



heart to heart

February 2008

Heart to Heart
Official Publication of Region 23 Sweet Adelines International

In This Issue

Pensacola Sound
Sound of the Bay
Southern Accent
TuneTown Show
Memphis City Sound
Sweet Georgia Sound
Song of Atlanta
Metro Nashville
Harmony Hills
Summer SingSation
Selling Sweet Adelines
YWIH Silent Auction
Obtaining Show Permission
Region 23 Calendar
H2H Back Issues
Deadline for Next Issue

Pensacola Sound

Submitted by Tara Smith

Pensacola Sound has had a very good, and very busy few months. The city of Gulf Shores, AL celebrated 50 years by having weekly concerts during the summer and we were invited in to be one of the performers. On July 26th, we sang for a total of 90 minutes. It was a lot of work preparing that much music, but it was a lot of fun as well. We must have done a good job, because they've already asked us back for next summer!

On September 17th, we held a YWIH festival in Santa Rosa County. Jen Cooke was our clinician and RamBunctious, 2nd place YWIH quartet for Region 23 was our demonstration quartet. We hosted about 125 girls, while the local men's chorus hosted about 60 boys. The girls and boys had lots of fun and are already looking forward to next year.

On September 29th, we held our annual show, Glitz and Glamour. The show was set in a fictitious beauty salon, so two of the songs we sang were "Big Hair" and "Gonna Wash That Man Right Out Of My Hair." We wore towels on our heads and capes for our costumes. We featured our two chapter quartets, Mix N Match and Ah Declare! as well as RamBunctious. It was such a fun show!

In October, we had a coach come in for the weekend. Sheila Cope, the mother of one of our members, Katherine, is a member of the Velvet Hills chapter and is in the judging program. She came and spent the last weekend of October in Pensacola. She spent Friday night coaching our two chapter quartets and all day Saturday coaching the chorus. She had such good information to give us and we hope to retain as much as possible so we can improve those scores at contest!

Our Mission

Region 23, Sweet Adelines International, are women dedicated to the mastery and advancement of the art form of barbershop harmony through education and performance while providing opportunities for personal growth for our members.

Hot Links!

www.region23.com

Visit the region's website for pictures of our recent contest, forms and details on upcoming events and loads of additional info about Region 23!

www.sweetadelineintl.org

The official Sweet Adelines site is your one-stop shop for international event, information and sales.



We have also just finished another coaching session with Sherry Lewis at our annual retreat at the end of January. Once again, Sherry brought out good things...she works wonders with our chorus! We had 100% attendance at the Saturday sessions, and about 40-50% of our members had PVI's with Sherry while she was in town. We are all working very hard to improve our scores at contest this year.

We hope to see you all in Chattanooga!

A Cappella Quartet Competition

Submitted by Colleen McNorton

The Third Annual Novice A Cappella Quartet competition was held September 22, 2007, at the theater at 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center in Spanish Fort, Alabama.

The event, sponsored by Pride of Mobile Men's Chorus, included singers from several choruses including Pride of Mobile, Sound of the Bay Chorus of Sweet Adelines, Pensacola Sound and Fiesta Chorus.

The competition, which was organized by Shadel Hilton, a member of Pride of Mobile Chorus, was opened by microphone testers, Ad Hoc, a seasoned quartet comprised of members of the Fiesta Chorus from Pensacola. Jimmy Ely, also a member of Pride of Mobile, was emcee for the show.

Among the songs performed were "Your Eyes," "Bust a Chord," "A Little Help from my Friends," "Wait 'Til the Sun Shines, Nellie," "How Deep is the Ocean" and "For the Longest Time."

Submissions

Heart to Heart is now published six times a year:

2008:

February

April

June

August

October

December

**Send stories and photos to:
Kay Crouch, Editor**

*Region23H2H@aol.com or
kcrouch@vanguardhealth.com*

All 92 of the seats in the theater were filled for the 90-minute contest.



FANTAZZMIX

Left to right are Lori Davis, Paula Reeves, Bronté Dixon and Kaye Cooper

First place winners were Kaye Cooper, Bronté Dixon, Lori Davis and Paula Reeves, all members of Sound of the Bay Chorus, who called themselves Fantazzmix. The quartet received a \$400 check. They performed "Orange Colored Sky."



TIME FOR US

Left to right are Jennifer Stewart, Karen Jordahl, Connie Hudson and Maureen Valentino

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Second place went to Connie Hancock, Karen Jordahl, Jennifer Stewart and Maureen Valentino, who called themselves Time For Us. Karen is director of the Fiesta Chorus and Connie, Jennifer and Maureen are members of Sound of the Bay Chorus. They took home a \$200 check. Their songs were "Auld Lang Syne" and "I Don't Know Why."



JENN AND THE TONICS

Left to right are Brian Root, Jonathan Stewart, Jennifer Stewart and Gary Hilton

Winners of the third place award were Gary Hilton, Brian Root, Jennifer Stewart and Jonathan Stewart, who called themselves Jenn and the Tonics. Gary and Jonathan are members of Pride of Mobile Chorus; Jennifer, Sound of the Bay Chorus, and Brian, Fiesta Chorus. Their rendition of "Bye-Bye Blues" garnered them a \$100 check.

Judges for the a cappella competition were Bron Dixon, from Region 23 of Sweet Adelines International; Al Pipkins, from the Dixie District of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America; and Jeb Stewart from the Sunshine District of SPEBQSA.

Several local sponsors provided monetary support for the competition. They included Gilmer's Funeral Home and Jo-Jo's Limousine Service, both of Mobile, and Valhalla Funeral Service in Semmes, Alabama.

Sound of the Bay Prepares for Regional

Submitted by Colleen McNorton



Members of Sound of the Bay Chorus of Sweet Adelines recently attended a retreat to prepare vocally and physically for their upcoming regional competition in March in Chattanooga, Tenn.

International Sweet Adeline coach, Sherry Lewis, was the guest instructor for the weekend session, which was held in Orange Beach, Ala.

The singers will compete against other choruses from Tennessee, Alabama, Florida and Georgia. Their competition songs will be "Baby Mine" and "California, Here I Come."

Among the attendees were Fran Moor; Kaye Cooper; Bronté Dixon; Maureen Valentino; Melissa Shirley; Paula Reeves, director; Nancy Thoms; Connie Hudson; Cathy Gaston; Torri Necaize; Jacque Marrero; Sharon Bowden; Kathy Palmer; Patsy Tyson; Lori Davis; Colleen McNorton; and Charlynn Will.

Southern Accent

Submitted by Ramona Kirchgessner



Warm and dry on our risers, we watched it snow and snow. It was our annual retreat at the Alabama 4-H Center near Clanton, just a hop, skip and a jump from our home city, Montgomery. We were excited to welcome back Kim Wonders who does “wonders” coaching us. The Retreat Center is a perfect place for us, with it’s separate meeting buildings where we can sing as loudly as we want. Our director, Judy Prothro, captured the spirit by taking our picture as we bid farewell on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 19th.

TuneTown Show Chorus

Submitted by Karen Cain

In January, the temperatures plummeted and we got caught up in the whirlwinds! We began 2008, (dubbed the “year of the individual singer” by our master director Sherry Lewis), with new songs, warm-ups, PVIs and coaching sessions. Next, we looked ahead to our “Singing Valentine” fundraiser coming February 14th. In anticipation of lots of requests for lovely female foursomes to serenade friends and lovers throughout Middle Tennessee, we hurried to form new quartets. Aided by promotions from a local radio station, major newspaper and other media, the project became a financial success and annual event!

But there was no time for us to catch our breath..... we flew through the last days of January “on a cloud” after being invited to audition for the TV show, America’s Got Talent! With a little over 48 hours advance notice from the recruiting team of AGT

and the enthusiastic energy of Sherry Clifton, emails were exchanged and telephones rang until 73 of our members rearranged families and schedules and met at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Nashville where we were greeted by cameras and bright lights! (Isn't it just like a Sweet Adeline to stop everything to go show off with her chorus?!) TV crews filmed several promo spots of our harmonious voices and great smiles! Stay tuned!

February winds then blew us from Singing Valentines right into our annual three day retreat where we spent a jam-packed weekend singing, dancing, practicing proper breathing, and fine-tuning our barbershop skills with coach Jim Arns alongside.

As March approaches, we find ourselves in search of a new rehearsal hall. The mall where we've gathered for years is closing for redevelopment. But our TuneTown family keeps right on growing! We are so excited as new members join us every month. We're edging towards 100 and still counting! We can't wait to introduce everyone in Region 23 to our newest faces! See you in Chattanooga!

Memphis City Sound's YWIN Festival

Submitted by Sherry Crawford

Memphis City Sound had a great Young Women in Harmony Festival again this year. Last year was the first and was a resounding success with 66 young women from all over the tri-state area. This year was even better - there were about 80 young ladies in attendance. They came from Jackson, TN, Sommerville, and Millington, to name a few. The day was a success with the help of most of the chorus members going above and beyond, but one lady in particular needs to be recognized.

Enrica Ramey worked tirelessly visiting area schools, giving presentations, and even teaching one class when the teacher was out. Most people don't have any idea how hard she works to make this festival a reality. She doesn't do it for glory, she does it out of love for the kids and love for barbershop. Kudos go to this tireless woman. Way to go Enrica, we want you to know you are definitely appreciated!

We also want to thank Last Minute for being our guest quartet and handling the sections. It was wonderful having such an excellent young quartet to show off this great craft to the girls. They were enchanted with Last Minute who gave a superb performance. Enrica directed the Youth Chorus, Memphis City Sound did a small show package and excitement was in the air!

This is an excellent way to promote Sweet Adelines in the community. If anyone would like more information on how to start working on a festival why not ask some of these choruses who have already done it with success. I'm sure Enrica would be happy to share some of her ideas with you!

Change...It Happens

Submitted by Barbara Gaughf, PR Committee, Sweet Georgia Sound

How many of us embrace change without reservation? Be honest. As a Marriage and Family Therapist, I see people struggling with change everyday — in their jobs, in their families and in themselves. Change is one of the most challenging things we as humans encounter. Many of us resist change or will go to great lengths to avoid it. Some of us get irritated or even angry at the idea of change.

So it was with great trepidation that we, the PR committee of Wings of Harmony, brought to the Board the idea of changing our chorus name. We had talked about it, worried about it and lost a little sleep over it, long before we mustered the courage to tiptoe into the board meeting and ask if we could consider it. You see, our name was part of the foundation that had been laid over 30 years ago, and the last thing we wanted was to put another crack in that foundation.

The death of our director last year was a catalyst of change that we had not expected. It shook us so deeply and I believe made us wonder if we would be able to withstand the blow. Yet, once we started to recover, or reconcile that change was indeed inevitable; we began to find the silver lining. Instead of seeing the inevitability of change, our eyes were opened to the possibility of change. It was as if Ivy had given us permission to grieve, to be shaken to our very foundation, and then to move forward. It was, in a way, out of the ashes that we began to look at ways that we might improve, grow, and change for the better.

After much discussion, focusing on our mission and our goals as a chorus, the board approved the idea to consider a name change. Then, we brought the chorus members into the process. Everyone was invited to submit names, we narrowed the list down and then we all voted on our top picks. What transpired is our new name, "Sweet Georgia Sound." With a new name and a renewed sense of hope for the future, we believe we have entered into a new era for our chorus. We think Ivy would be proud.



Song of Atlanta

Submitted by Faith Miller, President, Song of Atlanta

2008 is Song of Atlanta's year to celebrate! We have been a Sweet Adeline chorus for 50 years and that is an accomplishment worth celebrating. We will do just that on May 17th, at our regular rehearsal location-Holy Family Catholic Church, 3401 Lower Roswell Rd, Marietta, GA 30061 and we are inviting our fellow singers in

Region 23 to join with us on that day! It should be gala event! There will be more information to follow but mark the date on your calendars!

We are working hard to get ready for Hawaii. Each week at rehearsal we work on improving our skills with Becki's expert directing. In addition, we are having top notch coaches. To help us get to Hawaii, please stop by our booth at the boutique during regional competition. We will be selling costume jewelry that is gently worn. You may find just the accessory you have been looking for! We will also have handmade crafts for sale.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Chattanooga and wish all of the competitors Good Luck!

Metro Nashville Chorus

Submitted by Colleen El Amri

If you venture up Nashville way, you won't find Metro Nashville Chorus at our old stomping grounds. We hated to leave our former rehearsal hall in 100 Oaks Mall, but the new buyer needed our space. So we went looking and found our current rehearsal hall generously provided by the new Curry Ingram Academy in Brentwood. It's a lovely facility but a little off the beaten path. Some of us are still getting lost every Tuesday evening, so call Kim for directions before you arrive!

Looking ahead to the March Regional Competition and the Harmony Classic in July, MNC has been diligently honing, tweaking, synchronizing, blending, resonating, expressing, interpreting, teaching, learning, performing, forwarding our motion, breaking in new shoes, hemming costumes, oh, yes, and singing! Our fun coach Michael Hayden recently gave us new challenges to work on. Amazingly, when we implement his instructions, our sound soars! This weekend our dear Lori Lyford will be in Nashville putting us through our paces. I am exhausted already! I wonder if Weight Watchers has made a study on how many calories a Sweet Adeline burns in the course of a day of coaching? Hmm.

March is coming quickly. MNC will be seeing and hearing you at regional! Sing out, sisters!

Harmony Hills Chorus

Submitted by Lynette Pope

It's been a busy fall and winter for Harmony Hills chorus.

We were excited and honored to receive the invitation from Region 23 to perform at Fall Fling. Developing the show package was a blast! Thank you Region 23 for your warm reception.

Who was that guy in the plaid pants and BIG eyeGLASSES?

On Sunday afternoon, Dr. Greg Lyne joined us for a chorus coaching session. We were pleased to have the opportunity to work with him.

In October, rehearsals began for our first holiday Chorus. Over the previous months, our members invited ladies to join us for a special 10 week period and then sing on our Christmas show.

WOW! Ten visitors in the 1st four weeks!!!! For most of them, it was their first experience singing a cappella harmony.

Our director, Dr. John Buttler, planned our weekly rehearsals to begin with our holiday chorus guests on the risers with us. Together, we warmed up, worked on barbershop technique, and learned three new Christmas songs.

Three holiday chorus members performed with us at our Christmas Show. This March, we'll have TWO NEW MEMBERS on the risers at regional competition.

Each of the ten visitors had positive comments about the holiday chorus and singing with Harmony Hills. It was a fun, no-strings attached, introduction to singing in a Sweet Adelines chorus.

It was an AWESOME experience for our current members, meeting and talking with new guests each week. We received several emails and letters from invitees that were unable to participate this year due to prior commitments. They want to be sure they are invited to our next holiday chorus.

A special THANK YOU to the Metro Nashville Chorus for 'blazing the trail' and sharing their successful holiday chorus experiences with Harmony Hills.

A quick break for the Christmas holidays, and back to the risers. Dame Captain Bloody Blackheart the Red (aka Song of Atlanta Master Director-Becki Hine) arrived in early January, to lead the battle training as our chorus of mercenaries prepares for "an invasion of the USS Chattanooga".

Aye! and Arrrrrr! A fierce winter storm was brewing that weekend. The Harmony Hills mercenaries aren't experienced with sailing on snow and ice. Aye! The good captain "whipped us into shape" with twice the work, in half the time.

As Dame Captain Bloody Blackheart the Red set sail for places unknown, we heard her pledge, (or threaten???) to return before the March invasion to make final battle plans and apply any "encouragement" deemed necessary.

In just a few weeks we'll have a combined Friends and Family/Send-Off performance with Voices of the South chorus. The Central Alabama Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society competes in the Dixie District. This is the 2nd year for our combined pre-competition performance. It's really cool to receive encouragement and support from people that know barbershop harmony.

Our choruses appreciate the opportunity to perform our contest package for an enthusiastic audience of barbershoppers, friends, and family.

It's a work night, so we have a Mini-Glow! Time to talk a little 'shop, eat, sing, eat, greet families, meet friends, and invite them to our next rehearsal.

Harmony Hills can't wait to gather with our Region 23 friends for an awesome competition in Chattanooga. Good Luck! Break a Lip!

Sing your heart out at Summer SingSation this June

Submitted by Ginny Karschnik, Marketing Coordinator

You won't want to miss this year's summer meeting in Birmingham with International guest faculty Betty Clipman.

We have lots of singing planned as all attendees will be divided into two SingSation Choruses for the entire weekend, coached by Betty and directed by two of our own Region 23 directors. Some of the classes we will attend will teach us how to keep the energy coming, vocal tips to make each of us a better singer, and ways to produce a unit sound.

Betty Clipman is a Master Director, Certified Judge in 2 categories, past international Quartet Champion (1980) and past (1988) International Champion Chorus director. Her classes are sure to be exciting and entertaining as well as educational!

Our new STAR song is We Are Family and will be the song we learn and perform that weekend. Music is available from International Sales. Please contact Portia Little for details on the STAR song.

Please mark your calendar and put your vacation request in now for June 5-8, 2008. You won't regret it!!!

Selling Sweet Adelines-Marketing Tips

Submitted by Ginny Karschnik, Marketing Coordinator

In a previous article, I suggested that each chorus member is a part of her chorus marketing team and provided several recruitment tools that any member could utilize in the continuous search for new members! The marketing doesn't stop when you bring that guest through the front door, however. Make sure her first impression of your chorus is a positive one and she's more likely to return the next week. Although the membership chair is most likely to take a guest "under her wing", take a moment to say hello to her with a smile on your face. Let her know you are glad she is there. Learn something about her that you can talk with her about the next week. If you are passionate about your hobby and love what you are

doing, she'll pick up on this and want to be a part of it as well!

In harmony,

YWIH Silent Auction

Submitted by Ginny Karschnik, Marketing Coordinator

I hope you are all planning to donate an item to our Silent Auction to be held at contest in March. This auction is a fund raiser for our Region 23 Young Women In Harmony Fund. The fund provides financial assistance to choruses and YWIH quartets who want to promote educational/ performance opportunities for women under 25 to learn about the barbershop style of singing.

We will hold the auction in the boutique and I will be setting up on Thursday evening. Last year we had a wonderful assortment of items and all donations will be gladly accepted. If you plan on donating something for the auction, please send me a description of the item as well as the retail value. I have had several choruses and individuals respond already but March will be here before we know it!

My email is ginnysings@peoplepc.com. I look forward to hearing from you!
In Harmony,

Obtaining Show Permission

Submitted by Robin Hanson, Region 23 Team Coordinator

"Back in the old days", every chorus had to get permission from their Regional Management Team before they could schedule a major performance. This policy was implemented so there wouldn't be choruses near each other who held events at the same time. In theory, this policy is still supposed to be followed by contacting the Team Coordinator who is to review each written request and send back an "okay".

We would like to continue this idea of a master calendar by including an updated version in each Heart to Heart. Presidents and show chairs, please send all the pertinent information (i.e. date, location, time, contact information) to Robin Hanson, Team Coordinator for Region 23. Contact information for Robin is included within this H2H. Wouldn't it be fun to take a road trip every once in a while to hear and support another chorus??

Region 23 Calendar

2008

FEB. 24	Show	Song of Atlanta
MAR 27-30	Contest	Regional Competition w/YWIH Contest, Chattanooga, TN
APRIL 5	Show	Sweet Georgia Sound
MAY 17	Show	Smokie Mountain Melodies
JUNE 5-8	Education	Summer SINGsation w/Betty Clipman, Birmingham, AL
JULY 16-19	Contest	IES-Harmony Classic
SEPT 12-14	Education	Fall Fling w/Michael Hayden, Birmingham, AL
SEPT 27	Show	TuneTown Show
OCT 17-18	Education	Quartet Workshop & YWIH Festival, Birmingham, AL
NOV 4-8	Contest	International Convention/Competition, Honolulu, HI

Looking for a Back Issue?

Old issues of H2H from 2003-2007 are available on the Region 23 website, and the e-newsletter will be posted there as well.

Deadline for Next Issue:

April 15, 2008

Send news and photos for publication to:

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