartet Champion!

Love and gratitude to all of you--

**Beth, Angie, and Judy**



**Region 1 Chorus Anniversaries and Milestones**

Chorus	Charter Date	Chorus Anniversary	Chorus Age As of Anniv.
Boston Skyline	11/28/1960	11/29/2017	57
Harborlight Show	8/7/1963	8/7/2017	54
Harmony on the Sound	6/9/1966	6/9/2017	51
Greater Montreal	6/15/1966	6/15/2017	51
Acappella Sounds	8/19/1966	8/19/2017	51
Champlain Valley	12/9/1968	12/9/2017	49
Berkshire Hills	9/5/1969	9/5/2017	48
Merrimack Valley	1/9/1975	1/9/2017	42
Framington Valley	3/12/1975	3/12/2017	42
Profile	5/1/1976	5/1/2017	41
Valley Shore	12/7/1977	12/7/2017	40
Heart of the Valley	12/7/1982	12/7/2017	35
Royal River	1/21/1985	1/21/2017	32
Cranberry Shores	1/27/1986	1/27/2017	31
Post Road	2/1/1987	2/1/2017	30
Island Grove	9/4/1991	9/4/2017	26
Sound of New England	11/22/1993	11/22/2017	24
Coastline Show	12/18/1995	12/18/2017	22
Mollycokett	9/5/1996	9/5/2017	21
Millenium Magic	11/2/2000	11/2/2017	17
Valley Chords	6/14/2002	6/14/2017	15
Rhythm of New Hampshire Show	2/20/2006	2/20/2017	11

**Contest 2017 Program:****2017 North Atlantic Region 1 Program Ad Rates**

We want to invite all of our members and their friends and family to advertise in this year's program. You can purchase an ad for your business, buy an ad for a personal message or give someone a shout out! Here is the information you need to know:

Full Page Ad	\$65
Half Page Ad	\$40
Quarter Page Ad	\$25
Shout Outs	\$10

**WHAT A DEAL!!!!**

All you need to do is send an e-mail to Pat Marais at [marais9@msn.com](mailto:marais9@msn.com). She has requested that ads be sent in .jpg format, although she will also take .png. For a quarter page ad, you can scan a business card and send those in .pdf, although business cards saved as .jpg may be clearer.

Your checks need to be made out to: North Atlantic Region 1 and mailed to Patti Laverioich, 54 Rimmon Hill Road, Beacon Falls, CT 06403.

**DEADLINE IS APRIL 8th!**

## Heavenly Chorus

### Cindy Leston - Coastline Show Chorus

In November, 2016 we lost a longtime member of our chorus, Cindy Leston, who had battled valiantly with cancer for a year and a half. When she could no longer sing with us she would come to rehearsals to say hello and give a listen, always smiling. Cindy was the 2015 recipient of the Coastline Show Chorus Spirit Award and it was well earned. She came to as many performances as she was able. Frequently, she was the first person in the audience to jump to her feet and applaud. Cindy had a giant heart, boundless energy and a good singing voice. Her enthusiasm and kindness are a legacy none of us will forget. We were asked by her daughter Terri, also a cherished Coastline member, to sing at her calling hours. It was our most important presentation to date and the most rewarding. Her family knew what the chorus meant in her life.



### Ginny Dawson, Nancy Wimmer, Bonnie Boutin - Rhythm of New Hampshire Show Chorus

This year had its somber moments, as our chorus sent 3 angelic voices to sing in the heavenly chorus. We will forever remember our members who passed this year, Ginny Dawson, Nancy Wimmer, and Bonnie Boutin. We are eternally grateful to have had the opportunity to harmonize with you!

Pat Marais - Editor, Region 1 Webmaster, RMT - Marketing Coordinator

From the Editor





## Region 1 Choruses

Chorus	Director	City, State/Prov.
<b>*Acappella Sounds</b> (Formerly West Island Chorus)	Tracey Larder	Beaconsfield, QC
The Greater Montreal Chorus	Heather Solomon	Westmount, QC - Sept-Jun Montreal, QC - Jul-Sept
Farmington Valley Chorus	Cheryl Wilcox	Simsbury, CT
<b>*Harmony on the Sound Chorus</b>	Karen Sweeters	Trumbull, CT
Sound of New England Chorus	Marion Devokaitis	Bloomfield, CT
<b>*Valley Shore Chorus</b>	Angie Clark	<b>*Niantic, CT</b>
Berkshire Hills Chorus	Gail Wojtkowiak - Co-Director Pat Feldman - Co-Director	Piitsfield, MA
Boston Skyline Chorus	Wendy Pachter	Lexington, MA
Coastline Show Chorus	Gail Jencik	Attelboro, MA
Cranberry Shores Chorus	Sally Beck	Hyannis, MA
Harborlight Show Chorus	Tori Lynn Cook	Saugus, MA
Heart of the Valley Chorus	Maggie Hawlicheck	Florence, MA
Island Grove Chorus	Pat Hoitt	Abington, MA
Merrimack Valley Chorus	Eileen Gioe	Wilmington, MA
Millennium Magic Chorus	"under our own direction"	Sturbridge, MA
Post Road Chorus	Ray Johnson	Worcester, MA
Mollyockett Chorus	Susan Leunig	Norway, ME
<b>*Royal River Chorus</b>	Christine Ferguson	<b>*Falmouth, ME</b>
<b>*Profile Chorus</b>	Terry Neill	Manchester, NH
Rhythm of New Hampshire Show Chorus	Jessie Caynon	Derry, NH
Champlain Valley Chorus	Kathy Kokes	Morrisonville, NY
<b>*Valley Chords Chorus</b>	Liz Carey	White River Junction, VT
<b>*New Rehearsal Space or Name</b>		

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**May 4 -7, 2017**  
Regional Competition  
Symphony Hall  
Springfield, MA

**August 12, 2017**  
RQA Day  
University of Hartford  
Hartford, CT

See Pages 4-5 for more  
Upcoming Events  
and  
Check the Region 1 website for  
Updates and Additions  
<http://sai-region1.org>

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## Copy Deadline

The Spring 2017 Edition of Tags & Swipes will be issued late January.  
Please email copy to Editor: [marais9@msn.com](mailto:marais9@msn.com) no later than

**April 1, 2017.**

Please attach photos to email rather than inserting into copy.  
Photos will be used as space allows. Check Region 1 website for Instructions, if needed.